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On My Own: The Journey Continues



Synopsis

A sequel to *Taking Hold: My Journey into Blindness* follows the author's graduation from a life skills course and her experiences with getting an apartment, starting a new job, returning to school, and finding love. Jr Lib Guild.

Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

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Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up. In this sequel to *Taking Hold: My Journey into Blindness* (S & S, 1994), Alexander details her quest at age 26 to establish an independent life after losing her sight. Elated that she is the only nonsighted person hired to teach other blind people at the guild from which she has graduated and pleased to be using her navigation skills in her new Pittsburgh apartment and neighborhood, Alexander thinks her life has become manageable, pleasant, and almost acceptable until new problems arise. When her supervisor insists she teach Braille rapidly rather than customize it to her pupils' needs and she has an ethical disagreement with the guild head, she resigns despite a shortage of money. There are bumpy relationships with boyfriends, and her hearing, an extremely important sense for the blind, begins to deteriorate. The author's realistic descriptions are interesting and instructive. Her heartwarming account is easy to read and admirable in its depiction of both the struggles and normalcy of challenged people, important in correcting stereotypes. Cindy Darling Codell, Clark Middle School, Winchester, KY Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 6⁺-10. Alexander continues her autobiography, which she began in *Taking Hold: My Journey into Blindness* (1994). Blind and just starting out on her own in an apartment in Pittsburgh, she must find her way to the bus stop, grocer, cleaners, etc., and learn how to deal with the relationships and anxieties of her new job teaching life skills to the newly blind. As the story continues, Alexander attempts to resume a social life and starts graduate school. She is devastated when the last bits of her vision disappear and she suffers some hearing loss. Readers will follow her troubles and her rebounding spirit with heartache and hope. Although not as suspenseful as the first book, this one is every bit as uplifting and is sure to be read with eagerness. Susan DeRonne

I am privileged to know Sally personally. She is to me a woman with grit and perseverance, to be greatly admired. And she writes well. The book really brought home the difficulties faced by a sightless person, those that most of us take for granted.

I myself have a blind sibling and this book was a great insight into the challenges a blind person faces living in society in this modern era. This personal account of Sally Alexander's experiences as she lost her sight gave me a better understanding about being blind and learning to cope with the challenges that accompany it. This book, which accounts many obstacles that she had to overcome as she tried to live a normal life, opened my eyes to many aspects of life that I never realized were so effected by blindness. I highly recommend this book to those who want to know what it is really like to live with blindness, a sense that most of us take for granted.

I enjoyed reading this book. Written for 7-9th grade reading and comprehension level, Sally Hobart Alexander's story of triumph over her blindness will appeal to all age levels, including the adult reader. This book is the sequel to her first autobiography, and follows Hobart's life after leaving a residential school for the blind, where she takes a job as a teacher, and she learns to live her life as a blind adult who was once fully sighted.

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