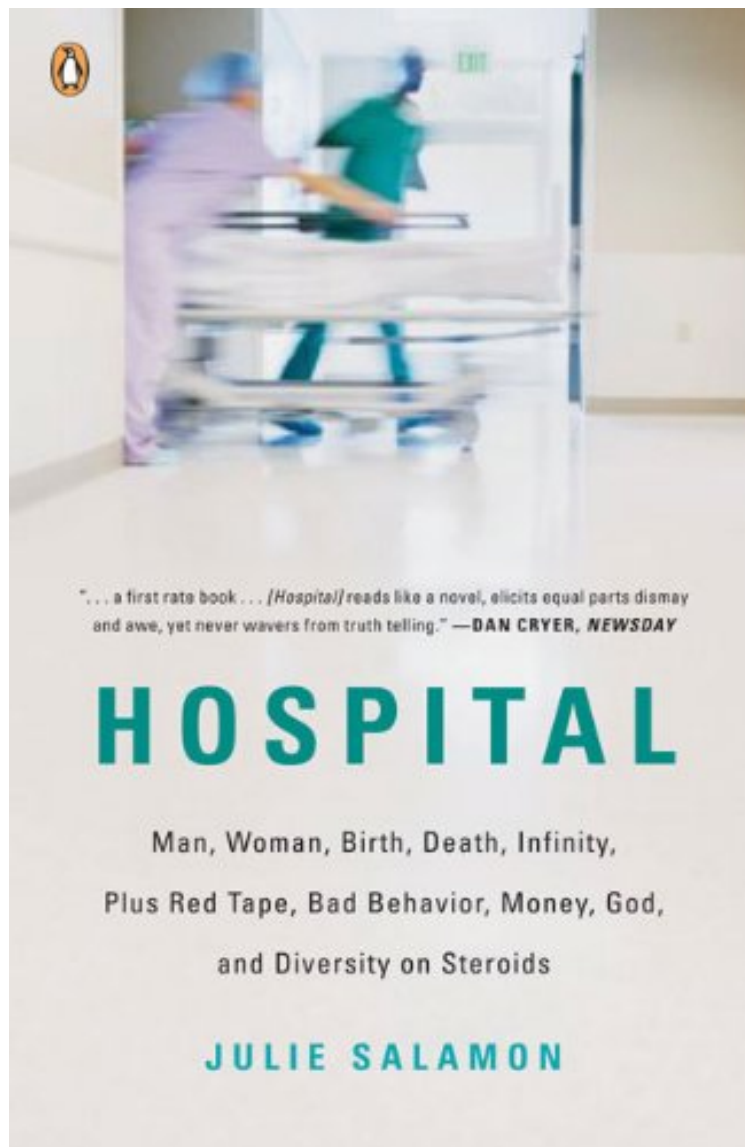


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Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids

Julie Salamon

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Julie Salamon : Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Health care realities
By Greeny
Anytime an author reveals the inside of an institution, in this case a hospital, it is a good thing. The book focuses so much on the administration because that was the source. The author maintains objectivity but does not give the grand critique it seemed she was in position to do. However, such a critique would be outside the scope of the book and could have made it voluminous. In some ways the critique of our healthcare system speaks for itself in this narrative. I felt emotionally distressed during the heart wrenching parts of poor cancer patients. Also, I felt admiration for all people working in hospitals in every capacity. This is also a good story of grand cultural diversity within our society. Access to quality health care is nothing to take for granted. Also, there is only one Maimonides.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
Mixed Reaction
By Customer
There is definitely an interesting and highly informative story here. How could there not be, considering that we're dealing with a large urban hospital serving an extremely diverse population set in an the context of an increasingly perplexing health-care crisis. The book does provide insight into the key issues; the difficulties of satisfying diverse and often antagonistic populations, cost-profit challenges balanced against the need for quality care; often intense internal rivalries and politics as well as external politics (the Brooklyn hospital versus the supposed Manhattan big-guys; and, or course, the patients themselves. I found a lot of this especially interesting because I live in the shadow of the Elmhurst Hospital Center, which might almost be seen as a Queens County version of Maimonides. I saw another reviewer here criticize the book for focusing too much on the higher ups and not enough on the doctors and nurses in the trenches. The point is reasonable, but I can accept the vantage point chosen considering the way the book dramatized the impact of the higher-level matters on the day-to-day functioning of everything else. To me, the negative, here, is that the author often makes the reader work much harder than necessary to pull the story together. I appreciate her desire to portray the main characters as three-dimensional human beings, but I think she goes too far to the point where it seems as if she feels compelled to write about them and their personal issues as, sort of, a way to repay the kindness they showed by cooperating with this book (a book that clearly could not have been written without a heck of a lot of cooperation). I doubt that any of this was overt on the part of the author or any of the people at Maimonides. But from my perspective, as a complete outsider, I have to say that in my opinion, the book read as if that was the case. Perhaps there was a subconscious desire on the part of the author to express gratitude this way. I suspect another, perhaps bigger, factor was the author getting too immersed in the world of Maimonides, coming to see herself almost as an insider, and thus losing perspective on what would be of interest to insiders versus what would be of interest to outsiders.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Must read for future health care providers
By D. Colton
I teach undergraduate courses in health care administration including a course on health care economics and finance. In the twenty years I have been teaching the course I have yet to find a textbook to my liking as books on this subject tend to be very dry and difficult to read. This semester I decided to augment the textbooks with a supplemental text and during my search came upon "Hospital." I read the first few pages of the book on-line (at .com) and knew at once this was something I wanted my students to read and experience as well. One of the challenges of teaching this course is making the material meaningful. I like the quote: "Statistics are people with the tears wiped away." I believe the same can be said of health care economics and finance, as textbooks do not convey the impact that economic decisions have on individuals. However, Salamon's book helps to place these decisions in context and hopefully will help my students appreciate that the economics and finance of health care is more than what can be summarized in a profit and loss statement. This text will be valued addition to the materials I use in my course.

Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids
A warts-and-all exploration of the struggles suffered and triumphs achieved by America's health-care professionals, *Hospital* follows a year in the life of Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, which serves a diverse multicultural demographic. Unraveling the financial, ethical, technological, sociological, and cultural challenges encountered every day, bestselling author Julie Salamon tracks the individuals who make this complex hospital run—from doctors, patients, and administrators to nurses, ambulance drivers, cooks, and cleaners. Drawing on her skills as an award-winning interviewer, observer, and social critic, Salamon reveals the dynamic universe of small and large concerns and personalities that, taken together, determine the nature of care in America.

From Publishers Weekly
Starred . In this remarkable portrait of the doctors and administrators at Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center, bestselling author Salamon (*The Devil's Candy*; *The Christmas Tree*) illustrates the complex machine that is the modern hospital, vying to provide cutting-edge facilities and compassionate care, while making money doing it. Salamon compares Maimonides to a factory, where medicine is industrialized, streamlined for efficiency and as dependent on skilled administrators as on talented physicians. Located in a Brooklyn neighborhood known for its simmering mix of ethnicities and cultures, particularly its influential ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, Maimonides is insanely busy, with perhaps the most densely packed emergency room of its size. A new resident in obstetrics learns to count to ten and say 'push' in Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, and at least two other languages that I'm not sure what they were. Administrators juggle budgets, politics and feuding staff while insurance paperwork increases mistakes and steals treatment time. Although it's hard to deconstruct the Tower of Babel when you're

standing in the middle of it, Salamon succeeds in providing a completely unique, three-dimensional and compellingly human perspective of the demanding work—both frustrating and rewarding—that is not always apparent to hospital patients and their families. (May 19) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. " A first-rate book . . . [Hospital] reads like a novel, elicits equal parts dismay and awe, yet never wavers from truth telling." -Dan Cryer, Newsday " Immensely heartening. . . . If there's hope for our overburdened health care system, Hospital suggests we can thank the decent, thoughtful men and women laboring overtime to improve the quality of life-and death-in our gloriously lumpy American melting pot." -O, The Oprah Magazine

About the Author Julie Salamon is the author of several award-winning books for adults, including *Wendy and the Lost Boys*, as well as her debut novel for children, *Cat in the City*. Her writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, and more. She lives in Manhattan with her family.