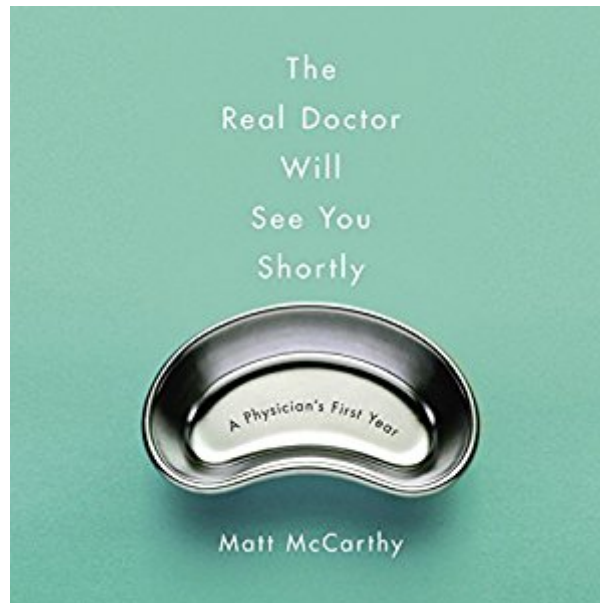


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# The Real Doctor Will See You Shortly: A Physician's First Year



## Synopsis

In medical school, Matt McCarthy dreamed of being a different kind of doctor - the sort of mythical, unflappable physician who could reach unreachable patients. But when a new admission to the critical care unit almost died his first night on call, he found himself scrambling. Visions of mastery quickly gave way to hopes of simply surviving hospital life, where confidence was hard to come by and no amount of med school training could dispel the terror of facing actual patients. This funny, candid memoir of McCarthy's intern year at a New York hospital provides a scorchingly frank look at how doctors are made, taking readers into patients' rooms and doctors' conferences to witness a physician's journey from ineptitude to competence. McCarthy's one stroke of luck paired him with a brilliant second-year adviser he called "Baio" (owing to his resemblance to the Charles in Charge star), who proved to be a remarkable teacher with a wicked sense of humor. McCarthy would learn even more from the people he cared for, including a man named Benny, who was living in the hospital for months at a time awaiting a heart transplant. But no teacher could help McCarthy when an accident put his own health at risk, and showed him all too painfully the thin line between doctor and patient. *The Real Doctor Will See You Shortly* offers a window on to hospital life that dispenses with sanctimony and self-seriousness while emphasizing the black-comic paradox of becoming a doctor: How do you learn to save lives in a job where there is no practice?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This memoir was an enjoyable read: the story of one man's journey from medical school to

becoming a 'Real Doctor' and all of the pitfalls along the way. It focuses on his time as an intern and resident -- in this case, apparently both humbling him and honing his skills as a physician. There is a reason that medicine is called a 'practice' and this look at Matt's early days in hospital rotation brings a human face to the struggle. It's a damn wonder more mistakes aren't made when interns and residents are forced to work 30-hour shifts -- perhaps you'll feel the same way after reading this story!

There are some books that I can hardly wait to finish because they are boring, repetitious, I disagree with the author, and a variety of other reasons. Then there are some books, that I wish would go on-and-on. This is one of those books. My son is a doctor, and I well remember his first year as an intern, but I had no idea of just how exhausting and frustrating it could be. I was fascinated by mistakes that were made, encouraged by the healing that happened, and touched by the author's compassion for his patients, and his desire to be a good doctor. This is all told with a light touch of humor. I highly recommend this book!

Matt McCarthy has a very nice style of writing that puts one into the situation, helping to understand what's going on in his mind. He bares himself as he exposes both his victories and his losses. A very good read

Having spent more than my fair share in the intensive unit care unit at Johns Hopkins as a patient and family member of a patient I found this book remarkably comforting. You often see the seemingly bedraggled young doctors and wonder if they are any more than autotrons going through repetitive tasks; this book dispels that notion. Learning about overwhelming insecurities isn't necessarily comforting but shows a compassion that seldom comes through in the brief encounters with doctors during rounds. I had my ticket punched three years ago for the "lucky to be alive club" and often wonder about those faces that are now only a blur and how their careers are progressing. Before criticizing doctors or our health care system, read this book. It re-enforced my belief that we in this country are fortunate to have the best trained doctors in the world's best hospitals.

I enjoyed this book, but would never want to be taken care of by an intern at the end of a 30 hour shift. What was interesting was the humanity of the man, which I hope he never loses. Some Doctors seem to take it off and on with their white coat. The one thing I couldn't get past was his love of the F word. I know it is common in books now, but it just got old! Otherwise it was interesting to see the

first year of an intern

excellent read! The story follows a Harvard educated doctor into his first year of internship. It describes the long hours, the stressful conditions, and the disconnect between lectures and real practice. There are entertaining moments and moments of sheer pathos, which lends a real sense of authenticity to the book. Anyone who thinks doctors know everything should enjoy this book.

As a physician who experienced a similar tortuous first year as an intern, I easily identified with Dr. McCarthy's well-written account of the experience. I especially enjoyed his humorous and self-deprecating descriptions of his first patient encounters during the first half of the book. The second half of the memoir becomes more serious, his self-confidence grows, he forces himself to make time for empathy and connection with his patients, and he discovers the art of medicine is at least as important as the science of medicine. I am recommending this wonderful book to all my friends, but especially my fellow-physician friends. I hope to find a publisher soon for my own memoir, which has many similarities but also has a different and surprising twist. GREAT JOB, Dr. McCarthy; the profession of medicine is lucky to have you. David B. Crawley, M.D. - Author of *A Steep Turn: A Physician's Journey From Clinic to Cockpit* and *A Mile of String: A Boy's Recollection of His Midwest Childhood*

As a current medical student, I found this book a really useful and fun read. Though I'm terrified of what lies ahead for me when I become a junior doctor, this book makes me feel like I can get through it. I know that everyone will feel uncertainty and fear and can sometimes break down, but Dr. McCarthy shows me this is all part of the journey. He writes about his experience in a very down-to-earth and witty manner. He writes honestly about thoughts and feelings that I never thought a doctor would admit to. I could barely put it down for hours! It was easy to put myself in these characters' shoes and imagine what it must be like to feel like you don't know anything. I wanted to know what happened to each of the patients, just as if I were seeing these patients together with Dr. McCarthy. Reading his observations and feelings makes me really excited to become a doctor and get to work with other such compassionate and intelligent people.

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