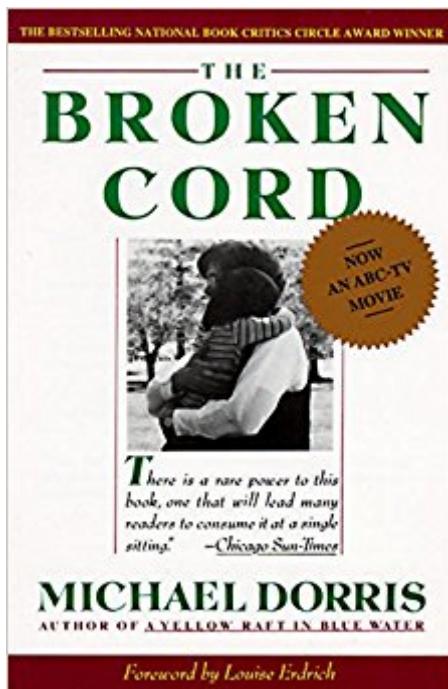


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The Broken Cord



Synopsis

The controversial national bestseller that received unprecedeted media attention, sparked the nation's interest in the plight of children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and touched a nerve in all of us. Winner of the 1989 National Book Critics Circle Award.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

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Customer Reviews

When Michael Dorris, 26, single, working on his doctorate, and part Indian himself, applied to adopt an Indian child, his request was speedily granted. He knew that his new three-year-old son, Adam, was badly developmentally disabled; but he believed in the power of nurture and love. This is the heartrending story, full of compassion and rage, of how his son grew up mentally retarded, a victim of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome whom no amount of love could make whole. The volume includes a short account of his own life by the 20-year-old Adam, and a foreword by Dorris' wife, the writer Louise Erdrich. *The Broken Cord* won a National Book Critics Circle Award in 1989.

"As passionate as it is fierce. Intensely personal and moving beyond belief, "The Broken Cord....is a book so powerful it will not only break your heart; it will restore your faith."--Alice Hoffman, author of "At Risk

I first read this book about 15 years ago. The whole story touched me deeply and I never forgot it. It was tucked in the back of my mind all these years. This book is about a 26 year old Native American, single college professor who desires to be a family man and decides to adopt a son. He

is a nuturing sort, into his roots and waiting for the "right woman" to come along. (And she eventually does come into the picture) Meanwhile, he is a good father, doing everything he can to help his son have a better start in life and he tries with all his heart and mind to aid his son with health issues and soon to be apparent behavioral issues. He really is naive and doesn't know what he is getting into. But he perseveres and devotes his life to try to figure out his sons problems and discovers he is struggling with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. There are many compelling things to this story. The fact that it is a true story, where you follow his very personal journey from adopting at age 3, to his sons 20th birthday. (This is at the beginning stages of our understanding of FAS/FASE in the U.S.) Later, you see the introduction of alcohol to the American Indians, from the beginning and how it affects Reservation Life today. From there he branches into how alcohol abuse and FAS/FASE is a world wide phenomena affecting every level of society from the poor to the rich. There is a lot of science exposing the danger of alcohol consumption on the developing fetus. This book was utterly facinating. It is complete with loads of documentation and recorded conversations that shed light on the problems that are helpful for today.(Even though my copy was published in 1979, I think) It is written in a totally readable style. This book has become dearer to me, as we have adopted a boy at age 4 and who is now 10. I remembered this book and reread it recently, and was blown away! It helped me realize that we too, are on a very similar journey with our youngest son. I found many common behaviors and have become convinced as I research, that we too are living with Fetal Alcohol Effects. Our son case is not as severe as Adam's but there are many, many similarities. I would highly recommend this book for every person to read. If you or someone you love is dealing with these problems, you will find this book encouraging, even though sad at times. It is helpful for broadening your horizons about the needs of people in general, maybe that person you see shabbily dressed, asking for money in front of the store. It is a book that will hopefully not only educate but challenge us all to deeper levels of compassion, especially towards those less fortunate. PLEASE READ! It is a real eye-opener.

I read it when it was first published. It is the best book on FAS ever written. Michael Dorris was a very good writer.

Not enough words to describe this fantastic book. Anyone who is at all connected with children of special needs, or connected with children in the adoption/foster system should read this book. It clearly, and engagingly gives such a clear picture of how life really is, not how one may imagine it is, living with children with special needs, or in this case FAS. The writing itself is so interesting that the

book is hard to put down.

The book The Broken cord was truly a excellent book, It is one of those books where once you pick it up you cant put it down, I read it in two days!! Captivating. I had no idea the affects of fetal alcohol syndrome had on these poor children that suffer from this thru No fault of their own, Just because their parents drank too much during pregnancy these children have such a hard road ahead of them. The author explains in vivid, honest and grippig detail of what it is like raising a child like this when he didnt find out this is what his child was suffering from until many many years later. A real eye opener. I think every obgyn doctor should make their patients read this book!!!

The book is a father's first hand account of raising a child with fetal alcohol effect. Too much of the book is about what clothes people were wearing and places he traveled to. Did find a few worthwhile facts in this book.

This was an excellent true story. I couldn't get it out of mind and then I found out that the author killed himself. I was devastated. He went through so much and explained all about the high rate of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome in Native children. A must read.

EXCELLANT portrayal of what fetal alcohol syndrome does to a victim. I bought it for a friend whose adopted son has it. I read it when it first came out a few years ago. It is well written by a PhD anthropologist whose adopted son has it too.

Read it years ago..bought for a friend..touching story and as realistic as they come..believe me..!

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