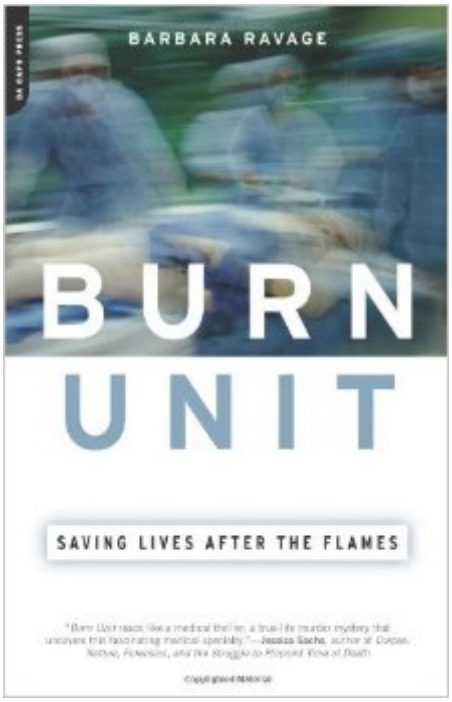
The book was found

Burn Unit: Saving Lives After The Flames



PDF
Adobe
DOWNLOAD EBOOK

Synopsis

“A compelling blend of science, history and storytelling. Barbara Ravage has fashioned an enlightening, invaluable book.â • —Stewart Oâ ™Nan, author of The Circus Fire: A True Story of an American TragedyThough each of us is just a spark away from being a burn victim, the public knows little and understands less about the world that patients inhabit. Pulling the curtains back on this private and sterile environment, Burn Unit is a riveting account of the frontline efforts—both modern-day and historical—to save lives devastated by fire. With unflinching urgency, Barbara Ravage follows an extraordinary team of healers at Massachusetts General Hospital, the cradle of modern burn treatment and the site of one of the best burn units in the world. From Bostonâ ™s Cocoanut Grove fire of 1942 to the treatment of the victims of the Rhode Island nightclub fire in early 2003, we watch everyday heroes do their incredible but punishing work against the backdrop of history. Both a moving human drama and an engrossing scientific exploration of this little-known field of medicine, Burn Unit is an unforgettably powerful read.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; 1 edition (May 4, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0306814196

ISBN-13: 978-0306814198

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #773,131 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Special Topics > Essays #77 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Surgery > Trauma #191 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Critical Care

Customer Reviews

On August 3, my wife was burned in central Anatolia. On August 15, we med-vaced her to the United States. On September 1, I bought this book. On September 20, I received the book. I was so rapt by the writing that I finished this book in two days. Understand, my wife was in the hospital at the time. Reading was not a priority. I visited my wife daily while I ran a family and my own business. Sometimes a writer’s capabilities can so overwhelm the topic. A good writer can make the

worst topics readable. Burns, sores, sepsis, pain, and scars are what I neither care to read about nor wish others to read about. The sterile black ink on the white pages cannot deliver the sensations to you of the stench associated with the dead skin, nor show you the grotesque complexity of the red and yellow skin which bleeds easily and often. I no more would ask a person to experience what my family has lived the past few months, than I would ask them to clean my plumbing. Burns are a horrible topic which Ms. Ravage has managed to make less horrible. I used this book for something more than enjoyment. The doctors' mouths, often as clasped as the arteries of their surgical patients, tell little to the patients' family, and when they speak, the language is too often cliched with inexplicables and nondeterminatives. This book answered questions, told me what to look forward to, and outlined what to anticipate. This was my "Burn Patients' Questions for Dummies." But, written well. I cringed. I cried. I swallowed hard. And, at times, I had to leave the book. The writng and insight were as razor sharp as the scalpels discussed and referenced in the portion discussing grafting. Good work Ms. Ravage! You helped a great deal. I can only tell others in my predicament, read this book. And, after you read the book, you will feel better about what there is looming in the slowly progressing and little discussed world of burns.

Ms. Ravage's book focuses on the Burn Unit at Mass General Hospital, but in the course of providing the context for the current Burn Unit she weaves together several narratives. First, she offers an informative and well-written account of the history of burns and burn treatment from ancient times to modern. Additionally she describes the course of the severe burn injury, the series of shocks severe burns provide to the system and the medical interventions that have been developed in order to allow the burn patient to survive these shocks. Tied to her medical-scientific discussion are profiles of the people who make the Burn Unit work, and accounts of two patients who were treated by them. These case studies are based in large part on interviews with the patients and their families.As a Burn Survivor who spent two months in the MGH Burn Unit not long after this book came out, I can vouch for its accuracy in depicting the unit, the staff, the course of treatment and many of the key issues facing burn survivors. Not everything I have read on the topic has held my interest, but this book did.

Novels quite frequently keep me up till three a.m., but non-fiction? Not so much. Last night, at 3:15, I had to force myself to re-charge my KIndle battery and close my aching eyes. Burn Unit is that good.The book, as other reviewers have said, blends medical history, accounts of spectacular fires like the one at the Cocoanut Grove in 1942, personal accounts of two burn survivors, a

physiological tour of the body after a serious burn, and, most of all, a description of the work of the famous Bigelow Burn Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Barbara Ravage seamlessly moves from one element to another in this marvelously researched and compulsively readable book.For me, by far the most fascinating component of Burn Unit was its riveting account of exactly what happens in a seriously burned body. One of Ravage's survivors is a young gay man burned over 35% of his body, who fell asleep upon an old mattress, choking on black smoke, inhaling toxins that would prove as damaging as the actual flames he'd fled. The other is a middle-aged father who, trying to dump a pot of 400-degree peanut oil, disappeared into a sheath of fire before his wife's horrified eyes. In relentless, compelling detail, Ravage tells us exactly what happens to such victims: the breakdown of capillaries that causes a deluge of essential fluids, the onset of the inflammatory response that causes a cascade of horrors, the way in which toxic smoke causes the cells of the airway, all the way down into the lungs, to char and begin to coagulate into a bloody glop that must be suctioned out, and the damage to epidermis, dermis, muscle, even all the way down to bone that will require efforts on the part of doctors, surgeons, nurses, techs, and other essential burn unit personnel to remedy.Although other reviewers have cautioned the squeamish to stay away, and although my spouse finally begged me to cease and desist explaining burn physiology, I didn't find Ravage's book revolting at all; I was too fascinated to learn about how the burned body often acts as its own worst enemy, initiating processes that may aid healing in the long run, but in the short run cause agony and near-disastrous breakdown. So much of what happens is counter-intuitive: did you know, for instance, that burn victims lose weight so fast that, if they are conscious, they are told to eat until they're ready to burst? (The inflammatory response elevates the body's metabolism so dramatically that calories literally melt away.) Did you know burn victims must be kept very, very warm, in damp plastic chambers, to prevent the loss of body heat and the moisture that burn wounds need to heal. Did you know that, instead of leaving the blackened, tough "lid" on the surface of the burn in place, so healing can begin from underneath, modern burn specialists immediately scrape off this apparently protective cover, even though doing so makes infection more likely? Ravage presents all these astonishments, most of them very recent in burn care, so effortlessly that you need not have a medical background to understand...only the curiosity to learn exactly what happens, and why.We enter the OR to watch the surgeon and his team slice off blackened eschar, then slice off micron-thin slices of intact skin (with a device that resembles a pastrami-slicer) to make a graft. We learn about the curious substances that doctors have used to simulate skin: pig collagen, skin from an identical twin, even grafts from cadavers, which keep the burn wound moist and protected until they are finally rejected. Ravage describes the efforts, still in

their infancy, to create a true artificial skin, the last remaining major breakthrough in burn care.Finally, she follows Dan O'Shea and Tom Parent into their new lives as survivors, showing us that emotional as well as physical recovery from burns is an enormous challenge.The book concludes with exhaustive footnotes and an index. My only complaint here is that the Kindle version doesn't explain what the paragraphs in tiny text throughout the book are; I coudn't tell if they were quotes from other sources, and there are no numbers in the text itself to correspond to the numbered footnotes at the end of the book.But these are quibbles. Burn Unit is dazzling. I learned so much, so effortlessly--easily the best non-fiction book since Andrew Solomon's Far from the Tree.Five Stars.

Download to continue reading...

Burn Unit: Saving Lives After the Flames Burn Baby Burn Storage Unit Auctions: A Practical Guide to Profiting with Storage Unit Auctions Money: Saving Money: Success: Get More Money & Success In Your Life Now!: 3 in 1 Box Set: Money Making Strategies, Saving Money Strategies & World's Best ... Tips for Personal Finance & Life Success) Money: Saving Money: The Top 100 Best Ways To Make Money & Save Money: 2 books in 1: Making Money & Saving Money (Personal Finance, Making Money, Save Money, Wealth Building, Money) Personal Finance: Budgeting and Saving Money (FREE Bonuses Included) (Finance, Personal Finance, Budget, Budgeting, Budgeting Money, Save Money, Saving Money, Money) The Hindenburg in Flames: How a Photograph Marked the End of the Airship (Captured World History) Easy Campfire Cooking: 200+ Family Fun Recipes for Cooking Over Coals and In the Flames with a Dutch Oven, Foil Packets, and More! How To Paint Flames: Second Edition (Motorbooks Workshop) Anger: Wisdom for Cooling the Flames How to Airbrush Flames & True Fire When You Are Engulfed in Flames Children of the Flames: Dr. Josef Mengele and the Untold Story of the Twins of Auschwitz The Mating Season (BookShots Flames) Amongst The Flames: A Contemporary Christian Romance (Embers and Ashes Book 1) Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts: Seven Questions to Ask Before -- and After -- You Marry Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts Workbook for Men Updated: Seven Questions to Ask Before---and After---You Marry Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts Workbook for Women Updated: Seven Questions to Ask Before---and After---You Marry Saving Animals After Floods (Rescuing Animals from Disasters) Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives (Scientists in the Field Series)

Dmca