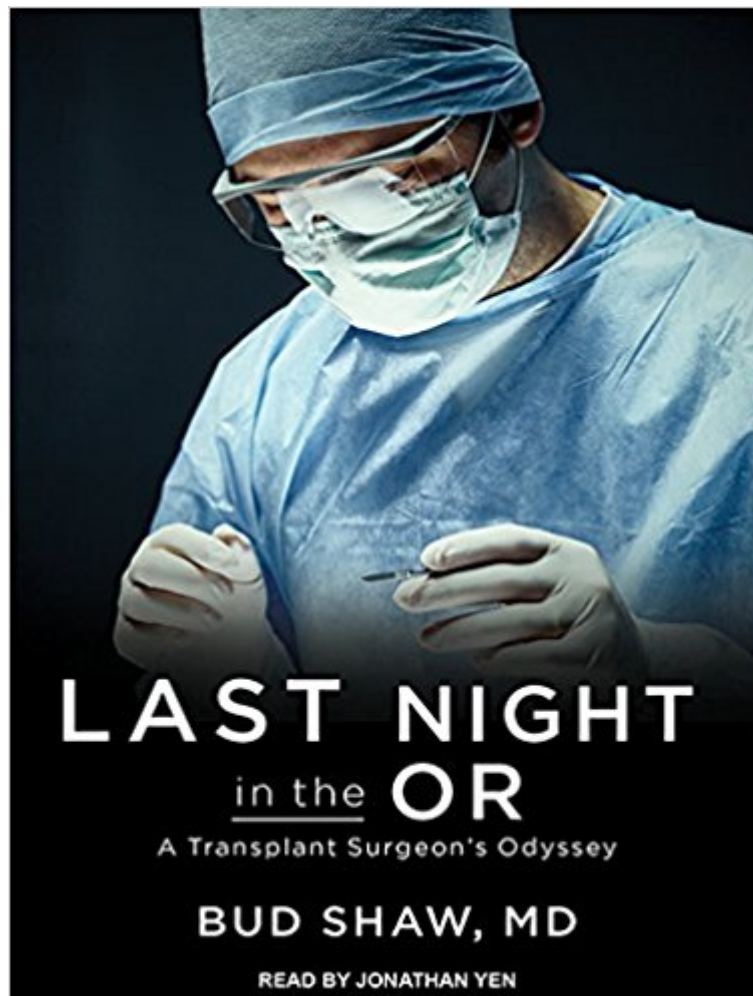




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Last Night In The OR: A Transplant Surgeon's Odyssey



Synopsis

The 1980s marked a revolution in the field of organ transplants, and Bud Shaw, MD, who studied under Tom Starzl in Pittsburgh, was on the front lines. Now retired from active practice, Dr. Shaw relays gripping moments of anguish and elation, frustration and reward, despair and hope in his struggle to save patients. He reveals harshly intimate moments of his medical career: telling a patient's husband that his wife has died during surgery; struggling to complete a twenty-hour operation as mental and physical exhaustion inch closer and closer; and flying to retrieve a donor organ while the patient waits in the operating room. Within these more emotionally charged vignettes are quieter ones, too, like growing up in rural Ohio, and being awakened late at night by footsteps in the hall as his father, also a surgeon, slipped out of the house to attend to a patient in the ER.

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Customer Reviews

"A bracing, unusual personal narrative that should appeal to aspiring physicians as well as to those considering the 'big questions' around high-risk surgery." ---Kirkus

Bud Shaw grew up the oldest child of a general surgeon in rural Ohio. He trained in Pittsburgh under Tom Starzl, the father of liver transplantation. An internationally renowned transplant surgeon by age 35, he started a new transplant program in Nebraska that quickly became one of the most respected transplant centers in the world. He retired from active practice in 2009, and now focuses

on writing, teaching and the value of narrative studies in medical education and clinical practice. Jonathan Yen was inspired by the Golden Age of Radio, and while the gold was gone by the time he got there, he's carried that inspiration through to commercial work, voice acting, and stage productions. From vintage Howard Fast science fiction to naturalist Paul Rosolie's true adventures in the , Jonathan loves to tell a good story.

I am not a literary critic however i have been a nurse for over 40 years and I have worked with Dr. Shaw for over 30 of those years. From a healthcare prospective, when I read the patient stories , Bud makes it feel like you are IN the story. They are very realistische and meaningful narratives about what we live through and with on a daily basis. I find it very interesting how he interspersed his personal life stories with those stories in his hospital/work life. For those of us who spent hours working with Bud we had little idea of his personal struggles - we didn't see that in the OR or on rounds or in our day to day work. For those critics who think Bud might be "egotistical" I would say it takes some ego/self confidence to care for critically ill patients and fight every day to make them better. There are not many transplant surgeons in this country or world who are as smart and thoughtful as Bud. IF there was a struggle or problem - you would want BUD in the OR with you. He is creative, smart, thinks on his feet and is all about the patient and family. We all know that medicine/surgery cannot "fix" everyone, and on the cutting edge of transplant, Bud did everything he could to help patients/families and advance the science of transplantation. He was involved with teaching multitudes of future transplant surgeons and physicians. I didn't know Bud when he met Ellen and her family, however I have witnessed him in countless situations where things are not going well and he was incredibly kind, thoughtful and compassionate. At the reunions no one knew about his hesitations or anxieties. The patients and families ALL wanted to have his ear for just a moment to thank him for all he did and that was a lot of people. Bottom line - he is a human like each and every one of us. For those who want to cast stone I would ask you to try to walk in his shoes for just one moment and remeber - he is one fine, talented incredible human being.

Great collection of vignettes from the life of a surgeon. His career encompassed the beginnings of transplant surgery to its present fairly sophisticated state and the stories and characters are fascinating. Even better though are his musings in the last third of the book. Very touching and honest. I hope he writes more

Bud Shaw writes as well as he performed liver transplant surgery - brilliantly. He expertly tells his

own stories that completely expose his innermost self without any pretense. Raw, unvarnished, open, real and most of all, courageous. This is a no B.S. look at what it's like to be top flight surgeon in a high risk, high reward profession. Buy it. You'll love it.

This book kept you coming back for more, wanting to read another memory - share another victory and grieve another life lost. It was a glimpse into the sometimes impossibly exhausting life of an organ transplant surgeon's life, both the miraculous second chances and the terrible intra-operative failures. Having received my own transplant (a heart) 24 years ago these stories made me appreciate my survival even more and also grieve a little less my fellow recipients whose post transplant years were fewer. The doctor admitted the crushing and debilitating problem of panic attacks. The only portion that I feel negative about was that the ending literally fell short.

Very good read, particularly for those of us in healthcare. The story drives home the horrendous demands on a surgeon - from a long and demanding residency through the actual practice years. Practice is almost anticlimactic. Dr. Shaw is/was a fine, accomplished, and at the very least a gifted surgeon. I appreciate his willingness to show his vulnerability and the ordinariness of his personal life. No matter the skill, talent, or ultimate professional success in life, we are all just human beings with all the joy and the grief of marriage, children, parents, and so on. I simply enjoyed it. Would really love to read more from him.

It was informative. Probably the biggest surprise was in finding out that surgeons go through the same stuff we do and have the same challenges we all do. It made them seem more human. I am certain Shaw was a far better surgeon than author however I say that only because it appears he was haunted by a drive to be comprehensive and diligent in his practice. I really enjoyed reading this, particularly his devotion to his Dad. When you realize that even a world class surgeon struggled with getting competent care for his father it helps you realize no one is immune to incompetence when it come to health care.

Extraordinarily vivid and honest account of life in the operating room and beyond by one of the world's leading transplant surgeons. Read this after you've read Dr. Thomas Starzl's "The Puzzle People" and you've got a detailed and dramatic overview of one of medical science's greatest accomplishments of the last half-century -- organ transplantation.

Dr. Shaw tells his amazing story without a hint of artifice or pedantry. Beautiful words carry the reader between his family homes, hospital halls, and countless ORs. Along the way we see him grow into a great surgeon and an accomplished man. Surgery's loss is literature's gain.

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