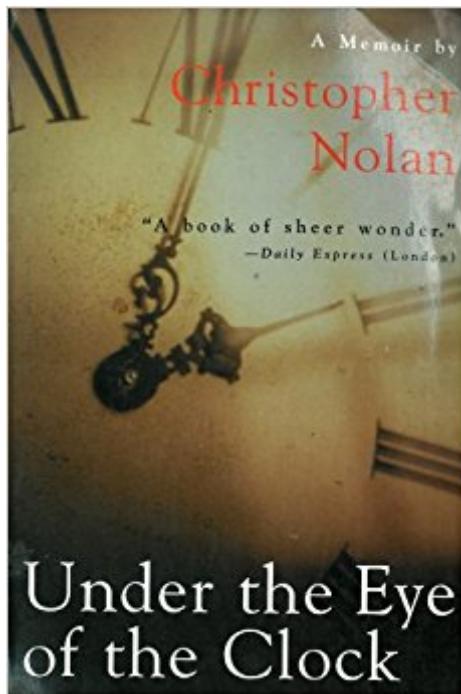


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# Under The Eye Of The Clock: A Memoir



## **Synopsis**

Christopher Nolan's injuries at birth left him severely disabled and handicapped; he was entirely paralyzed and unable to communicate, but he had so much to say and was burning to express his innermost thoughts and ideas and share them with the world. Nolan's autobiography told in the third person through a narrator named Joseph Meehan is an astonishingly lyrical and inspired work, filled with powerful description and touching moments of triumph, sadness, anger, and above all disarming wit. Nolan's story has a touching and breathtaking intensity, whether recounting his battle with local authorities to attend an ordinary school, going on a "normal" vacation, or his ultimate triumph of finally being able to share the insight and whimsy of his inner world. Filled with linguistic puzzles, this bestseller in Britain and the United States and Whitbread Prize winner features a unique voice that comes from a deep place many will never understand, but that is enrapturing nevertheless.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A remarkable work by several measures, Under the Eye of the Clock is the autobiography--told slyly through a third person alter-ego--of Christopher Nolan, struck at birth with brain damage and left paralyzed, spastic and mute. His first book, *Dam-Burst of Dreams*, written when he was a teen, was a collection of poems that exploded with linguistic virtuosity, earning him comparisons to Joyce and Yeats. Nolan, whose disability requires that someone cup his chin while he pushes a head-mounted pointer at the keyboard, tells here of battles in an un-handicapped world, the heroic efforts of his

family and the sights of Ireland that surround him. The book won England's Whitbread prize. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Severely disabled by congenital cerebral palsy, Irish poet Nolan was 15 years old when he was acclaimed "a brilliantly gifted young writer" in the tradition of Yeats and Joyce. Now 21, he writes a memoir in the guise of an alter ego, Joseph Meehan. As he speaks of Joseph, "locked for years in the coffin of his body," paralyzed and mute, we are made aware of Nolan's herculean efforts and those of his family to release him from his isolation. A major breakthrough occurs when he is able to use a typewriter, then a word processor, working the keyboard with a stick affixed to his head. His physical triumphs and defeats are recorded with a striking absence of self-pity. In passages that are lyrically descriptive, there is abundant word coinage and expressive neologisms that capture Nolan's thoughts on sexuality and gratitude for the ambiance that supported him during his year at Trinity College. As Carey, his professor, states in the preface, Nolan's handicap is "a positive factor" rather than a modifying condition in his impressive achievement. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A master piece!! I have a daughter who became handicapped when she was 15 y and I could relate with the writer when he says that people looked at him differently or talked to him as a third person as he couldn't understand. And is exactly what they do to her. He is also have an awesome sense of humor!!

A genius author, who struggled through unbelievable difficulties to express his extremely outstanding and talented personality. It could be a unique book for handicapped children's parents.

Reading a book by this determined young man offers insight into the world of persons with additional challenges. Undaunted, he found his way, making friends, meeting success. How I wish all people in the world had such a supportive and delightful family. Some of his alliterations were over-the-top and distracting from his point but overall, the book is a must-read for anyone with concerns for people facing physical challenges.

I found my way to this book after I had read "The Banyan Tree" by Christopher Nolan. This was a book that I read and reviewed back in February, and ever since I have been mystified why the book never seemed to gain the wide acceptance of readers. All of the reviews that have been posted by

readers for "The Banyan Tree" have been 5 star reviews, and the same is the case for "Under The Eye Of The Clock". If you read you understand how difficult it is to write anything, much less a full book, and then have it selected for and win a prestigious award. In the case of the book I review now it was the 1987 Whitbred Award that was awarded to Mr. Nolan. All very impressive, but that's just the start. This is an autobiography written by a very young man who next wrote the book "The Banyan Tree" and would take 12 years to do so. This is a painfully candid, but uplifting book about a man with the support of a wonderful Family overcomes extreme realities that are his life to become an Author of international renown. Mr. Nolan cannot speak, he can barely move at all. He types with what he calls his "Unicorn Stick" that he wears on his head, and even then his head must be supported while he works. An Autobiography is a courageous work if honestly presented. When you add Mr. Nolan's additional challenges he faces as a writer, and as a person living with his physical issues it becomes an extraordinary autobiographical book. I hope more readers find Mr. Nolan, he is a unique writer of immense talent, and if you pass by his work you deprive yourself of great literature.

The book was practically new and trying to read it I understand why.

This book is a must read for anyone interested in biographies, for starters. Anyone interested in medical issues or illness also would like it. I found it riveting, inspirational, and just plain interesting.

Interesting story! I read this book for a course in college and had to present on it. Really makes you think, before you judge anyone with a disability. This man is remarkable!

Greast book. Received in excellent condition.

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