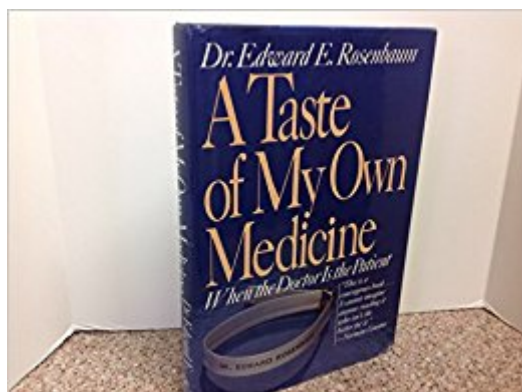


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A Taste Of My Own Medicine: When The Doctor Is The Patient



Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There's nothing unusual about a patient venting spleen at the doctor, but in this instance the patient is a doctor. And with his forceful, angry book he establishes himself as a "patient advocate," for during his own recent medical treatment, rheumatologist Rosenbaum "learned more about handling the seriously ill . . . than in 50 years of practice." His comment gives the reader pause: not only is the author a physician, his Portland, Ore., group practice includes two sons and his brother (another son and two daughters-in-law are also doctors). Rosenbaum, stricken with cancer of the larynx, kept a journal during his therapy and reading it, one wonders if sheer cussedness alone caused his cancer to go into remission. He records his threats to bring a malpractice suit against the doctors who misdiagnosed his affliction for nine months, rails against the indifference of those administering his X-ray treatments, expresses his resentment at his radiologist's lack of compassion. Rosenbaum has strong opinions as well about medicine's turn toward big-business techniques, the profit motive, cost-effectiveness; criticizes insurance carriers, Medicare and Medicaid. His rancor will be a bitter pill to the brethren. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I was interested in this book because I saw the movie "The Doctor", which I very much enjoyed, so I was quite surprised by some of the changes made for the movie, not just the human interest/personal relationship side of the story, but also some of the medical details and treatment results. However, I also enjoyed the book. Dr. Rosenbaum has a very accessible, unpretentious

style, making the medical issues easy for the layperson to understand. Like the (somewhat different) doctor in the movie (well-played by William Hurt), Dr. Rosenbaum obviously did take to heart the experience of being a patient and seeing cancer diagnosis and treatment from that side, and I think we could still learn from some of his observations. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in how our health care system works. Dr. Rosenbaum gives a daily diary of his experiences in radiation therapy for cancer of the larynx, as well as an interesting narrative of the factors that led to the delay in getting an accurate diagnosis. He supplements this with many anecdotes and reflections from his long career as a doctor and from the practices of other doctors he knows. The story is scary but well worth reading.

I found a cheap copy somewhere and snapped it up, used. It's about 25 years old but still appropriate for medicine today. I loved it and gave it my own doctor as a gift -- he'd heard of it but never got to it. (Doctor in the hospital himself, for tests and treatment, delays, bills, all that good fun.) In fact you may not wish to read this if you have some hospital time planned, as it may cause you to be quite impatient (no pun meant) with the system, and uncomfortable with some of what goes on. We hope that hospital procedures are better than when the book was written, but I'm not entirely sure....good read, though!

Having failed to find a copy in UK, made it possible for me to purchase a copy from USA and I am happy to review it. Quite simply any who would dare to practise medicine should be given this book as required reading. Written by a doctor with vast experience, who passed away last year, it is treatment from the 'patient angle'. Our doctor realises what has been lacking in his makeup as he struggles to understand his role as a cancer patient. He comes to understand how easy it is to treat the patient as a case number rather than a frightened and lonely human being. Such is the power of this book that it was translated very positively to the big screen. William Hurt starred in 'The Doctor' as a brilliant but arrogant surgeon who becomes a patient. How he deals with it and what he learns from it remain faithful to the book. As I say, I would make this essential reading for anyone who dares to undertake the healing of another person.

Even though I am not in the medical profession, I found this book extremely interesting. I could not put it down till I read the whole book. It is fascinating.

Dr. Edward was my mother's surgeon. Interesting read.

Thank you

I bought this book for the Dr I work for. I thought he was lacking a little compassion for his patients.

I read this book because I loved the movie, "The Doctor". The book has little resemblance to the movie. It is a factual account of the treatment for cancer by a doctor. There is little romance, no conflict with the wife and the patient played by Elizabeth Perkins only has passing mention. Having said that the book is very interesting and I learned a lot about medicine. Do not compare it to the movie.

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