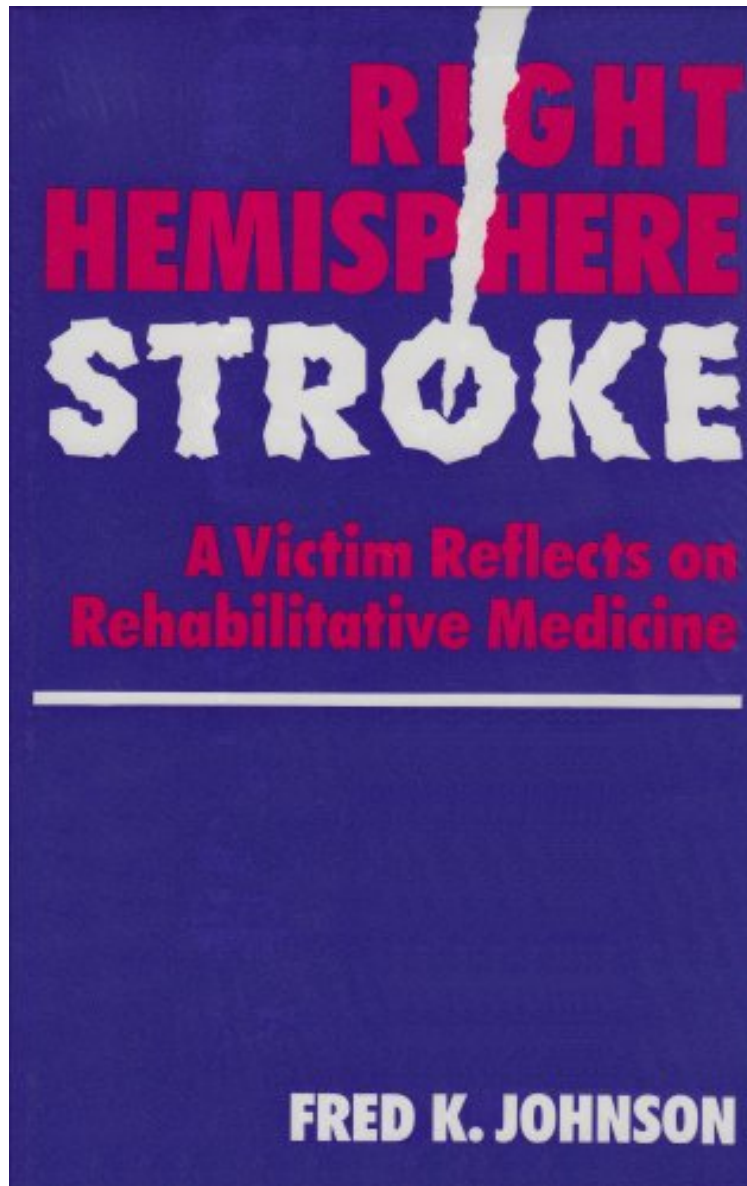


(Download free pdf) Right Hemisphere Stroke: A Victim Reflects on Rehabilitative Medicine (William Beaumont Hospital Series in Speech and Language Pathology)

Right Hemisphere Stroke: A Victim Reflects on Rehabilitative Medicine (William Beaumont Hospital Series in Speech and Language Pathology)

Fred K. Johnson

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Fred K. Johnson : Right Hemisphere Stroke: A Victim Reflects on Rehabilitative Medicine (William Beaumont Hospital Series in Speech and Language Pathology) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would

be worth my time, and all praised *Right Hemisphere Stroke: A Victim Reflects on Rehabilitative Medicine* (William Beaumont Hospital Series in Speech and Language Pathology):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Nice Surprise for Casual Readers Medical Professionals By J. Stensrud
Right Hemisphere Stroke is an amazing surprise. Johnson has approached his topic with humor, intelligence, and good writing skills. The result is a sometimes-funny, always-informative, and touching memoir about the stroke he suffered when he was 38 years old. I read it to get some specific information about strokes. I didn't find the information for which I was searching, but happily read on, learning answers to questions I hadn't thought to ask. For instance, I found out stroke victims often suffer personality change. Johnson was lucky; his personality shifted from someone who cared little for others to a kinder, more affable person. This was only one of the benefits for his family. His wife now has a more considerate, attentive lover: "I could not plop over Judy in the traditional missionary manner; I had to entice her to come to me. Our sex now had a good deal of give and take rather than a one-sided domination." Of equal interest is how Johnson learned to function as a part of a hospital environment that seemed designed more to fulfill job descriptions than to meet patient needs. Yes, it would seem that meeting patient needs is the essential framework of medical workers' job descriptions, but there arises a perverse difference between the medical establishment's perception of the patients' needs and the needs perceived by the patients themselves. The doctors, nurses, therapists and diverse hospital staff are focused on getting the patient as close to recovery as possible (or, as Johnson found out, as close as they can get before the insurance runs out). Johnson learned to navigate the system both honestly and superficially, as the occasion demanded. In one instance, he observed that patients who were perceived as "religious" or "a family man" got more compassionate treatment, and so he put a framed photo of his son on his dresser top alongside a Gideon bible. Having the time to study his surroundings, he was thus able to construct ways to maximize the benefits of his hospitalization. Sometimes, this was as simple (yet excruciatingly difficult) as putting up with an unpleasant roommate in order to be labeled "a good patient." The unexplainable continues to fascinate me and pique my curiosity about the brain. I have an abiding interest in the spiritual episodes experienced during and after stroke by many sufferers, a topic Johnson touches upon lightly and with apology to "scientific" minds. The power of emotional memory is another of my interests, and in this regard, Johnson offers his ever-so-interesting version of anniversary disease: Each year on the anniversary of his stroke, he suffers transient ischemic attacks (TIAs). Johnson begins by saying "there are only two kinds of strokes, those that kill you and those that don't" and ends by quoting his wife's words of comfort to their son who longed for a happy ending: "We have yet to live our ending." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for Understanding Right Hemisphere Strokes. By Nicholas
A Right Hemisphere Stroke is a terrible and disabling condition, and it affects millions of people around the world. Many students of Speech and Language Pathology graduate programs have to study Neurology and the diseases and disorders of the Human brain and nervous system. The book itself is an excellent resource to understand the causes of a Right Hemisphere Stroke and the rehabilitative medicine and therapy used to treat it. I think this book is a valuable resource tool for any student of speech and language pathology or any other person who would like a further understanding of this terrible condition.

In *Right Hemisphere Stroke*, Fred Johnson describes in vivid prose the onset of his devastating stroke and the obstacles he overcame during his therapy, giving a patient's view of a first-class rehabilitation institute. Johnson pays particular attention to the personality changes and the problems of disorientation he experienced. He poignantly captures the bewilderment and terror so often felt by stroke patients in the hospital and upon returning home. In telling his story, Johnson provides valuable insights about the effects of stroke and, along the way, calls into question some traditionally held conclusions about the functions of the brain's right hemisphere. The book is important in other ways. As Dr. John Gilroy states in his foreword, Fred Johnson's account moves us to realize that a "stroke affects the brain as a whole, and patients should be treated for brain dysfunction, not hemisphere deficits." Moreover, for Gilroy the book underscores the need for better communication with the patient. With most diseases, health care professionals freely discuss present or anticipated problems with patients and family. In cases of stroke, however, there is a great deal of resistance to sharing the complex problems that arise. Fred Johnson's book is valuable, then, not only as a testament to the courage and determination of one man but also for the lessons it provides for medical students and health care professionals.