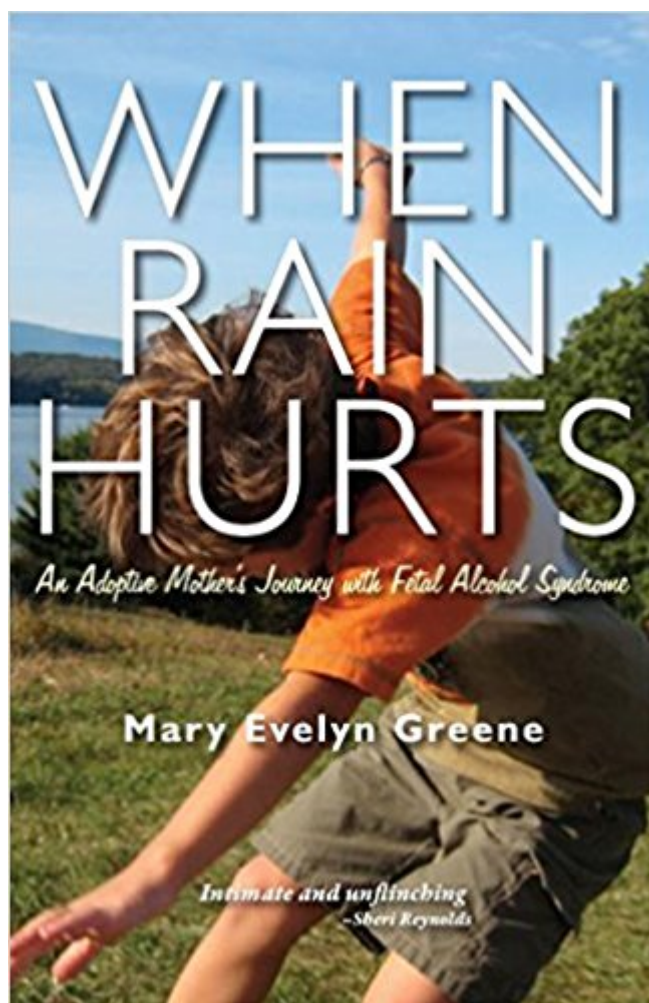


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When Rain Hurts: An Adoptive Mother's Journey With Fetal Alcohol Syndrome



Synopsis

When Rain Hurts is the story of one mother's quest to find a magical path of healing and forgiveness for her son, a boy so damaged by the double whammy of prenatal alcohol abuse and the stark rigors of Russian orphanage life that he was feral by the time of his adoption at age three. Bizarre behaviors, irrational thoughts, and dangerous preoccupations were the norm—no amount of love, it turns out, can untangle the effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. More people are coping with and caring for those affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders than individuals living with autism, but because there is a stigma associated with this preventable, devastating birth defect, it is a pandemic of disability and tragedy that remains underreported and underexplored. When Rain Hurts puts an unapologetic face to living and coping with this tragedy while doggedly searching for a more hopeful outcome for one beautiful, innocent, but damaged little boy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"With When Rain Hurts, Mary Greene has captured what it means to become a person of integrity. The author's untiring story of commitment to her adopted, multiply disabled son Peter and his highly sensitive, cognitive and biological systems teaches and inspires. In most homes, where FAS, autism and other severe biomedical disorders are not a fact of daily life, a child's developmental milestones are celebrated as givens. Greene asks us to look at things with a set of different measures altogether, to rethink our cultural preconceptions of what constitutes achievement or success. If I were asked to name my favorite overachievers, I'd choose those who have gone above and beyond the call to map the depth and possibility of our

humanity. *Intrepid Greene and her courageous son, Peter.* Valerie Paradiz, PhD, author of *Elijah's Cup* and Director, Autistic Global Initiative of the Autism Research Institute "What I wanted was a family," writes Mary Greene, "not a booby-trapped marathon that lacked a finish line." In this intimate and unflinching memoir, Greene describes the space between her dreams of motherhood and the reality of life with an adopted child suffering from Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. *When Rain Hurts* is emotionally complex, fascinating, gritty, exhausting, and teeming with protective mother-energy and love. Three cheers for Mary Greene's fighting spirit and the work she's doing to create and protect her family while educating so many of us about the complexities of international adoption and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Sheri Reynolds, author of *The Homespun Wisdom of Myrtle T. Cribb* "What will a mother do for her child? If your name is Mary Greene, the answer is everything possible." Greene's searing account of learning to parent her prenatal alcohol-exposed, bipolar, orphanage-veteran son is an unforgettable lesson in commitment, fortitude, and unconditional love. This riveting and candid story sheds a brutal light on the challenges faced by many post-institutionalized children and their families, and assures them, "You are not alone. There is hope." Jessica O'Dwyer, author of *Mamalita: An Adoption Memoir* "Mary E. Greene shares her family's journey through the world of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome with a lucid candor free of self-pity (and a healthy wit). To anyone either struggling to make sense of the journey to adopt a child, or dealing with a skewed adoption system, Greene's book will offer both camaraderie and sustenance." Edie Meidav, author of *Lola, California*

Mary Evelyn Greene, Senior Managing Attorney with the Environmental Integrity Project, adopted two toddlers from Russia in 2004. Ever since, she has doggedly devoted herself to improving her alcohol-exposed son's condition, publishing articles in *Adoptive Families Magazine* and *Adoption Today* along the way. She is a contributing author to *Easy to Love but Hard to Raise* (2012), a collection of stories written for and by parents of special needs kids. She currently lives in Silver Spring, Maryland with her husband and children. This is her first book.

This novel is a unique tale that has a unique structure to it. It is definitely worth the read whether you are adopted, adopting, or just interested in a little psychology.

This memoir is a poignant, moving, and beautifully-written depiction of one woman's commitment to becoming a mother. It is a compelling read which made me laugh, cry and hug my children. The story is brutally honest and personal. It details the trials and tribulations of dealing with Russian orphanages and their deceitful and shameful tactics. The book focuses on one child, Peter, who suffers from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. The latter part of the book discusses getting her son, the services he desperately needed. But at a point where a lesser person would have given up, Ms. Greene maintained a relentlessly positive outlook, forever changing the lives of her two, adopted children for the better. Ms. Greene, a highly-educated professional, armed with experts in foreign adoption, medicine and mental health fields had difficulty navigating, not just the adoption process, but the process of getting her son, the treatment he required, post adoption. FAS is completely preventable. It is difficult to diagnose and treat. Many school systems are unprepared and unwilling to help kids, like Peter. Thank goodness there are people like Mary Greene out there, fighting for these kids and giving them the love and support they deserve.

After reading the other reviews on this book, I think people are getting emotionally invested based on their own personal experiences rather than writing a review of the quality of the book. I found this to be one of the most riveting and well written memoirs on FAS since Bonnie Buxton's "Damaged Angels". Clearly, this story is a little different because of the fact the family adopted their children from Russia. This book should be required reading for anyone thinking about adopting (overseas or domestically) and anyone who thinks it is okay to drink alcohol while pregnant (don't). This book is also far superior and more sensitively told than its precursor on the subject, "The Broken Cord".

This is a story for everyone. A moving, instructive, inspirational account - told with courageous honesty and self-awareness with generous appreciation of the support of others, no matter how small their role. Mary's story is an everyman/everywoman's journey into the unexpected and the unknown, showing us how love, understanding, tenacity and courage can amass unanticipated stores of patience, compassion, and resilience. As one travels through the incredible journey of adoptive parents Mary and Pat with a child damaged during fetal development, the day-to-day, week-to-week experiences raise questions about what it means to be normal, able to learn, to love and to express emotions as well as about the long-term damage that can be inflicted on a child through self-indulgence, addiction and neglect. But they also demonstrate the potential restorative power of parents, teachers, caretakers and friends in even desperate situations. For the LoBrutto family, victories and rewards were miniscule but inspiring; setbacks were disheartening but not

defeating. Not only parents of adopted children and professionals will appreciate what this remarkable book has to tell us. This truly is a story for us all.

I just finished *When Rain Hurts* with happy tears in my eyes. We have one child adopted from Russia and one child adopted domestically. Although their "issues" are minuscule in comparison to the difficulties Ms Green writes about, this book has inspired me to fight for and with my children every minute of their lives. Her devotion to her children even though she didn't give birth to them is glaringly evident throughout the whole book and speaks beautifully of families created through adoption.

In her book *When Rain Hurts* Mary Greene describes her journey of adopting her two children Peter and Sophie from Russia, the struggles and joy they experienced and how she first became aware of her sons special behavior and how she from then on handles her sons FASD. Mary Greene opens up her life for others to learn in a very honest and touching way. Most of all I enjoyed her journey entries as snapshots of time. Greene now says that through those journey entries she can now see her parenting evolution over time. For children with FASD normal/natural parenting strategies don't work, meaning consequences don't work, since they aren't capable of learning from experience. For parents and caregivers this means to adjust their expectations to the child's capabilities.

When Rain Hurts is so well written. I can't imagine the day to day struggles this family goes through. Peter is so blessed to have Mary and Pat as parents & they are just as equally blessed to have such a beautiful boy. Let's not forget their adopted "sassy" daughter Sophie! I remember playing with dolls as a young girl like Mary and her best friend Joy and wanting them to be real. That's what drew me into this book. Mary was born to be a Mother. I applaud Mary and Pat for giving Peter a chance at a good life full of love. The struggles they experience are candid which wanted me to read the next chapter right away! This book is a must read and I would love to see their story on the "Big Screen" one day.

I found the book inspiring, gripping...and terrifying. The author shares the extreme highs and the valley lows of the adoption process...if you thought the harrowing process of adopting a child from Russia ends when you get back home, guess again...the journey documented in great detail in this book is intensely personal and conveys the determination, the love, the perseverance, the devotion

it takes to be an adoptive parent especially one with FAS. I would highly recommend this book to anyone considering adoption. Excellent read and keen self awareness and candor. I doubt there's another book out there like this one!

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