



The Neurology of Angels

Krista Tibbs

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The Neurology of Angels

Krista Tibbs

The Neurology of Angels Krista Tibbs

The Neurology of Angels is a novel about the hearts inside the business and politics of drug development and the consequences of a choice between saving one child and treating thousands. Galen is a neuroscientist and entrepreneur who loses everything to develop a cure for stroke. Eddy is a devoted father who enters politics on a mission to lower the cost of prescription drugs. Elizabeth is a pharmaceutical industry lawyer who is raising a daughter with a rare and fatal genetic illness. Their families become forever entwined as the three parents engage in a tug-of-war over a failing system of good intentions. In the wake, heroes are born.

The Neurology of Angels Details

Date : Published August 10th 2008 by Friction Publishing

ISBN : 9780981880303

Author : Krista Tibbs

Format : Paperback 274 pages

Genre : Fiction, Politics

 [Download The Neurology of Angels ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Neurology of Angels ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Neurology of Angels Krista Tibbs

From Reader Review The Neurology of Angels for online ebook

Eileen says

O.K., so I always thought the pharmaceutical companies were the glutinous bad guys trying to sop up everyone's last dime. Maybe I was a bit too quick to judge. It seems there are no bad guys, just convolutedly tough issues and decisions that have to be made in regards to getting medications "on the shelves" for patients. This timely novel by Krista Tibbs immediately draws the reader in by showing the human side of what goes into research, development and access to drugs in America. I found myself liking and rooting for all the characters, and sometimes wanting to kick one or two of the more stubborn ones in the butt. Jodi Picoult fans would enjoy this read. I REALLY ENJOYED this book and HIGHLY RECOMMEND it.

Sophie says

Well, I didn't win this book through First Reads, but I feel like I should still disclose that I did receive my copy free of charge from the author herself. So thanks Krista!

That said, I hope you'll believe me when I say the most disappointing part of this read was the cover art. As another review noted, it doesn't pop off the bookshelves, and I'm thankful that my copy arrived in the mail.

However, once I got past the cover, I really enjoyed *The Neurology of Angels*. Tibbs has produced a well written novel that explores the American healthcare system from different angles, while keeping the characters engaging and the intricacies of the plot alive. I think more than anything I appreciated this novel because it is truly thought-provoking - you realize all the different perspectives to consider, and to search for unanticipated consequences of any decision. Then again, this was a pretty quick read and I had a hard time putting it down, so I felt like I got the best of both worlds.

Thanks again for a great read - solid four stars.

Melinda says

The plain, stock-photo cover of *The Neurology of Angels* doesn't exactly leap out from the bookshelf. But, if you can follow the maxim of "don't judge a book by its cover," and give this little novel a try, you'll be charmed by complex characters and their realistic, heart-breaking challenges.

Throughout *The Neurology of Angels*, author Krista Tibbs adds color to a social challenge that is often interpreted as black and white. Her well-meaning cast of characters includes lawyers, scientists, politicians, government regulators, patients, and parents. All are struggling to affect positive change in a broken pharmaceutical system. Amid clashing priorities and passionate debate, one character wisely comments, "The whole health care system is broken, and everyone is trying to fix their own little part, but they're just ending up like bumper cars that can't get out of the pavilion."

Guided by personal tragedies, these characters find unintended and tragic consequences result as they push forward their personal agendas with a lot of heart, but fail to grasp the wider consequences of their actions until it is too late. As short-term fixes lead to hard-learned lessons in long-term economics, the characters are forced to rethink their issues. What if the strengthening of FDA safety regulations leads to more deaths than

it prevents? How do you justify lowering the cost of existing medications when those profits are needed to fund research for new cures? Are pharmaceutical companies profiting off the sick, or are they simply being rewarded for millions of dollars in investment and risk? Who is even qualified to make these decisions?

As the characters begin to ask these questions, no longer do they see their issues in black and white or as good vs. evil. Only then do their united efforts truly begin to bring positive change to the system.

There are a few cheesy lines and a bit of over-the-top dialogue, inherent in this type of social-commentary story. But, the book works because Tibbs does not push an agenda on the reader. She poses questions and attempts to widen the debate, calling on the population to be creative in seeking answers that work for everyone, not just their narrow sphere. I would recommend this book for anyone interested in an eye-opening read.

Megan says

While I can't say that I have conducted an exhaustive search, it seems like there are not a lot of books out there right now dealing with the issue of healthcare policy (fiction or non-fiction) that are written in a style and vocabulary accessible enough to be understood by those of us not well-versed in the issue. This book is a great introduction to multiple perspectives in the debate for those of us who might be a little overwhelmed by the multitude of voices clamoring for our attention out there. The characters are all sympathetic in their own way, which I appreciated, since it would have been easy to set up a clear hero/villain scenario. With the number of characters and the short length of the book, not all are as well-developed as they could be, but that's an OK trade-off for making it an easy read that can be passed along and discussed. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who's feeling overwhelmed in the current maelstrom of information about healthcare funding.

Sheri says

The Neurology of Angels is an intense read. The plot is very believable and could very well be true to life. Three families are all pulled together for different reasons all relating to the pharmaceutical industry.

Galen a neuroscientist, is trying to find a cure for stroke. Eddy enters politics to try and lower prescription drug costs. Elizabeth, an attorney has a daughter with a terminal illness. Their lives all come together in a compelling story that views the healthcare/pharmaceutical industry from all angles.

Parental love, divided friendship and legal battles, add to the suspense. Emotions arise ranging from, love, frustration, helplessness, sadness and anger. It really leaves one wondering of the future of health care in the United States today.

Krista Tibbs is definitely an Author to follow.

Elizabeth says

As the grandparent of a child with a potentially fatal neurological condition, I was excited to be given the

opportunity to provide a GoodReads First Reader review of *The Neurology of Angels*, in which Krista Tibbs relates the pitfalls of America's health care system through the intertwined stories of Sera Rose, Abigail Parker, Alexandra (Lexi), and, of course, their respective parents.

As the story opens, Galen Douglas, a Harvard-trained neuroscientist is reviewing the outcomes of his latest attempts to create a treatment for transient forebrain ischemia, the neurological condition that triggered the death of his one-time fiancée. It appears that the formula used in Trial 423 is successful in preventing damage to brain cells of mice that have suffered ischemic stroke. The rigors of scaling up a drug from the lab bench to commercial manufacturing take their toll on Galen's marriage; and his wife Linda one day disappears with his daughter, Alexandra.

Galen offers a partnership in the new company, Biolex, to his college roommate, Eddie Parker. Eddie is afraid to give up the security of his job and, even though his sister died from complications of ischemic forebrain stroke, refuses to help Galen set up the new business. The friendship suffers and when Galen's wife and child leave, the men go their separate ways. Several years later, Abigail, Eddy's nine-year-old daughter, suffers an ischemic stroke. While Lexistro, the drug developed by Galen, has become the first-line treatment after stroke, the FDA has not approved its use in children. The doctor advises that a clinical trial to test Lexistro's effectiveness in treating children with ischemia is recruiting participants; but Eddy, for reasons not clearly defined, refuses to allow Abigail to take part in the study. A short while later, Abigail suffers another stroke. Eddy insists that she be injected with Lexistro but again refuses to allow her to participate in the clinical trials. The doctor recommends treatment with Lexistro every two to three months for an indefinite period, but the treatment is an off-label use and the family insurance will not cover the treatments. The family's savings account is exhausted, and Eddy approaches Galen to ask that Abigail's treatments be provided through the corporation's charity fund. Rather than telling Eddy that the family income is too high, Galen secretly pays for the treatments himself, an action that comes to light when Eddy is elected to Congress.

Meanwhile, down in Virginia, Elizabeth Rose has observed her neighbor Linda, a woman she considers to be an intellectual lightweight, reading an article about Galen Douglas in an issue of *Money Magazine*. Linda is the mother of Lexi, best friend to Elizabeth's daughter, Sera. Sera suffers from a genetic condition called leukoencephalopathy with vanishing white matter (VWM), a fatal illness. Elizabeth routinely sends mailings about VWM to companies and scientists researching the brain. After reading the article about Galen and Biolex, she contacts Galen who recognizes that Lexistro might be a viable treatment for this genetic condition. He begins the process necessary to gain FDA approval for human trials, but approval is years away.

The story provides an excellent platform for discussing what ails the American health care system. "The whole health care system is broken, and everyone is trying to fix their own little part, but they're just ending up like bumper cars that can't get out of the pavilion... With issues so vast and intertwined, it seemed ludicrous... that Congress still operated mainly without the aid of a computer model, as if each member were a processor unto himself and could see every moving part and plan thousands of scenarios to understand the effect of every issue on every other issue in the short term and the long term, well enough to make the most equitable decisions without being swayed by his own special interests. It was no wonder that Congress always seemed at an impasse, and that when decisions were made, they had enormous unintended consequences."

As Sera said, "The thing about heroes is they care enough to try." Krista Tibbs, who studied neuroscience at MIT and earned her MBA in Health Sector Management at Duke University, has cared enough to try. "Heroes are just angels in disguise." Perhaps Krista, too, is an angel.

Rebecca says

This was a very interesting book. I particularly liked that the author objectively looked at different sides of the health care industry without vilifying any one side. The personalization of the story made it that much more interesting.

The only difficulty I had was jumping from story to story. In the beginning I had to remind myself once a jump was made..."and who is this guy again?" By the end of the book, I had no problems.

I think that people from both the government and pharmaceutical industries as well as anyone urging health care reform needs to read this book to gain perspective. Many well-intentioned propositions have longer-term effects that are not necessarily beneficial.

Tracie says

The first 50 pages of this book read really slow for me as the scenarios were set up. Once I got into the meat of the book it was difficult to put down. The author has done a great job of looking at a complex situation from multiple sides. As a worker in the healthcare industry I often hear differing viewpoints of "what would work". I appreciated the approach the author took to show that this issue is much more complex than a few simple changes can repair. I recommend this book to anyone who is open-minded enough to take a good look.

George says

I absolutely loved reading this book. It is an absorbing, poignant and compelling read. I couldn't put it down. Read it all in one day, and that's unusual for me.

'The Neurology of Angels' is a beautifully written, deep and important story, with a very endearing cast of characters. You can't help but to care about them and what happens in their lives.

I highly recommend this book; especially to those with a thoughtful concern for our health care system, and for morals and principles. And to those who just want to read a good story, too.

I'd also encourage you to look into these two websites: www.neurologyofangels.com/author_01.php; and shadesofwhitematter.wordpress.com/, featuring facts and further thoughts from the author.

I will be looking happily forward to reading Krista Tibbs's next novel.

5th best-read of 2009

Lisa Vegan says

This novel is not flawless but I really liked it. It's got all sorts of things I enjoy reading about, including well fleshed out child and young adult characters, and adult characters too, sick children, thought provoking

subject matter, in this case, issues pertaining to our health care system.

The author has a scientific background and works in the field so I'm assuming she knows about these issues from an insider's perspective. While I got very angry with some of the characters and their philosophies, other readers will feel angry with different characters, as it all depends on personal opinion and what we know and think about the health care morass. I really appreciated that the complexity of the problem was acknowledged in this book. The problem being the whole process of getting new drugs approved, clinical trials, who gets access to drugs, and who needs/should make money, etc. etc. The author gave me a signed copy of this book, and she put no pressure on me at all, not even any pressure to actually read it.

The story centers on two fathers, a mother, and each of their only children, who are daughters. Two of the girls have rare potentially fatal neurological illnesses. All the parents have professions related to the health care industry: one is a researcher with his own company who's trying to develop a drug treatment for a rare neurological condition, one is doing what he can to lower the cost of prescription drugs and going into politics to try to do that, one is an attorney who's worked on cases involving the pharmaceutical industry. All six of these characters have relationships to one another.

As I stated above, this novel is not perfect. Some of what I consider its flaws (my opinion only, obviously): I found it a tad jarring how quickly time often passed in such a very few pages. Somehow, it seemed slightly unpolished. For instance, it is well written and there are some beautiful passages in it, especially toward the beginning, but in some cases as I read, some of that lovely phrasing was overly noticeable to me and therefore sometimes distracting and cringe inducing; I don't know why I had that reaction because in other beautifully written books I often can simply appreciate the writing. There was one thing I saw coming from a million miles away because I knew one thing was likely to happen in order for another thing to be able to happen. This latter thing might not be a flaw really; it just was sad (although probably one of the more realistic things that happened in the book) and perhaps it's just that I wasn't happy about it. Some of the occurrences seemed somewhat farfetched. I did appreciate the hopeful conclusion, even if getting there required me to somewhat suspend disbelief.

But, there are many wonderful aspects to this book. I found the story fascinating. It reads like a thriller and it's very suspenseful. The quick back and forth between the following of different characters, as their relationships are described and revealed, really worked for me. The characters were well developed. I particularly liked the three girls/young women, and became very fond of all of them, especially Sera and Lexi, but Abigail too. The kids were wonderfully created and they were interesting people. I loved how the parts of the book are titled Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3, mimicking the stages drugs go through to come to market, and it was sort of an asset to have some "handwritten" notes and other text and pictures that deviated from the standard font. Although so much time passes in such few pages, the characters, as they grow and develop, do seem genuine and the changes in them are believable throughout.

This book was my cup of tea. I have especially gravitated to reading medical themed books (fiction and non-fiction) since age 11, have an interest in kids with life threatening illnesses, and personally spend a fortune (a high percentage of my income) on health insurance and medical care, so I often think about the issues brought up in this book.

Sara says

I read this book, which deals with the science versus the politics of bringing new drugs on the marketplace with the certainty that I would hate the political morass the FDA and the rest of the political engine that make potentially life saving drugs to the market. I was hugely dissapointed to find out that the bad guy

doesn't exist. The novel accurately points out that the best and the brightest from their respective points of view (scientific and political) are set up to fail because of our complex no-win system and the sad fact is that people die during the process. I hated the fact that there is no correct answer and that the author leaves us with more questions than answers. And yet, I highly recommend the book.

The writing is clean and sparse, which allows the reader to concentrate on the intricacies of the plot and understand what is at stake for all of the characters. My emotions were whipped to and fro as I understood the intricacies that each character faced. AND I learned more about a process we all need to become more familiar with as we learn medical advocacy for ourselves and our loved ones.

Good Read!

Maggie Jablonski says

This book explores the world behind drug development in an engaging story which includes the points of views of a politician, his daughter who has a condition of recurring strokes, a pharmaceutical entrepreneur/scientist, his estranged daughter, a pharmaceutical industry lawyer, her daughter who has a rare genetic disease with no treatment and a devoted FDA employee...I might be missing one.

I read this book very quickly, and was obviously involved enough in the story to want to come to resolution, but the first 50 pages or so are brutal. There is no delicate way to introduce so many points of view, and the constant switches between one third person narrative to another seemed excessive. I understand the reason behind this narrative style was to explore all facets of a society of health care in which everyone believes they are doing good, but all are pulling in conflicting directions. As a student of health care policy I appreciated the nuances involved and the deficit of demonizing by the author in a subject where it would be very easy to do so, but it makes for difficult story-telling.

Once the 100-page barrier is broken, the book reads fast. The main characters are sympathetic ones, occupying all roles with fatefully intertwining stories and almost all with a personal connection to an untreated or uncured disease. This communal vested interest in fixing things, however, is not enough to get them moving in the same direction. The novel works as a compelling parable, but was too choppy to be considered solely on its literary merit. It is a good read for anyone looking to see beyond the simplistic remedies often offered for our ailing health care system.

Ellen Beck says

<http://www.neurologyofangels.com>

This is my first review.....

I really liked the twists and turns of this book, from when Galen and Eddy became friends all the way to the end when they became reunited after a lot of life events and heartaches. I found it sad and yet heartening the way Elizabeth's daughter lived her life and in the conclusion brought things full circle. It was as if in Sera there was hope that there were indeed angels on earth. Their time may seem brief to us, but when their mission is accomplished they are able to leave us all the better for their presence.

It made me think a lot about today's healthcare system, and what the different sides involved go through.

Even though they all may start out with good intentions of helping people, sometimes the way things are currently set up it comes down to money and political debates. It made me hopeful that the fresh ideas of younger people may indeed make the impossible possible for future generations to have both affordable healthcare and profits for drug companies.

At times, the medical lingo was above my head, but in truth it doesn't matter a lot, because the way the book was written it was mostly one man's musings when he was trying to figure out what might work and what wouldn't.

I would recommend this book to almost anyone because it is thought provoking and at the same time a very good read. I had a hard time putting it down. This book makes you want to laugh in the characters' triumphs and cry with them in their darkest moments.

Thank you Krista for giving me the pleasure of spending time with *The Neurology of Angels* !

Melanie says

This book should be required reading for everyone who thinks they know something about the issues with healthcare in the US, and especially for those who are throwing themselves into the whole healthcare debate (all too often, without really knowing any of the facts as to what is really going on). As a medical student who has been going to school and doing research in both a poverty stricken, urban area and an upper class area, I've had the misfortune of seeing many of the repercussions of the deeply ingrained problems in our healthcare system, affecting both the haves and the have-nots. *The Neurology of Angels* not only addresses many of these issues, but from different, equally important perspectives. It doesn't attempt to provide a solution for the health care crisis, but rather explores its different aspects and shows that we have what truly might be an irreparably broken system on our hands.

The character development in this novel is really remarkable. I felt connected to all of the main characters, especially Sera, Abigail, and Lexi. Krista does a really fantastic job of creating characters that were all easy to relate to - no small feat, considering the varied cast of characters that appear. The only character that I was disappointed in was Pauline Chen - I never really felt like I got to know her as well as the other characters (which might not have been a bad thing - I didn't really like what I did know of her). But anyway, I was so impressed by Krista's ability to include so many different viewpoints from a seemingly completely unbiased perspective.

This is definitely not a light read. It is not something that can - or should - be read on the beach or right before bed. It's thought-provoking, and at times incredibly depressing. I chose to go to medical school to help people, and this novel confirms what I've been learning throughout the past 3+ years - healthcare in this country is not just about helping people. It's about avoiding getting sued, providing the minimum quality of care to people (because you just don't have the time or the resources to do otherwise), and trying to keep your head above water as you navigate the mess of Medicare, Medicaid, charity care, and private health insurance while struggling with inconceivable amounts of medical school debt and rapidly increasing overhead costs. It's about prescribing drugs that might not be the best option for patients, but are \$4 at Walmart and are better than nothing at all. I think that the greatest aspect of this novel is how it highlights many of these issues, yet doesn't point fingers or vilify anyone.

This book is well-written, though I did have a bit of a hard time getting through the first 50 pages or so. There are many story lines, and initially, it's hard to keep everyone and everything straight. But after I passed that mark, I didn't want to put it down. When I wasn't reading it, I was thinking about it or discussing it with

family and friends. It really refutes a lot of the misinformation that is out there. Highly recommended.

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

I really really really liked this book! It reminded me of the movie with Harry Connick Jr about the creation of Herceptin and what they went through with the trials and FDA and such.

This book dealt with neurological issues (since that is the author's field of study) and how politics and issues can drive a wedge between family and friends that can be repaired if they realize that there is more to the big picture.

I liked how in tune the girls were with life, although sometimes I wondered if they were a little too mature for their age. But I know that it does happen and when you are exposed or faced with a serious illness, sometimes you grow up faster than you want.

I have to say that the storyline about health care in this country was pretty much dead on....you need to have it especially if you have a deadly disease and then the costs of medicines is outrageous...but when you think of everything that went in to it to develop the drug, can you blame them for wanting to make as much as they can to recoup those costs?

This book had a great combination of medical info, politics and personal story to keep me enthralled until the end!
