



The Immobile Man

A neurologist's casebook

by Lud Gutmann MD

—FROM NEW YORK TO WEST VIRGINIA

THESE ARE STORIES about ordinary and extraordinary people—all patients with different neurological problems—but stories more about their personal struggles and coping than their diseases. These accounts follow Dr. Gutmann's forty years in medicine, from his training in New York City through his life-long University Hospital practice in West Virginia.

Writing in his office, talking with medical students or his residents, hurrying down the hall to a clinic, listening quietly to a patient's recounting of a traumatic event—Lud Gutmann has been collecting stories during all of his life.

The stories in this book delve into different issues: from medical-ethical dilemmas; to misunderstandings or secrets or lies; to tracking down the causes of real or imaginary illness; however, the overarching theme is the patient and the patient's history. Life stories are the focus of concern. Listening to and understanding the patient is the first order in identifying cause and prescribing care.

COMMENTS BY PROFESSIONAL REVIEWERS FROM NEUROLOGY

'The Tattoo' delightfully captures some of the history and folklore of rural West Virginia and cleverly weaves in the legend of the historic Hatfield-McCoy feud and the remaining legacy... nice story with a twist.

'Finding the Answer' ... the story [has a] compelling description of an ambulance ride in New York ... rich in detail, successfully transports the reader..

'The Prosecutor' [is] touching, poignant, and wonderfully written. The author succeeds in depicting a powerful image of a meaningful doctor-patient interaction ... portrays a deep human connection.

'The Coal Miner' [is] quite compelling—a touching story ... of the hard life of a miner. ..story by a proven author.

'Limelight' illustrates the value and pathos in every patient and their struggle to assert their humanity.

EXCERPTS FROM THE IMMOBILE MAN

Frank seemed to awaken something in her. ..He took her useless hand in his. "Margaret," he said, "my young medical students need to understand from the beginning that patients can do surprising things on their own.

—from 'Limelight'

"We need to get her started on some medication right now to help with the way she's acting. But I need to be sure I'm right and I'm still bothered that there's no family history of the illness. And, to be sure, I need to ask you a very serious question." The older woman sat very still, hardly breathing, waiting.

—from 'Woman in Motion'

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