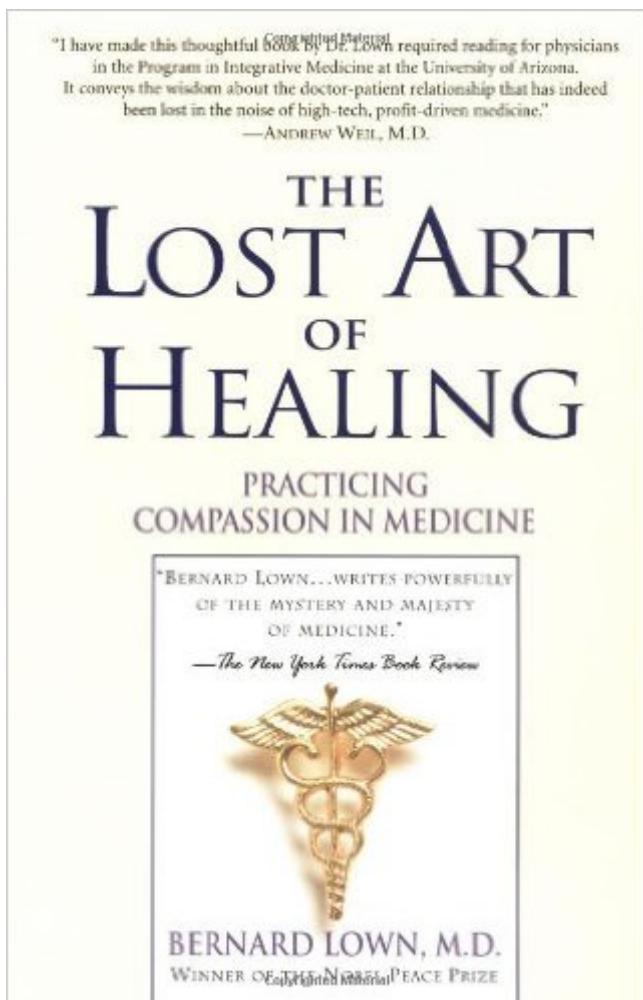


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The Lost Art Of Healing: Practicing Compassion In Medicine



Synopsis

The real crisis in medicine today is not about economics, insurance, or managed care--it's about the loss of the fundamental human relationship between doctor and patient. In this wise and passionate book, one of our most eminent physicians reacquaints us with a classic notion often overlooked in modern medicine: health care with a human face, in which the time-honored art of healing guides doctors in their approach to patient care and their use of medical technology. Drawing on four decades of practice as a cardiologist and a vast knowledge of literature and medical history, Dr. Lown probes the heart and soul of the doctor-patient relationship. Insightful and accessible to all, *The Lost Art of Healing* describes how true healers use sympathetic listening and touch to hone their diagnostic skills, how language affects the perception of illness, how doctors and patients can cultivate a relationship of trust, and how patients can obtain the most complete and beneficial care through a combination of healing techniques and conventional practices. As Dr. Lown explains, the art of healing does not mean abandoning the spectacular advances of modern science, but rather incorporating them into a sensitive, humane, enlightened approach to medical care. With its urgent message and poignant, fascinating vignettes, *The Lost Art of Healing* is a book of vital, universal importance.

Book Information

Paperback: 366 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books; 1 Reprint edition (February 2, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0345425979

ISBN-13: 978-0345425973

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #273,417 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #116 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Doctor-Patient Relations #349 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Reference #1058 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Alternative Medicine > Healing

Customer Reviews

I bought a copy for myself, and now I am trying to give a copy to everybody I know who is involved in patient care. Most of us went into the medical field with noble aspirations to take care of others and in doing so, to grow ourselves as human beings. The process of going through a medical

education debases in many respects our initial aspirations. I read this book and found myself recentered. Dr. Lown approaches medicine as an opportunity to glean from the people for whom he cares. The book is filled with anecdotes gathered from decades of doctoring. The stories lead the reader along the same journey that the author has taken in coming to a sense of himself as a healer. The characters whom have filled his life are interesting and the story of Dr. Lown's personal journey from medical student, to researcher to teacher and master clinician, is fascinating. I highly recommend this book. It has changed the way that I approach my work and given me a zest for opportunities to grow in this profession.

This is an incredible book. Written by the cardiologist who helped bring us DC cardioversion, and lidocaine for arrhythmias, it surprisingly focuses on the human aspects of medicine. He makes several critical points: the most important task for us as physicians is to first listen to our patients. He encourages us to make our diagnoses and prognoses on the basis of careful history taking and examination, rather than by laboratory testing. He also exhorts us to take the responsibility of appropriately reassuring and encouraging our patients, rather than just always hedging our bets to cover our malpractice worries. The book is very well written and edited, and contains dozens of fascinating doctor/patient vignettes. He explores the boundaries of the patient/doctor relationship, and is well aware of the times it leads him astray. He is not afraid to interject his personal religious philosophy (as an agnostic from a Jewish background) but respects those with other opinions. This text contains far more valuable information for physicians than any biochemistry or histology text. Hopefully wise Deans will make it required reading for their medical school. Thomas H. Bracken MD
Onamia MN

I happen to know this book at library. At that time I read this in Japanese, but I was really moved what the author says. Now I am learning about oriental medicine and I realized the importance about talking and thinking with patients. Since my knowledge about hearts is very poor, I cannot understand medical things. But this book will be my bible, so I will try to read also in English. I just want to say thank you to the author and let him know that there are many acupuncturists who want to act to the patients like you. Thank you very much.

In a profession dominated increasingly by science and technology, it is heartening to hear a courageous voice who spoke forcefully and emphatically against the dehumanization of medicine and for the urgent need to return to the traditional ethos of medicine. This coming no less from a

physician of Dr Lown's stature and credentials, a technological wizard who had given the world the first cardioverter and DC defibrillator, and yet managed to stay aloof and above the lure of medical scientific and technical sophistry which had captured the awe and fantasy of many of today's medical students and doctors alike. Debunking the myth of the omnipotence of clinical medicine, Dr Lown sought to reconcile the divide between the art and science of medicine, advocating a more humane approach towards the management of patients. He is both a philosopher and a healer, equipped with an open mind and divergent mindset extending beyond the normal confines of medical practice. As a young medical student struggling with the heavy workload imposed by an explosion of medical scientific knowledge, Dr Lown's book is thought-provoking and inspiring, a timely reminder that knowledge and academic grades are merely a means to an end and that human qualities such as empathy, compassion and a sound understanding of the human condition is not only crucial in medical practice, but must be reinforced and developed in the impressionable medical student navigating through rigors and constraints of his studies and training.

[Reviewed for practicing physicians]: I loved this book. Having heard Dr. Lown's science as a trainee, I had no real idea of his humanism, or how he feels about his patients. A Harvard Professor who is humbled by his patients problems when they don't fit traditional science, and admits it in print! Someone who obviously knows and respects his patients for their individuality and loves them despite their fallibility. I went to see my patients the day after finishing Dr. Lown's book wanting to match his dedication and honored to be in the practice of medicine. Read it! It'll energize you, and can't but help your own patients.

Truly a courageous piece of work by this remarkable physician. Rarely can one read a treatise by an "insider" so intimate and revealing as this jewel. Dr. Lown pulls no punches and insists on the reader's full attention. Anyone who cares about and takes responsibility for his own health should read this riveting tome. Any physician who wishes to learn from a master must read and listen...Lown is truly both artist and healer

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