

*Bright Not Broken: Giftedness, ADHD, and Autism* by Diane Kennedy, Rebecca S. Banks, and Temple Grandin

A Review by: Ashley Nelson

*Bright Not Broken* is an excellent book, especially for parents of gifted children with autism and teachers. It focuses on some real issues faced by twice exceptional children (those who are both gifted and have a disability) and their families. With that said I think the title of the book is a bit misleading. I was personally really excited to read this book but it speaks on something that was (and is) a large part of my educational experience—giftedness and, in my case, ADHD however reading the book I will say that I felt my experiences and those like me were brushed past in a few different ways.

The book claims to talk about the issues surrounding twice exceptional children but chooses to focus on the twice exceptional students whose disability masked their giftedness or whose disability and giftedness masked one another while not really addressing those whose giftedness masked their disabilities. They chose to focus on those students due to how their giftedness fails to be nurtured properly. The book also highly focuses on Autism only referencing ADHD when discussing how and why children with Autism are often misdiagnosed with ADHD (as happened to children of both of the mothers that authored the book). Some diagnostic changes have been made in regard to ADHD and Autism and the issues discussed in the book which essentially recontextualize the books entire argument about ADHD and Autism in gifted children. Regardless of these issues I think the book is still a valuable read—especially for parents and teachers of students with Autism. I do think that one needs to go into reading the book with the understanding that the authors of the book are coming from a very specific perspective, even amongst twice exceptional students and their families, and that the issues they

address with the DSM have been fixed since the book's publication. If one goes into reading the book with these things in mind I think a unique perspective about the lives of parents of students who are both gifted and autistic, and those students themselves, that is worth reading.