

Well, I lived it. My brother Matthew had grand mal seizures his entire life. Sadly, we lost him in the summer of 1997 when he was twenty-six due to complications from a grand mal seizure.

We shared a room when I was a kid, and he used to have tremendous seizures in the middle of the night. I always felt there was some hidden magic happening in that room, a door to another world, whether that was some kind of preventative trauma response, or my subconscious at play, or something else.

Ancient Greeks believed epilepsy was a “sacred disease,” and correlated it with the divine. Some Meso-American cultures believe epilepsy comes from a struggle with the afflicted person’s animal soul following a battle between the naguales or spirits who serve the forces of Good and Evil. So, there is a lot of magical thinking around it, and as witness to it for so many years, I understand that and I have felt that.

There are many ways a person can be afflicted with, and manage, epilepsy. This book explores ways that fit this particular family at this particular time in this particular set of circumstances. But it’s going to be different for everyone. The seizure scenes in this book, though drawn from real life, are also not going to look like other epileptics’ seizures. And they’re on a journey to figure it out, with mistakes made along the way, which is how it really was for my family, and is for this one.

- *Tim Cummings*