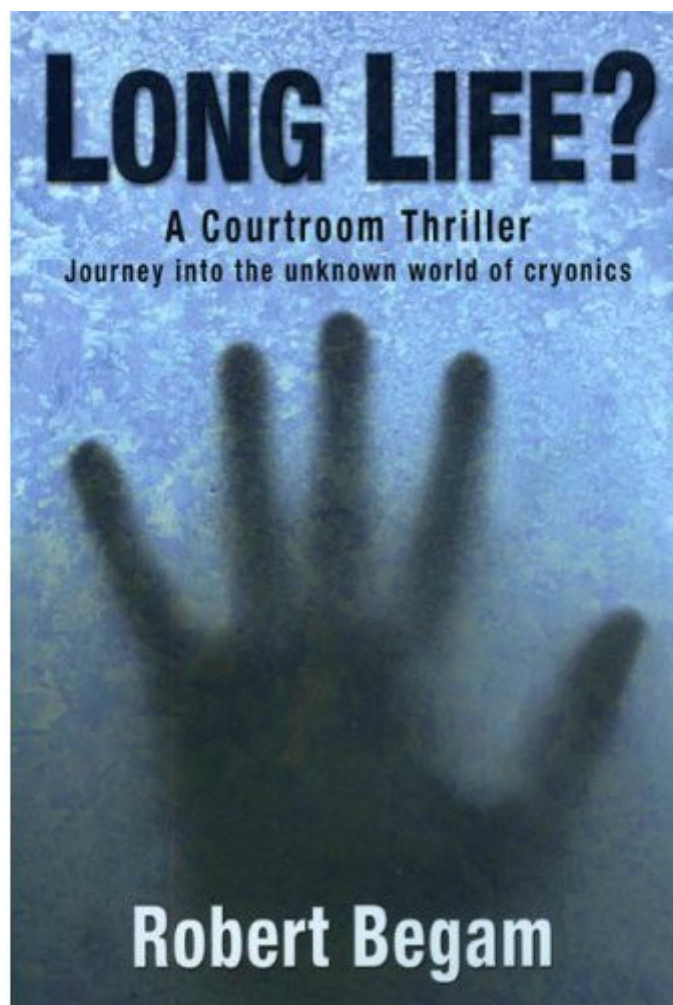


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Long Life? A Journey Into The Unknown World Of Cryonics



Synopsis

The charge is murder in the first degree. The prosecutor demands the death sentence, claiming that this is the most heinous case of murder he has ever seen. Young, beautiful Rebecca Adler, M.D., is the accused. She is the medical director of Omega Terrace, a cryonics center in Scottsdale, Arizona, a few miles from where the frozen body of baseball hero Ted Williams reposes. Adler claims that she performed a cryonic suspension, not a killing, on a willing patient, and that he is suspended in a frozen condition, not dead. Famous New York trial lawyer Joe Purcell hesitates to take the case. He is finally persuaded by one factor. As he puts it, "This will be the first murder case in which there is only one issue: Is the victim dead?" Long Life? is a thrilling battle of top lawyers engaged in courtroom combat. They debate cutting-edge issues at the intersection of science, religion, ethics and the law. The reader will learn about the current state of cryonics and what the future may hold as humanity engages in its ultimate battle, the battle with death.

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed "Fireball", Robert Begam's earlier novel, and was delighted to meet several of my favorite characters again in "Long Life?" Begam's credentials as an experienced litigator enable him

to take us through the corridors of powerful law firms, the prosecutors office, and, better still, inside the thinking, the speculation, the anxieties and the motives of these fascinating players as they confront both legal and moral dilemmas that are just over the horizon. Good fun and deep thoughts in one delightful package!

I've never read a past work by Mr. Begam, but I am a huge fan of courtroom dramas by writers such as John Grisham. I was happy to see that both men share a similar compelling writing style. In fact, "Long Life?" is the first book in years that has been able to hold my attention enough to finish it in less than 48 hours. I had hoped there would be more elements of a thriller, but in the end, I was satisfied with the author's choice to keep the plot realistic. If you've read anything about cryonics before reading this book, you will likely see very obvious similarities between the fictional Omega Terrace and the real Alcor Life Extension Foundation. In fact, the description of Dr. Adler's procedures are very realistic and read very much like the case studies that Alcor provides on their website. The only quarrel I have (as I believe other reviewers have pointed out) is the fact that Omega Terrace is portrayed as a for-profit luxury resort. I understand that that image is essential to the plot, but it could give many readers the idea that cryonics is reserved only for the very rich and is designed to be a money-making venture, which it is not. Overall, if you have an interest in cryonics and like realistic courtroom dramas, I highly recommend this book.

LONG LIFE is excellent! Robert Begam has succeeded in creating a new and exciting courtroom drama that exceeds his previous novel FIREBALL and that book was terrific. Several of the same great characters return in LONG LIFE and they are more clever than ever. The story explodes into the courtroom forcing you to deal with your own mortality. How will you face death when the moment comes? Who will help you? What methods are available...and what is the morality of the method? Be prepared for a wild ride that achieves an absolute rarity in literature...you find yourself thinking, analysing and taking sides, all while being totally caught up and involved in this great courtroom adventure. Yes, all that and I didn't even mention the beautiful and sexy blonde doctor. Read it. I did and it was fantastic. Brian Gordon Sinclair: Playwright, HEMINGWAY ON STAGE

A fantastic book that you cannot put down with may twists. I recommend it highly to anyone who wants a great book to read while on an airplane.

This courtroom thriller is right out of today's headlines. Omega Terrace provides sophisticated

cryonic freezing and storage services to clients who bet their bodies, and their millions, that science will someday discover how to "reanimate" their frozen remains. Trouble begins when OM's beautiful head scientist agrees with her incurably ill friend that "pre-mortem" freezing is the best way to preserve his body from further ravages of his terminal disease. Pre-mortem freezing is science jargon for starting the freezing protocol before the client is legally dead. The ferocious county attorney calls it murder, and wants the death penalty. The trial preparation and courtroom drama are intense as the stakes couldn't be higher. You'll recognize the characters: the obnoxious local politician looking for a "hook" for his reelection campaign, the high-priced brilliant New York trial attorneys who've seen and done it all, and the equally talented yet less polished prosecutor who knows evil when he sees it and is committed to fight it. This courtroom thriller owns your attention all the way to its disturbing end. Long Life? will also keep you thinking about life and death questions that have no easy answers, and that's no small accomplishment for a thriller.

Engrossing, "hard to put down" style, like a good murder thriller, but with a depth of knowledge and intelligence far beyond what one usually encounters in that genre. I'm a physician from Phoenix, and can attest to the accuracy of the city references, but his knowledge of cryonics goes way beyond what I knew. My favorite aspect, however, was his detailed description of the tactics and procedures used by attorneys in a high profile criminal trial. The author is obviously an expert in this area, and it is fascinating to get a "behind the scenes" view of what goes on. He's a great advocate, but I still am cold about being frozen!

I actually came across this book while purchasing Frozen by Larry Johnson. This is was a great read from start to finish. Robert Begam gets your attention from the beginning and holds it strong till you finish the last page. Whether you are a fan of cryonics or not, you will find this to be a good book. You can tell that the author did his homework and that helps make it a very interesting read.

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