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Coma robin cook summary

Robin (Robert William Arthur) Cook, the master of the medical thriller novel, was born to Edgar Lee Cook, a commercial artist and businessman, and Audrey (Koons) Cook on May 4, 1940, in New York City. Cook spent his childhood in Leonia, New Jersey, and decided to become a doctor after seeing a football injury at his high school. He earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University in 1962, his M.D. from Columbia University in 1966, and completed postgraduate training at Harvard before joining the U.S. Navy. Cook began his first novel, *The Year of the Intern*, while serving on a submarine, basing it on his experiences as a surgical resident. In 1979, Cook wed Barbara Ellen Mougín, on whom the character Denise Sanger in *Brain* is based. When *Year of the Intern* did not do particularly well, Cook began an extensive study of other books in the genre to see what made a bestseller. He decided to focus on suspenseful medical mysteries, mixing intricately plotted murder and intrigue with medical technology, as a way to bring controversial ethical and social issues affecting the medical profession to the attention of the general public. His subjects include organ transplants, genetic engineering, experimentation with fetal tissue, cancer research and treatment, and deadly viruses. Cook put this format to work very successfully in his next books, *Coma* and *Sphinx*, which not only became bestsellers, but were eventually adapted for film. Three others, *Terminal*, *Mortal Fear*, and *Virius*, and Cook's first science-fiction work, *Invasion*, have been television movies. In 2014 her title, *Cell* made The New York Times Best Seller List. by Robin Cook(1977)Publisher: G.P. Putnam's SonsSee the book on Amazon They called it "minor surgery," but Nancy Greenly, Sean Berman and a dozen others—all admitted to Boston Memorial Hospital for routine procedures—were victims of the same inexplicable, hideous tragedy on the operating table. They never woke up.Some traceless error in anesthesia has caused irreversible brain death, leaving each of them in a hopeless coma.Something is very wrong here. And Susan Wheeler, a beautiful young medical student, hazards her life to uncover the horrifying explanation—a plot so ghastly, so far-reaching, so terrifyingly incredible yet so nightmarishly possible, it will leave you suspended in a state of fear...Susan Wheeler is a third-year medical student working as a trainee at Boston Memorial Hospital. Two patients during her residency mysteriously go into comas immediately after their operations due to complications from anesthesia. Susan begins to investigate the causes behind both of these alarming comas and discovers the oxygen line in Operating Room 8 has been tampered with to induce carbon monoxide poisoning.Then Susan discovers the evil nature of the Jefferson Institute, an intensive care facility where patients are suspended from the ceiling and kept alive until they can be harvested for healthy organs. Is she a participant in-or a victim of—a large-scale black market dealing in human organs? Coma First edition coverAuthorRobin CookCountryUnited StatesLanguageEnglishGenreThrillerPublisherLittle, Brown & Co.Publication date1977Media typePrint (hardcover)Pages306ISBN0-316-15510-1OCLC2829561Dewey Decimal813/.5/4LC ClassPZ4.C76992 Co PS3553.O5545Followed bySphinx Coma is Robin Cook's first commercially successful novel, published by Signet Book in 1977.[1] Coma was preceded in 1973 by Cook's lesser known novel, *Year of the Intern* (also published by Signet Book).[2] Synopsis Susan Wheeler is an attractive, 23-year-old third-year medical student working as a trainee at Boston Memorial Hospital. Susan, along with four other students—George, Harvey, Geoffrey, and Paul—takes rounds in surgery rooms and ICUs making post-treatment notations on the health of patients. Mark Bellows, a surgery resident in the hospital, is the instructor and supervisor of this group. The book is a journey into the inner workings of a hospital. As these students complete their three-month surgical rotation, the dilemmas and problems faced by a woman in a so-called "man's" profession are also highlighted. It comes to Susan's attention that two patients, Nancy Greenly and Sean Berman, mysteriously went into comas immediately after their operations. These incidents were attributed to complications due to anesthesia. Nancy Greenly became comatose when her brain did not receive sufficient oxygen during surgery. Similarly, Sean Berman, a young man in his 30s in good physical condition, underwent a scheduled knee operation. Despite the operation's success, Sean failed to regain consciousness. Medically, the odds for such occurrences are one in 100,000; however, such odds seemed resolutely higher at the Boston Memorial Hospital. Baffled by these two patients, Susan decides to investigate the causes behind these peculiar events and of other recent coma victims. Susan discovers the oxygen line to Operating Room 8 has been tampered with to induce carbon monoxide poisoning in patients during surgery, ultimately causing brain death. At the same time Susan develops a brief, but intimate, relationship with Bellows and discusses her findings with him. After unraveling further details, and evading pursuit by a man hired to kill her, Susan is led to the Jefferson Institute. The institute is hailed as an intensive care facility designed to cut down on heavy medical costs. Patients who are declared brain dead or "vegetables" are referred to the institute. Here, Susan finds that patients are suspended from the ceiling by wires in rooms walled by glass, and moved from room to room with little human involvement. The "samples" are kept alive and healthy until a call for an organ comes in. The organ of choice is removed surgically (without consent) and then sold on the black market. Howard Stark, chief of the Department of Surgery at Boston Memorial, is revealed as the main antagonist. Stark confronts Susan over her findings and then drugs her, intending to put Susan in a coma under the pretext of an appendectomy. However, Bellows manages to disable the "oxygen" line during the operation, thereby preventing a full dose of carbon monoxide poisoning. Stark is arrested, but Susan's fate is left in doubt. Background Cook's first book had not sold particularly well so he studied the common ingredients of best sellers and felt that, for an unknown writer, mystery-thrillers had the best chance of success. He was particularly influenced by *Jaws*, *Seven Days in May* and the novels of Eric Ambler. His original publisher did not want it but Little Brown agreed to give him a \$10,000 advance.[3] Critical response Coma's literary awards and acclaims include a long tenure on the New York Times best seller list, reaching its highest position "Number 6" in the fiction category.[4] The novel was included in the Fiction category of "The New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year" listing (the forerunner to The New York Times's current "100 Notable Books of [Year]" listing) from which the "Best Book of the Year" is selected. The New York Times Book Review also called *Coma* 1977's "number one thriller of the year". Adaptations The story was made into a highly successful film, *Coma* by Michael Crichton in 1978. The story was adapted again into a two-part television miniseries aired in September 2012 on A&E television network.[5] Editions ISBN 0-451-21142-1 (2003) ISBN 0-451-20739-4 (2002) ISBN 0-606-01135-8 (1977) ISBN 0-330-25410-3 (paperback) (1978) References ^ Cook, Robin (1977). *Coma*. Signet Book. ISBN 978-0451132963. ^ Cook, Robin (1973). *The Year of the Intern*. ISBN 0451165551. ^ Judy Klemesrud. (Nov 6, 1977). "BEHIND THE BEST SELLERS: Robin Cook". *New York Times*. p. BR15. ^ "The New York Times Best Seller List (Fiction)" (PDF). *The New York Times*. October 2, 1977. Retrieved July 16, 2012. ^ Munn, Patrick (June 14, 2012). "A&E Sets Premiere Date For Two Part Mini-Series 'Coma'". *TV Wise*. Retrieved July 16, 2012. Preceded byYear of the Intern Robin Cook novels1977 Succeeded bySphinx Retrieved from " Written By Diya Barmecha (Grade 8) Robin Cook's Coma is a thriller situated in a hospital. It surrounds the life of a young 23-year-old surgical intern called Susan Wheeler. The hospital where she was interning had many patients mysteriously going into a coma. This science-fiction thriller keeps the reader on its toes as Susan Wheeler tries to excel at being an intern and tries to uncover why these patients are mysteriously going into a coma. These innocent patients are being robbed of their life as they die. The reason for this mysterious coma was a much deeper reason than just a coma. This thriller allows the reader to understand a big scam that many hospitals might be a part of, illegal organ trading. It allows us to question the reality of people in real life going into a coma? After many days of uncovering secrets, Susan Wheeler found out that all the patients who went into a coma for no medical reason have been operated on in OR 8 (Operating Room). She later uncovered that the oxygen line in this room had been tampered with to induce carbon monoxide which poisoned the patients. She tries to take this problem to the Chief of Surgery but little did she know that Dr Stark was also in on the situation. He tried to cover it up by asking Susan to see the bigger picture. Not only were the doctors with this plan going against their moral right, but they were also going against the Hippocratic oath they had taken as doctors to help patients. They were intentionally killing patient for their personal gain of money. They were able to do so because when a patient goes into a coma and has not responded for an x number of days depending upon the country, they are in. The hospital is forced to remove them from any life support by doing so they are dead and their organs can be harvested and sold on the black market for the money. Not only have they taken money for the surgery they performed for the patient but also taking money for each of the organs in the patient's body. This is a very common problem for many countries around the world and this medical thriller showed as the extent to which some people go to. However, donating your organs without the black market can help save someone's life. In India alone, 2 lakh people die yearly due to a lack of donors. You can hold the life of someone in your hand and Robin Cook's Coma has allowed me to broaden my thinking so much. Featured Image Courtesy - Amazon

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