



Hospital

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Sex, death, drugs, Satanism, voodoo - when things start to go wrong at hospital, who knows where it will end? This is a journey to hell and back.

Hospital Details

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Author : Toby Litt

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Saar says

This book was a bit strange, a lot of weird events take place in a seemingly normal hospital. I thought it was a good book because I couldn't really make out which events were real and which were imaginary. Because of this vague border, it really held my attention. There are a lot of switches in perspective, and the parts are fairly short, but that wasn't really negative, as I found myself always reading further because I wanted to know what would happen to the character that had my attention at the moment.

Leo Robertson says

I remembered enjoying this at 19. I still like the idea and hermetic feel of mysterious enclosed spaces—just that at the time I didn't know authors who do it better, like Ballard or Kafka... A feeling of Heller too: can't get off the island or whatever (I never made it through Catch 22, several times.)

And amongst my "books so good I won't read them again" are the first two Gormenghast novels. "There is nothing but the castle" is just so perfect. A location crumbling under the weight of its tedious monarchy. Nothing else exists because nothing else, no other mode of existence, is imaginable. The implications of that resonate so deeply. In Hospital, the effect is *apparently* emptier.

But I don't know: the fact that the hermetic location effect has no definite purpose, and is unhinged from tangible symbolism, doesn't turn me off it entirely. In fact, that it is tethered to no specific earthly commentary made the book a portal to something completely unknown—when I was 19. And I'm still excited to explore the possibilities of this method in my own writing in future, even though I didn't make it through this book a second time.

In fact, this exact book, with the content trimmed down and the tone changed, would be perfect. As is, it's just hard to read lists of people suffering from horrific ailments just because the author is trying to impress me with his world-building skills. Most pages reek of this insensitivity, and it's this that turned me off a second read, not what may understandably be perceived as "weirdness for weirdness' sake."

Whole pages of characters are thrown at the reader, though they serve no apparent purpose. The inside back cover gives a complete list of all the patients, and such quantity-based impressing methods in literature are almost always dick-measuring contests.

"4329 words today!"

"Almost! 4330+ would've gotten you awards and/or laid. Better luck tomorrow!"

People don't suck books, loser; they read them.

Ayelecks says

By far the worst book I have ever read. Was purchased for \$10 off a discount table and I feel as though I over paid by \$9.50

The style of writing is tedious and borders on nauseating, the characters and story are beyond annoying and the ending, or lack of, is fitting for one of the greatest wastes of ink ever made.

DO NOT READ

Emily says

One of the strangest, most psychedelic reading experiences I have had yet. I still can't tell if that is a positive or a negative thing. I don't regret reading this book in the slightest though, but it being one of the first books I read out of my comfort zone may not have been the greatest of ideas.

Em Robinson says

The longest book I've read in a long time but it managed to keep me hooked from start to finish. Unlike anything I've ever read before. The closest comparison I could possibly think of is to compare it to something by Neil Gaiman. Weird, disturbing and entrancing.

Julia Walsh says

I feel bad about giving this four stars because it's so stupid and disgusting. The characters are bland, the descriptions tiresome, and the dialogue dry. But I absolutely could not stop reading it. Some parts made me laugh out loud but I instantly felt guilty. I enjoyed it immensely but am afraid of what that says about me. It begins in the land of lunacy and ends up somewhere on the far side of deranged, if you stop looking for redeeming features and just give in to its ridiculousness its disturbingly entertaining.

But it's so revolting and filthy and hideously unnecessary, unless you are totally un-offendable, don't read it.

Kriegslok says

A truely bizzare, often perverse, always twisted and pretty merrily obscene! Hard to describe, difficult to put down. One of those books you hope will never end. If you want somthing a bit different from the "Pamala is a successful author of childrens stories, recently divorced from her merchant banker husaband and moved blah blah blah" story line then this is it.

Savirra says

It took awhile for me to finish this book. Yet everytime I continued to read the chapter that I had left, the excitement was always there. Toby Litt got me bedazzled more and more I flipped the pages. Very entertaining!

Ανδρος Μιχαηλ?δης says

As I saw someone else mention, I wanted to like this book. but it's trashy weird for trashy weirdness's sake, even though one might painfully detect some shreds of meaningful symbolism.

Trish Tye says

As always, a Toby Litt book that is a little weird but that's what I like about him. A boy is trapped in a hospital as the world outside disappears! See, weird!

Dorien says

This is one of my absolute favourite books.

Complete madness. I hope I can find more of this experience. Can anyone recommend me more books like this? Though I doubt I will be able to find any more madness of this level.

Jacqueline says

Weird but strangely entertaining.

Ate Hoekstra says

One of the most amazing books I've read in a long time. Sometimes it all gets a bit too absurd and too much on the horror side to my opinion (especially around midnight), but apart from that this is a wonderful book. It's freaky, it's fantastic, it's apocalyptic, it's poetic and days after I finished it the story keeps me thinking. A rare book, a cult classic indeed.

Evalyn says

WORST BOOK EVER!!!!!!

It sucks that I always make myself finish a book once I start, because I kept hoping it would get better, but it only kept getting worse.

Derek Baldwin says

Phew! As an allegory I don't think this works terribly well, but it's one hell of a ride. I raced through this in a day or so -it's a completely compelling read. I liked the (unconscious?) echoes of Dennis Wheatley - who also knew how to keep a pot on the boil! Toby Litt is a very sick man.
