



Critical Condition

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Dr. Frasier couldn't save the gunshot victim on her front lawn. Now she's fighting for her own life.

It began as a quiet dinner party honoring Dr. Shannon Frasier's colleague, but became a nightmare when a man was shot on her lawn, reviving emotions from a similar episode a decade ago. Then a midnight call from her sister, Megan, causes Shannon to fear that her sister is on drugs again.

Her "almost-fiance" Dr. Mark Gilbert's support only adds to Shannon's feelings of guilt, since she can't bring herself to fully commit to him. She turns for help to her pastor-father, only to learn that he's just been diagnosed with leukemia.

Shannon thought it couldn't get any worse. Then the late-night, threatening phone calls begin, the rough voice asking, "What did he say before he died?"

With everything around her in a critical state, simply staying alive will require all the resources and focus Shannon has.

Critical Condition Details

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Author : Richard L. Mabry

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From Reader Review Critical Condition for online ebook

Barbara Shelton says

What seemed like a pleasantly relaxed dinner party for friends hosted by Dr. Shannon Frasier quickly became a scene of distress, particularly for Shannon. Among the guests was Dr. Mark Gilbert, Shannon's "almost fiancé," and guest of honor Dr. Lee Kai. Loud reverberation akin to gunshots brought curious guests to the front door to see a shocking scene of a man's bleeding body sprawled on the front lawn. Shannon ran to the man, spotting three gunshots in his back, bleeding profusely – she was helpless to save him. The man was mumbling something indiscernible and died. Instantly the scene was *déjà vu* to Shannon and she felt defeat once more as the decade old memory of her former fiancé Todd Gunderson crumpled at her feet from a gunshot wound and died before her eyes. This tragedy shook her future into insecurity with vanished plans of life with Todd.

As my reading quickly progressed, the pages could not be turned fast enough! Not necessarily a mystery fan, Dr. Richard Mabry's story grabbed me and I have a definite addition to favorite genres to consider. Dr. Shannon Frasier's troubles and problems grew by the minute. Megan, Shannon's sister, recently released from rehab, moved in with Shannon...."just until..." Megan is keeping secrets and fleeing from an abusive relationship. Megan is arrested as a suspect in the victim's murder as well as a suspect when her former boyfriend is murdered. Who and what does Megan know about this mystery? The one aspect I disliked was the behavior of the police in this situation. One detective is attracted to one of our women characters; while the other detective appears evil and corrupted. I was not certain where all this was going. You will wonder who is making the mysterious and threatening phone calls to Shannon demanding to know what the dying man said to her – but this reviewer is not giving any hints.

The health of this story becomes more critical. Sadness also corrupts the situation when Shannon's learns her Pastor father has been diagnosed with leukemia. He is a true heroic figure in his battle with this disease and his faith in God. Speaking of faith, the sisters' faith dims and becomes relit somewhat, but will God make his plans known and will their faith glow more brightly than ever? Not giving away any spoilers, you really need to read this thriller....because thrills and twists come unexpectedly and change the entire gist of the story. You will not lose interest.

This is my first read of Richard Mabry; however I do have his other novels downloaded to my Kindle as a result of reading Critical Condition and anticipate reading them all. You will know by the end of the story that God is watching and helping and whether Shannon will finally be secure about her feeling for Mark and accept his marriage proposal. Thank you, Dr. Mabry for penning an enjoyable read without distracting sex, bad language, and hope that immorality will be turned to good actions. Let me mention also that I have a wide appreciation of the medical information and complexion overall this story....it helped make it ONE GREAT MEDICAL THRILLER!!

A complimentary copy of this book was provided for review.

Kav says

Mabry delivers another page-turning suspense. There's something about his sparse, matter-of-fact style that

captures my attention and urges me to read faster. It's easy to speed through one of his suspense novels for that very reason. Mystery and tension abound in this fast-paced plot that continuously left me reeling.

Shannon is hit with one catastrophe after another -- she barely recovers from one shock before the next one knocks her off kilter all over again. I was just as discombobulated as she was. And things get a whole lot more complicated before there is resolution. Like I said -- page-turning stuff.

I really appreciate the faith thread that the author naturally weaves into the story. Shannon is struggling to reclaim her faith. Mark is a steadfast constant -- a gentle spiritual influence. Love that he supported -- never pushed. A great lesson for us all.

Action and suspense with enough twists and turns to leave an armchair sleuth breathless with delight.

Raymond says

This is an easy read of a mystery/robbery that takes place in our area of North Texas! Of course, quite a bit, as expected, of gun play takes place! It is a refreshing departure from novels that glorify recreational sexual activity and is uplifting in an approach to family and spiritual encounters.

Ruth Hill says

I was rather excited to begin this book as it was supposed to be very exciting. And for the most part, it was. The story was intriguing, and there was a mystery attached to it. The author included plenty of suspense and some uncertainty here and there. I struggled to connect with the characters, but that was just me. The author is a fairly good writer, and the book was a quick read.

Unfortunately, this book became quite a struggle for me. It is supposed to be a Christian book. I am pleased to report that there is no sex nor profanity. The Christian gospel is essentially lost within the book, but that is not the major problem. Hypnosis is something that I do not believe Christians should ever investigate or participate in. One of the characters does, and she is never reprimanded by the man who is supposed to be a strong Christian. This disturbed me and caused me to develop quite a distaste for the book. Had it not been a Christian book, I would have had an easier time accepting this.

I was sent a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review. I was not financially compensated, and all opinions are 100 percent mine.

Ron says

Not sure what you call a book like this. Definitely a murder mystery. Definitely Christian fiction. Definitely a medical thriller. But the resulting mash up exceeds the component parts, usually. The medical minutia occasionally slows the pace. The Christian aspect is deftly handled, better the most Christian romances or adventure stories.

The protagonist is a surgeon who finds herself surrounded by bullet-riddled dead bodies, several outside the

premises of her hospital. And she's not handling it very well. Oh, and her wild-child sister is desperate for shelter, and not all is right with the parents, and her fiancé isn't ... and that's her fault. And, is that cop hitting on her?

Occasionally had a Connie Willis flavor with characters so over-loaded they are missing obvious details. Details which may prove fatal.

Starts slowly and the pace builds.

Rick says

Dr. Mabry has once again written a novel that provides everything you could ask for in a great novel. He has provided us with meaningful characters, a believable storyline and a plot that flows like a smooth river. The descriptions of places and actions throughout the book always invoke clear vivid pictures of everything that is happening, adding to the realism and immersion of the storyline. The end is wrapped up tight, allowing you to heave a huge sigh of relief that all of the suspense and turmoil has finally come to a dramatic end. Of course, that's only until the next book come out.

Is this a "guy's book"? This book has all of the markings of a great "guy's book". The suspense and intrigue start small and continue to a full crescendo until you're almost breathing from all of the action. To me, there's nothing like a great action-packed "whodunit" to brighten your day.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Critical Condition

Author: Richard L. Mabry, M.D.

Pages: 321

Year: 2014

Publisher: Thomas Nelson

Shannon Frasier witnesses the shooting of her college boyfriend, prays for him to live, but he dies.

Thereafter, she blames God and has a very distant relationship with him. Ten years later, she is on staff, teaching residents how to be surgeons. She has a boyfriend, who wants to be engaged, but she keeps putting him off. Mark is a Christian and realizes Shannon's spiritual life is mediocre at best.

While hosting a small dinner party, a man is shot on Shannon's front lawn and dies in her arms, eerily reminiscent of her boyfriend's death ten years ago. That same night her sister calls and wants to come stay with her for a while. She has had problems in the past with alcohol and drugs, but has been out of rehab for six months and sober. Shortly thereafter, Shannon receives a mysterious phone call asking about the shooting on her front lawn. Then, she discovers her father has been diagnosed with cancer. How much more can one person take? Oh yeah, she also is exposed to the HIV virus and has to begin antiretroviral therapy. Then the detectives sent to investigate the case begin to treat Shannon and Megan as suspects, so Shannon now doesn't even trust law enforcement. Thankfully, Mark is there to support and encourage her through it all. He tells her, "Whatever happens we can handle together."

I liked the suspense and thrill aspect of the story. My favorite character was Megan. She was determined to

live a new life after a former life of lots of mistakes. She has strength and a great support system in her sister and parents. I also enjoyed the medical setting and terminology. I didn't like how Shannon appeared weak and uncertain when making nonmedical decisions sometimes. It just didn't seem to jibe with her strong decision making skills as a surgeon. I did like that she finally recognized her need for help and sought that help instead of continually trying to fix her problem on her own. Mark shows spiritual maturity and a truly loving heart toward Shannon. I always enjoy this author's exciting novels and look forward to what comes inside the next suspense-filled package!

My rating is 4 stars.

Note: I received a complimentary copy for an honest review of this book. The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot.com>.... Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Wendy says

Critical Condition, by Richard L. Mabry, is an intriguing novel that grabbed me from the very beginning and had me guessing until the end.

First year medical student, Shannon Frasier, witnesses the shooting death of her longtime boyfriend Todd and is helpless to help him. Ten years later, as a surgeon in a Dallas hospital, a man is shot and killed in her front yard and, once again, she is powerless to help him.

Shannon, her recovering addict sister Megan, and her boyfriend Mark become involved in a bank robbery/murder case. Plenty of action!

Throughout the story Shannon struggles with her weakened faith in God. How can she reconcile her belief in a loving God while being surrounded with evil and adversity every day.

A page turner!

Vera Godley says

Just when Dr. Shannon Fraiser thinks she can get her life back on a normal track and begin to love again, tragedy hits on her front lawn. It recalls to her fragile emotions her history when ten years prior her fiancé died in her arms from a gunshot.

But it seems the talented and bright Dr. Fraiser is destined to be tested and tried in a multitude of ways in the upcoming days and weeks. The shooting on her front lawn doesn't seem random. She learns her father has cancer. Her wayward sister moves in with her. And then Dr. Fraiser is exposed to the deadly HIV.

How much can a person endure? How much can their faith be challenged? How much can the relationship between Shannon and Mark take?

This is a medical suspense. There are bits and pieces of medical jargon and scenes, but this is not an in-your-face ER or Hospital Drama! Written by a retired physician, it rings true to life and professionalism. Dr. Mabry handles the emotional drama with a delicate, yet descriptive and true to life realism.

I've reviewed several of Dr. Mabry's medical suspense novels and thoroughly enjoyed each of them. They are each different and enjoyable on different levels. This is well written Christian fiction bringing plot and

character development to the pages of a frankly good read.

GIVEAWAY: Litfuse Publicity Group is providing a copy for one of Chat With Vera's readers to win in a giveaway. Use the Rafflecopter form below to enter. Begins April 25 & ENDS May 16 @ 12:01 a.m. EDT. Open for USA addresses only. <http://chatwithvera.blogspot.com/2014...>

DISCLOSURE: I received a complimentary copy of Critical Condition from Litfuse Publicity Group on behalf of Thomas Nelson and the author, Richard L. Mabry, M.D. in exchange for my honest review. Opinions expressed are solely my own and I received no compensation for this review.

Jordyn Redwood says

Surgeon Shannon Frasier's life seems perfect on the outside (well respected doctor, loyal and handsome finance) but the entry of her troubled-- previously drug addicted sister, Megan, back into her life unearths demons from her past. The ultimate question is can she overcome them with her family, fiance and faith intact?

What I appreciate about Richard's writing is a view into the OR that obviously comes from his years of experience. I'm not a medical expert in all things so I always like learning and catching insight into medical areas I'm not privy to and the OR is one of them.

The MC struggles are authentic and there are no easy answers with her questions of faith which is nice in inspirational fiction to see-- that even having grown up with a minister father doesn't make life easy, doesn't make your faith automatically strong, and can sometimes make the burden heavier.

Overall, a clean read without graphic sex, language or violence and an honest message about the struggle we can all have with our past, our family, and our faith.

I was given a free copy of this book by Thomas Nelson for the purpose of review/endorsement and I have endorsed this novel. This was not required for my receipt of the story.

Joe says

It's ok, definitely not his best work.

Denise says

2.5 out 5 stars -- This is not really medical suspense but more a Christian based mystery that happens to involve a doctor as one of the main characters (who also happens to be a preacher's daughter). If you don't mind the intense focus on religion, praying, contemplation and reflection of that type, then you might enjoy this book.

Dr. Shannon Frasier is a surgeon whose fiance died of a gunshot wound when she was a medical student, unable to save him. She has moved on somewhat but still has some psychological damage from the incident. Years later, another man is shot to death on her front lawn and again, she can't help him. When her sister, Megan, calls a short time later needing to escape an abusive boyfriend who is later found dead, Shannon's situation develops into a drama involving an old bank robbery. One of the partners seems to think that the man who died on Shannon's lawn said something to her about some hidden money so she might know where it can be found.

So, this is not a medical suspense novel about disease, drug companies run amok, crazy malpractice or any other topic usually found in the genre. The main character does go to work, and there are some details about the surgical procedures and medical aspects of her job, but not enough to sustain the interest of anyone who usually enjoys a novel that deals more with medically related chills. The focus is about a bank robbery and I never really felt any menace or suspense. There were no real thrills here though the author does try to ratchet up some tension. The characters were uninteresting and very ho hum and I just didn't really click with them. I doubt I'd read another book by this author, who is a medical doctor, as it didn't provide what I was looking for.

Thank you to NetGalley and the publisher for the e-book ARC to review.

Nancee says

The death of her boyfriend as the result of a gunshot wound when she was a first year medical student deeply affected Dr. Shannon Frasier. A well respected and prestigious surgeon and professor, Shannon's competency as a physician is indisputable. Her fear of commitment, however, is obvious by her perpetual status as "almost-fiance" to Dr. Mark Gilbert. Mark's patience and strong faith are the strongholds that he clings to regarding his stationary relationship with Shannon.

While enjoying a celebratory dinner with Mark and two additional physician friends Shannon's deepest fears are revisited through a similar incident on her front lawn. This second gunshot death shattered her world once again, deepening the intensity of her defenses. Shannon's loss of faith and her frustration at not having the capacity to save either victim haunts her. Her younger sister then enters the story, complicating Shannon's life further. Police involvement has become an integral aspect in this suspense-filled novel as well. As the saying goes, "the plot thickens."

This is my first experience reading one of Richard Mabry's medical mysteries, and I found it very difficult to put this book down. As a former member of the medical community I thoroughly enjoy a well-written medical mystery, and *Critical Condition* was no disappointment. The author's medical knowledge is a definite bonus in this fast-paced novel filled with suspense and unforeseen developments. Considerable research is reflected through the detailed legalistic aspects that dominated much of this novel. The cast of characters revealed throughout this book represent believable and well defined individuals. Issues, such as addiction, fear of commitment and family dynamics are broached with candor and integrity. I recommend Dr. Mabry's book, "Critical Condition," and look forward to reading more books written by this talented author.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review. All opinions expressed are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

Victor Gentile says

Richard L. Mabry, M.D. in his new book “Critical Condition” published by Thomas Nelson takes us into the life of Dr. Shannon Frasier.

From the back cover: IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A QUIET DINNER PARTY WITH HER COLLEAGUES—

NOT THE SCENE OF A MURDER.

But the murder of a stranger on her front lawn is only the first in a string of events that have Dr. Shannon Frasier’s life teetering on the edge of chaos. She’s unable to make the deeper commitment her boyfriend deserves. Her sister shows up at her home needing a place to stay but with no promise she’ll remain sober. And her father is diagnosed with cancer.

Then Shannon’s life stops teetering and plunges into the abyss. Because the person behind the guttural voice on the phone wants to know what the stranger said before he died. And he won’t stop until Shannon gives him the information he wants—even if she doesn’t have it.

He’s coming for her. She’s not sure the police on the case can be trusted. And her only hope of escape—for herself and for those she loves—is to overcome her buried past.

I think “Critical Condition” is Dr. Mabry’s best medical thriller to date. First off take a look at the cover—it looks like the medical tray for the doctor during an operation except for the gun and three bullets. The book has already grabbed your attention and you haven’t even started reading yet! Emotional trauma is the hardest experience to heal from mostly because it was so painful in the first place that we do not want to revisit it to begin the healing process. That is where Shannon is at when a stranger is shot on her front lawn it triggers all the memories from her previous experience. Only this time the situation is even worse. On top of everything she is not sure whom she can trust. Action, mystery and suspense these are the ingredients of “Critical Condition”. Without a doubt Dr. Mabry really knows how to write a thriller that will grab your attention and then keep it until he decides to let go. “Critical Condition” is a complicated mystery thriller as Shannon’s life is in danger practically from page one. Turn off the TV, unplug the computer, put aside the housework you are not going to want to do anything but read this book until the end and enjoy yourself in the process. Dr. Mabry has written another exciting book that most certainly is a huge winner!

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Litfuse Publicity Group. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

KC says

Did not care for this at all. Disappointing.

