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Book Review

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BOOK REVIEW

On the Edge of Deaf Culture: Hearing Children/Deaf Parents
(Annotated Bibliography)

(Deaf Family Research Press, 1998)

By Thomas H. Bull; 360 pp., paperback

Having grown up with Deaf parents, I found myself constantly being asked the question, "So what's it like to have Deaf parents?" How is one to respond except to say that to me, it was "normal." I certainly don't know what it's like growing up with hearing parents! There were times, however, I wish that I could refer friends, acquaintances, even extended family members to a book, or a movie that would begin to explain the uniqueness of my situation.

In an effort to understand his own coda experience, Tom Bull developed a comprehensive annotated bibliography, *On the Edge of Deaf Culture: Hearing Children/Deaf Parents*. Bull's introduction is enough to make you wish that he had continued writing and sharing the interesting historical vignettes that he discovered in his research. He told of the World War II soldier whose Deaf parents contributed to the cause through the NAD. A mobile canteen came to his unit in Europe with a sign that indicated that it was provided from donations of the Deaf of the United States. A long-distance connection that would inspire anyone to learn more about the relationships of hearing children and their deaf or parents.

Mr. Bull has provided an extensive resource that will be beneficial to Deaf parents wanting to better understand the experience of their hearing child(ren), the hearing children themselves, mental health professionals, educators and extended family members. Information is clearly categorized, and he provides further references by explaining how to access the resources via the internet as well as the more "traditional" methods of utilizing the library.

The variety of sources (books, journals, articles, conferences proceedings, video, and theses) have citations from around the globe. Because of the different types of documentation (everything from personal narrative to psychological assessments to legal issues), one can most likely find the material that is most applicable to him or her. As with the study of any cultural group, it is important to recognize the impact from various perspectives. Mr. Bull has provided an important references for highlighting codas, who play a unique role in the Deaf community.

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