

The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't

By Salvatore Iaquinta MD

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"The only people who think you are a doctor are you and your mom."

Not exactly the warm welcome I hoped for. But I was just a naive Wisconsin boy, fresh out of medical school and new to Oakland, California. I chose Highland Hospital for my surgical internship: an entire year filled with sick patients, brutal work hours, more brutal staff surgeons, and flawed attempts to maintain a long-distance relationship. Yet, somehow, it's a work of nonfictional comedy.

I take on many roles throughout the story. I'm a kid who still plays Tetris, a guy who can't commit to his girlfriend, an untrained doctor who finds himself cutting open people's skulls, and a fish out of water who is called to the ER to drain the blood from a cocaine-engorged penis. But this adventure isn't just crazy hospital anecdotes or what it takes to become a surgeon. It's a coming of age tale about learning what it means to be a caregiver. Sure, I worked 40 hours without sleep, but that is only one of the ways *They* tried to kill me. Their real evil was crushing the enthusiasm and compassion of their trainees. I struggled to remain a "normal" human while joining a fraternity of holier-than-thou surgeons, and nothing grounded me more than trying to cope with the illnesses within my own family.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Iaquinta's book helped me relive my own surgical residency from 30 years ago, but this time I could laugh and smile about it because of the humorous self-deprecation he eloquently injects into the raw reality of universally intense, serious episodes of real-life surgical events. One need not be a physician or surgeon to enjoy his book. In fact, everyone can be thoroughly entertained by his true-life diary, in which he shares his experiences with circumspection and sensitivity, not typical of the public's perception of surgeons."

Peter Bretan, MD, FACS - Marin Medicine (Spring 2013)

About the Author

Salvatore Iaquinta is a part-time author and full time surgeon in the San Francisco Bay Area. After spending years of his life looking for the ultimate joke, he discovered that the joke is life itself. He now lives by the motto "Laughter is the best medicine, but surgery is a close second." It's working; some of his patients will attest that his operative technique is laughable.

All right, I can't talk about myself in the third-person. I love making things. Anything. Whether it is creating a way to reconstruct a disfiguring wound, sewing a dog toy, or designing a puzzle, I am constantly making something. I wrote a daily comic strip for the University of Madison's "Badger Herald". I've had two excerpts of my book "The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship even if the patient's don't" published. One of which, "What am I Doing Here?", won an award in a physician's writing contest. My original goal for "The Year They Tried to Kill Me" was to tell people what it takes to become a surgeon. The gritty stories would scare students from becoming surgeons. But somewhere along the way I realized I just wanted to write a story to amuse people; a glimpse behind the scenes that lets them know their stoic doctor is actually human...a fallible human.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Percy Brown:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't. Try to face the book The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't as your close friend. It means that it can to be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , we need to make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

Matthew Wallace:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching

TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book has high quality.

James Chapman:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your day to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short space of time to read it because this all time you only find guide that need more time to be go through. The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't can be your answer since it can be read by anyone who have those short time problems.

Katie Mueller:

In this particular era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you should do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list is usually The Year They Tried to Kill Me: Surviving a surgical internship...even if the patients don't. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking right up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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