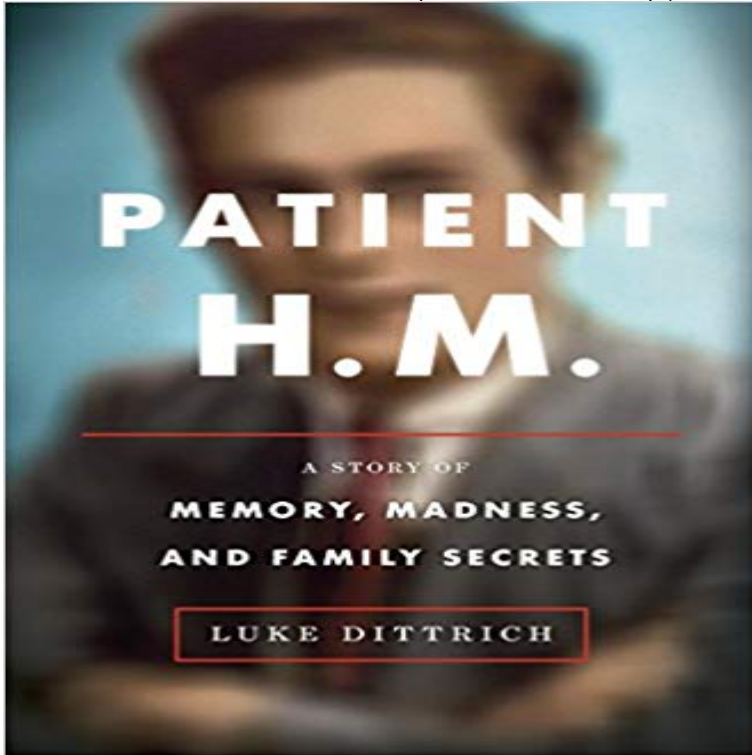


## Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets



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 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. 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 Prizewinning 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 are 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 expose 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* From the Hardcover edition.

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M., **Book Review: Patient H.M. - Neuroskeptic - Discover Magazine Blogs** Aug 29, 2016 In Patient H.M., the journalist Luke Dittrich questions his grandfathers role in an infamous A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets **Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets** 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: Luke** 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: Luke** Aug 14, 2016 Known as Patient H.M. to the medical community, Henry Molaison was lobotomized and A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets. **Customer Reviews: Patient HM: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Patient HM: A Story of Memory, Madness, and Family Secrets** 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 H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets** Editorial Reviews. 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Luke Dittrich (ISBN: 9780812992731) from Amazons Book Store. Free UK delivery on **Patient H.M.: A Story of Memory, Madness and Family Secrets** Patient H.M. has 1915 ratings and 401 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 & Family Secrets by Luke** Aug 20, 2016 He remains a ghost in the end. The only photograph of the adult Henry Molaison to appear in this ambitious, impassioned but frustrating book is