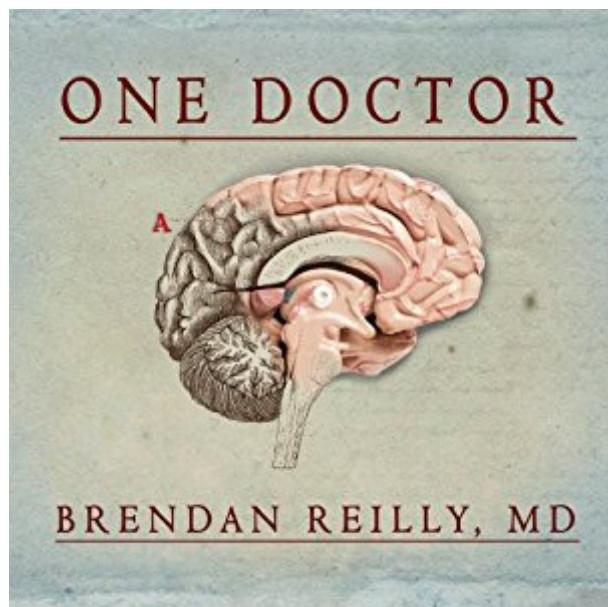


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One Doctor: Close Calls, Cold Cases, And The Mysteries Of Medicine



Synopsis

An epic story told by a unique voice in America's medical system, *One Doctor* describes life-changing experiences in the career of a distinguished physician. In riveting first-person prose, Dr. Brendan Reilly takes us to the front lines of medicine today. Whipsawed by daily crises and frustrations, Reilly must deal with several daunting challenges simultaneously: the extraordinary patients under his care on the teeming wards of a renowned teaching hospital; the life-threatening illnesses of both of his ninety-year-old parents; and the tragic memory of a cold case from long ago that haunts him still. As Reilly's patients and their families survive close calls, struggle with heartrending decisions, and confront the limits of medicine's power to cure, *One Doctor* lays bare a fragmented, depersonalized, business-driven health-care system where real caring is hard to find. Every day, Reilly sees patients who fall through the cracks and suffer harm because they lack one doctor who knows them well and relentlessly advocates for their best interests. Filled with fascinating characters in New York City and rural New England—people with dark secrets, mysterious illnesses, impossible dreams, and many kinds of courage—*One Doctor* tells their stories with sensitivity and empathy, reminding us of professional values once held dear by all physicians. But medicine has changed enormously during Reilly's career, for both better and worse, and *One Doctor* is a cautionary tale about those changes. It is also a hopeful, inspiring account of medicine's potential to improve people's lives, Reilly's quest to understand the "truth" about doctoring, and a moving testament to the difference one doctor can make.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 15 hours and 6 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: January 7, 2014

Language: English

ASIN: B00HQA00SO

Best Sellers Rank: #23 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Doctor-Patient Relations #83 in Books > Medical Books > History #113 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Medicine

Customer Reviews

On this first day of 'The Affordable Care Act', I encourage everyone to read this book, we all need

that 'One Doctor'. In reading Dr Reilly's book I thought about a book I had read. Dr Jerome Groopman's, 'How Doctors Think'. Dr Groopman's explains that no one can expect a physician to be infallible, medicine is an uncertain science and every doctor sometimes makes mistakes with diagnoses and treatment. It is the frequency and seriousness of those errors that can be reduced by 'understanding how a doctor thinks and how he or she can think better'. Dr. Reilly goes one better and starts with the patient, listen to the patient, observe and examine the patient. Certainly all of the new technology is wonderful to help with diagnoses and treatment, but it can't always beat the one on one between patient and physician. In flashbacks Dr. Reilly discusses his most recent challenging patients in 2010, while covering on-call for a two week interlude, in a large teaching hospital in New York City, and then to his career at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, in 1985 in New Hampshire. Hiram Hitchcock had given this hospital to the community in memory of his wife, Mary Hitchcock. In 1985, Dr Reilly had made house calls to his patients who needed them. He was their physician, he knew everything about them, and could see any minor abnormality. He did, however, miss the cause of one of his patient's delirium, and by the time he figured it out the patient had died. Dr Reilly discusses in detail the regrets and guilt physicians have when medical errors are made. Reflecting on the way medicine was practiced 25 years ago and contrasting today's practice, Dr Reilly discusses some of the 19 patients he and his team round on, on a daily basis.

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