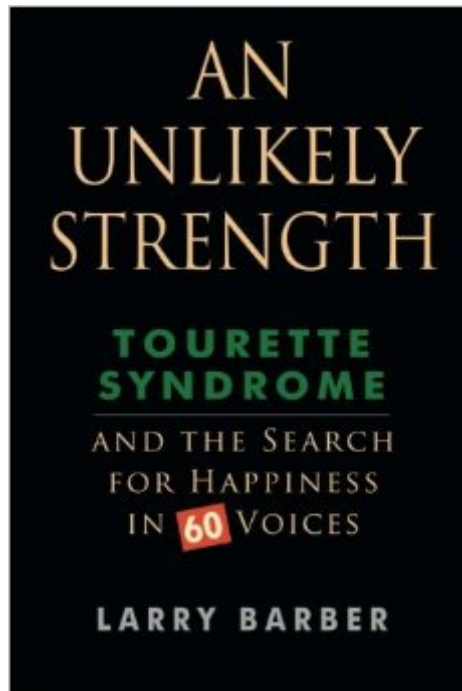


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# An Unlikely Strength: Tourette Syndrome And The Search For Happiness In 60 Voices



## Synopsis

Sixty adults and children tell their intimate stories of Tourette syndrome, or Tourettes, how it affects their lives and self-image and how, despite it all, they persevere with strength and hope. A resource guide for adults and children, moms and dads, *An Unlikely Strength* shares the challenges and successes of grappling with Tourette's; it acknowledges heartbreak as it gives hope; it discusses the latest creative solutions to dealing with tics and behaviors; it explores the newest medical treatments. This book shares stories of suffering and exile, as well as stories about creating a fruitful and satisfying life. For individuals and families. *An Unlikely Strength* shows what it's like to be viewed by the "normal" world, and how Touretters have come to the powerful self-realization that Tourette syndrome is not who they are—they are free to create themselves and follow their own true path.

## Book Information

Paperback: 386 pages

Publisher: SQ Press (May 24, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0692652795

ISBN-13: 978-0692652794

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #476,879 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Tourette Syndrome](#)

## Customer Reviews

Just got the book and just about half way through. Fantastic stories from different people and how Tourette's has impacted their life. My son has Tourette's and has been advocating for awareness for a few years now. It is interesting to read others stories and see how similar or different there from ours. Great book if you or someone you know has Tourettes.

Wow an amazing book. I worked in special education for over 25 years and this book made me more aware of how people with special needs feel about life. The writing style is engaging. People can learn about the human spirit. I could not put the book down until it was done. Robin Lerner  
LCSW

This compelling collection of interviews is both heart-warming and heart-breaking simultaneously. I've been reading the book since the very first interview because I was its editor. As each interview was completed, I worked with Larry Barber to shorten and shape the people's stories, stories that I felt privileged to share. Now that the book is complete, others also have the opportunity to delve into the minds and souls of people who have Tourette syndrome and those who have children with TS. Readers will find humor, sometimes dark but always evident.....they will find stories of remarkable resilience and compassion. The 60 voices tell of doctors who understood them, and those who didn't. Of schools that took them seriously and those who let bullying occur. Parents share their techniques for dealing with the medical and educational professionals. Every person's stark individuality strikes readers, along with the commonalities we all share, as humans. This is a book that grabs readers with the power of stories that have not yet been told. Until now. AN UNLIKELY STRENGTH contributes so much, through the charm and grace of the interviewees and through the loving attention of the author. Enjoy it, learn from it, share it.

Barber begins his book with his own heartbreaking and inspiring story, beautifully written. The other voices in this book are equally compelling and reveal the trials that people with Tourette's face on a daily basis and their strategies to not only cope with this syndrome, but to transcend its limiting and embarrassing effects. Their stories touched me deeply and their words provide a blueprint for all of us looking to live our lives to the fullest no matter what burdens we may carry, be they visible or invisible.

"An Unlikely Strength" is a book I would strongly recommend to anyone who has tourette syndrome or has a family member or friend with tourette syndrome. Larry Barber has put a whole new meaning for the outlook on tourettes. Julie

A wonderfully thoughtful and caring presentation of varied viewpoints on a subject largely ignored or minimized in our culture. Barber writes from his heart about this subject which he knows personally from his own life experiences, which bring a richness of emotion and clarity that is so inviting to my eyes and mind as a professional therapist. I would invite anyone who works in the helping professions to read this book.

This is a lovely book. I don't mean to imply that it isn't an important book; it is. An

Unlikely Strength by Larry Barber is educational, empathetic, well written and, above all, hopeful. While it is a must read for anyone whose life is touched by Tourette's syndrome, it will be of immense interest to anyone who works with children. I wish this book had been available when I was a teacher, as I learned so much not only about Tourette's, but also a lot of information on OCD and depression. The introductions to each section and each writer are written in the engaging and personal voice of the author. My favorite (hard to choose) section was by Lynn and her son Andrew (11 years old). If every child in the world had parents such as Andrew does, we could solve just about any problem in a generation. The saddest section of all was by Bob, who cannot bring himself to admit even to his wife that he has Tourette's. It is not easy to read all of these stories, which contain a lot of pain. But it is, altogether, a lovely book.

This book is full of compelling stories that enable the reader to understand the challenges of Tourette Syndrome and to be inspired, humbled and better educated. Highly recommended for health professionals, families and friends and of course, those who live with this unlikely strength. A major contribution to the field.

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