

# INCIDENTAL FINDINGS: LESSONS FROM MY PATIENTS IN THE ART OF MEDICINE BY DANIELLE OFRI



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Review

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In *Singular Intimacies*, which the *New England Journal of Medicine* said captured the essence of becoming and being a doctor, Danielle Ofri led us into the hectic, constantly challenging world of big-city medicine. In *Incidental Findings*, she's finished her training and is learning through practice to become a more rounded healer. The book opens with a dramatic tale of the tables being turned on Dr. Ofri: She's had to shed the precious white coat and credentials she worked so hard to earn and enter her own hospital as a patient. She experiences the real 'slight prick and pressure' of a long needle as well as the very real sense of invasion and panic that routinely visits her patients.

These fifteen intertwined tales include 'Living Will,' where Dr. Ofri treats a man who has lost the will to live, and she too comes dangerously close to concluding that he has nothing to live for; 'Common Ground,' in which a patient's difficult decision to have an abortion highlights the vulnerabilities of doctor and patient alike; 'Acne,' where she is confronted by a patient whose physical and emotional abuse she can't possibly heal, so she must settle on treating the one thing she can, the least of her patient's problems; and finally a stunning concluding chapter, 'Tools of the Trade,' where Dr. Ofri's touch is the last in a woman's long life.

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

but have enjoyed the physician's experiences as a relief from heavier subjects ...

By Ruth Smith

Have read only half of the book so far, but have enjoyed the physician's experiences as a relief from heavier subjects I've been reading. Interesting insider reflectio ns.

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Wow!

By C. Azad

I rarely review books on Amazon because my writing always seems so abysmal in comparison to the work I'm reviewing. However, I really want to tell everyone what a wonderful book this is. I was deeply touched and found myself crying over several essays, wondering how my husband (a physician) manages. Ofri is a very good writer, and I thoroughly enjoyed this book. My only complaint was that it ended too soon, so I'm off to go buy "Singular Intimacies."

14 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Compelling Read, Extremely well written

By Jenny Park

Recently I had finished reading SINGULAR INTIMACIES by Ofri and I was so disappointed that the book had to end. When I found out that she had written a new book, I picked it up right away. INCIDENTAL FINDINGS is an easier read in some ways because Ofri is now an attending physician at Bellevue. Her first book was a graphic depiction of a young doctor's education. Both books are exquisitely written, and I look forward to Ofri's third book (hopefully there will be one). I recommend her books to anyone who ever considered medicine as a profession, anyone who has considered any of the healing professions.

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