

Robin Cook's Coma - The Study

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Abstract:

They declared it as a minor surgery, but whoever was admitted to Boston Memorial Hospital for routine checkup, suffered from cruel tragedy on the operation table. Patients did not see light of the day. Susan Wheeler, who worked as a trainee at Boston Memorial Hospital, is a third year medical student. During her stay in the hospital two patients suspiciously went into Coma due to problems from anesthesia. Susan tries to search and discover that oxygen line in Operation Theatre No. 8 has been tampered by inducing Carbon Monoxide poisoning. She comes to know the evil nature of all these situations of Jefferson Institute where patients are suspended from ceiling alive until they can be harvested for healthy organs.

Key Words : Anesthesia, Coma, Carbon Monoxide poisoning, Comatose, ICU, Surgery, Organ selling, Operation,

Main Text:

Susan Wheeler is a beautiful 23 year old third year medical student working as a trainee at Boston Memorial Hospital. There are four more students George, Harvey, Geoffrey and Paul. They take rounds in surgery rooms and ICU's. They note down post-treatment conditions regarding patient's health. Mark Bellows who happens to be the instructor and supervisor of this group.

Coma is a story or we can say study or

investigation of the internal working methodology of the hospital. As these students completed their three months surgical rotation, the difficulties faced by a woman in what is to be called as "Man's profession" is also focused on.

Susan's attention is drawn towards two patients, Nancy Greenly and Sean Berman who mysteriously went into coma immediately after their operations. It is declared by Hospital that this incident happened due to complications during anesthesia.

Nancy Greenly was comatose as her brain was not able to receive oxygen during surgery and Sean Berman a young man in his thirties with good physical health completed knee operation successfully still he was not able to regain his consciousness. If it is to be thought medically such a complication occurred one in one lakh patients, but such complications were higher at the Boston Memorial Hospital.

Puzzled and shocked by the conditions of two patients Susan smells the rat and decides to find the reason behind these recent complications in health conditions of patients and other coma victims. Susan comes to know during her investigation that oxygen line to operating room has been tampered by inducing Carbon Monoxide poisoning in patients during surgery which leads to brain death. During this time Susan comes close to Bellows and because of this intimate relationship, she discusses her

investigation with him after unfolding more details and evading pursuit by a man hired to kill her, Susan is led to the Jefferson Institute.

The Jefferson institute is reputed for intensive care facility designed to cut down on heavy medical cost. Patients who are declared brain dead are referred by the institute as "Vegetables". Here, Susan find out that patients are suspended for the ceiling by wires in rooms walled by glass and moved from room to room with little human involvement. The samples are kept alive and healthy till the order for organ comes. The chosen organ is surgically cutoff without any permission and then it is sold in a black market.

Howard stark, who is chief of department of surgery at Boston Memorial, is revealed as the main culprit behind the organ selling. When Stark confronts Susan over her findings, he then drugs her to put Susan in coma under the pretext that she needs urgent operation. But Bellows disable the oxygen line during the Operation and also prevents a supply of dose of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. Stark is arrested but Susan's fate is left in suspicion what exactly

happen with Susan after this is not told.

Conclusion:

It is to be concluded that *Coma* by Robin Cook exposes the malpractice happening in medical profession. It is a medical thriller where medical student in her third year finds the mysterious circumstances in which the patients go in to Coma after even perfect surgery by Dr. Susan. She becomes curious and get the matter solve and how the patient enters in to Coma immediately after surgery. Astonishing facts are exposed. She brings out the fact and how the hospital is benefitting by it from selling organs to the patients who gives more money. It is an interesting medical thriller novel grounded in solid medical expertise and narrated with pulse-racing suspense. It can be also called as riveting and ingenious medical detective story which keeps readers entertained from start to finish.

Reference:

1. *Coma: Novel by Robin Cook - 1977 - Penguin Publications*