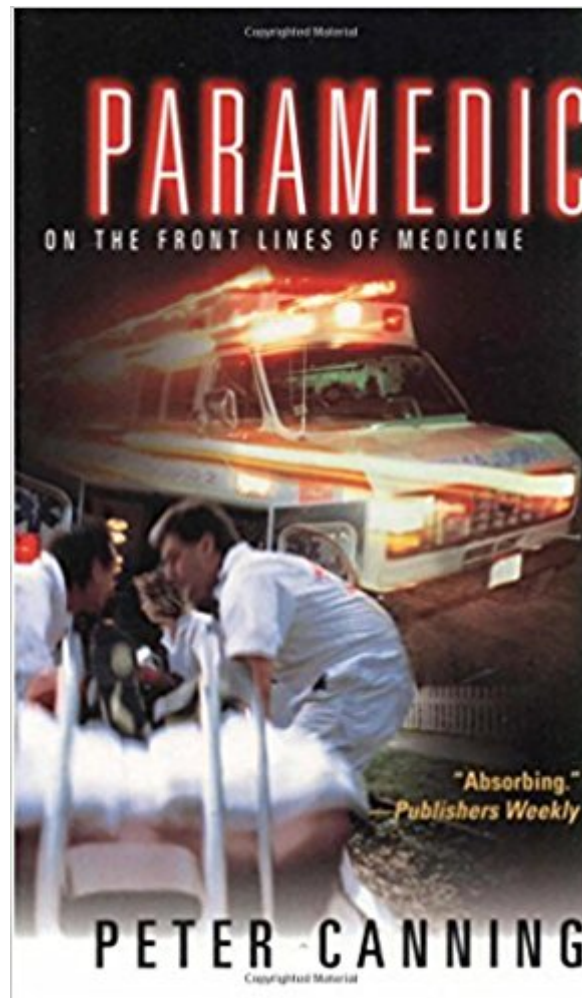




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# Paramedic: On The Front Lines Of Medicine



## Synopsis

In this unforgettable, dramatic account of one man's experience as an EMT, Peter Canning relives the nerve-racking seconds that can mean the difference between a patient's death and survival, as Canning struggles to make the right call, dispense the right medication, or keep a patient's heart beating long enough to reach the hospital. As Canning tells his graphic, gripping war stories--of the lives he saved and lost; of the fear, the nightmares, and the constant adrenaline-pumping thrill of action--we come away with an unforgettable portrait of what it means to be a hero.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Medical adventures and introspective musings by a paramedic learning the ropes in Hartford, Conn. Canning is not your typical paramedic, if there is such a creature. His background includes 12 years of service in Washington, D.C., with Senator Lowell Weicker and later in Hartford when newly elected Governor Weicker appointed him to the state health department. Thus Canning, whose daily life centers on the nitty-gritty of emergency medicine, mostly in an inner city, brings to his work the larger perspective of a former policy wonk. He is keenly aware both of society's ills and of government's inability to solve them. There are enough gory details here to satisfy anyone's curiosity about just what it is that paramedics do and how they do it. Some 911 calls are matters of life and death, but others involve minor accidents or trivial incidents; thus the paramedic's day is an unpredictable mix of tension, action, frustration, and boredom, of racing against time and of waiting around. Early in his paramedic career, Canning worries about being good enough, and he writes honestly of his struggles to meet the high standards he has set for himself. Later, as his skills

improve and he gains confidence, he frets about the status of his new profession. Canning bristles when patients refer to him as a mere ambulance driver or doctors snub him, and he glows when nurses compliment his work. Paramedics, it seems, don't get much respect. Nevertheless, at the end of a day's work, Canning the paramedic knows for certain that he has made a real difference in someone's world, a reward that Canning the speechwriter never received. A vivid account of emergency medicine that should go a long way toward generating respect for paramedics. (Author tour) -- Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Canning's "book is both a personal story and a vivid portrait of his profession, one that despite its importance is often taken for granted.... PARAMEDIC deepened my appreciation for the work paramedics do".-- The Washington Post

I really love this book. It was awesome. It was a very interesting book and I learned a few things from it. I learned 2 new heart rhythms: Sinus arrhythmia and a rare rhythm called torsades de pointes: abnormal beat of the ventricles that produces a rhythm at first looks like ventricular tachycardia, but isn't. The treatment for it is magnesium and ventricular pacing. If you give the person lidocaine while they're in this rhythm, it will kill them. I also learned that there are 24 drugs that medics use to help bring patients back to life. I thought it was half that number. I'm familiar to most of them from my nursing math course I took. I really loved this book. I'll definitely recommend it all of my friends in the field.

Saw this recommended on an EMT website, which said it was a realistic view of what it is like to be an EMT--not just the exciting hero parts, but the boring parts too. So I bought it for my 13-yr-old niece who for years has wanted to be an EMT on her way to being a doctor. Unfortunately, the language is very explicit. Flipping through the first few pages, there is a guy who isn't very fond of cops who tells them in explicit street language just what he thinks of them. No way would her mom let her read that. It may be a very good book--I'm only letting you know that if this were an album, it would be E for explicit.

I got this book because I was (still am) interested in going into EMS. I wanted to see what it's like being a paramedic. This book talks about what he did on the job... The only thing that I don't like about this book is that he talks a lot about his previous job, which has a lot to do with politics.. and I

don't like politics xD But overall, this book is a good read. It goes into detail about being a paramedic, and about the different emotions he encounters treating his patients.

love this book-good stories

I'm a U.S. Army Combat Medic so I have my EMT Basic certification and bought this book to help me decide if I want to further my EMS education when I get out of the military. I still haven't finished it but I wasn't even halfway through the book when I decided I need to do this for a living. It's the good, bad, and ugly of being a Paramedic. I would give it 5 stars but there's a noticeable amount of typos in the book. For example, twice on the same page the word "die" was replaced with "the". Not a big deal because the context of the sentence makes the word that's supposed to be there obvious but it's kinda annoying. Buy this book if you think you might want to pursue a career in emergency medicine because by the time you're done you'll have made your decision. That's all I got

love it

This book inspired me to enroll into EMT school and it prepared for my clinicals (I knew that not every 911 call was going to be a true emergency). Many lay people see the ambulance rushing through traffic, and say to themselves, "Man, those guys must have nothing but action-packed days!). Not so! If you're an EMT student, EMS provider or someone with education in the EMS field, you'll pick up the terminology in the book and you'll have fun reading the book. General public will have a hard time understanding the vital signs/terminology, but still very interesting to read. This is an excellent book for those who are interested in getting into the field. Highly recommend this to EMT students, it will greatly inspire you and will make you a bit more street wise when your clinicals come up.

In the genre of EMS literature this is the best. Paramedic would stack right up with the best in any genre. Great read with timeless themes about social justice, self fulfillment, and the constant search for meaning.

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