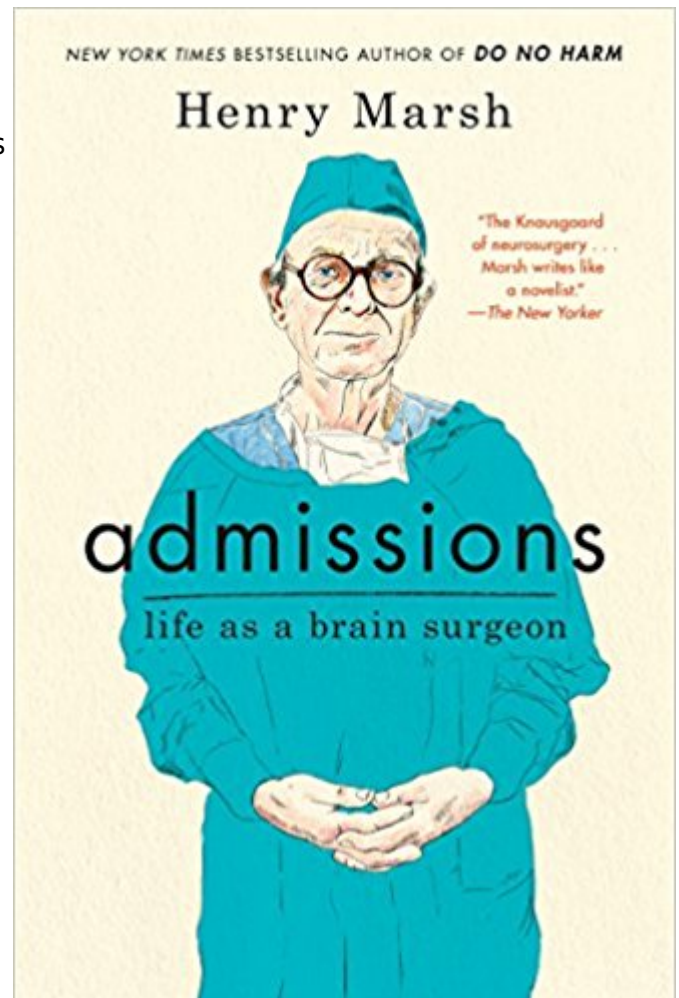


# Admissions Life as a Brain Surgeon

“Marsh has retired, which means he’s taking a thorough inventory of his life. His reflections and recollections make Admissions and even more introspective memoir than his first, if such a thing is possible.” —The New York Times



“Consistently entertaining...Honesty is abundantly apparent here—a quality as rare and commendable in elite surgeons as one suspects it is in memoirists.” —The Guardian

“Disarmingly frank storytelling...his reflections on death and dying equal those in Atul Gawande's excellent Being Mortal.” —The Economist

Henry Marsh has spent a lifetime operating on the surgical frontline. There have been exhilarating highs and devastating lows, but his love for the practice of neurosurgery has never wavered.

Following the publication of his celebrated New York Times bestseller *Do No Harm*, Marsh retired from his full-time job in England to work pro bono in Ukraine and Nepal. In *Admissions* he describes the difficulties of working in these troubled, impoverished countries and the further insights it has given him into the practice of medicine.

Marsh also faces up to the burden of responsibility that can come with trying to reduce human suffering. Unearthing memories of his early days as a medical student, and the experiences that shaped him as a young surgeon, he explores the difficulties of a profession that deals in probabilities rather than certainties, and where the overwhelming urge to prolong life can come at a tragic cost for patients and those who love them.

Reflecting on what forty years of handling the human brain has taught him, Marsh finds a different

purpose in life as he approaches the end of his professional career and a fresh understanding of what matters to us all in the end.

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