

The Woman Who Could Not Forget ~ Jill Price

One of the most intriguing aspects of all of us is how our long term memory plays a role in our lives, imagine we've 500 trillion synapses and if we could access most of them, what would life look like, if suppose we remember every moment of our life and the past. Jill Price has this unique ability to relive her life and remember everything, even about the release dates of her favorite TV shows. For Jill's mother and brother, it was difficult to understand what's going on with her, why she's crying and suffering, etc thinking of moments again and again. Maybe our happiness and survival come from what we choose to edit and forget from our memory, and Jill has lost this ability and that she remembers from worst to all the good moments feeling both pain and happiness whenever she recalls them. She still feels bad about stuff and mistakes that she committed decades back even. Living too much with the memories is paralyzing, it's like being in a mental hospital as Jill describes. One of the important findings is that Jill has that part of her brain larger than usual which is associated with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders(OCD). OCD patients have to tendency to hoard things, meaning keeping up items and having difficulty discarding them regardless of their actual value. Jill might have the same tendency to hoard memories, maybe the tendency to hoard is both for memories and objects as well, and they're all related to the brain region dealing with OCD. Even Jill had some of her very old stuff, like childhood dolls, notes from high school, etc. One thing that helped her was marrying Jim, who accepts her gift and gets her as she is which makes her feel relieved from the past and sufferings, but 2 years later Jim, her husband a diabetic died of a stroke, one more day of full pain added to her memory to relive it again and again, we think "time heals all wounds" doesn't for her but. She's inspired by her husband to laugh at her gift and look forward to life. For scientists and doctors, this is an amazing opportunity to unlock more profoundly how our brain stores long-term memory and how our memory works. Jill decided to share her story when she saw a woman at a bank so much confused, suffering from Alzheimer's which impairs short-term memory and eventually deteriorates long term memory as well, Jill wondered how come this woman has such a short memory when she has so much of it. Jill has described her gift and related aspects in her book "The Woman Who Can't Forget: The Extraordinary Story of Living with the Most Remarkable Memory Known to Science--A Memoir".

