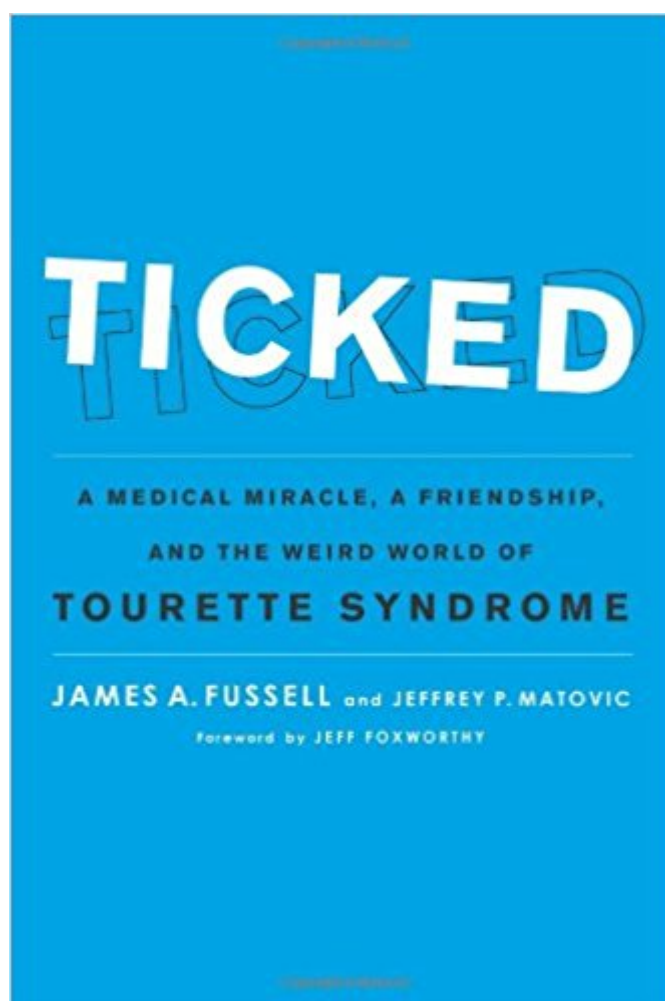


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# Ticked: A Medical Miracle, A Friendship, And The Weird World Of Tourette Syndrome



## Synopsis

When Jeff Matovic burst into the office of Dr. Robert Maciunas, he had very few options left. Matovic had suffered for years from Tourette Syndrome, his full-body spasms and outbursts getting progressively worse, to the point that he saw suicide as a viable option. Drugs, physical therapy, prayer—nothing was working. But Dr. Maciunas was a pioneer in deep brain stimulation (DBS), a new therapy that had worked to correct other brain disorders. Could it fix Matovic's Tourette's? All Matovic had to do was convince Dr. Maciunas that he was a perfect candidate for the procedure. That, and have several electrical leads—a brain pacemaker—implanted into his skull. Author Jim Fussell is uniquely qualified to tell Matovic's story—he suffers from Tourette Syndrome as well. Fussell's job as a feature writer for the Kansas City Star brought him in contact with Oprah Winfrey, who first told him about Jeff Matovic, the "Miracle Man." As Fussell learned about Matovic's remarkable journey, he vowed to seek him out. This is their story.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Chicago Review Press (May 1, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1613743807

ISBN-13: 978-1613743805

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 0.8 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,694,092 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Tourette Syndrome #41131 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs

## Customer Reviews

In this heart-wrenching and heartwarming story, two men with Tourette syndrome explain what it's like to live with a misfiring of signals in the brain that causes tics. And no, neither of them yells curse words. Fussell, a writer at the Kansas City Star, shakes his head a lot. Matovic's sharp, repetitive, involuntary muscle spasms were so severe he had a surgeon bore holes in his head. It basically worked, and he told his story on Oprah. Fussell learned about Matovic from Oprah herself when he interviewed her. He and Matovic hit it off, and they make a good team in this

engaging, well-written book about growing up different and the symptoms of Tourette's, including the trouble staying still that Fussell and Matovic used to their advantage to excel at sports. The book is hopeful (both men are happily married fathers) and funny (at a Tourette's gathering, Fussell doesn't know how to handle a woman whose tic is undressing strangers, including him). With a foreword by comedian Jeff Foxworthy, this has wide appeal. --Karen Springen

"A graphic but inspiring depiction of the ravages of the disease, their bravery and the sustaining love of their families." —Kirkus Reviews  
"An extraordinary and inspiring account of personal courage in the face of unimaginable adversity. Emotional shock waves live on every page of this book." —Hal Friedman, coauthor with James Patterson of *Against Medical Advice: One Family's Struggle with an Agonizing Medical Mystery*  
"Ticked is inspirational, well-written, and surprisingly witty." —Lowell Handler, author of *Twitch and Shout: A Tourette's Tale*  
"The people who make a difference in our world are the ones with courage. This is a wonderful story of the daily courage of two men with Tourette Syndrome. Ticked is vivid, wrenching, funny, and, most of all, inspiring. I trust it will notch up the courage in everyone who reads it." —John Rosenow, founder and CEO of the Arbor Day Foundation

"Ticked" isn't only for those living with this strange ailment called "Tourette's Syndrome", their families or medical experts but everyone who lives on this planet and deals with daily crisis and triumphs as humans. While reading this book I was reassured that our Creator never promised us a Rose Garden for his "beloved". To say the least, this book is educational: for one, my grandson, 20, is suffering from Tourette's Syndrome now, which he says he was aware since he was twelve. The so-called normal people can't even imagine what it's like having a head that shakes or arms that shoot up or eyes that blink fast or roll, without any advance notice. But the physical discomfort and pain associated with these physical movements is another serious ordeal the patients of the Tourette are ticked about. The author leads his readers carefully and honestly to the dark side of his life, which he had been hiding for many years, even from himself, but eventually, he finds peace within himself after meeting Jeff who went through a very dangerous brain surgery to correct his satanic body jerks and mental agony. I admire the author's courage, sense of humor, and resilience.

As a father with a daughter who has Tourette's I picked up this book as one more resource in the fight with this monster known as TS that has sunk its teeth into my child and family. As I read through, I laughed, wept, smiled and related to both Jim and Jeff's stories. This book helped me see

what life is like for one man who was just almost an invalid due to the syndrome and one whose neck has really taken a toll due to it as well. I see how it ravages my own child and pray continually that she is saved from any permanent damage. Society throws around the word hero a lot but these two men, and all who live with this crazy screwed up neurological imbalance are true heroes just to survive on a daily basis. Tourette's is not a sexy thing, no ribbon, no "month", no cool media really, no big name movie star as the spokesperson, mostly just ignored although there are estimates it affects up to 5 million folks...and once you know you can see it...Joel Osteen's blinking, Dan Akroyd has it, NFL players even, athletes, actors, doctors, etc...and yet it goes largely unnoticed by the public. This book hopefully will help push it to the social media conscience where it belongs, to be ignored so long is a tragedy. Thanks Jim so much for telling this story, you are an inspiration and a leader and I can only hope this book jumps to #1 on the best seller list. I have only this advice: Read this book

This book is so "on" and so wonderfully human and "carefully" written that a reader will never, I predict, feel the same about this syndrome that can grab a kid's life and shake it to pieces. Yes, too many quotation marks, a weakness of vocabulary probably, that writer Jim Fussell never falls into. His writing is almost painfully honest. If you get a chance to see these guys touring for the book or just speaking in your town, take it.

You don't have to be a medical person to understand and appreciate this book. It provides great insight into the condition known as Tourette Syndrome, and it does so in an unassuming way. (Reviewer's disclosure: I am an uncle of co-author Jeff Matovic. Since I know of Jeff's condition personally, I can truly say that this book really reflects the reality of the affliction.)

If this book doesn't move you, I'm not sure what will. I was Jeff's 9th grade basketball coach and the Young Life leader during the events described. I fondly remember Jeff as a talented athlete and a fine young man. The author has brought to life Jeff's story of the progressive deterioration of his life through Tourette's Syndrome and his sudden relief through the work of a courageous doctor and his team at University Hospital in Cleveland. As well as inspirational, I found this book to a very important personal look at the suffering that touches all lives surrounding someone in long term pain. - Don Mook

I am still reading this book. I am having a bit of difficulty getting through the book. I have a 15 year

old grandson with Tourette's and the vivid descriptions are a bit difficult to read. However, the honesty and hope that is presented gives one great encouragement for anyone suffering with this syndrome. The description of the many problems encountered over a lifetime, helps one to have a greater understanding of the disease and to be better able to understand how it effects not only the person who is afflicted but anyone close to this person. It is an honest, informative and worthwhile read.

This book is an inspiration for all with Tourette Syndrome. It is written with insight and compassion. I had no idea how difficult it is for even those with mild Tourette's to "put on a happy face" when they really are in agony. It is also inspirational for anyone (that's most of us) who have some burden to bear and do it with determination and grace. Thank you, Jim and Jeff, for your courage and honesty in bringing this book into being. I admire both of you greatly!

For anyone with any kind of challenge or disability this is a must book. He talks about stigmatization in addition to his story and his coauthor's story. I have bipolar disorder and it was very uplifting and I got the feeling that finally someone has verbalized my frustration with the lack of understanding of health issues.

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