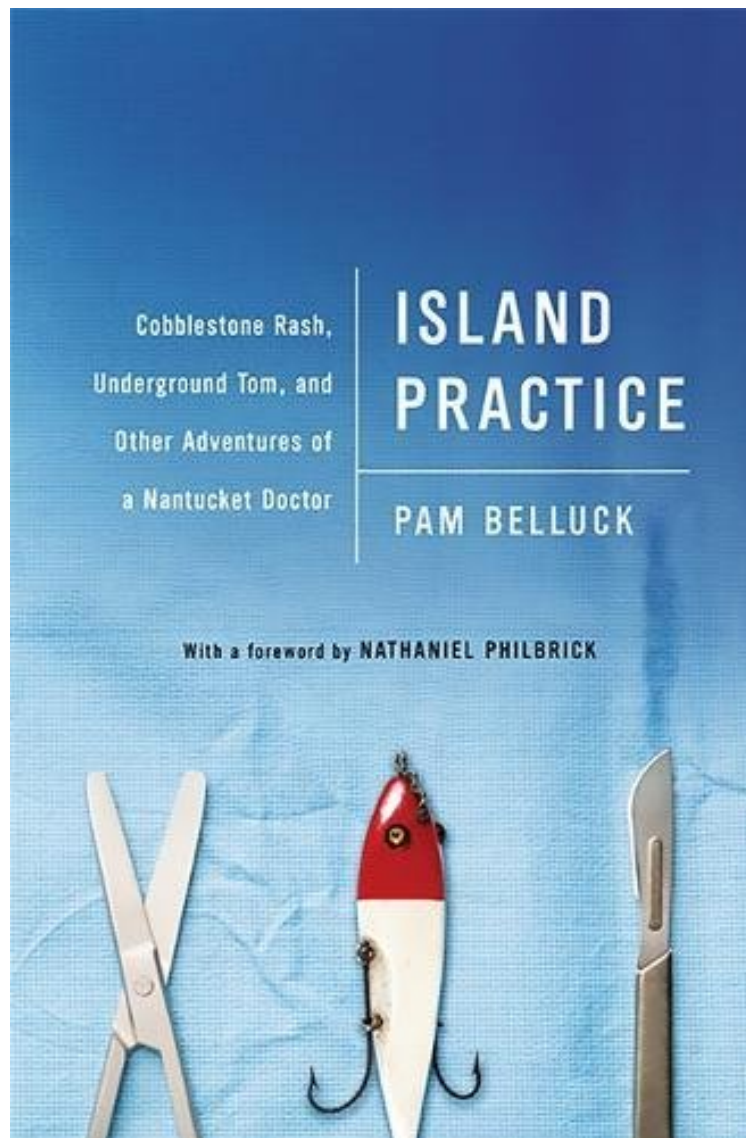


[Online library] Island Practice: Cobblestone Rash, Underground Tom, and Other Adventures of a Nantucket Doctor

Island Practice: Cobblestone Rash, Underground Tom, and Other Adventures of a Nantucket Doctor

Pam Belluck

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Pam Belluck : Island Practice: Cobblestone Rash, Underground Tom, and Other Adventures of a Nantucket Doctor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Island Practice: Cobblestone Rash, Underground Tom, and Other Adventures of a Nantucket Doctor:

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Great read with insights into the questions of medical care in the future. By Westport Reader. Island Practice is tale of quirkiness and peculiarities as well as nuanced reporting on moral and political issues like abortion, substance abuse, suicide and, especially, medical care as it has been practiced, but perhaps, may not be in the future. Belluck's description of the Nantucket's only surgeon's behavior gives insights about his pragmatic dealings with real people in tough situations as well as showing this unique doctor plying his trade while holding onto his values and persona. The lesson is that medicine is a micro and macro issue and where you sit defines what you see. Dr. Lepore and his special patients need a kind of care that is uniquely available because of his personality and the unusual characteristics of Nantucket. Anyone who is a patient wants a doctor to go above and beyond the crazy quilt of the insurance and hospital and malpractice "rules" to get us the care we need. Island Practice entertains with stories yet leaves you wondering how will that care be provided in the future, not just on Nantucket, but especially in an isolated situation. Loved all the characters - and they couldn't have been more unusual if this was a work of fiction - so kudos to Belluck for finding them, introducing us to them and getting them to share their unusual tales.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. "You can't polish a meatball" By J. Having been a summer resident on Nantucket and also having spent a full (very long) year on island, I could not put this book down. Pam Belluck captures the idiosyncrasies and quirkiness of Dr. Lepore while highlighting his brilliance, devotion to his craft (all of them) and most especially gives the reader ringside seats into the many life saving decisions he faces on a daily basis. Dr. Lepore is a man like no other. He turns away no one, is willing to save a horse in the middle of the night, delivers babies, performs surgery, treats addicts and advocates for his patients that is unheard of in today's medical practices. I know this not only from reading the book, but also because he was my physician during my time on Nantucket. I always knew him to be a fantastic physician but also a unique and quirky character. Now I know he has endless wells of compassion and will always fight for what is right for his patient. He is second to no one and Nantucket is so very fortunate to call him their own. I highly recommend Island Practice, as it captures island life very vividly while drawing the reader in to both the private and professional life of Dr. Lepore. "You can't polish a meatball" ...but you can enjoy it just the same. :)

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Biography of an Exceptional Doctor By rebecca calderwood This book was the biography of a quirky, brilliant physician practicing on the island of Nantucket. I enjoyed it very much, and could hardly put it down. I also bought copies for four of my friends, who had a similar interest in Nantucket. It would be of interest to anyone with a medical background or training. It would also be interesting to visitors to Nantucket or residents of the island, as well as anyone planning to go there.

With a Foreword by Nathaniel Philbrick, author of the bestseller *In the Heart of the Sea* If you need an appendectomy, he can do it with a stone scalpel he carved himself. If you have a condition nobody can diagnose—"creeping eruption" perhaps—he can identify what it is, and treat it. A baby with toe-tourniquet syndrome, a human leg that's washed ashore, a horse with Lyme disease, a narcoleptic falling face-first in the street, a hermit living underground—hardly anything is off-limits for Dr. Timothy J. Lepore. This is the spirited, true story of a colorful, contrarian doctor on the world-famous island of Nantucket. Thirty miles out to sea, in a strikingly offbeat place known for wealthy summer people but also home to independent-minded, idiosyncratic year-rounders, Lepore holds the life of the island, often quite literally, in his hands. He's surgeon, medical examiner, football team doctor, tick expert, unofficial psychologist, accidental homicide detective, occasional veterinarian. When crisis strikes, he's deeply involved. He's treated Jimmy Buffett, Chris Matthews, and various Kennedy relatives, but he makes house calls for anyone and lets people pay him nothing—or anything: oatmeal raisin cookies, a weather-beaten .44 Magnum, a picture of a Nepalese shaman. Lepore can be controversial and contradictory, espousing conservative views while performing abortions and giving patients marijuana cookies. He has unusual hobbies: he's a gun fanatic, roadkill collector, and concocter of pastimes like knitting dog-hair sweaters. Ultimately, *Island Practice* is about a doctor utterly essential to a community at a time when medicine is increasingly money-driven and impersonal. Can he remain a maverick even as a healthcare chain subsumes his hospital? Every community has—or, some would say, needs—a Doctor Lepore, and his island's drive to retain individuality in a cookie-cutter world is echoed across the country.

"Through the improbable story of an eccentric and intensely creative Nantucket doctor—the man has operated with flints!—Pam Belluck has crafted an elegant and wildly entertaining depiction of the struggle to maintain humanity and empathy in the face of health care's ongoing industrialization. A natural storyteller with a reporter's eye for detail and a stand-up comic's dry wit, Belluck leaves the reader with an urge to feign illness just to have an excuse to visit her subject. A truly wonderful read."—Warren St. John, author of *Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer* and *Outcasts United*

"If you want to understand the 'real' Nantucket, you must read *Island Practice*. Dr. Tim Lepore personifies the island's fierce, quirky, and independent spirit. This is a book about an extraordinary man—a doctor, yes, but also a community hero. His story is as engrossing as the best fiction . . . but it's all true."—Elin Hilderbrand, author of *Silver Girl* and other novels

"[An] absorbing debut. . . . An intriguing biography of a unique—and on Nantucket, irreplaceable—doctor."—Kirkus

"Page-turning prose. . . . Inspiring and entertaining, Lepore's story and his beloved

island come to life in Belluck's hands.”—*Publisher's Weekly* “[Belluck is] an energetic reporter who found in Lepore an irresistible subject.”—*New York Times Book* “A fun profile of Nantucket's gun-toting, marijuana-prescribing, house-call-making local doc.”—*People magazine* “Throughout, Belluck's prose is beautiful and lyrical . . . the Lepore she gives us is a fascinating character.”—*Boston Globe* “*Island Practice* is a thorough dissection of a man doing his best to stand up to impersonal twenty-first-century medical practices. . . . What's more, the book sketches a complex portrait of Nantucket itself—the stuff you won't see in *Frommer's*—that makes you glad that at least one guy is ready for anything.”—*Minneapolis Star Tribune* “[I]ntriguing cases handled by Lepore are described in the new book *Island Practice*, written by Pam Belluck, a *New York Times* health writer.”—*msnbc.com* “*New York Times* writer Pam Belluck . . . clearly knew great material when she found it.”—*Nantucket Chronicle* “If you were as entranced as I was with John Berend's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* and Susan Orlean's *The Orchid Thief*, you'll find similar pleasures in *Island Practice*.”—*Huntington News* “Much in this book by Pam Belluck comes as a revelation. Some of it is fascinating; some of it is hilarious; and some of it is sad and very troubling. In *Island Practice*, Belluck has created a remarkable portrait of a physician and the island community to which he remains steadfastly devoted.”—from the Foreword by Nathaniel Philbrick, author of *In the Heart of the Sea* and *The Last Stand* “Pam Belluck has dissected the antics and heroism of a Nantucket doctor who doubles as the resident wizard. This physician not only makes house calls (even to tree-houses), but also invites patients to drop in at his house for treatment. If you suffer from Nantucket Fever—or any other ill while on that island—Dr. Tim Lepore is your man.”—Dava Sobel, author of *Longitude* and *Galileo's Daughter*