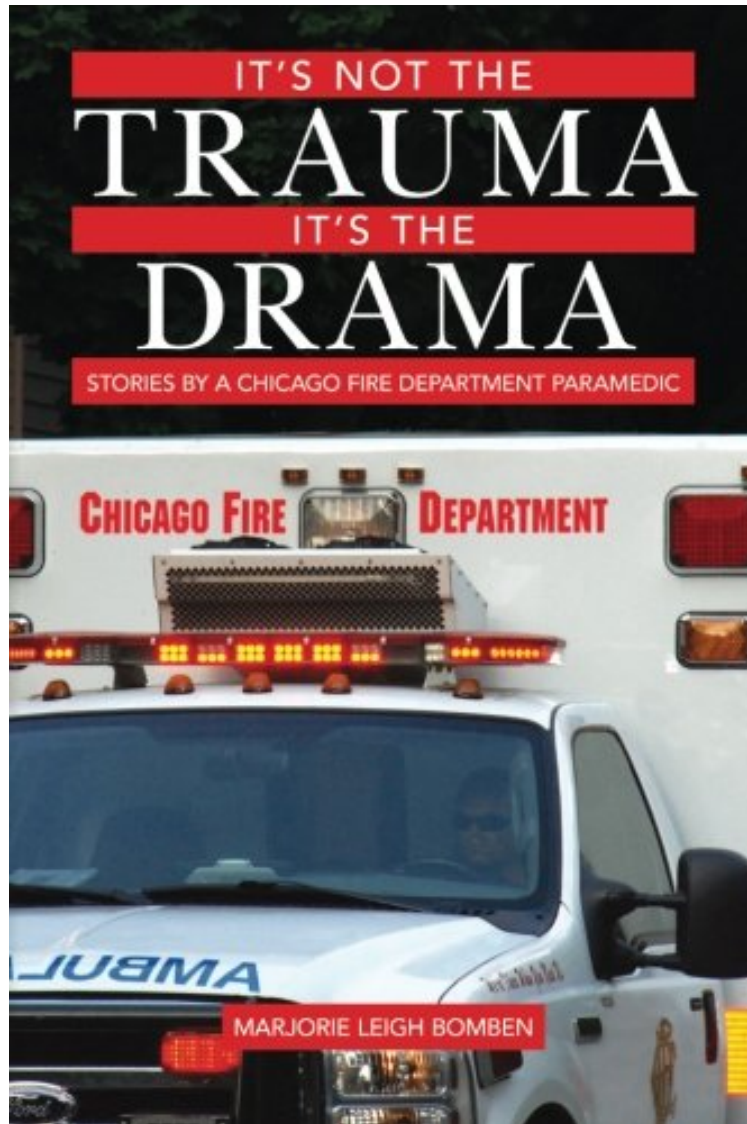


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It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama: Stories by a Chicago Fire Department Paramedic

Marjorie Leigh Bomben

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Marjorie Leigh Bomben : It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama: Stories by a Chicago Fire Department Paramedic before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama: Stories by a Chicago Fire Department Paramedic:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and the content of well there's just nothing like what paramedics

experience and become! By Glenn Chicoine Hello. I'm a newly retired, ex-part-time college professor with some direct contact with the specific ambulances, general department, and time period Chief Marjorie Leigh Bomben (henceforth Bomben) writes about in her *It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama: Stories by a Chicago Fire Department Paramedic* (North Charleston, SC: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015), which is surely on its way to a major publishing house. The book delivers the essence of much of the first responder milieu, the stories, each with an identity and life of its own, a message, a memory, a lesson, and (often) a big laugh: e.g., *My First Trauma, I've Been Shot, Communicating with the Spirits, You've Got My Eye, or Oh, S*****. From the crazies who roam the late-night streets, the death-dealing or death-defying usually alcohol-induced accidents, incidents, shootings, stabbings, etc., etc.; with the fire personnel and paramedic partners having their own sort of craziness; and with the paramedic immediate hands-on duty and career; each richly captured this book is a no-nonsense EMS gauntlet thrown down to anybody who wants it straight and is not afraid of macabre entrails, or (again) laughter/laughter. Compared to our by-now watered-down TV forensic and emergency shows, Bomben's book is a Godsend. Only loosely connected as Bomben's years on the job progress, the stories are about bedside-length, with the precision of Hemingway, the vividness of Faulkner, and the content of well-there's just nothing like what paramedics experience and become! However, on the down-side, her book does not tackle the tougher big picture, including the stellar EMS progressiveness and scandal of the department over those years, especially early on, including the devastating fire department labor action (strike) of 1980; and it does not tackle the ethical questions and hostilities of the paramedic-versus-firefighter/police-versus-fire department, and poorer-neighborhoods-of-color-versus-the-storm-trooper MINORITY (only a disgusting MINORITY) of first responders still causing so much destruction today; and it does not cover the weirdly closed brotherhood/sisterhood of the department in its gamut from Clannishness to complete and eternal sacrifice; though, granted, it touches on the latter. Yet even given the more novelistic and acclaimed Dennis Smith, *Report from Engine Co. 82* (1972, 1999), and Joe Connelly, *Bringing Out the Dead* (1998), I recommend Bomben's book FIRST and FOREMOST. Besides being on its way to the likes of these others, it will be the best and most rewarding read you've undertaken in a long, long time in your busy and yet still hungry life. Trust me; I was there And trust HER: she's STILL working the streets Great Job. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This book does an excellent job of bringing to life the every day dramas ... By Maureen W. Somehow we ordinary folk cannot get enough of stories about emergencies and medical trauma. There can be truly a drama everyday in the life of a paramedic. This book does an excellent job of bringing to life the every day dramas of emergency work from the perspective of a Chicago paramedic. It clearly shows that, like life itself, the job is not all about tragedy or bringing someone from the brink of death. Some of the stories are in fact light-hearted and humorous. In a diverse city like Chicago, a paramedic's work can mimic the theatre of the absurd (look for the story on the naked people). But the ones that stuck with me most were those where a real tragedy had occurred. Ms. Bomben often tells stories within stories that come together at the end, just as in real life. In real life, when something important happens, it can often give you reflections on other parts of your life. Ms. Bomben is adept at making these connections to some of the more memorable medical emergencies. There are also stories that aren't about emergencies at all but are just either strange and funny experiences that make up part of the job. I loved this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Couldn't Put This Book Down! By Mia Flowers I have to admit, I do possess a short attention span but I actually loved reading Trauma Drama! True stories from the author of her employment as an EMT in the city of Chicago. This is definitely one book you want to read if you prefer a straight forward writing style rather than another one about "the rolling meadow emerald green grass was sparkling with morning dew" crap in many books. I just want to scream I know what a valley looks like just get to the story! Anyways, a must read for those interested in what happens behind the scenes of one of our emotionally and physically draining career fields!

For more than thirty years, Marjorie Leigh Bomben has been a member of the Chicago Fire Department, starting her career as a candidate paramedic working on an ambulance in some of the city's toughest neighborhoods. Now a paramedic field chief, Bomben looks back on thirty years of service in *It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama*. The twenty true stories Bomben relates are uniquely told from the point of view of a woman rising through traditionally male ranks. Bomben's tales range from funny to gory, from the dangers paramedics face to the history of a venerable old firehouse. Some, of course, are about saving lives. Others are about simply staying alive. From Bomben's first trauma call the result of a drag race along city streets gone horribly wrong to her eventual rise through the ranks, her tales shift seamlessly from humorous encounters to descriptions of injuries human beings shouldn't be able to endure. Through it all, *It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama* offers a glimpse of the strain and risk experienced by Chicago Fire Department paramedics every day.

"CFD paramedic's war stories from the city are a shot to the heart. Marjorie Leigh Bomben's stories feature some disturbing encounters, odd characters named Baby Face and Peg Leg Bob, encounters with naked men and mangled bodies -- the sort of real-life people and situations not found on television shows. *It's Not the Trauma, It's the Drama: Stories by a Chicago Fire Department Paramedic* is, as far as either of us can determine, the first written by a CFD

paramedic. It is a good book, too. Very good."--Rick Kogan, Chicago newspaperman, Chicago radio personality and a noted author.