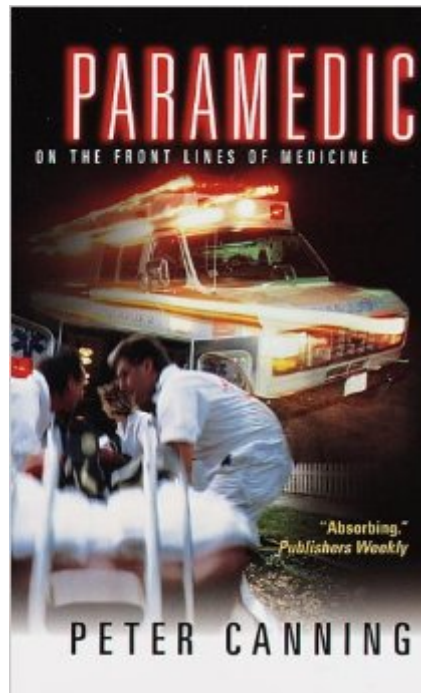


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Paramedic: On The Front Lines Of Medicine



Synopsis

In this unforgettable, dramatic account of one man's experience as an EMT, Peter Canning relives the nerve-racking seconds that can mean the difference between a patient's death and survival, as Canning struggles to make the right call, dispense the right medication, or keep a patient's heart beating long enough to reach the hospital. As Canning tells his graphic, gripping war stories--of the lives he saved and lost; of the fear, the nightmares, and the constant adrenaline-pumping thrill of action--we come away with an unforgettable portrait of what it means to be a hero.

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Customer Reviews

If you want an idea what it is really like to be a medic on the streets, this is it--good, bad and ugly. I read it when I was starting EMT school, and nothing prepared me better for what I would see in the field. Definately a must read for anyone in the medical field, or anyone who wants to go into emergency medicine.

Peter Canning once worked for Lowell Weicker as a speech writer. Then he got "the bug." I can't think of a better way to describe that sense of duty and commitment that seems to possess people who are underpaid, overworked, and have to deal with the worst in our society. Like most "bugs," this bug changes over time. Canning makes the switch from a high paying job to EMS out of a sense of wanting to help. I've known others like him. One fellow I know made the switch from electrician to paramedic even though it cost him (and his family) a third of his salary. In the beginning is the desire of the new EMT or paramedic to earn the respect of others in his profession. Canning

was so proud as he marched into an operating room and established an airway with doctors looking on. I've known those feelings. The bug metamorphasizes. EMS people often have to deal with the poor in our society. This means a call from someone who has no health insurance and who has to depend upon an ambulance trip to an ER for normal health care. Or this means the poor in spirit who find nothing productive to do with their lives. For example this includes the elderly woman who calls EMS due to shortness of breath, and then she wants a cigarette. After a while in EMS you see plenty of folks whose lives could not be saved. The hardest is the feeling of "if I had been there" or "if I had made another decision." Canning writes of those feelings. The bug has changed again from the time Canning was so proud to march into an operating room and establish an airway. Sometimes EMS burns people out. Canning was not one of them. This book is just the first that he wrote about his EMS experiences.

Peter Canning does an excellent job realistically portraying the life of a paramedic. With so many shows on television presenting EMS inaccurately, Canning isn't afraid to describe what really goes on, even if it isn't lights and sirens 24/7. I enjoyed this book so much that I wrote a review of it on MedicPLANET.com. Buy this book! You won't regret it.

Wow. This was a wonderful read. I've read a few other EMT/Paramedic books, and none of them have come close to the quality of this one. Other books have been watered-down, amateurish versions of Peter Canning's book. He tells it like it is, from bloody accidents to his unedited feelings about some of the people he encounters. Wonderful description (I actually got nauseous at times) and good writing. There were a few slow places where he sidetracks to politics, but I see why those segments are there. The rest of the book is a clear view into EMT jobs. Those people are WAY underpaid. Only one thing bothered me: Mr. Canning says that he wants people to see him as a hero. Well, hello! YOU ARE! All of you are. Thank you for what you do every day for horrible pay and the threat of bodily harm from disease, drunks, criminals, and a million other dangers I don't have the room to describe. Be proud. You deserve it.

I really love this book. It was awesome. It was a very interesting book and I learned a few things from it. I learned 2 new heart rhythms: Sinus arrhythmia and a rare rhythm called torsades de pointes: abnormal beat of the ventricles that produces a rhythm at first looks like ventricular tachycardia, but isn't. The treatment for it is magnesium and ventricular pacing. If you give the person lidocaine while they're in this rhythm, it will kill them. I also learned that there are 24 drugs

that medics use to help bring patients back to life. I thought it was half that number. I'm familiar to most of them from my nursing math course I took. I really loved this book. I'll definitely recommend it all of my friends in the field.

I am a 5 year Paramedic/Fire Fighter. I couldn't put the book down. I have shared those very same feelings that Peter Canning has on the streets. Battling the feeling of "Is this call for real?" This book really gave a true insight of emergency medicine. One moment your throwing a football around with your friends and the next moment your pumping some guys chest, starting an I.V. line and pushing medicine trying to revive a man that you do not know. I loved this book. Great job Peter.

This book is amazing. Getting into the EMS field I really wanted something to prepare me for what I might face just to get a good idea, this book helped. It gave some of the lingo EMT personnel use with each other as well as the basics of what happened day to day.

I am currently a M.I.C.T (Mobile Intensive Care Technician-Paramedic). This book not only gave an excellent presentation of the position from a professional position with excellent description of treatment and protocol, but also caters to the layman who may not have any medical treatment. They book will not only show a true paramedic, but also give a Paramedic the credit where credit be due. Some think that being a Paramedic is all glory,...you will find out the true life of a Paramedic in this book....which is Glory for a mere second and waiting forever for a call, and transporting patients that did not have a ride to a doctors appointment.

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