

***The Emergency: A Year of Healing and Heartbreak in a Chicago ER* by Thomas Fisher**

This new nonfiction book shares Fisher's experiences as a doctor, but also as a son. His ER on the south side of Chicago fights the battles of street violence, poor mental health care, illness, despair and discrimination, and as the novel coronavirus pandemic arrives the ER must learn ways to deal with the unknown virus as well. In part to save his sanity as Fisher moves to a job now restricted by protective gear, masks, gloves and shields, he begins to write letters to the patients he treated after his shifts. The letters were not intended to be mailed, but more to help him cope, and if possible, to think through processes that might bring about better care in this harsh environment. In the end, Fisher does find himself writing and delivering a letter to his own hospital administrators following in the misdiagnosis of his mother's pulmonary embolism.