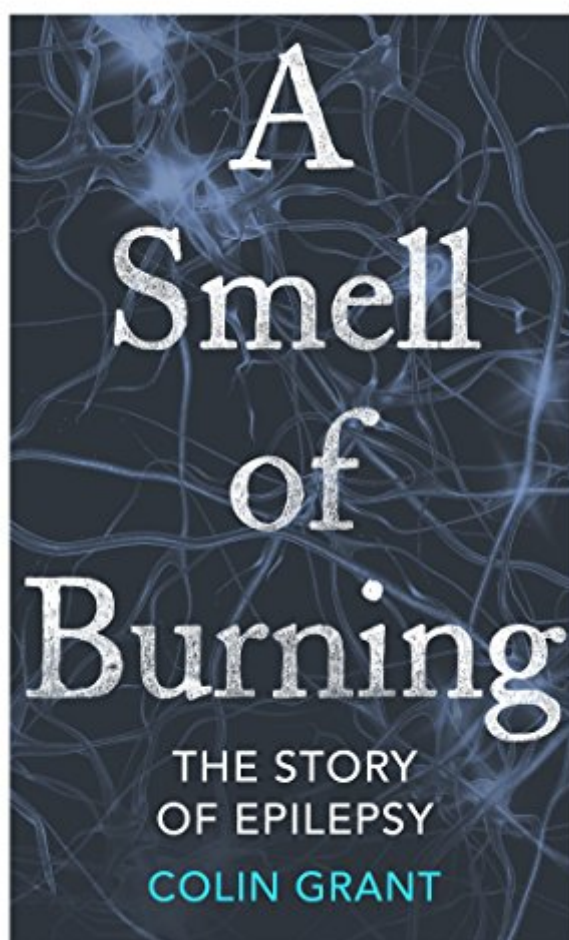


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# A Smell Of Burning: The Story Of Epilepsy



## Synopsis

One day Colin Grant's teenage brother Christopher failed to emerge from the bathroom. His family broke down the door to find him unconscious on the floor. None of their lives were ever the same again. Christopher was diagnosed with epilepsy. A Smell of Burning tells the remarkable story of this strange and misunderstood disorder. How certain people, at a particular moment in their life, start to suffer seizures, often preceded by an aura, of which a smell of burning is one of the most common. For many years epilepsy was associated with mental illness or even possession by devils. People with epilepsy were forbidden to marry or have children. Many became victims of Nazi eugenics programmes. To this day many people with epilepsy – sixty million worldwide – still live in fear of exposure. Grant's book traces the history of the condition and the pioneering doctors whose extraordinary breakthroughs finally helped gain an understanding of how the brain works. He tells the stories of famous people with epilepsy like Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Fyodor Dostoevsky and Vincent Van Gogh, and through the tragic tale of his brother, he considers the effect of epilepsy on his own life.

## Book Information

File Size: 1530 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Vintage Digital (August 25, 2016)

Publication Date: August 25, 2016

Language: English

ASIN: B019CGXU86

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #529,422 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #104

in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Epilepsy #701 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Internal Medicine > Neurology #2531 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Neurology

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