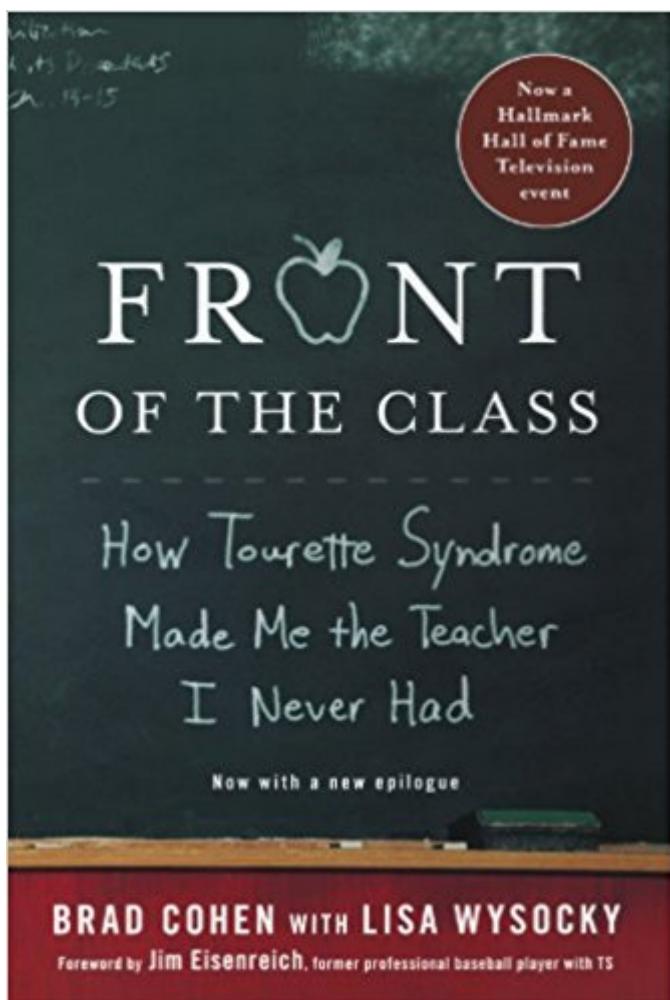


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# Front Of The Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me The Teacher I Never Had



## Synopsis

As a child with Tourette syndrome, Brad Cohen was ridiculed, beaten, mocked, and shunned. Children, teachers, and even family members found it difficult to be around him. As a teen, he was viewed by many as purposefully misbehaving, even though he had little power over the twitches and noises he produced, especially under stress. Even today, Brad is sometimes ejected from movie theaters and restaurants. But Brad Cohen's story is not one of self-pity. His unwavering determination and fiercely positive attitude conquered the difficulties he faced in school, in college, and while job hunting. Brad never stopped striving, and after twenty-four interviews, he landed his dream job: teaching grade school and nurturing all of his students as a positive, encouraging role model. *Front of the Class* tells his inspirational story.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“This is a story for every underdog, for everyone who has ever stumbled in life, for anyone who thinks life has dealt them a little more than they can handle.” Jim Eisenreich, former Major League Baseball player with Tourette’s “Thank you, Brad, for your determination, your spirit, your compassion, and your perseverance, and thank you for daring to share it with all of us.” Susan Conners, Education Specialist, Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc. “Brad Cohen has turned Tourette syndrome into an asset, and his life into inspiration.” Senator Johnny Isakson, Georgia “This book provides a genuine and heartfelt message of hope in the face of a potentially devastating disorder.”

Ã¢â€¢ Neal Adams, MD, MPH, Psychiatric Services, Journal of the American Psychiatric AssociationÃ¢â€¢ “Strongly recommended reading . . . Front of the Class is the remarkable story of a remarkable man who learned to deal with a marked and all too remarkable affliction.”  
Ã¢â€¢ Midwest Book Review, Reviewer’s ChoiceÃ¢â€¢ “This story of how a child with severe obstacles to learning triumphed as Georgia’s First Class Teacher of the Year is a testimony to the indestructibility of the human spirit.”  
Ã¢â€¢ ForeWord MagazineÃ¢â€¢ “Brad Cohen’s story is a triumph of hope, determination, will, and relentless good humor. His approach to living with Tourette syndrome proves how much is possible when you expect the best of everyone, especially yourself.”  
Ã¢â€¢ Peter J. Hollenbeck, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Head of Biological Sciences, Purdue UniversityÃ¢â€¢ “Front of the Class is not just a book about Tourette syndrome. It is a courageous and touching account of one young man’s difficulties and triumphs in life.”  
Ã¢â€¢ Sheryl K. Pruitt, M.Ed., Clinical Director, Parkaire Consultants and coauthor of Teaching the Tiger and Understanding Tourette Syndrome: A Handbook for Educators

BRAD COHEN is a motivational speaker, teacher and author, and the recipient of Georgia’s First Class Teacher of the Year award. He founded a camp for children with Tourette’s, and has appeared on Oprah. In 2006, Front of the Class won the Independent Publisher’s Education Book of the Year Award. Brad’s life is the subject of a Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie. Coauthor LISA WYSOCKY is an author, motivational speaker, and owner of a public-relations firm.

I had to read this book for my special education class. It was a joy to read! I was able to learn about a disorder along with the things that come with it while making a new friend. The book is written in such a way that you feel as if you and Brad are good friends by the end of it and his Tourette’s are barely prevalent. In addition, you gain the perspective of someone else’s teaching philosophy while hearing about actual incidents that have occurred in the school system. This is a book I believe should easily be a standard in all education curriculums, not just the general education (elementary school education curriculum.) Thank you for writing this book, Brad.

This is maybe one of the most uplifting books I have read in years. Well written and a subject I was only slightly familiar with.

This is a most awesome gentleman! Always had a positive attitude even when treated badly. Loved this story and will buy the movie.

It teaches you to achieve your dreams and to go above and beyond in order to achieve them. It teaches you to not be discouraged and to not let anything out there stop you from achieving your dreams. It's an inspiring story to embrace your disability in life and turn it into an ability. Thanks so much for sharing such a beautiful story with others, to encourage us to keep moving forward and to never let anything get us down or stop us, in our race for achieving a good life. Thanks again, it means a lot. And the book was suspenseful and lots of fun to read.

Brad Cohen is positive and an exuberant personality. He has his life-time companion which is called Tourette Syndrome (TS). When he was 7 years old, he started making noises and barking as well as jerking and twitching his face, neck and part of his body. When he was young, he and his family didn't know about TS. His doctor suggested that he could stop his tics intentionally. Brad was not able to control his tics and there was no cure. Because of this he had hard time at school and until 12 years old, he had no friends in his life. His school teachers didn't believe him so that he often was sent to the Principal's office. However, his mother and his younger brother always supported Brad and they moved when he was 12 years old. Brad and Jeff began to attend a new school. However, teachers of the new school were the same. When Brad was sent to the Principal's office, however this Principal listened to Brad and believed him and gave a chance to explain his situation in front of the teachers and students. Before, he had no friends, and no one wanted to eat lunch with him. So he had never eaten lunch with someone at the cafeteria until he became 12 years old. The Principal who accepted Brad and the other ignorant teachers who didn't believe Brad's TS became the strongest incentive for him to become a teacher. He wanted to become a teacher who accepts children as they are. Brad had also difficult time when applied for a job in Atlanta, Georgia. I don't want to share it here, but his positive thoughts and perseverance resolved this and became a teacher. He proved himself that he was very good at teaching and received the First Class Teacher of the Year award in the state of Georgia. You should read this book.

Brad is an expert on Tourette Syndrome because he lives it every day. He has had life experiences with tourette since he was young. He knows the challenges and obstacles that have to be overcome because of Tourette Syndrome. He can treat every child with respect and give them the dignity that they deserve just because every child should be treated that way. He had risen to great heights because of his ability to project his intelligence despite Tourette. A lesson well taught by this man. Thank you for all you have done for those that have suffered. Sharon Corbett

Very informative book about the misunderstandings of disabilities, specifically Tourette Syndrome

I have a 13 year old boy with TS who read this book in school. I read it also and have since purchased it for our library and school library. Brad Cohen is a Pollyanna of sorts in that despite negative attitudes, feedback and obstacles, he stayed positive and always looked for the good that comes out of a situation. He is an inspiration whether or not you have a disability. We should all practice his positive and resilient attitude. This is A MUST READ FOR EVERY EDUCATOR! TS effects approx. 1 in 200 children. There is no cure and medication does not always work. The Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie that was made from the book is excellent and captures the spirit of Brad and his family. A MUST READ!

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