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Mabry's "Surgeon's choice" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Mabry, R.L. (2017). *Surgeon's choice*. CreateSpace. 119 pp. \$6.99. ISBN 9781979534284

In this novella by Dr. Richard Mabry, a retired physician and popular author of medical suspense, Dr. Ben Merrick and his fiancée, nurse Rachel Gardner, are preparing for their wedding while dealing with a number of difficulties including a conflict between her divorced parents and his problems with a senior surgeon at the hospital where they both work. When they begin to encounter a series of increasingly dangerous incidents, leading to several deaths in which they both are suspects, they can't help but wonder whether all of these events are connected, and if so, how?

Surgeon's Choice is a story that could only be written by someone with extensive medical experience. From the first paragraph, the reader is pulled into the hospital environment and both the routine and emergency situations that the doctors and nurses are dealing with. The medical terminology used in describing drug interactions and other conditions adds to the realism of the narrative without being an obstacle for lay readers.

However, while the novella provides an entertaining afternoon of leisure reading, its brevity means that some aspects of the story may not be as fully developed as the reader might hope. For example, the characterizations are somewhat superficial and one-dimensional. We know that both Ben and Rachel are Christians who pray about the circumstances they are dealing with, but we are not told much else about them, and their faith is not a central theme of the book, as it would be in much other Christian fiction. Mystery fans who like to analyze the clues along with the detectives will also be disappointed, as the story comes to a rather abrupt end, with some of the mysterious incidents never explained.

Surgeon's Choice will be enjoyed by fans of medical suspense, but mystery lovers and those looking for deeper Christian content may not be satisfied.

Reviewer

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