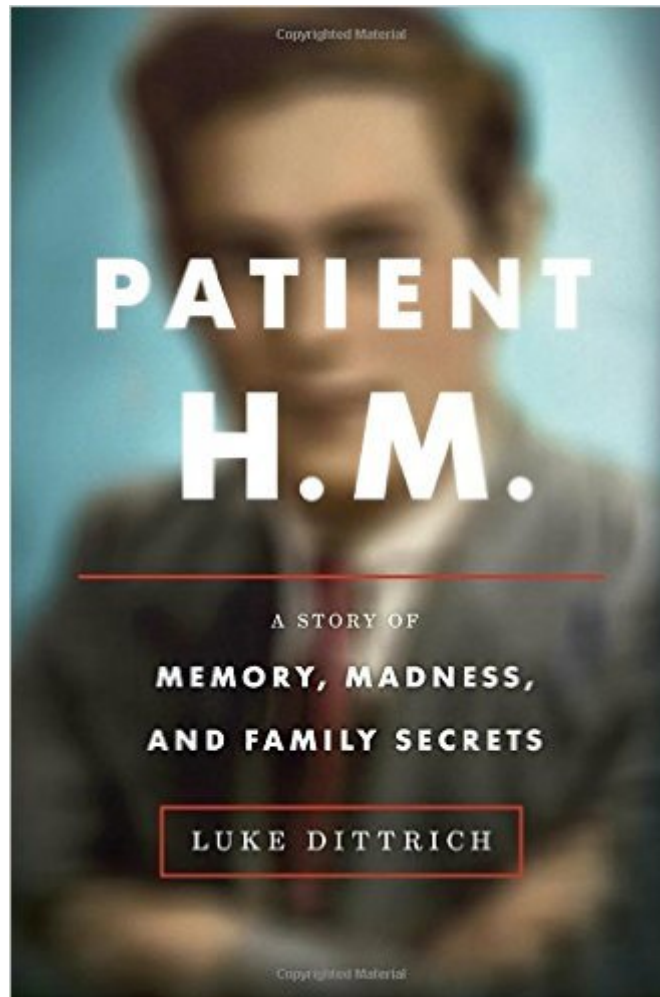


The book was found

# Patient H.M.: A Story Of Memory, Madness, And Family Secrets



## Synopsis

Oliver Sacks meets Stephen King in this propulsive, haunting journey into the life of the most studied human research subject of all time, the amnesic known as Patient H.M., a man who forever altered our understanding of how memory works and whose treatment raises deeply unsettling questions about the human cost of scientific progress. For readers of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* comes a story that has much to teach us about our relentless pursuit of knowledge. **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 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. Praise for Patient H.M. "An exciting, artful blend of family and medical history." "The New York Times" "In prose both elegant and intimate, and often thrilling, Patient H.M. is an important book about the wages not of sin but of science. It is deeply reported and surprisingly emotional, at times poignant, at others shocking. . . . A scintillating book, infused with humanity." "The Washington Post" "Spellbinding . . . The fact that Dittrich looks critically at the actual process of scientific investigation is just one of the things to admire about Patient H.M." "The New York Times Book Review" "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.â Sheri Fink, M.D., Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Five Days at Memorial* â 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, weâre also at the mercy of what we can forget. This is classic reporting and myth-making at the same time.â Colum McCann, author of *Let the Great World Spin*

## Book Information

Hardcover: 464 pages

Publisher: Random House; 1 edition (August 9, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0812992733

ISBN-13: 978-0812992731

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.4 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars â See all reviews â (69 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #4,812 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Social Scientists & Psychologists #4 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Epilepsy #11 in Books > Medical Books > History

## Customer Reviews

10 Stars. Luke Dittrich has written a wonderful, heartbreaking story about the life of Patient H.M., real name, Henry G. Molaison. During the time of Walter Freeman and his lobotomobile, there was also a man named Dr. William Scofield. Scofield, was a popular neurosurgeon and lobotomist of the day. Henry, due to his frequent seizures, became Dr. Scofield's patient and was liberally operated on and subsequently suffered horrible amnesia which prevented him from enjoying life, except for one moment at a time. Patient H.M became the most studied research subject in history. With the invention of the lobotomy and subsequent brain study, doctors who previously only had their data from simian experiments could actually use patients from asylums to study the brain. This story is a journey of the brain and those who pioneered in the experiments to find out what part of the brain controls which human function. Naturally, the lobotomists thought that severing those frontal lobes did wonders for their patients-over time this became questionable. In Henry's case, Dr. Scofield went a little deeper into both lobes rendering him a complete amnesiac who could eat two meals

having never remembered eating the first. This book pays tribute to Henry as he selflessly gave his time for scientific study. This story is a fascinating study of Henry and those who controlled him, and it is an unveiling of hidden family secrets laid bare by the writing talents of Luke Dittrich. While some of the situations in this book are not for the squeamish, I highly recommend reading this book—this is the most interesting book of the year. I can imagine Mr. Dittrich unearthing the knowledge inside this book over time—it must have been an amazing albeit troubling journey.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets  
Quantum Memory Power: Learn to Improve Your Memory with the World Memory Champion!  
The Memory Code: The Traditional Aboriginal Memory Technique That Unlocks the Secrets of Stonehenge, Easter Island and Ancient Monuments  
The World Over Madness and Memory: The Discovery of Prions—A New Biological Principle of Disease  
ASTNA Patient Transport: Principles and Practice, 4e (Air & Surface Patient Transport: Principles and Practice)  
Through the Patient's Eyes: Understanding and Promoting Patient-Centered Care  
Health Professional and Patient Interaction, 8e (Health Professional & Patient Interaction (Purtilo))  
Little and Falace's Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient, 8e (Little, Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient)  
Little and Falace's Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient, 7e (Little, Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient)  
The Endo Patient's Survival Guide: A Patient's Guide to Endometriosis & Chronic Pelvic Pain  
The Intelligent Patient's Guide to the Doctor-Patient Relationship: Learning How to Talk So Your Doctor Will Listen  
Palliative Care: A Patient-Centered Approach (Patient-Centered Care)  
The Renal Patient's Guide to Good Eating: A Cookbook for Patients by a Patient  
Minecraft Secrets: Master Handbook Edition: Top 100 Ultimate Minecraft Secrets You May Have Never Seen Before (Unofficial Minecraft Secrets Guide for Kids) (Ultimate Minecraft Secrets Handbook)  
Virtual Memory Source Code Secrets (Code Secrets V2)  
The Microsoft Guide to Managing Memory With MS-DOS 6: Installing, Configuring, and Optimizing Memory for MS-DOS and Windows Operating Systems  
The Notorious Elizabeth Tuttle: Marriage, Murder, and Madness in the Family of Jonathan Edwards (North American Religions)  
Mosby's Fluids & Electrolytes  
Memory NoteCards: Visual, Mnemonic, and Memory Aids for Nurses, 2e  
Mosby's Pharmacology  
Memory NoteCards: Visual, Mnemonic, and Memory Aids for Nurses, 4e  
Mosby's OB/Peds & Women's Health  
Memory NoteCards: Visual, Mnemonic, and Memory Aids for Nurses, 1e

[Dmca](#)