Kidnapped Doctor Steven L. Berk, M.D., Returns to the Scene of the Crime in New Memoir, 'Anatomy of a Kidnapping: A Doctor’s Story'

**Texas Tech University Press will release "Anatomy of a Kidnapping" on September 20, 2011**


On Sunday, March 6, 2005, Dr. Steven Berk was in the midst of his typical Sunday morning routine when a dangerous and enigmatic criminal, armed with a shotgun, entered his home through an open garage door. On that beautiful spring day in Amarillo, Texas, Dr. Berk was kidnapped.

I did not know the difference between a rifle and a shotgun, but I knew that the black metal barrel aimed at my forehead by this agitated stranger had the potential to blast my carefully constructed life into fragments.

—From the Prologue of Anatomy of a Kidnapping

An unlikely target of a violent crime, Dr. Berk was thrust into extraordinary—and extraordinarily terrifying—circumstances. But it was his training as a physician and understanding of acquisitiveness—the ability to stay calm and rational at all times—that enabled him to keep his family safe, to establish rapport with his kidnapper, and to bring his captor to justice.

Anatomy of a Kidnapping is his story. But Anatomy of a Kidnapping is much more than the story of a kidnapping. A powerful and profound tale that intersperses a vivid and chilling account of the day’s events with both professional and personal stories, Anatomy of a Kidnapping includes stories from Dr. Berk’s experiences as a physician—from Keams Canyon Indian Hospital in northeastern Arizona to Boston City Hospital in inner-city Boston, from East Tennessee State University’s Quillen School of Medicine in Johnson City, Tennessee, to Texas Tech University School of Medicine in Amarillo, Texas. Moreover, the book also includes Dr. Berk’s insights and recollections of being a student, a father, a husband, a son, a victim of a violent crime, and nearly two years later after the ordeal, a participant in the trial against his kidnapper.

Alternately harrowing and heartwarming, unsettling and uplifting, terrifying and touching, Anatomy of a Kidnapping is a story about patients, about physicians, and about life and death, mistakes, family, the practice of medicine, and the physician-patient relationship. Told in a straightforward, bold, and captivating manner, Anatomy of a Kidnapping is an extraordinary story about hope in the face of hopelessness, courage, survival and redemption.

According to Abraham Verghese, author of Cutting for Stone, “This phenomenal memoir evokes Lewis Thomas and Richard Selzer in its insights into medicine, but it is also the suspenseful drama of an encounter with a criminal that could have ended badly. Truly a harrowing, wonderful and ultimately a redemptive tale.”

Steven L. Berk, M.D. is dean of the Texas Tech School of Medicine and provost of Texas Tech Health Sciences Center. As a physician certified in infectious disease and geriatrics, Berk has treated an outstanding diversity of patients in his forty-year medical career. For more information, please visit [http://anatomyofakidnapping.com/](http://anatomyofakidnapping.com/)
Texas Tech University Press, the book publishing office of the university since 1971 and a member of the American Association of University Presses since 1986, publishes nonfiction titles as well as several scholarly journals, acclaimed series for young readers, an annual invited poetry collection, and literary fiction of Texas and the West. Visit Texas Tech University online at: http://www.ttupress.org.

Members of the news media wishing to request an interview with Steven L. Berk, M.D. or an advance review copy of Anatomy of a Kidnapping: A Doctor’s Story are kindly asked to contact Maryglenn McCombs by phone—(615) 297-9875.

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