**Synopsis**

"This is a wonderful book for audiolgists, audiology students and for people interested in hearing loss and cochlear implants. Ms Romoff is able to describe the issues related to not hearing and to learning to hear again. It is a wonderfully inspirational story that should be a must for every audiologist and physician working with families affected by hearing loss." --Jane R. Madell, PhD, Director, Hearing and Learning Center, Beth Israel Medical Center and Professor, Clinical Otolaryngology

"...a great pleasure. Arlene's perspicacity, sensitivity, and shining good humor come through on each page. the doors of your perception open." --Karen and Gene Wilder.

"...will enrich the lives of many." --Richard Herring, director, New Jersey Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

"...I certainly don't take my hearing for granted anymore, and I have an even deeper sensitivity to people with hearing losses in social situations." --Lisa Carling, director, Theatre Development Fund, Theatre Access Project.

"...I have learned what it is like to lose one's hearing and then regain some of it." --Mardie Younglof, CI user and associate editor, CONTACT, the publication of Cochlear Implant Club International.

It's a medical miracle--and a story that will inspire you, touch you, and perhaps even change your own life (or the life of one you love). Arlene Romanoff began losing her hearing when she was just twenty and started a slow descent into deafness. No cause could be found; no known cure existed. She struggled to function, using hearing aids and reading lips. But, just as soon as she gained a coping skill or a new piece of equipment, her hearing would worsen again, leaving her back at the beginning. Finally, nothing at all worked: she had become profoundly deaf. Her salvation lay in the most cutting-edge technology: a surgically implanted cochlear implant, with computer chip and magnet. Once attached to an external device that stimulates the auditory nerve, hearing is possible once again. Here is the amazing diary of her experiences, shared with family, friends, and colleagues. It will let you know--probably for the first time--what life is like without sound and how it feels to join the hearing world once again.

**Book Information**

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I read Arlene Romoff’s book before deciding to have cochlear implant surgery. I was delighted with her matter of fact, candid, humorous, and personal diary of everyday events and the personal struggle she has gone through with a hearing loss. Like with anything else in life we are all individuals and one person’s cochlear implant journey will not be like any other. Arlene’s book inspired me to make this journey for myself with no expectations and just a nervous hope that I might do as well. I am happy to say that I have surpassed my wildest dreams, and hearing my daughter’s voice for the first time ever made it all worthwhile. This book is a must read for anyone considering cochlear implant surgery. Arlene’s journey to hearing again with a CI shows how the process works, how slow it might be, what obstacles you might face and gives real honest hope to anyone suffering from a severe hearing loss.

It has almost become a cliche, to read books about the loss of sensory input, and the adjustment to that loss. Some of these books have proven to be powerful and meaningful to read; some of them are sheer self-indulgence. This book is a record of a different kind of journey, a joyful one, from the silence of profound deafness back to hearing, thanks to a miracle of modern medical technology, the cochlear implant. Using her e-mails to friends and family as a starting point, Ms. Romoff weaves a gripping story of small miracles: hearing the sound of jingling keys for the first time in years, the sound of walking through fall leaves, the "crunch" of eating potato chips...to hearing her own voice once again. We take this journey with her as we read this well-written journal. The reader understands, perhaps for the first time, the unique ways deafness isolates an individual from the world around her. By sharing the “journey back” with her, I found myself becoming more and more aware of these small miracles of sound that we hearing folk take for granted. As a fully hearing but legally blind person, who had totally blind parents, I thought I understood the isolations and frustrations of limited sensory input, but this book heightened my awareness and compassion immensely. Thank you, Ms. Romoff, for sharing this story with us!
I just finished reading "Hear Again." As someone starting on this journey I found the author's accounts helpful and I could relate to her descriptions of her life before the CI. At times I laughed out loud because she mentions many of the same situations and difficulties I encounter. Some passages were beautiful and brought tears to my eyes. I bookmarked those pages for future reflection. Thank you Ms. Romoff for sharing your journey with us. You give me hope. H. Friedman Rivera, PhD

This book is beautifully written by a woman who discovers that her cochlear implant has changed her life. It has many inspiring passages and, if you already have a CI, I wouldn’t hesitate to recommend you read this. However, CIs are not always so successful and, at times, are a complete flop. That is not portrayed at all and I think that many people considering a CI or who have a family member considering a CI read this book as a way to see what will happen to them next. That is unrealistic. It isn’t healthy to assume that one person’s results from this operation are what will happen to everyone. Of course, her experience will be had by many.....just not all. This is coming from a cochlear implant recipient who not only didn’t get any success, but regrets greatly that it was performed. Looking for inspiration? This book can provide that. Looking for an unbiased idea of what a cochlear implantee can expect? Definitely NOT a good option. Just this deafie’s opinion.

Arlene Romoff writes of her experiences of her first year with her cochlear implant. The excitement and joy of hearing again are evident on every page. Arlene vividly shows her readers what it is like to hear the things most people take for granted, running water, crunching leaves, elevator bells and so much more. A well-written, easy to read book, I couldn’t put it down! (Readers need to know that Arlene’s positive experiences are not necessarily the experiences of all people who receive cochlear implants.)

I am considering a cochlear implant and looking for information. This book is a comprehensive view of the author’s experience. Written more than 15 years ago, some of the technology is dated but still worth reading.

This book is giving me a feeling of what to expect when I get my cochlear implant... I was able to identify with a lot of the things Arlene discussed in the book... some of the ways she used to get around her hearing problems were similar to mine. I love the way she handles telemarketers now! Cruel but VERY fitting!! You’ll have to read the book to find out more...
Although it was written quite a few years ago & the technology is out of date, the experience of hearing for the first time on a cochlear implant remains the same. It was amazing to read her account of her progress. Great book!

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