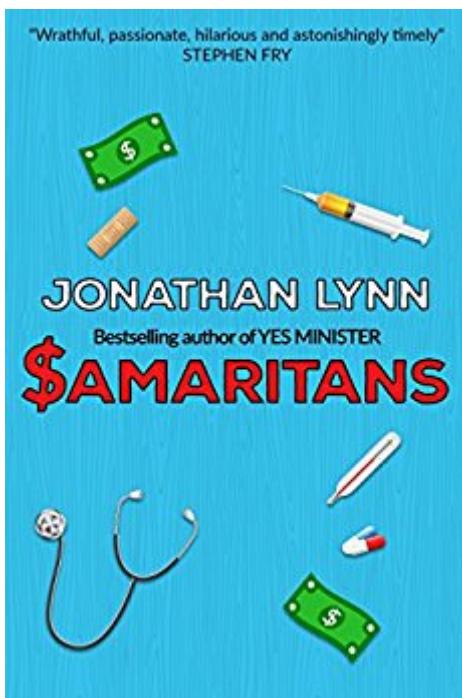


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# Samaritans



## Synopsis

Jonathan Lynn, already a comedy legend, has reinforced his storied reputation with this coruscating, wrathful, passionate, hilarious and astonishingly timely novel. Stephen Fry's *Samaritans* Medical Center, Washington DC, can't seem to look after itself and its increasingly desperate doctors, let alone its patients. The chairman of the board, billionaire arms dealer and part-time philanthropist David Soper, decides that it's time to kill or cure. Business School alumnus and Las Vegas hotel genius Max Green is the perfect man for the job. A man of vision. A man with a mission. A man who knows that wealth-care is smarter than healthcare. He's going to make Samaritans great again. Andrew Sharp, star cardio-thoracic surgeon, turns his back on the NHS and buys in to this brave new world of Porsches and payola. But when his American Dream turns into a living nightmare, Andrew discovers that even the new-found love of his assistant, Cathy, may not be enough to save him. *Samaritans* is the new novel from the co-creator and writer of *Yes Minister* and *Yes, Prime Minister*. Praise for *Samaritans*: 'A book George Orwell would have approved of.' The Sunday Times 'Jonathan Lynn's *Samaritans* is wonderful! I was hooked, mouth open, heart pounding. The catastrophic state of medical care is his story but *Samaritans* can be read too as a wider allegory, a discourse on a politics of greed, dis-entitlement, deregulation and social brutality that has run quite mad.' Stephen Fry 'Jonathan Lynn is with the highest confidence that I recommend this book, with particularity, to those Members of Congress who remain committed to making access to life saving care far too difficult for far too many people. It is my fondest hope that they might laugh their way to the education they so sorely require.' Rick Ungar 'Jonathan Lynn tackles the US healthcare system in satirical splendour. I laughed out loud. It is both hilarious and scary at the same time! Nobody does it better.' Barbara Broccoli 'There is reason to believe Jonathan Lynn was not born in the US and, while probably not a spy, he has spent some little time observing Americans in the wild. His observations are not always flattering but he is talking Big Medicine, Big Insurance, Big Business and their cousin, Small Ethics—but he certainly seems to have our number. *Samaritans* is smart, dark, and very, very funny. Stay healthy, America!' Michael McKean, *Better Call Saul*, *Spinal Tap* 'Jonathan Lynn's *Samaritans* does for hospitals what Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* did for cemeteries. The book is laugh-aloud funny, but also deadly serious--because it deals with the lethal effect profit-minded health care can have on patient lives...I haven't read satire this hilarious and powerful since *Riotous Assembly*, the late Tom Sharpe's indictment of apartheid in South Africa. This is essential reading for anyone who has a body and wants to keep it alive.' M.G. Lord 'Comedy genius...as politically and socially important as it is entertaining.'

Muriel Gray Jonathan Lynn is the multi-award winning author of *The Complete Yes Minister* and *The Complete Yes, Prime Minister*, which were drawn from the phenomenally successful BBC series which he created and wrote with Antony Jay, and which sold more than a million copies in hardback. They have been translated into numerous languages and are still in print nearly 30 years later. Other writing: a novel *Mayday*, the play *The Patriotic Traitor* and a memoir *Comedy Rules*. His films as director include *Clue*, *Nuns on the Run* (both of which he wrote), *My Cousin Vinny*, *The Distinguished Gentleman* and *The Whole Nine Yards*. Numerous writing awards include a BAFTA and a Special Award from the Campaign For Freedom of Information.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Given the extraordinarily complicated and often grim circumstances that have become the hallmark of the American healthcare system, I would not have thought it possible to find comedy in what is so often nothing less than calamity. But that was before I was treated to Jonathan Lynn's satirical and remarkably revealing exposé of the twisted pretzel that is

American healthcare. It is with the highest confidence that I recommend this book, with particularity, to those Members of Congress who remain committed to making access to life saving care far too difficult for far too many people. It is my fondest hope that they might laugh their way to the education they so sorely require.

Jonathan Lynn's *Samaritans* does for hospitals what Evelyn Waugh's *The Loved One* did for cemeteries. The book is laugh-aloud funny, but also deadly serious--because it deals with the lethal effect profit-minded health care can have on patient lives. Lynn's protagonist is Max Green, a Vegas casino manager who decides he can bring in more money running a hospital. And he sort of does--by making choices that show he has even less empathy than the current US President. I haven't read satire this hilarious and powerful since *Riotous Assembly*, the late Tom Sharpe's indictment of apartheid in South Africa. This is essential reading for anyone who has a body and wants to keep it alive. M. G. Lord, Assistant Professor of English (Practice) at the University of Southern California; author of *Forever Barbie* and *The Accidental Feminist*.

Jonathan Lynn's *Samaritans* is an enjoyable, easy read, but do not mistake the laugh out loud storyline as simple slapstick. With his finely honed satirical wit and agile pen, Jonathan Lynn skewers the American healthcare system with surgical precision, and has crafted a story that cuts frighteningly close to the bone.

We all know the American Health Care system is broken. In this funny, insightful and terrifyingly accurate novel, Jonathan Lynn shows us just how critically ill the whole endeavor is. I recently had to make a visit to the ER, followed by a one-night stay and I had to put away the novel for a bit because it was too close to the reality I was experiencing. But then the satisfying ending tickled my itch for revenge, I must admit. Lynn's seasoned and characteristic satirical humor is in full force: fans of his movie *Clue* or his series *Yes, Minister* will recognize his unique voice. But he's also created new and memorable characters who jump off the page and his descriptions of a typical American hospital are spot on. All of those qualities make it an enjoyable read and a good novel. But what makes it great is the thought experiment that follows: Lynn exposes the dark future of our health care if the system is left as is and if sweeping changes aren't imposed very soon. And the consequences are frightening. It's not a warning of the impending apocalypse, however. It's a reminder that physicians and nurses and even hospital administrators have chosen careers in which the goal is to help people, not to profit from them. And the ethical dilemmas that the characters face

are ones that we can all relate to. The choices we make have consequences and there's a reason civil societies take care of their sick. Lynn reminds us of what can and does happen when we forget that.

SAMARITANS is hysterical and terrifying. Jonathan Lynn's new novel is filled with great laughs, wonderful characters, and a shocking indictment of America's healthcare system. The co-creator of Yes, Minister and Yes, Prime Minister, director of many films, including My Cousin Vinny, Nuns on the Run, and The Whole Nine Yards, and the author of the essential Comedy Rules, Jonathan Lynn is a legend and SAMARITANS is a terrific book.

Very smart writer. Informative and well written. Enjoyed it very much. Matt Solomon

An over the top satire of American medicine by comic genius Jonathan Lynn, packed with just enough documented horrors to make you wonder just how over the top it really is. As chilling as it is hilarious.

This book is hilarious and terrifying at the same time!!! You will never look at your health care provider or hospital the same way. It's also sexy and crazy!! A wonderful read!!!

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