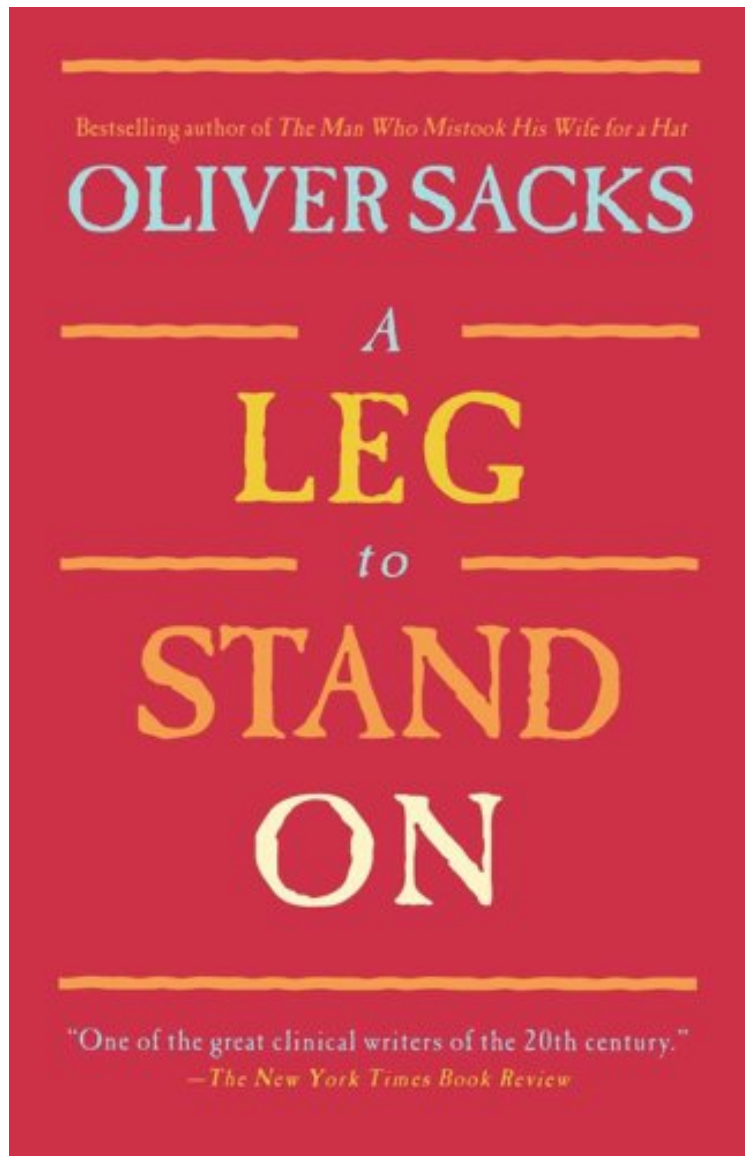


(Pdf free) A Leg to Stand On

## A Leg to Stand On

*Oliver Sacks*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#623051 in Books Summit Books 1984-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 #File Name: 0671467808222  
pages | File size: 39.Mb

**Oliver Sacks : A Leg to Stand On** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Leg to Stand On:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Rare window into neurological disease by a noted neurologistBy Victor MarkThis updated version of the autobiographical account by Dr Sacks of his experience of a short-term bout of inability to use his left leg allows Sacks to reflect possible causes for this condition. The updated version allows one to gain a unique perspective by Dr Sacks' of the turmoil of his illness. There are few autobiographical accounts of

neurological disease by neuroscientists, and so such a view is to cherish. This is a slim book which would not require more than a few days to complete. Unfortunately, the text is padded by ruminations and divergent passages that make getting through the text difficult. My attention wandered, wanting to learn, "What happened next?" The illness occupied only a few weeks. Dr Sacks' prose of course is flowery, and he has a good grasp of diverse English literature. (I am writing in the present tense; Dr Sacks passed away in 2015. The illness in this book occurred in 1974.) When he sticks to describing the illness itself, one can have a vivid account of paralysis and self-identity. The book was early in the long literary course of Dr Sacks. I cannot help imagining that if a later Dr Sacks had written the book, it would have been more direct. A good editor could have been used. Close to the time of Dr Sacks' passing away, a debate occurred in the scientific literature what exactly had occurred to him. Dr Sacks speculates a loss of ability to mobilize his leg caused by some sort of a peripheral nerve injury, associated with a peculiar deficient of function in the spinal cord. Sacks himself witnessed similar (but still much different) phenomena in patients he had taken care of, and even reports a similar deficit in a pet dog. A different noted neurologist ventured that actually this was what is nowadays termed "functional neurological disorder," in earlier years termed hysteria, conversion disorder, or psychogenic disorder. Sacks rebutted the notion, but he left his mind open to the possibility. As a publishing neurologist myself, I side with the view that this was a functional neurological disorder, but not one that is founded on a foundation of anxiety or other psychiatric turmoil. More reports are appearing in the literature that some patients encounter impaired neurologic function following abrupt injuries, without the association of verifiable nervous system structural damage. These accounts, including Dr Sacks' experience, point to a kind of neurological dysfunction that is still very poorly understood, but it is very common and disabling. The good news is that such disorders can respond to concentrated physical therapy, as indeed assisted Dr Sacks himself. Regardless of one's own opinion what may have caused the difficulty, the account provides the reader the rare opportunity for a neurologist to visit his own nervous system dysfunction, a look from the "inside out" rather than the outside perspective of doctors looking at their patients, including Dr Sacks himself in his many other wonderful books.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.  
Humanistic Neurology  
By Jon Linden  
Sacks brilliantly chronicles his experiences as a neurological patient. His experience came from a mountain climbing expedition, where he totally broke a leg and severed or damaged the femoral nerve in his leg. This book is his story of recovery from that intense and serious accident. What Sacks concentrates on in his story are the feelings of patients, particularly his own, who have serious neurological problems and how those feelings translate to the condition itself, or the condition translates to the feelings. His most significant commentary has to do with the feelings regarding the disassociation with the affected body part. One starts to feel that it is foreign, no longer a natural part of the body. And, that it no longer exists and will never again exist to the patient. In addition, he carefully points out the non-recognition of these patient feelings by his Neurologist who sees himself more as a fixer of mechanical problems with the body, rather than a Dr. treating a real live human being with feelings of alienation of the limb and alienation from society. Sacks writing style is sophisticate and beautiful, a rare combination for a doctor, but he achieves it like always with exquisite aplomb. The book is highly recommended for all readers interested in physical recovery, especially those who have had a significant neurological problem.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.  
An enthralling tale of injury and recovery  
By John A. Leraas  
Another great read from Oliver Sacks. Sacks uses a personal experience to illustrate some neurological principles that assist him in his recovery. As a general practitioner of medicine. I was enthralled.

Dr. Oliver Sacks's books *Awakenings*, *An Anthropologist on Mars* and the bestselling *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat* have been acclaimed for their extraordinary compassion in the treatment of patients affected with profound disorders. In *A Leg to Stand On*, it is Sacks himself who is the patient: an encounter with a bull on a desolate mountain in Norway has left him with a severely damaged leg. But what should be a routine recuperation is actually the beginning of a strange medical journey when he finds that his leg uncannily no longer feels part of his body. Sacks's brilliant description of his crisis and eventual recovery is not only an illuminating examination of the experience of patienthood and the inner nature of illness and health but also a fascinating exploration of the physical basis of identity.

Jonathan Raban *The Sunday Times* (London) A remarkable, generous, vivid and thoroughly intelligent piece of writing -- a 'neurological novel,' as Sacks calls it.  
Jerome Bruner *The New York Times* A neurologist in [the] great tradition... [this is] a narrative comparable to Conrad's *The Secret Sharer*.  
Vic Sussman *The Washington Post* Book World In calling for a neurology of the soul and a deeper and more humane medicine, Sacks's remarkable book raises issues of profound importance for everyone interested in humane health care and the human application of science.  
About the Author  
Oliver Sacks was born in London and educated in London, Oxford, California, and New York. He is professor of clinical neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He is the author of many books, including *Awakenings* and *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*.