

Molly's Story

as told by her mother, Susan Inman

Susan Inman was an English and drama teacher in Vancouver when her younger daughter Molly developed one of the most severe cases of schizoaffective disorder that Vancouver psychiatrists had ever seen. For two years Molly was profoundly psychotic despite hospitalizations and many different treatments. She lost most of her cognitive functions. Some psychiatrists predicted she would have to be institutionalized for life.

Then came the breakthrough: a new medication strategy -- clozapine -- freed Molly from a psychosis she described as a living hell. What followed was a nine-year journey of recovery.

Susan wrote about it in her memoir, *After Her Brain Broke: Helping My Daughter Recover Her Sanity* (2010). Psychiatrist E. Fuller Torrey called it "one of the best accounts I have read of serious mental illness as told by a mother." In 2012, Susan received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions to improving services for people with serious mental illness.

Molly's story is a reminder that "treatment-resistant" is not the same as "untreatable" -- and that families who refuse to give up can get their children back.

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