



Requiem

Ken McClure

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Journalist James Kincaid has a pretty jaundiced view of the medical profession. So when he finds out the truth about what's happening at Newcastle's College Hospital, he's not surprised. He's stunned. Disbelieving. Appalled . . .

The hospital is the showpiece of the National Health Service. The brilliant, computerized Northern Health Scheme has dramatically lowered costs and improved services in the area. It's seen as a personal triumph for the new health secretary. A passport perhaps to Downing Street.

So why is the new system shrouded in secrecy? What really happened to Greta Marsh after her much-publicised operation? And why on earth is a top research scientist programming the hospital's computers? Kincaid knows the answers will get him the scoop - and the scandal of the century. If he can find them. If he can live to tell the tale . . .

This title was first published by Simon & Schuster Ltd. (UK) in 1992.

Requiem Details

Date : Published January 21st 2011 (first published 1992)

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Author : Ken McClure

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Jeannine says

The first half was a little slow and I wished for it to speed up, but I really liked the characters. It picked up well, but the ending left me frustrated though...

Grammar*Kitten says

Once again Ken McClure writes a striking medically-themed crime/mystery novel. This is possibly the best book I have read whilst taking part in the 6 book challenge (don't let this disillusion you - it was the best of the 38 books I have read in the last 4 months!)- the story was a little slow to get going, but once it did, it dragged you along like a freight train, and there were no stops to get off! Very intriguing medical thriller about a jaded journalist's suspicions about a new roll out of an all-singing all-dancing computerised NHS System in the north east as he struggles to cope with his brain damaged daughter, his ailing father and threats to his life as he gets too close to an altogether sinister source.

I can't believe that this book is nearly as old as I am - it seems so plausible now, but must have been a thing of almost science fiction in it's early years - the only thing that reminded me of it's age was the search for payphones instead of whipping out a mobile!

Darren says

I bought this book because it was cheap on Amazon and set in my home town of Newcastle. However, the book could have been set anywhere as there was no reference to any locations or landmarks in the city, which I was a bit disappointed in. Aside from that, a great read about something a bit different - I've read a few books in the crime/thriller genre recently and they can get a bit samey, but this one was about a conspiracy in the health service, offering plenty of twists and turns as the plot unravels, right up to the last page.

Kim says

Another medical mystery from one of the masters of the genre. An exciting and easy read. It has dated a little, computer discs too large to carry and as for mobile phones I don't think they had been invented when this book was written. Despite this there are still some relevant themes e.g. issues surrounding AIDS and the increasing centralisation of the NHS. The introduction of the female character to add a touch of romance certainly stretches the imagination. Regular readers of Ken McClure would agree I think. This book introduces the main themes and ideas at the beginning. Some reviewers have noted this as a negative however I would say that this was one of the more positive features. It kept me sufficiently interested to see which way the author would take the story but without losing too much in the detail. There is plenty of action and suspense throughout and the pace is good. This book builds slowly to a wonderful and twisty climax and for that reason I would highly recommend it.

Melissa says

Please someone tell me this was the first book in a series! It was such an awesome book but the ending - WOW!!! I need more!

Maggie says

This was my first try at Ken McClure - thoroughly enjoyed a good plot and the ending was unexpected and could not put down.

Jack says

Medicopolitical thriller. Journalist James Kincaid and GP Neil Tolkein uncover a eugenic plot.

Doreen says

I loved this book - right up to the last page. It's fast, the plot is plausible enough, and since it was written the basis has become even more of an issue. The reader knows just enough more than the characters to understand what's going on without getting frustrated by their obtuseness, and involved enough with them to be urging them on. Which is why, for me, the last page spoils it and reduces the star rating. If you like your reading matter to be tidy and all issues resolved, this is not the book for you. It was good enough for me to want to read more by McClure, with a caveat: if the next one ends in a similar way, he will be off my list.
