

### ***Our Hospital* by Samuel Shem**

This novel begins in late March 2020, which immediately explains why the doctor driving home is so very bone-weary. Most of us were fortunate enough not to end up in a hospital when we experienced COVID, but this book takes the reader into the overwhelmed world that was healthcare for more months (and years) than we care to remember. Knowing that the writer Samuel Shem is a professor of medicine adds even more to the believability of the book.

Although I admire doctors and nurses from afar, knowing I could not do what they do day after day, it's fascinating to be inside their world, witnessing the drama and hard choices that they faced again and again – and yet, they came back to work, even as colleagues had just had more than they could bear and resigned. The book explores the criminal role that Big Healthcare played before and during the pandemic, putting profit before the good of patients, and all too often leaving their staff without the required PPE to do their jobs safely. There are three books that Shem wrote that prequel this one, but I found I could usually follow the storyline and piece together what had happened before, so I still enjoyed that book, without having read *The House of God*, *Mount Misery*, and *Man's 4<sup>th</sup> Best Hospital*.