

Emergency!: True Stories From The Nation's ERs

By Mark Brown, Marc Brown

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* A suicide attempt by an "explosive" young man...
* The "hidden secrets" of a grotesquely obese patient...
* A couple whose amorous acrobatics get out of hand...
* A child brought back from the dead...

Bristling with the raw power of reality, this riveting book recounts true tales of life and death from the emergency rooms of America. Dr. Mark Brown asked over 15,000 fellow ER staffers to share their most unforgettable moments. Now, in their own voices, these real ER personnel bring us their most poignant, heartbreaking, laugh-out-loud hilarious, or shocking moments from the war zone of medicine. Discover the manic antics and incredible skills of ER doctors when a girlfriend's smooch nearly becomes a kiss of death...a farmer's severed foot hitches a ride to the hospital...a premature baby fights valiantly for life...and all of the unforgettable cases that come through the swinging doors of the emergency room.

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Emergency!: True Stories From The Nation's ERs By Mark Brown, Marc Brown Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
California emergency-room physician Brown here supplements tales of his own experiences with contributions from almost 100 other doctors and nurses in a volume that is by turn tense, poignant and amusing. ER personnel confront the entire range of human life from its beginning to its end, but hardest to bear, they find, are crib deaths and futile attempts to resuscitate child and teenage accident victims, not so much because the ERs are traumatized by mortality but because they must deal with the survivors. Among their least favorite patients are unwashed derelicts and near-psychotics high on drugs or liquor. Regarded as a minor annoyance are malingerers and hypochondriacs, who waste the resources of the ERs. There are funny stories here as well, like the one about the doctor who was misunderstood when he requested a stool from a patient, meaning a chair.
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From Library Journal
Emergency! presents life and death vignettes culled from emergency rooms across the country, as told by doctors and nurses in their own words. Alternately heartbreaking and hilarious, it reflects the full range of human behavior in both patients and staff, often under extreme duress. The editor, himself an ER physician, offers the reader brief glimpses into the controlled chaos that is the modern emergency room, in no particular order since, as he says, that's the way the patients come in. You never know what's coming through the door. As the popular TV series ER and Chicago Hope demonstrate, there is an appetite for the drama inherent in emergency rooms. Moving, satisfying, and sometimes disturbing, this book is highly recommended.
-?*Anne C. Tomlin, Auburn Memorial Hosp. Lib., N.Y.*
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From Booklist
Editor Brown brings both legal and medical degrees and a decade's experience in emergency medicine to compiling this set of 100 poems, essays, and stories by physicians and nurses. As with nearly any collection, this one is best read in short sessions in order to feel the full force of each entry. Together, the writings here illuminate the broad range of reasons why patients arrive in the emergency room, the work and the attitudes of the paramedics and police officers who bring them there, and the responses of family and friends. The reported conversation among ER staff and between staff and patients runs the gamut from black humor that may upset nonmedical readers to profoundly involved dialogue. Top-drawer contributions include the story of the nurse who alertly observed one portion of a chicken restaurant napkin in a rape victim and, later and separately, another portion in a gunshot wound in the rapist and the story of the physician who donated his own shoes to a homeless victim who had been robbed of his. A graphic, intense, and successful anthology.
William Beatty

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