



Nurse

Peggy Anderson

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THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER-OVER TWO MILLION COPIES SOLD!

A shocking, inspirational bestseller, *Nurse* is the story of eight weeks in the life of a nurse in a large urban hospital. It is all here: the joy and pain, the death and drama, the mistakes, successes, and secrets. Nurse reads like a novel, but sticks in the memory like real experience-because it is.

Nurse Details

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Author : Peggy Anderson

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Nicole Nash says

While admittedly dated (there are passages of smoking on the floors), Nurse takes you into the world of an urban nurse and her day to day life working with real patients. She sees it all - patients fighting to survive, patients giving up, and patients who know the end is near. The good, the bad, and the ugly is all contained in this slice-of-life story. At the time I read this, I was considering becoming a nurse, and I figured reading a true story of what it's like would be a good place to start. I am very glad I did so. This book helped me decide that being a nurse was what I wanted to do.

Colleen Mc says

This book helped me solidify my decision to enter the nursing field when I read this in High School.

Christina says

Zzzzzzzzzzz.....

Helen Sun says

This book is a candid, no-frills account of what real nursing is like. It is a little outdated though since it was written in the 1970s when nurses had less autonomy than they do today. Back then, IV pushes weren't allowed and doctors rarely asked for updates on a patient's status from nurses. These days, things seem to be much better.

I love how Peggy Anderson goes over the good and the bad parts of nursing. There is nothing more rewarding than to know that you made a patient feel emotionally or physically more comfortable. Mary, the main character, helped Mr. O'Brien through many tough moments. She also goes over the hard parts of nursing such as how to approach topics of death and/or intimacy with patients and hospital staff. This is a very informative read for anyone considering nursing as a career.

Stephanie Bernier says

Such an eye opening read, I definitely have a new respect for nurses! My biggest issue with the book was at times it seemed to bounce from one idea to the next and there were some medical terms that as someone who does not know a lot about medicine had me confused at times. Other than that I absolutely loved this book and highly recommend it! The main character is very relatable and interesting to listen to!

Tara Donaldson RN says

This book was interesting in a historical perspective, because the story it tells is of being a nurse in a very different time from today. (True, it's only a few decades, but those decades have made a world of difference in nursing.) The story and the nurse's emotions felt very real, and I enjoyed seeing my career through the lens of a different time. Some things changed immensely, others, not enough.

Yak says

This was actually a re-read; what stood out this time around was the absurdity of patients and nurses smoking in the hospital, and the appalling level of sexism and outright sexual harassment on the part of doctors. This was written in the 1970s but it might as well have been the 1920s as far as those issues go. Aside from that, it's a detailed account of what it's like to be a nurse, both in terms of the work involved and its effect on the nurse's own personality and relationships.

Emily says

I read this book while in a frenzy of nurse-book-reading last year. This was a tough read for me - while it was published in 1990, the author reminisces about her beginning years as a nurse in the early 1970s. Man, things were different then. Not only did she have to wear a ridiculous uniform, the (all male) doctors treated nurses like crap, and there weren't as many technological advancement to treat severely ill patients as there are today. The procedures and techniques she writes about are mostly obsolete today (like when she makes fun of other nurses for putting gloves on to do peri-care [that's butt-wiping for those of you not in the health care field]) - but the emotional experience of being a nurse has not changed. It's still tough to see your patients lose their battles with cancer or heart disease, it's still hard to get chewed out by a family members, and it's still rewarding when you realize that you've made a difference in someone's life.

I was chatting with the director of the nursing program yesterday about my reading habits, and she was pleased to hear that I'd read some of these not-so-recent nurse stories. She made the excellent point that some of the nurses who were trained in the 1960s or 1970s are still working in the field today, and knowing what their experiences were like may help me see things from their point of view.

Bridget says

This was one of the first nursing books I've ever read and I can say that I know this book will stick with me forever. It is beautifully written (very simple but also involving medical terms) and it gave me so much insight into what it was like being a nurse in the 70s, the way that the women were treated was crazy! This book touched my heart and I know that I will never forget Anderson's story.

Kim Chestnut says

this book is great! i never thought i would be drawn to a book focusing on my career due to the sheer

overload of reading and practicing however, it is very representational of nurses and exactly what we do...the phrase on the cover caught my eye when i first picked up this book, it reads, "Doctors don't keep you alive, I do". i loved that statement and HAD to read this book because it is so very true!

Sherry Knight says

Now I am aware of the many good and bad experiences nurses get at work. I can truly see now that nursing is a really tough profession!

Lisa says

As a nurse I found this book fascinating! It gave a very good perspective on what goes on in a hospital and also what it means to be a nurse. I would recommend it for any medical professionals and anyone who has been in hospitals or plans to go into one soon. It was published in 1976 and I am astonished at the things that never change. I am also amazed at the things that have. For example in 1976 a nurse could not only not put in an IV, she couldn't do an IV push of medication. If a patient needed IV pain meds the doctor had to do it! Imagine that happening on a regular medical floor these days. I loved this book and can highly recommend it, although of course I am biased being a nurse. I have read other books about nursing that I did not find as compelling as this one.

Thomas says

Another entry in my "dated medicine" collection, this one is much better, much more honest. A first-person retelling of a [quite:] young charge nurse, and the patients she interacts with, the dilemmas she struggles with, and those sorts of things. Things have changed a lot, and things have not changed a lot. Makes me want to write about my experience as a new nurse. Thing I've mulled over the most: the author is very clear about how little respect and professional esteem nurses get from others, especially doctors, but how the newer residents seemed to be improving some. I feel like this is an area where there have been major improvements - I feel like what I do is very respected. So I've been weighing how much of that is related to ongoing efforts of nurses and nursing organizations to emphasize nursing as a profession, vs. the entry of more men into nursing, vs. me specifically as a male nurse. A lot to consider, and no easy answer, but it's gratifying to feel like there has been some progress, at least where I am.

Ashley says

Wasn't as good as I hoped it would be.

Mary says

A sort of autobiography of a new nurse working in a big city hospital back in the sixties. It is a fast read because you are drawn in to the nurses, what they do their feelings about what they do-the love for even the

patients that push them to the edge of patience. You learn that nurses rarely leave their whole self at work and at times can interrupt their personal lives. Great book, esp for new nurses, student nurses, any nurses. Technology has changed but nursing remains the same, hopefully it will stay that way. Good book for patients and anyone who will be the patient ie. almost everyone. Loved this book and the nurse who shared her life.
