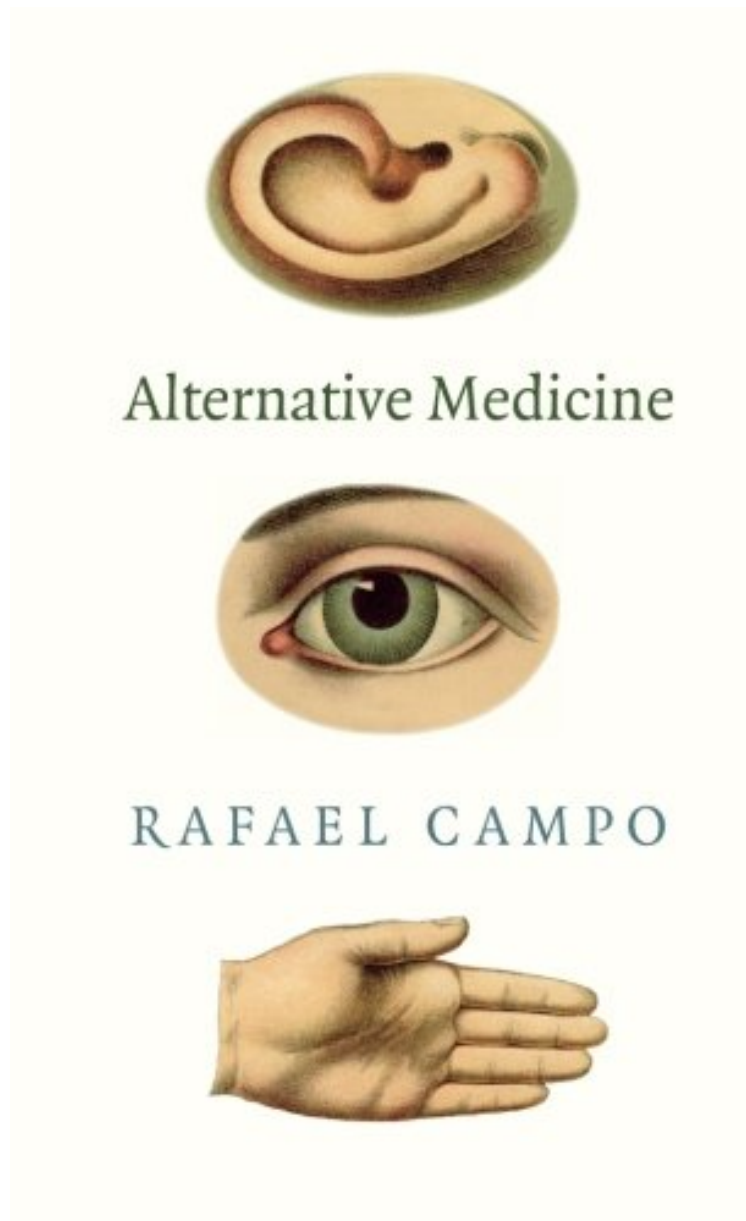


## Alternative Medicine

*Rafael Campo*

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**Rafael Campo : Alternative Medicine** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alternative Medicine:

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In his sixth collection of poetry, the celebrated poet-physician Rafael Campo examines the primal relationship between language, empathy, and healing. As masterfully crafted as they are viscerally powerful, these poems propose voice itself as a kind of therapeutic medium. For all that most ails us, *Alternative Medicine* offers the balm of song and the salve of the imagination: from the wounds of our stubborn differences of identity, to the pain of alienation in a world of unfeeling technologies, to the shame of the persistent injustices in our society, Campo's poetry displays a deep understanding of hurt as the possibility for healing. Demonstrating an abiding faith in our survival, this stunning, heartfelt book ultimately embraces the great diversity of our ways of knowing and dreaming, of needing and loving, and of living and dying.

From BooklistIn his sixth book of poetry, physician and poet Campo addresses heritage, healing, and memory. He begins by portraying a child's inner turmoil in Havana; then, working nimbly, he illustrates how admiration is expressed by teasing in *Wilhelmina Shakespeare*, the throbbing recognition of God in *New Jersey, the Garden State*, and the simultaneous unreliability and power of memory in *Pronk*. Not only does he use his medical experience to articulate a uniquely tender understanding of those around him, Campo is also able to extract remarkable beauty from the seemingly decrepit. In *Primary Care*, he pleads with the body to remind us that we suffer . . . / that we must, or else we never lived. Campo is both concerned for and in love with the soul, the stars, and the infinite possibility of a world as terrifying as it is wondrous. In a style both precise and emotional, playful and earnest, Campo delivers a most extraordinary message: that in writing, in seeing, in remembering, and in being, we embody, simultaneously, the ache as well as the cure. --Briana Shemroske "*Alternative Medicine* (a wonderful euphemism for poetry) is an extraordinarily powerful and moving book especially its central poems about doctoring, about the sadness and helplessness of being a doctor. Only someone who has actually lived these poems could have written them. Rafael Campo is that rare poet. This book makes art out of the pain and blood of experience."Lloyd Schwartz, poet and Frederick S. Troy Professor of English, University of Massachusetts, Boston