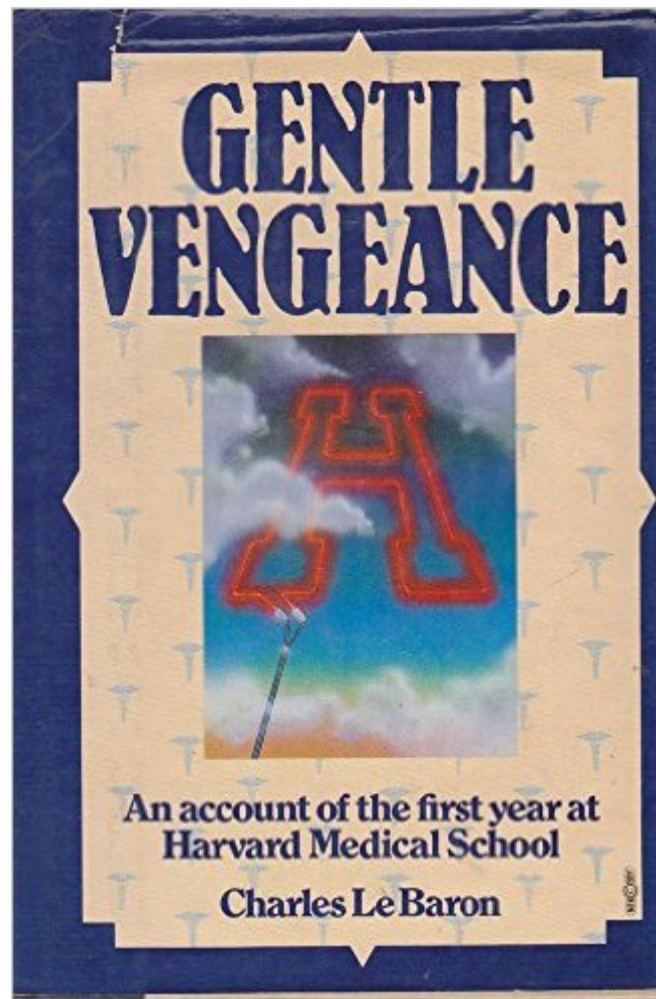


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Gentle Vengeance: An Account Of The First Year At Harvard Medical School



Synopsis

LeBaron, who entered the Harvard Medical School at the age of thirty-four, chronicles his attempts to challenge the medical establishment and to encourage the world's leading training ground for physicians to produce more humane doctors

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After returning this book to the library, I headed straight to a bookstore to order my own copy, which 25 years later I still own. Author Charles LeBaron applied as a mature student to two med schools, one of which was Harvard. Acceptance from both presents him with an enviable dilemma, and everyone he asks advises him to choose Harvard. Well, nearly everyone; the sole dissenter is a Harvard alumnus. Harvard is mired in its own tautological mystique; Harvard educated doctors are considered the best for no other reason than because they ARE from Harvard. Consequently the institution is content to rest on its laurels, preserve the status quo and do a lot more to preserve this reputation than to deserve it. Unlike most of his classmates, LeBaron has not spent his entire life in a lab and so can afford a luxurious sense of wonder about the human body, evolution, bacteria, and the possibility of a Higher Power. He also very soon finds himself at odds with the very philosophy of this particular school; on the very first day he allies with a couple of classmates in circulating a petition to reschedule Saturday classes... little realizing just how cherished a tradition of Harvard this is. LeBaron has worked at the Lower Manhattan Rehab by day while cramming science courses by night as preparation for med school. His experiences in the trenches of the medical profession and as the child of terminally ill parents give him a rare perspective on the fallibility of doctors. Only too familiar with their callous and distant side, he is determined not to allow the system to warp him. A

man of rare compassion, he draws inspiration from several former clients, and these flashbacks provide some of the most moving material in the book.

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