

Chapter 1 : The Diving Bell and the Butterfly - Jean-Dominique Bauby - Google Books

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Plot summary[ edit ] On December 8, 1995, Bauby, the editor-in-chief of French *Elle* magazine, suffered a stroke and lapsed into a coma. He awoke 20 days later, mentally aware of his surroundings, but physically paralyzed with what is known as locked-in syndrome, with the only exception of some movement in his head and eyes. His right eye had to be sewn up due to an irrigation problem. The entire book was written by Bauby blinking his left eyelid, which took ten months four hours a day. The book took about 10,000 blinks to write and an average word took approximately two minutes. The book also chronicles everyday events for a person with locked-in syndrome. These events include playing at the beach with his family, getting a bath, and meeting visitors while in hospital at Berck-sur-Mer. On March 9, 1996, two days after the book was published, Bauby died of pneumonia. Please help improve it by removing unnecessary details and making it more concise. January Learn how and when to remove this template message Prologue: Jean-Dominique Bauby begins by detailing his rousing in room at the Maritime Hospital at Berck the morning a year after the stroke that led to his locked-in syndrome. He recalls the days that followed and the resulting limitations: He is visited by many medical professionals. There are only 2 patients at Berck that have locked-in syndrome. His case is unique in that he maintains the ability to turn his head. He hopes to improve his respiration and regain his ability to eat without a gastric tube; as well as possibly to be able to speak again. His friends and family have dedicated to all kinds of religions and spiritual deities on his recovery, and he has assigned specific parts of his body to some too. He has lost 60 pounds in twenty weeks. He notes that he has more mobilization in his head as he can rotate it 90 degrees. He recounts that even with limited facial expression, he still has varying emotions each time he is cleaned or given a bath. He describes the creation, use, and precision of the alphabet he uses to communicate. He ordered the letters from the most common to the least in the French language. His visitors read the alphabet and when he hears the letter he wishes for them to write down, he blinks his left eye. This is not without its challenges though. Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III, was the patroness of the hospital, which contains various depictions of her. He tells of an imperial visit on May 4, 1905, where he imagines himself beside her. In one of the depictions, he sees a reflection that he finds disfigured but then realizes that it is his. The author says Berck, the hospital, focused primarily on the care of young tuberculosis patients following the Second World War. He refers to Tourists as those who spend a short time in the hospital following injuries such as broken limbs. For him, the best place to observe this is in the rehabilitation room and the interactions he has with these patients. His only taste of food is in his memories where he imagines himself cooking dishes. One food is the sausage which connects to a memory from his childhood. The author refers to Sandrine, his speech therapist, who has developed this communication code for him. He undergoes speech therapy with her and is in the process of regaining vocal language. The last time the author saw his father was a week before his stroke where he had shaved him. He describes his aging father in this chapter. He receives calls from his father from time to time. He recalls a photograph from his father on the back of which was written Berck-sur-Mer, April 1954. As this character is on a wheelchair and must blink to communicate, Noirtier might be the first case of locked-in syndrome in literature. The author would like to write a modern take of this classic, where Monte Cristo is a woman. He recounts a dream in which he and his friend, Bernard, are trudging through thick snow as they try to return to France even as it is paralyzed by a general strike. Then Bernard and he have an appointment with an influential Italian businessman whose headquarters are in the pillar of a viaduct. Upon entering the headquarters, he meets the watchman Radovan Karadzic, a Serbian leader. Bernard tells that the author is having trouble breathing and the Serbian leader performs a tracheotomy on him. They have drinks at the headquarters and he discovers that he has been drugged. The police arrive and as everyone tries to escape, he finds himself unable to move - only a door separates him from freedom. He tries to call for his friends but he cannot speak, realizing that reality has permeated the dream. He

awakens one morning to find a doctor sewing his right eyelid shut, as the eyelid no longer functions and risks an ulceration of his right cornea. He mulls over how, like a pressure cooker, he must contain a delicate balance of resentment and anger which leads him to the suggestion of a play he may base on his experiences, though the man in the play will have a final scene where he gets up and walks, but a voice says, "Damn! It was only a dream! He describes a day where, for half an hour, the alarm on the machine that regulates his feeding tube has been beeping non-stop, his sweat has unglued the tape on his right eyelid causing his eyelashes to tickle his eye, and the end of his urinary catheter has come off and he is drenched. A nurse ends up finally coming in. Our Very Own Madonna: The author tells the story of his pilgrimage to Lourdes with Josephine in the s. During the trip, he argued with Josephine repeatedly. Later, while traveling through the town, the two see a statue of the Madonna, the Holy Virgin. He buys it for her although later they know they will separate. He attempts to read the book, *The Trace of the Serpent*, he notices that Josephine has written a letter on every page, so that collectively they read: Be kind to your poor Josephine. They head to the beach outside the hospital. He observes his children but is filled with sorrow as he cannot touch his son. They spend their day on the beach until it is time for his children to go. His old life burns within him like a dying ember. Since his stroke, he has traveled twice to Paris. The second time though, about four months later, he felt indifferent but knew nothing was missing except for him. He recounts the opening to a letter he has sent to friends and associates, about sixty people, which make up the first words of his monthly letter from Berck. In his absence, rumors in Paris said that he had turned into a vegetable, of which he wished to dispel. This monthly letter allows him to communicate with his loved ones, the letters he receives in return he reads himself and keeps like a treasure. Weeks or months have passed since Bauby has ventured outside the hospital. On this day, he is accompanied by his old friend, Brice, and Claude, the person who he is dictating the book to. Though the journey is rough on his butt and winding, he keeps moving toward his goal. Meanwhile, he contemplates how his universe is divided into those who knew him before the stroke and all others. Drawing closer to his destination, he sees Fangio, a patient of the hospital who cannot sit so he must remain standing or laying down. He tells two stories in this chapter: Over a decade ago, Vincent and he had gone to a race where it was rumored the horse Mirtha-Grandchamp would win. They had both planned to bet on the horse but the betting counter had closed before they were able to make a bet. The horse ends up winning. Bauby has hearing problems. His right ear is completely blocked whereas his left distorts all sound that is more than ten feet away. The loud activities and patients of the hospital hurt his ears, but once they are gone, he can hear butterflies in his head. Bauby dreads Sundays as there as no visitors of any sort, friends or hospital staff, besides the rare nurse. The hours stretch and he is left to contemplate. The Ladies of Hong Kong: He loves traveling and has banks of memories and smells to recall. The one place he has not visited though is Hong Kong, as various events would keep him from going. He imagines his colleagues there and how his assumed superstitious nature of the culture would treat him. He contrasts the cafeteria population to his side of the hospital. Then, mentions a typewriter that sits with a blank pink empty slip. He is convinced that a message will be on it for him one day and he waits. At the Wax Museum: The museum has changed a lot and is distorted. Rather than contemporaries figures, the various personnel he encounters in the hospitable adorn the museum. He has given them all nicknames. He then goes on to the next exhibit which is a recreation of his hospital room excepts his pictures and posters on his wall contain stills of people he recognizes. He is then woken by a nurse asking if he wants his sleeping pill. The author tells of an old schoolyard friend, Olivier, known for his runaway mythomania where he would claim to have spent his Sunday with Johnny Hallyday, gone to London to see the new James Bond, or had been driving the latest Honda. He describes the day of his stroke, Friday, December 8, As he traveled to work, he listened to the Beatles song, *A Day in the Life*. He makes it near where his sister-in-law, Diane, who is a nurse, lives.

**Chapter 2 : The Diving Bell and the Butterfly - Washington County Cooperative Library Services - OverDrive**

*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly is a must read kind of book. Its author did not write it in a conventional way. Jean-Dominique Bauby, a 43 year old French man, who was the editor chief of Elle magazine in France, wrote this book with his eyelid.*

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*About Author Jean-Dominique Bauby: The writer of "The Diving-Bell and the Butterfly" is a French author. Not just a very*

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*good author but Jean-Dominique Bauby is a very good actor and editor as well.*

### Chapter 4 : The Diving Bell and the Butterfly: A Memoir of Life in Death by Jean-Dominique Bauby

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*Bauby died on March 9, , two days after the French publication of The Diving Bell and the Butterfly. He was the father of two children, Theophile and Celeste. He was the father of two children, Theophile and Celeste.*