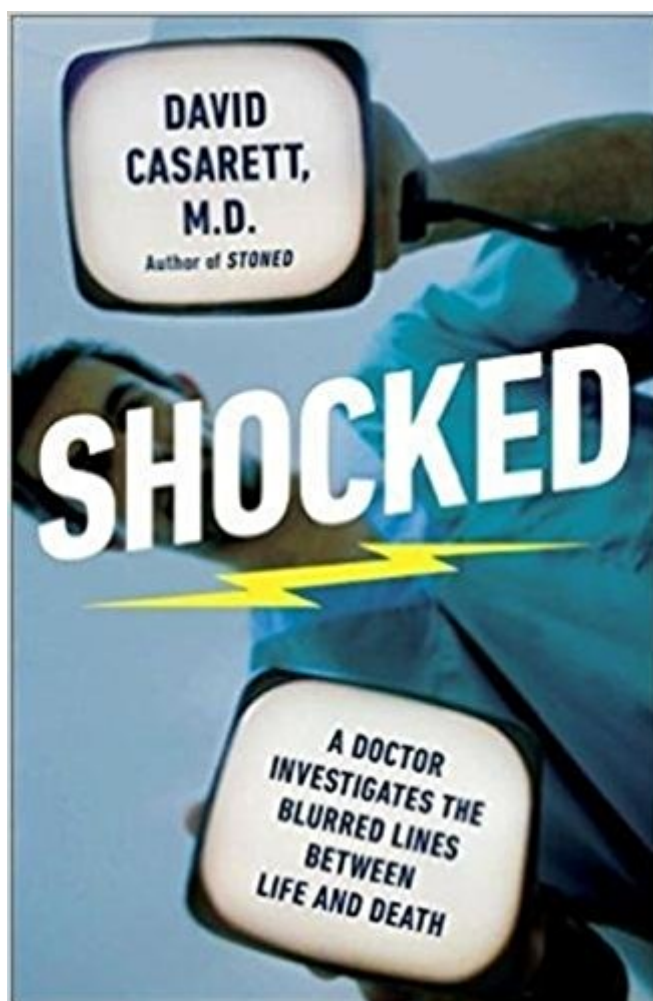


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# Shocked: A Doctor Investigates The Blurred Lines Between Life And Death



## Synopsis

As a young medical student, Dr. David Casarett was inspired by the story of a two-year-old girl named Michelle Funk. Michelle fell into a creek and was underwater for over an hour. When she was found she wasn't breathing, and her pupils were fixed and dilated. But after three hours of persistent work, a team of doctors and nurses was able to bring her back. If Michelle could come back after three hours of being dead, what about twelve hours? Or twenty-four? What would it take to revive someone who had been frozen for one thousand years? And what does blurring the line between "life" and "death" mean for society? In *Shocked*, Casarett chronicles his exploration of the cutting edge of resuscitation and reveals just how far science has come. He takes us to a conference of "cryonauts" who want to be frozen after they die, a dark room full of hibernating lemurs in North Carolina, and a laboratory that puts mice into a state of suspended animation. The result is a spectacular tour of the bizarre world of doctors, engineers, animal biologists, and cryogenics enthusiasts trying to bring the recently dead back to life. Fascinating, thought-provoking, and funny, *Shocked* is perfect for those looking for a prequel and a sequel to Mary Roach's *Stiff*, or for anyone who likes to ponder the ultimate questions of life and death.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An exciting firsthand account of scientific research whose implications are relevant to every living person." [The Futurist](#) "Entertaining, informative, and, at times, electrifying."

[Booklist](#) "[Casarett] traces the colorful history of efforts to revive the dead, with meticulous

reporting and humor." *The Washington Post* "Dr. Casarett has produced a travelogue about as comprehensive as possible without actually dying. . . . His guide to the process of hauling passengers back up the exit ramp is fascinating." *The New York Times*

David Casarett, M.D., is a physician, researcher, and tenured associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. His studies have included more than ten thousand patients and have resulted in more than one hundred articles and book chapters, published in leading medical journals such as the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*. His many awards include the prestigious U.S. Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

I have been interested in resuscitation since reading Kouwenhoven's article in *JAMA* in 1960, at the time being a sophomore in High School. It was an epiphany for me, as what Kouwenhoven and Jude wrote, revolutionized the understanding of death. What had been the criteria to determine death before 1960 suddenly became the diagnostic parameters for emergency resuscitation. I went on to become a physician, and then a forensic pathologist. I was really excited to institute Code Blue in Homer G Phillips in Saint Louis in 1968. I became an advanced cardiac life support instructor. Then in 1972, I responded to a motor vehicle crash scene in Vermont. The unbelted lady in the passenger seat was drowning on her own blood. I quickly intubated her. I felt quite good about this save. I autopsied her two weeks later. I lost a great deal of my enthusiasm for resuscitation. Dr. Casarett has done an amazing job of searching the history of resuscitation, going back to original works of the drowning society in London. Really well written, and for me a great work, with references. Kouwenhoven appearing near the middle. So what I had thought was the beginning, was only another step in a long history

I work in EMS and teach frequently. Resuscitation and ethics are regular topics. Shocked was fun reading, providing lots of history, insight, and thought provoking material, mostly serious, but with a perfect mix and treatment of unique (if not absurd) practices. Recounting the therapeutic application of tobacco smoke is bound to provoke class participation. If this book had been published before Monty Python, there might have been a few more great movie scenes.

A very interesting book dealing with the history, present and possible future of what constitutes

death and how it can be beaten. Written by an obvious expert in the field in an easy to read and easy to understand style. A must read!

Very interesting. The science gets a bit involved, but I learned a lot about resuscitation and recently had an elderly parent pass away and when asked about resuscitating I was able to draw on this information.

Pretty awesome history of CPR and bringing people (and animals) back from not-quite-dead. Written in a way someone like me can understand (no science background) and like but also has parts scientists would value.

Fascinating read. Chronicles the ways that people have tried to revive the dead/nearly dead throughout the centuries. Engaging, often funny and easy read.

This book has a great deal of information about the ever expanding medical advances bringing people back from being nearly dead. At the end, it talks a lot about how massively expensive some of these methods are trending and somewhat questioning the forever affordability of ever more expensive expansion.

A little too cute, and perhaps a bit long for the information content; this is one of these books that I am glad to have read, but it might have been a better 50 page book

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