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## Hoppmann's "All cats are on the autism spectrum" (book review)

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# Book Reviews

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Hoppmann, K. (2021). *All cats are on the autism spectrum*. London, UK: Jessica Kingsley Publishers. 80 pp. \$13.09. ISBN 9781787754713

Kathy Hoppmann has written more than 20 internationally successful books for young people. With this book, she wanted to update her 2006 picture book, *All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome*. One reason for the changes, she mentions in her note is that the language used for people in the autism spectrum is still evolving. She also noticed that the pronoun “he,” was used throughout the earlier book. Using “they” instead is more appropriate, since it is not only males who are affected. The forward is written by Haley Moss, Esq., a successful woman lawyer who was positively impacted by the original book. It made a difference for a young person like her to feel understood and less like an outsider.

This book was designed to explain some traits and habits which may be manifested by people on the autism spectrum in a kind and understanding way. Cat lovers will enjoy the appealing and playful photos used to illustrate this picture book. Complete credits for the photographs are given at the end. It is important to acknowledge that we are all unique individuals with contradictions, whether we have any kind of diagnosis. Hoppmann reminds us, “Autistic people aren’t all the same, though, and their strengths and challenges are like tangles of color each a little different than the next (p.17).” Part of her aim is to help children and their families better understand different feelings a person on the spectrum may be experiencing. She also wants to educate and promote understanding of what they face in the larger world. In her “Note from the Author,” Hoppmann, states, “I pray that my readers will . . . join with me in celebrating, and deepening our understanding, of the richness of the autistic community.”

This book would be a good selection for a school or public library collection. It may also be useful in a large education or psychology collection as a simple introduction to the topic.

## Reviewer

Cynthia Hammell