

Inside the O'Briens: A Novel

Lisa Genova



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Inside the O'Briens: A Novel Lisa Genova 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 "heartbreaking…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.



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