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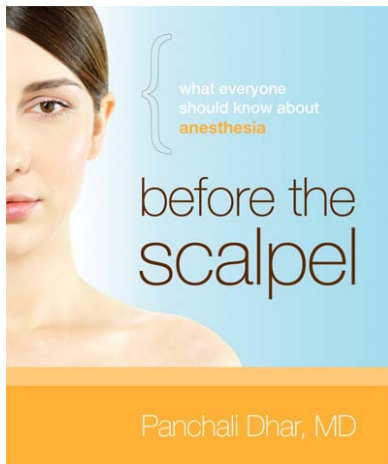
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NONFICTION LOVER

The stories of a part-time librarian mixed with nonfiction book reviews.
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“Before the Scalpel” by Panchali Dhar, MD



Published by Hava at 8:02 am under – *Before the Scalpel* by Panchali Dhar, MD, 4.75 stars, Nonfiction Lover, anesthesiology, book reviews, medical and health related books, nonfiction book review, nonfiction books, virtual book tour Edit This

Before I get this party started, I just wanted to say that I was sent this book for free from the publisher, and my review of it is part of a virtual book tour being done by the author. This didn't change how I felt about the book or what I am about to say, but I did think that in the spirit of honesty and forthrightness, I ought to tell you guys that anyway.

Moving on...

Before the Scalpel: What Everyone Should Know About Anesthesia by Panchali Dhar, MD was an interesting look into the world of anesthesia, something that us normal people usually miss seeing (probably because we're sleeping. ::rim shot:: Okay, no more bad jokes, promise).

The two best things about the book were A) The author is an actual anesthesiologist; she doesn't just play one on TV, and B) The book is well written, walking the fine line between being easy to understand by the patients who don't have medical degrees, yet including a lot of accurate medical information. It is easy to veer off into one direction or the other, but Dr Dhar does a great job of balancing the two needs.

Before the Scalpel covers a lot of situations – not just your standard scenarios like giving birth or having open heart surgery, but also dealing with surgeries on children, mouth (oral) surgeries, and having cosmetic surgery, among others.

I don't plan on having surgery any time soon, but I still found it fascinating how they formulate an approach, what goes into the training of an anesthesiologist, and how the patient is handled while under anesthesia (did you know that while the patient is being operated on, an anesthesiologist is there at all times? I always thought that the anesthesiologist did their thing, and then left, but that's not so. They stay from beginning to end to monitor the patient at all times).

The publishers also put a lot of effort into providing great visuals – diagrams of anesthesia machines, cute pictures of babies, and other great shots (like of a baby penguin pushing its way out of the egg while the penguin parents looked on.) Too many books have pages of dry facts and no illustrations, something that'll put you to sleep without the need of any anesthesia. I was impressed by how this book handled that.

If you or a loved one is facing surgery in the near future, and you're worried about the effects of the anesthesia or you want to know what your options are, I would highly recommend reading this book. I have a coworker at the library whose father is very sick and is facing yet another surgery – I think I'm going to give her this book to read, because she's a worrier, and it might help put her mind at ease.

I give *Before the Scalpel* 4.75 out of 5 stars. Highly recommended for anyone facing surgery, or for anyone looking at entering the anesthesiology field.

<http://nonfictionlover.today.com/2009/02/18/before-the-scalpel-by-panchali-dhar-md/>

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