A bestselling author and award winning journalist follows a year in the life of a big urban hospital, painting a revealing portrait of how medical care is delivered in America today.

Most people agree that there are complicated issues at play in the delivery of health care today, but those issues may not always be what we think they are. In 2005, Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, unveiled a new state-of-the-art, multimillion-dollar cancer center. Determined to understand the whole spectrum of factors that determine what kind of
medical care people receive in this country, bestselling author Julie Salamon spent one year tracking the progress of the center and getting to know the characters who make the hospital run. Located in a community where sixty-seven different languages are spoken, Maimonides is a case study for the particular kinds of concerns that arise in institutions that serve an increasingly multicultural American demographic. Granted an astonishing “warts and all” level of access by the hospital higher-ups, Salamon followed the doctors, patients, administrators, nurses, ambulance drivers, cooks, and cleaning staff. She explored not just the action on the ground—what happens between doctors and patients—but also the financial, ethical, technological, sociological, and cultural matters that the hospital community encounters every day.

Drawing on her skills as interviewer, observer, and social critic, Salamon presents the story of modern medicine, uniquely viewed from the vantage point of those who make it run. She draws out the internal and external political machinations that exist between doctors and staff as well as between hospital and community. And she grounds the science and emotion of medical drama in the financial realities of operating a huge, private institution that must contend with issues like adapting to the specific needs of immigrant groups that make up a large and growing portion of our society.

Salamon exposes struggles of both the profound and humdrum variety. There are bitter internal feuds, warm personal connections, comedy, egoism, greed, love, and loss. There are rabbinic edicts to contend with as well as imams and herbalists and local politicians. There are system foul-ups that keep blood test results from being delivered on time, careless record keepers, shortages of everything except forms to fill, recalcitrant and greedy insurance reimbursement systems, and the surprising difficulty of getting doctors to wash their hands.

This is the dynamic universe of small and large concerns and personalities that, taken together, determine the nature of our care and assume the utmost importance. As Martin Payson—chairman of the board at Maimonides and ex-Time-Warner vice chairman—puts it: “Hospitals have a lot in common with the movie business. You’ve got your talent, entrepreneurs, ambition, ego stroking, the business versus the creative part. The big difference is that in the hospital you don’t get second takes. Movies are make-believe. This is real life.”
Personal Review: Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God and Diversity on Steroids by Julie Salamon

I read "Hospital" because in the midst of having a heart attack, my boyfriend decided not to call an ambulance and took a cab directly to Maimonides. He knew it was the best hospital in Brooklyn and was afraid that he would have died had he gone anywhere else; at the time he lived in Williamsburg. The staff at Maimonides was warm, wonderful and caring. Dr. Jacobowitz performed the quadruple bypass surgery, and connected an ELVAD, an instrument that keeps the heart pumping until a heart becomes available for transplant. Dr. Jacobowitz went to pick up a portable ELVAD himself as he wanted to get it done as efficiently as possible and didn't want to leave an order with a receptionist. He was no longer dressed in his scrubs and looked like he was ready to go dancing. He asked me about my boyfriend's mother - and wanted to know whether or not she was his patient when she had a heart attack and I told him that she was. A few days later at Maimonides, while visiting my boyfriend, I took a walk and sat down to eat lunch in the neighborhood when a nurse came looking for me to bring me back to the hospital to speak to the doctors and sign papers. My boyfriend was transferred to Columbia Presbyterian where they have a transplant center and I have to admit I was dazzled when I walked into that wonderful institution. Another ELVAD was placed. He didn't get the heart transplant as his own heart started beating when the ELVAD was removed. This was seven years ago and my boyfriend has recently died from heart-related complications. I wish he could have lived longer and read this wonderful book about Maimonides.

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Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God and Diversity on Steroids by Julie Salamon 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!