

The Sixth Sense by Lawrence W. Gold, M.D.

5.0 out of 5 stars **Two Themes**, January 30, 2013

By

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This review is from: [The Sixth Sense \(Paperback\)](#)

Dr. Gold's third novel about the people at Brier Hospital relates the story of Dr. Arnie Roth, a conscientious general practitioner who contracts encephalitis and almost dies from it. Upon awakening from his coma, he finds his sense of smell is much more acute than before, and this enables him to diagnose some patients by the odors emanating from them.

The second theme is that of a pharmaceutical company that supplies Brier Hospital and other doctors in the area. The two top executives are sociopaths who work their way out of a financial crisis by diluting their drugs. Not surprisingly, this has serious effects on some patients. Some become sicker, others die, and some who are vaccinated do not develop immunity.

Unlike some doctors who write medical thrillers with outlandish plots, Dr. Gold has written a perfectly believable story about the everyday workings of a hospital and the doctors who work in it. The characters are real, not super-heroes, and the plot reflects the real-life problems that occur in hospitals.

The truth about the diluted drugs eventually surfaces, and Dr. Roth describes the consequences for the doctors, patients, and in some cases, the grief-stricken relatives of patients who have died because of this medical racketeering. It's an engrossing story that rings with authenticity.