Synopsis

'The Man who Lost His Language’ is a compelling exploration of aphasia - the loss of language - as well as of the resilience of love. When Sir John Hale suffered a stroke that left him unable to walk, write or speak, his wife, Shelia, followed every available medical trail seeking knowledge of his condition and how he might be restored to health. Bringing the story up to date, this revised edition includes additional information about updates in science and medicine since the first edition was published. This personal account of one couple’s experiences will be of interest to all those who want to know more about aphasia and related conditions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sheila Hale’s in depth analysis of the emotional and physical toll that surrounded her husband John’s stroke will enlighten and lift the spirits of those who take care of a loved one suffering from a stroke. The topic of aphasia has not been well known on a physiological basis; however, the emotional consequences have been pushed out of thought. This 247-page book does a wonderful job of connecting the physiological and emotional aspects of handling a loved one suffering from stroke-induced aphasia. Thus, the amount of passion felt by Sheila does not outweigh the amount of information she provides about stroke and aphasia victims. Overall, the book is education for the mind and inspiration for the spirit. Although the book starts out as a tribute to John’s life, it is very uneventful. John Hale was a gentleman and scholar before the "accident." He was greatly interested in natural history at a young age and volunteered for a Royal Air Force mission to study the mating
activities of falcons in Whales. In addition, he focused his effort in studying Renaissance art by writing books, giving lectures, and charming the world with his talks on radio and TV. After teaching history at London University and becoming a chair of the Trustees of the National Gallery, he was knighted in 1984. Furthermore, he retired from teaching to focus on writing. He wrote his masterpiece, The Civilization of Europe in the Renaissance, in 1992 at the age of 69 proving that he was still interested in scholarly pursuits. Unfortunately, a month after publishing his masterpiece, John was found on the floor of his study after suffering a stroke. If the reader is still reading, the main story starts about 40 pages into the book and starts to become more interesting.

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The Man Who Lost His Language: A Case of Aphasia 
