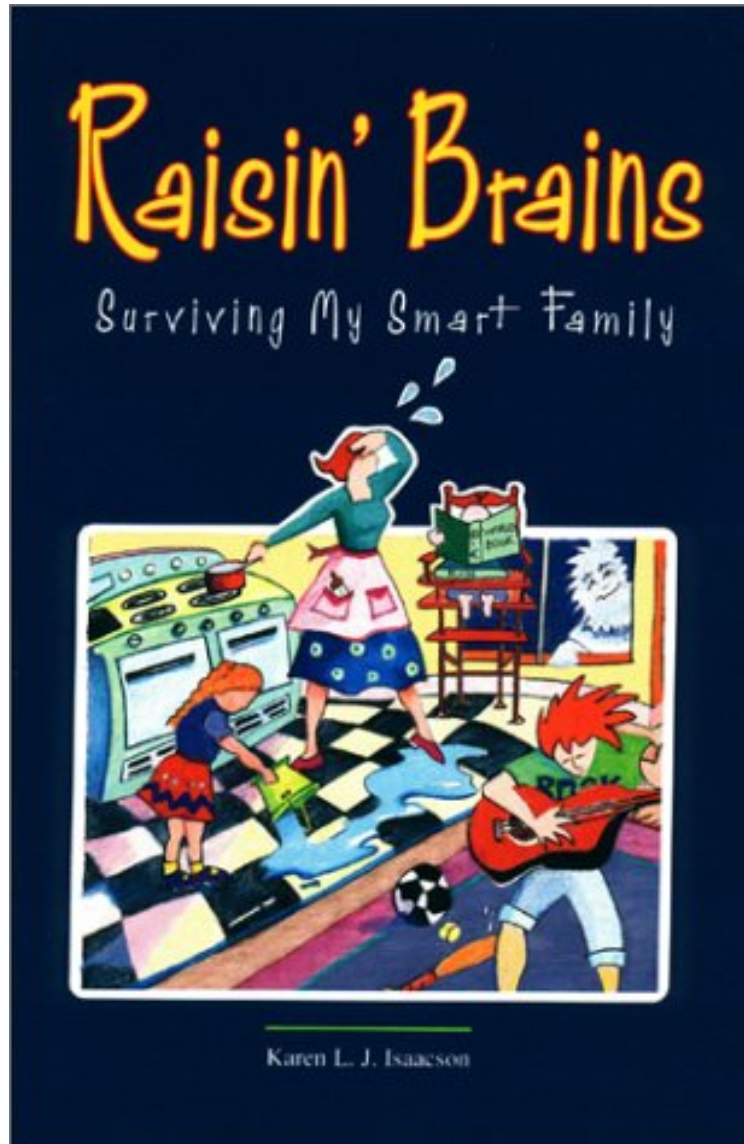


(Download pdf) Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family

Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family

Karen L.J. Isaacson

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Karen L.J. Isaacson : Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Raisin' Brains: Surviving My Smart Family:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Down to earth, Informative and EntertainingBy MaritI found this book wonderfully informative and refreshingly written in a conversational format with lots of personal experience and humor thrown in. It was not what I was expecting, however. After reading the reviews, I was disappointed to not laugh out loud until several chapters into the book. Despite this, I enjoyed it enough that I did recommend it to several

friends and bought copies to give to my siblings for Christmas. (Maybe now we will understand my brother blowing himself up with rocket fuel he had made with his chemistry set at age 13....)The easy format doesn't require the concentration of some of the more sterile books on parenting a gifted child, but seemed to have almost as much information. There were many excerpts that made me smile but only a few parts where I laughed so hard that I thought I would cry. The best part of this book was that it helped me to understand my own family - both past and present - and realize that what we often take to be ADHD or ordinary weirdness, is just a normal symptom of having a differently wired brain, intense concentration and an amazing imagination. Another feature of this book that I appreciated was its lack of glorifying giftedness. Instead of describing it as a trait to aspire to, it talks about it clearly as the strength and curse that it is for those that are born with it. It talks about the different needs of a gifted child in education and life with detail and many zany examples. It emphasizes throughout the differences in giftedness levels as well as giftedness in many different areas. She talked about her 5 children and their varying strengths and interests. She gave her five children and 4 siblings interesting names to protect their identities; names like Myron, Pandora, Stanley, Magnolia and Otto. As she teaches through conversation and silly examples, she "keeps it real", reminding us that all parents ask themselves often why they chose to have children, but always know the real reason deep inside. The ability to laugh at oneself and enjoy our situation and gifted children is one that is often overlooked and a much needed trait for surviving this path of raising gifted children. This book is very refreshing and should be a definite addition to any gifted library. I highly recommend it for gifted parents, educators and older gifted children. For most of us, this will be the copy that is most worn and most lent out....0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it!By Mrs. HodginsGet ready to relate and laugh hysterically if you are gifted or know someone who is gifted. You will appreciate your weirdness. Could not put this book down!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fabulous Book for parents of Gifted KidsBy CustomerWe LOVED this book! Raisin Brains is not only funny, its a joy to read. So many of us think we're "Ab - normal" when we have gifted children; even when we don't realize they technically fall into that category. This book helps families feel good about our 'creativity' and different ways of looking at as well as interpreting the world. Reading this book gave us laughs and a great relief to know our smart, 'creative thinkers' are not alone - and neither are we as parents.

Author Karen L.J. Isaacson will have readers laughing out loud with her Erma Bombeck-type stories on life with an eclectic gifted and creative family! Humor like this helps parents and teachers maintain a badly-needed sense of perspective.

"!!!!!!Exceptional" -- Today's Books "A good read for parents who need revitalization from the demands of raising gifted children." -- Duke Gifted Letter "Hats off to you, Ms. Isaacson, for sharing your stories and your wisdom...this book scores a perfect 10." -- Davidson Institute for Talent Development, December, 2002 "Raisin' Brains is delightful and highly recommended reading." -- Midwest Book , Fall, 2002 "You'll bust a gut laughing about this Montana Mom's adventures with her five, yes, count 'em, five gifted kids." -- Minnesota Outlook, Jan/March, 2003, ed by Wendy Skinner "all proud parents will enjoy reading this funny book." -- Fearless s, November, 2002 "an entertaining and enlightening work...reasonably priced...I highly recommend it." -- Feedback Magazine, South Carolina Psychological Association "entertaining and enlightening...helpful and reassuring...with...special issues of the G/T child...I highly recommend it." -- South Carolina Psychological Association "it is the touching and hilarious humor in "Raisin' Brains" that makes the book such a good parent recommendation." -- Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education Newsletter, Spring, 2004 Winner of the ForeWord Magazine Gold Book of the Year Award! -- ForeWord Magazine About the Author Karen Isaacson has had several humor articles published. She is a writer and an artist, but most of her time is spent being a mom. She has been involved with parent/teacher support groups for gifted and talented children and has served as a coach for creative problem-solving teams. Karen lives in Montana with her husband, Len, and their five children.