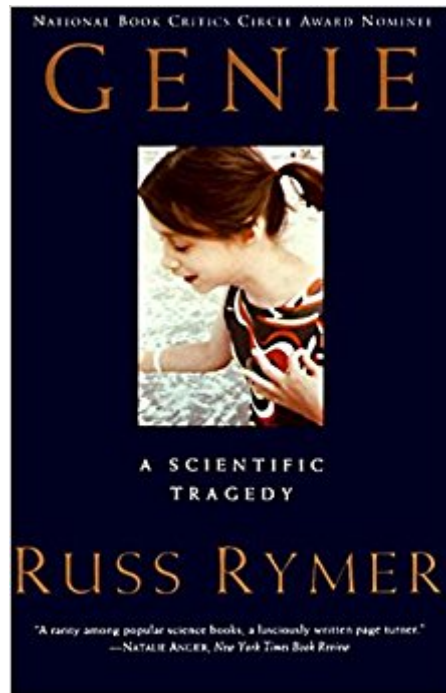




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# Genie: A Scientific Tragedy



## Synopsis

The compelling story of a young woman's emergence into the world after spending her first 13 years strapped to a chair, and her rescue and exploitation by scientists hoping to gain new insight into language acquisition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Permanently strapped to a chair by her deranged father, Genie (a pseudonym) spent her entire childhood in the closed room of a virtually silent house in suburban California. When her nearly blind mother dragged her into a Los Angeles welfare office in 1970, the emaciated teenager could barely speak. Bounced back and forth between foster parents, institutions and her biological mother (her father fatally shot himself in 1970), Genie improved her linguistic skills but ultimately proved unable to master the rudiments of language. Basing this searing, tragic account on an article he wrote for the New Yorker, Rymer tells how linguists and psychologists, eager to test their theories, competed for access to Genie, who now lives in a home for retarded adults, hidden away from researchers by her mother. Rymer suggests that scientists and caretakers treated Genie as a "wild child" instead of giving her supportive therapy that might have enabled her to overcome the confining horrors of her childhood. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the true story of Genie, whose mentally unbalanced father tied her to a potty chair and left her alone in her room. Because of this abuse, Genie lacked language and social skills, and she

thereby became a pawn in the great debate over language acquisition. Rymer here presents a fascinating look at a child's abuse and the failure of the scientific community to help her achieve some normalcy. Describing her history and the various tests and studies performed on her, he shows how Genie ended up as just another case study. Unfortunately, scientists considered Genie a unique opportunity to study language skills and acquisition rather than a bewildered child who desperately needed help. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries.- Jennifer Langlois, Missouri Western State Coll. Lib., St. Joseph Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

There are many reasons to read this book. First of all, it is well written and thoughtful. The author not only communicates beautifully but also understands the essential issues and presents them without blame or rancor. He summarizes very complicated neurological and linguistic ideas in a simple and understandable way. Finally this is an important case in our history and will make you consider professional ethics and the conflict between science and individual human needs. Genie (a pseudonym) suffered first at the hands of her family and then again when scientists and agency personnel were not able to help her. Would the situation be any different if she were discovered today instead of in the 1970's?

Fantastic quality and condition

A truly good read. This is a fascinating story of a girl who needed the love and patience of others who cared about her. I found myself sympathizing and caring about her plight with great interest. Would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in the field of bringing children who lack language and socialization skills into the real world.

It was a very good in-depth story of inhumanity within an uneducated family. It will break your heart. It should be read by everyone, especially those in the field of mental health. Russ Rymer is to be commended for bringing this story to light.

One of my all time favorite books.

This was a shocking story considering I lived three blocks from Genie's "House of Horrors" as a Teen. I urge all who want to read how "The System" failed this poor child to buy this book,

especially if you were ever a Resident of Temple City or Arcadia, California.

This book was inspirational on many levels for me. A must read if you work with young children and are interested in the prevention of child abuse and neglect as well as the impact of child development.

explains so well step bt step Genies progress after 13 years tied to a potty chair all day and evening, no one to talk to or interact with. a prisoner of her father. how she finds sanity as she grows amopng people helping and observing her and how studies fall short of complete wholeness.

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