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within

A Novel



ben scott craig

Within: A Medical Suspense Novel

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“Ben Scott Craig has crafted a thought-provoking and suspenseful novel with engaging characters. Readers will be intrigued by the unique and innovative ideas the book explores and invested in the fates of the main players. Moving and compelling, **WITHIN** is an impressive debut by a talented writer.”—ForeWord Clarion Reviews

WITHIN is the story of Andy Stone, his terminally-ill mother, a secretive doctor with a breakthrough cancer treatment, and a drug company that will stop at nothing to suppress it.

Andy’s mother was given conventional medicine in the past – cut, cut, radiation, chemotherapy, chemotherapy. A nurse herself, she grew skeptical of conventional hospitals with cookie-cutter treatments and the one-shot-fits-all solutions of drug companies.

After a terminal cancer diagnosis, she flees her local hospital for the treatment of the enigmatic Doctor Lydia Bailey. She utilizes a mysterious injection. It works as a kill switch that sends the tumor into a rapid, yet temporary remission. She then administers a unique, comprehensive – and unable to be patented – recovery plan that shows great promise, despite its murky legality.

Not everyone is ready to embrace the groundbreaking doctor, however. Medina Pharmaceuticals, a leading cancer drug maker, learns of the secretive treatment. The head of Medina becomes determined to stop it from coming to light, at any cost.

Andy Stone soon becomes wrapped up in an increasingly dangerous quest to bring a hopeful new cure to those who need it.

A hopeful new cure his mother desperately needs.

Within: A Medical Suspense Novel Details

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Author : Ben Scott Craig

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Michelle Taylor says

this was catalogued a medical thriller, but was anything but. I'm not going to say the author isn't a talented writer or that the subject matter was not important. I can even say his prose is poignant and beautiful, but sell it as a dramatic character piece, because thrilling it is not.

Linda says

Interesting view on conventional medicine

Having suffered through cancer treatment myself I was drawn to the subject matter of this book. I was surprised at the insight the author had of the dynamic of the patient and family.

Insomniacchick says

Great story...

I really loved this storyline and how Ben Scott Craig handled it. I too have been touched by cancer in my life, and watched my mother fight a great fight against it. Thankfully, for now, she beat it, like so many others have as well. I think he told the family's story with great love and tenderness, especially at the end of the book. Not going to give anything away! I will just say that I feel everyone should read this book, whether your life has been touched by this disease or not; you will come away with new insight and hopefully more tenderness and compassion for those who have been touched by this disease. I can't give this book more kudos than 5 stars, but I would if I could !!!

Gloria Cameron Hancock says

The foundation; it builds, an exciting closing, and a warm ending.

I've read more exciting books, but I enjoyed the read. The beginning gives you a good introduction to the characters in the story. The it builds to a medical mystery. One where you sincerely hope the good guys win. It gives you an inside look at living with cancer, and an in depth look at dying because of cancer. As a person who has recently been diagnosed with cancer, I found it entrancing envisioning my own battle with the evil beast and wished a doctor like Lydia Bailey could enter my life. Ultimately the book leaves you feeling warm and makes you feel that you want to live every day appreciating what life can be when you truly live it.

Karen Harvey says

Hope

Great story, awesome characters. Story gives hope that someday, the treatment of cancer will change. This is the second time I've read the book. Each time, I come away with more.

Alexis A. Mills says

A wonderfully well written book!

I have not been captivated by a book in a long time. This book has so many nuances. All the usual life, love and loss and so much more. A description of the creative force that blew me away. I had to save it, it was so amazing. I highly recommend!

Terry says

Cried, laughed and HOPED

First, let me get the negative stuff out of the way: quite a few typos for a proofed book and for me, that's it. All else? Simply wonderful. The descriptions of biological functions were, like the human body, sheer poetry. I've never read anything that created such beautiful imagery quite like Craig's. I cried over the visuals he created in my mind, and I cried for my own mother, dying just like Sarah, though only 49. Mom battled cancer for ten years. I thought at the time of her death that it had been the longest decade of my life but I was wrong. It was the first ten years of having her gone that felt unending and without hope.

This story was hard to read because of Mom too early death from breast cancer. She's been gone since 1988 and it seems as though we're only just now, so many years later, starting the real revolution in cancer cures.

Having read about bioregulation and the new data coming out of research in Israel involving the use of a cannabinoid, CBN, that's stopping tumor growth in mice ... I think we're finally on our way to what Craig writes about. I have hope.

This novel really was less if a medical thriller and more like a vehicle for the disbursement of new cancer data, a great explanation of how big pharma and the FDA really work and how adult children of dying or deceased cancer patients feel throughout the long agonizing process. Honestly? Craig might want to explore other deeply intimate issues involving Family. He is great at that kind of writing! The thriller part? It just felt more like a device used to impart Knowledge than anything else.

I look forward to reading more from this author. He did make cry buckets and laugh so heartily but most importantly, he shared the same hope about the future of cancer treatment.

Alicia Huxtable says

I don't know what to say. Right from the start I had a feeling that something BIG or sinister was going to happen in this book.....and I waited. It did happen, just not as BIG or as sinister as I had hoped. And it didn't last very long at all. I actually felt rather let down by it. The pretense of the story was great. A new radical cancer treatment that the big pharmaceutical companies didn't know about.....yet. The characters were definitely relatable and it was an enjoyable book.

Nimira says

Revealing

The story encompasses the emotions felt when a family member is sick and dying. It also brings into focus the huge issues of the pharmaceutical world and the hunger for money.

Rue S. says

My three stars are for the sample, so far -- I will update this. The book is excellent, so the removal of stars are largely for the editing or lack thereof. Ben Scott Craig's writing is flowing and elegant ... mostly. The hiccups could be fixed with an editor and a beta reader, so the author can't be criticized for the problems so much as encouraged to get more assists with his work.

My father has cancer similar to Sarah's, so this is a very hard read but has left me feeling a little less alone when peeking inside Andy's head. The author must know this pain.

Lori Gottshalk says

I truly enjoyed this book. Enveloped in a story of a family's grief is the story of growth and spiritual engagement in life. This story reminded me of things I know, but all too often set aside in favor of the safe approach to life. I will re-read this book for the lessons it so gently offers.

Susan Moore says

Story about love, hope, danger, and evolving treatments for cancers.

I enjoyed this book because of the hope and love of one family dealing with the effects of cancer. I also enjoyed it because one of the two brothers was an artist in glass blowing-sculpting.

I have many times felt the same way about big pharmaceutical companies caring only about the bottom line. You have to ask yourself: Is there now a cure for cancer that would destroy these companies, but the cure is kept from patients because of the bottom line. Traditional medical care is based on medications and

surgeries, sometimes with horrible consequences. If you ask any medical student, they'll tell you that the number of cures can be counted with less than ten fingers. This book is a cautionary tale as well as a having a hopeful message of change. I could relate to this story because I too lost my mother to cancer, and as a result, a piece of my heart. However, one must stay positive and hopeful.

Abbey says

I'm trying to be kind, as I know the author put a lot of hard work into his book, but I have to say that I think he needs quite a bit more practice before publishing again. This book is advertised as medical suspense, yet, at 23 percent finished (which is where I gave up), there was very little medical and absolutely NO suspense. Instead it seems to be the story of a very whiny "artist" who is in the habit of falling on the floor (no kidding, he does this twice in the first 23 percent of the book!!). I enjoy medical suspense - perhaps the next book Mr. Craig writes will live up to its description.

Karen says

What if a better treatment for cancer exists? I was intrigued by the premise, but then I began reading it. OK. I have a real problem with books that are not edited well. Please check spelling. Please check consistency. A woman can't have brown hair and then dark black hair two pages later (unless she's colored it in the meantime.) The author used a description of a man's beard 'that distracted from the receding hairline.' Not a bad description, but then he used the same 'distracted from a receding hairline' a few pages later. The story could have been good, maybe, if it had a good editor to iron out the distractions. I did finish it, but it was very loosely put together.

Dora says

Big Pharma

Sarah is dying of cancer. She is a nurse and sought out the best traditional medical care that she could get but was not satisfied with the way that the doctors dismissed her concerns. Not content to just lay down and die as her doctors were now telling her was her only option, she sought out alternative therapies. That is how she persuaded her husband to break her out of the hospital in the middle of the night and take her to the Bailey Clinic. Her sons were afraid at first that she had died when they arrived at the hospital only to find that their mother's room was empty. Andy, the journalist son, was very interested in what made the Bailey therapy different. Finally, Dr. Bailey explains it all to him so that he can publish the story in hopes that it will keep them all from being killed by a big Pharma executive.

This book could definitely use some editing. I seem to have this complaint about most books that I have read recently. The concept of this book was great but I think that it failed as a big medical suspense book. Even the portrayal of big pharma as an evil entity out to crush other therapies that might be more cost effective with less side effects was not effective. The ending also left a lot to be desired--I'd like to know more about what happened to the characters.

