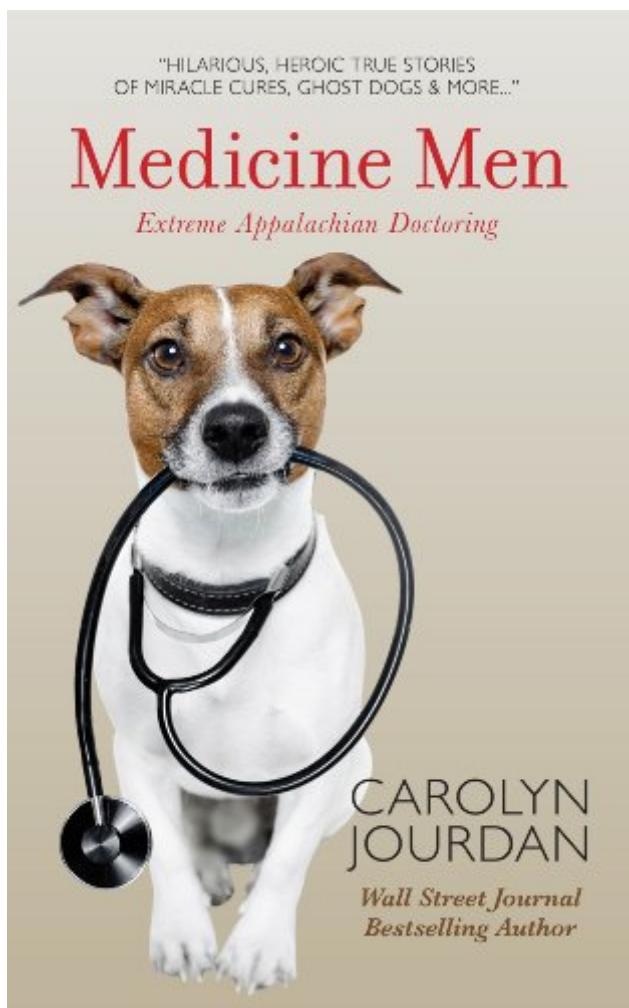


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Medicine Men: Extreme Appalachian Doctoring



Synopsis

A Wall Street Journal Top-10 Best Seller in 2014 & 2015An All-StarChosen for "15 Books Every Health Professional Should Read" by Physicians WeeklyMedicine Men is the follow-on to Heart in the Right Place. Both books have made national bestseller lists and #1 on in Biography, Memoir, Science, and Medicine.Medicine Men is an extraordinary collection of the most memorable moments from old-school rural physicians who each practiced medicine for more than 50 years in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.It contains hilarious, heroic, and heartwarming true stories of miracle cures, ghost dogs, and much madcap medical mayhem.Jourdan's work is often compared to James Herriot and Bill Bryson.Her books are on hundreds of lists of best books of the year, funniest books, and best book club books.Quotations in the book are rendered as they were spoken - in real-life Appalachian dialect.Get your copy today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Carolyn Jourdan writes about a vanishing breed of doctors who not only made house calls, but also risked life and limb to care for isolated folks in nearly inaccessible parts of eastern Tennessee. Most

of the doctors that she interviewed for "Medicine Men" are gone now. But they left behind stories as touching as the heroic World War II vet who was convinced the Marines were after him for desertion - or as hilarious as the woman in childbirth whose filthy bed in a remote mountain shack was guarded by her vicious pet groundhogs. You won't find such extraordinary true tales anywhere else, and Jourdan - who was born and raised in eastern Tennessee, and returned from a cushy Washington, D.C. job to live in the area once again - creates wonderfully rich and sympathetic portraits of larger-than-life physicians and patients alike. Don't miss this gem - or I might just have to sic a groundhog on you.- Bob Tarte, Author of "Kitty Cornered" and "Enslaved by Ducks"

Yeah, some of the stories were heartwarming...I guess. Really, this was just a random conglomeration of stories put together by the author in seemingly no particular order and with often no particular thought to how to structure the stories so they seemed to make sense together. She goes back and forth between doctors, not really introducing them, not really giving a reason for why this story is particularly interest. If this is a sequel to earlier works, the author should still offer some introduction to people for those readers who are picking up this book first. I found few of the stories to be what I had in my mind to be "extreme doctoring" of any kind. In some cases, there wasn't any doctoring at all. I was, essentially, happy to have only paid a small amount for this on Kindle.

This book is about the heroic response country doctors make to the absurd, or terrifying, situations they find themselves in - which can happen in the Appalachians. It's about the laying on of hands. Caring for people and touching things we might prefer to run away from. We don't normally think of doctors as priests as they were in ancient times but we get a sense of it in this book. For me it is Christ at work in the head, hearts and hands of the characters Carolyn describes. Don't pass this one by.

Carolyn Jourdan has written a most delightful book, one that I have enjoyed immensely. Those of us who grew up in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee and remember the country and small-town doctors of years gone by will find it especially appealing, but I recommend it for all readers. She has collected many stories from those old-time physicians--of which her father was one, and in whose office she often worked; she was even a participant in some of the events described so well and she knows whereof she writes. The stories range from hilarious to heart-rending, all revealing well the dedication and outright heroism of those mountain doctors. The book is well written, and the author knows how to tell each story superbly. I have not given it five

stars, however. Why? A few sections in the middle of the book suffer a bit from a scattering of typographical and syntax errors which are usually a put-off for those of us who are picky purists in such matters. The stories are so engrossing that I chose to ignore those minor missteps. I am sure the author will correct them, and they do not seem typical of her writing. I was particularly struck by the following passage, in light of the current rush to create electronic medical records. "As I drove home, I mused about the times it was made clear to me, from the experiences of my own family and the many others I'd spoken to, that the arduous service performed by rural doctors would not be possible without the help of a strong relationship between husband and wife, and sometimes, as in this case, help from the community as well. This, I think, is the most tragic loss brought on by the modern health care system. The loving interconnectedness of doctor, family, and community is being destroyed. These ties that bind us to each other are the bonds that define our humanity, and yet they are being systematically severed in the service of automated bookkeeping. The entire health care system is now being organized around machines instead of human beings. Not prioritized to reduce human suffering, but rather to optimize a computerized record-keeping system. This is a tragedy." Jourdan, Carolyn (2012-11-17). *Medicine Men: Extreme Appalachian Doctoring* (p. 129). Kindle Edition. Please do read this book! I am very selective about what I read, and I rarely make such recommendations. For us old-timers, it will elicit memories and nostalgia; for younger readers, it will reveal a world they have missed and which their history lessons have not often mentioned. It feeds all our longings for a return to simple living, which, perhaps, we have lost forever.

The doctors of Appalachia endlessly give of themselves often knowing that their patients have no way to pay them. They build small hospitals for their communities. They staff these hospitals on top of their regular practice. They stitch wounds, set bones and deliver babies. A very uplifting read!

I had never read anything by the author but read the reviews here and decided to give the book a chance. I am so glad that I did. It was great in every way. The author tells very amusing anecdotes (that while they only take a few pages and thereby only a couple of minutes to read) will have you in stitches. I laughed so much I ached the next morning. It is about Appalachia which is the only place I have ever lived and so I could understand all too well. At the halfway mark I laughed at a car accident story until I was left gasping for air. No, I am not a horrible person, the story is that funny. However, please don't let it deter you if you hail from another place. This is basically the stories of real people who just happen to live in small town America. It is worth the time and small investment.

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