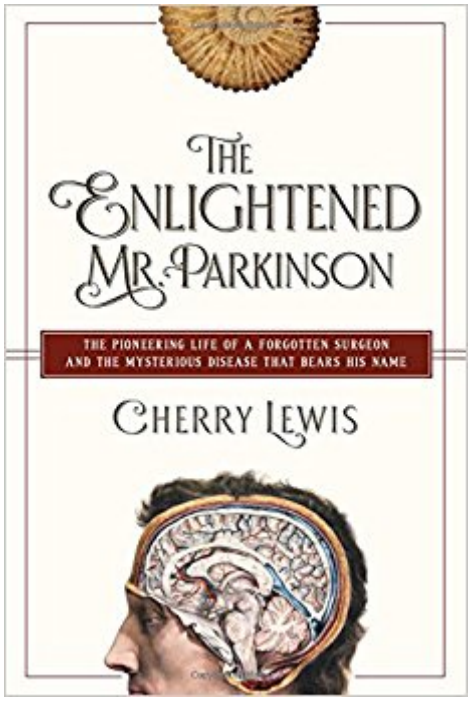
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The Enlightened Mr. Parkinson: The Pioneering Life Of A Forgotten Surgeon



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Synopsis

A colorful and absorbing portrait of James Parkinson and the turbulent, intellectually vibrant world of Georgian London. ParkinsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s disease is one of the most common forms of dementia, with 60,000 new cases each year in the United States alone, yet few know anything about the man the disease is named after. In 1817Ã¢â ¬â ¢two hundred years years agoÃ¢â ¬â ¢James Parkinson (1755Ã¢â ¬â œ1824) defined this mysterious ailment so precisely that we still diagnose Parkinson's Disease today by recognizing the symptoms he identified. The story of this remarkable manÃ¢â ¬â„¢s contributions to the Age of the Enlightenment is told through his three seemingly disparate passions: medicine, politics and fossils. As a political radical, Parkinson was interrogated over a plot to kill King George III and was in danger of exile. But simultaneously, he was helping Edward Jenner set up smallpox vaccination stations across London and writing the first scientific study of fossils in English, jump-starting a national craze. He is one of the intellectual pioneers of "the age of wonder," forgotten to history, but Cherry Lewis restores this amazing man to his rightful place in history with her evocative portrait of the man and his era. one 8-page color insert

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“LewisÃ¢â ¬â„¢s lively, captivating biography illuminates the life and work of a pioneer who may have largely faded from medical history, but whose curiosity and passion are as relevant today as they were 200 years ago.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Publishers Weekly (starred)Ã¢â ¬Å“The pensive and passionate Parkinson is portrayed as a character caught in a sort of temporal paradox as a clinician

ahead of his time in some ways, a scientist infatuated with prehistoric eras, and a citizen restless and uneasy with society and living conditions in his world.Ã¢â ¬Â• - BooklistÃ¢â ¬Å“Parkinson was a Renaissance man who tried his hand at natural history and politics, and British geologist and historian Lewis turns this into a fine biography of a colorful figure who lived in a turbulent era. Lewis delivers an appealing, often gruesome account of the life of a workaholic, highly respected physician from a far-off time.Ã¢â ¬Â• - Kirkus Reviews

Cherry Lewis is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Bristol. She is the author ofÃ Â The Dating Game: One ManÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Search for the Age of the EarthÃ Â (Cambridge University Press).

This is a well written biography of Dr Parkinson. It covers his entire life and is also a window on late eighteenth and early nineteenth century medicine especially in England. Parkinson came from a family with roots in medicine as apothecaries and he himself became a surgeon of some repute. He was associated with some of the best of his time. The book covers all of his life and is both enjoyable and informative. The last Chapter covers the disorder for which his is eponymous for. That Chapter I would have liked to have seen more discussion but its coverage is comparable to the other sections. Overall this is an exceptionally readable and complete biography of a significant contributor to Medicine.

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