



The Cole Trilogy: The Physician, Shaman, and Matters of Choice

By Noah Gordon



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Noah Gordon's acclaimed trilogy, spanning one thousand years in the lives of one uncommonly gifted family

In *The Physician*, an orphan in eleventh-century London, Robert Cole, becomes a fast-talking swindler. As he matures, his strange gift—an acute sensitivity to impending death—never leaves him, and he yearns to become a healer. Arab *madrassas* are the only authentic medical schools, and he makes his perilous way to Persia. Christians are barred from Muslim schools, but by claiming he is a Jew, he studies under the world's most renowned physician, Avicenna. Cole's journey and love for a woman who must struggle against her only rival—medicine—make *The Physician* a riveting modern classic.

In *Shaman*, Dr. Robert Judson Cole, nineteenth-century descendent of the first Robert Cole, travels from his ravaged Scottish homeland, through the operating rooms of antebellum Boston, to the cabins of frontier Illinois. In the wilderness he befriends the starving remnants of the Sauk tribe, who have fled their reservation. In the process, he absorbs their culture and learns native remedies that enrich his classical medical education. He marries a remarkable settler woman he had saved from illness. The Cole family is drawn into the bloody vortex of the Civil War, and their determination to survive in the midst of wilderness and violence will stay with the reader long after the final page.

In *Matters of Choice*, Roberta Jeanne d'Arc Cole is the latest first-born descendant of Dr. Robert Cole. Favored to be named associate chief of medicine at a Boston hospital, she is married to a surgeon and owns a trophy residence in Cambridge as well as a summer house. But everything melts away. Her gender and her work at an abortion clinic cost her the hospital appointment. Her marriage fails. Crushed, she goes to her farmhouse in western Massachusetts, thinking to sell it, and finds an unexpected life. How she continues to fight for every woman's right to choose, while acknowledging her own ticking clock and maternal yearning, makes this prize-winning third story of the Cole trilogy relevant and unforgettable.



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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for *The Physician*:

“Populated by engaging characters, rich in incident and vivid in historical detail, [*The Physician*] is a pleasure.” —*The New York Times*

Praise for *Shaman*:

“A sweeping historical drama . . . described with precision and unflinching verisimilitude. Gordon writes with the skill and patience of a good doctor . . . powerful.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

Praise for *Matters of Choice*:

“Perhaps Gordon’s best work so far.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

About the Author

Noah Gordon has had outstanding international success. *The Physician*, soon to be a motion picture, has been called a modern classic, and booksellers at the Madrid Book Fair voted it “one of the 10 best-loved books of all time.” *Shaman* was awarded the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for historical fiction. Both of these books, and five of the author’s other novels—*The Rabbi*, *The Death Committee*, *The Jerusalem Diamond*, *Matters of Choice*, and *The Winemaker*—are published in digital formats by Barcelona eBooks and Open Road Integrated Media. Gordon’s novel, *The Last Jew*, will also be published digitally in the near future. He lives outside of Boston with his wife, Lorraine Gordon.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bruce Brown:

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