

## Under The Knife - - - Surgical Stories From Around The World

By **GULZAR MUFTI MBBS, MS, MCh, FRCS**



To deliberately thrust a knife or any sharp object into another human being is profound. Blood will flow. Done by an assailant, the intention of course is to harm and cause pain. It will kill or maim. But in the hands of a skilled surgeon, a finely honed blade can save life, dramatically improve the quality of life, relieve pain, get rid of threatening intrusions and correct disabling disfigurements.

This book is an attempt to take the reader on a walkabout through the day-to-day happenings and the highs and lows of the world of surgery. The purpose is to provide an insight into the surgical persona – about

surgeons' feelings and emotions, their apprehensions and aspirations, their strengths and weaknesses, their joys and sorrows, their dreads and delights and more. The book explores various facets of patient-surgeon relationship including public perceptions about surgeons. Much like illustrations in a textbook, selected anecdotes – some from the author and some from colleagues from all over the world, have been used to amplify the narrative.

Some of the events described in the book are light-hearted and hilarious, some are unexpected, heroic, or even miraculous, some are awkward or embarrassing, and some are painful, tragic or

even disastrous, but all are factual: so what you read is essentially all true. Whilst the majority of episodes conclude in a satisfactory or a cheerful outcome with smiles all round, a few have unfavourable, sad or even catastrophic endings. But each anecdote is a source of experience for all those involved and for all others who hear about them.

Gulzar Mufti has served for 25 years as a consultant urological surgeon in the National Health Service (NHS), as well as in the private sector in England. He also worked for over 20 years in a number of senior healthcare management roles, including Medical Director Medway NHS Foundation Trust and Care UK. Drawing on his varied surgical experience in a number of countries, he invites the reader into a world where the stakes are always high and the pressure to perform is immense. Whether light hearted and humorous or poignant and dramatic, the collection of compelling, real-life anecdotes sheds light on the inner lives of surgeons and the deep questions and dilemmas they face in their everyday working life.

"Surgery fed me with successes that kept me blooming, pumped me up with unexpected triumphs that made me wonder, challenged me with surprises that made me strong, bogged me down with sorrows that taught me the meaning of failure and made me feel humble and in trusting acceptance of God's will. Surgery is not for the weak minded or the faint hearted and is certainly not for the rash and the reckless." (Chapter 13)

**"A thought-provoking and very readable book..."**

**There is much we can learn from this"**  
**MARK J SPEAKMAN, President, British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS)"**

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