

VIRTUAL & Books BOUTIQUES



Monday, Sept. 14 | 11:30 a.m.

*Benefiting Saint Luke's South Hospital
Birth & Women's Center*

Reading and Discussion Guide

**"Not Fade Away: A Memoir of Senses
Lost and Found" by Rebecca Alexander**

Enhance your reading experience with the questions below. Gather with friends and fellow readers virtually to discuss Rebecca's award-winning memoir.

How well does Rebecca capture the experience of dealing with Usher syndrome type III and being a disabled person in an abled person's world?

Most of us take our senses for granted. Has reading "Not Fade Away" changed your awareness of how much you rely on your senses? Which sense do you value most?

Rebecca holds tight to her visual and auditory memories because she knows that she is losing her abilities to generate new ones. What are some "sense" memories that you cherish?

Is Rebecca's determination and resilience an innate part of her essential character or did she have to work to develop those traits?

Was it surprising to read that Rebecca was drinking and having teenage sex despite her disabilities? In what other ways does she contradict the stereotype of a disabled person?

Her father's lesson of tzedakah, (giving back to the community), clearly shaped Rebecca's identity and the path she chose in life. Yet, she is often reluctant to be on the receiving end of others' charity. Does this ultimately help or hinder her?

Rebecca experienced rejection from the men she dated after they learned about her disabilities. Would you consider becoming romantically involved with someone who faces Rebecca's challenges?

Alan's diagnosis of Hodgkin's lymphoma is a reminder that good health is a gift that can disappear in a flash. Do you think he ever expected to need more care than Rebecca? How—if at all—do you think it affected their relationship?

Rebecca believes her twin brother's struggles with mental illness are much more difficult than her own experiences. Do you agree she is the "luckier" sibling?

When Rebecca learned she was losing her vision and hearing, her parents tried to shield her from the news about what the future might bring. How would you handle discussions with your own child if you learned that she or he was facing this type of diagnosis?

If you were in Rebecca's position, would you opt to have a cochlear implant?

Has Rebecca motivated you to attempt activities that you have been too afraid of trying? Has her story inspired you to change your attitude about difficulties in your life?

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