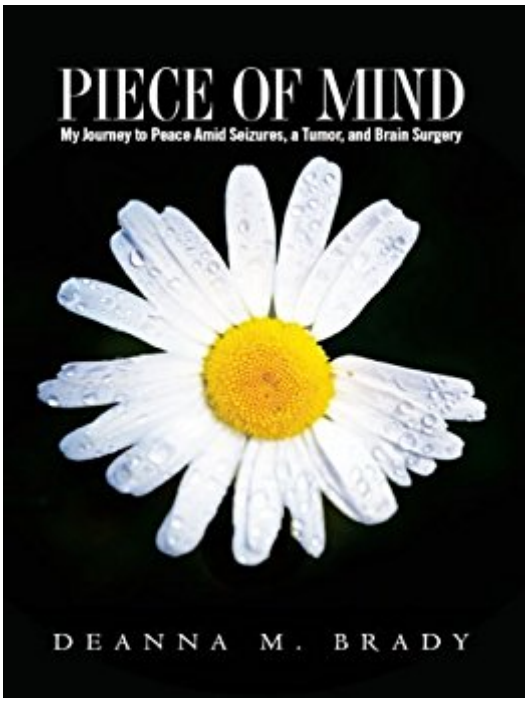
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Piece Of Mind: My Journey To Peace Amid Seizures, A Tumor, And Brain Surgery



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Synopsis

As doctors keep getting it wrong, one young mother with epilepsy must trust her instincts in solving a medical mystery in order to reclaim control of her life. The solution is brain surgery. With an engaging flashback approach and pitch perfect prose, new author Deanna Brady pens a fascinating tour de force medical memoir; a funny, inspired, if at times heartbreaking account of her journey with epilepsy - part mystery, part comedy, part love story, and part self-help. It’s also a survivor’s guide of how, rather than focusing on a tragedy, Brady chooses to live her life after epilepsy did a pretty good job of mucking it up. On the eve of her wedding Deanna Brady’s sister found her in the throes of a grand mal/generalized tonic clonic seizure. After this initial 911 call, the story candidly retraces clues from previous years as a student in which Brady describes bouts of confusion and disorientation before moving on to portray what it was like for the next years of her life as a wife, new mother, and elementary teacher living with epilepsy. Until her eventual brain surgery, which is thought to have saved her life but not without consequences, her days revolved around finding answers to a condition - a condition which befuddles the medical community and affects fifty million people worldwide. And while medically speaking, things did not add up for a very long time, it was in trusting her instincts, learning to communicate with her doctors, and taking some good advice from an eavesdropper that secures her peace of mind. Brady gives readers the confidence to trust their gut - and proves that when it comes to losing a "piece" of your mind it’s best to keep your wits about you.

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Customer Reviews

I’ve got mixed feelings about this book. It is extremely well written, and for those that are just being introduced to the world of recurring seizures it would be a great read.That said ... I wish my epilepsy was as easy to write about as hers. I’ve had surgery, it didn’t work. I’ve had countless seizures over the years, some have been extremely scary most very mild. I’m going in for a second surgery towards the end of the year, my fingers are crossed but who knows what will happen?Not only that, there just seems to be some shining light on this author’s life. Can’t say enough good things about it! She needed a friend ... guess what? A woman lived just a couple doors down with a kid the same age. She knocked on the door, she’s got a friend. There is no mention in the book about medical bills, which is a not-insignificant part of treating epilepsy for most of us in this country.I wish the author the best and am very happy that she is seizure-free. I can’t deny a bit of jealousy that my epilepsy didn’t get tied up into a nice little bow like hers :(

This book sat on my shelf for a couple of weeks before I picked it up. I wasn’t sure I was ready for an emotionally taxing book, which is what any book about seizures would surely be. I eventually had a doctors appointment where I felt this would be appropriate reading material for such an occasion. I finished the book by the next day, less than 24 hours in total. This book was nothing like what I had in mind.I enjoyed Brady’s writing style quite a bit. Her personality is overwhelmingly up beat and optimistic and this shines through in her book. Brady’s courage in sharing even her most intimate details with the reader made me feel like I was forming a relationship with a new best friend. This book is a great read for anyone going through struggles of their own, anyone who knows someone going through similar circumstances, or anyone who would like an honest perspective into the medical realities of many Americans.

I was completely taken by this book. I am a brain surgery patient myself so I can completely related to the author. She actually had it at the same hospital I did with even the same surgeon and staff. As I just reached my first year anniversary for my surgery and also being seizure free for one year,

as I was reading this book, i felt like I was looking in a mirror. It was very inspiring. She wrote aboutevery detail from the pre-op testing prior to the actual surgery to the aftermathof the mental and surgical healing afterwards. She could have not described it any better. It made me really look back at this last year of my life and see how lucky I am that I am alive and how I really did make the right choice. I now have my life back. If anyone needs to read an inspiring story or is thinking about this type of surgery, this would be the book you would want to read. It would really clear your head and help you make the right decision. A must read for anyone.

Deanna’s account is riveting. I couldn’t put it down. Her faith is inspiring, as if her strength. I hope others can find answers because of her.

I have known Deanna for quite a few years now, and knew some of the things she was facing in the time before and after her surgery. Although, I didn’t know everything quite in detail at the time. Deanna has always been an amazing person and I admire her even more now, knowing all that she has gone through, and with such faith and a good attitude! This is a MUST read!

Very interesting point of view and helpful!

This book is very well written and an enlightening read. For those who are struggling with seizures or know someone who is, this book is a MUST READ. The author allows the reader to look inside her very private life to see the highs and lows, joys and sorrows, up and downs as well as her search for answers and the help she was able to find.

Brady’s book details about ten years of her life when she experienced the symptoms, diagnosis, surgery, and recovery from a brain tumor. She was barely a teenager when the seisures began, and she takes you through those years that are awkward enough without the added confusion caused by an undiagnosed malady. She describes in detail her "flashes," as she calls them, and their effect on the people around her. She describes the seisures that increased in severity and frequency each year and threatened her constantly, even as she served as a volunteer in an Equadorean orphanage. Her tumor was not successfully discovered and treated until after her engagement and marriage and the arrival of their first child. She even details the hospital experience as well as the difficulties of recovery that placed a strain on her marriage and family.Brady’s book interrupted my holiday reading of Charles Dickens’ Great Expectations. Dickens she is not, but a very good young

writer she is. (Yoda. I know.) Her book consists of fifty very short chapters, making it readable for people with not much time or with frequent distractions. Even so, each chapter is like a potato chip: you will not be able simply to sample; you must devour. Mental yummies. I read the book easily in one day. My favorite chapters were the early ones where she described the onset of minor seisures that robbed her of a more normal teenage life. Imagine blanking out for a few seconds in a classroom full of your friends or having to train a teacher on what to expect and how to act. (Don't call an ambulance.) I think anyone would enjoy this read, but especially those thousands of young persons who suffer from similar symptoms. They will find a friend in Deanna Brady.There is another kind of person that should read this book. I am thinking of the philosophers of mind, as they are called, and perhaps those in the new field of experimental philosophy. I have been reading Derek Parfit's Reasons and Persons. Brady's book, and many like it, would offer real-world substance to philosophers' imaginary speculations about what it means to be a person or to have a mind. Philosophers could profit greatly, I think, from using actual case studies like this one instead of the dry thought-experiments they often cook up. It is not just philosophical speculators that worry about questions like "Do I have a mind?" "Am I being possessed?" "Am I one person or two?" And so on. Actual people do, too; including teenage girls. So, Brady's book is an Oliver Sachs-like autobiography of a struggle with personal identity and a teenager's confusion of normal and abnormal resulting from a brain malfunction (hence the title Piece of Mind).Brady's book is self-published, but I expect that is only because her surgery preceded publication by merely two years. She hasn't had sufficient time to seek a publisher, and that is a shame. This book deserves some serious marketing.

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