



# Tengo Sed: A Novel (Literature and Medicine Series)

*James Fleming*

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The Trauma ICU of a Level 1 trauma center is the setting for this thought-provoking novel, which reveals the ruthlessness of medical education and practice. James Fleming recounts a day in the life of a resident in emergency medicine at an urban teaching hospital. The novel's title, which translates loosely as "I thirst" echoes the Christ of St. John. *Tengo Sed's* protagonist, however, known only as Hovercraft because he is "always around, always feeling on edge," is not a savior but a hapless resident with a tendency toward mysticism. Through Hovercraft's sleep-deprived eyes we see patients and their families, doctors, and nurses, and we share Hovercraft's increasingly nightmarish perceptions of a world in which things are not going right.

"The story is remarkably raw and honest, full of mystery instead of certainty, failure instead of success, and humanity instead of science."--Frank Huyler, author of *Right of Thirst*

"A brutal and beautiful book. I read it straight through in one sitting, totally absorbed, deeply touched and frightened at the same time. The writing is taut, edgy, and original with not a wasted word . . . James Fleming has written a small, tough masterpiece."--John Nichols, author of *The Milagro Beanfield War*

"Stripped-down, elemental, and willing to explore feelings of alienation and rebellion felt by a significant minority of medical students, interns, and residents."--Paul Linde, author of *Danger to Self: On the Front Line with an ER Psychiatrist*

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