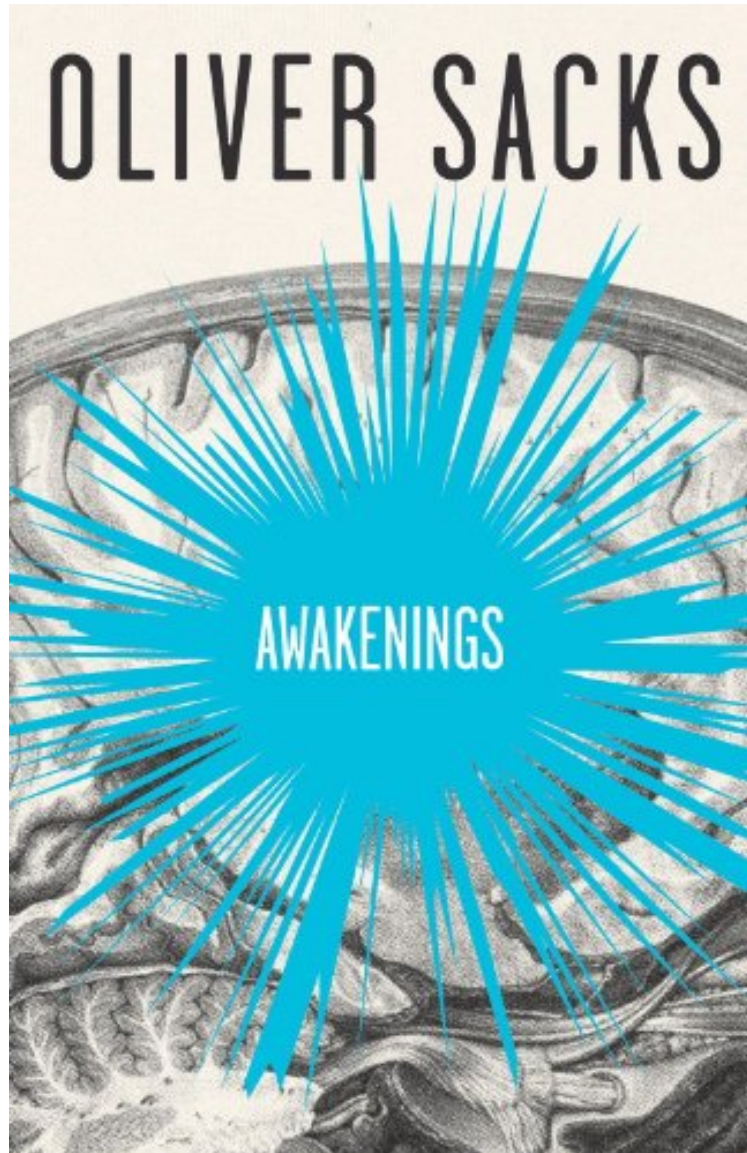


[Download] Awakenings

## Awakenings

*Von Oliver Sacks*

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**Von Oliver Sacks : Awakenings** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Awakenings:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Medical Case histories as great artVon Ein KundeOliver Sacks has elevated the case history in Awakenings to a literary art form of the highest kind. A neurologist in charge of a ward of people left high and dry by the 1918 flu epidemic which left them in a profound catatonic state, an extreme form of Parkinson's, he experiments on his patients with a new

wonder drug L-Dopa which proves a mixed blessing for them. Some are awakened to brilliant life for a brief time, but most of them are doomed either to revert to their original condition or to die (several know they are going to die and announce the fact). Dr. Sacks (who looks quite demonic on the cover photo) uses his medical powers to change lives with a high-handedness that is almost Faustian. The effects are so extraordinary and strange that some of these stories read like the finest fantasy. All the stories are wonderfully strange, proving that human consciousness is many-faceted and that what we label "disease" may be merely a new avenue of perception. Some of these people perform acts not only bizarre but improbable, showing an unusual level of vitality and no ordinary degree of power. There are people here able to fill whole buckets with their saliva, people who rise from beds they have not left for 30 years with no muscle atrophy, people whose extrasensory perception provide them with a life invisible to others, people who fall into pits unseen by anyone else in a perfectly ordinary hospital hall, unless securely in contact with others, people who can only move "normally" to music, people occupying a strange anachronistic limbo, stuck in the time when they first fell ill, and people who move as slowly as plants grow, whose time sense is distorted so that they seem motionless as statues for hours of a time arrested in mid-movement, though in their own perception, they are completing an activity (brushing their hair) at an ordinary pace. This is Sack's greatest work, a riveting portrait of human possibilities at their most extreme.

6 von 8 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sacks' bestes Buch

Von Miezekatze

In "Awakenings" beschreibt Sacks über Jahrzehnte hinweg das Schicksal von Patienten, die an Enzephalitis Lethargica (Schlafkrankheit) erkrankt sind. Dabei konzentriert sich das Buch auf eine Sammlung von 20 Fallgeschichten, aber es gibt auch eine Vielzahl von Kapiteln, die sich um diese Krankheit, die Patienten und die Rezeption des Buchs selbst entwickelt haben. Die im Zentrum des Buchs stehenden Fallstudien sind ergreifend und dramatisch; Sacks ist ein Meister dieses Genres und knüpft literarisch an die großartigen Fallstudien von Sigmund Freud an. "Awakenings" wird jedoch noch interessanter und vielschichtiger, wenn man sich die Rolle des Autors selbst in diesem Buch und seinen darin geschriebenen Geschichten kritisch vergegenwärtigt.

In den 60ern übernimmt Sacks eine Gruppe von Patienten, die an einer ungewöhnlichen Form der Schlafkrankheit leiden. In der Aufbruchstimmung der End-60er mit ihrem Glauben an pharmazeutische Beherrschbarkeit von mentalen Erkrankungen setzt der junge Arzt L-Dopa ein, um seine Patienten aus ihrem Dämmerzustand zu erwecken. Erst gelingt dies auf spektakuläre Weise. Doch nach einiger Zeit ist die Wirkung der Droge nicht mehr kontrollierbar, und die Patienten reagieren z.T. dramatisch. Doch selbst nach Absetzen der Droge finden die Patienten nicht mehr zu ihrem früheren, quasi katatonischen Zustand zurück. Die meisten der Patienten geraten in eine Jahre währende, nach unten gerichtete Spirale, die nur durch ihren Tod beendet wird. Sacks selbst wird von seinen Patienten erst als erselnde Heilsgestalt gesehen, doch als die Therapie mit L-Dopa unkontrollierbar wird und ins Negative umschlägt, gerät Sacks in die Rolle des Zauberehrlehlings, der nicht mehr Herr der Lage ist. Sacks' Kontrollverlust während der Therapie ist das heimlich pochende Herz dieser Fallstudien-Sammlung. Aus seinem Scheitern und seinen Schuldgefühlen heraus schreibt er über Jahre immer wieder an seinen Fellen weiter, um zumindest in der Autorschaft dieser Textsammlung die Kontrolle über seine Patienten zu erhalten - fiktionale Kontrolle ersetzt die real medizinische. Erst als sich Sacks in den 90er Jahren mit Chaosforschung und nicht-linearen, chaotisch-dynamischen Systemen beschäftigt, kann er die unkontrollierbaren Verhaltensweisen seiner Patienten erklären, die diese seit L-Dopa gezeigt haben. Der Arzt kann sich von den tragischen Konsequenzen seines einst naiv-linearen pharmazeutisch-medizinischen Denkens exkulpiert. Seine Arbeit zu Chaosforschung stellt einen wissenschaftlichen Erkenntnisgewinn dar - doch dieser Erkenntnisgewinn wurde mit dem Schicksal und dem Tod von Patienten bezahlt.

5 Sterne für ein Buch, das vielleicht vielschichtiger ist, als sein Autor es beabsichtigte.

PS: Wer sich für eine gute Interpretation von "Awakenings" interessiert, dem sei "Science, Gender, Text" von Steffi Habermeier empfohlen.

3 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Incredible !!

Von Ein Kunde

Awakenings was one of the most interesting books I have read in a long time. I was amazed that L-Dopa brought those people back from years and years of being prisoners in their own bodies unable to communicate or take care of themselves. L-Dopa made it possible for families to get re-aquainted with family members silent for decades. The reader also discovers what the patients were feeling during all those years in silence. I highly recommend this book.

Kurzbeschreibung

Awakenings--which inspired the major motion picture--is the remarkable story of a group of patients who contracted sleeping-sickness during the great epidemic just after World War I. Frozen for decades in a trance-like state, these men and women were given up as hopeless until 1969, when Dr. Oliver Sacks gave them the then-new drug L-DOPA, which had an astonishing, explosive, "awakening" effect. Dr. Sacks recounts the moving case histories of his patients, their lives, and the extraordinary transformations which went with their reintroduction to a changed world.

deIt hardly seems fair that so many great doctors are also great writers. Perhaps it's qualities like sensitivity, craft and dedication that keep physicians like Oliver Sacks in hospitals all day and at writing desks all night; if nothing else, these qualities shine in books like Awakenings. This powerful set of case histories rises above its pathological foundation to find new literary territory, a medical-spiritual synthesis equally stimulating for the mind and the soul. It's no wonder Hollywood chose to turn it into a feature film--anyone can see the universal human

struggle against bondage and despair in these pages. The sleeping-sickness epidemic of 1918 caused hundreds of survivors to slip into a bizarre rigid paralysis with similarities to advanced Parkinson's disease. These patients, only occasionally able to communicate or move, were nearly all institutionalised for life, their ranks increasing every now and then with similarly afflicted men and women. Sacks came to work at a long-term care facility shortly before the first exciting results with L-DOPA and Parkinson's in the late 1960s and his patients soon embarked on dramatic, difficult recoveries from up to 50 years of torpor. He documents their spiritual and medical obstacles with great care to portray their individual personalities, long suppressed but finally released. Though many great doctors are also great writers, few can compare with Oliver Sacks for expressing the relation of medicine to the human spirit. --Rob Lightner.co.uk

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