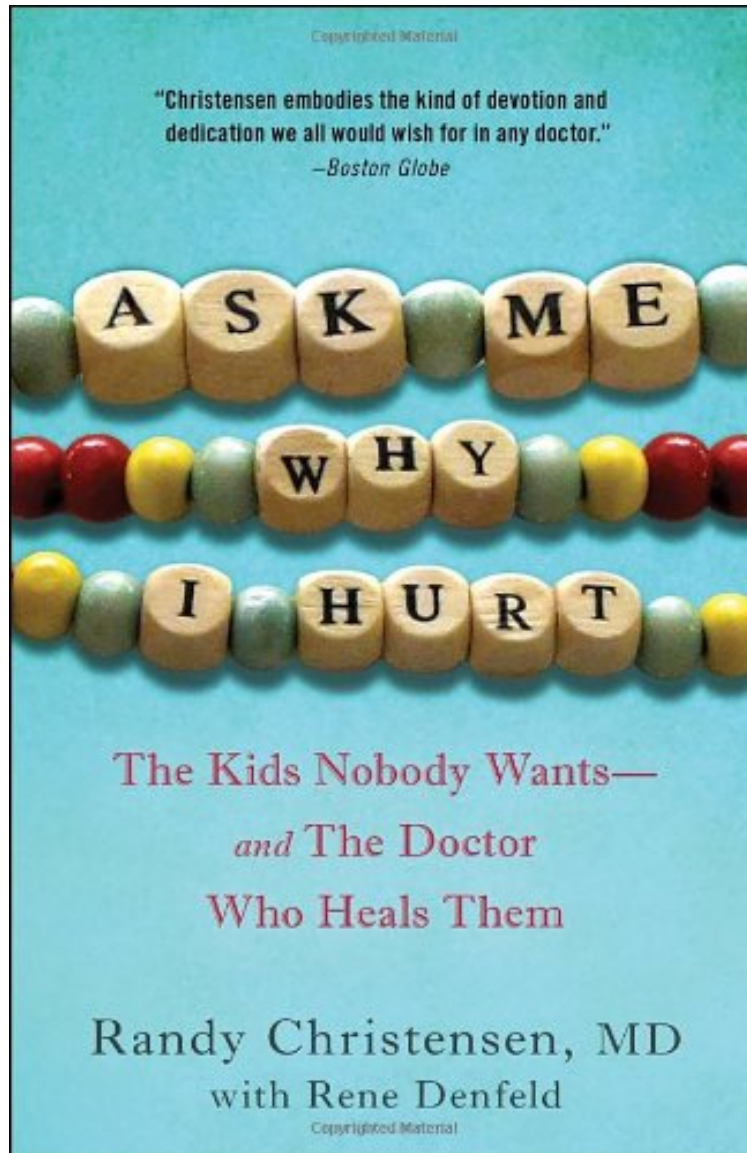


Ask Me Why I Hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants and the Doctor Who Heals Them

Randy Christensen M.D.
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Randy Christensen M.D. : Ask Me Why I Hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants and the Doctor Who Heals Them before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ask Me Why I Hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants and the Doctor Who Heals Them:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A MUST READBy ShannonA wonderful book, a must read for everyone!!! My book club read this book and we all loved it. My club consists of teachers and social workers here in Phoenix and we were so impressed by the dedication to our children in need. I could go on forever about this book but you should you buy it and read it for yourself. It's a wonderful mix of personal and professional stories to keep you reading until you finish. As a social worker working with children that receive mental and behavioral health services I was hesitant that reading this book might be like going to work and hearing the horrible stories of trauma my foster kids have faced but this book gives you just enough information to get the idea without being too graphic. Pick it up, read it, love it, and join the fight to help our kids right here in our own communities!!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I HIGHLY recommend this book! Couldn't put it downBy MamamayWhat an amazing story! A story that continues daily. This really opened my eyes to the underworld of homeless teenagers, primarily in Arizona. I found it very moving to read about Dr Christenson's compassionate work among these kids. I HIGHLY recommend this book!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I love this bookBy DK HakesI love this book. I have read it once before and gave my copy to my church. Well I decided I wanted to reread it and have a copy to loan out. That's why I purchased another one. The author of this book is a member of our church and is a very nice person. I am honored to know him and his family.

The unforgettable inspiring memoir of one extraordinary doctor who is saving lives in a most unconventional way. Ask Me Why I Hurt is the touching and revealing first-person account of the remarkable work of Dr. Randy Christensen. Trained as a pediatrician, he works not in a typical hospital setting but, rather, in a 38-foot Winnebago that has been refitted as a doctors office on wheels. His patients are the city's homeless adolescents and children. In the shadow of an affluent American city, Dr. Christensen has dedicated his life to caring for society's throwaway kidsthe often-abused, unloved children who live on the streets without access to proper health care, all the while fending off constant threats from thugs, gangs, pimps, and other predators. With the Winnebago as his moveable medical center, Christensen and his team travel around the outskirts of Phoenix, attending to the children and teens who need him most. With tenderness and humor, Dr. Christensen chronicles everything from the struggles of the vans early beginnings, to the support system it became for the kids, and the ultimate recognition it has achieved over the years. Along with his immense professional challenges, he also describes the trials and joys he faces while raising a growing family with his wife Amy. By turns poignant, heartbreaking, and charming, Dr. Christensen's story is a gripping and rich memoir of his work and family, one of those rare books that stays with you long after youve turned the last page.

From Publishers WeeklyPhoenix pediatrician Christensen recounts the past decade spent treating Arizona's homeless youth in his "Big Blue" van in this inspiring account of a doctor who truly puts his patients' needs first. Always drawn to community health care, Christensen a doctor at the prestigious Phoenix Children's Hospitaljumped at the chance to head a mobile unit that would bring basic medical needs to the area's large population of homeless teenagers. Initial funding came through the Children's Hospital and generous private grants, and Christensen, along with a no-nonsense nurse and cabinets full of basic medication, crammed into a converted Winnebago and drove off to abandoned parking lots to find patients. Nothing prepared him for the onslaught of misery and poverty, as homeless kids came with complaints ranging from infected insect bites to STDs acquired from prostitution. Christensen became not only an advocate within the community by helping the youths find beds in shelters but also offers his expertise in mobile health care to other crisis areas, volunteering in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. With just the right blend of personal history, patient anecdotes, and relevant suggestions for health care improvement, Christensen's memoir is an uplifting yet sobering read. (Apr.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. The story of Dr. Christensen's care for homeless teenagers is heartbreaking, but it highlights the everyday tragedies and suffering happening in the shadows of our great country's accomplishments. Dr. Christensen's recounting of his work and the stories of his patients reminds us again and again that these are our children and that we must do better by them. This is a must-read for policymakers and anyone who cares about children's health. Geoffrey Canada, President and CEO, Harlem Children's Zone"Dr. Randy Christensen has provided us with a book that is proof positive that there are still heroes among us. These doctors, nurses and social workers labor tirelessly to look after some of our most vulnerable patients - homeless children. In this sensitive and moving portrayal of caring for those most in need, Christensen shows us that it is still possible to make a difference in the world, one patient at a time."Lisa Sanders, M.D., author of the New York Times bestseller Every Patient Tells A Story, and New York Times Magazine "Diagnosis" Columnist"This is a remarkable story of what it's like to be on the front lines of medical care for extremely disadvantaged kids. Dr. Christensen brings to life the realities of America's forgotten and bypassed street youth who struggle to survive. At the same time, this story is a powerful glimpse into the extraordinary work of doctors and nurses who have devoted their careers to caring for people who have no where else to turn."Dr. Irwin Redlener, President and Co-Founder of the Children's Health FundDr. Randy cares more about distressed kids than anyone I have met in 44 years of worldwide reporting. His moving stories of treating runaways are both comical and heartbreaking. He is a remarkable Doc!!! Fred Francis, Senior Correspondent NBC News [An] inspiring account of a doctor who truly puts his patients needs first With just

the right blend of personal history, patient anecdotes, and relevant suggestions for health care improvement, Christensen's memoir is an uplifting yet sobering read. Publishers Weekly "In 2000, while working at Arizona's Phoenix Children's Hospital, Christensen asked to be assigned a daunting task: leading a mobile health-care unit aimed at serving homeless children. In the world of modern medicine, this was not the obvious way to climb the career ladder toward regular hours and a hefty salary. With a small group of passionately committed providers, Christensen turned this small community-service unit into an integral part of the urban medical landscape. Along the way, he struggled to balance the emotional and psychological demands of treating vulnerable children with the pressures placed on his marriage and family life. Ultimately, the children he encountered on the streets of Phoenix become the real subjects of his memoir, co-authored with journalist Denfield (*Kill the Body, the Head Will Fall: A Closer Look at Women, Violence, and Aggression*, 1997, etc.). Christensen's many subjects include: Sugar, the pregnant young prostitute who found her way to new life; the abused and neglected young man who discovered love in a community home; and a mentally ill young woman whose tragic murder resulted in part from the bureaucratic tangles that prevented anyone from truly helping her. The title of the book comes from the bracelet worn by one patient who was unable to tell the story of the systematic abuse that left her homeless. The author provides numerous heart-rending stories, yet, for such a serious subject, the narrative is written with obvious joy and an impassioned optimism for what health-care providers and communities can achieve." Kirkus

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author RANDY CHRISTENSEN, M.D., is a staff physician at Phoenix Children's Hospital. Since 2000, he has been the medical director of Crews Healthmobile, a mobile medical clinic that provides primary and comprehensive medical care to homeless children. Dr. Christensen has been the recipient of several awards for his work, including the CNN Heroes award and People Magazine's Heroes Among Us. He lives in Phoenix with his wife, Amy, also a pediatrician, and their three children.

RENE DENFELD is the author of three books, including the international bestseller *The New Victorians* (1995) and has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Oregonian*. A passionate advocate for the adoption of foster children, she lives in Portland, Oregon, with her three children, all adopted from foster care.

From the Hardcover edition.