

The Solid Gold Stethoscope

Edgar. Berman

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Edgar. Berman : The Solid Gold Stethoscope before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Solid Gold Stethoscope:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Cranium inversion syndromeBy randy kempThis book helped me understand rectal cranium inversion syndrome which seems to be rampant in the medical community a great help3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Masterpiece that was decades ahead of its time!By KingpoetusSomeone has to counter the mind-numbed perspective of the presumed feminist who, based on a couple of sentences while totally disregarding historical social context, did a kamikazi hatchet-job assault and unimpressively trashed this book. Her review constitutes a display of bigotted ignorance that you won't find anywhere in this delightful and socially penetrating look at medicine and society. This man was a brilliant physician and personally attended a retinue of the most influential and powerful men of our day due to the fact that he was roundly recognized as one of the most competent and accurate diagnosticians in the world when he practiced. That said, he had no qualms about the abysmal state of affairs of medicine in his day, and his insights proved to be a harbinger for the gigantic financial and moral debacle that calls itself "modern" medicine which feeds off of our sick society even as it crushes it financially -all while ignoring the prevailing causes of sickness that have made the US a lazer house of illness - primarily poor diet and overindulgence of any and every unhealthy substance easily obtainable enough to not have to walk too far, and there are plenty.The book is filled with insights into both the profession and its unwitting patients (victims) and convincingly shows every dimension of the frankly "religious" aspect in this "prosperity" gospel - gloriously obscene prosperity for it's practitioners that is! The fact that the insights are still so profoundly accurate today speaks of the timeless wisdom and uncanny perception of Dr. Edgar Berman. That someone (I'm guessing a self-impor,tant college-

age girl with a media-saturated cliché-laden mentality), would assault this minor masterpiece based on a couple of pre-feminist society quips in a book fraught with scathing wit that spares none of its subjects is not only unfortunate, but intellectually inappropriate. As well as dealing hilariously with the age-old, over-the-top physician homage paid by all too many women (the famous quote by the revered anthropologist James Fraser in the "The Golden Bough" comes to mind: "Men invent Gods and women worship them.), he cleverly breaks down almost every "specialty" that had arisen in medicine during his time. "The Proctologist concerns himself primarily with one square inch of real estate", or something like that. The book is so intelligent and ascerbically witty that I can remember quotable comments almost thirty years after first reading it. Also of significant note: Such stellar medical iconoclasts as Dr Robert Mendelsohn who wrote marvelous books like "Confessions of a Medical Heretic" and "Male Practice" (again addressing the age-old and ever strange odyssey of the Dr. - female patient "religious" experience) all took their initial cues from this little ground-breaking tome. Many a maverick physician has this little mentor to thank for their insight as well as their sanity. It's not destined to be a classic - it ALREADY IS ONE, a few ruffled feminist feathers notwithstanding. 2 of 7 people found the following review helpful. What was he thinking? By customer

The author of this book, Dr. Edgar Berman had a most incredible career. He was evidently a talented and amazing man. But this book...wow. I don't know what to say. It is a jumbled, incoherent mess. You will finish the book and not have taken anything away from it except that the author seems angry about many things. Not knowing anything about Dr. Berman, when I began the book, I noticed that he seemed to be especially angry - even hostile - toward women. Throughout the text, he referred to them by such names as Old Maid, Hen, Flabby militant feminist, and platform-shod gum chewing floozy. He wrote that Gynecology and/or Obstetrics would be an ideal specialty except for one thing - women. Chapter 10, on plastic surgery, is titled "From Hags to Bitches". A little research on the good Doctor revealed a long history of disrespect for women. What else is there to be said? This book is going in the trash.