

The Good Nurse: A True Story of Medicine, Madness, and Murder

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After his December 2003 arrest, registered nurse Charlie Cullen was quickly dubbed "The Angel of Death" by the media. But Cullen was no mercy killer, nor was he a simple monster. He was a favorite son, husband, beloved father, best friend, and celebrated caregiver. Implicated in the deaths of as many as 300 patients, he was also perhaps the most prolific serial killer in American history.

Cullen's murderous career in the world's most trusted profession spanned sixteen years and nine hospitals across New Jersey and Pennsylvania. When, in March of 2006, Charles Cullen was marched from his final sentencing in an Allentown, Pennsylvania, courthouse into a waiting police van, it seemed certain that the chilling secrets of his life, career, and capture would disappear with him. Now, in a riveting piece of investigative journalism nearly ten years in the making, journalist Charles Graeber presents the whole story for the first time. Based on hundreds of pages of previously unseen police records, interviews, wire-tap recordings and videotapes, as well as exclusive jailhouse conversations with Cullen himself and the confidential informant who helped bring him down, THE GOOD NURSE weaves an urgent, terrifying tale of murder, friendship, and betrayal.

Graeber's portrait of Cullen depicts a surprisingly intelligent and complicated young man whose promising career was overwhelmed by his compulsion to kill, and whose shy demeanor masked a twisted interior life hidden even to his family and friends. Were it not for the hardboiled, unrelenting work of two former Newark homicide detectives racing to put together the pieces of Cullen's professional past, and a fellow nurse willing to put everything at risk, including her job and the safety of her children, there's no telling how many more lives could have been lost.

In the tradition of *In Cold Blood*, THE GOOD NURSE does more than chronicle Cullen's deadly career and the breathless efforts to stop him; it paints an incredibly vivid portrait of madness and offers a penetrating look inside America's medical system. Harrowing and irresistibly paced, this book will make you look at medicine, hospitals, and the people who work in them, in an entirely different way.

"Put this one on the shelf next to Ann Rule's classic about Ted Bundy, *The Stranger Beside Me* -- it's that good. Grade: 'A'
- Entertainment Weekly

"A remarkable story- both of a serial killer and what drove him to commit these crimes, but also one about the health care system and its vulnerability."
-Fresh Air with Terry Gross

"A standout true-crime book...both a thrilling horror story and a cautionary tale."
-Boston Globe

"The Best Journalism of the Year....Ten years of sweat by Charles Graeber lead to a masterly account of a man trusted to heal who instead killed with impunity."

-The Daily Beast

"Riveting."

--People

"A literary thriller with legs. Meticulously crafted... a book that demonstrates the transportive power of literary journalism while simultaneously helping to restore its credibility."

--The Brooklyn Rail

"Graeber's prose is as enthralling as the events it describes. The Good Nurse is a true crime book of the highest calibre. Following in the grand tradition of In Cold Blood, Graeber has delivered a book which is not only an impressively thorough journalistic work, but also a pageturner as compelling as the best crime fiction out there."

-The Bookseller (UK), WeLoveThisBook.com

"A very scary book. It will reach out and grab you and not let you go. You will forgo food, talking, work, anything just to get to the climactic moment of this true crime story."

-The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

"A remarkable book...Gripping and brilliantly written."

-Healthcare Risk Management Review

"Gripping."

--The San Francisco Chronicle

"as suspenseful as any crime novel."

-Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Charles Graeber is an award winning journalist and contributor to numerous publications including Wired, GQ, The New Yorker, New York Magazine, Vogue, Outside Magazine, Men's Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek, Travel + Leisure, and The New York Times, and an occasional guest on CNN, NPR, and other radio programs. As a former medical student and researcher, his co-authored papers appeared in scientific journals including Kidney International. His work has been honored with prizes including the Overseas Press Club award for outstanding international journalism, the New York Press Club prize for the year's best magazine spot news reportage, several National Magazine Award-nominations, and inclusion in numerous anthologies including The Best American Crime Writing, The Best American Science Writing, The Best American Business Writing and The Best of National Geographic Adventure. Born in Iowa, he now lives in Nantucket, MA and Brooklyn, NY. For more information, you can visit www.CharlesGraeber.com.

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