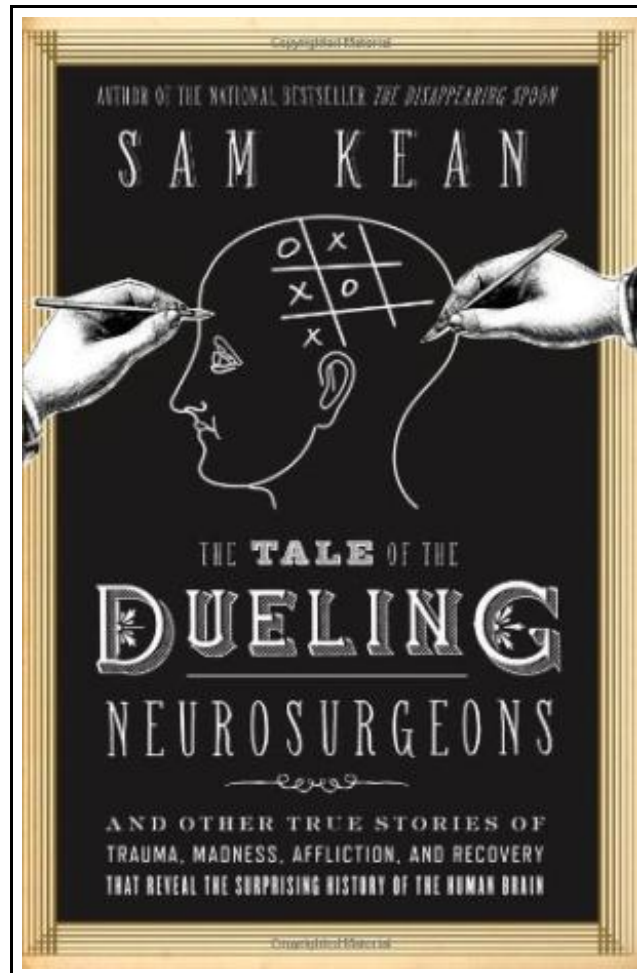


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Little, Brown. 1 Cloth(s), 2014. hard. Book Condition: New. The author of *The Disappearing Spoon* and *The Violinist's Thumb* here explores the secret inner workings of the brain, and how our understanding of it has been informed. Early neurological studies relied on misfortune to stroke victims, seizures, infectious diseases, horrendous accidents to see how victims coped. Amazing transformations occurred when different parts of the brain were destroyed: parents suddenly couldn't recognize their children, reliable citizens became pathological liars, and some people couldn't speak yet could still sing. Sam Kean gives us such neurological curiosities as phantom limbs, Siamese twin brains, viruses that eat patients' memories, and blind people who see through their tongues. "In the capable hands of science writer Sam Kean, stories of brain injuries shine just a bit brighter, illuminating not only the interesting characters delivering bedside diagnoses or lying on the examination table, but general principles of scientific discovery that are still relevant today. Kean breathes life into the patients as well as the physicians and scientists tasked with understanding the injuries." *The Scientist* 407.



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