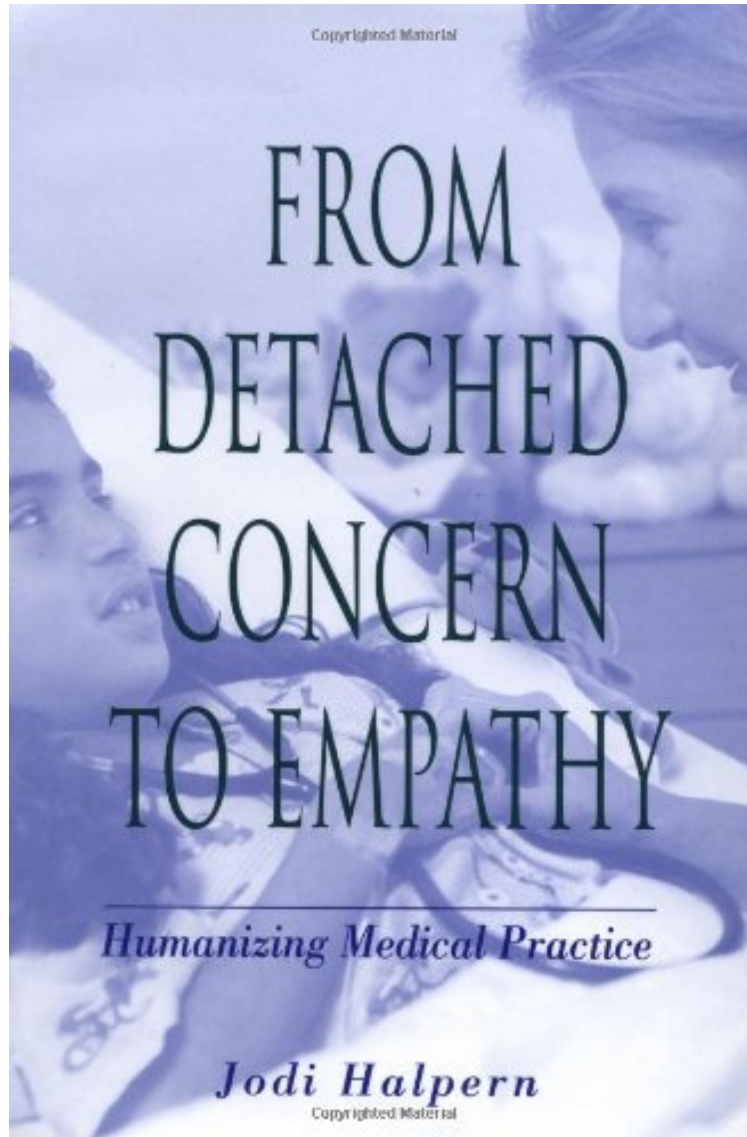


(Mobile pdf) From Detached Concern to Empathy: Humanizing Medical Practice

# From Detached Concern to Empathy: Humanizing Medical Practice

*Jodi Halpern*

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#1267621 in Books Jodi Halpern 2001-02-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.00 x .90 x 9.101, .96 #File Name: 0195111192115 pagesFrom Detached Concern to Empathy Humanizing Medical Practice | File size: 71.Mb

**Jodi Halpern : From Detached Concern to Empathy: Humanizing Medical Practice** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Detached Concern to Empathy: Humanizing Medical Practice:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not for MeBy Rodger ShepherdSorry, Boys and Girls, but I could not get beyond the first two chapters of this book. The title attracted me to the book, and, as a retired physician, I am

very interested in this difficult area of medical practice, However, I quickly found myself bogged down by psychobabble and arcane philosophy. The term "detachment" was used 14 times before it was defined in a footnote on page 34. The author's references to medical history, particularly Osler, often seemed uninformed to me ( For example, I cannot find any photograph of Osler or his students in white coats.), I was repeatedly struck by ideas and views about cognition and emotion that are made much clearer (and supported by impressive research) in Kahneman's very relevant book "Thinking, Fast and Slow". I suspect that Dr. Halpern is a very caring and effective clinician, but her book has not helped me.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Thought Provoking Textbook  
By ThePerpetualStudent  
This book was assigned by one of my professors for a class on compassionate care and empathy. When you receive the book you will be unimpressed, it's much smaller than you would think for a book that addresses such a big topic. However, it has become a valuable book for exploring the role of empathy in the clinical setting. Halpern does an excellent job of tackling a big topic while retaining an easy writing style that lends itself well to readers who may not have a medical background. Often books on this and similar topics can be so jargon filled and based in either medicine, legalities, or philosophy that reading them can feel like wading through quicksand. Halpern is not like that at all. Yes, there is jargon but it can be picked up from context. The philosophy that is discussed is readable and understandable. Overall, I'd highly recommend this book to any student of medicine, ethics, philosophy, and counseling. Halpern will have a place on my bookshelf after this class is finished.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Medical Doctors and Psychiatrists Will Benefit from this Book by Dr. Halpern  
By Sharon Dunas, MFT \_President - National Alliance on Mental Illness - LA County  
"From Detached Concern to Empathy" offers deep insights to clinicians caring for patients with brain disorders, long term illnesses, or chronic suffering. Dr. Halpern's voice is unique and valuable, providing humane insights that will truly help enlist doctors attributes in the treatment of patients. Dr. Halpern understands the need for the clinician to relate to the whole person and address their suffering. Dr. Halpern offers clinical tools how to express empathy for the patient's suffering and yet still keep appropriate doctor/patient boundaries. Every doctor and clinician would benefit from reading this book. Hospitals and clinics would become more healing environments as a result of this book. Dr Halpern integrates the early philosopher's who wrote of suffering to guide the modern day clinician to an empathic understanding of the patient's world and yet still provide modern day medical treatment. Sharon Dunas, MFT, President - National Alliance on Mental Illness - Los Angeles County

Physicians recognize the importance of patients' emotions in healing yet believe their own emotional responses represent lapses in objectivity. Patients complain that physicians are too detached. Halpern argues that by empathizing with patients, rather than detaching, physicians can best help them. Yet there is no consistent view of what, precisely, clinical empathy involves. This book challenges the traditional assumption that empathy is either purely intellectual or an expression of sympathy. Sympathy, according to many physicians, involves over-identifying with patients, threatening objectivity and respect for patient autonomy. How can doctors use empathy in diagnosing and treating patients without jeopardizing objectivity or projecting their values onto patients? Jodi Halpern, a psychiatrist, medical ethicist and philosopher, develops a groundbreaking account of emotional reasoning as the core of clinical empathy. She argues that empathy cannot be based on detached reasoning because it involves emotional skills, including associating with another person's images and spontaneously following another's mood shifts. Yet she argues that these emotional links need not lead to over-identifying with patients or other lapses in rationality but rather can inform medical judgement in ways that detached reasoning cannot. For reflective physicians and discerning patients, this book provides a road map for cultivating empathy in medical practice. For a more general audience, it addresses a basic human question: how can one person's emotions lead to an understanding of how another person is feeling?