

Book Club Conversations:

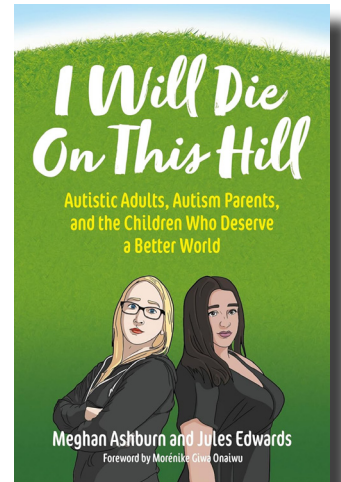
I Will Die On This Hill: Autistic Adults, Autism Parents, and the Children Who Deserve a Better World

Book Reference

Ashburn, M. & Edwards, J. (2023). *I will die on this hill: Autistic adults, autism parents, and the children who deserve a better world*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

Book Club Discussion Questions

- Engaging in productive conflict can help us expand our perspectives, create connections, and effect change. *When and where have you engaged in productive conflict? What could you change about your style of engaging in conflict to make it more productive?*
- The book discusses the medical model of disability as focusing on “fixing and curing people,” the social model of disability as focusing on “accommodations and accessibility,” and the neurodiversity paradigm as focusing on “respect for all people regardless of neurotype.” *Which model(s) do you subscribe to and why?*
- Edwards connects a colonialist-capitalist worldview to the medical model of disability and to functioning labels. *How do you see hierarchy and capitalism impacting autistic people? Can you think of examples of autistic people being valued for their contributions outside of an exploitative system?*
- Edwards stresses the importance of intersectionality in the disability justice movement. *What are some identities within the disability justice movement that you would like to learn more about? How can you begin to learn more about these identities and their impact on disability?*
- Following her childrens’ autism diagnoses, Ashburn encountered several communities of parents of autistic children that held different values and served different purposes. *What are some of the ways that parent communities can help and harm parents of autistic children?*
- The authors take a strong stance against ABA (applied behavioral analysis). *Based on what you know, what is your stance on ABA therapy for autistic children? What more would you like to know about ABA or alternative strategies and supports for autistic children?*
- Ashburn writes about how the process of unlearning is difficult and uncomfortable, but necessary to improve the lives of autistic children. *What is something that you’ve changed your mind about as you’ve learned more about autism? What resources have been most helpful for you to expand your perspectives?*
- Ashburn and Edwards write that when autistic adults and parents of autistic children work together, they can achieve more for autistic children. *How could you work in an autistic-allistic partnership to create a better world for autistic children?*
- The authors stress the importance of listening to the autistic community when learning about topics related to autism. *Where do you receive information about autism? What are ways that you could engage with more autistic people and hear their perspectives?*
- The book closes with suggestions about how to become involved in autistic advocacy. *When it comes to issues that impact autistic people, what are the hills that you are willing to die on? What are ways you could advocate for causes that are important to you?*



Additional resource guides at <https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/>.

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