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Von Kate Scannell

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"This haunting memoir is an important addition to the canon of AIDS literature. Scannell writes beautifully and with an insight that escapes most physicians."

—Abraham Verghese, author of *The Tennis Partner* and *My Own Country*

DEATH OF THE GOOD DOCTOR

I stumbled into this position with a stuttering grace, an ambivalence about working with the dying, and a dread of caring for injection drug users. When I left, I felt as though I

Lessons from the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic

had experienced, for the first time, genuine gratitude and profound joy

in my work as a physician.



KATE SCANNELL, M.D.

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Von Kate Scannell : Death of the Good Doctor -- Lessons from the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death of the Good Doctor -- Lessons from the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. OutstandingVon glomaell have rarely read such an intelligent , wise and deeply touching book. I like very much doctor's memoirs and have seen a lot of them. But his account of the author's experiences as an AIDS- doctor in the

late Eighties is absolutely outstanding, psychologically finely crafted, heartwarming and deeply honest. A 100% must read!!!!0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. I want her to be my doctor when I die.Von Ein KundeWhat a wonderful set of truths Scannell reveals in her experiences of caring for dying patients. Honest, raw, funny experiences that shed light into a world few of us can ever know. How great, too, that she "expands the traditional narrative" of physicians' lives.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A beautiful and mesmerizing book.Von Ein KundeBeautifully written and mesmerizing stories. It's extraordinary, and even reassuring, to read the reflections of a doctor who is so carefully aware of the human and spiritual depths of the doctor-patient relationship. It's unforgettable and shouldn't be missed.

KurzbeschreibungDEATH OF THE GOOD DOCTOR LESSONS FROM THE HEART OF THE AIDS EPIDEMICA memoir by Kate Scannell, MDKate Scannell abandoned her academic career in 1985 to enter an ordinary medical practice in Northern California. Instead, the thirty-two-year-old physician found herself assigned to a county hospital AIDS ward where much of the medicine she has studied over many difficult years was rendered irrelevant.Working with AIDS patients, nearly all of whom are dying, Scannell discovers the inadequacy of the "good" doctor who battles illness to keep patients alive regardless of their suffering. By embracing her patients unique needs and particular stories, Scannell reaches an expanded understanding of her patients and of herself as a physician. DEATH OF THE GOOD DOCTOR richly chronicles the intimacy of Scannell's relationships with her patients through whom the vast complexities of the epidemic are uniquely focused. It is through these beautiful, often difficult, and sometimes humorous portraits that the woman and the physician discover each other.Originally published in paperback, 1999. e-Publication 2010.This haunting memoir is an important addition to the canon of AIDS literature. Scannell writes beautifully and with an insight that escapes most physicians.ABRAHAM VERGHESE, AUTHOR OF MY OWN COUNTRY AND CUTTING FOR STONEKate Scannell is the rare doctor who has been transformed by her patients. In this irresistible, informative, and enormously moving book, she tells us not only her own story, but theirs.GLORIA STEINEMWhen Kate Scannell began work with AIDS patients in 1985, her idea of a good doctor was one who saved lives, not lost them, one who used state-of-the-art technological intervention to battle disease no matter what the cost. Now, in an enormously moving, thoughtful and compassionate memoir, she recounts how she discarded her traditional medical training and learned how to rely on her own sensibilities. Death of the Good Doctor: Lessons from the Heart of the AIDS Epidemic is the story of more than a dozen of Scannell's patients, the differing demands that each brought, and the relationships that developed. The individuals that she met on the ward, she writes, shook me, stunned me, alarmed me, twisted me, righted me, tricked me, and amazed me. Their stories do the same for us, and some even make us laugh.ROBERT ARMSTRONG, THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR/TRIBUNEThis is one of the most startling and beautifully written books I've ever read from a doctor.Scannell begins to interact with patients in ways that take us deep into the psyches of caretaker and sufferer until we don't know which is which. Since she announces at the beginning and end her personal journey with cancer (the news is broken the day after she leaves her five-year tenure on the AIDS ward), Scannell's recollections are tinged with a sense of time slowing way down, of mindfulness exploring each detail of life's last events, of an enlarged respect for each person's unique manner of passage and joy.PAT HOLT, NORTHERN CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION ALSO BY THE AUTHOR: Flood Stage A Novel (2010).deAn elegant and touching account of her tenure as clinical director of a county hospital's AIDS ward at the height of the epidemic (1985 to 1990), Kate Scannell's Death of the Good Doctor records her journey from the aggressive, invasive, never-say-die medicine that she had been trained to perform to a more compassionate, realistic practice in which she might be just as likely to prescribe fresh pastries or an outing as she would antibiotics or extensive laboratory tests. Structured around the stories of 11 of her most memorable patients, Scannell's narrative skillfully conjures the panic years of the AIDS crisis--political squabbles, public indifference, and the roller coaster of medical "breakthroughs" that proved dangerous or ineffective--always returning to the individual and the small acts of kindness that make a difference to the terminally ill. Her own recent diagnosis with cancer adds a poignancy to her reflections that is not lost on Scannell. Writing of AIDS years after leaving her post and returning to research, she explains that she is "moving between grief and acceptance of this disease": "After a dark period of responding to so much suffering and death with unmitigated grief and defiance, I have been able finally to find some peace, walking more comfortably, day-to-day, alongside the certainty of my own death." --Regina Marler.comAn elegant and touching account of her tenure as clinical director of a county hospital's AIDS ward at the height of the epidemic (1985 to 1990), Kate Scannell's Death of the Good Doctor records her journey from the aggressive, invasive, never-say-die medicine that she had been trained to perform to a more compassionate, realistic practice in which she might be just as likely to prescribe fresh pastries or an outing as she would antibiotics or extensive laboratory tests. 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