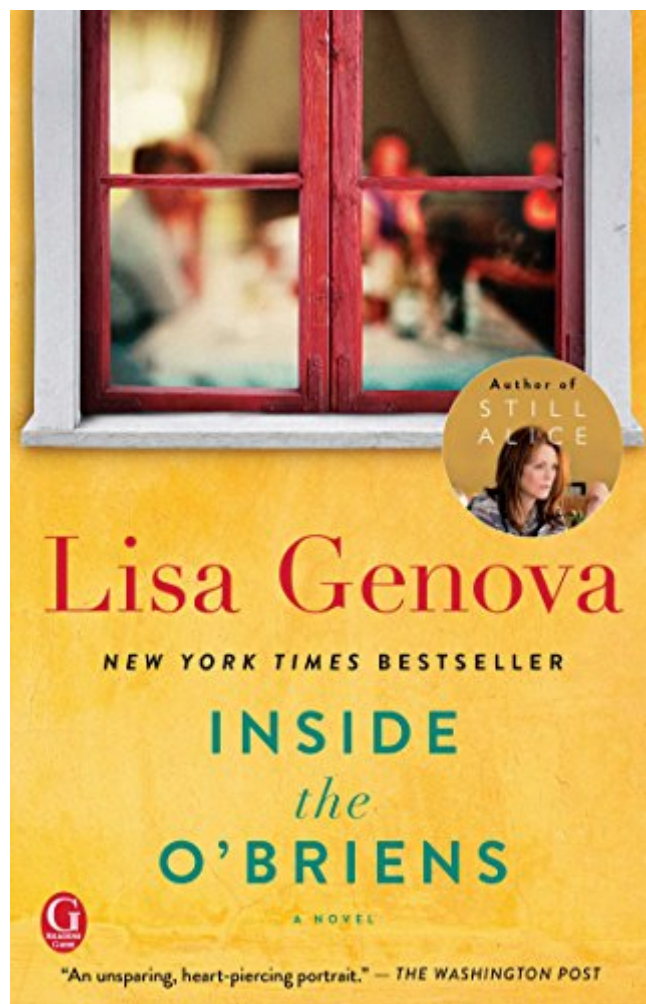


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Inside The O'Briens: A Novel



Synopsis

A Library Journal Best Books of 2015 Pick A St. Louis Post-Dispatch Best Books of 2015 Pick A GoodReads Top Ten Fiction Book of 2015 A People Magazine Great Read From award-winning, New York Times bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova comes a heart-breaking, very human novel • (Matthew Thomas, author of *We Are Not Ourselves*) that does for Huntington's disease what her debut novel *Still Alice* did for Alzheimer's. Joe O'Brien is a forty-three-year-old police officer from the Irish Catholic neighborhood of Charlestown, Massachusetts. A devoted husband, proud father of four children in their twenties, and respected officer, Joe begins experiencing bouts of disorganized thinking, uncharacteristic temper outbursts, and strange, involuntary movements. He initially attributes these episodes to the stress of his job, but as these symptoms worsen, he agrees to see a neurologist and is handed a diagnosis that will change his and his family's lives forever: Huntington's disease. Huntington's is a lethal neurodegenerative disease with no treatment and no cure, and each of Joe's four children has a 50 percent chance of inheriting their father's disease. While watching her potential future in her father's escalating symptoms, twenty-one-year-old daughter Katie struggles with the questions this test imposes on her young adult life. As Joe's symptoms worsen and he's eventually stripped of his badge and more, Joe struggles to maintain hope and a sense of purpose, while Katie and her siblings must find the courage to either live a life at risk • or learn their fate. Praised for writing that "explores the resilience of the human spirit" (The San Francisco Chronicle), Lisa Genova has once again delivered a novel as powerful and unforgettable as the human insights at its core.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I received this ARC from NetGalley in exchange for my honest review. This book grabs you by the heart and just doesn't let go until the last page. The book starts with a brief description of Huntington's and the early symptoms. This section was really helpful. At first, I was slightly annoyed because it seemed as if the pacing for the book was really slow. But then I read that beginning section again. And I started to realize what Lisa Genova was subtly doing. She was showing just how gradual this awful disease is. Joe is a cop going about his daily routine. He is gruff, but is devoted to protecting his city as a cop and loves his four children. His job and his family mean everything to him. When he first starts showing symptoms, they are ones that can be easily explained: forgetfulness, clumsiness, quick temper. Considering his profession as a cop, it is easy to understand why he passed those off as stress. Despite the fact that I knew what was coming, even I kept trying to write off his symptoms and I was in as much denial as Joe. The only reason Joe goes to the doctor is because his wife, Rosie, convinces him that something is wrong. Joe hates doctors and is fully prepared for the doctor to tell him all the clumsiness and twitches are due to a bad knee. But his life and his family's life is changed forever when he gets the diagnosis of Huntington's disease. There was so much emotion in these pages. Joe goes through so many phases dealing with his disease; he's angry, in denial and he's even stoic at times trying to make sure his wife and kids are taken care of while he is gone. My heart broke for Rosie as she dealt with the thought of not only losing her husband, but the thought that her kids may die before her as well.

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