

Bed Number Ten

By Sue Baier, Mary Zimmeth Schomaker

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A patient's personal view of long term care.

Seen through the eyes of a patient totally paralyzed with Guillain-Barré syndrome, this moving book takes you through the psychological and physical pain of an eleven month hospital stay. BED NUMBER TEN reads like a compelling novel, but is entirely factual.

You will meet:

The ICU staff who learned to communicate with the paralyzed woman - and those who did not bother.

The physicians whose visits left her baffled about her own case.

The staff and physicians who spoke to her and others who did not recognize her presence.

The nurse who tucked Sue tightly under the covers, unaware that she was soaking with perspiration.

The nurse who took the time to feed her drop by drop, as she slowly learned how to swallow again.

The physical therapist who could read her eyes and spurred her on to move again as if the battle were his own.

In these pages, which reveal the caring, the heroism, and the insensitivity sometimes found in the health care fields, you may even meet people you know.

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Bed Number Ten By Sue Baier, Mary Zimmeth Schomaker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #343974 in Books
- Brand: Brand: CRC Press
- Published on: 1989-03-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 5.50" w x .75" l, .82 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
A Houston housewife, mother of two teenage daughters, Baier endured a virtual living death when she contracted Guillain-Barre syndrome. Suddenly and without apparent cause, her body was entirely immobilized; meanwhile her mind remained alert and her nervous system lost none of its sensitivity to pain. At first able to communicate only by moving her eyelids and laboriously "spelling" key words, she slowly improved until she was released from the hospital and returned home. Herefive years after the trauma, which has left her handicappedshe thanks her husband, family and members of her church and community for the support that compensated for bouts of depression and the occasional callousness of hospital personnel. Baier's chronicle of courage offers hope to victims of the catastrophic disease.
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From Library Journal
Guillain-Barre is a rare syndrome that can occur after a viral infection, causing degeneration of nerve sheaths and resulting in temporary paralysis. Baier chronicles her severe bout with this puzzling illness and her almost year-long stay in the hospital, most of which was spent in bed number ten of the intensive care unit. She was completely helpless and unable to move except for her eyelids; her mind remained clear but she could communicate with the sometimes unsympathetic staff only by blinking her eyes. Like other books of this genre, Bed Number Ten serves as an expression of gratitude to the many people who helped the author recover. At the same time, Baier provides a graphic personal view of one patient's experience with modern medicine in an ICU. A portion of this book appeared in Family Circle magazine. Karen Mc Nally Bensing, Metropolitan General Hospital Lib., Cleveland
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Review
..."offers invaluable messages for anyone dealing with dependency, suffering, loneliness, helplessness, or acute or chronic debilitating diseases - in short, for anyone taking care of others. No one reading this book will ever again regard the helpless or incommunicative patient the same way."- New England Journal of Medicine

Users Review

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