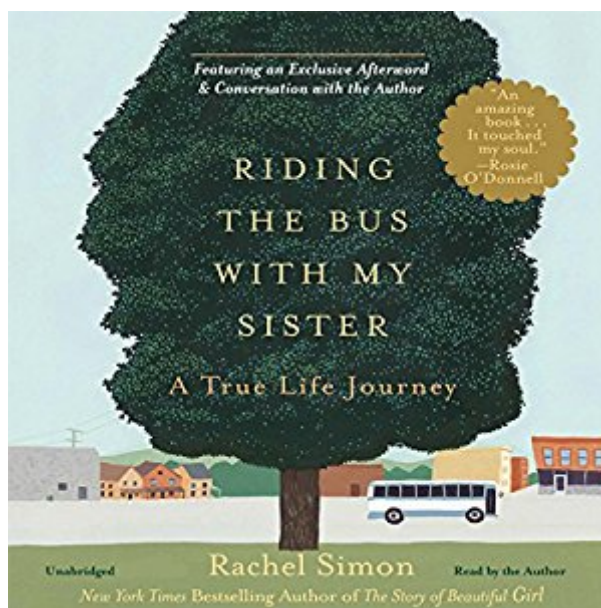


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# Riding The Bus With My Sister: A True Life Journey



## Synopsis

For the 10th anniversary of this beloved, heartwarming true story, Hachette Audio is releasing an audiobook edition, read by the author. Beth is a spirited woman with an intellectual disability who spends nearly every day riding the buses in her Pennsylvania city. The drivers, a lively group, are her mentors; her fellow passengers are her community. Beth, who lives independently and has a boyfriend, is a joyful, endearing, and feisty individual. Her single sister, Rachel, a writer and professor, hides her emotional isolation and loneliness behind a driven lifestyle that keeps her "hyperbusy, hypercritical, hyperventilating." When Beth asks Rachel to accompany her on the buses for one year, they take a transcendent journey that changes Rachel's life in incredible ways, leads her to accept her sister at long last and teaches her to slow down and enjoy the ride. Rachel Simon's memoir *Riding the Bus with My Sister* was made into a television movie starring Rosie O'Donnell and Andie McDowell, directed by Anjelica Huston. PLEASE NOTE: When you purchase this title, the accompanying reference material will be available in your My Library section along with the audio.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 9 hours 25 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Hachette Audio

Audible.com Release Date: March 2, 2012

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B007GBWNSI

Best Sellers Rank: #208 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships >

Siblings #211 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Reference & Collections #358

in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Disabled

## Customer Reviews

Reading this now after having watched the movie. Uncanny the similarities. This could be me and MY sister. My sister, also a forceps baby born to a heavily drugged mother, born the year before me (1959)...mentally handicapped (NOT Downs Syndrome, which in many ways would have been easier). There but by the grace of God go I. She basically cleared a birth path for me (I just fell out,

1 month early). I try to remember this during the difficult times, she made way for me, and suffered the consequences. She is my hero. It is nice to find someone (Rachel) who truly understands. I also heard all my childhood "You have to take care of Mary..." frightening stuff for a kid just trying to figure out how to take care of herself. We did not have other brothers and sisters, it was all on me. But Mary, like Beth, is doing well on her own, and I am here to help when needed. Love.

This book has been particularly poignant for me... my brother is affected. What I appreciate most about this book is Rachel Simon's exquisite detail and ability to "say it like it is!" In writing this book, she has addressed a long (purposely, often) ignored topic and segment of society. While things are much improved over the last 60+ years, appropriate diagnoses and treatments of mentally "challenged" have been painfully slow and continues to be a severe hardship for the patient and their loved ones. And I am so happy that someone has addressed this and so clearly and effectively. This needs to be on every high school's reading list. Thank you so much, Rachel Simon! Bravo!

I first read Rachel Simon's book *The Story of Beautiful Girl* and found it touching and insightful. That directed me to look up her other books and this one caught my attention. I borrowed it from the library and found so many touching lines and such honesty that I decided I wanted to purchase my own copy so that I could make notes and share it with loved ones. I honestly felt uplifted by the story of Rachel and her sister Beth and found their relationship parallels my own relationships with others. Rachel's growth through the story inspires me to try to look at life in the same ways she does. It just made me so happy.

A moving story of the difficulties of growing up as a sibling of a sister with a mental disability. It was a good mix of their childhood years in a slightly dysfunctional family and the adult life of trying to live independently as a mentally disabled person with an obsessive behavior. I do feel that the story could have been cut quite a bit as it became repetitious at times.

What an eye opening book! This was well written and really made me examine my thoughts and feelings about people with challenges. Everyone has a purpose whether we are able to see it or not. Beth could be brutally honest - but maybe we need someone like that to shake us from our complacency once in a while. ALL siblings need to reconnect now and then to find common ground on which to relate. I really enjoyed this read.

Great book. A real eye opener. I got the audio version read by the author. Very enjoyable.

This book was suggested for our book club. I had thought it would be a nice book, it turned out to be a great book. Not only did we get to understand Beth and her disabilities, but the richness of character of our bus drivers. No wonder Beth didn't want to work, she got so much more learning about life from the different bus drivers. It just shows there are wonderful people out there in the world. we just need to slow down and pay attention to them. This book was a real eye opener. My only criticism is all the "preaching" done in the "add on" chapters. When the book ended at the original ending it was pretty close to perfect. Unfortunately the author decided we needed to be educated on all the inadequacies of our government's dealings with the handicapped. This went on for a few more chapters. I stopped before I finished the last one, I didn't want to ruin the glow I felt from the original ending.

Loved this book, the family dynamics were told in such a real way. As a mental health care worker and as a mother with a son with a mental illness, I found this book to be refreshingly honest, and also humorous. The way the author named the person first then added the disability is how I've always talked about my son and my clients, it's nice to see I'm not the only one :) I've recommended all my co-workers read it!

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