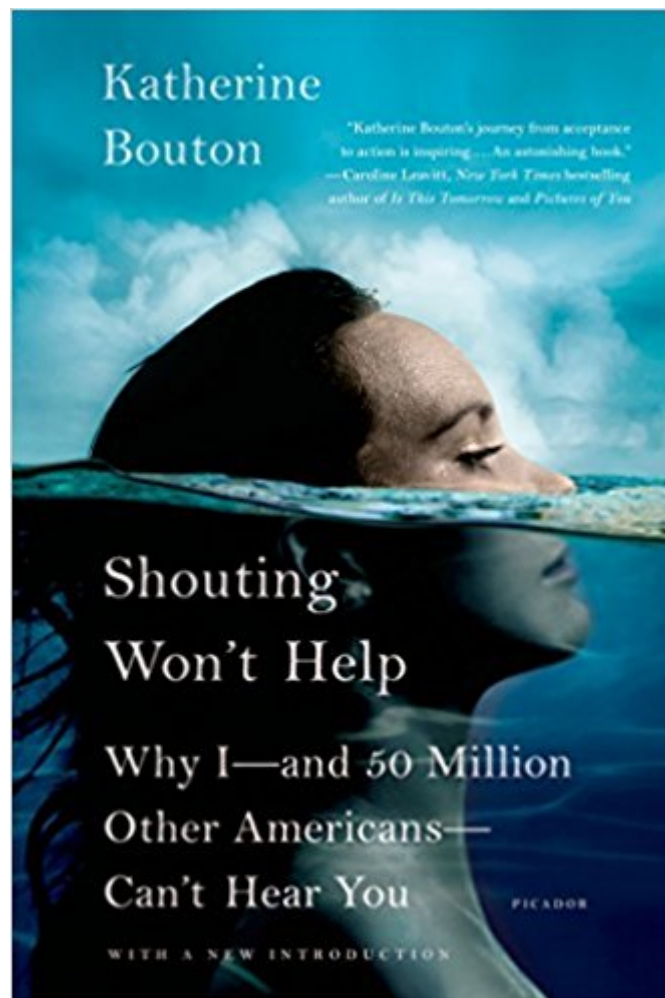




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Shouting Won't Help: Why I--and 50 Million Other Americans--Can't Hear You



Synopsis

Audiologists agree that we're experiencing a national epidemic of hearing loss. At present, 48 million Americans • 17 percent of the population • suffer some degree of loss. More than half are under the age of fifty-five. In cases like Katherine Bouton's, who experienced sudden hearing loss at the age of thirty, the cause is unknown. In this deftly written and deeply felt look at a widespread and widely misunderstood phenomenon, Bouton recounts her own journey into deafness • and her return to the hearing world through the miracles of technology. She speaks with doctors, audiologists, neurobiologists, and others searching for causes and a cure, as well as those who have experienced hearing loss, weaving their stories with her own. *Shouting Won't Help* is an engaging and informative account of what it's like to live with an invisible disability • a must-read not only for those with hearing loss, who will recognize their stories in Bouton's own, but for their families, friends, employers, and caregivers. A Kirkus Reviews Best Nonfiction Book of 2013

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review According to the latest statistics, 48 million Americans, or a whopping 17 percent of the population, have some kind of hearing loss. Bouton, a former senior editor at the New York Times, is one of those people. In her compelling memoir, she chronicles her own progressive loss over the decades, from a partial decline in her left ear at 30 to eventual complete loss. Hearing loss, she says, follows the traditional stages of grief: denial, anger, depression, and, finally, a reluctant acceptance. And, she notes, it affects people of all ages, not just the elderly. Employing an

engaging and even entertaining writing style, Bouton discusses the causes of hearing loss, the often horrendous "and ubiquitous" noise levels that surround us in the modern age, the ongoing stigma associated with hearing loss, the benefits and disadvantages of hearing aids and cochlear implants, the psychological impact of hearing loss, the lack of insurance coverage for hearing aids, and the debilitating toll that hearing loss can take in the workplace. In addition, she examines the condition's "ugly stepsisters," tinnitus and vertigo, before concluding on an encouraging note about ongoing research for a biological cure. Each chapter includes short profiles of people with hearing loss. An important and remarkable book. --June Sawyers --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Four out of four stars. • People • Bouton is one of the millions of people whose hearing began failing when she was much younger, and she masterfully depicts its effects on her personal and professional life....Moving. • The New York Times Book Review • Out of [her] upheaval, Bouton reports about the science behind hearing loss and the public-health dangers of an increasingly noisy world, and provides brief biographies of others who have suffered similarly....Essential. • The New Yorker • Bouton writes eloquently of a condition that is far more common than we think. • More • Katherine Bouton's book is not only entertaining--it is profoundly necessary. As the daughter of a hearing-impaired parent, I found that it offered me insight, inspired compassion, and made me feel less alone. • Peggy Orenstein, author of *Cinderella Ate My Daughter* • Katherine Bouton's journey from acceptance to action is inspiring....An astonishing book. • Caroline Leavitt, New York Times bestselling author of *Is This Tomorrow* and *Pictures of You* • Read this book, and listen up. • The Cleveland Plain Dealer • Shouting Won't Help is a fascinating and frequently moving exploration of the hearing loss that strikes so many of us and those we love. The book is filled with enlightening personal observations, wise advice, and answers to frequently asked questions. If you've ever said "What?," gotten annoyed at those who do, had a miserable experience at an expensive but cacophonous restaurant, or wondered which is most dangerous to your health--sex, drugs, or rock and roll--this book is for you. • Steven Pinker, Harvard College Professor of Psychology at Harvard University and author of *The Language Instinct* • The world is getting noisier, but fortunately we have Katherine Bouton, whose talent for listening remains undiminished by her hearing loss. Her book is both a moving memoir and an indispensable resource for everyone who cares about their ears. • Deborah Solomon, author of *Utopia Parkway* • Katherine Bouton offers a wealth of information and insight about a frustrating and isolating condition. Her book

inspires those who suffer from hearing loss and educates those who wish to understand its vicissitudes. • • Jerome Groopman, Recanati Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and staff writer for The New Yorker • Katherine Bouton makes a brave personal contribution by underscoring the emotional harm deafness can cause. Open, frank, wise, up-to-date, and consistently informative, *Shouting Won't Help* will be of immense use to anyone dealing with hearing loss. • • Peter D. Kramer, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University and author of *Against Depression*

Shouting Won't Help: Why I--and 50 Million Other Americans--Can't Hear You I wish I could have had *Stop Shouting* for my father to read. Almost immediately following his retirement he was clearly having difficulty hearing. He had hidden it well for many years. This is a man who studied abroad, started with Polish at home then Latin in Catholic School, then German to survive the walk to school, then English because the State of Wisconsin required it for public instruction, then Russian, French, and finally Spanish because he taught in the poorest junior high school in Minneapolis for 30 years. We was a child prodigy on the Piano, studied music in Poland in 1937 and both taught and translated Polish correspondence for many for most of his life. He was a community organizer during the co-op movement before during and briefly after WW II. At the end of his life he refused to wear hearing aids and stopped speaking. We only found out about his problems because as he got older there newer younger leaders for groups and causes he lead. We was a poor follower because, we now know he couldn't hear. He was a very learned man who lost his ability to contribute and we seemed powerless to help him regain it, or even know that he wanted to. *Stop Shouting* is the story, the color, and the shocking reality for so many of us and for our parents and loved ones. We live in a society that ignores hearing impairment (That's you and me.). . . What movie can you go to besides a foreign film that has captions? While some can laugh at funny statements . . . one in five of us don't get the joke! We can no longer process the punch line in time to recognize that a joke just happened. One in five of us don't laugh anymore. This is a terrible way to end life; unable to contribute because the audience can't wait for us to "Get It

As others have said the level of whining in this book is a real turn off and almost made me quit reading it several times. Bouton even goes so far as to insist that ALL people with hearing impairments never accept their loss. I've been hearing impaired since birth so I can tell you that is a bunch of bull. I just couldn't relate to the "woe is me my hearing sucks boohoo wah wah wah wah" central theme of the book.

I am severely hearing impaired and looked forward to reading this book. While I found many things that interested me, particularly in the area of personal experiences, I grew tired of the author's struggles with trying to hear. I found that she might have had better success and less frustration if she had been willing to try the advice of many professionals who tried to help her. The mix of technical information and personal story tended to be confusing. The topic is a great one and reading this book certainly would be helpful for family and friends but I doubt they'd stick through the jargon to get the nuggets of what really does help in trying to communicate with a hearing impaired person.

Great book about people who have difficulty hearing by an authority who has lived with hearing loss. If everyone would read this book they would understand and be more sensitive to those of us who are hearing-impaired. Miss-communication is one of the main factors or causes of interpersonal disagreements.

My husband gradually lost most of his hearing due to running equipment on our farm for years. It is extremely difficult to converse with him and it causes a lot of friction. Just when I needed support dealing with this issue I learned of this book. The author immediately made me feel better by saying how difficult it is to live with a hearing impaired person. You are made to feel by the hearing impaired that you are not speaking loud enough and that it is your fault that they cannot hear you. It was just the beginning of a book offering support to those dealing with this issue and I gained so much insight into just what they and their loved ones deal with daily. I also now realize why he refuses to wear his hearing aides as she explains how distorted the sound is in most of them. I would highly recommend this book to anyone living with someone who has diminished hearing. I understand better now what he is experiencing and it is alright for me to get upset at times. A support group in a book.

This book is very informative. I would recommend this to anyone with a nerve type hearing loss read this book as well as all family members or friends they live with. It is not just for those who had a sudden hearing loss. Some sections won't be for everyone but there is a ton of knowledge in this book. Some parts I read I thought I was reading about myself and the emotions and feelings I've had that I could not put into words myself were by the author. It helped me understand why I feel the way I do sometimes. It wasn't just me, it's others with hearing loss that experience these things too.

I borrowed this from the library, then bought a copy for myself.

Incredible insights into both the world of the hearing-impaired and the hearing industry. It is very interesting to learn the depth and breadth of the challenges faced, and frustrating if not heart-breaking to know how much work any given hearing-impaired person has to go through just to gain a minor improvement with the existing technology. A very helpful book for anyone who has lost some or all of their hearing, and even more important for friends and family of those who are experiencing that loss. You can't know the isolation, depression, and anger they are going through, but this book can at least help you understand why, and possibly offer ways to work together in finding solutions.

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