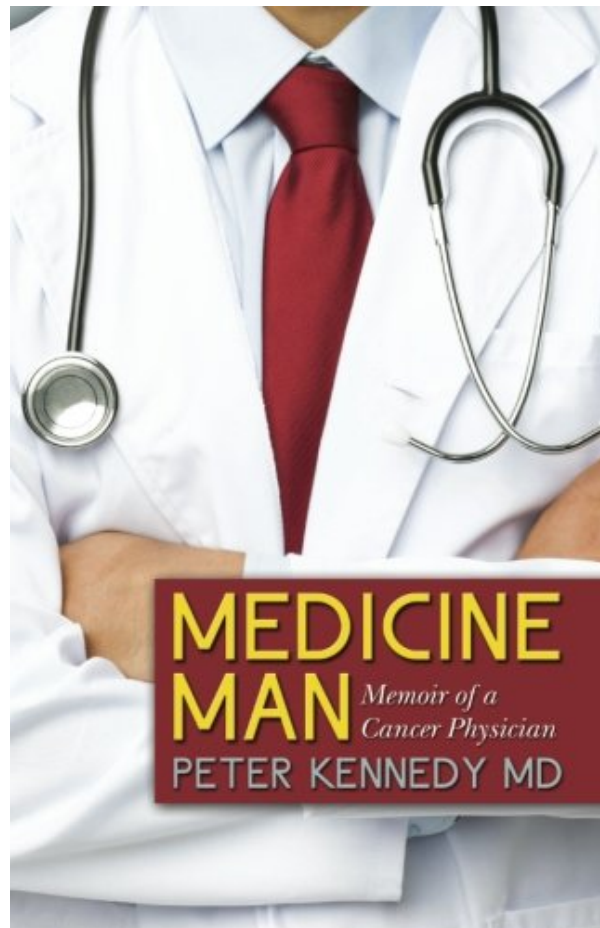
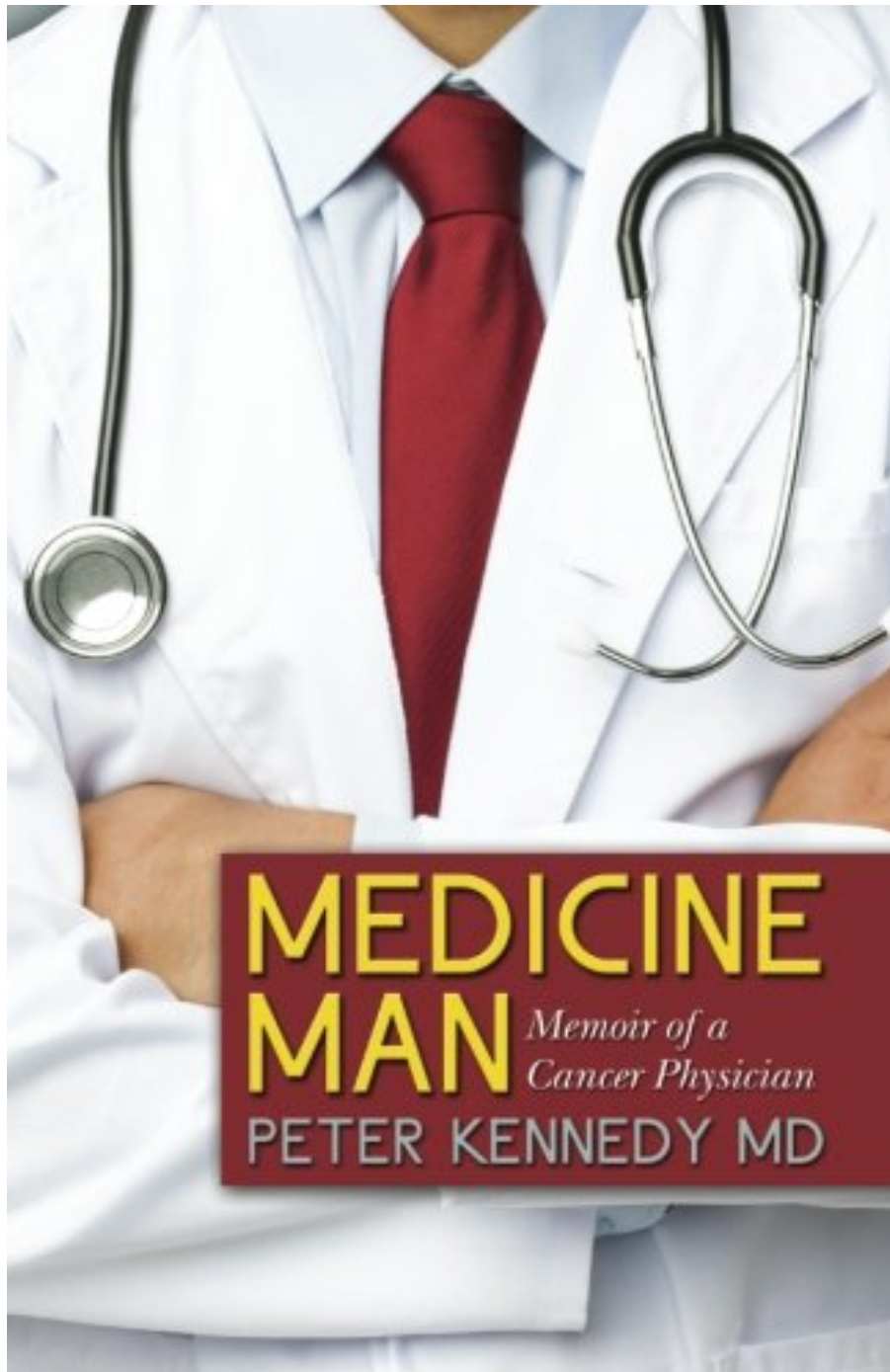


MEDICINE MAN: MEMOIR OF A CANCER PHYSICIAN BY PETER KENNEDY MD



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About the Author

Dr. Peter Kennedy graduated cum laude with a BA from Harvard University in 1966 before pursuing a pre-medical degree. He received his MD with highest honors from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, in 1971.

A renowned oncologist and medical researcher, Dr. Kennedy's world changed in 2008. While driving home, he suffered a grand mal seizure, rolling and ruining a perfectly good BMW 645. During his fight to survive, he endured multiple skull operations to control bleeding around the brain.

He subsequently retired from the active practice of Medicine and ongoing medical research and began pursuing his life-long passion for the written word and his dream of entertaining and educating people worldwide.

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Dr. Peter Kennedy, cum laude graduate of Harvard University and graduate with highest honors of Baylor Medical School, was formerly head of the Metropolitan Oncology Medical Group in Los Angeles. Dr. Kennedy describes his journey in medicine in his a medical memoir *MEDICINE MAN: The Making of a Cancer Doctor*.

Peter Kennedy wasn't expected to live. Born premature with serious kidney defects, he seemed like a lost cause. Yet Kennedy survived, enduring multiple surgeries and going on to become a successful oncologist and medical researcher in the Los Angeles area.

The son of an Irish immigrant and a Jewish mother, both suffering from chemical dependencies, Kennedy grew up sickly in a tough Connecticut neighborhood. His transition to Minnesota athlete, leader, and outdoorsman during high school, and his acceptance at Harvard where he graduated with honors, was nothing less than miraculous. His success in medical school, and subsequent work as an instructor, scientist, medical researcher, and medical oncologist was the fulfillment of the American Dream.

Dr. Kennedy says, "Cancer currently strikes one in two men, and one and three women. It's treated by 'men in white coats' which most people know only as fairly anonymous health providers. Over my career I've come to realize people need to understand that their doctors are people who have known strife, hardship, challenges. That we have different skill sets and varying approaches. Patients and families need to know this. In particular, cancer patients need to realize there's a human behind the white coat who should be their partner in treatment. Through this book readers will see inside the system that trains doctors. They will meet doctors, understand how doctors themselves perceive their patients, and be more able to decide how and by whom they want to be treated. Nothing is more powerful for cancer patients than finding the right partner to provide them treatment, care, and comfort."

Dr. Kennedy describes how incorporating alternative medicine into his practice helped him treat patients more effectively and details how accommodating cultural norms within specific Los Angeles ethnic communities helped him identify and gain early diagnosis for hundreds of cancer patients who might otherwise have gone untreated. He reviews how and why cancer must be treated as a "family illness" and why families and support structures are critical to extending life, and providing optimal quality of life to patients afflicted with cancer.

Dr Cary Present, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, says "Reading this excellent book shows how difficult it is to become a physician and fight disease as well as the medical system. Dr. Kennedy's descriptions of his feelings about his patients are richly worded, and emphasize how important it is for each reader to find a dedicated, compassionate doctor like the author. I recommend it highly." Dr. Present is also past President of the California Division of the American Cancer Society, and Past President and Chairman of the Board of the Medical Oncology Association of Southern California.

Medicine Man takes readers on a journey through the American medical system and gives them information and insight that may well save their life or the life of someone they love. It is the perfect read for anyone currently undergoing cancer treatment or for anyone who is considering a career in medicine.

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Inspirational story illustrating how one individual's work can positively impact thousands

By Amazon Customer

As other reviewers have noted, this book is an excellent read for cancer patients and their families, allowing them to better understand the evolution of cancer treatment through the insight of a man who was instrumental in some of the critical research. However, what struck me about this memoir is that there are really two stories occurring. One aspect of the narrative reflects the education and professional ascension of a brilliant doctor, but the parallel narrative is the story of a man's life who happens to be a doctor. With unflinching self-awareness he shares his life story, often with incisive, self-deprecating humor, reflecting on the difficult childhood and inattentive parental presence that infused him with a robust competitive spirit and the drive to overcome all challenges to succeed. Brilliance, vulnerability, success and failure are shared with equal alacrity. He gives ample credit to his wife, and his family, for being the ballast that allowed him to pursue research and work with such unwavering focus; work that ultimately extended the life expectancy of cancer patients worldwide. His humanity, his faults, his self-awareness, his tenacity and his compassion resonate on each page, yielding an inspirational story of achievement that illustrates how one individual's journey in life can impact thousands.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A Must Read for Cancer Patients and their Families

By Valery Satterwhite

This story of one doctor's excruciating journey through his own experience with cancer and the quagmire of

today's medical system of patient care is gripping as it is gracious and generous in the insights and information shared. I recommend this book to anyone going through treatment or for any of their loved ones. Patients will learn how to direct more of the treatment they get. Loved ones will learn how they can contribute to the health and well-being of a loved one under a doctor's care. It awakened me to the disconnect between today's medical training and the impact cancer has on the body and patient experience as a whole. Ample doses of active listening, honest and frequent communication and well-considered advice is as important as the technical aspects of the medical treatment process. When patient education and social network support are integrated into the culture of medicine Peter Kennedy's legacy will be honored for its profound contribution to all in the battle of survival and recovery.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

A true medicine man

By Mary Jarrett

An amazing read. Not always "easy" reading, but pulls you into his world, his life, his profession and the life he has built with the challenging tools he was given. The heart of this physician is larger than the physical man himself and the world he brings to you and pulls you into along with your mind and heart is amazing.

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