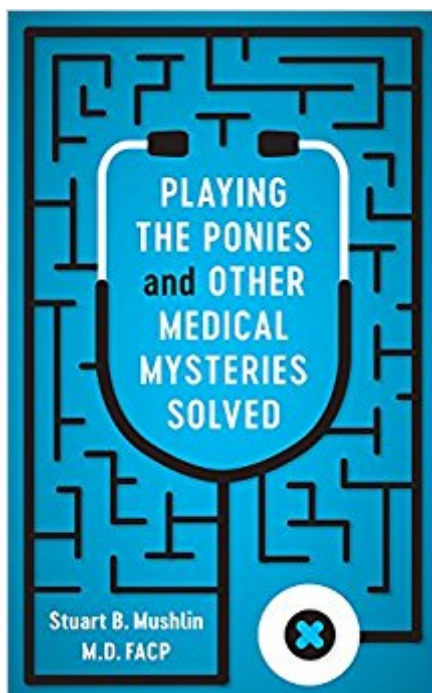


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# Playing The Ponies And Other Medical Mysteries Solved



## Synopsis

With over forty years of experience as a sought after diagnostician, Dr. Stuart Mushlin has cracked his share of medical mysteries, ones in which there are bigger gambles than playing the ponies at the track. Some of his patients show up with puzzling symptoms, calling for savvy medical detective work. Others seem to present cut-and-dry cases, but they turn out to be suffering from rare or serious conditions. In *Playing the Ponies and Other Medical Mysteries Solved*, Dr. Mushlin shares some of the most intriguing cases he has encountered, revealing the twists and turns of each patient's diagnosis and treatment process. Along the way, he imparts the secrets to his success as a medical detective—not specialized high-tech equipment, but time-honored techniques like closely observing, touching, and listening to patients. He also candidly describes cases where he got things wrong, providing readers with honest insights into both the joys and dilemmas of his job. Dr. Mushlin does not just treat diseases; he treats people. And this is not just a book about the ailments he diagnosed; it is also about the scared, uncertain, ailing individuals he helped in the process. Filled with real-life medical stories you'll have to read to believe, *Playing the Ponies* is both a suspenseful page-turner and a heartfelt reflection on a life spent caring for patients.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Rutgers University Press Medicine; 1 edition (March 23, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0813570557

ISBN-13: 978-0813570556

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #117,177 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Allied Health Services > Caregiving #17 in Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Basic Sciences > Histology #21 in Books > Medical Books > Basic Sciences > Histology

## Customer Reviews

"Puzzling patients, detective work, and a dedicated doctor nicely packaged in one small, fascinating volume." (Booklist)"Captivating vignettes from a master clinician, illuminating the profound

intellectual and emotional dimensions of medicine, its demands and its joys. Medical professionals and the public at large will delight in these tales." (Jerome E. Groopman, M.D. author of *How Doctors Think*) "This lovely patient-centered memoir combines the best of the medical problem-solving of Berton Roueche with the human warmth and wryly benevolent amusement of James Herriot. It will be enjoyed by students, residents, and physicians who want to remind themselves of the ideals that brought them to medicine." (Daniel M. Goodenberger, M.D., MACP Chief of Medicine, St Louis VA Medical Center) "An articulate, authoritative, and fascinating guided tour through the joys and intricacies of the diagnostic process, therapeutic challenges, and human interactions at the core of medical practice with an articulate, compassionate, and accomplished physician." (Jeremiah A. Barondess, M.D. President Emeritus, New York Academy of Medicine) "This book is a fascinating examination of the challenges in the doctor-patient relationship. Dr. Mushlin's caring and holistic approach to patients is inspiring. His moving stories will help readers become wiser patients. I highly recommend it." (Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D. Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School) "Stuart Mushlin captures eloquently the essential attributes of the complete physician: empathy, patience and open-mindedness matched to curiosity, scientific inquiry and determination to provide the best care possible. The lessons evoked are timeless and formulate a Hippocratic Oath for our times." (Joseph B. Martin, M.D., PhD Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology, Emeritus, and former dean, Harvard Medical School)

STUART B. MUSHLIN, MD, FACP has been a practicing clinician for forty years. He has been voted a "Best Doctor in America" for over twenty years, and has been an assistant program director in the Brigham and Women's Medical Residency program for the past seventeen years. His diagnostic acumen has been recognized by his title as The Master Clinician in Internal Medicine and Primary Care. He is an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, in Boston, Massachusetts.

I am sure Dr. Mushlin is a very compassionate and caring doctor, but he's not cut out to be an engaging writer of medical vignettes. His writing style is wooden and has the quality of a first draft at best. There is nothing compelling or interesting. He runs through long lists of symptoms without indicating their significance and most of them are irrelevant to the reader anyway. He frequently writes using the royal, "We", which comes off as a bit pompous and inauthentic. This type of jargonesque presentation is more appropriate for Grand Rounds or a symposium. The stories are too short. There is no meat on the bones. The stories are generally boring. If you want to learn more about,

diagnosis and patient care, there are tons of infinitely better books such as "How Doctors Think" by Jerome Groopman or the work of Atul Gawande.

Fascinating insight into the thought process of a medical professional. If you've ever been curious about how doctors assess a situation and make a diagnosis, you will love this book. Dr. Mushlin's writing style is engaging and thoughtful. I enjoyed learning new terminology as I read and feel that the author's explanations of such terms - when appropriate - were very clear.

This book was written by a truly brilliant and wonderful doctor who was always a very calm and compassionate man. Loved reading about his life and some of his more complex cases.

Realistic view of Doctor / patient interfaces

Interesting, intriguing stories. There was enough medical-ese that it was tough to follow sometimes, but yielded a great appreciation for the art of practicing medicine in today's world.

I bought each of my two physician-to-be granddaughters copies because it will inspire them and teaches how a good doctor cares for his patients. It illustrates the satisfaction a person feels after solving a complex problem. This is the reward one should always yearn for.

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