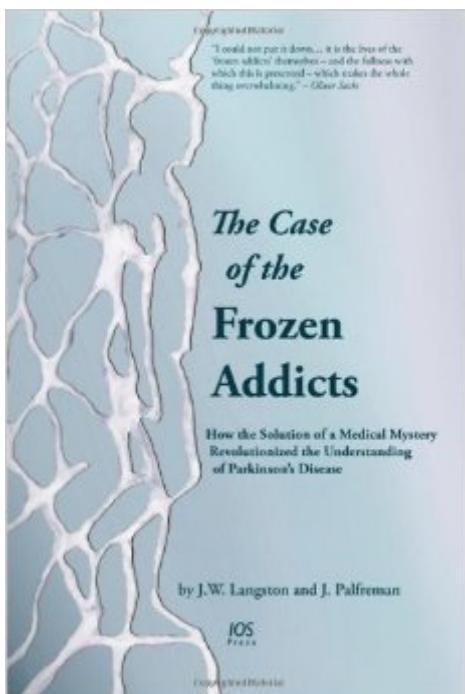


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The Case Of The Frozen Addicts: How The Solution Of A Medical Mystery Revolutionized The Understanding Of Parkinson's Disease



Synopsis

In the summer of 1982, hospital emergency rooms in the San Francisco Bay Area were suddenly confronted with mysteriously frozen patients young men and women who, though conscious, could neither move nor speak. Doctors were baffled, until neurologist J. William Langston, recognizing the symptoms of advanced Parkinsons disease, administered L-dopa the only known effective treatment and unfroze his patient. Dr. Langston determined that this patient and five others had all used the same tainted batch of synthetic heroin, inadvertently laced with a toxin that had destroyed an area of their brains essential to normal movement. This same area, the substantia nigra, slowly deteriorates in Parkinsons disease. As scientists raced to capitalize on this breakthrough, Dr. Langston struggled to salvage the lives of his frozen patients, for whom L-dopa provided only short-term relief. The solution he found lay in the most daring area of research: fetal-tissue transplants. The astonishing recovery of two of his patients garnered worldwide press coverage, helped overturn federal restrictions on fetal-tissue research, and offered hope to millions suffering from Parkinsons, Alzheimers, and other degenerative brain disorders. This is the story behind the headline a spellbinding account that brings to life theÂ intellectual excitement, ethical dilemmas, and fierce competitiveness of medical research. This new updated edition of the classic neurological mystery tale, *The Case of the Frozen Addicts*, illuminates how the solution to a baffling mystery of the brains chemistry opened a new frontier in medicine and restored life to people without hope. It begins with a series of quixotic discoveries, escalates to providing possible solutions for one of humanitys most intractable medical problems, and then catapults the reader into the center of Americas hottest political arena abortion and fetal sanctity. Bravo! A brilliant read. Laurie Garrett, author of *The Coming Plague* I could not put it down it is the lives of the frozen addicts themselves and the fullness with which this is presented which makes the whole thing overwhelming. Oliver Sacks [Langston and Palfreman] weave a highly readable and spellbinding medical detective tale It is as absorbing as a good mystery, as entertaining as an exciting novel, and as enlightening as a good biography. Stanley Fahn, New England Journal of Medicine IOS Press is an international science, technical and medical publisher of high-quality books for academics, scientists, and professionals in all fields. Some of the areas we publish in: -Biomedicine -Oncology -Artificial intelligence -Databases and information systems -Maritime engineering -Nanotechnology -Geoengineering -All aspects of physics -E-governance -E-commerce -The knowledge economy -Urban studies -Arms control -Understanding and responding to terrorism -Medical informatics -Computer Sciences

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Customer Reviews

I first discovered the story concerning these 6 frozen junkies when reading the book by Jimmy Moore and Eric C. Westman, MD.: "Cholesterol Clarity", and then immediately ordered a copy. And I must admit that it has been a highly interesting and easy read book, even though it's concerning neuro science, as it to me many times was like reading a good detective novel, so exciting that it was hard to put it down. A detective work by searching and actually many times by accidents were getting the best connections for the continuing following a trail. It's interesting in the book to read how many of the doctors whom the frozen patients first met, also the Danish chemical person we meet on the side 76, diagnosed them as cases of mental illness, actually the catatonic schizophrenia, neurogenic motor immobility and behavioral abnormality, and then just were expecting that it would turn over with time. And opposite to this how Langston concluded it to be Parkinson's cases, after George Carillo was brought to the hospital, and there, among other, when laying on the bed, and having the arms were lifted up, it took 3 to 4 minutes before they had returned down to Georges side. And how Langston then was told the story from George Carillo, when after 12 days George got free from his body, by getting the L-dopa drug. The story about how he during all of the time had been totally clear in his brain and recognizing anything that was going on around him, but couldn't talk, scream, move a finger, or not even an eyebrow, when feeling awful while doctors were doing painful or awful smelling stuffs against him for "waking" him up.

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