

BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Barbara Roberts aka The Doctor Broad

Q: How long did it take you to write this book?

A: I began writing this book while on sabbatical from my cardiology practice in 2000. The first draft took me about five months of writing full-time but I have re-written it multiple times over the ensuing years.

Q: Why did you wait so long to have it published?

A: Once my two-year sabbatical was over, and I started and directed The Women's Cardiac Center at the Miriam Hospital in Providence, RI, I didn't want to be sitting in the office across from my patients, both new and established, knowing they were privy to all the details of my lurid past! Once I retired from practice in 2016, I decided it was time to find a publisher and get my story out there.

Q: Was it hard to get the book published?

A: The hardest part of getting a book published is finding an agent. I was fortunate in that my agent was a big fan of the Crimetown podcasts, and he actually came looking for me. Most publishing houses will only read book proposal submissions from literary agents.

Q: How did you get involved in the Crimetown podcasts?

A: I had long been friends with Sheila Bentley, ex-wife of Providence's infamous mayor, the late Buddy Cianci. Sheila was approached by Marc Smerling, Emmy-award-winning co-producer (for best documentary, *The Jinx*, on HBO) to be interviewed for the podcast, which examined the intersection of politics and the Mafia in Providence. She declined but suggested he ask me to participate. After listening to the first podcast in the series, I agreed to be interviewed. Episode Eleven, *The Doctor Broad*, was the first time I spoke publicly about being a "Mafia Doctor" and "Mafia Mistress."

Q: Have you written other books?

A: Yes, this is my fourth book. The others were all on medical topics, directed at lay audiences. They are of *How To Keep From Breaking Your Heart: What Every Woman Needs to Know About Cardiovascular Disease*, (Jones & Bartlett, 2004, second edition 2009 Chinese Edition, 2008), *Treating and Beating Heart Disease: a consumer's guide to cardiac medicines*, (Jones & Bartlett Publishers, 2009), and *The Truth About Statins: Risks and Alternatives to*

Cholesterol-Lowering Drugs (Simon & Schuster, 2012, Italian edition, *La Verita Sul Colesterololo*, 2013, Hebrew edition 2013, audio book 2013).

Q: When can we expect the movie?

A: I've been offered an option for the movie rights, however, getting from book to movie (or TV series) is often a very long process. If it happens, I hope I'm still alive!

Q: Will you be writing more books?

A: I hope to. I love to cook so my next book might be called *The Doctor Broad in the Kitchen*. I also love to bake, and am thinking of a book entitled *Death Defying Desserts*.

Q: What lessons do you hope people take away from your book?

A: Do the right thing, even if it's unpopular and brings criticism down on your head. Remember it's the things you least expect in life that will happen to you. Decide to be a survivor - don't give your enemies the satisfaction of committing suicide, no matter how depressed you are. Never give up your dreams, never, never, never.