

[Free read ebook] On the Ledge: A Doctor's Stories from the Inner City

On the Ledge: A Doctor's Stories from the Inner City

Neil S., M.D. Skolnik

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*

 Download

 Read Online

#5182337 in Books 1996-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 6.00 x 1.00l, #File Name: 057119883X157 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Neil S., M.D. Skolnik : On the Ledge: A Doctor's Stories from the Inner City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Ledge: A Doctor's Stories from the Inner City:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A depressingly insightful read By A Customer Reading Dr. Skolnik's adventures in an inner city medical office is similar to experiencing the levels of Dante's Hell. Just when you think you've read the most pathetic scenario, a more brutally depressing case presents itself. This was a very touching book, but it was much too brief. I'm sure Dr. Skolnik had more tales to tell, but perhaps he felt as if they might have become redundant. Still, I wish he would have added a few more chapters. The author's descriptions of his own emotions adds yet another fine layer to this book. However, I would have liked to read more about how, if at all, his work at the center affected his personal life with his family. All in all, this is a fine book that is well worth the effort to read.

On the Ledge is Dr. Neil Skolnik's compelling account of two years spent providing medical care to Philadelphia's inner-city poor. Written in the tradition of Perri Klass and Abraham Verghese, On the Ledge describes with candor the frustration of caring for patients who seem unable or unwilling to care for themselves, and the satisfaction of seeing patients take charge of their lives.

From Publishers Weekly When an idealistic young doctor attempts to practice family medicine at an inner-city clinic, he has awakenings that are rude, instructive and formative. All those are found in the connected stories told here by

Skolnik, whose two years of association with the clinic, until it was closed for lack of funding, were filled with frustration as well as with wonder at the wide range of services his patients drew from him. Vignettes of his patients—manipulative drug users, a young TB victim dying despite miracle drugs, canny old-timers who take the young doc's advice sparingly—portray the emotionally rending aspect of working with the urban poor. The humbling fact of not being a white-coated savior is evoked as well in these glimpses of a compassionate doctor at the start of his career. Skolnik is associate director of the family residency program at Abington Memorial Hospital in Philadelphia.

Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sDisheartening, touching stories of a young doctor's two challenging years practicing family medicine at a clinic near a Philadelphia housing project. (Portions of this volume have appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia magazine.) From 1987 to 1989, Skolnik, now associate director of a family practice residency program for Abington Memorial Hospital in Philadelphia, worked in an inner-city clinic where most of the patients were on Medicaid. In Skolnik's stories, his patients often come to him too late, distrust his advice, sell the medications he prescribes, and fail to return for tests or follow-up care. He can examine their bodies, take out stitches, and give their children shots, but he is powerless to make a real difference, for their lives have been shaped by drugs, alcohol, physical violence, and other ills of a society that has broken down. He can only watch helplessly as one young woman dies of tuberculosis, another returns to the man who has beaten her, an old man with syphilis flees out of fear that doctors are experimenting on him, and an unwed teenage mother spurns birth control pills. Skolnik's account is reminiscent of David Hilfiker's *Not All of Us Are Saints* (1994), which described medical practice in an inner-city clinic in Washington, D.C., and like Hilfiker, Skolnik suffers burnout. He describes himself as becoming more and more cynical, and by the time budget cuts force the university-subsidized clinic to close in 1989, he has already made the decision to move on. Looking back, Skolnik says he could not have predicted the depth of human encounters his work brought him. Fortunately for the reader, he has skillfully recreated them here. At the book's end he is both sadder and wiser, and so are we. Makes woefully clear the enormous task society faces in providing health care to the poor. -- Copyright copy;1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.