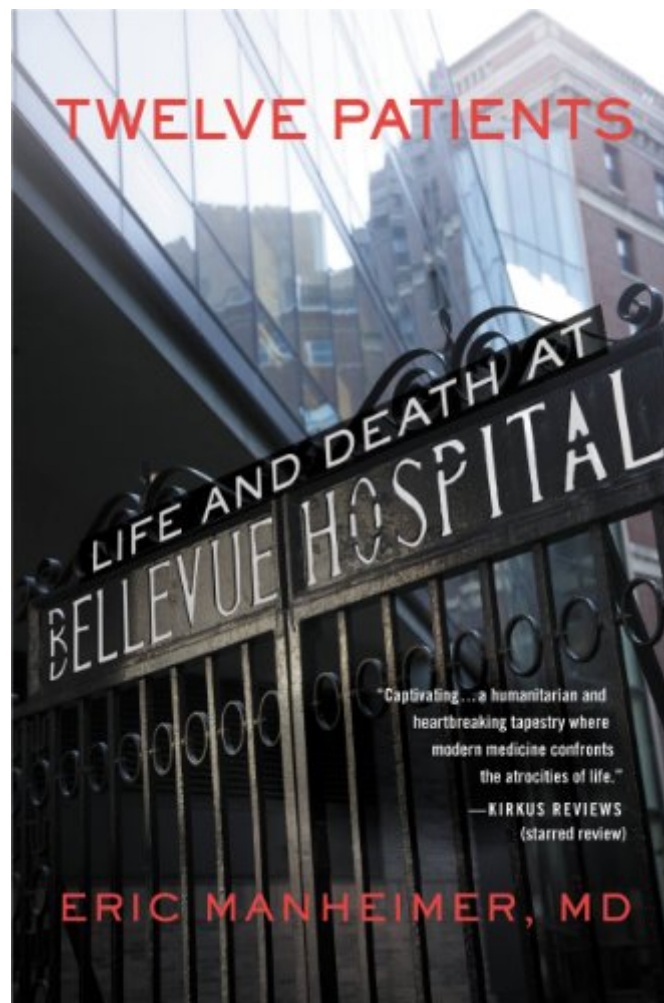




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Twelve Patients: Life And Death At Bellevue Hospital



Synopsis

In the spirit of Oliver Sacks *Awakenings* and the TV series *House*, Dr. Eric Manheimer's *TWELVE PATIENTS* is a memoir from the Medical Director of Bellevue Hospital that uses the plights of twelve very different patients—from dignitaries at the nearby UN, to supermax prisoners from Riker's Island, to illegal immigrants, and Wall Street tycoons—to illustrate larger societal issues. Manheimer is not only the medical director of the country's oldest public hospital, but he is also a patient. As the book unfolds, the narrator is diagnosed with cancer, and he is forced to wrestle with the end of his own life even as he struggles to save the lives of others.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Twelve Patients" is an engrossing book written by the former medical director of Bellevue Hospital, one of the most famous (and oldest) public hospitals in the country. Manheimer details the lives of several of his most interesting patients, in often lurid and terrifying detail. He pulls no punches in his descriptions of these patients, and doesn't flinch in his portrayal of the often depressing social situations involved. Many of these patients have tragic background stories that have lead them through the doors at Bellevue, sometimes their only refuge from horrific circumstances. Through these stories, Manheimer also tackles the subjects of hospital politics and our country's broken

healthcare system. As a physician I found his book fascinating and truthful. Those of us in the medical field all have our own stories of patients who've left their marks on us, some good and some bad. Manheimer's great strength is that he doesn't try to sugarcoat the stories or his feelings about his patients. One patient was described as "evil." How often have you read a book by a physician that described a patient this way? Medical memoirs appear to be in a renaissance. Manheimer's book joins several recent physician memoirs that I've really enjoyed. The most recent one, *God's Hotel: A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine* is a fine read that really gets to the heart and soul of medicine. It's touching and thought-provoking.

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