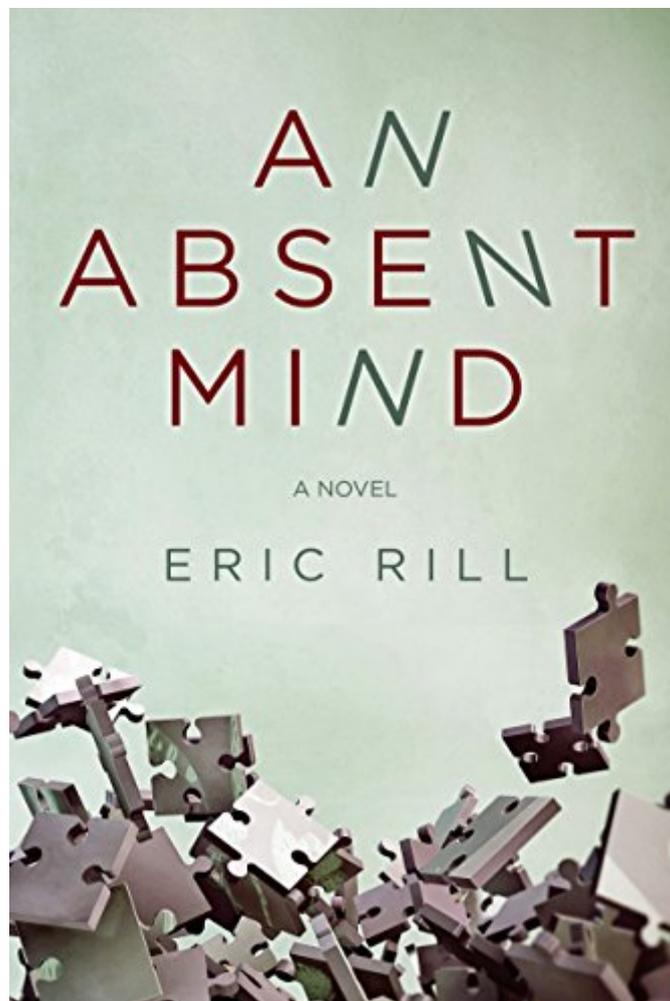


The book was found

# An Absent Mind



## Synopsis

Seventy-one, and a man used to controlling those around him, Saul struggles to make peace with his disconnected family before Alzheimer's consumes his sanity. His ramblings, humor, emotions, lucid moments, and confusion are laid bare, as well as the thoughts and feelings of his loved ones: his wife, Monique, conflicted and depressed (caring, yet angry); his daughter, Florence, compassionate, yet proper and reserved; his son, Joey, self-centered and narcissistic, seemingly indifferent to his family's challenges; and his doctor, an Alzheimer's specialist, who cares for Saul until his final days. From the beginning Saul and his family know how it has to end, because no one has ever outsmarted Alzheimer's. But as they navigate the meandering road that will eventually bring Saul's demise, they leave behind their once disconnected lives and come together to weather their difficult journey. Heartfelt and moving, this lauded novel, winner of 2014 gold medals from the Independent Publisher Book Awards, Readers' Favorite Book Awards, and the Living Now Book Award for Inspirational Fiction, will appeal to fans of Lisa Genova's *Still Alice* or Nicholas Sparks's *The Notebook*. Revised edition: This edition of *An Absent Mind* includes editorial revisions. Best Book Of 2014 – Alzheimer's Weekly

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'll keep this brief - I was unaware that the author secretly moved into my home and observed my family for several difficult years as my late husband faded away toward oblivion. In many ways, reading this unexpected treasure of a book brought me a great deal of closure. It was like having a final conversation that was never able to happen in real life. "An Absent Mind" stands on its own merit. It is an excellent book that allows the reader to explore the shifting landscape of dementia without having to draw on personal experience in order to fully appreciate the storyline. However, if Alzheimer's or any condition resulting in dementia has hit your family like a mushroom cloud, you will see yourself and others in these pages. If so, I hope it brings you a bit of the same absolution I found in it.

I just finished *An Absent Mind*. What an interesting and engrossing story! I have read the reviews on this page and they all seem to refer to Alzheimers. As I have had no personal experience with Alzheimers, this is not something I can personally relate to. As far as I was concerned, the book was really about the Reimer family dynamic. Most families have their own internal struggles, no matter what the underlying reasons. This is where I think Rill excels, in exposing those trials in a totally realistic and personal manner. I was quite intrigued by the developing and changing interpersonal relationships and clashes amongst Saul, his wife, Monique and their two children. There are a couple of unexpected turns as the story plays out, but suffice it to say that Rill is able to evoke strong emotional reactions to the tribulations of his characters. Saul's relationship with his daughter, Florence, was far more predictable than those with the other family members, but equally captivating. And finally, his unique and unrequited relationship with his son, Joey, could very well be a fascinating book in itself. (Are you listening Author Rill?) I was easily drawn into the narrative as shared with the reader from the differing perspectives of each of the four main characters. Although Alzheimers may at times seem to be the main protagonist, based on my own personal viewpoint I am certain that the popularity of this book will not be limited to only those readers who are living with, or who have lived through, the experience of the Reimer family. I heartily recommend this book to one and all. Michael H.

Eric Rill masterfully crafts how a family copes with the tragedy of losing their family patriarch to Alzheimer's, weaving moments of humor into the stark realities and heartbreak of this disease. He skillfully shows how each stage of Alzheimer's affects his characters. By writing in the voices of his characters, he gives multiple perspectives of the events. At times difficult to read due to the

emotional impact, "An Absent Mind" nonetheless is a powerful guide to understanding Alzheimer's and how it impacts those affected, including the patient, family and caregivers. In this novel, Mr. Rill goes beyond the clinical facts and gives a realistic picture of Alzheimer's, gently adding touching moments and humor. It is "must reading" for anyone interested in learning about the harsh realities of Alzheimer's.

"An Absent Mind" brings a totally new perspective on that dreadful scourge that is Alzheimer's. The novel is certainly informative, but it also brings you within the intimate tragedy of a family afflicted by its father falling victim to the disease. It is at the same time poignant and humorous and that pervasive humor and sense of self-derision might be the strongest point of the novel. It certainly doesn't make light of the tragedy that befalls that very endearing family, but you can't help but smile at the father's tragicomic monologues and empathize with his wife and children who are trying to cope with the situation. "An Absent Mind" is a must-read, a very touching novel that still succeeds in being entertaining, in spite of its very sobering subject matter.

I found this book to be an emotional roller coaster. Like many, I had a limited understanding of this horrible disease. But the deep pain and misery experienced by the family members of the patient is not something I had given much thought. Eric Rill gives us a full picture of Alzheimer's as experienced by the individual who suffers and his or her family. A tragic story provides a great service to all of us and hopefully will encourage us for more research of Alzheimer's. Everyone needs to read this book. You will forever thank the author for giving you a better understanding of an illness experienced by so many and understood by so few.

Your use of first person narratives was very moving. We are now going through the experience of watching my mother decline into dementia. She is at the stage of not knowing where she is and not always recognizing us, as well as possessing mostly non-existent short-term memory. The picture you poignantly described of the Westmount lady who was the socialite organizer describes my mother. To see her in such a lost state is both difficult and sad. Your book is both an easy and hard read: easy, since it's told through the basic thoughts of the characters and hard, because of the deep and sad emotions it evokes. It's an excellent book and should be read by anyone with a loved one starting or already on the journey to an absent mind.

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An Absent Mind The Emotionally Absent Mother: A Guide to Self-Healing and Getting the Love You

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