

**NURSING WIT AND WISDOM: Truths, Humor and Wisdom from the Stethoscope to the Bedside.**

**By Audrey Friedman RN, CLNC**

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You know, I am actually quite impressed.

Frankly, a singularly humorous attempt for a first book has a hard time getting past my eclecticism - distortion - etc., or perhaps put much more plainly, my pseudo-1940's Dada-esque neo-classic frustrated quasi-existentialism which borders on transient surrealistic manifestations of psychedelia revisited.

You understand of course.

But there is far more than "funny" here. You have managed to extract the soul of nursing and place it, amid various whimsical diversions, in a grand light. This essence I think can be seen, albeit through widely diverse lenses and reference points, by nursing students, aspiring nursing students, young nurses, the old nurse guard - one and all, as well as by a few very special non-nurses scattered across the land, and maybe a by couple doctors.

In your kitchen you have, from the recipe for a roast, cooked up a rare ecomium - a moving tribute, one perceivable, as A. Lincoln would have said, "...by the better angels of our nature." This is a book for all those who care about the human condition, especially nurses, and especially for those who know enough to appreciate the nurse, or would learn how.

To your credit you have also managed to avoid rambling sententious passages that so frequently characterize books based on a particular chosen path, rendering them utterly unreadable, tedious at best.

I have shown it to several people, and though not surprisingly without similar terminology, they have the same response. I'm pretty surprised. Not that I didn't think it was going to be good - bear with me - before reading, when I thought of phrases like, "don't make the nurse mad especially when you are on call," I thought there would be a somewhat predictable overtone to your book. But as I say, the narrative voice keeps going closer to the very light that is nursing, light without which no one would ever consider this career. Really, good stuff.