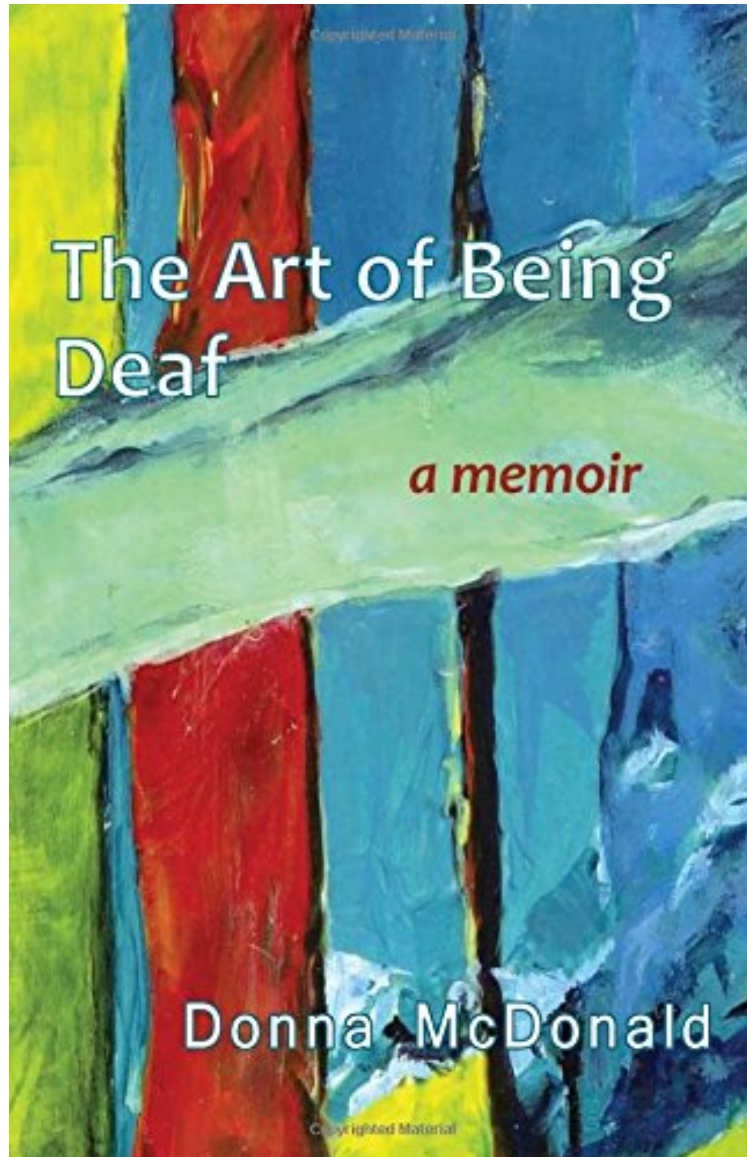


[Mobile book] The Art of Being Deaf: A Memoir

The Art of Being Deaf: A Memoir

Donna McDonald

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#715077 in Books 2014-03-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .50 x 5.50l, .64 #File Name: 1563685973224 pages | File size: 42.Mb

Donna McDonald : The Art of Being Deaf: A Memoir before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of Being Deaf: A Memoir:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CarolVery touching!

Concerned about aspects of her romantic relationships, Donna McDonald consulted with a psychologist who asked,

Your hearing loss must have had a big impact on you? At age 45, with a successful career in social work policy, McDonald took umbrage at the question. Then, she realized that she never had addressed the personal barrier she had constructed between her deaf-self and her hearing persona. In *The Art of Being Deaf*, she describes her long, arduous pursuit of finding out exactly who she was. Born in 1950s Australia, McDonald was placed in an oral deaf school when she was five. There, she was trained to communicate only in spoken English. Afterwards, she attended mainstream schools where she excelled with speechreading and hard work. Her determination led to achievements that proved her to be the deaf girl that had made good. Yet, despite her constant focus on fitting in the hearing world, McDonald soon realized that she missed her deaf schoolmates and desired to explore her closed-off feelings about being deaf. When she reconnected with her friends, one urged her to write about her experiences to tell all about the Forgotten Generation, the orally-raised deaf kids that no one wants to talk about. In writing her memoir, McDonald did learn to reconcile her deaf-self with her hearing-deaf persona, and she realized that the art of being deaf is the art of life, the art of love.

"It's so terrific to read your memoir. I found it... as someone who's dipped in and out of deaf culture politics over the years as a broadcaster, I really found it an utterly gripping read." Natasha Mitchell. ABC Radio National *Life Matters*. This sensitive and thoughtful memoir ... Much of the book is devoted to McDonald's conversations with people who had a significant role in her life, but she also includes a thoughtful layer informed by cultural portrayals in both fiction and nonfiction that are deftly interweaved with moments from her personal life. Although there are segments that will tug at a reader's heart, this is no tearjerker; rather, it is a personal and informative look at "deaf lives as told by deaf people." (Publishers' Weekly 3/3/2014) McDonald asks the reader, "What does it mean to be deaf?" Oralism has its share of controversy; to the Deaf community, it is a denying of self, a demand to adapt to the hearing world or else. When a psychologist asked if her hearing loss had a big impact on her, McDonald resented the question but used it as a jumping-off point to reexamine her life. Her personal recollections are fascinating and often stunningly vivid in visual imagery. VERDICT Will appeal to those interested in Deaf culture and disability awareness in general, as well as biography enthusiasts. Library Journal *The Art of Being Deaf: A Memoir* is not your usual story of growing up deaf in a hearing world, but begins at the author's age of 45, when a consultation with a psychologist over romance woes brought to light her internal barrier between her deaf-self and her hearing persona. ... This memoir is her attempt to reconcile her deaf identity with her hearing-deaf persona, and offers a compelling narrative readers will find engrossing. The Midwest Book