

A recently divorced, burned-out professor misreads his medical records and is convinced he has a brain tumor. In anticipation of his death, he detonates his career in spectacular fashion and embraces the freedom of saying what he has always wanted to say—about academic decay, masculinity, wellness culture, surveillance, and random violence. When he later learns the diagnosis was a sinus infection, he is left alive inside the wreckage he created.

Paralyzed within the fallout, he is drawn into the orbit of Helena, a colleague whose ambiguous role in academia masks her mob ties. Through her, he becomes entangled with mob-affiliated figures and is pulled out of the United States and into Belarus, where he is unknowingly used as leverage in two competing espionage schemes—neither of which he understands, controls, or can cleanly escape. His usefulness lies precisely in his ignorance and confusion.

Running parallel to this external unraveling is a more intimate reckoning about his family and upbringing. The professor has spent his life eclipsed by his younger brother—handsome, charming, and universally protected—only to discover that the brother's scandalous proclivities for the companionship of underaged boys were quietly absorbed by family shame, and silence. The revelation forces the professor to confront the moral

architecture of his childhood, his own invisibility, and the costs of survival while sleepwalking through life.

In the end, instead of only intellectualizing what he might be willing to say or do (as usual), the professor takes daring and courageous actions that change the trajectory of everything.