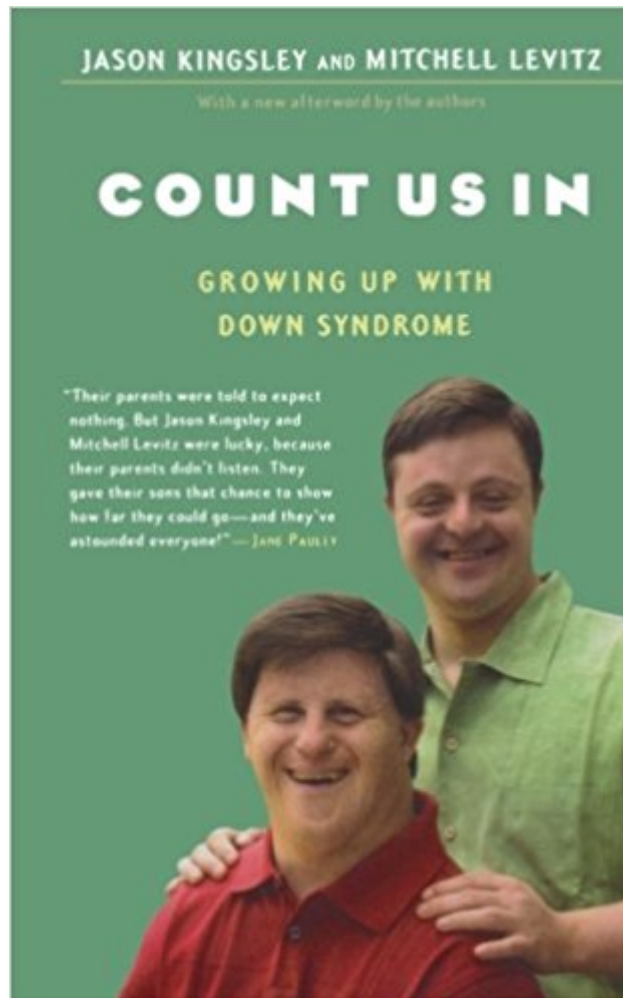




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# Count Us In: Growing Up With Down Syndrome (A Harvest Book)



## Synopsis

At ages nineteen and twenty-two, respectively, Jason Kingsley and Mitchell Levitz shared their innermost thoughts, feelings, hopes, and dreams, their lifelong friendship and their experiences growing up with Down syndrome. Their frank discussion of what mattered most in their lives—careers, friendships, school, sex, marriage, finances, politics, and independence—earned *Count Us In* numerous national awards, including the EDI Award from the National Easter Seal Society. More important, their wit, intelligence, candor, and charm made a powerful and inspirational statement about the full potential of people with developmental disabilities, challenging prevailing stereotypes. Now, thirteen years later, the authors discuss their lives since then—milestones and challenges, developments expected and unexpected—in a new afterword.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

YA-Written by two young men with Down's Syndrome, this book will open eyes and touch the heart. The interview style is involving as the authors discuss their friendship, having Down's Syndrome, marriage, children, becoming independent, and their hopes and dreams for the future. They speak openly about how people have treated them differently because of their disorder and how they feel about it. The book is occasionally a challenge to read since the authors speak in unusual syntax. Black-and-white photographs from family albums appear in a center insert. Curious teens and

friends and family members of the disabled will feel the emotions of these two remarkable young men and learn how they work to cope and to succeed. Jacqueline Craig, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Kingsley and Levitz write about education, employment, ambitions, families, sex and marriage, and their disability--Down syndrome--in a dialogue format. At Jason's birth, the obstetrician said that he'd never learn anything and should be institutionalized. Fortunately, the Kingsleys ignored this advice, and their son has since attended school, written poetry, registered to vote, and memorized scripts for appearances on "Sesame Street" and "The Fall Guy." Mitchell is an equally successful young man whose mother was one of the founders of the Parent Assistance Committee on Down Syndrome. Hearing about Down syndrome directly from these young men has a good deal more impact than reading any guide from a professional or even a parent. Their comments are eye-opening and heartening. Denise Perry Donavin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I've never read a book by people with Down Syndrome before, and haven't gotten to meet many people with Down Syndrome either, so it was a real pleasure to get to meet and understand what these two young men are thinking and feeling on a variety of topics from having Down Syndrome, school and interacting with others, what their dreams are for their future, how they feel about women, marriage, and children, etc. It was a hard book to sit down and read front to back because the book was structured as a series of quotes from both boys or conversations between them and their family members, and also because the way they phrase things is different from what I am used to, so I instead enjoyed reading a few chapters a day. I was a little taken aback at some of Jason's attitudes towards women at that time, but I appreciate that he was a high school student at that time and may have matured in his viewpoints since then - I know I am very different from when I was a high-schooler! People with strong religious convictions may prefer to read this book before handing it off to their teen with DS, since the views are largely secular. This was a valuable and unique look inside the heads of two strong young men who are working hard to be accepted and beloved contributors to society, and I am so glad they wrote this book to share their thoughts with us.

The way this book differs from many other books on people with disabilities is that this book is written in the unfiltered voice of the the two men who have down syndrome. This really makes a

difference because in this way readers more connected to the characters and their cause. This a good read for anybody who wants to broaden their views on people with disabilities. Not many of us have the chance to interact first hand with people with disabilities, but it's a fact that they are a part of our communities, and reading this book is a good way to learn more about them. The topics discussed in the book are really thought provoking and shows the readers that people with disabilities don't get enough credit for their abilities. A good book related to this topic is: Riding the Bus with My Sister.

I read this book for a class of people who deviate from the neurotypical path. The only qualm with the book is the interview style of the book which I found very hard to follow as the dates jumped around and the dialogue was mixed throughout each other. I did very much appreciate the ability to read verbatim the perspective of both men and their families, which allowed me to practice empathy in their experience.

Great Book. We recently had a new addition to our family. She has Down Syndrome. This book has helped me gain perspective on what her future holds. I guess the authors did what they set out to do. They taught someone (me) about their disability and what it is like to have it. Thanks for writing the book. And, they had a great editor. You could hear their disability in their writing without taking away from the flow of the book.

Purchased as a gift for grand parents of DS child.

This is an awesome read because of the heart and soul put into it. When the right supports are in place, people can accomplish their goals no matter what their perceived abilities.

A must read!

wonderful effort to welcome down's syndrome people into the mainstream!!

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