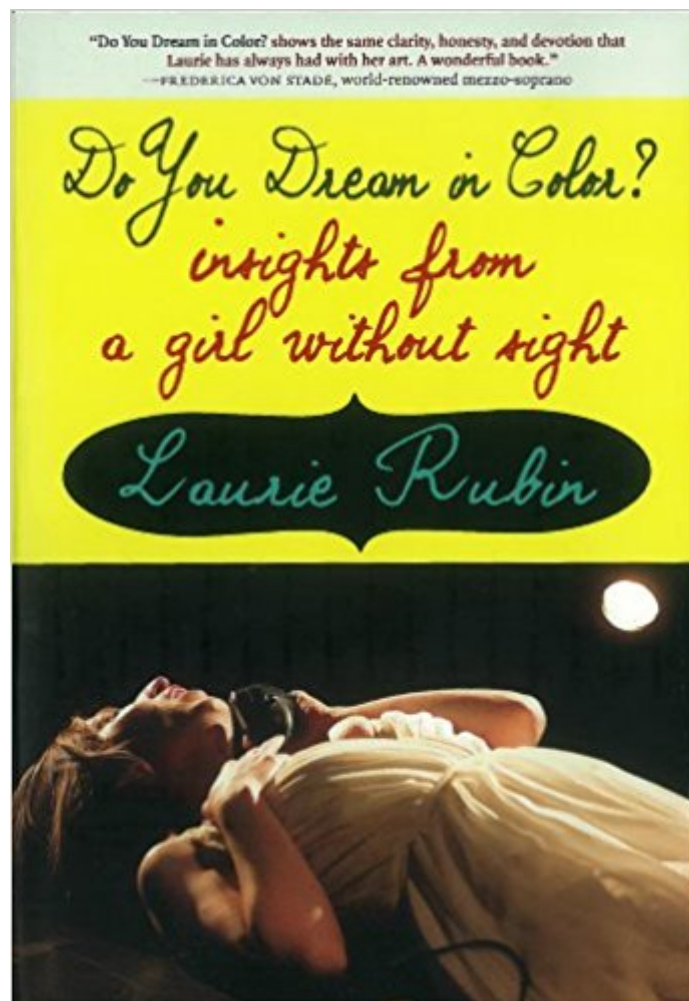




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# Do You Dream In Color?: Insights From A Girl Without Sight



## Synopsis

Colors, Rubin tells us, affect everyone through sound, smell, taste, and a vast array of emotions and atmospheres. She explains that although she has been blind since birth, she has experienced color all her life. In her memoir *Do You Dream in Color?*, Laurie Rubin looks back on her life as an international opera singer who happens to be blind. From her loneliness and isolation as a middle school student to her experiences skiing, Rubin offers her young readers a life-story rich in detail and inspiration drawn from everyday challenges. Beginning with her childhood in California, Rubin tells the story of her life and the amazing experiences that led her to a career as an internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano. Rubin describes her past as a "journey towards identity," one she hopes will resonate with young people struggling with two fundamental questions: "Who am I?" and "Where do I fit in?" Although most of us aren't blind, Rubin believes that many of us have traits that make us something other than "normal." These differences, like blindness, may seem like barriers, but for the strong and the persistent, dreams can overcome barriers, no matter how large they may seem. This is what makes her story so unique yet universal and so important for young readers.

## Book Information

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"Laurie Rubin shows that we need not be defined by what others may see as our limitations. With her remarkable approach to life and her extraordinary musical achievements, she is an inspiring example to all who are finding their way." —Katherine Damkohler, Executive Director, Education

Through Music"lâ™ve never met Laurie Rubin, but her voice and spirit leap off the page of her riveting memoir. Despite all the obstacles and prejudice Rubin faced growing up blind, reading *Do You Dream in Color?* left me feeling that sheâ™s had a charmed life. . .Art, love, family, and connectedness are the high notes Rubin hits again and again in this unusually inspiring life story.â•â "Elizabeth Benedict, author of *Almost* and *The Practice of Deceit* "*Do You Dream in Color?* shows the same clarity, honesty, and devotion that Laurie has always had with her art. A wonderful book."â• "Frederica von Stade, mezzo-sopranoâœHer book is riveting and readers will find themselves cheering for her victories and feeling her pain when peers and instructors dismiss her or treat her as if she is invisible or 'less-than' her sighted contemporaries.â•Â â "Jewish Book Council

Blind since birth, mezzo-soprano LAURIE RUBINÂ has been praised by New York Times chief classical music critic Anthony Tommasini for her "compelling artistry," "communicative power," and for a voice that possesses "earthy, rich and poignant qualities." Recent career highlights include her United Kingdom solo recital debut performance at Wigmore Hall in London and a solo recital at Carnegie Hall. Rubinâ™s numerous roles have included the part of Karen in *The Rat Land* by Gordon Beeferman with New York City Opera, Penelope in Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses*, and the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. She has recorded an album, *Faith in Spring*, with the renowned collaborative pianists Graham Johnson and David Wilkinson on the Opera Omnia label. Rubin is also the co-founder and associate artistic director of Ohana Arts, a performing arts school and festival in Hawaii, where she lives.

How interesting can a book be written by someone just really getting into her career? She's an opera singer, for heaven's sake!!! actually know Ms. Rubin (I'm mentioned in the book) and I have always respected her greatly. Reading this raises my understanding and appreciation of her to a totally new plain. Her ability to capture vignettes of life vividly gives anyone a lesson in writing. Her ability to be candid - alternately self-deprecating and boldly assertive - makes this book a delightfully read. If you think reading about the life and adventures of someone without sight is sure to be boring, I can only say that this book certainly is not. Whether describing the thrill of skiing down a hill or the clashing emotions of the first kiss, Laurie Rubin tells her story with clarity and humor, yet always moving us with the challenges she meets and conquers. It is a story worthy of the subtitle of her favorite opera: *Virtue Triumphant*.

This book is a must read if you are interested in any of the above facets of Laurie Rubin's personality. She was born blind, but was lucky enough to be raised in a family that believed she could accomplish anything she wanted to. So she has undertaken adventures throughout her life that might surprise anyone who doesn't know what blind people CAN do. She is very upfront about her blindness, her homosexuality, and her Jewishness, all of which is totally refreshing. You feel as though, if you were to meet her, you could ask her anything, and she would give you an honest answer. I was lucky enough to hear an interview with her by Terry Gross, on NPR, and to hear some samples of her singing -- she has an exquisite, glorious voice, and is musically sensitive enough to be able to accurately and beautifully express many different styles of music, from opera to Renaissance music, to modern music. Having read this book, I am excited to be able to follow her musical career, and I expect great things from her!

Most of the books I read are spiritual, mystical and esoteric. However I have been fortunate to know Laurie and her family at some point in my life. When her mother Lily informed me of Laurie's book I immediately pre-purchased it. When the book came in I read it from cover to cover in a very short time (unlike me). I truly enjoyed this book, the part where Brian was explaining the nodding of the head and the body movements just cracked me up. The writing is very good, I was totally in the life of Laurie. Congratulations Laurie, you're good! ;- ) I was also very fortunate to have heard Laurie sing several times live and had watery eyes each time! Love and Light to you and yours Laurie ! Big hug from us in France

What a terrific read - couldn't put it down!

A beautiful, beautiful book. I'd recommend this to anyone.

Laurie Rubin has written her autobiography -- growing up blind, a talented opera singer from a young age. She speaks candidly about the challenges she faced at every turn, revealing, without bitterness, the ignorance of her classmates, teachers, school administrators, professors...and more, towards the blind. A graduate student in Opera at Yale, the Opera Director couldn't figure out a way to cast Laurie in a full-length opera -- it could have done so easily...if there had been the will to do it!!! Laurie informs, entertains and educates in this, her first book. I highly recommend it!

I enjoyed the writing style, particularly the poems that introduced each section. I would rate this

book as an autobiography rather than a novel or a piece of non-fiction. I can certainly admire this amazing woman and find it impossible to imagine the difficulties she overcame. I also feel that in some ways this was a story of bullying in our modern day understanding of the many forms of bullying: shunning, inappropriate avoidance, laughing behind one's back, mocking, etc.

Laurie may not have sight but she is living a very insightful life. Her book has humor, great description and is very inspiring. She is a great talent in innumerable ways. I just sent her book to a 10 year old, a 36 year old and a 70 year old person for their birthdays. All of the recipients loved Laurie and her entertaining book. I recommend this wonderful story for all ages of readers..

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