

New Book Announcement • 2009

A Doctor's Notes *Taken from Both Sides of the Bedsheets*

T.F. Godwin, MD, FRCP(C)

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5½" x 8½", softcover, 368 pages

38 photos, 15 illustrations

\$29.95 + s/h + gst

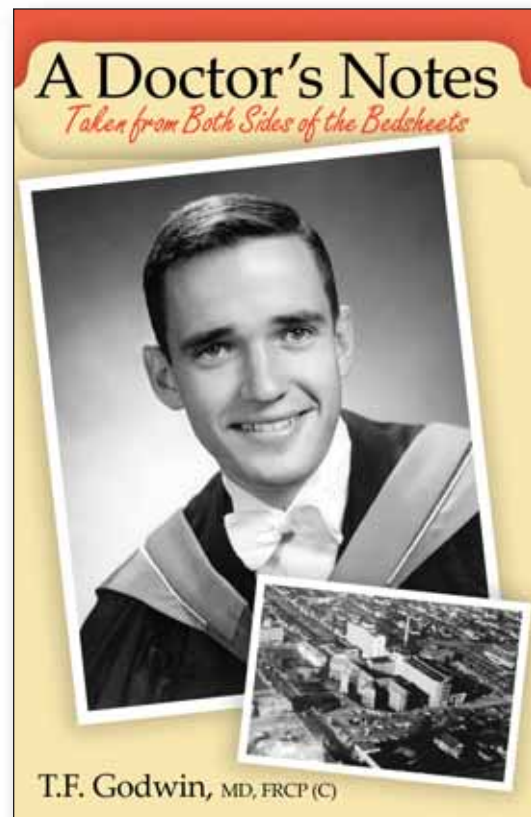
Reading the personal challenges faced by this dedicated cardiologist, and his personal escapades as a committed family man, Tom Godwin's memoir will alternately make you laugh out loud, break your heart, and invite lively debate about his outspoken opinions on modern medical issues.

This is a terrific book! Among the best in its genre, it is a fine work of non-fiction by any metric. Gritty, authentic, riveting, hilarious, and poignant in turns. On occasion I write too. I simply could not put the thing down. You write with an admirable clarity. It is simply a masterful achievement.

— Dr. Robert McMurtry
Emeritus Professor and Dean of Medicine,
University of Western Ontario

The real stories about doctors and their lives are better than anything on television. You should be proud of what you've accomplished — as a doctor AND as a writer. Congratulations!

— Belle Puri
CBC journalist



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Tom Godwin's memoir is readable, informative, humorous, and profound. There is realism and candor in his descriptions of cases — anguish, pathos, joy, failure, success — and invariably an explanation of the condition and its treatment that is understandable by the average reader.

— RAMSAY W. GUNTON, CM, MD, FRCP(C)
Member of the Order of Canada, Pioneer in cardiac catheterization
Former head, Dept of Medicine, University of Western Ontario
Former president, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada

This book, first and foremost is a remarkable memoir. The reader gets a real flesh-and-blood taste—quite literally at some points—of what medicine is really all about. It is also a personal testament. Medicine is a very demanding trade, if seriously, indeed passionately pursued and practiced, as Tom has done. It makes a very important point: the serious practice of medicine is not for the faint-hearted.

Finally, the issues raised throughout the book are legitimate and important; they provide a summary and powerful focus and they leave the reader with some simple, clear and strong messages, and with a rallying call to thought and action.

— MICHAEL VICKERS, PhD (BIRM)
Author and historian

Tom has done more to develop cardiac services at the Royal Columbian over the past 30+ years than anyone else. Indeed, our cardiac catheterization laboratories bear his name. His book gave me interesting and much-appreciated insight into how our program developed.

But the ties between us go back even further. Tom worked as a resident in the first coronary unit in the world, which opened in March 1962 at the Toronto General Hospital. The coronary unit had been the brainchild of my father, Dr. Ken Brown, and his good friend and colleague, Dr. Bob MacMillan. Therefore, not only were Tom's tales of his early medical life interesting and amusing, but were of special interest to me since I knew many of the persons involved.

This book is a good read for anyone with an interest in the development of modern day Canadian cardiology, delivered with an abundance of "Godwinesque" humour and wisdom. I thoroughly enjoyed it!

— ROBERT I.G. BROWN, MD, FRCP(C)
Director, Dr. Thomas F. Godwin Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories
Royal Columbian Hospital

There are not many people who get to start something from scratch as you did and now you have the ultimate with heart catheterization, angioplasty, and bypass surgery in your own hospital. That is a tremendous accomplishment and all very much due to your own pioneering efforts.

— E. Douglas Wigle, OC, MD, FRCP(C), FACC
Officer of the Order of Canada
Professor of Medicine, Chief of Cardiology
Toronto General Hospital (Retired)

It was a treat to read, and I enjoyed every word. It is one of the finest books I have read for a long time — good comments, not rude, honest. His conclusions are valid.

— DON HUTCHINS, MD
General practitioner, Royal Columbian Hospital (retired)

There is absolutely no doubt that "what you see is what you get" with Tom. He is sincere, genuine, and honest as the day is long, and was always highly respected by colleagues and idolized by patients and staff. His anecdotes will draw big pictures because the stories are fascinating reflections on the challenges that confronted a conscientious physician as the practice of medicine was rapidly evolving. As I read what he refers to as "my little book," I could hear his voice echoing each word. His experience and insight enable him to simply tell it as it is — warm and human, as well as a delightful read!

— JAMES FAIR
Former President and CEO, Royal Columbian Hospital

Tom Godwin has written a very personal and entertaining account of his life. The stories range from hilarious to heart-breaking, and are told in Tom's own endearing "folksy" style. Medical terminology is demystified, and he has explained things that I haven't understood in 35 years of practice! Lest anyone think that Dr. Godwin's accounts are exaggerated or embellished, I can vouch for the authenticity and accuracy of his tales of the bad old days of medical training (or indentured servitude). He has divided his memoir into bite-sized portions — perfect for someone like me who cannot read a book in one sitting. This is a book I loved to read and will re-read. I can recommend it without reservation.

— BERNIE TOEWS, MD
Former clinical chief, Dept. of General Practice, Royal Columbian Hospital

With Tom, patients always came first, even if it bucked the administration. His liveliness and humour are legendary. Any person interested in medicine, both the professional and the layperson, would find this book very interesting. It brought back a lot of memories.

— FRAN KUHN, RN
Former manager, Coronary Care Unit, Royal Columbian Hospital

The easy style allows a layperson to understand the fascinating, and occasionally humorous, medical stories. I first met the author in 1972 and we have remained close friends. We shared many escapades on the Godwin farm often just for the bedeviling of it. I was well aware of his hair-raising and life-threatening incidents.

— TOM SMITH
Heavy-duty mechanic and businessman

(The author will donate any profits from the sale of this book to the Cardiology Department of the Royal Columbian Hospital for the purchase of the latest cardiac equipment.)