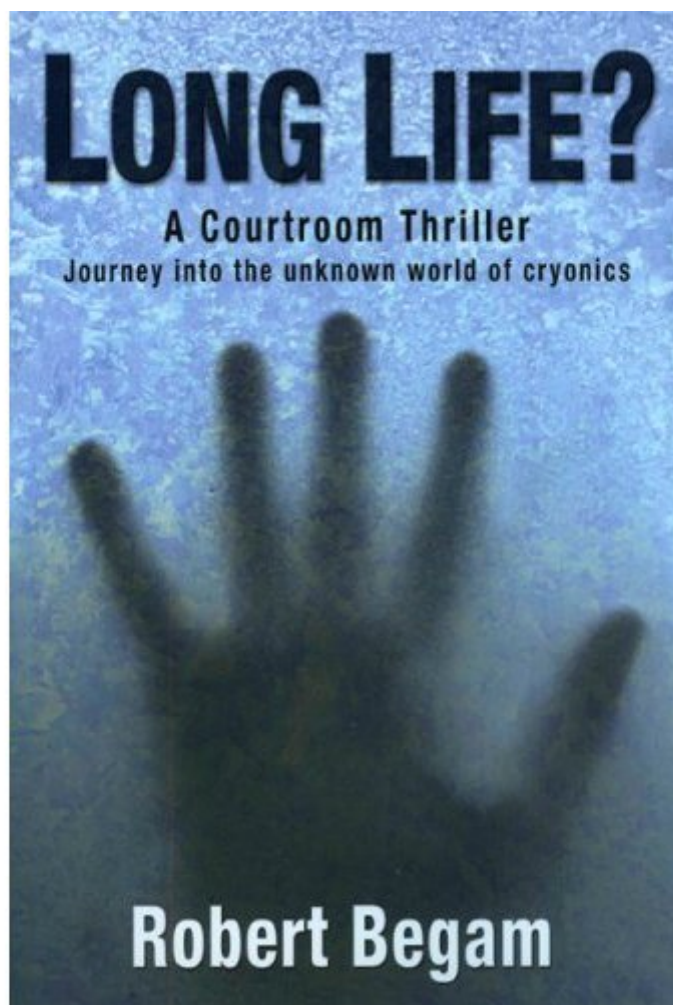


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Long Life? A Journey Into The Unknown World Of Cryonics



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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

This is a page-turner, a courtroom thriller about a young, beautiful doctor on trial in Phoenix for first-degree murder. She practices cryonics - freezing bodies in the hope that they can be brought back to life at a future date. The charge against her is that, with the patient's consent, she performed a "pre-mortem suspension" on a patient who contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. In other words, she took the patient into suspension before his bodily functions had totally ceased (and before the disease could ravage his body). The jury has to decide whether the "victim" is dead or merely awaiting reanimation. It's a good read, and it brings together issues of science, religion, ethics and the law in one intriguing case. Read it! [...].

LONG LIFE? by Robert Begam
Reviewed by Hiram K. Myers
author of Malachi's Child
A master storyteller takes you into the shadowy world of experimental cryonics to craft a thriller novel based on the intrigue, behind the scenes preparation and strategies of two slash and burn courtroom gladiators. Robert Begam, attorney and veteran of untold courtroom dramas, weaves into his prose every nuance of trial practice, including the back breaking, gut wrenching pre-trial preparation, and the strategies necessary to a successful conclusion. A must read for fans of suspenseful courtroom drama and a primer for students who aspire to trial practice.

I actually came across this book while purchasing Frozen by Larry Johnson. This 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.

An intriguing courtroom thriller. As it was set in Phoenix, I was especially caught up in my hometown's descriptions. Well done!

Long Life was an excellent book along the lines of John Grisham with a very interesting subject, cryonics.

A real page-turner written by a defense lawyer with a lot of experience, and, a critical eye for a good story. He casts a sympathetic look at the prosecutors, but also gives a good account of "those other guys" in the Law and Order, etc. genre. A great read.

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.

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