



# In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World

*Ruth Sidransky*

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## **In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World** Ruth Sidransky

At last, Ruth Sidransky's groundbreaking book *In Silence: Growing Up Hearing in a Deaf World* is back in print. Her account of growing up as the hearing daughter of deaf Jewish parents in the Bronx and Brooklyn during the 1930s and 1940s reveals the challenges deaf people faced during the Depression and afterward.

Inside her family's apartment, Sidransky knew a warm, secure place. She recalls her earliest memories of seeing words fall from her parents' hands. She remembers her father entertaining the family endlessly with his stories, and her mother's story of tying a red ribbon to herself and her infant daughter to know when she needed anything in the night.

Outside the apartment, the cacophonous hearing world greeted Sidransky's family with stark stares of curiosity as though they were "freaks." Always upbeat, her proud father still found it hard to earn a living. When Sidransky started school, she was placed in a class for special needs children until the principal realized that she could hear and speak.

Sidransky portrays her family with deep affection and honesty, and her frank account provides a living narrative of the Deaf experience in pre- and post-World War II America. *In Silence* has become an invaluable chronicle of a special time and place that will affect all who read it for years to come.

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