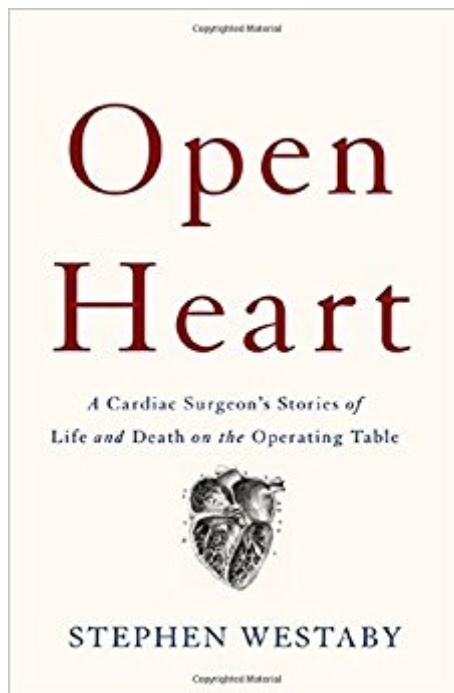




The book was found

Open Heart: A Cardiac Surgeon's Stories Of Life And Death On The Operating Table



Synopsis

In gripping prose, one of the world's leading cardiac surgeons lays bare both the wonder and the horror of a life spent a heartbeat away from death. When Stephen Westaby witnessed a patient die on the table during open-heart surgery for the first time, he was struck by the quiet, determined way the surgeons walked away. As he soon understood, this detachment is a crucial survival strategy in a profession where death is only a heartbeat away. In *Open Heart*, Westaby reflects on over 11,000 surgeries, showing us why the procedures have never become routine and will never be. With astonishing compassion, he recounts harrowing and sometimes hopeful stories from his operating room: we meet a pulseless man who lives with an electric heart pump, an expecting mother who refuses surgery unless the doctors let her pregnancy reach full term, and a baby who gets a heart transplant only to die once it's in place. For readers of Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal* and of Henry Marsh's *Do No Harm*, *Open Heart* offers a soul-baring account of a life spent in constant confrontation with death.

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; 1 edition (June 20, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 046509483X

ISBN-13: 978-0465094837

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.2 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #46,568 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Doctor-Patient Relations](#) #20 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Physician & Patient](#) #23 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Cardiology](#)

Customer Reviews

"In this unsentimental account, a British doctor offers gripping stories of operations and blasts the National Health Service for failing to pay for lifesaving equipment. The deaths that truly madden him are those that could have been prevented with available technologies."--New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice
In *'Open Heart*, British cardiac surgeon Stephen Westaby shares often astonishing stories of his own operating-room experiences, illuminating the science and art of his

specialty through the patients whose lives he has saved and, in some cases, lost....What makes Dr. Westaby's stories so compelling...is that he can't quite suppress his humanity."--Wall Street Journal"Refreshingly, Westaby does not put a positive spin on suffering or cleave to false optimism... a reminder that nationalized medicine might ease the racial and economic injustices that currently determine which people die too soon, but it wouldn't spell the end of medically preventable deaths." --New York Times Book Review "Westaby's highly readable OPEN HEART is part memoir, part how-to (perform open-heart surgery, that is) and part All Creatures Great and Small-style reflection, with stories throughout about cases he's encountered during his journey from eager medical student to seen-it-all senior physician... a heart-tugger, and a fascinating read."--BookPage "A cracking example of a thriving sub-genre of autobiography, the medical memoir. Anyone who enjoyed the 2014 bestseller Do No Harm by the brain surgeon Henry Marsh, a friend of Westaby's, will relish [this book], too... Each story is gripping, written in a vivid, almost brutal way that matches the blood and gore of cardiac surgery." -Financial Times "[Westaby's] writing is bluff, workmanlike and thrilling... a frank and absorbing memoir by a man who has done about as much direct good to his fellow human beings as it is possible to do in one lifetime."-The Times, Book of the Week "British surgeon and artificial heart pioneer Stephen Westaby's Open Heart is a thrilling memoir of some of his most challenging cases... Each case is more astonishing than the next."--Shelf Awareness "[A] dazzling memoir." --Publishers Weekly, starred review"A first-rate memoir from a British heart surgeon... required reading for medical students and hospital-show junkies but also for anyone curious to learn about hearts and the heroic measures to save them." --Kirkus Reviews, starred review "The stakes could not be higher in this bloody, muscular and adrenaline-charged memoir from a pioneering heart surgeon... at points it made my own heart race dangerously." -Sunday Times"At the cutting-edge of scalpel-lit... I love getting a window into this world... I enjoyed so much in this book - the anatomy lesson, the vivid descriptions, the fervour Westaby feels for his work." -Evening Standard"Profoundly powerful." -Literary Review (UK)"Westaby is everything you would hope from a maverick surgical genius: authoritative, engaged, passionate and opinionated. His book, annoyingly well written for someone who has penned only medical papers and handbooks, reads like a thriller, except with rather more corpses." -The Times (UK)"A full-frontal and thrilling portrayal. Each story in this fascinating book brings a new nail-biting surgical adventure... A gifted surgeon, Westaby is also a natural writer... [Open Heart] succeeds on many levels: political battle cry, chronicle of bloody feats, history of modern cardiology, tribute to patients and paean to surgery."-Daily Telegraph"Remarkable." -Daily Mirror "Powerful... [this book] is not for the faint-hearted; breast bones are sawn apart, body fluids gush, but empathy isn't absent."

-Observer"An informative read." --Irish Independent "Dr. Westaby, a master cardiac surgeon, seamlessly assumes the role of a master storyteller, presenting a lifetime of experience that is as informative as it is riveting." --Joseph S. Coselli, M.D., Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Heart Institute

Stephen Westaby is a pioneer in artificial heart technology and serves as Consultant Cardiac Surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. He lives in Oxford, UK.

After reading Manu Kalia's book "I Think I Need a New Heart: The Journey from Heart Failure to Transplant" this book came up in my suggested reading list Westaby is a world class surgeon - in England and each story he tells is about a surgery that he's performed over the years. I learned a LOT about cardiac intervention and mechanical devices. His stories are interesting to read, and scary as well. A lot of slicing and dicing going on!

This book is dramatic, heartbreaking and wonky about the science and efforts made to save lives. A nice combination of terror, effort and brave people enduring the most difficult physical deficiencies and their amazing coping mechanisms. It also spotlights the dedication and commitment of the doctors who are tasked with and passionate about helping pave new ways of delivering a better life to those suffering from heart failure.

Fascinating, illuminating and very interesting read. I bought a second copy to give to my daughter who is an RN and worked 11 years in the NHS.

perhaps too detailed for the faint of heart but very informative

Very explanatory, detailed and it's just a really good read.

Eye opening. Well written.

I thoroughly enjoyed Stephen Westaby's memoir *Open Heart, A Cardiac Surgeon's Story of Life and Death on the Operating Table*. This book is a collection of stories about his patients who he helped over the years with cardiac surgery. He was a pioneer in the use of the left ventricular assist device that saved the lives of patients with heart

failure. I found him to be humble in describing his accomplishments and frustrated with the national health care system in England. So many patients could have been helped but were refused due to cost. Dr. Westaby is an excellent writer and I was totally absorbed in his stories about his patients. He shared both good and bad outcomes and was very reflective as he reviewed his surgical career.

Be aware that although this is a good book this publisher has copied the actual title which is 'Fragile Lives' by this British author so you are paying twice the price as it comes from the USA and a copy. I got one thinking it was a sequel by this author only to find it is the same book and to return it for a refund will cost me about £40 so I am stuck with it!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Open Heart: A Cardiac Surgeon's Stories of Life and Death on the Operating Table
Fragile Lives: A Heart Surgeon's Stories of Life and Death on the Operating Table
The Cardiac Recovery Cookbook: Heart Healthy Recipes for Life After Heart Attack or Heart Surgery
The Open Heart Companion: Preparation and Guidance for Open-Heart Surgery Recovery
Surgery Open Heart: A Surgical Nurse Guides You Through Open Heart Surgery
The South Beach Heart Health Revolution: Cardiac Prevention That Can Reverse Heart Disease and Stop Heart Attacks and Strokes (The South Beach Diet)
What I Found in a Thousand Towns: A Traveling Musician's Guide to Rebuilding America's Communities
One Coffee Shop, Dog Run, and Open-Mike Night at a Time
REVERSE HEART DISEASE - HEART ATTACK CURE & STROKE CURE - LOWER HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE TO NORMAL & RESTORE YOUTHFUL CARDIAC HEALTH WITH NO SURGERY OR DRUGS ... Pressure Cure, The End Of Heart Disease)
Starting and Operating a Business in Arizona (Starting and Operating a Business in the U.S. Book 2017)
Starting and Operating a Business in Pennsylvania (Starting and Operating a Business in the U.S. Book 2016)
Greenberg's Repair and Operating Manual for Lionel Trains, 1945-1969: 1945-1969 (Greenberg's Repair and Operating Manuals)
The ARRL Operating Manual For Radio Amateurs (Arrl Operating Manual)
Pocket Guide to the Operating Room (Pocket Guide to Operating Room)
Instrumentation for the Operating Room: A Photographic Manual (Instrumentation for the Operating Room, 5th ed)
Advanced Cardiac Life Support 1997-99, New Chapters on Stroke and Acute Myocardial Infarction. American Heart Association, Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke. Emergency Cardiovascular Care Programs.
The Art of the Table: A Complete Guide to Table Setting, Table Manners, and Tableware
Biosignalling in Cardiac and Vascular Systems: Proceedings of the International Symposium on Biosignalling in Cardiac and Vascular Systems, 5-7 Septe
Pivot Tables: Pivot Table Basics, Pivot Table Essentials, Data Crunching, Master Pivot Tables, Learn Pivot

Tables. Pivot Table Tricks, Tips, Secrets, Shortcuts, Made Easy, Pivot Tables for Beginners
Kirklin/Barratt-Boyes Cardiac Surgery: Expert Consult - Online and Print (2-Volume Set), 4e
(Kochoukas, Kirklin/Barratt-Boyes Cardiac Surgery (2 vol. Set)) Kaplan's Cardiac Anesthesia: In
Cardiac and Noncardiac Surgery, 7e

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)