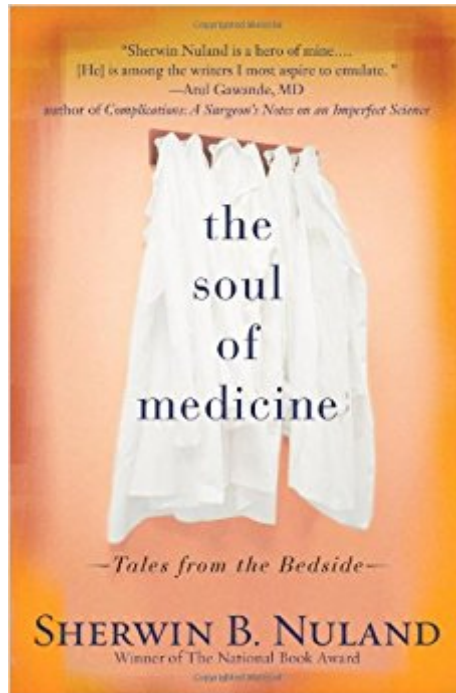


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# The Soul Of Medicine: Tales From The Bedside



## Synopsis

Like all doctors, Sherwin Nuland collects stories, and over thirty years in the practice of surgery, he has collected a consider number of both his own stories as well as the stories of surgeons he has worked with and admires. The remarkable stories told in this book are filled with the lessons of humanity. They describe that sacrosanct connection between two people we call the doctor-patient relationship, and that othe relationship between the mentor and student, so important to the perpetuation of medical knowledge, judgement, wisdom and character. Doctors have peculiar ways of approaching certain kinds of problems, and many of those ways are captured with with grace and elequence in *The Soul of Medicine*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

National Book Award winner Nuland (*How We Die*) turns over his latest collection to the stories of more than a dozen specialists describing their most memorable patients. What is extraordinary about Nuland's compilation is not the medical heroics but the instances of fallibility and vulnerability that prove the doctor is not just human but caring. A bronchoscopist tells of a famed thoracic surgeon who botches a procedure to recover a small cap a child has swallowed. Well, chappies, he chirped, here's my chance to demonstrate the procedure again. Rather like a double feature at the cinema, yes? When that, too, fails, the frustrated surgeon must do major surgery to rectify what should have been a 10-minute fix. Even the scoundrel who gets a nurse fired rather than be caught in his own impropriety shows a recognizable humanity in his hilarious retelling

of barging into a procedure unwashed and unwanted, and being chased from the premises by a mad-as-hell surgeon. Nuland adds his own commentary after many of the stories, but it's just window dressing. Here's medicine as it's actually practiced—by humans awed by the privilege of both their practice and patients. (Apr.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nuland takes the Canterbury Tales one quirky step further with these stories he collected from medical specialists ranging from anesthesiologist to urologist, in which each focuses on a particularly difficult or memorable professional event and/or patient. Identities and locations are carefully concealed by placing just about everyone, unless the story hinges on locale, at a teaching hospital called Canterbury. Names are changed, and not just to protect the innocent. No one really needs to know the identity of the randy young chest surgeon whose regular dalliances with hospital "probies" (probationary female employees) nearly cost him his job. Worse, to save his own skin, the scoundrel made a preemptive attack that cost his accuser her job. One might, however, like to know the name of the ethical Jewish ophthalmologist who never ratted out the out-of-wedlock pregnant daughter of his racist military superior. In all, the tales indeed resemble Chaucer's—some humorous, others poignant, and where they are cryptic, accompanied by a note from the more-than-skillful narrator. --Donna Chavez --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having previously purchased five of Nuland's books, I almost didn't buy this one. However, I found it quite enjoyable and quite different. The "Tales" of the various "memorable cases" from many specialists were quite interesting, and the "narrator's" commentaries on most of them were interesting as well. It is fortuitous, perhaps, that I read this book just as the National debate on health care reform is reaching rather absurd dimensions, and if nothing else, it gave me some perspective and in some cases comedy relief. I believe that writing like Nuland's can really shed important light on some of the core issues of health and healing, for those who want to gain wisdom and not just add to the chaos and confusion.

I'm really liking the book and nearly finished it but it's a bit outdated. Stories are from 1900-1970s, I would guess but they are really interesting and funny. It's a good read

The tales in this book can be joyful, heartbreaking, or appalling, but the one thing they have in common is their honesty. *The Soul of Medicine: Tales from the Bedside* offers a real and unforgettable look into the most memorable experiences faced by a selection of (mostly) admirable physicians.

A great read.

This book, though missing the dustjacket is exactly what I was looking for. Good condition, few scuff marks, but the pages are all clear and free of damage. Thank you!

Enjoyed the book. Timely delivery.

Nice stories of wide variety to keep the reader interested

This is a visit to a carnival sideshow rather than a museum. The author edits in the four-letter words, reads like a ploy rather than adding to realism. Cases are mostly on the fringe with little general meaning. The case of the end-stage diabetic pleading successfully for one more procedure was interesting. The staff makes the wrong decision, the author seems to agree with the wrong decision, is he just toying with the reader? If there is a lesson it is unclear.

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