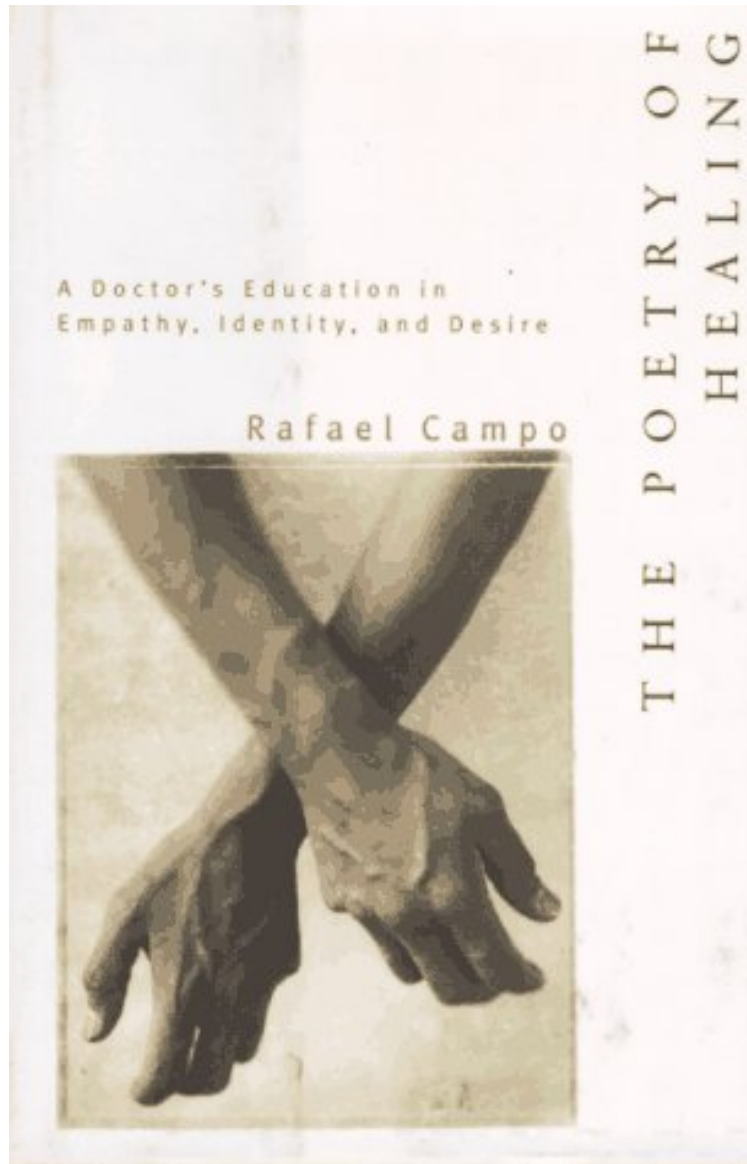


[Mobile book] The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire

The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire

Rafael Campo

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Rafael Campo : The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poetry of Healing: A Doctor's Education in Empathy, Identity, and Desire:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Poetry of HealingBy Sandie IhlenfeldtFrom the title, I assumed

the book was a collection of Rafael Campo's poetry. Not so. Guess I should read more reviews before making a purchase. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A brave author and an intriguing book By JW This was an intriguing book. A poetry-writing professor at Harvard Medical School bares all. Rafael Campo critiques his own poems, his sexuality, his body, and modern medicine. Sometimes his honesty is hard to look at. His divulgements are sometimes too much information; it would be uncomfortable for me to read his book if he was my doctor. On the other hand, I love how he lives his life with poetry, turning to it to soothe his soul, writing it in times of crisis. I love how he cares about patients; his empathy is huge and sometimes causes him pain and sorrow. I wish an editor had insisted on the book being more concise; it was lingered a bit long in all the angst. I would've enjoyed reading some of his poetry - none are included. And I wish some good friend of his had told him to be a bit more discreet. But mostly I am in awe of this man, this physician/poet. How bold he is to show himself like this to the world. I think he is an excellent model for all writers - take out your skeletons and dance with them. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Poetry: the miracle cure By Bryan Scott I read Campo's poetry before I knew he was a doctor; therefore, I hope he forgives me for thinking of him as a poet first, a doctor second. But this eloquent book--and indeed, Campo's life--exemplifies the benefits of accessing both sides of one's brain, the creative as well as the analytical/scientific. At times soaring with hopefulness and at others questioning the purpose of life and pondering the darkest moments of despair, Campo writes passionately and intimately about his role in the healing arts. This calling is informed as much by his poetic genius and ability to come face to face with raw emotion, unflinchingly, as it is by his doctoral training. Campo writes powerfully about AIDS and our relationship to the plague in a way one seldom reads: with practical guidelines, not moralistic platitudes and empty slogans. His essay "Imagining Unmanaging Health Care" is worth the price of the book. An excellent volume of essays, full of warmth, compassion, and most of all, humanity. Campo has truly become the "warrior-physician" he aspired to be--let's hope managed care doesn't drive him from the profession.

The healing powers of speech, of touch, of empathy and the erotic, of love itself - these are some of the themes of Rafael Campo's deeply humanistic work, as he writes not just of his attempts to heal, but of how his patients have healed him. Throughout, he uncovers the truths of his own passions and fears, of the tragic flaws in health care, and of his education and life as primary-care doctor, poet, Latino, and gay man within the medical establishment.

.com Rafael Campo is acclaimed as an important contemporary poet on the basis of his two books of poetry *The Other Man Was Me* and *What the Body Told*. In *The Poetry of Healing* Campo uses his gift for language to explicate and delineate the connections between being a doctor and a poet, a writer and a healer, a gay man and an educator. Campo's topic is always the body and he understands its fragility and resistance, its power and its grace. Campo's prose is precise and poetic; his insights are revelations. *The Poetry of Healing* is a work of literary grace and compassion--a memoir that illuminates the world with new light and urgency. From Publishers Weekly The chief attraction of this book is its unrelenting effort to humanize the medical profession. Several such books have been written by doctors presenting themselves as people rather than only practitioners. Where this one differs from its predecessors, and where it might raise eyebrows in the medical community and the general public, is its insistent connection of healing, intimate relationships and sex. Time and again, the 29-year-old Cuban American poet and general internist who practices medicine out of Harvard Medical School's Beth Israel Hospital and lives in Durham, N.C., describes his personal and sexual reactions to his patients: "His erection startled me," he writes of one patient. "I too wished to be naked, to be as available to him in his suffering as he had made himself to me." At one point, he wonders whether he has told too many stories of patients who have changed his life. Perhaps, for a book of this length. But surely not in a world in which doctors pride themselves on their efficient detachment from sex, suffering and personal disaster. It is at this status quo that Campo is effectively taking aim. He is strongest, however, when describing his undergraduate years at Amherst College; Campo excels where narrative overtakes message. Yet he has not found the knack of beautiful prose, and when he gets into theory and policy and away from personal anecdote, the book tends to get confused and wanders. Author tour. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Campo, a gifted Cuban American physician and teacher (Harvard Medical Sch.), poet (*The Other Man Was Me*, LJ 6/15/94), and writer has been gaining national publicity (New York Times Magazine) for his work with Boston's Latino AIDS community and his forthright stance as a gay physician. These 12 essays reveal a compassionate and very human physician who interacts with his patients. Campo paints his subjects with a naturalistic brush, but he has a poet's gift for interpreting the best of humanity's coarser side as revealed by severe illness. The essays are uneven but full of empathy, ethnicity, humanity, and even an occasional dash of homoeroticism. While Campo's biases and his "poetic" interpretation of AIDS will trouble some readers, he also displays courage by forthrightly bringing "minority" points of view to the medical establishment. ?James Swanton, Harlem Hospital Lib., New York Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.