



The Story of My Life

By Helen Keller

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The Story of My Life (biography)

The Story of My Life, first published in 1903, is Helen Keller's autobiography detailing her early life, especially her experiences with Anne Sullivan. Portions of it were adapted by William Gibson for a 1957 Playhouse 90 production, a 1959 Broadway play, a 1962 Hollywood feature film, and the Indian film "Black", which was directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali ft. Amitabh Bachchan instead of Anne Sullivan. The book is dedicated to inventor Alexander Graham Bell. The dedication reads, "To ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL Who has taught the deaf to speak and enabled the listening ear to hear speech from the Atlantic to the Rockies, I dedicate this Story of My Life."

Publication history

Keller first began to write The Story of My Life in 1902, when she was still a student at Radcliffe's College. It was first published in the Ladies Home Journal in the same year as a series of installments. The following year, it was published Doubleday, Page & Co as a book. The book was well received and Keller wrote two more books, Midstream and My Later Life.

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The Story of My Life By Helen Keller Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Helen Keller would not be bound by conditions. Rendered deaf and blind at 19 months by scarlet fever, she learned to read (in several languages) and even speak, eventually graduating with honors from Radcliffe College in 1904, where as a student she wrote *The Story of My Life*. That she accomplished all of this in an age when few women attended college and the disabled were often relegated to the background, spoken of only in hushed tones, is remarkable. But Keller's many other achievements are impressive by any standard: she authored 13 books, wrote countless articles, and devoted her life to social reform. An active and effective suffragist, pacifist, and socialist (the latter association earned her an FBI file), she lectured on behalf of disabled people everywhere. She also helped start several foundations that continue to improve the lives of the deaf and blind around the world.

As a young girl Keller was obstinate, prone to fits of violence, and seething with rage at her inability to express herself. But at the age of 7 this wild child was transformed when, at the urging of Alexander Graham Bell, Anne Sullivan became her teacher, an event she declares "the most important day I remember in all my life." (Sullivan herself had once been blind, but partially recovered her sight after a series of operations.) In a memorable passage, Keller writes of the day "Teacher" led her to a stream and repeatedly spelled out the letters *w-a-t-e-r* on one of her hands while pouring water over the other. This method proved a revelation: "That living world awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away." And, indeed, most of them were.

In her lovingly crafted and deeply perceptive autobiography, Keller's joyous spirit is most vividly expressed in her connection to nature:

Indeed, everything that could hum, or buzz, or sing, or bloom, had a part in my education....
Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of the lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror....

The idea of feeling rather than hearing a sound, or of admiring a flower's motion rather than its color, evokes a strong visceral sensation in the reader, giving *The Story of My Life* a subtle power and beauty. Keller's celebration of discovery becomes our own. In the end, this blind and deaf woman succeeds in sharpening our eyes and ears to the beauty of the world. --Shawn Carkonen

From Library Journal

More than a 100th-anniversary reprint, this book was reedited by literary scholar Roger Shattuck and Keller biographer Dorothy Hermann to include excised material.

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Review

"The greatest woman of our age."

—Winston Churchill

"Helen Keller is fellow to Caesar, Alexander, Napoleon, Homer, Shakespeare, and the rest of the immortals. . . . She will be as famous a thousand years from now as she is today."

—Mark Twain

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Paul Anderson:

Do you considered one of people who can't read pleasurable if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys that aren't like that. This The Story of My Life book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the information here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with The Story of My Life content conveys prospect easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different in the form of it. So , do you nonetheless thinking The Story of My Life is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

Russell Diamond:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the data about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some study before they write on their book. One of them is this The Story of My Life.

Johanna Land:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a guide. The book The Story of My Life it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the particular e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

Jessica Harris:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that query was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And you also know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. Different categories of books that can you take to be your object. One of them is The Story of My Life.

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