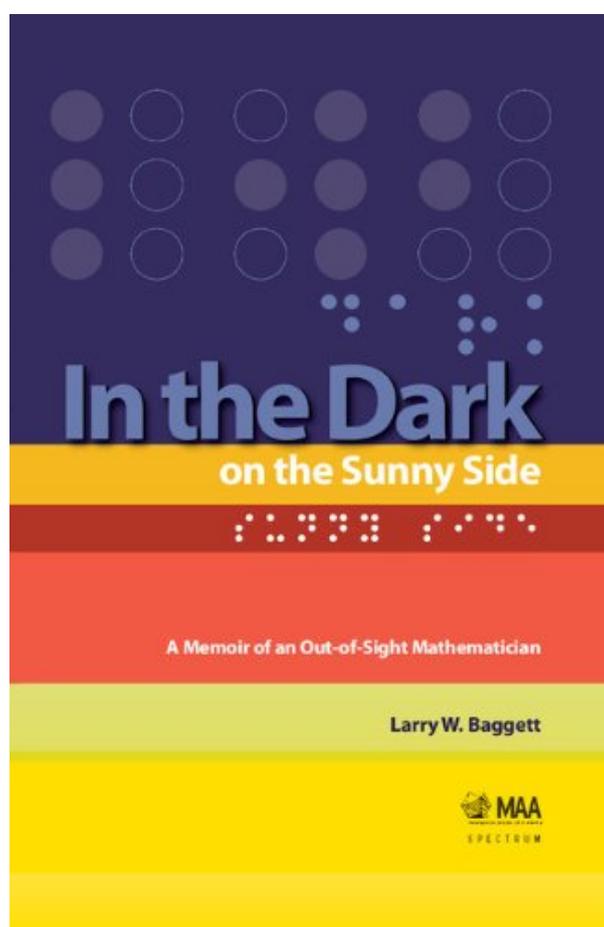
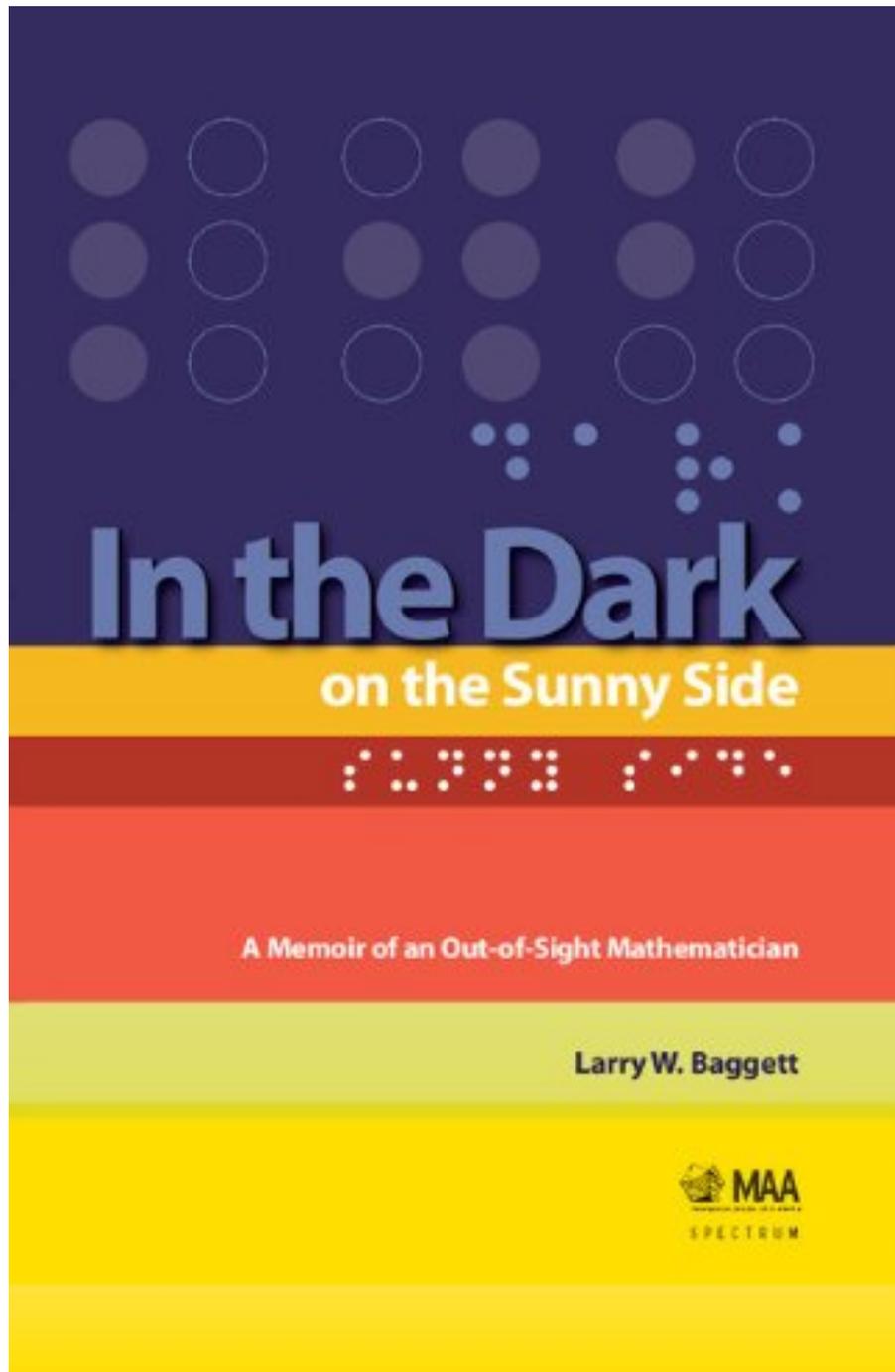


**IN THE DARK ON THE SUNNY SIDE: A  
MEMOIR OF AN OUT-OF-SIGHT  
MATHEMATICIAN (SPECTRUM) BY LARRY  
BAGGETT**



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Misfortune struck one June day in 1944, when a five-year-old boy was forever blinded following an accident he suffered with a paring knife. Few people become internationally recognized research mathematicians and famously successful university professors of that erudite subject, and not surprisingly a minuscule number of those few are visually impaired. *In the Dark on the Sunny Side* tells the story of one such individual. Larry Baggett was main-streamed in school long before main-streaming was at all common. On almost every occasion he was the first blind person involved in whatever was going on the first blind student enrolled in the Orlando Public School System, the first blind student admitted to Davidson College, and the first blind doctoral student in mathematics at the University of Washington. Besides describing the various successes and failures Baggett experienced living in the dark on the sunny side, he displays in this volume his love of math and music by interspersing short musings on both topics, such as discussing how to figure out how many dominoes are in a set, the intricacies of jazz chord progressions, and the mysterious Comma of Pythagoras.

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- Published on: 2012-10-15
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- Binding: Hardcover
- 206 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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an instance of justified confidence

By Daniel W. Stroock

Baggett is a unusually intelligent person who, as a result of a self-inflicted wound, became blind at age five and learned to cope with the consequences. In large part, his success is the result of his confidence that he could do whatever anyone else could. Such confidence would have led to frustration and eventual failure for anyone less talented than Baggett. In this charmingly written account of his life, Baggett persuades the reader that it is possible for a blind person to live as rich a life as anybody else. Unfortunately, it is possible but not probable.

The book was published by the Mathematical Association of America. It is unconscionable for a non-profit, tax-exempt organization to be charging \$50 for a 200 page book published from a pdf file prepared by the author.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A wonderful personal story sitting on top of a metaphorical iceberg

By Amazon Customer

I cannot see how most people might not find this book amazing and inspiring. The other five star reviews of this book relate what one takes away from this book. However, this book also sets the stage for moving beyond typical discussions of disability and personal triumph in mathematics in ways that the author may not have anticipated. The public perception of mathematics is often quite oppressive, based on horrible school experiences, and conformity as imposed by standardized tests. In contrast, this book is a tip of an iceberg that indicates the diversity of professional mathematicians. I'm personally amazed by the number of blind world-class mathematicians from the last few centuries that have come to my attention. The public should note the development of Braille and the more recent accomplishments of blind programmers and blind mathematicians who use Latex in ways that should inspire the rest of us. (Baggett has a chapter that touches on this).

If one feels that I'm talking about a "tail end of a distribution", I'd like to point out that I know of, for instance, no deaf mathematician on the level of achievement of several blind mathematicians that come to mind. This should seem ironic since blind students are typically turned away from mathematics at an early age because they "can't do arithmetic on paper". Decades after the myth of the "paperless office", we operate

on centuries-old misconceptions about mathematics, and how we learn it, even in the face of exceptional people like Larry Baggett. I'm so grateful this book has been written and I sincerely hope that the many stereotypes it shatters are dwarfed by questions educators and parents are compelled to consider. Ya got to love it!

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Interesting Read of a Successful Life

By RJ

When reading Dr. Baggett's book, it seemed as if he was speaking directly to me. I learned a lot about mathematics and music and can see why he was such an outstanding teacher and successful person.

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