

Helen Keller

The Story of My Life

By Helen Keller



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The Story of My Life (biography)

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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. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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:

John Solorio:

Inside other case, little individuals like to read book The Story of My Life. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Given that we know about how is important some sort of book The Story of My Life. You can add understanding and of course you can around the world by way of a book. Absolutely right, mainly because from book you can know everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you may be known. About simple factor until wonderful thing you are able to know that. In this era, we could open a book or maybe searching by internet product. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel bored to go to the library. Let's examine.

Doreen Harry:

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what type you should start with. This The Story of My Life is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Edward Payne:

A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a guide. The book The Story of My Life it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

Emily Boyd:

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got scholars? We believe that that query was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person such as reading or as reading become their hobby. You must know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the issue. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your current teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update about something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is niagra The Story of My Life.

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