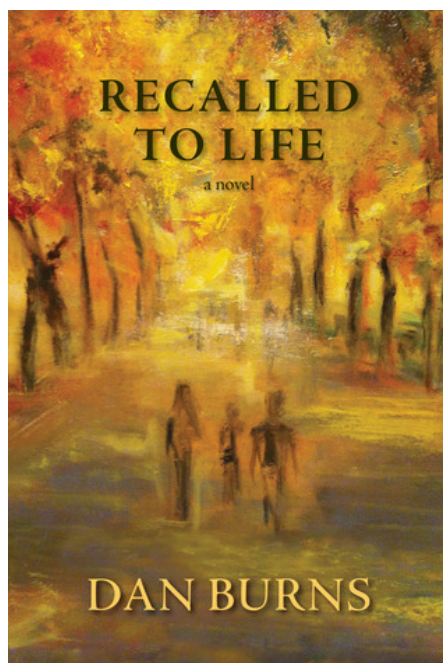




Recalled To Life

Dan Burns

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Chicago architect Peter O'Hara had a plan, a blueprint, for how he wanted to build his life. He had goals and ambitions and his path was clear. He had a loving wife and son, career success, and his final career goal was close within reach. The opportunity to become a partner in his firm was there for the taking. He almost had it all.

But life and fate do not consider such plans. An unbelievable and unplanned event sets off a domino effect of repercussions that turn Peter's life upside down, pushing him to his limits and causing him to re-evaluate everything he thought was important.

"A timeless story for all generations."

Recalled To Life Details

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Author : Dan Burns

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From Reader Review Recalled To Life for online ebook

Lucas says

SPOILER ALERT!!! Even though I don't give everything away, I do give away some of the major points.

Whether you are a son or a daughter...this book will give you a new outlook on the time you spend with your parents, especially the older you each get.

It only took a few pages before I felt myself getting pulled into the Chicago suburbs and becoming a fly on the wall, so to speak, to the O'Hara family. I found myself rooting for Peter and Jack to make up for lost time while also hoping Peter wouldn't make similar mistakes with his son, Jake.

When Jack started to suffer his memory lapses (after coming to live with Peter and his family) I had to put the book down. I realized there were too many pages left in the book for everything to continue smoothly and I didn't want the magic of the book to end the same day I started reading it.

I usually find myself looking for an author to leave questions unanswered so the door remains open for a sequel but I'm glad I can put the book away knowing that Jack had a good ten years left in him once he came home to live with Peter and his family the second time. I'm also glad for those ten years so that I can fill it with as many baseball games (in the front yard, watching Jake, or the minor league team), dinners around the table, and memories created between the characters as I can.

I won a copy of the book from goodreads giveaways.

Nancy Steinle gummel says

Recalled to Life by Dan Burns is a story about family. The importance of family. When Jack O'Hara awakens after for years of being a somnambulist decisions must be made. Family comes first.

Karen M says

I have to start out saying that this book in certain ways was a difficult read for me. Parts of it were very close to real life. Some parts of the book I read with perhaps more emotion than most readers.

It is a lovely book about a family that tries very hard to remain intact. When illness comes to an elderly parent, sadly, decisions have to be made that no matter how logical are still very painful to make. This is a story of a father, Jack O'Hara, who is in a coma for four years during which time so many things change, including the death of his wife. After a visit from his son and grandson, Jack awakens from his coma. His son, Peter, and daughter-in-law, Melanie, and grandson, Jake, take him back into their lives and home. Jake, who is eight, has been waiting to get to know his grandfather and to become friends with him. Jake and Jack quickly become close, fast friends and Jack becomes a better grandfather than he was a father.

The characters are so well written you can easily picture them in your mind and you will want to know what happens to this family. You will fall in love with the eight year old who loves this grandfather he's only known a short time. You will like Melanie who doesn't hesitate to take her father-in-law into their home and Peter whose whole life will change because his father came out of a coma.

There is more to this story but I'm not going to tell it to you because you need to read this gentle, sweet reminder that, although there is so much more to life, we need to treasure every moment with those we love.

I received this book as a FirstReads giveaway.

Stephenee says

* In compliance with FTC guidelines, I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads Giveaway Program. *

From the moment that I started this book I couldn't put it down. I loved the family dynamics that the author wrote about, the love of family and the saying that "Family is Everything". I could relate to this book on so many levels and loved the way that the author portrayed the characters throughout the book. He never made them seem like it was a hardship to rearrange their lives to take in their father, but made it more of an honor that they were able to do so. I appreciated the way that the author didn't downplay the responsibility of anyone's character and make them a "bad guy", he showed that he really felt that Family is Everything. I love the changing of the dreams that the main character Peter didn't even know wasn't his dream until his dad showed him as well as the fact that the family could bond over baseball, I mean who doesn't love baseball?!?!? This was an amazing book that shows the reader that it's ok to fear the unknown, but that with family, anything is possible. I look forward to reading more books by Dan Burns and love the fact that he wasn't afraid to write about such a hard topic and that he was able to make it enjoyable for all that read it. Make sure you add this book to your TBR list, it is a clear cut winner!

Kimberly says

I enjoyed reading this book once I got into it. Dialogue and descriptions at the beginning felt a little stilted but greatly improved as I read further. The book is a touching story about the importance of family relationships. By the end of the book I still had some unanswered questions about some of the plot points but the message of the story was clear and the epilog does let us know how some of the characters lives turned out.

Peter is a successful architect working hard toward his goal of becoming a partner in the firm he works for. He is married with a young son. Although he works long hours he does make time for his family on weekends. His father, Jack, has been in a care home for the last four years since suddenly shutting down (the medical condition and cause are never explained). Out of the blue his father "wakes up" and becomes aware of the world again. Jack has a tough time adjusting to the loss of four years of his life. Peter decides to have Jack live with them temporarily. The introduction of Jack to the household greatly changes the family dynamics. Although Peter is glad to have his father back things do not always go smoothly. Peter begins to find balancing work and family challenging as his boss begins to drop strong "hints" about Peter needing to

put work first. As a result Peter is forced to reexamine his life. Disclosure: I received this book as part of a Goodreads giveaway on the premise that I would review it.

R J Mckay says

I received this book as a Goodreads giveaway.

Recalled to Life is about the journey of Peter O'Hara, a man who finds out that his true legacy is not about building massive buildings, but rather it is about building a family.

Peter O'Hara is a rising star in the architectural firm where he works. He is well on the way to making partner. Everything is going as planned in his orderly life. That is until his Father, who has been a coma for 4 years wakes up! Bringing his Father home seems to be the right decision and at first it works out wonderfully. Jack O'Hara gets along famously with his grandson Jake, and Peter and his father have a great time re-connecting. However all is not well at work. His father's needs are take a toll at Peter's work and one of Peter's associate is there to point out his shortcomings. Suddenly, Peter's well-planned life is spiraling out of control. However when Peter's life is at its worst, fate steps in causing him to re-evaluate his goals.

Ally says

I wouldn't say that Peter's life was turned too upside down. Instead I would say Peter's life was turned a ninety degrees. (Okay, I'll stop it with the math, algebra, trigonometry and geometry. I swear.)

Recalled To Life forces Peter O'Hara to change everything he once thought was wrong or right. Recalled to Life is brilliant, completed with strong characters, an amazing young child, and a remarkable addicting conflict/situation. The plot is beautiful with plenty of twist and turns. Recalled To Life, for me, isn't a too bad for a book. It's good; it's above average. For most readers, Recalled To Life is one of those books that you read only because you're "bored and there's nothing else to do" or "reading it because your mother thinks you don't read enough books."

I totally and wholeheartedly recommended Recalled to Life only to people who want to make a change in their life and people who want to have a little piece of hope and joy. The book is like a really muddy reflection of Michael Jackson's song Man in the Mirror. (Muddy, remember, it's a muddy reflection of the song.)

I hate the POVs. I wish it sticks only to Peter O'Hara instead of wavering to Jack, Peter's father, or even to Jake, Peter's son. It becomes quite annoying, plus the book doesn't tell you who exactly is narrating/speaking/thinking. Instead, readers have to figure it out by location, speaking ways, and thinking ways. Sometimes the name is mentioned, but never boldly printed before the POV starts.

Characters:

Peter O'Hara's life is perfect. He has it all--the woman he loves, the son who makes him smile, the successful career, and a nice home. When a huge change in his life took place, Peter is forced to set his priorities in

order. Should he put his career above all? Or should he pay more attention to family like his father, Jack O'Hara? Or maybe his son, Jake O'Hara? Choices, choices, choices.

Jack O'Hara, Peter's family, is ill. He can't talk and is mentally and physically disabled until a great miracle took place. His fight with his son and his mentality is a major aspect of Recalled to Life.

Rating: Three Point Five out of Five. Rounded to a Four.

Moon says

I am someone who put my life on hold to care for my mother who had stage 4 terminal breast cancer for nine years.

So when Peter brought his father home to care for him, I was sucked right into the book. This book reminds you of the importance of making memories and connections with the people you love while they are still here. Loved Peter, Jack and Jake and the writing really helps you feel as though you know the characters!

Awesome book that makes you really think about your family and short life seems sometimes. I read it in one day! I would recommend this book to anyone!

I am so happy I won this book on Goodreads!

Claire says

In compliance with FTC guidelines, I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Recalled to Life is a touching story of Peter O'Hara whom thought he lost his dad to an Alzheimer-like disease (it was never specified) and how he gets a second chance with his father, Jack. Jack was sitting in silence for more than four years when all of a sudden he came to and shocked to find that time and his wife had past away while he was gone. Jack moves in with his son and his wife Melanie and son Jake and they focus more and more on family. All is not well in this peaceful home when Jack starts slipping in his memories and putting Jake and Melanie in a dangerous situation. After the event, Peter is forced to choose his family or his dad, but his dad will not go back to the center under any circumstances.

This book is about finding the right priorities in your life and knowing that possessions are replaceable but that you can't replace family and you might not get another chance to really be with them. The overall tone of the story is family first. The story was predictable and it lacked explanations in some areas but that doesn't detract from the story. It gets you to think if you really have your own priorities in the right place.

Lori says

I Was A Goodreads First Reads winner of "Recalled to Life" A good book that makes me think after reading Recalled to Life. Peter is working as an architect trying to advance in his career, He has a wife named

Melanie, a son Jake. His father Jack has been in a nursing home for four years. Jack has not spoken or responded in all those four years. After Peter and his son visit Jack, Jake whispers something in his grandfather's ear when they are leaving. The next day Peter gets a call that Jack has made a recovery. All of a sudden he can talk, knows who he is and appears to be "recovered".this gives Peter and his family some decisions to make. The nursing home says since Jack appears to be fine they cannot not keep him. in the four years Jack was in the nursing home, his wife died and Peter and his sister Jackie sold Jack's house. Peter is faced with what to do with Jack. he has nowhere to go. At the same time his job is in peril. He was up for promotions, even a chance to be a partner. Making plans for Jack has taken time away from Peter's work. they have no choice but to take Jack in. I do not want to give away too much of the plot. so. Will having Jack move in with the family work out? will Jack still be functioning and adapting in the world? will he have a relapse? How will this affect Peter's Job sometimes having to deal with family matters? this book is mostly about family and the decisions we have to make. sometimes the consequences that go with those decisions. At work or in the family. A book anyone with family could relate to. I thought this was a well done book.

Barbara says

Recalled To Life by Dan Burns
Goodreads author

This is a very heartwarming story. Peter O'Hara had a wonderful life and all his well planned goals changed when his father needed him. His career was not that important. Everyone's happiness was foremost to him. I loved this story . Recommend this to all. I couldn't put this book down!

Melinda says

I would have to say that this is a very well written and rather inspiring story. I don't believe that there was a moment within the story where you didn't know visually what was going on. I was very impressed with how much detail and scene set-up the author provided. I believe about half-way through the story, I reached the point that I was unable to put the book down and wanted to know what was going to happen next. There was definitely a connection between myself and the storyline. As the story continued to develop with the family crisis, I was able to relate with the amount of stress and frustration that Peter was going through. I was completely captivated and engaged with the story and I would recommend this for anyone that is looking for a nicely written peaceful and relaxing story. I especially enjoyed the Epilogue at the end of the book, as I was caught up in what happened after everyone got settled back into living their lives again. The story is also very inspiring in the aspect of how Peter makes the decision to set out and achieve his dream and make a stronger connection with his family. I have always heard and even experienced that it takes a major life event to have almost a light bulb go off and you realize that it's time to change the set-up of your life and make some changes. All in all, I was rather inspired and very happy with having the opportunity to read this story. Dan Burns is a very good author and I look forward to reading more of his books.

Randy Richardson says

In "Recalled to Life," author Dan Burns deftly paints a portrait of an everyday family that is put through an emotional roller-coaster when life throws their goals and plans a curve.

At the center of the story is Peter O'Hara, a talented, driven Chicago architect who thinks he has his life all figured out. Until he takes his son, Jake, for his first visit to the nursing home where his father, Jack, has been living with an Alzheimer's-like disease. Following that visit, the eldest O'Hara has an awakening of sorts and is brought back to live with Peter, his wife, Melanie, and Jake. At this point, the story kicks into high gear, as Peter finds it increasingly difficult to keep up with the demands of his job while juggling the challenges of caring for an elderly parent.

The book's cover depicts three ghostlike figures that are separated and yet together, much like the inter-generational bonds that Burns' narrative portrays through the characters of Jack, Peter and Jake. As they come together in the story, we see how each life influences the other – and maybe awakens something inside them that they didn't know was there or thought they had forever lost.

Burns' "Recalled to Life" serves as beautiful reminder of life's true treasures.

Travis Fortney says

My review from the Chicago Center for Literature and Photography, which you can find here:
<http://bit.ly/18QA7Yg>

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Is there a place in modern literary fiction for the protagonist who has it all? What does "having it all" even mean? In the case of Peter O'Hara, the hero of Chicago author Dan Burns' heartfelt but uneven debut novel *Recalled to Life* it means a breezy life in the Chicago suburbs replete with a devoted wife, precocious child, rescue dog and comfortable house. All of this is bought and paid for by an important job in the Loop, where Peter is a junior partner in a large architecture firm, with a small but hand-picked team working under him. These features of a fine, American life are presented without irony. Peter has his youth and health. He has a full head of raven-colored hair. He has enough money to pay for his father's care in an upscale assisted living facility, then has the money to add-on to the family's house and hire full-time live-in help when his father's situation changes. In short, Peter is basically happy, and he has every reason to be.

The Chicagoland suburbs in *Recalled to Life* reminded me a bit of New Jersey in Richard Ford's *The Sportswriter* novels. And Frank Bascombe in those novels is of course a good example of another character who is basically happy. But Bascombe is happy despite having a lot less than Peter O'Hara has here, and Bascombe wears his happiness in a wary, hard-won way, as if it's a philosophy or way of life instead a mood. When Bascombe faces challenges, the reader gets the sense that there's much more at stake than simply happiness. And despite all the effort, Bascombe might not be very happy at all. Certainly Ford's narrator isn't as "admirable" as Peter O'Hara is in this novel. Not since reading Ayn Rand as a teenager have I encountered a character I was so clearly supposed to admire.

But what prevents *Recalled to Life* from being as evocative as *The Sportswriter*--other than small weaknesses in descriptive language and sentence construction that pepper the manuscript--is that there isn't enough at stake for Peter O'Hara. Sure, life throws some curveballs in the course of this book. His father Jack--afflicted with an Alzheimer's-like illness--experiences a miraculous recovery and moves in with Peter's family. This added pressure at home causes Peter's work at the architecture firm to suffer. But the character Dan Burns has created is too happy, too confident and too well-adjusted for any of this to actually threaten the O'Hara family's well-being. It turns out that the most estimable characters aren't always the most entertaining.

Karyn Niedert says

“Recalled to Life” by Dan Burns is a book I was given the opportunity to read and review by Goodreads in exchange for a fair and honest review. It was a pleasure to read this novel, and was wholly pleased with the storyline, the development of the characters, and the author’s wonderful use of foreshadowing throughout the novel.

The story shares the lives of three generations of O’Hara men, Jack, Peter, and Jake. When the story opens, Jack is in a nursing home uncommunicative and unresponsive. Peter, his son, brings Jake to visit Jack as a special present as at one time they were all very close. When their visit draws to a close, Jake whispers in Jack’s ear. Hours later, the nursing home calls Peter and tells him that Jack is back to himself. They can’t explain the change, and everyone is in awe of the rapid improvement. This sets the stage for Jack to return to his family and all of the changes, good and bad, that brings.

This was a truly great read about how family influences our choices, about the relationships we share, and the legacies we want to leave for our children and grandchildren. I particularly responded to how the author didn’t make the transitions all roses and sunshine, instead making it a journey of ups and downs that displayed realism. Readers who enjoy books by Jodi Picoult and Nicholas Sparks would enjoy this novel.
