



# The Brand New Catastrophe

*Mike Scalise*

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**The Brand New Catastrophe** Mike Scalise

**Winner of the Center for Fiction's Doheny Prize**

Raucous family memoir meets medical adventure in this heartfelt, hilarious book exploring the public and private theaters of illness. After a tumor bursts in Mike Scalise's brain, leaving him with a hole in the head and malfunctioning hormones, he must navigate a new, alien world of illness maintenance. His mother, who has a chronic heart condition and a flair for drama, becomes a complicated model as she competes with him for the status of "best sick person." *The Brand New Catastrophe* is a moving, funny exploration of how we define ourselves by the stories we choose to tell.

**Mike Scalise's** work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Agni*, *Indiewire*, *The Paris Review* Daily, and elsewhere. He has received fellowships and scholarships from Bread Loaf, Yaddo, the Ucross Foundation, and was the Philip Roth Writer in Residence at Bucknell University. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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