



## **Kill as Few Patients as Possible**

*Oscar London*

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## **Kill as Few Patients as Possible** Oscar London

Here is advice that will gladden - and possibly strengthen - the hearts of patients and doctors alike.

Feed a cold, starve a lawyer Don't call a rose a rose; call her Mrs. Schwartz If you drink, don't drive; if you smoke, don't bother wearing your seatbelt

## **Kill as Few Patients as Possible Details**

Date : Published March 1st 2004 by Ten Speed Press (first published January 1st 1987)

ISBN : 9780898151978

Author : Oscar London

Format : Paperback 120 pages

Genre : Health, Medicine, Medical, Nonfiction, Humor



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# **From Reader Review Kill as Few Patients as Possible for online ebook**

## **Felicia Yan says**

A collection of 1-2 page stories perfect for a daily microdose of medical sarcasm.

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## **Michelle says**

2.5 stars

Meh all around. I received this as a gift since I got into medical school. I personally didn't enjoy it as much as I hoped I would. I was hoping it would be insightful and more humorous than it actually was. My issue with it was that while I thought many of the "rules" were decent, the writing always felt like it was cut short before the author actually got to the point. Moreover, he had a huge ego that was annoying to read.

As someone who has worked in public health and hospital administration before going into medicine, I think it was also hard for me to see his perspective as someone in private practice. Either way, this book will probably soon be outdated as hospital mergers have essentially made private practice obsolete.

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## **Alyssa Amaro says**

This book was hilarious! 1-2 page essays are rich with sarcasm. People who have worked in the medical field may especially enjoy it although I'm sure the humor will engage many others.

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## **Justin says**

note: good life tips. not sure if I will remember any of them

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## **Elizabeth says**

Fun, light read that delivers a humorous perspective on life as a doctor.

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## **Christine says**

Interesting observations by a private practice physician on the ups and downs of today's patient care system.

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## **Alex says**

I really wasn't impressed with this book. Maybe it is because I am not into reading about medical stuff anymore. However, it was frankly just boring to read this guy's interpretation about being a doctor. Actually, it was boring reading this guy's spiel about how he is the world's "greatest" doctor.

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## **D. Ryan says**

I think people involved in the medical world would especially enjoy Dr. London's humor. He is goofy, a little like P.G. Wodehouse, but there are some bits of wisdom in there too.

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## **David says**

As a "physician" (actually a surgeon) and one who is passionate about undergraduate education this is a book I would like to scatter about on tables in their common rooms and by their beds so that they could acquire the same fascination and curiosity about patients as the author shows.

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## **Robyn says**

Bought this book for Brian as a Christmas gift (2011). We read it on the way to and from DC, a nice 4 hour jaunt from this neck of the woods. The anecdotes are entertaining and I'm willing to bet that, after some years as a doctor, there will be a certain level of commiseration with the stories. The book was written by "Oscar London, MD, WBD," a pen-name for some actual doctor in southern California who is not only a "Medical Doctor" but the "World's Best Doctor." Taking that slant, the author uses a comical tone and outlandish exaggerations to make some salient points about what it means to be a physician in the 21st century medical field. Each chapter is presented as a rule for physicians with an anecdote to elaborate on the rule. My favorite rules are these: "Don't be late for your very own happy hour," in which London discusses the importance of the daily wind-down ritual; "Never let a patient outflank you," that has London fearing for his life as a patient traces pain over his back in a case of malingering; "Let no one leave your office without a handshake, a blood count and a smile," where London saves a man's life by taking a blood count and locating his gastrointestinal cancer when he is dragged in by his wife for a sore throat; "Exhume old records and postpone your patient's burial," in which London advises a borderline failure of a med student to put in some hours in a record vault to find an X-ray that keeps an old lady off the table. The best overarching advice I heard in the whole book was this: that the patient, or patient's family, will ultimately give you the diagnosis if you listen to what they are saying. Entertaining and enjoyable - and to be read again with new eyes in 20 years.

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## **Kevin says**

A very witty book.

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## **Laura says**

I wanted to like this more than I did. I wanted it to be more clever, or more amusing or just \*more\*. The doctor makes some good points, but he ego frequently put me off. (Which is probably why it took so long to read; I only read an essay or two in each infrequent sitting.)

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## **Melvin Marsh, M.S. says**

From the first essay, "Be Jewish," Doctor London's book "Kill as Few Patients as Possible: And Fifty-Six Other Essays on How to Be the World's Best Doctor" will surely keep you laughing. If you don't laugh at some point during this rather short book, there is little hope for you as either you have no sense of humour at all (which should be considered a medical emergency) or you have somehow been blessed to never experience a doctors office.

I've often been told that my funny bone was likely removed at birth because I don't find many things funny, but I cannot tell you how many times I had to pause to bite my lower lip to keep from laughing so hard that I would wake the house. Every few pages, I would stop look at my significant other, read a few lines outloud from the book inbetween laughter, and watch his eyes roll as he tried to stop himself from laughing.

Oh and "Doc" London, if you are reading this, you forgot one essay that you should have included. "Laughter is the best medicine." I'm sure if there is any truth to that, you will be curing more than a few people who read this book. And yes, I know, don't call you Doc.

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## **Zetagilgamesh says**

A fun little book of thoughtful and humorous essays about the art of medicine. A great book for any new physician to read!

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## **Jamie Collins says**

A collection of very short, humorous essays about an internist's experience in private practice in the 1980's. It's less substantial than I was expecting, but it's worth a smile or two. This 2004 anniversary edition concludes with a tirade against managed health care.

A sampling of essay titles, touted as rules for being the World's Greatest Doctor:

"Be Jewish"

In which the student Dr. London visits an Amish family who are charmed to meet an actual Jew, right out of the Bible.

"If You Don't Believe in Prescribing Xanax for Your Anxious Patients, Be Sure to Take One Yourself"

In which Dr. London doses himself judiciously with alcohol and anti-anxiety medications.

"Don't Be the Last Doc on the Block to Own a Plastic Gallbladder; See a Detail Rep"

In which he glories in his collection of ballpoint pens and hollow plastic kidneys, and is charmed by the advent of female drug reps: "intelligent, well-dressed women dying to shower me with gifts".

"Ask Your Patient What's Shaking Down at Work and What's Cooking at Home"

In which he seems to feel that illness is caused entirely by stress and unhappiness.

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