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As punishment for some youthful high jinks, 16-year-old Jimmy Frazier is made to volunteer in a London hospital. The experience shocks him, and he swears he will never set foot on a ward again. Two decades later, older but not a lot wiser, some strange twists of fate lead Jimmy back to hospital, this time as a student nurse.

Nurse! Nurse!: A Student Nurse's Story Details

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Author : Jimmy Frazier

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From Reader Review Nurse! Nurse!: A Student Nurse's Story for online ebook

Ann says

I have never had any desire to be a nurse but I found this a thoroughly good read. Jimmy, a mature student, initially trains to be a children's nurse then switches to mental health. He tells of his various placements which vary from a children's nursery to a prison. He writes well and brings the various characters he encounters to life. The book is both funny and touching. His attitude to the NHS is refreshing in that, whilst acknowledging its shortcomings, he points out its good points and the skill and dedication of the vast majority of its staff.

Karensi says

A good read and very helpful if you are thinking of specialising in Children's or mental health nursing. Also good if you are considering taking up nursing as a new career (as the author did). Whilst it is funny it's not along the same lines as "Blood, Sweat + Tea". The intention of this book is to help others who are or are considering becoming student nurses.

The ending did disappoint me a little, mainly because I wasn't expecting it. Over all though I did enjoy it and I did learn a lot.

Julie Haigh says

A very worthwhile read.

I've read quite a few of these nurse/doctor/paramedic 'confessions' style books and this is an excellent example. I have seen this before in my amazon recommendations but perhaps been put off by the cover of the book-it is a bit 'cartoon style' so I thought it was going to be a bit silly or trying to be a 'laugh out loud' book but this has so much more substance. It's a true account about a man who comes relatively late to the nursing profession. It details all of his student nurse days and all the different departments he works in. It proves really interesting reading. There are some humorous moments but so much more besides. There are some real characters in the book eg. Mr Temple, one of Jimmy's nursing tutors-hilarious re the songs that help with the timing of the CPR compressions! What I found refreshing throughout this book was the author's choice of words, so different, not the normal descriptions, some I hadn't heard of but all really accurate on looking up. It's really well-written. Sad tales as well as light-hearted, things you just don't think about that nurses have to deal with each day. Enlightening and humbling, a great reading experience. Some surprising moments, shocking moments, humour, what a brilliant book. I hope he writes a sequel, he certainly does have a way with words. Despite reading so many of this sort of book before, I have learnt so much in this one. Some other reviews I have looked at thought it ended abruptly-I don't agree-he ties up the loose ends and gives reasons.

Carlton says

Autobiography is not really what I read, but I thought that this would be different.

In a punchy, episodic format that is highly readable, Jimmy Frazier tells us of his three years studying to become a nurse in the UK's National Health Service. His style is light, self-deprecating and often humorous, but serious points are made in an informative (rather than preachy) way about the failings and strengths of a system that is still free for most patients.

Initially training as a children's nurse, Jimmy then switches to mental health and it is very interesting to learn about the different aspects of nursing and how it is taught.

However, to a general reader, it is the insights into the problems faced by those in the NHS and those that they care for that make this book engaging and enlightening.

Recommended.

Holly says

Honest and funny account of life as a student mental health nurse. Good read.

Kelly Tennant says

Slow going but a brilliant insight into the trials of a student nurse. It brought back many memories of my student days, and reminds me of all that is great about the NHS (as well as some of the flaws). A brilliant read for non nurses.

Emy says

I made a big decision this week, the decision not to pursue a career in nursing and instead refocus on achieving a PhD. For some reason, the day after I had made this decision, I picked this up and began to read. It reminded me of the good things I have experienced in my brief stint as a healthcare assistant, but also ultimately reminded me that I made the right decision.

Jimmy Frazier is a middle-aged, divorced man when he decides to begin to train as a nurse. Originally, he starts to train as a children's nurse, but switches to mental health nursing. It is an honest, insightful look at the three year journey to become a nurse, and about some of the trials and tribulations staff at the NHS face on a daily basis.

The thing about books about the NHS is that there is always complaining. Complaining about new rules, the government, paperwork, the working hours, etc etc. Authors writing about our healthcare system always feel the need to throw in their two pence. Sometimes, this can come across as sanctimonious or just plain irritating, but I didn't find that as much with Frazier's rants. Possibly because they always had a context in the story he was telling at the time, and didn't seem tacked on or unnecessary.

One criticism I have for the book is that it went too fast. The placements on wards and elsewhere seemed to fly by; I wanted to know more about the patients and about the activities that Jimmy undertook, not the long

philosophical conversations he had over a pint with his friends.

Whilst the writing was simple and not too technically complicated, there was one phrase that stood out to me as a particularly good piece of literary imagery: 'Outside it was hailing - bits of shattered sky playing tunes on the window.' I don't know why, but I really like that metaphor. :)

Another thing I really liked about *Nurse! Nurse!* was the honesty. Sometimes Frazier struggled, messed up and judged people before even talking to them. But he didn't shy away from that fact. He was honest, and it was nice to see him acknowledging his humanity, and that he could make mistakes and feel scared as hell. We all can.

All in all, if you're thinking of a career in nursing, have a family member or friend currently training, or are just interested in what training would involve, this book is quite a good place to start. It doesn't tell you everything, and it's not the most amazing book in the world, but it's an enjoyable, quick read.

Lorraine says

It was a little slow going and took me the first chapter or so to get into but once i did it was a good read about the 3 years as life as a student nurse.

Jennifer says

The book provides an interesting view into the British health system and how nurses are trained. I liked that the author had to offer a variety of experiences reaching from children's nurse to nurse in a mental ward. The ending was a bit unexpected, but in general I really enjoyed this book.

Pen says

A light-hearted but heartfelt book about the trials, tribulations, and joys of being a student nurse. The author didn't gloss over the problems with the NHS, but also spoke highly of the dedicated men and women who staff it. He also doled out welcome praise to other professionals such as teachers, social workers, and prison staff.

A nice easy Sunday afternoon read that will make you laugh and bring a tear to your eye.

Sho says

A sort of One Pair of Feet (by Monica Dickens) for the modern age. Jimmy a thirty-something man decides to become a children's nurse. Half-way through his course he changes discipline and goes into mental health.

Nicely written, and beautifully observed. And he's a Sheffield Wednesday fan. How could he go wrong?

At this time when we are losing (have lost) the NHS this kind of insight into exactly what we are losing (have lost) is so important.

Hal says

A wonderful, gripping read if you work in the NHS or not, really hard to stop turning the pages. At times very funny, at times heartbreakingly poignant. Make me look at the NHS in a whole new light. Saw a rave review of *Nurse! Nurse!* in a newspaper which first attracted me, but then I didn't end up reading it for ages. Am so glad I finally got around to it - this is a seriously good book. Very funny, touching and clever. Highly recommended!

Suzanne Jackson says

A thirty-something man decides to become a children's nurse. But decides to change and goes into mental health.

Well written... enjoyed it and would recommend it.

The various characters he encounters are brought to life well and the book is both funny and touching.

Carol says

Good read, well written and interesting.

Ruth Bell says

I enjoyed this book, an honest and thought-provoking account of a student nurse's life
