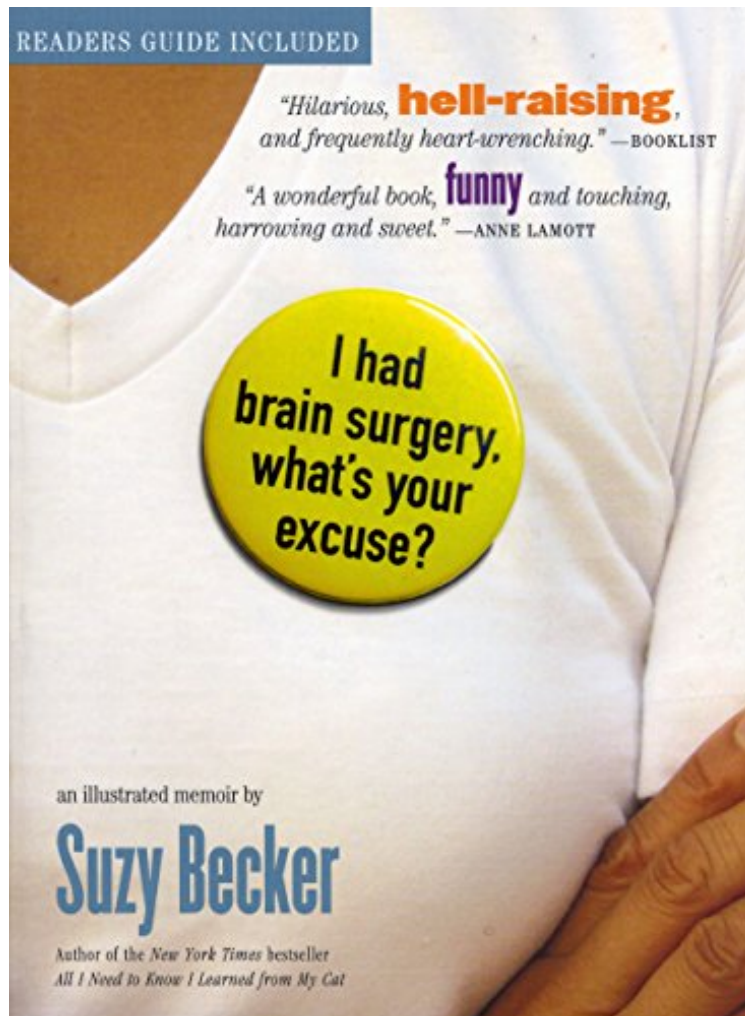


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# I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?

Suzy Becker

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#96124 in Books Suzy Becker 2005-08-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.96 x .81 x 5.941, .84 #File Name: 0761139796256 pages I Had Brain Surgery What s Your Excuse An Illustrated Memoir | File size: 17.Mb

**Suzy Becker : I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Just what I needed, right when I needed it By Nancy Having a brain tumor, and treatment for it, is a very weird experience, and one that is almost impossible to describe to even the most supportive people around you. During my own recovery period post-surgery, I came across this book while browsing for more practical recovery guides. I looked forward to hearing what the author went through, along with looking forward to reading something humorous after spending so much time reading research and statistics and other dry material about my condition. Becker's experience was of course different from mine: different family, different treatment, different prognosis. But despite these differences, I pounded the couch and shouted "YES!" repeatedly, at

her spot on descriptions of some of the emotions, reactions, and difficulties which I had been dealing with and which I couldn't articulate or in some cases been able to recognize. While I don't have a button to wear on my tee shirt, I do mutter this title under my breath at times as I figure out my new normal, and the resulting inner lift is worth the price of the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. INSPIRATIONALBy Lyn ProspectI was so anxious to read this book, as Suzy Becker and I have so much in common. I too am a Lesbian author, and my partner of fifty-seven years is now dealing with a brain tumor. Imagine my delight when we were able to attend a book reading by Suzy at our local cancer center. She read key selections from her book and really shared her personal journey dealing with her brain tumor as well as its effect not only on her, but her family, and most of all, her partner. I was honored to leave with her that evening my two books - YOUR STORY MATTERS (TELL IT) and CLAUDIA AND ESTELLE THE EXTRAORDINARY GAY COUPLE which share my journey of dealing with being gay as well as dealing with my partner's life threatening illnesses. I hope that if Suzy and her partner read my story, they will receive the support and encouragement her book gave to me. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. perfect blend of laughs and tears for those with epilepsy and brain surgeryBy qtowngirlsuzy is a wonderful author on such an emotional subject, a definite must-read. one page you're chuckling at her and the next page in tears, it's a perfect blend of what living with epilepsy is really like. of course epilepsy causes us a lot more tears than laughter, but laughing and 'just letting it go' a few moments at a time is just as vital as our meds. i read it in the months leading up to brain surgery and highly recommend for anyone facing it, contemplating it, or has already had it. taking her attitude of 'what's your excuse' was very smart for me going in, and 10-fold after. she sheds a both humorous and emotional light on all the feelings of ourselves and reactions of others when they find out. for me it has helped with self-assurance and self-healing after such a life risking and life altering event.

Now in paperback, the ingenious illustrated memoir that is widely praised: "Hilarious, hell-raising, and frequently heart-wrenching." —Booklist "[A] unique tragicomedy of a memoir . . . The author is so likable, even in her darkest hour, that as you applaud her recovery you also realize you'll miss looking after her." —Entertainment Weekly ("A" rating) "Compelling reading . . . Becker has turned one person's experience into a universal story of family, healing, and the return to creativity." —Library Journal (starred review) "A wonderful book, funny and touching, harrowing and sweet." —Anne Lamott, author of *Bird by Bird* For years Suzy Becker, author of the New York Times bestseller *All I Need to Know I Learned from My Cat* (1.7 million copies in print), literally lived by her wits. Then brain surgery left her temporarily unable to speak, read, or write. *I Had Brain Surgery, What's Your Excuse?* is a story that grapples with the question "What makes me me?" By turns philosophical and whimsical, rivetingly dramatic and unexpectedly light, it is illustrated with drawings, charts, pseudoserious graphs, real EEGs. The result is a book filled with insights into creativity, identity, love, relationships, family, and that intangible something that gives each of us our spark.

From Publishers Weekly Cartoonist and writer Becker (*All I Need to Know I Learned from My Cat*) sloughed off her repeated seizures as stress-related and lived with the strangeness of periodic episodes for three and half years, until a friend witnessed an attack in May 1999. Becker finally sought medical testing and underwent brain surgery. Her memoir loosely brackets the year around her procedure, from the initial diagnosis to the long, slow recovery, when unpredicted side effects interfered with her speech and even her thought processes. As Becker's healing slogs along at a snail's pace, she wonders, "Up until now, I didn't know things were missing until I went looking for them.... What about the things I don't think to look for?" Such problems assailed the essence of Becker's talents for being funny and easily expressing herself through words and drawing. Her struggle to recuperate has a profound effect on relationships and changes her own expectations about being a friend, lover and family member. As anyone might, Becker asks herself, "What if my life is a life I don't want to live?" But with the help of others and her slowly returning sense of humor, she eventually recreates a life she recognizes as her own, one in which she even completes a strenuous AIDS fund-raising bike ride and begins a competitive writing fellowship. Becker's deeply personal and surprisingly funny account intersperses text with such whimsical additions as Becker's "Cardiac Exercise Tolerance" and kooky cartoons. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist To say that Becker, the author-illustrator of the best-seller *All I Need to Know, I Learned from My Cat* (1990), has a funny way of looking at things would be an understatement. Quick quips and a deft hand are her stock-in-trade, her peculiar perspective defining not only her life but also her livelihood. The diagnosis that the intermittent seizures she'd been experiencing were the result of a mass on her brain that would require surgical removal left Becker with one fear: after the operation, will I still be me? Becker's hilarious, hell-raising, and frequently heart-wrenching account of her johnny-gowned journey through the medical maze of MDs, MRIs, and HMOs is joyous testament to the fact that she made it out not only alive but with all her essential, irrepressible Becker-ness still intact. Comically accompanied by keepsake notes, clippings, and her own inimitable cartoons, Becker's mirthful memoir should be required reading for anyone who has ever been seriously ill; might one day become seriously ill; knows someone who was, is, or might be seriously ill; or all of the above. Carol Haggas Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "[A] unique tragicomedy of a memoir . . . The author is so likable, even in her darkest hour, that as you applaud her

recovery you also realize you'll miss looking after her.” —Entertainment Weekly (Editor's Choice, 'A')