

If a Tree Falls

A Family's Quest to Hear and Be Heard

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Book Description

Jennifer Rosner's revelatory memoir explores family, silence, and what it means to be heard. When her daughters are born deaf, Rosner is stunned. Then, she discovers a hidden history of deafness in her family, going back generations to the Jewish enclaves of Eastern Europe. Traveling back in time, she imagines her silent relatives, who showed surprising creativity in dealing with a world that preferred to ignore them.

Rosner shares her journey into the modern world of deafness, and the controversial decisions she and her husband have made about hearing aids, cochlear implants and sign language. An imaginative odyssey, punctuated by memories of going unheard, Rosner's story of her daughters' deafness is at heart a story of whether she—a mother with perfect hearing—will hear her children.

Biography

Jennifer Rosner's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *The Faster Times*, *Wondertime Magazine*, and the *Hastings Center Report*. Jennifer holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University, and is editor of *The Messy Self* (Paradigm Publishers, 2007). She lives in Massachusetts with her family.