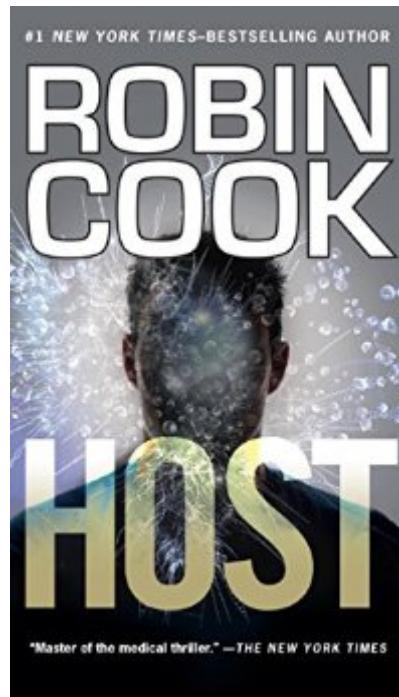


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Host



Synopsis

The explosive new thriller from *New York Times* “bestselling author and master of the medical thriller, Robin Cook.” Lynn Peirce, a fourth-year medical student at South Carolina’s Mason-Dixon University, thinks she has her life figured out. But when her otherwise healthy boyfriend, Carl, enters the hospital for routine surgery, her neatly ordered life is thrown into total chaos. Carl fails to return to consciousness after the procedure, and an MRI confirms brain death. Devastated by Carl’s condition, Lynn searches for answers. Convinced there’s more to the story than what the authorities are willing to reveal, Lynn uses all her resources at Mason-Dixon—including her initially reluctant lab partner, Michael Pender “to hunt down evidence of medical error or malpractice. What she uncovers, however, is far more disturbing. Hospitals associated with Middleton Healthcare, including the Mason-Dixon Medical Center, have unnervingly high rates of unexplained anesthetic complications and patients contracting serious and terminal illness in the wake of routine hospital admissions. When Lynn and Michael begin to receive death threats, they know they’re into something bigger than either of them anticipated. They soon enter a desperate race against time for answers before shadowy forces behind Middleton Healthcare and their partner, Sidereal Pharmaceuticals, can put a stop to their efforts once and for all. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

It's been many years since I've read a Robin Cook book. While I do appreciate them, and give him full props for pretty much starting the Medical Thriller genre with books like Coma, I got just a bit tired of the formula. Having read Host, I may go back and see what Robin Cook books I've missed. The medical thriller portion of the book was intriguing and suspenseful and the action is great. (Note: the formula is still there. This really is very much like Coma.) But you'll notice I gave this two stars. There was one major distraction. I liked the characters, but I loved Michael. He's handsome, smart, funny, and a good friend. And black. Michael is black. Normally, that isn't something I would tell you about a character. Unless it's central to the plot, his race isn't important. It's like hair color or eye color - just description. But I know Michael is black because the author reminds us every time Michael is in a scene. Michael knows poverty. He's black. He can speak intelligently or like he's from 'the hood'. He's black. He can yell 'Mothaf____' at all the right moments (because top of their class medical students totally do this). He's black. He knows what people are thinking about him when he talks to his best friend, who's a southern white woman. Because he's black. And he can charm Russians because Russians love black people and, in case you haven't figured it out, Michael? He's black. I was 60% through the book and I didn't really know much about our medical mystery, but you know what I did know? Michael...was black. Now if only his being black HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE STORY. The thing is that Robin Cook is a good guy.

Robin Cook and the late Michael Palmer are much alike. They are both MDs who were unsuccessful at being physicians but found successful careers as writers. They both resent the medical profession (in which they were not successes) and became more and more caustic in their hatred as time went on. They both are flaming libs and became more and more caustic in their political views as time went on. Aside from the evil medical profession (who all hate patients and don't mind killing them for fun and profit) and the evil pharmaceutical industry (who also hate patients the really really love killing them for fun and profit, which appear in every last Robin Cook novel), the main characters in this novel are absolutely horrible. They are two fourth year medical students who, of course, are the brightest in their class. However, they are stupider than any medical student I ever met. As they start their investigation, they hear a patient has laminar necrosis, and don't know what it means. Anyone who passed second year pathology and neurology classes would know what

the term means. The main woman student also doesn't know about grading mental status in coma patients, again something with which anyone who completed the classroom training in medical school would be familiar, nevermind a student who supposedly completed a neurology rotation on the wards. Even the stupidest student in my class had more medical knowledge than these two nitwits. Additionally, they constantly lament how racist and sexist the medical profession is and how there are no women and minorities in medicine. I graduated from medical school almost 30 years ago and even at that point, 20% of the students were minorities and over 50% were women. Maybe Cook should put down the liberal playbook and actually look at the facts.

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