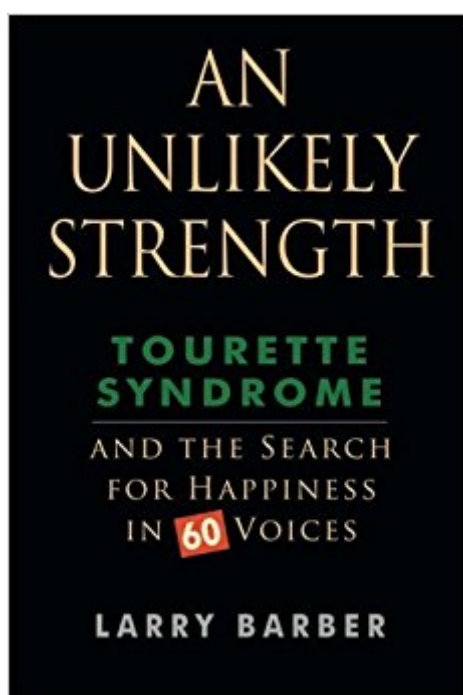


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# An Unlikely Strength: Tourette Syndrome And The Search For Happiness In 60 Voices



## Synopsis

Sixty adults and children tell their intimate stories of Tourette syndrome, or Tourettes, how it affects their lives and self-image and how, despite it all, they persevere with strength and hope. A resource guide for adults and children, moms and dads, *An Unlikely Strength* shares the challenges and successes of grappling with Tourette's; it acknowledges heartbreak as it gives hope; it discusses the latest creative solutions to dealing with tics and behaviors; it explores the newest medical treatments. This book shares stories of suffering and exile, as well as stories about creating a fruitful and satisfying life. For individuals and families. *An Unlikely Strength* shows what it's like to be viewed by the "normal" world, and how Touretters have come to the powerful self-realization that Tourette syndrome is not who they are—they are free to create themselves and follow their own true path.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An Unlikely Strength is an inspiration and should be required reading for the community of caregivers, including neurologists, pediatricians, psychiatrists, occupational and physical therapists."

--Jo M. Solet, MS, EdM, PhD, OTR/L, Harvard Medical School and Cambridge Health

Alliance"Reading *An Unlikely Strength* will change your understanding of Tourette syndrome and of disabilities in general. For many, this book will open the doors to a better life."

--Jack Healey, Director, Human Rights Action Center, Former Executive Director, Amnesty International, USA

Larry Barber is a 20-year veteran of Hollywood. He wrote and produced Gene

Rodenberry's *Andromeda*, among the highest-rated television series in syndication.

Additionally, he has produced and written numerous TV shows, such as X-Files, Cagney & Lacey, Nash Bridges, The Commish, Seven Days, Profiler, 21 Jump Street, Roar, First Wave, The Net, WitchBlade, and the political thriller Meltdown, which aired on FX Network. His work won the Imagen Award, for positive portrayal of Latinos in the media, and inspired more than 4,000 people to join Amnesty International. He also is recognized by the Writers Guild of America as a writer of one of the 101 best written television series. In film, he wrote scripts for Francis Ford Coppola, Oliver Stone, and Michael Mann, and Quincy Jones. His childhood Tourette syndrome was a florid case, complete with physical and vocal tics, as well as coprolalia. His tics are now mild. Of Guatemalan ancestry, Larry Barber was born in New York City, grew up in Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Costa Rica, and is fluent in Spanish. And, in a fit of passion, he is learning to play ice hockey.

Just because a person has made it in Hollywood as a television and screenwriter doesn't mean he (or she) will excel at non-fiction writing, but Larry Barber's book, *An Unlikely Strength: Tourette Syndrome and the Search for Happiness in 60 Voices*, proves that he does. I ordered it because I wanted to support Larry. As well, I was intrigued by his personal history with Tourette syndrome. As a child, he was repeatedly kicked out of school for bad behavior and ultimately exiled to Guatemala to live with his grandparents where all his tics mysteriously vanished as he approached his teens. A lifetime of gratitude fostered in him a burning desire to give back. Larry sought out and interviewed 60 people with Tourette syndrome, painstakingly transcribed each interview and then, on a thematic basis, masterfully wove in the heart of each sufferer's tale, starting with his own. The result is a sobering expose of Tourette syndrome a condition that manifests itself in a staggering variety of tics including barking, swearing and twitching. Some tics are violent enough to break bones. Always embarrassing, often alienating, people with Tourette syndrome are deeply hurt by the constant blame and shame they face daily. *An Unlikely Strength* is a thoroughly engaging book. Reminiscent of Jeanette Wall's harrowing tale *The Glass Castle*, there is no whining or complaining. Some stories broke my heart but they also filled me with compassion and hope a hope that Larry's quest to educate us on this syndrome will dramatically improve the lives of those dealt the Tourette card. Well done, Larry. Well done!

Just got the book and just about half way through. Fantastic stories from different people and how

Tourette's has impacted their life. My son has Tourette's and has been advocating for awareness for a few years now. It is interesting to read others stories and see how similar or different there from ours. Great book if you or someone you know has Tourettes.

Both inspiring and educational, AN UNLIKELY STRENGTH is a sincerely personal and intelligently compelling work. I could not recommend it more highly. Like Studs Terkel's WORKING, the book lets us meet real people through their real words. Mr. Barber shows an uncanny ability to maintain the authentic language and feelings of individuals who all found ways to keep on keeping on despite their overwhelming challenges. The book makes its point quite exquisitely -- Tourette Syndrome truly is an unlikely strength. Bravo!

A wonderfully thoughtful and caring presentation of varied viewpoints on a subject largely ignored or minimized in our culture. Barber writes from his heart about this subject which he knows personally from his own life experiences, which bring a richness of emotion and clarity that is so inviting to my eyes and mind as a professional therapist. I would invite anyone who works in the helping professions to read this book.

"An Unlikely Strength" is a book I would strongly recommend to anyone who has tourette syndrome or has a family member or friend with tourette syndrome. Larry Barber has put a whole new meaning for the outlook on tourettes. Julie

AWESOME book! A wonderful insight to the daily trials and tribulations of those those Tourette Syndrome. A must read for professionals, families, and friends for a better understanding of the many various experiences TS people go through. Heartbreaking, yet awe-inspiring and hopeful. The style of writing is very engaging.

This book is full of compelling stories that enable the reader to understand the challenges of Tourette Syndrome and to be inspired, humbled and better educated. Highly recommended for health professionals, families and friends and of course, those who live with this unlikely strength. A major contribution to the field.

Great book! Loved it! The format works very well for picking out great stories to read. Thanks, Larry!

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