



## Extreme Measures

*Michael Palmer*

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## **Extreme Measures** Michael Palmer

Dr. Eric Najarian. He's young, talented, and ambitious. He has all the qualities they're looking for at White Memorial Hospital. He doesn't know he's being watched. Judged. An elite clique of medical professionals thinks he has what it takes to join their secret club. All the young doctor has to do is agree to play by their rules.

But Eric has already seen too much. A missing corpse. An unspeakable mutilation. A brutal abduction. It's only the beginning of a plot of terrifying evil. A sinister plan the group will stop at nothing to hide. And if Eric refuses to become their colleague--he will be their next victim.

*From the Paperback edition.*

## **Extreme Measures Details**

Date : Published (first published March 1st 1991)

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Author : Michael Palmer

Format : Kindle Edition 450 pages

Genre : Fiction, Mystery, Thriller, Medical

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## From Reader Review Extreme Measures for online ebook

### **Karolina says**

Will I ever encounter GOOD crime story WITHOUT romance?

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### **Cathie M says**

enjoyed it. Lots of suspense about a doctor who is threatened to not get a big promotion unless he follows special instructions to do something he is sure will be illegal or life threatening to a patient. He refuses but continues trying to solve what is happening and who is behind it in the hospital. Meanwhile he connects with a woman who is searching for her brother who disappeared. The gist of it is that patients are being poisoned to look like they have died, then they are transferred to a remote abandoned ghost town where they are experienced on to to discover a cure-all for any world threatening virus that may come up.

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### **Motunrayo says**

Medical crimes have always been my number one genre. Talking about the methodological descriptions, the suspense, the romance and the educative informations about medicine.

This story is about medicine, power and cabals, although it was boring at first with two many characters in the beginning, that are not related to the story and not linked to the story later on apart from the cause of death.

Silent Treatment is still the best of his books I ever read.

This is an interesting story for medical lovers like me.

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### **Nick says**

An involved story but loose ends are never tied up-no closure on certain items. I liked it.

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### **Art Delaney says**

This story was OK. The opening and middle was fine. Felt the ending was way over the top. But, the book was interesting, good for as summer afternoon. This is not palmer's best work.

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## Jean-marcel says

A few spoilers herein.

How frustrating. There were times when I almost liked this book. The author tentatively dances about some serious and sensitive issues around medical ethics, but ultimately they're all rather meaningless, since the principal antagonist is never anyone we give a damn about (even though he seems likable enough in his two or three scenes on the page before his true villainy is revealed), and the author's decision to have him down on the level of drug pushers, mobsters and gun runners despite the fact that he's a brilliant scientist ultimately means whatever points might be raised in his favour are rendered completely moot. Palmer doesn't even raise these points, though. He has his doctor protagonist, Eric Najarian, muse some on temptation in the early chapters, but these thoughts are quickly put away once he meets the lovely Laura Enders. Such a waste.

I'm not one to value character development over plot, especially in these types of books, but, well, here it was sorely needed. Eric's the strongest card in the pack, naturally, but he comes across as a pretty boring guy; even an unlikable one in the book's early pages, when we can see how ambitious and single-minded he is. It's amazing how quickly romance can crush a man's ambition, and while it might have been interesting to see Najarian go from brash risk-taker and medical maverick to moral conscience with a true heart, we never get much of anything except the knowledge that Najarian apparently really loves this Laura lady. Laura herself is pretty much a non-entity. A diving instructor who loves her perfect brother, even though, as it turns out, she doesn't know a thing about him!

Some of the conversations and interactions in the book are well handled and even a bit subtle, and Palmer clearly knows his way around an emergency room. The book's replete with very convincing medical jargon and so on. There are about two very memorable scenes: One being an autopsy of an apparently-dead-but-actually-living woman, which reminded me of one of my favourite movies, *Short Night of the Glass Dolls*, and is suitably harrowing; the other being the "voodoo curse" ceremony, which is creepy and atmospheric, if a bit cliché. There are even a couple of reasonably handled red herrings that keep you guessing a bit around the middle pages, but they, I'm afraid, ultimately feel wasted.

Wasted, I must say, because the denouement of this story is absolutely terrible. Often I'm one to quip that the journey is more important than the destination, in literature, at least, but this kind of thriller really needs a satisfying climax to wrap everything up and make the reader feel that he's experienced something heart-pumpingly good. This, though...this is pathetic! The demise of what seems the most loathsome character in the entire story, the oily Dr. Barber, happens off-stage, for f\*ck's sake! The "main baddie", who was apparently Najarian's best friend at the hospital, is ultimately thwarted by a booby-trap we learn about a second before it happens, and Najarian never seems to feel a damn thing. Worst though is the apparent "femme fatale" character, who turns out to be just a bad little girl and "too beautiful for her own good" (her father's own words!), gets a talking to from her daddy and just spills the beans, again, off-stage! The corrupt policeman shoots himself for no reason! Yes, I've just revealed the entire denouement, and the hilarious epilogue, which can foreshadow Laura and NEic's future domestic peril as she wants to live in Nowhere Desert, Utah, while he's perfectly happy to stay in Boston! I wish them years of intense marital pain!

This book might have been something special if Palmer had made more of an effort to get into the heads of its populace, especially the antagonists. It's very difficult to tell a convincing story on ethical grounds without examining the issues properly, and it might go a long way to understanding why a first-class biochemist might get so frustrated with the establishment that he'd readily mix with the lowest scum of society just to fund his work. We might have been able to see what made Anna/Rebecca tick, rather than

have her feature in just a couple of scenes and then be told by her parent that she "got boys to do what she wanted by giving them favours". We might be able to excuse or even marvel at how Eric, and even the reader, built up a picture in the mind of Caduceus as a large, shadowy organisation with friends in high places, when really they were just a bunch of pathetic underhand schemers. We get none of that stuff. This is a depressingly empty-headed book.

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### **John says**

Having recently read Palmer's book, *The Sisterhood*, I found this book to be very similar in that there is a group within the medical community who is doing bad things to people. There were some twists and turns that, to me, were predictable.

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### **Joan Ehrnstein says**

#### **Great story**

I've read quite a few of Palmer's books and he never disappoints. Finding out who the bad guy was nearly knocked me off the chair. Loved the book

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### **Julie says**

Dr. Eric Najarian is a resident at a hospital in Boston--very dedicated and waiting for a promotion. He's had an offer to join a secret group if he follows orders. Laura is wondering what happened to her brother and meets Eric in her search. Then a woman pronounced dead ends up being alive when an autopsy is done. Detectives, thugs, corrupt cops, a mysterious town all contribute to this mystery.

Fast-paced mystery--plausible if horrifying. A few slightly explicit scenes which puts down my rating.

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### **Allison Layman says**

I thought it was a well written plot, but the author did bounce around a lot and I felt like he added chapters that were not very necessary. but overall I was very engaged and got some goose bumps.

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### **Louise Fielder says**

A sinister thrilling novel about a deadly scheme taking place at Boston's prominent White Memorial Hospital.

Laura, who has come to the city to look for her lost brother has a chance meeting with a dedicated doctor. Together they become victims of the mysterious disappearance, of her brother, and of several bodies from the hospital mortuary.

As their relationship develops it appears the two problems might be related and it becomes obvious it is hard to trust anyone.

A medical suspense that is so vividly portrayed, full of intrigue, and one that keeps you guessing.

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### **Jerry B says**

Another excellent, suspenseful page-turner !

Eric Najarian is a rising star at White Memorial Hospital. He and a colleague are vying for a big promotion, when suddenly Eric is approached to join a secret society ("Caduceus") as long as he is willing to perform an "unusual" treatment when asked. Pressures of the job and life in general weigh on Eric as he debates what to do. Soon, some missing bodies and other unexplained phenomenon at the hospital shake his trust in everything and send him on a hunt for what is going on. We readers get to know more than he does for quite a while, but we dare say few will guess who the ultimate bad guys wind up being.

This is our fourth novel by Palmer and we have enjoyed them all immensely. Sort of a "thinking man's Robin Cook", Palmer happens to be both a medical and publishing contemporary of Cook -- but to our mind, one with less "fantastic" plots. Palmer's ability to endear his characters to us, to draw out the suspense without getting boring, and to craft a twisty plot lead to hours of entertainment. Enjoy! [p.s., the movie based on this book is also entertaining, but in actuality bears little resemblance to the Palmer story per se...:]

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### **Kevin says**

Very good read - fast paced medical thriller

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### **Cathy Gudger says**

I love Michael Palmer and have read many of his books. This one was great!!

Love the story line, the characters and the twists and turns. You can't trust anyone!!

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### **Steven Shroyer says**

I remember seeing the preview for the movie with Hugh Grant and Gene Hackman when I was a young boy and E! had shows that didn't feature drunk media whores. My vague memory of that preview on my fave show, Coming Attractions, doesn't really jibe with what I read and finished today.

Dr. Eric Najarian is a young man who is being considered for a top position at White Memorial Hospital. One day he receives a call from a person claiming to be from a secret society that tells him that they can guarantee him getting that position if they do what they say. But what exactly does this society want, and

what do they have to do with a young woman and her missing brother? And of course there is that mysterious ghost town of Charity Utah.

From the outset this book really sets up a sinister mood and that mood permeates through the very end. There is a sense of a slow burn in this novel that ends with a nice little slam bang of an ending.

I haven't seen the movie but I can already tell it is garbage(Hugh Grant is British and the main character is of Armenian descent)but that is the way with most book to film adaptations.

So if you're looking for a spooky and tense "Medical Thriller" pick this one up, and remember "Not all surgery is intended to cure"

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