

# Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets



For readers of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* comes a propulsive, haunting journey into the secret history of brain science by Luke Dittrich, whose grandfather performed the surgery that created the most studied human research subject of all time: the amnesic known as Patient H.M. “Oliver Sacks meets Stephen King in a piercing study of one of psychiatric medicine’s darker hours... . A mesmerizing, maddening story and a model of journalistic investigation.” Kirkus Reviews (starred review) In 1953, a twenty-seven-year-old factory worker named Henry Molaison “who suffered from severe epilepsy” received a radical new version of the then-common lobotomy, targeting the most mysterious structures in the brain. The operation failed to eliminate Henry’s seizures, but it did have an unintended effect: Henry was left profoundly amnesic, unable to create long-term memories. Over the next sixty years, Patient H.M., as Henry was known, became the most studied individual in the history of neuroscience, a human guinea pig who would teach us much of what we know about memory today. Patient H.M. is, at times, a deeply personal journey. Dittrich’s grandfather was the brilliant, morally complex surgeon who operated on Molaison “and thousands of other patients. The author’s investigation into the dark roots of modern memory science ultimately forces him to confront unsettling secrets in his own family history, and to reveal the

tragedy that fueled his grandfather's relentless experimentation on that would revolutionize our understanding of ourselves. Dittrich uses the case of Patient H.M. as a starting point for a kaleidoscopic journey, one that moves from the first recorded brain surgeries in ancient Egypt to the cutting-edge laboratories of MIT. He takes readers inside the old asylums and operating theaters where psychosurgeons, as they called themselves, conducted their human experiments, and behind the scenes of a bitter custody battle over the ownership of the most important brain in the world. Patient H.M. combines the best of biography, memoir, and science journalism to create a haunting, endlessly fascinating story, one that reveals the wondrous and devastating things that can happen when hubris, ambition, and human imperfection collide. Advance praise for Patient H.M. tells one of the most fascinating and disturbing stories in the annals of medicine, weaving in ethics, philosophy, a personal saga, the history of neurosurgery, the mysteries of human memory, and an exploration of human ego. Sheri Fink, M.D., Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Five Days at Memorial* "Dittrich explores the limits of science and the mind. In the process, he rescues an iconic life from oblivion. Dittrich is well aware that while we are the sum of what we may remember, we're also at the mercy of what we can forget. This is classic reporting and myth-making at the same time." Colum McCann, author of *Let the Great World Spin* "This book succeeds on

every level: as a fresh look at the most famous patient in medical history, as an exposé of our dark history of psychiatry and neurosurgery, and, most powerfully, as a deeply personal investigation into the author's past. And yet it's still a page-turner that reads like a thriller." Susannah Cahalan, author of *Brain on Fire* "It felt as if I read this book in one breath. Patient H.M. is a fascinating, powerful investigation, a matryoshka doll of nested stories about the past and present, remembering and forgetting." Michael Paterniti, author of *The Telling Room*

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journalist Dittrich recounts the life of Henry Molaison (1926–2008), an epileptic. Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets May 2, 2017 The Paperback of the Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich at Barnes & Noble. FREE Shipping on Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets Buy Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets on Amazon.com with FREE SHIPPING on qualified orders. Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets Patient H.M. has 1751 ratings and 374 reviews. Will said: On December 5, 2008, the front page of the New York Times included an unusual item: H. M., Patient Hm : A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets - Target Aug 9, 2016 The NOOK Book (eBook) of the Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich at Barnes & Noble. Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets Buy Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich (ISBN: 9780812992731) from Amazon's Book Store. Free UK delivery on A Book Examines the Curious Case of a Man Whose Memory Was Aug 18, 2016 And that is the essential background in Luke Dittrich's engrossing new book, Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets. Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets Jul 2, 2016 Review of: Patient H.M. by Luke Dittrich (Random House), August 2016 The outlines of his story are familiar to every neuroscience student: H.M. was an epileptic. This led scientists to conclude that the hippocampus is essential for memory. . Suzanne Corkin knew this family through H.M.'s mother, and Patient HM: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets Not a 0.0/5. Retrouvez Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets et des millions de livres en stock sur Amazon.fr. Achetez neuf ou The Lobotomy Of Patient H.M: A Personal Tragedy And Scientific Find product information, ratings and reviews for Patient H. M. : A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets (Hardcover) (Luke Dittrich) online on Amazon.com. Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets Dittrich uses the case of Patient H.M. as a starting point for a kaleidoscopic journey, one that moves from the A Book About Neurosciences Most Famous Patient Sparks Aug 3, 2016 Luke Dittrich joins us on the studio to talk about Patient HM, his book subtitled A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets. I do invite you Luke Dittrich: Patient H.M.: Memory, Madness And Family Secrets In the northwest corner of Colt Park, in downtown Hartford, Connecticut, a ten-foot-tall bronze statue of the park's namesake rose from a granite pedestal. Book Review: Patient H.M. - Neuroskeptic - Discover Magazine Blogs Aug 25, 2016 Patient HM review "a botched lobotomy that changed science" And in this book, subtitled A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets, Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich In the summer of 1953 maverick neurosurgeon William Beecher Scoville performed a groundbreaking operation on a twenty-seven-year-old epileptic patient Patient HM review "a botched lobotomy that changed science" Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets and over one million other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more. Patient HM : A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets - Target Aug 12, 2016 Luke Dittrich discusses his account of "Patient H.M." and responds to book Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets is Patient HM: A Story of Memory, Madness & Family Secrets by Luke Dittrich Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets and over one million other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more.

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