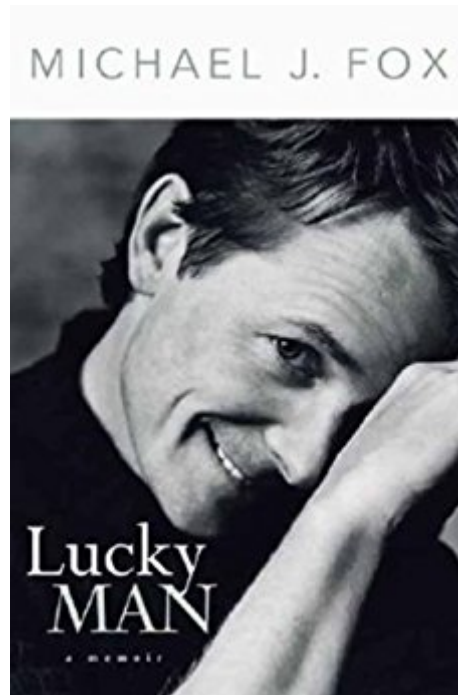




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Lucky Man: A Memoir



Synopsis

A funny, highly personal, gorgeously written account of what it's like to be a 30-year-old man who is told he has an 80-year-old's disease. "Life is great. Sometimes, though, you just have to put up with a little more crap." --Michael J. Fox

In September 1998, Michael J. Fox stunned the world by announcing he had been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease--a degenerative neurological condition. In fact, he had been secretly fighting it for seven years. The worldwide response was staggering. Fortunately, he had accepted the diagnosis and by the time the public started grieving for him, he had stopped grieving for himself. Now, with the same passion, humor, and energy that Fox has invested in his dozens of performances over the last 18 years, he tells the story of his life, his career, and his campaign to find a cure for Parkinson's. Combining his trademark ironic sensibility and keen sense of the absurd, he recounts his life--from his childhood in a small town in western Canada to his meteoric rise in film and television which made him a worldwide celebrity. Most importantly however, he writes of the last 10 years, during which--with the unswerving support of his wife, family, and friends--he has dealt with his illness. He talks about what Parkinson's has given him: the chance to appreciate a wonderful life and career, and the opportunity to help search for a cure and spread public awareness of the disease. He is a very lucky man, indeed.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Michael J. Fox is donating the profits from his book to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, which is dedicated to fast-forwarding the cure for Parkinson's disease. The Foundation will move aggressively to identify the most promising research and raise the funds to assure that a cure is found for the millions of people living with this disorder. The Foundation's web site, MichaelJFox.org, carries the latest pertinent information about Parkinson's disease, including:

- A detailed description of Parkinson's disease
- How you can help find the cure
- Public Services Announcements that are aired on network and cable television stations across the country to increase awareness
- Upcoming related Parkinson's disease events and meetings
- Updates on recent research and developments

Book Information

File Size: 946 KB

Print Length: 282 pages

Publisher: Hachette Books; 1 edition (April 9, 2003)

Publication Date: April 9, 2003

Sold by:Â Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B00606WU3S

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #185,561 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #30

inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Parkinson's Disease #71

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments >

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed the book however I thought it would include more details about Parkinson's and how he coped with it in order to assist persons who have this condition as well as what research is discovering. I thought the details of his life were a little long . Perhaps the title Lucky Man was intended to reveal more of his life and not as much about Parkinson's He was indeed a lucky man to be where he is today with his career as compared to his early problem filled years. It is refreshing to read what he has done to turn his life around. I hope this is read by a lot of young people. He deserved credit for what he has done for research in this area. It is easy to read.

I love his positive attitude that shines through the book. I enjoyed the first 1/4 or perhaps 1/3 of the book the most. But I'd hoped he'd get into more about how Parkinsons changed his life and how he coped. He didn't entirely deliver on that. But he's got a great story and it's worth a read.

Michael is both brutally and refreshingly honest about his life, his family, his disease and his fears. It's an emotional journey of a precocious child turned rebellious teen, who charms his way into opportunity but works hard to see his dreams come into fruition as a young man. On the onset he is caught up in his success and the Hollywood machine, but it's his onset of Parkinson's disease that leads to self discovery and manhood. Facing a battle with a disease only exacerbated the war he was waging within himself. PD ultimately shines a light and Michael conquers his demons and fears with grace and humility. His words are emotionally charged, taking us through fear to humor,

from pain to happiness, but leaving us with a changed perspective and unwavering gratitude. Thank you Michael, I can only hope to be as gracious.

Reading this book was a fascinating experience. American President is one of my most favorite films. I never would have imagined that "Lewis" was struggling with so severe a disease. Michael J. Fox is courageous, optimistic, and an amazing example for all of us to keep on keeping on.

In a memoir about his diagnosis and ultimate acceptance of Parkinson's disease, Michael J. Fox gives a compelling account of his journey from alcoholic, self-centered celebrity to his family-centered, life-loving, Parkinson's-diseased self. Although an easy read, Fox targets an adult audience as he reveals many of his biggest struggles--personal insecurities, family problems, alcoholism, and early onset Parkinson's disease. Fox attacks these dark topics that are so often left unspoken with ease. Using wit and humor, he makes these issues more human even as his Hollywood persona--the lovable kid from Family Ties and the Back to the Future trilogy--struggles with them. Fox earned his 5 stars as he had me interested and laughing throughout the entire book. Even while reading about such heavy topics, I didn't want to put the book down. Fox chose to tell his overall story using short, non-chronological stories ranging in time from toddlerhood to the present. Although this gave me some timeline issues in which I found myself flipping back to previous stories for the answer, I thought Fox's choice to use this style of writing was a good one. The placement of each story helped me to understand its significance and how it contributed to making Fox the person he is today. Fox also addressed complicated medical problems (including the diagnosis, symptoms, and treatments for Parkinson's disease) without using heavy medical jargon. In this way, he is able to give the reader a good understanding of the disease.

I've always been a fan of Michael Fox's. When I saw this memoir for only 2 bucks on , I couldn't resist. Boy, am I glad I grabbed it. I learned much about Michael the man, since I already knew the actor. I thought I knew enough too but soon learned I knew nothing at all. I also got a bigger glimpse into Parkinson's Disease and the effects it has on the person who has it, and the people around them. It's nice to see a celebrity like Michael using his stature to bring awareness, as well as attending senate meetings on behalf of people with Parkinson's, to try for more funding for research. Being so active in the fight is admirable, especially when you see the extents he has taken. There were some funny moments too. I loved how he shared his family life, from childhood to now, his stories were heartwarming. Lots of people will enjoy this read, a fan or not. For those not sure,

believe me when I tell you that it's more than meets the eye.

As someone who has an incurable degenerative muscle disorder, I could relate so much to Michael and his struggles described in this book. He describes how he slowly came to terms with his disorder along with his crazy life in general. He gave me such an amazing perspective on life that I have always dreamed of sincerely believing. Michael J. Fox is an inspiration for so many people and this book simply furthers that notion. Incredible read.

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