

# Out of Hours Books

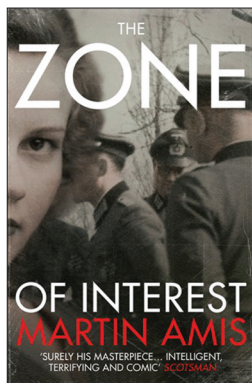
## LOVE AND THE NAZIS

### The Zone of Interest

Martin Amis

Vintage, 2015

PB, 320pp, £8.99, 978-0099593683



This book has been labelled by some professional reviewers as 'a holocaust comedy.' This is a striking analysis, since those events would not seem to be particularly fertile ground for comic fiction. Having been hugely impressed by Martin Amis' previous work on the sombre topic of Nazi atrocities, *Times Arrow*, I was eager to take up *The Zone of Interest*. Ultimately, it was a rewarding experience.

This is a tightly constructed novel, events narrated in sequence from the perspective of three different protagonists. Paul Doll is the bibulous, buffoonish commandant of Kat Zet II, part of the greater Auschwitz camp. We hear his near constant complaints about the myriad challenges and petty irritations he must overcome in the day-to-day running of his death camp. Further angst is generated for him by the lust affair being prosecuted against Doll's young wife by the priapic and well-connected (he is Martin Bormann's nephew) Angelus Thomsen, an Aryan lover-man and engineer overseeing the interests of IG Farben in the whole murderous enterprise. Finally, events are recounted in the horror-wearied voice of Szmul, the leader of the camp's Sonderkommando, doomed Jewish facilitators of the camp's process.

There is humour in the Pooterish self-pity on constant display from Doll; for example, his dismay at being choked off by the Luftwaffe High Command for stoking his crematory pyres too vigorously. There is humour too in the louche romancing

of Thomsen in what would not appear to be the best place to pursue a love affair, although he turns out to be a better man in the end. In some regards, however, both are blasé and strikingly self-absorbed amidst the unspeakable horror in which they find themselves. One feels that Amis must, in this way, be capturing the actual psychological processes that enabled such men to live and work in these horrific surroundings. The narrations of Szmul hauntingly and effectively convey the ennui and despair that must have created such biddable automatons. This, then, is no comedy, but instead an effective study of how persecutors and their victims live from day to day. I commend it to you.

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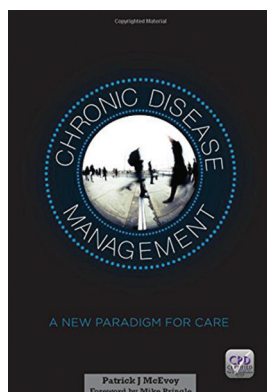
## GP CHALLENGES

### Chronic Disease Management: A New Paradigm For Care

Patrick J McEvoy

Radcliffe Publishing Ltd, 2014

PB, 384pp, £39.99, 978-1908911568



If a book ever had it's time then the time for this book is now. We are aware in our daily

working lives of the strain we are under with a relentless ever-increasing pressure coming from the complexity we face with multimorbidity in an ageing population. Older members of the profession (like myself), will have seen changes in the pattern of illness and consulting happen over time. Newer GPs are often daunted by how it is now. The reasons for this are well rehearsed but we have been short on answers of how to think about it and begin to address the challenges. This book helps us to do just that. Patrick McEvoy approaches the topic in a readable way that invites the reader to think differently about chronic illnesses drawing on their similarities. This in turn leads to a more holistic way of delivering care to those with multimorbidity and associated comorbidities.

Chapter 5 in this book reflects specifically on the role of the GP and what we have to offer. It outlines the important attributes that modern general practice brings to chronic disease management but challenges us to use these to best effect in the face of other competing models of care. There is advocacy for the role of GP disease-specific mini-clinics and while these are perfectly feasible, there is also scope for the use of extended patient-centred multimorbidity clinics as well.

With the proportion of chronic disease management due to incessantly rise in the next 20 years this is essential reading for those in training and those already qualified. It is already gracing my training library bookshelf and I would recommend it for yours too.

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