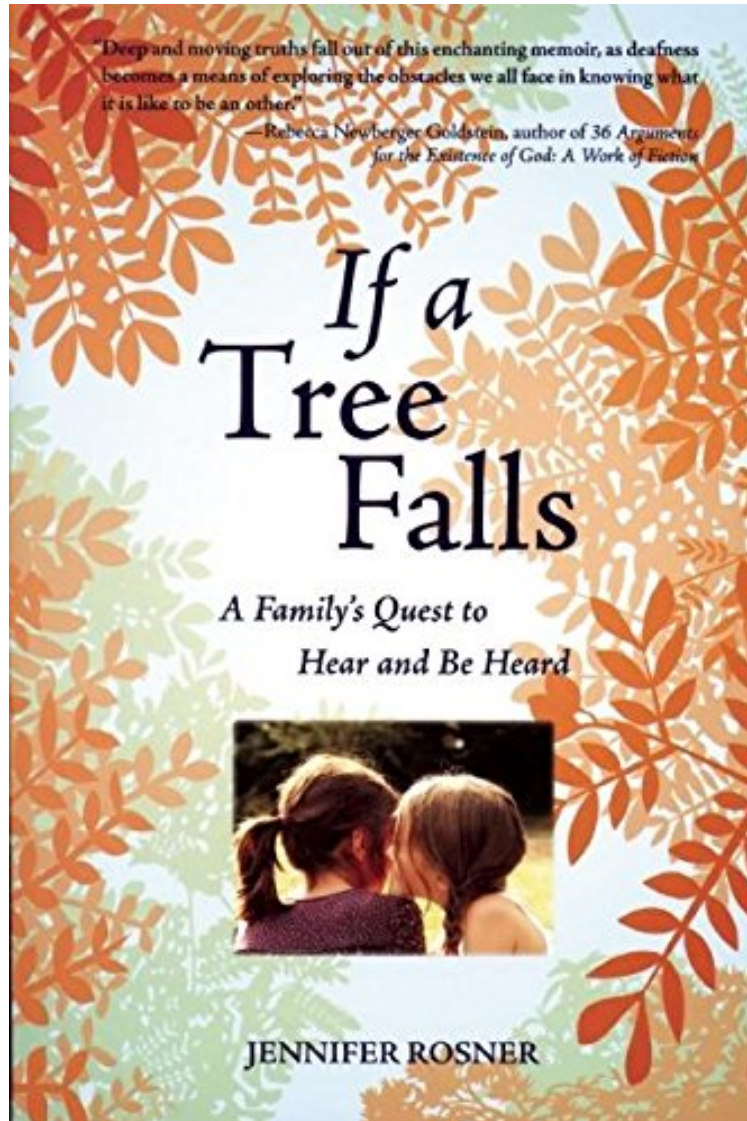


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## If a Tree Falls: A Family's Quest to Hear and Be Heard

*Jennifer Rosner*

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**Jennifer Rosner : If a Tree Falls: A Family's Quest to Hear and Be Heard** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised If a Tree Falls: A Family's Quest to Hear and Be Heard:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Parental decisions and outcomes for deaf children. By Skye Isaac The subject of 'A Family's Quest to Hear and be Heard,' is a central issue for every family. Jennifer Rosner's personal story of decisions and outcomes around deafness provoked my mindfulness about the major decisions I, and all parents make on behalf of their children. For these things alone I like this book and there are moments of beautiful writing. Personally I am also interested in deep spiritual, soulful enquiry. This is more of a family friendly book with a very wonderful

relationship between the parents.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If a Tree Falls BookBy Bridget KarpI needed to read a book about a Deaf family for one of my classes, and this book was great! It is kind of side, but I like how it compares what Deaf culture and life was like back in the late 1800s to now in the 2000s. It's a pretty quick read and it's heartwarming. I've definitely learned about Deaf culture through this book and it provides me a lot of insight for my future career.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. inspiring, compelling, well-written storyBy Cynthia GensheimerI have never before posted a review, but I am doing so for If a Tree Falls, because I love the book. A dozen of my friends also read it, and they all agreed: this is a compelling story that every woman can relate to as a daughter and/or mother. Jennifer's struggles to make the right decisions for her daughters, keeping in mind their medical, intellectual and emotional needs, resonated with me. Her frankness in telling her poignant, thought-provoking story drew me in right from the start. Although everyone is bound to enjoy Jennifer's three storylines, her book will appeal particularly to parents who have had to come to terms with a child's medical problem, deliberate the best course of treatment and incorporate medical appointments and therapies into daily life. Rosner inspires parents by sharing how she has done all that for her own daughters, all the while striving to maintain a sense of normalcy for them and infuse their lives with joy.

Jennifer Rosner's revelatory memoir explores family, silence, and what it means to be heard. When her daughters are born deaf, Rosner is stunned. Then she discovers a hidden history of deafness in her family, going back generations to the Jewish enclaves of Eastern Europe. Traveling back in time, she imagines her silent relatives, who showed surprising creativity in dealing with a world that preferred to ignore them. Rosner shares her journey into the modern world of deafness, and the controversial decisions she and her husband have made about hearing aids, cochlear implants and sign language. An imaginative odyssey, punctuated by memories of being unheard, Rosner's story of her daughters' deafness is at heart a story of whether she as a mother with perfect hearing will hear her children.

From Publishers Weekly Rosner turns what could have been a depressing story into a gentle meditation on sound and silence, love and family. She writes with honesty and empathy about her daughter Sophia's diagnosis with deafness and the adjustments she and her husband had to make. She describes the birth of her second daughter, Juliet, a few years later (who received a similar diagnosis) and shares the programs and technology available to help the hearing impaired. "Bill and I were talkers. We were constantly debating, questioning, arguing, doubting, agreeing, wondering aloud. And we were hearers, in the hearing world. A soundless, wordless world was unimaginable to us." The author can't resist looking into the hows and whys of her situation and examines her family tree only to find relatives generations ago who had been deaf. She also works to reconcile her difficult relationship with her mother and asks frequent theoretical questions: "What are the elements essential for identity, for personhood, for perception and existence?" She fills the discussion with philosophy and grace. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Rosner turns what could have been a depressing story into a gentle meditation on sound and silence, love and family. She writes with honesty and empathy... She fills the discussion with philosophy and grace." Publishers Weekly Deep and moving truths fall out of this enchanting memoir, as deafness becomes a means of exploring the grave obstacles we all face in knowing what it is like to be another." Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, author of *36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction* "This beautiful book is about listening—really listening—to children, history, and one's own knowing heart. It's an exquisite memoir, crossed with poetry and the unmistakable shine of truth." Catherine Newman, author of *Waiting for Birdy* "With profound honesty and endearing humility, Rosner writes about the searing emotional challenges that parents can face, and about absorbing these lessons and moving into deeper wisdom. A beautiful, deeply felt exploration of love and hard choices." Josh Swiller, author of *The Unheard: A Memoir of Deafness and Africa* This wrenching journey into deafness from the standpoint of a mother, a wife, a daughter, a philosopher, and a Jew explores the meaning of sound in a soundless world. If a Tree Falls shows the extent to which what we hear comes not only from our contemporaries but from the people who came before us and those who will succeed us. Ilan Stavans, author of *On Borrowed Words: A Memoir of Language* "Jennifer Rosner's *If a Tree Falls* is the kind of memoir that reminds the reader how we are all part of the same long line: complicated selves finding our way in a world that challenges us to discover our deeper resilience and untold strengths." Vicki Forman, author of *This Lovely Life: A Memoir of Premature Motherhood*