



Lives in the Balance: Nurses' Stories from the ICU

Tilda Shalof (Editor)

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A collection that provides a compelling and insightful look into the world of ICU nurses.

This is a compelling collection of stories by twenty-five nurses working in the ICU, a fast-paced, highly technological environment where patients' lives are at stake. From cardiac, medical, surgical, and trauma units, these nurses share their experiences of caring for critically ill patients after major surgery, illnesses, accidents, traumas, and even multiple-organ failure. These skilled professionals impart their knowledge and insights, along with accounts of the many challenges, stresses, joys, and dilemmas they face in the ICU. The intense emotional and psychological issues that patients, families — and the nurses, themselves — undergo are also explored. This fascinating collection allows us to peer over the shoulders of nurses while they provide life-saving care to patients.

Lives in the Balance: Nurses' Stories from the ICU Details

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Author : Tilda Shalof (Editor)

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From Reader Review Lives in the Balance: Nurses' Stories from the ICU for online ebook

Gizzard says

Ok read, not outstanding.

Amanda says

Admittedly, I decided to read this book when I saw that it was offered for free on the Kindle. I was nursing a sleepy baby and wanted something new to read while she dozed off...

Although this book was clearly not penned by professional authors, it is still quite good. I enjoyed it, and I appreciated the glimpse into the lives of nurses in the ICU. It was far less gory than I expected, and instead focused almost exclusively on the emotional and relational aspects of the job. I'm really glad that I gave it a try.

Ginger says

This is a collection of stories/essays from nurses who have or continue to work in the ICU. Very enlightening!! These stories gave me a whole new perspective on nurses and their profession.

Gail says

interesting views from nurses' POV. I don't ever want to have to be in ICU!

Tina says

Interesting stories about what happens real life to ICU nurses. 4 or 5 page stories from a number of different individuals. It was free on Kindle, otherwise, I never would have picked it up to read. :)

Adrienne says

A collection of stories from ICU nurses, many of them Canadian, giving little vignettes that highlight the struggles and blessings of being a nurse. They are all heroes to me. Recommended for anyone interested in nursing!

Stephanie says

I rarely give up on books. This was even a free Kindle book, and I still quit reading it about halfway through. It read like a bunch of high school essays on "What I learned as an ICU nurse." Poor writing/editing made it insanely dull.

Katie says

A bunch of short stories...most were a good read.

Tanya says

I'm a nurse and read this on Kindle as a freebie. The nursing stories are real, to the point and some I could relate with deeply. I'm not sure it is for everyone but as a nurse I'm always interested in what others think and feel in the profession. I have to say sometimes I cried, and often was amazed to see someone felt the same way I have. Insecure in ability, sometimes guilt over missing something that I should have seen, and always impacted by the patients and their families. Sometimes even more than anything I may have done for them.

Caly says

I loved this book. Most of the stories were so touching, it really got me interested in the ICU.

jamie says

I'm a senior nursing student and at this point in my life i'm at a fork in the road or actually in the middle of many different roads diverging in front of me. I have no idea where I want to work; when people ask me where I want to work i always reply, "Wherever i'm hired. The job market for new nursing grads is not too great now so beggars can't be choosers. Experience is experience." I know that once i do have some years of experience behind me I can choose to do a speciality that I am passionate about and will spend much of my life perfecting and learning. That's why I've decided to read books about every speciality and gain a general understanding of what each nurse does in a typical day.

This book had my heart racing and my head spinning at the craziness of the ICU. In a moment, the patient could be fine - vitals stable, and resting comfortably, yet in the next moment the patient's heart can stop beating or their lungs could stop perfusing. The ICU nurse is the first one to react, and the first one to panic. The ICU team is called and together they work to save the patient's life.

I would love ICU experience at least once in my life - definitely not at first though.

Something that struck me about these stories was how intimate some of the nurse-patient connections were. I used to be somewhat repelled by working in the ICU because I thought it was so impersonal and that it was

all about managing the many different IV's, chest tube, PICC lines, ventilators, etc. I want that personal connection to the patient which is why I prefer bedside nursing, but after reading this book, my perspective is very different. These nurses shared stories that they will keep in their hearts their whole lives. The patients that they have touched will never forget them and these nurses made the difference in not only helping to save their lives, but also making a lasting impact through their emotional support.

Elaine says

True stories of what goes on in the ICU. A graphic look at what these nurses deal with. Fitting title because what goes on is truly Lives in the Balance.

Shonna Froebel says

This is a collection of stories from nurses who work in ICUs in both Canada and the United States. The stories vary from general to specific and uplifting to heart-wrenching. The ICU nurses work in technologically advanced, intellectually-demanding work and due to the often one-on-one nurse to patient ratio, can get involved emotionally with their patients. These stories bring those experiences to life and the reader can feel the fast pace and intensity of the work that is required.

This book opens a window into experiences that we don't often get to see (luckily!) and put real people and personalities into those situations.

Martha says

A Kindle freebie, and although it was interesting, I felt a bit cheated because the stories didn't always have endings. This may be a factor of the nature of the work of ICU nurses, but as a reader, I want to know what happened to the patient and their family. The best essays were the ones where I found that out.
