



Lost Art Healing CL

Bernard Lown

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Never before has medicine had the capacity to do so much good, yet never have people been so disenchanted with their doctors. The problem is that doctors have lost the art of healing, which involves much more than diagnostic skills and the ability to mobilize technology. At its core is the doctor-patient relationship, and in this provocative book one of our most distinguished physicians draws on forty years of experience to show how vitally important that relationship is. He offers a new paradigm: medicine with a human face, in which the art of healing is as important as the mastery of medical techniques. This approach can cure as many ills as all the wonders of modern technology, and it can contain costs more readily than any health care reform plan. The Lost Art of Healing is as entertaining and intellectually stimulating as *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and *Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!*, and has a message as universally important as that of *Silent Spring*.

Lost Art Healing CL Details

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Don Kent says

If you want to understand how and why the physician-patient relationship has deteriorated and lacks compassion or why hospitals are operated the way they are now or how to try to manage end-of-life decisions you should read this book. While the middle of the book is a bit heavy on the history and development of modern Cardiology the over-all content is well presented and very valuable. All physicians and every patient should understand and embrace the principles presented by this exceptional author.

Beverly Kent says

I have had doctors who would have benefited from reading this book and I have had doctors who could have written the book. The author is a noted cardiologist with long experience and many good observations and patient stories. Several chapters were beyond my understanding; his many examples were interesting and clearly showed his method of compassion. It is worth a look by anyone who trying to navigate the health system for himself (herself) or for a loved one.

Sarah says

Offers insight of a world-renowned cardiologist towards the doctor-patient relationship. In real life, I wouldn't imagine this man to be as humble/raw-in-thought as he presents in this book. Enjoyed it, (thanks Linda! thanks Dr Keith! for the rec)

Bill says

An interesting and readable book by a preeminent physician. The author emphasized that good doctors come to many of their diagnoses by physical examination and by knowing their patients through good conversation. He further notes that both of these methods are falling by the wayside in then-present-day American (the book is copyrighted as of 1996). My time was well-spent in reading this book -- it gave me a good deal of insight about what being a physician is like. To add icing to the cake, as I got further into the book it became apparent (though a low-level mention) that the author was winner of the Nobel Peace Prize! Sure enough, I looked at the front cover and there in small print under the author's name was "Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize."

Pamela Fernandes says

Every doctor must read this book. It talks about the subtle art of practicing medicine. Dr Lown is a renowned cardiologist and his mentor Dr Samuel Levine appears in many of his experiences throughout the book. Dr Lown tries to simplify the book for non medical people reading it. But the book describes the finer details of medical practice, the reason for doctor's insecurities, their battles with malpractice and the plight of patients. As a catholic doctor, this is fantastic, because healing trumps curing, but for the more robust, money centric

medical world it may make one take a step back and wonder.

The book with its humor, real life experiences and brilliant quotes from literature leaves you feeling inspired to take on the world with renewed vigor. At the very end Dr Lown does talk about how patients can help their physician and what their behaviour should entail, but few would find that happening.

The book is great if for doctor's who've forgotten about the sensitivities to patients. I would gladly recommend medicos to read this book.

Valentina Chiriac says

O adevarat? valoare care merit? citit? de to?i cei din domeniul medical ?i nu numai. M? bucur? mereu s? citesc car?i non-medicale scrise de medici. Îmi place viziunea doctorului Lown asupra profesiei de medic, care trebuie sa fie mai întâi de toate uman!

Merita 4,5*!

Jrohde says

One of my favorite books on what medicine can and should be. I have bought copies and given to many who I hope to inspire with Lown's compassion and insight. a fine book for anyone wanting an uplifting reading experience and a refurbishing of faith in the profession.

Becca says

Sometimes cynical, sometimes self-aggrandizing and often self-contradictory the read is very uneven, but overall an enlightening and occasionally even instructional presentation of the best tools that we can bring to the bedside to approach our patients.

Nitrorockets says

It was an inspiring read. A reminder to all medical students that knowledge and academic grades are merely one part of their learning experience. Understanding human qualities such as empathy, compassion and the human condition must be reinforced and developed in conjunction with the scientific knowledge of their studies and training.

Barbara says

Wise words from a true healer

Jay Nair says

A must read for all healthcare stakeholders. Very well written with lots of examples of the challenges faced both by the doctor as well as the patient.

Very relevant to the present context of patient becoming much more empowered and wanting to be more in the know of his or her treatment, both medically and as an individual.

Ryan Manns says

I read this book in 2 days. Couldn't put it down actually. I especially enjoyed the first 200 pages and felt like I gained some great insights into what's really important in medicine. The recurring theme of the book is basically that despite all the advancements in science and medicine the strongest means of diagnosing and helping a patient is getting to know them, taking a good history and physical, and being supportive of their problems. My only real criticism is the Dr. Lown didn't really write about his failures as a doctor. He focused a lot on all the good things he had done and basically came across as "I'm the best doctor ever and I know it." While he did do some remarkable work I feel readers could learn a lot from failures as well as successes.

Ellie says

I began this book with a great deal of interest. The beginning of the preface proved compelling, arguing that a large part of the modern healthcare crisis is caused by doctors relying too much on expensive diagnostic tests and not enough on a thorough history and physical examination. From there, however, the book went downhill fast. Lown goes on to laud his many wonderful achievements in the course of his career, sounding quite proud of himself. His tone throughout the book is self-congratulatory, and he writes from a pedestal, looking down on all patients and seemingly most people who are not himself or one of his beloved mentors. In fact, Lown even uses the word "childish" to describe modern patients' fascination with technology! Following a number of chapters filled with stories of his miraculous diagnoses and life saves, we reach a chapter called "Words that Maim." This chapter is filled with stories of doctors scaring patients to death, literally, with words, or saying horrible and manipulative things. All are stories of other doctors, of course; not one story about himself. (There is actually one small anecdote about Lown himself, but no harm comes to the patient he mentions.) In many of the stories, Lown is in fact the one who has to repair the damage done by callous doctors.

This chapter is followed immediately by "Words that Heal," in which we are again treated to samples of Lown's perfect clinical skills. He's so perfect that patients "walk out of [his] office looking stoned, high, floating on air. When they're from out of town, they ask for the best restaurant in Boston, because they want to celebrate." Later he dishes out personal advice and reports with pride that a patient "anointed" him "a great guru;" he also lashes out with fury at a patient, yelling at him uncontrollably, but miraculously curing the patient of all of his family problems in the process. Because almost all medical problems are in fact emotional, caused by family tension, according to Lown. He suggests that medicines don't work well because they are over-prescribed; all most patients need is a smack on the head (metaphorically speaking) to convince them to get their family life in shape, and then they'll be all better! Magic! Thanks to him, an Indian man is un-dispossessed by his mother; an Orthodox Jewish man learns to love and accept his gay son and his lover, and even march in gay pride parades! Lown truly is a miracle worker!

This book is a complaint about modern doctors for not being more like Lown himself (that is, perfect in every regard). He doesn't even give consideration to the stresses put on doctors by insurance, malpractice,

etc. Modern medical education is soulless and modern doctors are no better. He seems to indicate that he understands the push to do procedures because taking histories doesn't pay, but he doesn't consider that doctors (particularly primary care doctors) might actually WANT to do more thorough histories if they weren't trying to struggle for enough money just to pay their malpractice insurance and make ends meet.

There are interesting portions of this book, and it has some good advice for interacting with patients. Some of the claims about the origin of the healthcare crisis may even be partially correct, though I feel strongly that he ignores the many factors working against physicians in his question to blame it all on the failings of the modern doctor.

(review edited to fit length requirement!)

Marie says

incredible.

Johnathan Yao says

Dr. Lown comments on how doctors do more than just treat disease, but heal a human being. That art, which has extended back millennia, is now being lost in the advent of technology and 'efficiency'. Through his many years of experience, he has developed many tricks and tools to build rapport and genuine connection with his patients. He has also observed profound insights into human nature and the human condition that only the most astute philosophers and literary giants have reached. I needed to read this book to remind myself why I wanted to be a doctor. The road is long, arduous and difficult, with many sacrifices.
