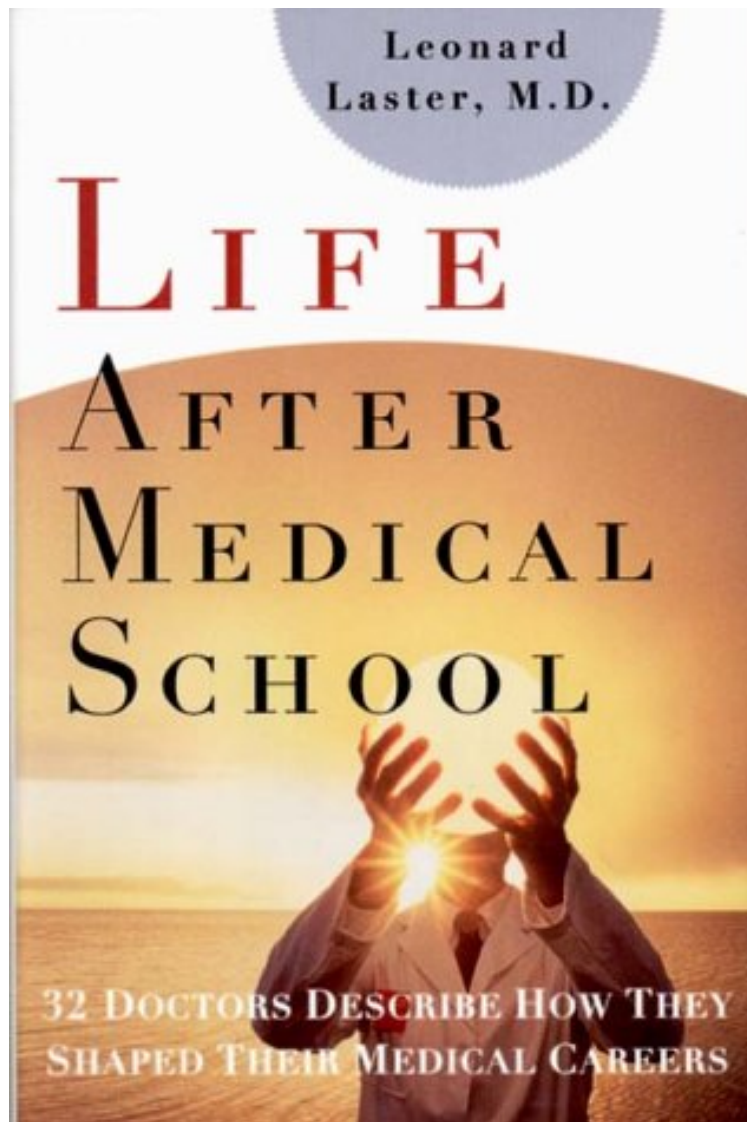


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Life After Medical School: Thirty-Two Doctors Describe How They Shaped Their Medical Careers

Leonard Laster

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Leonard Laster : Life After Medical School: Thirty-Two Doctors Describe How They Shaped Their Medical Careers before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Life After Medical School: Thirty-Two Doctors Describe How They Shaped Their Medical Careers:

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating but has limitsBy Ryo A. ShoharaThis book is a breath

of fresh air for those who are applying to or are planning to attend medical school. The perspectives from physicians (both practicing and not) in a range of careers are insightful and provide a glimpse into the many weaves and turns a medical career can take. My only criticism (and the author notes this, too) is that the profiled physicians are all very similar in terms of region where they work (mostly New England) and ethnicity, thus this book does not address such concerns as racism in medicine that may be important to minorities like myself who wonder about how such challenges can affect one's career choices. With that caveat, I fully recommend this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dated, but well written. By Brian Higdon Some of the information in the book is dated and has changed by now, but all in all it's well written and still offers some useful insights on the different specialties and what they're like. The writers typically are positive about their specialties, so in some ways it may not offer a fully balanced perspective on the specialties. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not recommended. By Jayfred This could have been interesting but it was tedious.

Doctors tell of obstacles encountered, the ever-more demanding business of practicing medicine, and mid-career decisions to pursue something else. Dr. Laster presents interviews with both practicing doctors and those who have pursued alternative careers.

From Publishers Weekly Directed to medical students as a guide to choosing their disciplines, the overarching theme here is, "Physician, know thyself," with 32 of them reminiscing about their backgrounds and why they chose their specialties and discussing their daily work. The pieces are written as first-person narratives, fashioned by Laster, founder and chancellor emeritus of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, who conducted the interviews so deftly that self-revealing personalities emerge. Readers discern connections between specialty and character; those who treat, say, HIV and cancer patients sound especially sensitive, while the pathologist and radiologist, who have little ongoing patient contact, seem to be more interested in medicine as science. The physicians include women and African Americans and run the gamut from psychiatrists (among them, Peter Kramer, author of *Listening to Prozac*) to surgeons and pediatricians. Also here are physicians who no longer practice, such as Howard Dean, governor of Vermont, and Arnold Relman, editor-in-chief emeritus of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Many of the physicians are strongly critical of interference from insurers in the doctor-patient relationship, yet only one physician here practices with an HMO, an area that should have been more fully explored. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.