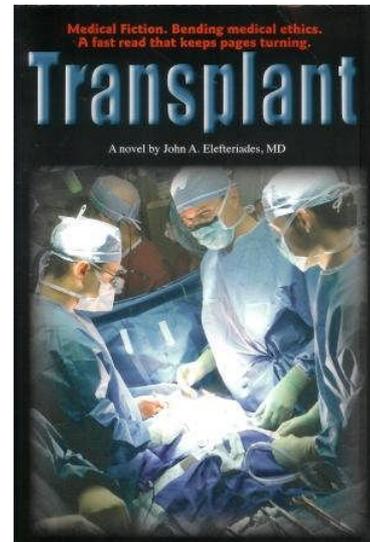


A Review of  
***Transplant (a novel) (2009)***

Author: John A. Eleftheriades, MD



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I often make a first level of book review judgment based on how long it takes for me to read the book, the faster indicating its riveting nature, a very good sign. This book was a one day read, i.e., top rating or 5 stars. I have to say the author's distinguished surgical career (see him on the front cover doing surgery) makes his writing unique in its blend of action thriller and medical reality. Writers less gifted or medically skilled often through research tend to paste medical jargon and facts into their storyline and in so doing, it comes across that way - a pieced together or forced story. This book on the other hand has the medical reality so skillfully integrated into the storyline's action that it seems less a novel and more real in the telling. So much so that in reading the very convincing medical research parts of the story, I found myself wondering how far from the current state of medical reality the author had taken liberty in his storyline. I was pleasantly surprised to discover several final sections after the Epilogue giving answer to my thoughts and admiring the book even more in that reading of the research and news articles supporting the facts he had used. That supplement, along with a very interesting ethical thoughts and commentary addition raised this novel a notch above the norm.

Amid a story spiced with medical facts and future developments that are in trial now or supported by real life news releases, a world renowned heart surgeon finds his own values and ethics challenged at every turn, often in ways he can't possibly foresee. In each situation, often far beyond the world he normally works in, fighting for his very life and sanity, he displays problem solving skills from years of surgical experience. Fighting family issues resulting from his total focus on an ever rising medical career, he is unprepared when a "money is no limit" business tycoon who refuses to take no for an answer tries to force him into a mysterious heart transplant operation. Let me not say more for fear of taking anything away from the reader's enjoyment of this "surprise around every corner" (right up to the final pages) exciting read.

For anyone involved with organ (especially heart) transplant or donation, and the action thriller fan in general, this is a totally enjoyable and engrossing read. Keep your eyes out for when **Transplant** comes out in a movie as it surely deserves to be made into one. When you are finished that final episode, sit back and reflect on the writer's skill in light of his also being an award winning cardiac surgeon. Pretty amazing in my book! Well done doctor John. Thanks for a great read.

Note: **Transplant** is available in paperback on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

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**Reviewer bio:** Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. '94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, and is now a dedicated volunteer with NKF, UNOS, TRIO, Second Chance, the Gift of Life Donor Program in Philadelphia, as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, **A Gift from the Heart**, is offered in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained on a CD without cost by contacting him at [GleasonJim@aol.com](mailto:GleasonJim@aol.com)