



## Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism

By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.



**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism** By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.

“This is a book about autism. Specifically, it is about my autism, which is both like and unlike other people’s autism. But just as much, it is a story about how I emerged from the darkness of it into the beauty of it.”

In this elegant and thought-provoking memoir, Dawn Prince-Hughes traces her personal growth from undiagnosed autism to the moment when, as a young woman, she entered the Seattle Zoo and immediately became fascinated with the gorillas.

Having suffered from a lifelong inability to relate to people in a meaningful way, Dawn was surprised to find herself irresistibly drawn to these great primates. By observing them and, later, working with them, she was finally able to emerge from her solitude and connect to living beings in a way she had never previously experienced.

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation** is more than a story of autism, it is a paean to all that is important in life. Dawn Prince-Hughes’s evocative story will undoubtedly have a lasting impact, forcing us, like the author herself, to rediscover and assess our own understanding of human emotion.

 [Download Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Au ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through ...pdf](#)

# Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism

By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism** By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.

“This is a book about autism. Specifically, it is about my autism, which is both like and unlike other people’s autism. But just as much, it is a story about how I emerged from the darkness of it into the beauty of it.”

In this elegant and thought-provoking memoir, Dawn Prince-Hughes traces her personal growth from undiagnosed autism to the moment when, as a young woman, she entered the Seattle Zoo and immediately became fascinated with the gorillas.

Having suffered from a lifelong inability to relate to people in a meaningful way, Dawn was surprised to find herself irresistibly drawn to these great primates. By observing them and, later, working with them, she was finally able to emerge from her solitude and connect to living beings in a way she had never previously experienced.

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation** is more than a story of autism, it is a paean to all that is important in life. Dawn Prince-Hughes’s evocative story will undoubtedly have a lasting impact, forcing us, like the author herself, to rediscover and assess our own understanding of human emotion.

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism** By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.

## Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #539393 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Broadway Books
- Published on: 2005-03-22
- Released on: 2005-03-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.99" h x .50" w x 5.18" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

 [Download Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Au ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.

---

### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this affecting, thoughtful memoir, Prince-Hughes explores how working with gorillas helped her escape the feelings of isolation she encountered as a sufferer of Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism characterized by difficulties processing stimuli, sensory sensitivity and social awkwardness. Her description of the course of her condition is both delightfully quixotic and terribly sad. Prince-Hughes's addictions to the smells of purple irises and tin Band-Aid boxes seem harmless enough, but her inability to emotionally connect to other people has terrible consequences. In high school, she is beaten and harshly abused. Trying to cope, she develops a drinking problem, spends months homeless and takes a job as a strip club dancer to make ends meet. A lifeline comes after a trip to the zoo, where the author discovers gorillas and forms a bond with them that changes her life. These creatures see the world the same way Prince-Hughes does: "They didn't look at one another, and they did look at me, they looked at everything." She gets a low-level zoo job and decides to make a career out of studying gorillas. By quietly, calmly watching the gorillas interact, Prince-Hughes learns about emotions like love, anger, concern and humor—feelings she could never understand in the purely human world. The author's favorite gorilla, a 500-pounder named Congo, becomes more of a friend than a subject, at one point literally giving her a shoulder to cry on. Although Prince-Hughes goes on to earn a Ph.D. in anthropology, she still struggles with verbal and physical interactions. In print, however, she finds touching eloquence and clarity.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

This memoir tells how Prince-Hughes learned to manage her form of autism, Asperger's syndrome, by observing and interacting with gorillas. This "high-functioning" form of autism regularly goes unrecognized because sufferers are often gifted intellectually and learn numerous coping mechanisms. The author's accounts of her early childhood are intensely moving as she describes how she viewed her world and how she tried to deal with it. What makes this book unique is the author's discovery of the gorillas at Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, and how she learned about personal relationships, the need for companionship, and the need for a group to belong to by watching them. Though she dropped out of school at 16, wanting to learn more about the gorillas helped her to find a focus and led to an eventual Ph.D. in anthropology. The reader will feel what the author is feeling, and her comparisons of herself with the gorillas she grew to love are fascinating. An excellent addition to any library's collection about autism, this will also resonate with all who understand the human-animal connection. *Nancy Bent*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"Lyrical, redemptive . . . *Songs of the Gorilla Nation* is as much a rhapsody to gorillas as it is an anatomy of autism." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"A primer on self-preservation and love." —*O Magazine*

"*Gorilla Nation* proves Prince-Hughes is a great writer—and an inspiration to anyone searching for a voice." —*Seattle Magazine*

"[An] affecting, thoughtful memoir . . . both delightfully quixotic and terribly sad. Although Prince-Hughes struggles with verbal and physical interactions, in print she finds touching eloquence and clarity."

—*Publishers Weekly*

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Anna Snyder:**

Now a day people that Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Looking at a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information particularly this Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism book because book offers you rich facts and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

#### **Coleman Bailey:**

This book untitled Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book shop or you can order it by way of online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more readily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Cell phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

#### **Grace Harrell:**

This Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who else always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it info accurately using great arrange word or we can say no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism in your hand like having the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no e-book that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Heya Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

#### **William Hayes:**

Do you like reading a guide? Confuse to looking for your favorite book? Or your book was rare? Why so many concern for the book? But almost any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes reading, not only science book and also novel and Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism as well as others sources were given understanding for you. After you know how the fantastic a book, you feel wish to read more and more. Science book was created for teacher or students especially. Those ebooks are helping them to include their knowledge. In some other case, beside science book, any other book likes Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

**Download and Read Online Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My  
Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D.  
#21IPDQJH4SC**

## **Read Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. for online ebook**

Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. books to read online.

### **Online Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. ebook PDF download**

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. Doc**

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. Mobipocket**

**Songs of the Gorilla Nation: My Journey Through Autism By Dawn Prince-Hughes Ph.D. EPub**