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Dendritic fictions,  
a homage to Oliver Sacks

by zoquete

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en homenaje a Oliver Sacks*

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neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks

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To Esteban, the kid whose mission was to discover airplanes

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## Foreword

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“Awakenings” was a movie where a likable guy manages to make some rather odd patients, who are kind of asleep (but not asleep, more like frozen), live again as most of us do; that is, as if they awakened from a strange dream, feeling like Gregor Samsa, in Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*, who knows. Whereas before they wouldn’t speak nor move, and would go everywhere in a wheelchair pushed around by their assistants, thanks to the likable doctor’s medication they manage to start talking again, walk on their own feet, and even to play sports.

The friendly doctor is played by Robin Williams, as no one else could have. I can’t imagine anyone else carrying on like this: helping his patients warm-heartedly, worrying about finding a miraculous solution to their ills, fighting with exemplary resolve against a deterioration which is hardly understood, and all neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks this with an admirable sense of humor. I can’t imagine anyone else being like that. That character was definitely perfect for Robin Williams.

Just neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks before this movie, the director, Penny Marshall, had filmed “Big,” where Tom Hanks played a thirteen-year old neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks boy who transformed overnight into an adult, after wishing upon a carnival statue. In that instance, I neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks can also not imagine any other child-in-an-adult’s-body, except for Tom Hanks. In this movie, another type neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks of miracle was at work, which allowed us to fantasize about the eternal “what-ifs.”

However, the fiction of “Awakenings” is based on the autobiographical book of the famous neurologist Oliver Sacks, about the treatment administered to his catatonic patients, back in the last years of the seventies. Yes, it’s true: the events described are based on reality. The doctor must have gone through such an odyssey never imagining that, twenty years later, someone could say that an actor fit his role better than himself, as in one of the many paradoxes about reality and its representation, which he outlines in his works.

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Dr. Sacks is known as an excellent scientific communicator. He has managed to blend the commercial success neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks of his books with the great due accuracy when presenting the usually arid clinical histories. He has specialized in presenting neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks amazing patient cases of handicaps or excesses to the layman in neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks Neurology, prioritizing the human factor above the medical jargon.

Oliver Sacks states that the personal relationships he keeps with his patients transcend beyond the cold medical diagnoses, and make him ask the deep questions about human nature, and even about himself.

The episodes narrated in his bibliography seem formatted as if they were movie scripts. He neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks shows us people incapable of making new memories, like the character of the movie neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks "Memento," or gifted with incomprehensible math skills, like Raymond, the autistic man portrayed by Dustin Hoffman in "Rainman." The doctor often highlights the contrast between all kinds of handicaps with the virtuosity along them, indicating that it is not due to the existence of a hypothetical causal relationship, not as much as the spirit of overcoming of the affected individual.

Sacks, as a writer, knows how to turn the supernatural, that which is still unexplainable, into something natural, almost quotidian: those cases of blind men, Parkinson's patients, autistic

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people, strange sick people who perturb our grid-like lives, and who we would list as “catastrophes,” as neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks circus freaks, who can take wing beyond the mere biology in order to knock down neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks the stigma and the prejudice of us all, who had already dismissed them out of hand. This great educator, through his humane approach of deep empathy with his patients, manages to turn each dysfunction into an almost merely circumstantial aspect, like the place of our birth or the language we speak. The unavoidable question arises: Isn't it?

This collection's first part arose under the influence of his writings, his reflections, his accomplishments; each line fed on those neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks fabulous cases he has treated, which expose our limited understanding, and cause vertigo when we intuit how unfathomable our mind is, how much our logic cannot apprehend.

For some of them, their spring is more than evident: “The Tic Collector,” or “The Case of the Woman Unable to neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks Recognize Herself in the Mirror” have a clear reference to the episode “A neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks Surgeon's Life,” which Sacks Published in “An Anthropologist on Mars” and the case of “The Disembodied Lady,” which appear in “The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat,” respectively. Of the same style is the short text “The Strange Case of neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks the Poet Who Had a Son Who Couldn't Read the neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks Letter E,” but it also owes a lot of its motivation to the works of writer Màrius Serra to blur his child's calm. The rest of the texts do not have such a clear parallel; moreover, in some cases, they shamelessly trample in already sad clichés, like the cognitive deterioration in old age, due to its population increase, as it's exposed in “Mom, There's Something I'd Like to Tell You.”



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“Arithmomania,” “Comics,” and “Flesh and nail” are centered more in musings shaped from wondering about mental breakdowns neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks and people’s particular obsessions, without exaggerations, necessarily. This first block closes with a couple of very brief essays about collective behavior: “Thoth’s Ill,” and “Statistics,” both so brief that do not deserve neurotales: Dendritic fictions, a homage to Oliver Sacks further introductions.

## **Neurotales Dendritic Fictions A Homage To Oliver Sacks**

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