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# **House Calls**



House Calls Stories from Thirty Years of Rural Medicine Among the Amish and English

Gary Yarbrough, MD



# Synopsis

The following twenty-one stories are from actual house calls I have made in three different states during my thirty years of practice as a rural family physician. Some are humorous, some sad, some sublime. I have changed the names and in a few cases altered circumstances slightly to protect privacy as much as possible. I sincerely hope that with these measures - and with some of the details blurry enough in my memory - no one will recognize themselves or acquaintances, or take offense if they do.I hope you enjoy these stories as much as I appreciated having had the chance to live them. ~The Author

## **Book Information**

File Size: 200 KB Print Length: 102 pages Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited Publication Date: April 2, 2013 Sold by: Â Digital Services LLC Language: English ASIN: B00C6E0GTS Text-to-Speech: Enabled X-Ray: Enabled Word Wise: Enabled Lending: Enabled Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled Best Sellers Rank: #368,540 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #150 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Doctors & Medicine #209 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Doctor-Patient Relations #379 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Physician & Patient

## **Customer Reviews**

I purchased House Calls yesterday, intrigued to find that this book was written about real cases by a real doctor. Always interested in research for medical threads in my own work, I couldn't resist reading it immediately. The stories drew me in and kept me entranced. Not only is it interesting, but it's uplifting, well written, and deserves a wider audience. This doctor still makes house calls. In a world where patients become numbers and find themselves searching for someone who truly cares about them as human beings, I highly recommend this book. It restores faith that kindness and

compassion still exists in some pockets of the country. There are still doctors true to the calling of caring for others. Hooray for Dr. Gary Yarborough!

Grab a cup of tea or coffee, find a comfy chair, and take a little time to read this heartwarming book written by a doctor who still practices medicine and still makes house calls. The inspiring and uplifting vignettes he shares about the many patients who have come into his life and left their marks on his heart had me laughing, crying, and desiring to do more for others. It's hard to believe that doctors make house calls anymore! I have read many books in recent years about doctors and nurses who seem to be losing the battle in today's healthcare system, with its many governmental regulations and unending paperwork that would cause anyone to throw his or her hands in the air and say, "I give up!". How refreshing it was to read this book about a doctor who refuses to give up or give in!!! It is a timely reminder that where there is a will there is always a way. We would all be lucky to have a doctor like him, but he also demonstrates that we can all make a difference if we just take a little more time to do a little more for others. I hope you enjoy this book as much as I did! I can't wait for him to write another one!!

This is a collection of little stories of the author's experiences being a doctor to the Amish of (I believe) south eastern Kansas. They're pleasant and somewhat informative, a nice easy read. It ends rather abruptly though and left me wanting more. Interestingly, the author has chosen to go against convention (he's Catholic) and dress like the Amish plus wear a beard and long hair like them.

I'm not certain if the book was that short or if it simply flew by, but I was not ready for it to be over when I found I'd reached the end. Some of the stories are humorous, some are confounding, but each is worth reading. Dr. Yarbrough writes from the POV of a family doctor who is not Amish, but who counts some of them among his patients. During his time in practice he came to know a bit about their way of life and how it differs from that of the "English". He learned that all Amish communities are not the same and that God still chooses to baffle doctors on occasion. While some may criticize these folks for eschewing modern medicine, it is hard not to admire their dedication in the preservation of their culture. Dr. Yarbrough does a great job of describing the simple lifestyle these people try to lead, the challenges he encountered in treating them, as well as some of the things he learned from their approach to things. The book doesn't indicate if Dr. Yarbrough was financially prosperous or not, but it's evident that he made a fortune in memories.

I really enjoyed reading about the experiences of this doctor and his patients. There aren't probably very many rural doctors and even fewer doctors who routinely see Amish patients. I think it's a privilege to be given this peek into the lives of others and found myself taking a great liking to Dr Yarbrough because of his dedication to and interest in his community. I am old enough to be able to read between the lines and appreciate the exceptionally difficult times that the Dr and his nurse went through to provide the care for their patients. This book is very well written and the editing is perfect. You can read a little bit at at a time because the book is broken down into a number of different house calls and experiences. I highly recommend this book. I don't actually live all that far away from where this all takes place and have been through the area often. I like to think that I could have passed the good Dr and his wife on their way to a house call -- although, probably not.

Great way to spend a few minutes or an hour when you have time to relax and read. I especially enjoyed the stories that dealt with the things uniquely Amish: why it was important for an "English" doctor to LOOK Amish (especially around the children) and how he handled various situations when there was no electricity for equipment. I have already downloaded the next book so I can read more of the good doctor's experiences. The stories are short so I can read one or a few at a time depending on how much time I have to spend. Didn't take long at all to finish the entire book!Been a long time since I had a doctor who made house calls. Wish there were more doctors like this still around today! He really seemed to care about what was best for the patient.

House Calls- Yes some doctors still make house calls especially among the Amish. The Amish try to use a doctor that will make house calls for many reasons one being transportation another, someone they can trust to give them the best medical advice. House calls is filled with interesting renditions of real house calls. You get to know the patients and sometimes their families. The doctor realized early in his career to dress close to the traditional Amish garb to help put the people at ease. Doctor Yarbrough tells of a time when dressing like the Amish really helped him care for a few patients. I really enjoyed this book on my Kindle. It was a great choice for bedtime reading.

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