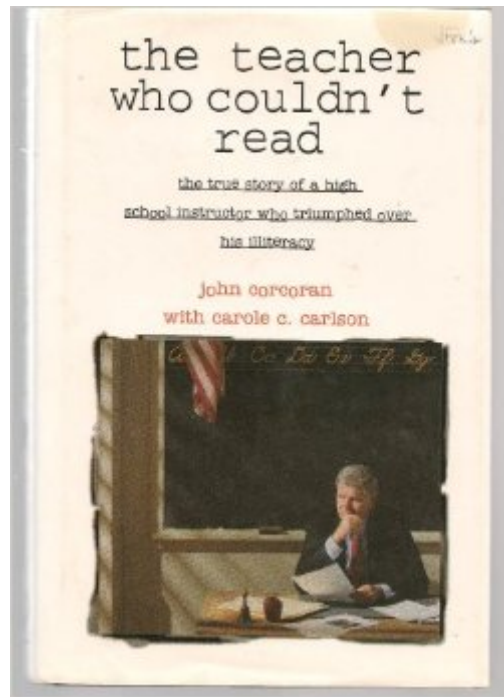


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TEACHER WHO COULDN'T READ



Synopsis

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Book Information

Hardcover: 254 pages

Publisher: Thomas Nelson; First Edition, 1st Printing edition (June 21, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1561792497

ISBN-13: 978-1561792498

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Because I currently work as a literacy tutor, I decided to order this book. On my own, I found only parts of the book captured my interest. However, as my students listen to selected passages during each class session, they feel moved to share similar experiences verbally and in writing. Thus, this book has proven a wonderful resource for me; One of my students asked me to order it for her. All of the students feel inspired by John Corcoran's story.

John Corcoran deserves some applause for overcoming his illiteracy and he should be congratulated on giving the public the story of his struggle. The autobiography of a man who came from an hard-working, Catholic family will probably endear him to his readers. Corcoran will definitely make you think about what illiteracy does to someone on a personal level. He gives surprising detail about how torturous it was for him to live a life with this burning secret welling inside of him. It's hard not to pity Corcoran, but also, it's not easy to swallow his whole story. Some may call him a saint, and some may call him a hypocrite. Read his book and decide for yourself.

On the plus side, this was a fast, interesting read. It definitely held my attention. There were some issues in the writing though, such as the really really poor and continuous use of analogies. Also,

some things went unexplained, such as why he chose to be a teacher. Many reviewers don't care for the fact that he did a lot of blaming, but didn't blame himself. First, I will note, that many of those he places blame, probably deserves it. But the real problem is that he believes God did this and God did that, God micromanages his world. He can't really blame anyone when it's all God "steering his ship", that takes away his free will. I do think it's interesting that one of the main reasons illiterates want to read is to read the Bible. But how many so-called Christians who can read just fine don't bother? The one thing this book did bring home was that there are way, way, to many people in American who can't read. It's appalling. And 3 out of 5 in prison can't. You would probably commit crimes to if you livind in a world filled with strange signs that you couldn't decode the meaning of, but others could. So, as you can see, there are reasons to read this book, but it's certainly got issues.

I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the problem of illiteracy in the U.S. I actually read this in 1997 while assisting a 42 year old man who could not read (incidentally, he had a high school diploma!). He related to John Corcoran's life story so it inspired him and helped him to continue on with the phonics program we were using. He made quick progress and his life began to change. One of the changes was that he was able to get a better job. I am using John's suggestions and story again to inspire another grown man who could not read with ease and did not have a high school diploma. We are working towards him taking the GED placement test. I am impressed by John's heart for the illiterate and the zeal that he has to help them.

In this book, Corcoran brings adult illiteracy to the surface as he tells us of his own illiteracy and the struggles he had to overcome it. In the richest country in the world, it is astonishing the 1/3 of the adult population is functionally illiterate. Corcoran tells a moving story, but he switches his point to many times. He paints himself as a victim and as one who is not to blame for his handicap. Well he does offer some good valid points on correcting the educational system, he is not the one qualified to tell us what is wrong. He taught for almost 20 years, and who knows how many of his students he didn't reach because of his own illiteracy? It is hard for anyone to listen to the message that he is trying to convey.

A shocking true story of a man's struggle with illiteracy. An immediate feeling of compassion for the author in the first few chapters of the book. Thereafter a feeling of moral disappointment and cowardness for his continues actions to himself and others. The bibliography is defintley an attention

grabber and captures that same attention throughout the book. It is a book that I feel that took the author a lot of courage to write about. His life story is displayed publicly for criticism of good and bad nature. Yet, I feel this book was more of a release of consciousness and to show who was to blame for his illiteracy problems. It is a book that can not be encouraging for many people. In the sense that the author seemed to go for help until he hit rock bottom in his life. If he continued on with his life being successful I believe he would have never went in for help for his illiteracy. Although I feel this way about the author's attempt to show the world about his struggles he has built awareness about illiteracy. A problem that is extreme in our country.

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