

"A gripping medical mystery and a dazzling portrait of the young scientist no one wanted to listen to ... a fabulous, essential read."

—REBECCA SKLOOT, author of  
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

THE STORY OF  
THE DOCTOR  
WHO INSPIRED  
THE MOVIE

# CONCUSSION



DR. BENNET OMALU DISCOVERED SOMETHING HE COULD  
NOT IGNORE. THE NFL DID NOT WANT THE WORLD TO HEAR IT.  
HIS COURAGE WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.

JEANNE MARIE LASKAS

Author of the *GQ* article "Game Brain," the basis of the  
major motion picture *Concussion*

Jeanne Marie Laskas

## Concussion



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NEW YORK TIMES one of my favorite authors on earth— The riveting, unlikely tale of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the pathologist who initially identified CTE in professional soccer players, a discovery that difficulties the living of America'd never intended. Jeanne Marie Laskas first met the adolescent forensic pathologist Dr.'s most powerful corporation: the NFL "Emily Bazelon, writer of *Sticks and Stones* Omalu told her about a day in September 2002, when, in a dingy morgue in downtown Pittsburgh, he picked up a scalpel and made a discovery that could rattle America in ways he's favourite sport and puts Omalu in the crosshairs of soccer'A gripping medical mystery and a dazzling portrait of the young scientist no one wanted to listen to . The body on the slab before him belonged to a fifty-year-old named Mike Webster, aka "Iron Mike,"" After retiring in 1990, Webster acquired suffered a dizzyingly steep decline.— How do this happen?, Omalu asked himself. How did a young man like Mike Webster end up such as this? The seek out answers would transformation Omalu's life forever and put him in the crosshairs of one of the most powerful corporations in America: the National Football League.s mental deterioration was zero accident but a disease caused by blows to the head that could impact everyone playing the game— A riveting, effective human being tale—Bennet Omalu forced soccer to reckon with head trauma. What Omalu discovered in Webster'was the one truth the NFL wanted to disregard. Taut, gripping, and gorgeously told, *Concussion* is the stirring story of 1 unlikely guy's decision to stand up to a multibillion-dollar colossus, and to tell the world the reality. Bennet Omalu' Compliment for *Concussion* " Omalu was not used to America, chasing the fantasy, a deeply spiritual man escaping the wounds of civil battle in Nigeria.and a grasp class on how to tell a story. . a fabulous, essential examine. Bennet Omalu in '09 2009, while reporting a tale for GQ s battle against the NFL is common David and Goliath stuff, and Jeanne Marie Laskas—t want you to listen to his story, but Jeanne Marie Laskas makes it unforgettable.The story of Dr. —BESTSELLER •helps it be as exciting as any great courtroom or gridiron drama.s human brain—. "—Charles Duhigg, author of *The Power of Habit* "evidence that Iron Mike' The NFL doesn'Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*" This reserve is gripping, eye-starting, and full of heart. a Hall of Fame center for the Pittsburgh Steelers, one of the biggest ever to play the game. Toward the finish of his lifestyle, he was living out of his van, tasing himself to alleviate his chronic discomfort, and fixing his rotting tooth with Super Glue.that could continue to inspire the movie *Concussion*.



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A fantastic scientific biography Even if you're very little of a soccer fan, you might remember some controversy a couple of years back when the NFL, met with evidence that their players were at risk of permanent brain damage, established some new rules intended to tone straight down the most severe of the inherent roughness of football and stop players who had sustained a head injury from going back onto the field until fully recovered. A lot of fans thought that was type of a sissy move: in the end, the violence of large, solidly-built males slamming into each other was part of the excitement of the game, and the chance of injury has always been component of any sport. In this case, however, the players actually hadn't experienced a position to make an informed decision about risks and rewards. Also heartbreaking that Omalu was not invited to the table for determining CTE. He felt angry at the world for being so hard to enter. The brain belonged to Hall of Famer "Iron Mike" Webster, who experienced, in the final years of his lifestyle, become progressively violent, irrational, and paranoid. The medical examiner, Bennet Omalu, was a Nigerian immigrant, driven and curious, protégé of the celebrated forensic pathologist Cyril Wecht. Good read. It's a true tale that, even without embellishment, reads just like the plot of a novel. NFL-paid physicians did all they could to denigrate Bennet's research.. Interesting to see Dr Omalu's response to . Laskas's portrait of the quirky neuropathologist, though not always flattering (Omalu could be inconsistent and naive), is suffused with warmth and admiration. The beginning, the middle and the rest of it are so interesting and written with such extreme page-turning suspense, I extremely encourage you to learn it. "Concussion" would be worthy of reading for the inherent interest of the story alone, but Laskas's presentation is, for the most part, a secured asset. As her Acknowledgements explain, she researched her story with the thoroughness of a journalist, but she relates it with the vividness and circulation of that occasionally enigmatic subgenre, the non-fiction novel. I highly recommended this reserve to every football lover especially African Americans." Unfortunately, I have a couple of minor quibbles with her style. Her alternating usage of past and present tenses in various chapters or parts of the reserve didn't really work for me. Done right, a change from past to provide tense can add tension and immediacy to a narrative, but there didn't appear to be any rule governing Laskas's decision to use one or the other, and it experienced a bit sloppy. . Despite this, Dr. (It is the former, but that's not made clear until the Acknowledgements.) I can't help attempting to call special focus on the wisdom and understanding Laskas brings to the parts of the reserve that describe Omalu's have a problem with depression as a young adult. Further, this book should be required reading - sort of a "warning label" - for individuals who would participate in NFL football, or any other get in touch with sport which involves repeated blows to the top - BEFORE they enter the arena. Seldom possess I read before, even in books specifically about the subject of depression, anything such as this: "Depression starts just like a membrane, a shield you can't pierce, the inner world therefore vivid and nagging, the exterior world right \*there\*, correct before you. Then, one day in 2002, a young medical examiner in Pittsburgh, functioning on a hunch, made a decision in the course of a routine autopsy to have a closer look at the brain of an expert football player. I was also mildly baffled by occasional passages imprinted in italics that seemed to be created in Dr. . It had been made into a movie. Major depression is like a virus festering in your mind, and the discovery of it could cripple before it treatments. . Two subjects I find interesting What an interesting book. . or feigned ignorance. The tale is certainly big and bold—how Bennet Omalu, a Nigerian-born physician with two medical degrees and a specialty area in forensic pathology, found out CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) as a cause of death in retired football players." That's some powerful stuff - and with black sufferers being not as likely than whites, and men less likely than women, to get treatment for depression, I cannot thank

Laskas and Omalu enough for giving the world the tale of a Nigerian guy who struggled for the reason that black fog for years, then emerged to perform great things. This non-fiction Book Reads Such as a Page-Turner of a Novel "This is non-fiction. Bennet Omalu, and his accent needs work, the movie does a great work of pointing out a concern that, I feel, the general public, was ignorant of." That's what I held reminding myself while reading this enthralling and spellbinding (nonfiction!) publication by Jeanne Marie Laskas. Of course, it really is nonfiction.) reads like a novel—therefore much in order that at times, I shook my head thinking "THAT would never happen. . The tone of voice follows you no matter where you proceed, reminding you that you will be worthless. Translation: The continuous head pounding—also without ever getting a concussion—that is part of the video game of football can cause brain deterioration and severe character changes. CTE is certainly fatal; It's nonfiction. What the reader must decide is whether the game of football is worth watching, taking into consideration the implications to players, which are described in this publication. Jeanne Marie Laskas has never created a novel, but she's famous for her innovative, intimate narrative non-fiction - and now she has turned the literary gifts that served her so well over the course of a trilogy of memoirs to the tale of sports activities and science. Thank goodness for his persistence. And since facts are a lot more formidable than falsities, information eventually won, but not without a big price for all involved—especially Bennet. Jeanne Marie Laskas is such an amazingly gifted writer that the book (non-fiction! It produced big headlines. It DID happen. it really is directly linked to the deaths or suicides of multiple former NFL players." Oh, wait around..) reserve ends. Although Omalu's focus on chronic traumatic encephalopathy, what I'd picked up the book to read about to begin with, is hardly alluded to in the first 85 pages, therefore engaging is Laskas's accounts of her subject's early existence and education, and so quickly did the webpages of smooth prose appear to change themselves, that I barely noticed the delay. Interesting and Disturbing for Those Who Enjoy - and Play - Football Educational and disturbing reading for anybody who enjoys American soccer, even worse for those who play, and themselves. Writer Jeanne Marie Laskas also paints detailed and sympathetic biography of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the Nigerian-American pathologist who uncovered and defined CTE – Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy. Omalu initial discovered what goes on to brain cells after repeated concussions sustained in nearly all soccer players, after analyzing the brain tissue of former Pittsburgh Steelers player Mike Webster, and other pro football players. Five Stars Excellent and well crafted A fantastic read A fantastic read especially if you have medically oriented interests or appreciate someone who fights for those who can't combat for themselves. Omalu's personal voice, unsure whether we were holding truly Omalu's own words or Laskas's innovative reconstruction of his way of thinking. Good read. Repeated throughout this book is the truth that helmets - regardless of how protective - do not protect the mind itself from getting smashed up against the skull. The consequences these injuries - some not really detected for a long time - is often devastating. Of course, the NFL was outraged. Will need to browse Dr. Like Gladiatorial Video games in historic Roman coliseums, one must appear away to enjoy and engage. I don't know whether Laskas (or someone very near her) has actually suffered from major depression, or if she just listened to Omalu's own accounts with unusual empathy, but I could say for certain that she \*gets\* it. Thought provoking and inspiring I thoroughly enjoyed scanning this informative and insightful book. I'll watch a football game with a different perspective. I'll think about the thousands of athletes risking their lives to the "game". I am 40% Nigerian, so I was immersed in Omalu's family and culture. Instead of dumping details on us, she frequently recreates occasions and conversations "as accurately as an informed imagination will allow. Informative! Good to know the annals in back of what established the

concussion protocol in the NFL. Heartbreaking these youthful retired soccer players suffered and eventually ending their lives. Anecdotal evidence and independent studies of the consequences of multiple concussions in rats acquired suggested for a long time that what occurred on the soccer field couldn't possibly be best for the brain, but the NFL quickly arranged its own team of experts, and they insisted there is no risk. What he uncovered in Webster's brain would set in place a chain of events that would ruin professions, expose cover-ups, and very most likely save lives. Omalu's tale - but even they could find this lively little book a genial health supplement to the more comprehensive or technical literature..Don't worry in the event that you know how this (nonfiction! Omalu persisted and continuing to do his analysis, publicizing his studies (which are ongoing). Interesting to find Dr Omalu's response to the sports activities industry's denial of the reality of CTE. Think that a real-existence David and Goliath, but instead of a slingshot filled with rocks, Bennet got slides of human brain cells proving something horrendous really was occurring. Whatever justification one may use, the answers are protected in "Concussion". Omalu's book "Truth Doesn't Have a Side". however the book was amazing. . The scenes of the various ball players struggling with a madness they couldn't understand was most psychological.. While Will Smith looks nothing like Dr. Bennet Omalu While Will Smith looks nothing like Dr. This is nonfiction. Two subjects I find interesting, football and medical mysteries. Visitors interested solely in the medical and/or legal aspects of the NFL head-trauma controversy might well be advised to appear somewhere else, as "Concussion" is first and foremost Dr. Major depression isn't a thing that lifts or disappears because of a change of scenery. I never saw the movie, however the reserve was amazing. The debate will rage on about how exactly old a child ought to be before participating in the activity, and precisely how safe it really is. The movie is eyes opening and really worth your time. More disturbing than what Omalu discovers is usually thereaction of the National Soccer Group, which tried for years to deny and dismiss Omalu's findings.



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