



Ticked: A Medical Miracle, a Friendship, and the Weird World of Tourette Syndrome

James A. Fussell, Jeffrey P. Matovic

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When Jeff Matovic burst into the office of Dr. Robert Maciunas, he had very few options left. Matovic had suffered for years from Tourette Syndrome, his full-body spasms and outbursts getting progressively worse, to the point that he saw suicide as a viable option. Drugs, physical therapy, prayer—nothing was working. But Dr. Maciunas was a pioneer in deep brain stimulation (DBS), a new therapy that had worked to correct other brain disorders. Could it fix Matovic's Tourette's? All Matovic had to do was convince Dr. Maciunas that he was a perfect candidate for the procedure. That, and have several electrical leads—a “brain pacemaker”—implanted into his skull.

Author Jim Fussell is uniquely qualified to tell Matovic's story—he suffers from Tourette Syndrome as well. Fussell's job as a feature writer for the *Kansas City Star* brought him in contact with Oprah Winfrey, who first told him about Jeff Matovic, the “Miracle Man.” As Fussell learned about Matovic's remarkable journey, he vowed to seek him out. This is their story.

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