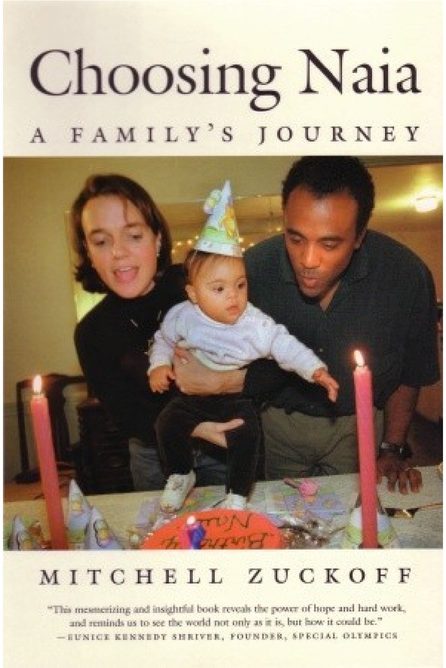

Choosing Naia: A Family's Journey

Mitchell Zuckoff

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A dramatic and carefully detailed account of one family's journey through the maze of genetic counseling, medical technology, and disability rights; destined to become required reading for anyone touched by any of these issues.

Choosing Naia: A Family's Journey Details

Date	:	Published September 2nd 2003 by Beacon Press (first published 2002)
ISBN	:	9780807028179
Author	:	Mitchell Zuckoff
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From Reader Review Choosing Naia: A Family's Journey for online ebook

Kris says

Beautiful book of a beautiful child.
people who don't accept these children don't know what they miss!

Rebekah says

This was an interesting read about the struggle of a couple to decide whether or not to continue a pregnancy, knowing that the child has Down Syndrome. I enjoyed the story aspect much more than the technical aspect, which I skimmed over for the most part. Gotta admit that I loved the happy ending!

Bri says

This book was very informative about Down Syndrome. If you are an educator, I would recommend it to you. It helped me understand more of the journey parents go through and the important decisions they make along the way.

Janine says

I've read many memoirs of people who have a family member with a disability. This one was interesting because it was told by a third party, alternating between the story of the family and a factual account of the medical and early childhood educational aspects of the situation. At times there was too much detail, but overall a good read.

Elizabeth says

So far, this book had really delved deeply into the issues surrounding downs syndrome and many other factors in one expectant couple's lives, including interracial marriage, discrimination, abortion, faith, and more. It digs deeply, also giving factual information on how downs happens and history of our knowledge of downs (quite fascinating and horrifying). My only criticism of the book is its overly detailed writing style. However, the reader is certainly drawn into the characters' lives.

Peggy Jeffcoat says

This is a true account of one family's decision to continue with the pregnancy after they discover that the child will have Down Syndrome. I learned a lot about Down Syndrome and was happy to be enlightened on the subject. The author followed the family almost from the beginning of the diagnosis thru about 3 years of age.

Corinne Edwards says

This is an important book. I don't think my consciousness ever fully grasped the concept that people actually decide to abort their children when they find out that they have (or COULD have) a condition like Down Syndrome. It was amazing to follow this husband and wife as they worked out their feelings about being parents to a child who would not develop and live the way they'd imagined and dreamed. Heartbreaking at times, Zuckoff does a nice job of mixing the story of this family with facts and background regarding the education of children with special needs, research and other families stories. If you have a child with Down Syndrome (or are going to) you should read this. If you have an interest in the field of special education, you should read it. If you have a neighbor or loved one who cares for someone with Down Syndrome, read it too.

Chrissy says

I chose this book because it was about a family and their journey to have a child with Down syndrome AND because they were treated right here in Hartford, so I actually know and have worked with nearly every doctor in the book. Basically, the book is about their decision to abort or not to abort, and it boils down to "if only we knew just HOW retarded she would be... if she'll be on the low IQ range, we'll keep her; if she'll be severely retarded, we'll abort". This is NOT what I was expecting from the book (you know from the beginning they keep her, so I figured it would be more like they realized the innate value of a child, regardless of her abilities). Still, the redeeming value of the book was that it taught me the inner workings of the minds of people who think very differently than I do, and that in this day and age (she was born in '99 perhaps), well educated people still have no concept of what Down syndrome is like.

Tiffany says

Interesting and fact-rich book full of the ethical and moral choices involved in finding out you are carrying a child with chromosomal differences. Powerful message and informative- even for those who haven't had to make that choice.

Mary says

I picked up Choosing Naia while at the library searching for books for the Adoption Reading Challenge. Choosing Naia is a very detailed account of a family's choice to continue their pregnancy with a child prenatally diagnosed with Down Syndrome. The book is written by Mitchell Zuckoff, a Boston Globe reporter. Because of that, I think it is a bit more difficult to read. In addition to telling Naia's family story, the book includes significant information about the history of Down Syndrome and cumbersome medical knowledge. It is definitely not a light read.

I found it surprising that most parents of individuals with Down Syndrome do not have a prenatal diagnosis and are surprised at the child's birth.

What advocates of Down Syndrome may find difficult is that Naia's parents seriously considered terminating the pregnancy. The book also includes stories of families who did choose to terminate. While difficult to read, I felt that it was necessary as the story would not be so raw and honest without those testimonies. The book also shows the successes of many individuals with DS and the parents who chose to continue their pregnancies and raise their children.

While this is not an adoption book per se, I have been doing some heavy research on adoption of children with Down Syndrome. This book allowed me to broaden my perspective of DS.

Elana says

I loved this journey that is documented in this book. Excellent writing. I learned more about Down Syndrome and could relate a little since my little grand-daughter, Grace, has this syndrome. I loved the advice the couple received from a religious leader, "The miracle you pray for may not be the miracle you receive." That is exactly what happened with Grace. This is an informative and interesting book.

Trish says

True story about a family that finds out that their unborn child has Down Syndrome and their emotional process in deciding what to do. Speaks to the ethical decisions we face because of medical advances.

Sherry says

My Godmother gave me this book to read. I really liked it but I don't think the mulitracial issue should have been such a big deal. It think it still would have been a good book without making this such an issue.

Meghan says

This book was a choice of several for me to read and then write a paper on for a "Disabilities in the Media" class in college. The book is split into two alternating parts, the private turmoil a couple faces after the discover their unborn child has Down Syndrom, and more technical/clinical sections that discuss the medical and social ramifications of raising a child who has Down Syndrome.

April says

I read this book because my cousin has a child with Down Syndrome. I admired her and her husbands decision to carry this baby full-term. They are Christian and have a very strict view on the sanctity of life. That being said, it was good to read another family's story on the subject.

The couple in the book were very conflicted in their beliefs. They really wanted to do what was right for their baby. The idea of their child suffering in the womb or later when it was born really affected them. They were back and forth a lot in their decision. They ultimately decide to have Naia, but the story only begins there. There is a lot to discover and learn about raising a child with a disability. I would recommend this to anyone who is pregnant, or wants to be pregnant. I also would recommend it to anyone interested in genetics and the miracle of creating a life.