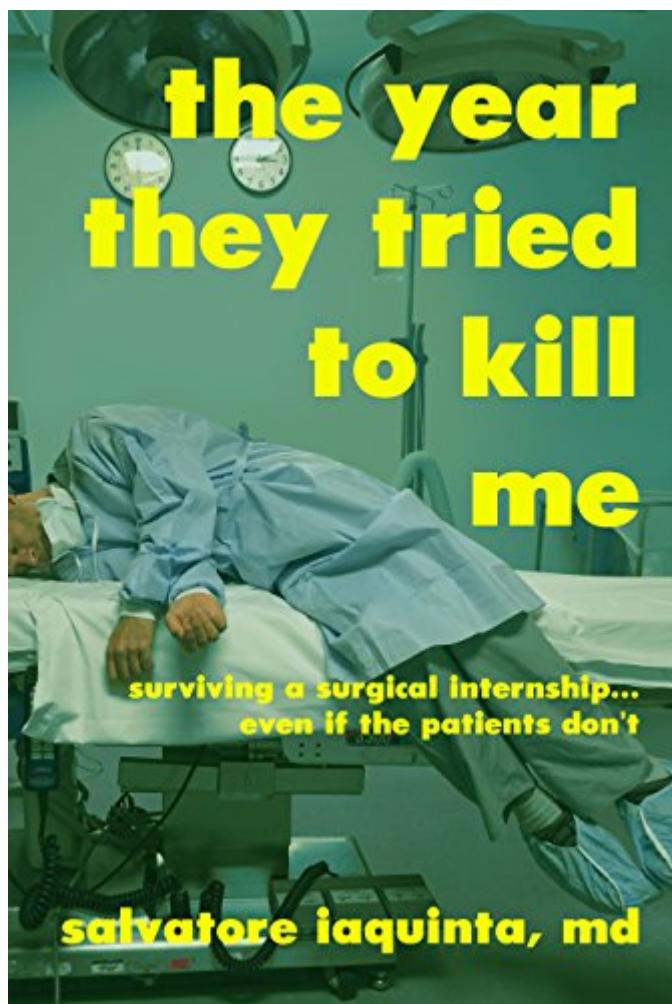


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The Year THEY Tried To Kill Me: Surviving A Surgical Internship...even If The Patients Don't



Synopsis

"The only people who think you are a doctor are you and your mom." Not exactly the warm welcome naive Wisconsin med school graduate Sal Iaquinta is expecting after moving to urban Oakland, California, for his first year of surgical residency. Now all this new doctor has to look forward to is somehow surviving the next 365 days of drug-addicted patients, sleep deprivation, brutal work hours, and even more brutal staff surgeons while also trying desperately to hang onto his humanity...not to mention his girlfriend back home. But as hard as they try to kill him by crushing his spirit along with his compassion, the one thing his superiors can't do is stop the clock. And it's just started to tick. For brand-new doctor Sal Iaquinta, the only way out of his intern year is the same way he gone in: one patient, one day at a time.

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Customer Reviews

As a freelance editor, I read a LOT of books--both for work and for pleasure. I had the honor of doing a final proofread on Sal's book, and in hindsight, I had no idea what I was in for. "The Year

"They Tried to Kill Me" has it all: humor, sadness, a bit of romance, and complete honesty--the best part. It's nice hearing a doctor's opinion and the "behind the scene" stories through an entirely truthful testimony peppered with humor. Once I completed the book I realized it was one of the best books I've ever read. Beautifully organized, sensitive, and comprising a perfect balance of humor and medical drama, "The Year They Tried to Kill Me" is on my bookshelf to stay.

This book was such a great read! Being an ICU nurse and having done a few travel contracts at Highland, I wasn't crazy about the descriptions of the nurses. However, there are pickles everywhere and that place, while fun and interesting, is no exception. I had thought I wanted to do Music/Pre Med in college, but Physics (a class I probably wouldn't have used again anyways) cleansed me of that dream rather expediently. Reading this, along with the tales from my friends who COULD pass Physics, however, make me glad I didn't make it because of the hours. I'm no stranger to 16 hour shifts, but the 120 hour a week nonsense would have probably gotten me dropped for behavioral reasons pretty quickly. This was one of the most enjoyable books I've read in a long time!

This was really funny and I had some of the same experiences in training. In fact I wish I had read it beforehand so I could have kept more humor and perspective: "they" really do try to kill you! Also, families of residents would benefit from hearing some of the stories. Then they might understand why their resident is so stressed out and has a different outlook than every other person on the planet. It's because you aren't allowed to be human or a person when you are a resident. Good insight too on how the new generations do not want to be like the old surgeons. I hear the old guys talk with just the same machismo as frat boys who not only endure but inflict hazing rituals; they all swear it's necessary to doing the job, no matter how dehumanizing and abusive it is. I don't have a great plan for changing this, but as the theme of the book says, "you can't stop the clock".

Eventually those surgeons will pass on. 

Having been a nurse for 42 years, 17 of which were working with residents, I can tell you that this book is a gratifying peek into the life of an intern! Told with humor and pathos, we grow to love (and feel sorry for!) the author as he navigates the emotionally draining life (or lack thereof) of training to be a surgeon. I highly recommend this book to anyone in the medical profession, but those who aren't may have difficulty understanding it (although he explains procedures and terminology very well). I was amazed at the way he was treated though! It truly was "the year they tried to kill me"!!

What a great book. I guess I particularly enjoyed because it reminded me so much of my own intern years. The exhaustion the fears and the joy of accomplishment offset against trying to maintain so in a long distance relationship make this book so special. I wish it didn't, end.

This book was okay, although there wasn't much of a story told. The book, in my opinion, was mostly about medical conditions, procedures and surgeries that the author experienced during his first year of residency. Lots of medical terminology that I didn't understand. Some parts were also just gross. Very little storyline. Yet, it was just interesting enough to keep me reading, but I certainly can't say it's one of the best books I've ever read, and don't understand how it's rated so highly. I read it because of the very high ratings. The author seems like a kind and caring Doctor, though, and if he would write another book, I would certainly read it.

Good read. I was hoping for more tips on how to survive intern year while there are some there are not many. But in the end, it was a good way to know what to expect. Or in other words, expect and prepare for the worst.

I almost skimmed past this book when looking for something new to read because I thought the cover was unappealing. However, the great reviews allowed me to pause and download the sample. Once I did, I was hooked and purchased it and have no regrets about that decision. I loved this book. I have to disagree with those who said he spent too much focus on his relationship with his girlfriend. It was a well-rounded story that showed us that there is more to his life than his career choice, and that's what gives it depth and intrigue. It was never uninteresting to me, not to mention it was quite funny at times, and the only reason I give it 4 out of 5 stars is because I don't feel it was properly edited. As one example, I'm pretty sure Ears, Nose, and Tennis (p. 205) isn't a real specialty. There were several other simple errors that any editor should have picked up on. But the story itself was definitely worth 5 stars. If he ever decides to write again, I'll be the first in line to read it. Thanks for a great read!

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