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# But I Came By Ambulance!: Real Stories From A Small-Town ER



## **BUT I CAME BY AMBULANCE!**

Real Stories from  
a Small-Town ER

KERRY HAMM



## Synopsis

Back for the fourth time, a registration clerk for a small-town hospital in Ohio recounts stories from emergency room happenings. This collection of stories recalls outrageous tales of criminals running from the police, patients arriving in the ER with one foot over the threshold of death's door, stupid ways patients have injured themselves, and a variety of recollections of patients penetrating themselves with household objects. But not every case is funny. Some of the stories recounted are filled with crippling grief, can offer a glimpse of the fear ER workers feel, and detail that sometimes nurses and doctors simply can't win against the power fighting against them.'But I Came by Ambulance!' is a perfect read for a lazy afternoon, when you're stuck inside due to the weather, or when you're in between caring for the same types of patients described within these pages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I give Kerry 5-Stars, because this book was SUPPOSED to help me sleep...not stay up reviewing at. (Lorrie checks watch) 3:10am!As an unappreciated, hard-working Registration/First contact triage professional, she and I share a gallows humor not typical. As a retired police officer, I know only too well her humor.She describes situations where most people would knock someone's teeth out, yet

maintains her professionalism deftly, but BOY DO THEY GET IT HERE! Now living in Ohio also, I've suffered the culture shock, but she writes, clearly to vent and it's amazing. I WILL be buying the rest of her books and certain each one will be equally entertaining! Kerry I'd LOVE to buy you lunch someday! And don't worry, I'm just a 52yo homemaker with no agenda than to thank you for doing your thankless job. God Bless you and I live just south of Columbus. Shoot me a note if you're ever in the area, because I would love to either pick your brain, or just listen and have some "Girl talk." LorrieBenskySmith@att.net. Again, wonderful book, I highly recommend. I laughed so much, but also felt the poignancy of her un-funny stories. ~Lorrie Bensky Smith.

I really loved the stories from the book *But I Came by Ambulance!: Real Stories from a Small-Town ER*. Some of the stories are quite funny while others are kind of written in a sarcastic manner. Having worked in service industry type jobs in my youth, I can fully understand where she's coming from. I too wonder what will happen to the two young preteens suffering from behavioral issues that will be handled very differently when they become adults. I do not know how she was able to hold her tongue when some of the people she dealt with could not hold their own tongues. I left so hard in parts and I also elected to finish the book in one setting. I highly recommend this author and will read her other three books.

This is a very interesting book on stories from the ER. They show the craziness of being in an ER and what the medical personnel have to put up with. People from chronic moochers to emergency situations. This is a good book to read and be aware of what many times happens in the ER and why sometimes things take a bit longer than we would like. To be in a busy situation and have people not understand takes a lot of patience and fortitude to deal with and she shows the types of situations that this happens to.

I bought a series of books from this author. I must say, although many of the stories are interesting, I'll never look at the ER in the same way after reading them. The author appears to view patients very negatively and seems to be nasty with quite a lot of them. I don't find her humor funny and I think she should find different work if these people are too demanding or needy. People in the ER are usually upset, and scared. This is where good people skills come in. Something the author should have developed. Nice to know what goes on behind our backs. :-)

I've seen lots of books listed by this author on , but this is the only one I'll likely read. I don't care for

the lack of organization and flow from one story to the next( if you even call them stories)....

As always a good read with sometimes humorous and sometimes touching tales of what goes on behind the scenes at a local hospital. I'm reading my way through this author's works and have enjoyed them all.

Oh, I think I'm going to have some sandwiches sent over to my local ER. I was VERY ill a couple of years ago, and kept relapsing. I was sent to the hospital via ambulance 7 times over a period of 9-1/2 months. Twice it was straight from my Primary Care Physicians office. Twice it was straight from my Pancreas doctor's office. Once the Medcar driver who was supposed to take me to the doctor took me to the ER instead. And twice the Residential Home Health Care Nurse sent me. I was in the hospital more than I was out of it. I would be in there for at least 2 or more weeks. When I was discharged, it was never more than 5 days before I was back again. My condition just kept changing. My doctors were wonderful. I had my Primary Care Physician, my Pancreas doctor, a Surgeon, a Cardiologist, a Respiratory doctor, an Infectious Disease specialist, a Pain specialist and a Physiologist (a Physical Therapy doctor, trying to help me not lose the ability to walk because I could not stand up without help). I was receiving the best of care, I was just freaking SICK. I understand only too well that there are OTHER PATIENTS. And hard as it is to believe, many of them were sicker than I was. I just don't know what's wrong with people. I would hear people crying out in pain (sometimes that was me). I would hear people gasping for breath. I would hear people who were calling out for help because they were confused because they didn't know where they were or how they got there. And then there would be someone screaming that their toe was hurting, or they wanted more ice water, or the sun was shining in their eyes. I was so disgusted. I wish Ms. Hamm and all her co-workers the very best. They all have my utmost respect.

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. As an EMT I have seen some different things but to experience it from the Emergency Department side gave some things a different lens for them to be seen through. Very well written and easy to read as it flows well from story to story.

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