



Walk on Water: Inside an Elite Pediatric Surgical Unit

Michael Ruhlman

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Michael Ruhlman is fascinated by people at work-especially those in pursuit of perfection. *The Soul of a Chef* and *Wooden Boats* have established him as a deft chronicler of unique cultural microcosms. Now, in *Walk on Water*, he documents life in the most intense environment yet-a pediatric heart center specializing in neonatal open-heart surgery. The precision needed for such delicate surgery puts "soul-crushing, diamond-making stress" on physicians and nurses every time they operate.

The colorful focus of Ruhlman's narrative is the Cleveland Clinic's world-renowned, idiosyncratic Dr. Roger Mee-a virtuoso within a very select surgical specialty and a mine of information on statistics, ethics, and medical politics. A riveting glimpse into the heart and mind of a man in whose hands literally rests a young baby's life on a daily basis, *Walk on Water* explores controversial topics-from questionable referral patterns by cardiologists to physicians who are punished for doing what's best for their patients to physicians who don't do what's best for their patients-and breaks the taboo on subjects not often written about.

Walk on Water is a must for all readers of serious nonfiction that will also have health professionals and the media paying rapt attention.

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