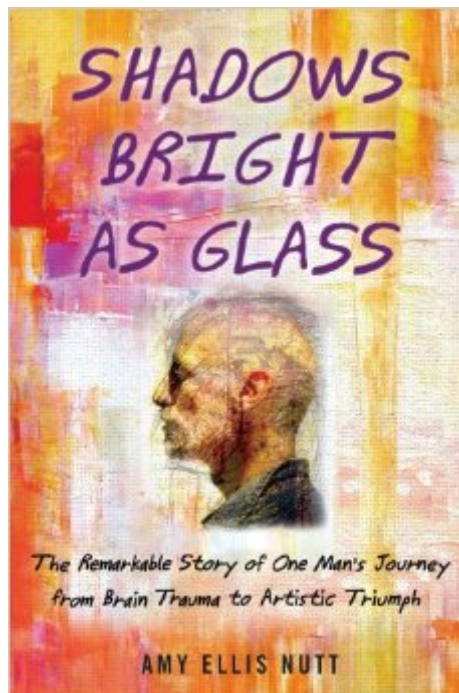


The book was found

Shadows Bright As Glass: The Remarkable Story Of One Man's Journey From Brain Trauma To Artistic Triumph



Synopsis

On a sunny fall afternoon in 1988, Jon Sarkin was playing golf when, without a whisper of warning, his life changed forever. As he bent down to pick up his golf ball, something strange and massive happened inside his head; part of his brain seemed to unhinge, to split apart and float away. For an utterly inexplicable reason, a tiny blood vessel, thin as a thread, deep inside the folds of his gray matter had suddenly shifted ever so slightly, rubbing up against his acoustic nerve. Any noise now caused him excruciating pain. After months of seeking treatment to no avail, in desperation Sarkin resorted to radical deep-brain surgery, which seemed to go well until during recovery his brain began to bleed and he suffered a major stroke. When he awoke, he was a different man. Before the stroke, he was a calm, disciplined chiropractor, a happily married husband and father of a newborn son. Now he was transformed into a volatile and wildly exuberant obsessive, seized by a manic desire to create art, devoting virtually all his waking hours to furiously drawing, painting, and writing poems and letters to himself, strangely detached from his wife and child, and unable to return to his normal working life. His sense of self had been shattered, his intellect intact but his way of being drastically altered. His art became a relentless quest for the right words and pictures to unlock the secrets of how to live this strange new life. And what was even stranger was that he remembered his former self. In a beautifully crafted narrative, award-winning journalist and Pulitzer Prize finalist Amy Ellis Nutt interweaves Sarkin's remarkable story with a fascinating tour of the history of and latest findings in neuroscience and evolution that illuminate how the brain produces, from its web of billions of neurons and chaos of liquid electrical pulses, the richness of human experience that makes us who we are. Nutt brings vividly to life pivotal moments of discovery in neuroscience, from the shocking "cerebirth" of a young girl hanged in 1650 to the first autopsy of an autistic savant's brain, and the extraordinary true stories of people whose personalities and cognitive abilities were dramatically altered by brain trauma, often in shocking ways. Probing recent revelations about the workings of creativity in the brain and the role of art in the evolution of human intelligence, she reveals how Jon Sarkin's obsessive need to create mirrors the earliest function of art in the brain. Introducing major findings about how our sense of self transcends the bounds of our own bodies, she explores how it is that the brain generates an individual "self" and how, if damage to our brains can so alter who we are, we can nonetheless be said to have a soul. For Jon Sarkin, with his personality and sense of self permanently altered, making art became his bridge back to life, a means of reassembling from the shards of his former self a new man who could rejoin his family and fashion a viable life. He is now an acclaimed artist who exhibits at some of the country's most prestigious venues, as well as a devoted husband to his wife, Kim, and father to

their three children. At once wrenching and inspiring, this is a story of the remarkable human capacity to overcome the most daunting obstacles and of the extraordinary workings of the human mind.

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages

Publisher: Free Press; 1 edition (April 5, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9781439143100

ISBN-13: 978-1439143100

ASIN: 1439143102

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,406,147 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #127 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Strokes #2080 inÂ Books > Medical Books >

Psychology > Neuropsychology #2549 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Neuropsychology

Customer Reviews

Shadows Bright as Glass is both a riveting story of Jon Sarkin's reinvention of himself after a stroke during brain surgery and an interesting overview of neuroscience studies and advances. The author also provides valuable insights into the impact of such an injury on the family and how they must come to terms with their loved one's new identity. The book demonstrates how amazing and often resilient organ the brain is. It also raises valuable questions about where identity comes from and at the same time points out how little we really know about the brain. I had a hard time putting the book down.

I saw an episode on "Ingenious Minds" about Jon Sarkin and was interested to learn more. It's a very interesting story. From people like Jon who are willing to be studied and make their stories public, doctors and researchers learn more and more about how the brain works and what happens after injury. What Jon and his family have been through is very difficult. The TV show emphasized more the aspect of "isn't it interesting how he makes art constantly now" as if his brain injury caused him to become an artist. The truth is that Jon uses art compulsively to deal with his emotions, also,

he had an interest in art before the injury, it didn't just magically happen. He has become a novelty because of the injury. The video he made with Guster is wonderful. I'm sorry for all Jon and his family went through, and I'm happy for him that under the circumstances he is at least having success with his art.

I gave up on this book about a third through. The subject matter was interesting. However, Ms Nutt clearly neglected to check out her conceptualization of anatomy and physiology. I found her mistakes annoying, and it ruined what might have been a good read.

Details on the science around the brain are interesting but I was looking for a fun read with more of a story than educational piece.

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

Shadows Bright as Glass: The Remarkable Story of One Man's Journey from Brain Trauma to Artistic Triumph Wicca Book of Shadows: A Wiccan's Book of Shadows! Your Personal Spell Book (Wicca, Wiccan, Book of Shadows) Heaven's Gate - The Remarkable Journey of One Man Who Finds Out if Heaven is for Real (New Fiction Books Book 1) The Empress of Bright Moon (The Empress of Bright Moon Duology Book 2) Brain Training: Power Brain! - Secret Techniques To: Improve Memory, Focus & Concentration (Brain teasers, Improve memory, Improve focus, Concentration, Brain power) Brain Cancer Treatment - How to Beat Brain Cancer And Get Your Life Back (Brain Cancer, Tumor, Brain Cancer Treatment, Natural Treatment) Brain Training: The Ultimate Guide to Increase Your Brain Power and Improving Your Memory (Brain exercise, Concentration, Neuroplasticity, Mental Clarity, Brain Plasticity) The Brain That Changes Itself: Stories of Personal Triumph from the Frontiers of Brain Science Moser Artistic Glass, Edition Two Creating Glass Beads: A New Workshop to Expand Your Beginner Skills and Develop Your Artistic Voice Cooking for One: 365 Recipes For One, Quick and Easy Recipes (Healthy Cooking for One, Easy Cooking for One, One Pot, One Pan) ART GLASS - Breaking Glass To Make Money: A Beginners Guide To Making Money With Art Glass - Copper Foil And Lead Work Explained Wicca Book of Shadows: A Beginner's Guide to Keeping Your Own Book of Shadows and the History of Grimoires Ode to a Master: From Championship to Supreme Court: One Man's Remarkable Odyssey Coping with Concussion and Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: A Guide to Living with the Challenges Associated with Post Concussion Syndrome and Brain Trauma Artistic Gymnastics: Coloring and Activity Book: Gymnastics is one of Idan's interests. He has authored various of Books which giving to children the ... Acrobatic Stunts", "Capoeira" etc. (Volume 4) An Act of Love: One

Woman's Remarkable Life Story and Her Fight for the Right to Die with Dignity How Bright Is Your Brain?: Amazing Games to Play with Your Mind The God Squad: The Bestselling Story of One Child's Triumph Over Adversity Becoming One: A Story of Triumph Over Dissociative Identity Disorder

[Dmca](#)