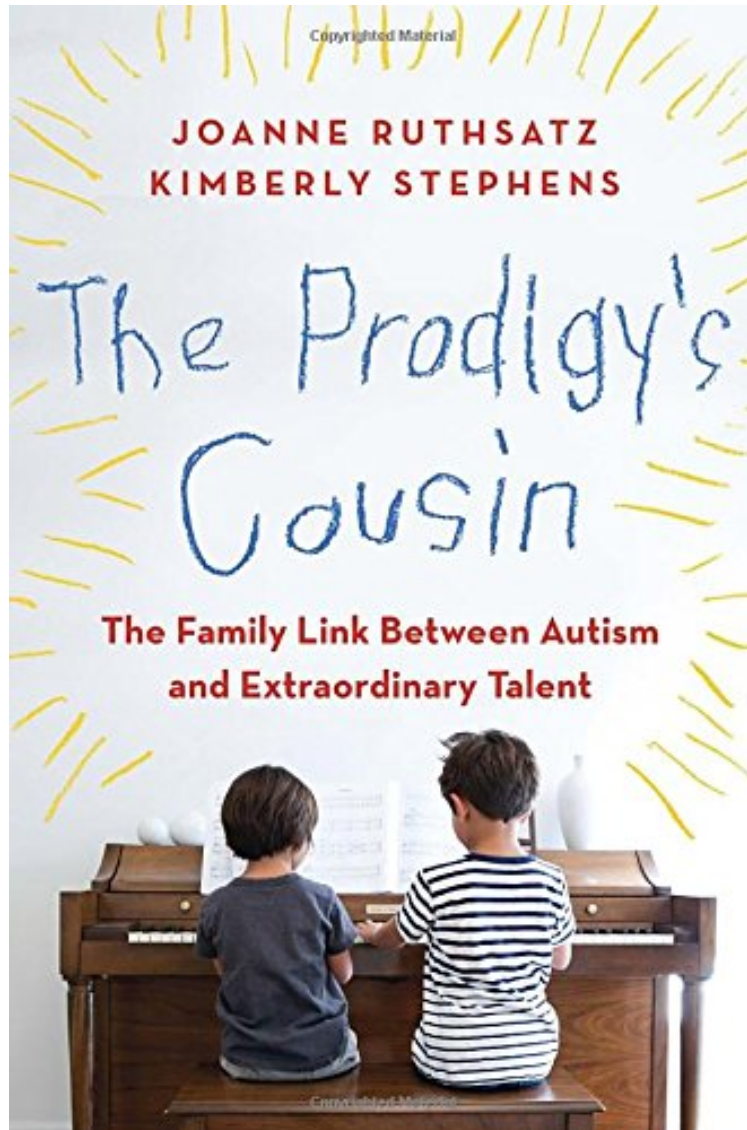


[Free and download] The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent

## The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent

Joanne Ruthsatz, Kimberly Stephens  
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**Joanne Ruthsatz, Kimberly Stephens : The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prodigy's Cousin: The Family Link Between Autism and Extraordinary Talent:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating insights into the link between autism and extraordinary talentBy AuscatI read this book in one sitting the evening it arrived. It is well-written, thought provoking and

enjoyable. The profiles of the child prodigies are fascinating and the story unfolds like a detective novel with examples supporting the hypothesis that there is likely to be a genetic link between autism and prodigious talent. Highly recommended! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended! By Momtimestwo This book is wonderful! It is interesting, well written, easy to read, and thought-provoking. The personal stories of children are fascinating. I recommend it to parents, educators, healthcare professionals and everyone interested in learning more about autism, prodigiousness, and how they are related. The biggest lesson I learned from the book is to nurture every child as an individual and to support their innate talents and passions. It is so important to celebrate ability rather than just focus on curing disability. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is an amazing book, impossible to put down. By Victoria J. Kritzell This is an amazing book, impossible to put down. I have told all my friends and family about it. Very well done and so informative. It reinforces what I have believed for a very long time.

We all know the autistic genius stereotypes. The absentminded professor with untied shoelaces. The geeky Silicon Valley programmer who writes bulletproof code but can't get a date. But there is another set of (tiny) geniuses whom you would never add to those ranks: child prodigies. We mostly know them as the chatty and charming tykes who live up daytime TV with violin solos and engaging banter. These kids aren't autistic, and there has never been any kind of scientific connection between autism and prodigy. Until now. Over the course of her career, psychologist Joanne Ruthsatz has quietly assembled the largest-ever research sample of these children. Their accomplishments are epic. One could reproduce radio tunes by ear on a toy guitar at two years old. Another was a thirteen-year-old cooking sensation. And what Ruthsatz's investigation revealed is nothing short of astonishing. Though the prodigies aren't autistic, many have autistic family members. Each prodigy has an extraordinary memory and a keen eye for detail—well-known but often-overlooked strengths associated with autism. Ruthsatz and her daughter and coauthor, Kimberly Stephens, now propose a startling possibility: What if the abilities of child prodigies stem from a genetic link with autism? And could prodigies—children who have many of the strengths of autism but few of the challenges—be the key to a long-awaited autism breakthrough? In *The Prodigy's Cousin*, Ruthsatz and Stephens narrate the poignant stories of the children they have studied, including that of a two-year-old who loved to spell words like algorithm and confederation, a six-year-old painter who churned out masterpieces faster than her parents could hang them, and a typically developing thirteen-year-old who smacked his head against a church floor and woke up a music prodigy. This inspiring tale of extraordinary children, indomitable parents, and a researcher's unorthodox hunch is essential reading for anyone interested in the brain and human potential. Ruthsatz and Stephens take us from the prodigies' homes to the depths of the autism archives to the cutting edge of genetics research, all while upending our understanding of what makes exceptional talent possible.

This scientific page-turner could forever change how we view autistic individuals, child prodigies, and ourselves. Ruthsatz and Stephens may have written the Rosetta stone of talent development. DAVID HENRY FELDMAN, author of *Nature's Gambit*; chair, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development, Tufts University *The Prodigy's Cousin* is a refreshing counterpoint to the many books that focus on disability in children while ignoring their exceptionality. This book reminds us that every child has surprising gifts to be sought after and grown. JOHN ELDER ROBISON, author of *Look Me in the Eye*; Neurodiversity Scholar in Residence, College of William Mary This important book shows that autism and innate talent are linked. During a long career I've worked with many creative designers, inventors, and skilled tradespeople who were obviously undiagnosed individuals with autism. TEMPLE GRANDIN, author of *Thinking in Pictures* This beautiful scientific detective story takes a hard look at the development of extraordinary children and presents groundbreaking evidence that the study of prodigies could actually advance our understanding of autism. SCOTT BARRY KAUFMAN, author of *Ungifted* and *Wired to Create* The characters who populate *The Prodigy's Cousin* are as magical and mysterious as comic book superheroes. Ruthsatz and Stephens take the reader on a quest to uncover the biological underpinnings of children whose talents are simply stunning. DAVID EPSTEIN, author of *The Sports Gene* This book will enlighten you about the roots of autism and, more than that, change the way you think about what it means to be an other. ERIC WEINER, author of *The Geography of Genius* Through portraits of prodigies and autists, Ruthsatz and Stephens reveal the overlap in the cognitive profiles of these two groups and present tantalizing evidence for a possible shared genetic mutation. ELLEN WINNER, author of *Gifted Children: Myths and Realities*; professor of psychology, Boston College "There's much more to be said about *The Prodigy's Cousin* and its many insights into the connections between autism and genius, but these are best discovered on your own. Read the book—it's quick and engaging, and I promise it will expand your perceptions both of prodigies and of what's possible for autistic kids." PARENTS.COM "Whether or not their lives inform new clinical understandings, the stories of these extraordinary young achievers, growing up with unique gifts and challenges, deliver a fascinating look at the humanity behind the world of brilliant, unusual minds." SCIENCE NEWS "People with an interest in autism or prodigies will be intrigued by the interesting hypothesis posed by this psychologist-journalist duo, who provide a lovely epilogue about what their young prodigies are doing today." BOOKLIST About the Author JOANNE RUTHSATZ is an assistant professor of psychology at The Ohio State

University. She has been interviewed on CBS's 60 Minutes, and her research has been published in *Intelligence*, *Behavior Genetics*, *Human Heredity*, *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*, and *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, and has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, and *Scientific American*. She has a Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Case Western Reserve University. KIMBERLY STEPHENS is a freelance journalist. She has coauthored academic papers on child prodigies and is a member of the D.C. Science Writers Association. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School.