

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

BOOKS

A Change of Mind: Our Family's Journey through Brain Injury

Janelle Breese Biagioni, 2004

This book addresses marital stress and adjustment challenges for families when a spouse has a brain injury. It discusses emotional trauma for family, grieving, mourning, parenting, and caregiving after severe head trauma. (176 pages)

Adam Reborn: A Family Guide to Surviving Traumatic Brain Injury

Alex Stelmach, 2012

An intense, personal account of a family banding together when one of their own falls 40 feet into darkness and is diagnosed with a Traumatic Brain Injury. Included are pages of practical advice and information regarding TBI and how to cope with it. (225 pages)

Amazing Lady, There is Life After Brain Injury

Alice L Brown, 2002

Alice finds her life shattered after a fall leaves her in a coma. This is a story of Alice's rehabilitation as she fights back from coma to return home and teach again. Her story is one of faith and courage as she proves to herself there is life after brain injury! (154 pages)

An Excellent Life

Jody Cramer, 2005

This is the story of one family's experience with brain injury, an account of how a mother's activism changed the life of her injured son. This guide contains advice and personal experiences, which can help any family coping with an injured loved one. (283 pages)

Being with Rachel: A Story of Memory and Survival

Karen Brennan, 2002

The call came at 6am: Karen's daughter, Rachel was in an accident. When she awakens from coma with a serious memory deficit, her mom takes up the challenge of helping Rachel rebuild, jump-starting her memory by retelling Rachel's own story. (267 pages)

The Bend in the Road: Lenny Burke's Farm

Yvonne Daly, 2014

A young man's courage, a mother's love, a community's response, & the significant discoveries made about the brain and its ability to heal. (144 pages)

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Broken Mind, Persistent Hope

Thomas E. Hartman, 2014

A promising student is cut down by manic depression. Soon after, his car is T-boned in a highway collision, making his existing instability worse. His marriage comes under unbearable strain. How he returns to normal life is the story of this book. (323 pages)

Conquering the Darkness: One Woman's Story of Recovering from a Brain Injury

Deborah Quinn, 1998

Deborah was happily married and financially secure until the day when her car careened off the road, leaving her husband dead and her in a coma. This book chronicles her recovery, the obstacles she faced, and the process of creating new life for herself. (275 pages)

Cracked... Recovering after Traumatic Brain Injury

Lynsey Calderwood, 2003

At the age of 14, Lynsey Calderwood suffered a brain injury that left her physically unmarked, but destroyed her memory. This is the story of Lynsey's quest to discover her identity. Her sense of loss, grief and rage is movingly recalled. Courage and perseverance, and her sense of humor, see her through, and her tale will be an inspiration to anyone who has faced similar obstacles (223 pages)

Day My Brain Exploded, The

Ashok Rajamani, 2013

After a brain bleed at the age of twenty-five, Ashok had to relearn everything: how to eat, how to walk and to speak, even things as basic as his sexual orientation. With humor and insight, he describes the events of that day (his brain exploded just before his brother's wedding!), and the long, difficult recovery. (253 pages)

Crooked Smile, One Family's Journey towards Healing

Lainie Cohen, 2003

This is a mother's story of her son's brain injury when he was 17. As she traces his recovery, she reveals how his injury affected her family. She moves from observing his medical care to becoming an advocate and helps her family on the road to healing. (337 pages)

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Endless Journey: A Head Trauma Victim's Remarkable Rehabilitation

Janet Stumbo, 1998

This book tells of one woman's journey on the road to recovery and the years of rehabilitation that followed. The author conveys her determination to regain her path in life, and her extraordinary success is inspiring to all on that endless journey. (209 pages)

Every Good Boy Does Fine

Tim Laskowski, 2003

A novel that provides an insider's look into the world of a man who sustained brain injury. Telling his story allows him to explore and redefine relationships with another group home resident, his parents and his son. It is a story of a man desperate to achieve coherence within a swirling, confusing reality. (178 pages)

Falling Away From You

Nicole Vinson Bingaman, 2015

This book tells the story of a family journey's through traumatic brain injury by recounting events that occurred after 21 year old Taylor took a devastating fall down the stairs in the family's home. (456 pages)

Fall Back Up: Surviving Traumatic Brain Injury

AW Bailey, 1999

Expressed through poetry, the book describes the struggle of a young man to survive his near death experience. The author is the young man's mother. For any reader who experienced a brain injury or has a family member with a brain injury, the author hopes this book will interest you. To any reader who needs an uplifting story and loves poetry, Fall Back Up won't disappoint. (206 pages)

Fighting for David

Leone Nunley, 2006

Leone shares her trials, and the ways faith helped her, and her son David, overcome. In this book, you'll find remarkable lessons on choosing hope over despair, opting for hard work over giving up, and erring on the side of love. (191 pages).

From Death's Door to Disney World: Traumatic Brain Injury When You're Not Rich and Famous

Mike Pollock, 2010

This book is a story of a survivor. A loved and loving wife, mom and friend, who was struck with a brain tumor. Her remarkable will to live and desire to love and stay with her family despite the prognosis from medical professionals is inexplicable. (91 pages)

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Gifts from the Broken Jar

P.J. Long, 2004

Everyone, at some time, learns how life can change in a moment. Therapist PJ Long's life-altering moment came when the bolt of a horse left her brain-injured. Occasionally, out of the turmoil emerges wisdom and beauty. This is one such work. (254 pages)

Ghost Boy

Martin Pistorius, 2013

Ghost Boy is the heart-wrenching story of one boy's return to life. In these pages, readers see a parent's resilience, the consequences of misdiagnosis, abuse at the hands of cruel caretakers, and the unthinkable duration of Martin's alertness betrayed by his lifeless body. Martin's emergence from his own darkness invites us to celebrate our lives and fight for a better life for others. (288 pages)

A Good Fight

Sarah Brady, 2002

A Good Fight is Sarah Brady's plain-spoken, moving story of what happened to her, Jim, and their son, Scott. Sarah talks about her life before and after the shooting, and describes the events that turned her into a gun control activist. (272 pages)

Head Cases

Michael Paul Mason, 2008

Head Cases is a sequence of stories from the world of brain injury. Underlying these stories is an exploration into the brain and its mysteries. We come away in awe of the miracles of the brain's workings, astonished at the fragility of the brain and the sense of self, life, and order that resides there. (130 pages)

Hot Cripple

Hogan Gorman, 2012

Hit by a car and suffering debilitating injuries, and with no health insurance, Hogan Gorman attempts to bounce back. This biting and funny and keenly observed account of the cracks in our medical and social welfare system shows how one woman's resilience, combined with humor, helped her fight to recovery. (272 pages)

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I Am the Central Park Jogger: A Story of Hope and Possibility

Trisha Meili, 2003

For the first time since the brutal assault in 1989, the Central Park Jogger reveals her identity and tells the story you haven't heard; the journey of a woman who turned violence and certain death into extraordinary healing and triumphant life (272 pages)

I Can't Remember Me

Judy Martin-Urban and Courtney Martin Larson, 2006

This touching story begins in 1997, shortly after Courtney graduated from college. Left with a brain injury, her struggle back to her family and a productive life is most inspiring. (128 pages)

I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?

Suzy Becker, 2004

This book asks "Who am I without my brain?" Having a career as cartoonist and author, the loss of communication skills was also a crisis of identity. Using cartoons and memoir, she describes the politics of medicine, resisting her need for help and therapy, and changing relationships with friends and family. (282 pages)

I'll Carry the Fork: Recovering a Life after Brain Injury

Kara Swanson, 2000

Written with laugh-out-loud humor, candor and input from medical and legal professionals, this book offers inspiration and practical help to anyone dealing with brain injury. (205 pages)

In An Instant

Lee Woodruff and Bob Woodruff, 2008

In an Instant is the account of how Bob and Lee Woodruff's lives came together, were blown apart, and were miraculously put together again. The book is a wise, inspiring guide. (304 pages)

In Search of Wings

Beverly Bryant, 1992

In Search of Wings tells the true story of one woman coping with brain injury after a car accident that affected her cognition and memory. Her determination to conquer her deficits to regain total independence stands as an inspiration to all survivors. (233 pages)

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Into the Silent Land: Travels in Neuropsychology

Paul Broks, 2003

A neuropsychologist with twenty-five years' experience, Paul Broks writes with a doctor's precision and clarity. Drawing on author's own case studies, vignettes, and philosophy, the book is an extraordinary look into the unknown world of the self. (246 pages)

Invisible Illnesses and Disabilities

Sharon E Smith, 1998

One night this young woman's life was forever changed. A car accident nearly took her life. As serious as her injuries were, many "invisible" problems remained after the visible wounds healed. Mental, emotional, financial and spiritual adjustments were just the beginning of learning how to live, and live well. (157 pages)

Listening to the Silence, Seeing in the Dark

Ruthann Knechel Johansen, 2002

A professor of literature, Johansen uses her literary skill to tell the story of her son's recovery from brain injury. As Erik struggled to relearn basic activities, family and friends told him stories to help him regain his sense of self. (236 pages)

Living with Brain Injury

Philip Fairclough, 2002

After falling from a ladder in 1994, Philip Fairclough suffered major brain injury. He underwent intensive rehabilitation and relearned the skills he had once taken for granted. Philip's determination characterizes this account of the hurdles he overcame. (128 pages)

Lost in my Mind: Recovering from TBI

Kelly Bouldin Darmofal, 2014

Kelly describes her journey from adolescent girl to special education teacher, wife, & mother despite several traumatic brain injuries spanning three decades. (196 pages)

Meditations on Brain Injury

Mike Strand, 2012

Written in a short essay format, this book is ideal for survivors with cognitive challenges, as well as for caregivers with busy schedules. Mike encourages his readers to examine their lives. (65 pages)

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Moment of Departure

Kathy Roberson, 2014

Twenty-one years ago, Kathy and her husband made the most difficult decision of their lives: they adopted a child with special needs. This collection of poems relates her family's challenging adventure. Each poem mines the little things in life to unearth truths that will resonate for anyone who has encountered the frustrations and joys of caring for a loved one. (71 pages)

Never Give Up: My Stroke, Recovery and Return to the NFL

Tedy Bruschi, 2007

Days after helping the Patriots win the Super Bowl, Bruschi had a stroke. He planned to retire, but football beckoned. He learned from doctors who treated him and cleared him to play. (288 pages)

Objects in Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear

Sol Mogerman, 2001

Sol tells the story of his accident and recovery in an engaging manner. The book includes a self-help section based on what Sol learned in overcoming his disabilities (436 pages)

One Man's Music

Vince Bell, 1998

This book is about a musician, who had a car accident and was found unconscious. It is about his rehabilitation via the music he loved and his struggles to return to making music. (204 pages)

Over My Head: A Doctor's Own Story of Head Injury from the Inside Looking Out

Claudia Osborn, 2000

In 1988, a doctor out for a bicycle ride was hit by a careless driver and sustained a brain injury. This book details her injury and amazing comeback, and how she resumed her career. (256 pages)

Over the Waterfall

Marilyn Martone, PhD, 2010

This book chronicles a family's journey through the health-care system and examines the concerns arising when dealing with brain injury. It also reveals a mother's spiritual journey. (203 pages)

Overcoming All Challenges: An Almost Fatal Miracle

Roger Daniel Rizzo, 2011

Overcoming All Challenges describes in detail the injuries sustained by the author. Among the injuries was severe brain injury. The book summarizes the challenges the author overcame in his life which lead up to encountering his ultimate challenge. (292 pages)

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Perfectly Normal

Marcy Sheiner, 2002

This book addresses with unprecedented honesty a mother's experience raising a child with a disability. She tells her story with unflinching self-examination and shows what it's really like to raise a child with a disability in America. (123 pages)

A Question of David: A Disabled Mother's Journey Through Adoption, Family and Life

Denise Sherer-Jacobson, 1999

This is a compelling story of love, perseverance and commitment. David's parents encounter daunting challenges due to their disabilities. But their struggle and joy at becoming parents will make you question how parenthood is defined. (213 pages)

Rambling Down Life's Road... with a Traumatic Brain Injury

Kevin Pettit, 2003

This book provides a view of what it is like to have a traumatic brain injury. It contains excerpts from the diary of someone who underwent a TBI. This book is meant to give you a view of what it's like to have a TBI, and to make you laugh a little. (154 pages)

Remind Me Why I'm Here

Diana Lund, 2006

Diana was a top-ranked manager when a car accident changed her personality and her life's direction; she sustained short-term memory loss and cognitive deficits. On her quest to become whole again, she discovers hope. (214 pages)

Second Chance: A Journal of Personal Recovery

Michael Pasloski, 1999

Michael has some stories to tell. He is a musician, businessman, husband, and, father. A good, stable life, until he was injured in a car accident. The author's misfortune brought a family closer together. Michael is a witness to human resilience. (80 pages)

Smile and Jump High! The True Story of Overcoming a Traumatic Brain Injury

Donald Lloyd and Shannon Kehoe, 2001

This book tells how one woman and her family struggled with brain injury. Their journey begins with re-learning basic tasks of life. They deal with deficits that affect her perception, reasoning, communication and behavior. This is a story worth telling because it inspires hope for survivors and their families. (221 pages)

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Snail to the Finish Line, Leaning on Faith

William Jarvis, 2006

Everyone's nightmare is to wake up in a hospital unable to move. This happened to the author, who spent over a year in hospitals. This book presents ideas on how to get through adversity and provides charts for a person to record their progress. (88 pages)

Someone Stole yesterday

Helene Wright, 2000

In the midst of Mardi Gras a young man was assaulted. That night began his second life; it was the end of his life as he and his family knew it. A story of courage and recovery against the greatest of odds, we come to know her son, his struggles, and their family bond, which strengthens in the process of recovery. (224 pages)

Spring Break

Steven Benvenisti, Esq., 2012

Imagine the worst event that could happen to you; something so horrific that death is a welcome alternative. That's what happened to Ben during his spring break, when a drunk driver crashed into him while he was walking. As an attorney, Ben's case touched me like no other. It was so gruesome, so devastating, that to this day I get chills thinking about it. Yet, all who followed this case agree that this story has inspired and changed them forever. (224 pages)

Struck by Genius

Jason Padgett and Maureen Seaberg, 2014

The first documented case of acquired savant syndrome with mathematical synesthesia, Padgett is a marvel. Struck by Genius recounts how he overcame huge setbacks and embraced his new mind. Along the way he fell in love, found joy in numbers, and spent plenty of time having his head examined. (243 pages)

Surviving Black Ice

David Fierce, 2002

An invisible patch of "black ice" starts David's head-on collision with life. At first in coma, later struggling to perform the tasks we take for granted, David was forced to start over. This book offers help to all survivors and those that care about them. (112 pages)

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TBI Hell: A Traumatic Brain Injury Really Sucks

Geo Gosling, 2006

A headstrong and active young man before his brain injury, Geo awakens to the frustrating world of medical and rehabilitative care. This book describes the trials he has had to endure with an emphasis on humor and his indomitable personality. (164 pages)

To Wherever Oceans Go

Beverley Bryant, 1996

This book is an inspiring and true story. It is the journey of one woman who refused to set limits on her potential, one family who loved each other so much they survived the storm, and a rehabilitative team unwilling to give up. (287 pages)

Until the Cows Come Home

JT Blakemore, 2003

Blakemore describes his ongoing recovery over forty years with detailed insights into his thought processes after brain injury. He shows how the reactions of others give him hope as well as frustration and despair. It is a candid, humorous book with a fresh perspective on what it means to live with brain injury. (239 pages)

The Water Giver

Joan Ryan, 2009

After falling from his skateboard at age 16, Joan's son suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him unable to walk or talk, requiring multiple complex surgeries and months of rehabilitation. Her story of supporting him through this experience, is a testament both to her stamina and to his strength. (272 pages)

Where is the Mango Princess?

Cathy Crimmins, 2003

Cathy charts her husband's painful, astonishing journey through brain injury. From the frustrations of dealing with doctors and insurance, to the enigmas of personality, mortality and science, this is a chronicle of wisdom, love and resilience. (257 pages)

You're a Dick, Mummy

Ann Kidd, 2009

'You're a dick, Mummy' were the first words Jamie Kidd said to his mother after a car crash. Now they are the title of a book she's written about his brain injury. The book is an honest account of what it's like advocating for people with brain injury. (312 pages)

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VIDEOS

Beyond the Invisible: Living with Brain Injury

Brain Injury Association of New York State, 2008

Narrated by Lee Woodruff, this documentary was produced by the Brain Injury Association of New York State in order to build awareness about combat-related traumatic brain injury and its impact on our returning military. (30 minutes)

Brain Injury Dialogues

Rick Franklin, 2008

Though he appears normal, Rick Franklin's brain injury has made his life anything but. Teaming up with documentary maker and friend Lyell Davies, Rick explores the impact brain injury has on himself and other people. We hear how survivors deal with life through personal, medical, and political strategies. (52 minutes)

Changing Identities

Daniel Labbato, 2006

In 1999, Bill Richards founded The Art Studio at the Northeast Center for Special Care, a brain injury rehabilitation program. This movie documents the growth of several Art Studio "neighbors" as they redefine who they are through this program, and see themselves not as people with disabilities but artists (56 minutes)

The Lookout

Miramax Pictures, 2007

Chris Pratt, whose once-bright future has been dimmed by a brain injury, is a night janitor at a bank. Lonely and frustrated, Chris falls prey to a con man's promise of a better life, and agrees to help rob the bank. This thriller is a surprisingly accurate picture of life after brain injury and provides a look at some typical (and not so typical) problems faced by a young man after a brain injury. (99 minutes)

Marwencol

Cinema Guild, 2011

Mark Hogancamp was beaten nearly to death, his memories wiped away. Seeking recovery, he builds Marwencol, a miniature World War II-era town filled with doll versions of his friends, fantasies, and even his attackers. As he documents the town's dramas, the dolls become living characters in an epic tale of love, adventure, resurrection and revenge. When his photos are discovered by the art world, Mark is suddenly forced to choose between the safety of his imaginary world and the real world he's avoided. (84 minutes)

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Music Within, (The)

MGM Studios, 2008

This film is based on the true-life story of Richard Pimentel. Deafened by a bomb blast in Vietnam, Richard returns home and discovers his life's calling: helping others with disabilities, including his fellow veterans. Along with his best friend, a wheelchair-bound rebel with a wicked wit, Richard fights for the rights of those whose voices can't always be heard. This is a powerful and inspiring journey that every American should take. (94 minutes)

Not So Still Life, (A)

Shadowcatcher Entertainment, 2010

Ginny Ruffner overcame a near fatal car accident in 1991 in order to re-establish her worldwide reputation as an artist, but it is her indefatigable spirit that has influenced so many in and out of the art world. Witness Ginny's determination to recover from the accident that nearly claimed her life, but barely even slowed her constant re-invention of the world around her. (82 minutes)

Regarding Henry

Paramount Studios, 1991

Henry Turner is a successful, ruthless New York lawyer who needs to win at any cost, even at the expense of his wife and daughter. But a gunshot brings Henry's fast-track rise to a dead stop, leaving him incapacitated and with no memory of the life he used to lead. Faced with starting over, Henry is about to learn the hard truth about a stranger... himself. (108 minutes)

This Beats a Coma

Scott Richardson and Doug Markgraf, 2012

This movie tells the story of a young man's journey from coma to a cross-country bicycle trek. It reflects on the difficulties faced by a brain injury survivor and documents the struggles to return to an independent life. It's a story about hope, overcoming debilitating setbacks, and achieving amazing things. (28 minutes, 45 seconds)

When Billy Broke His Head

Billy Golfus, Fanlight Productions, 2004

After sustaining a brain injury in an accident, journalist Billy Golfus goes on the road in an irreverent, entertaining quest to explore the roots and progress of the disability rights movement. This movie blends humor with politics and individual experience with a chorus of voices, to explore what it's like to live with a disability in America. (57 minutes)

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