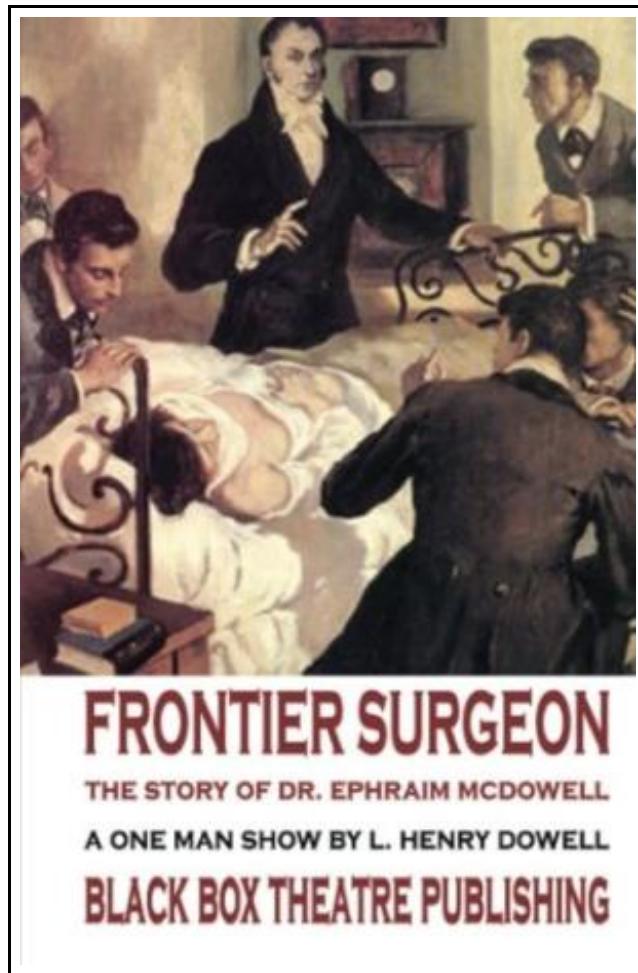


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Black Box Theatre Publishing Company, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 198 x 129 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.On Christmas Day 1809, a thousand miles from the nearest hospital and thirty-five years before the development of anesthesia, Dr. Ephraim McDowell removed a 22-pound ovarian tumor from the abdomen of a Kentucky woman. It was the world's first ovariotomy, and it eventually brought McDowell worldwide acclaim as the Father of Abdominal Surgery. Ephraim McDowell was born in Rockbridge, Virginia. His father, Samuel, was a colonel in the American Revolution, and was asked by President George Washington to come to Kentucky to settle land claim deeds. Samuel McDowell moved to Danville, became a judge, and played a key role in Kentucky's quest for statehood, serving as president of the 1792 constitutional convention. Little is known about Ephraim's early education. At 16, he went to Staunton, Virginia to apprentice under the noted physician Alexander Humphreys. Dr. Humphreys had studied in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh. He encouraged his students to do the same. In 1792, young McDowell went to Scotland, where he studied with John Bell, the most celebrated surgeon in Europe. Returning to Danville in 1795, McDowell began a medical practice. He soon won a regional reputation as an accomplished anatomist and surgeon. Other practitioners consulted him about their difficult cases. In 1802, McDowell married Sarah Shelby, the daughter of Kentucky's first governor, Isaac Shelby. The couple had six children. A frontier doctor saw some patients in his office, and rode many miles on horseback to see others. McDowell met Jane Todd Crawford when he was called to Green County by her physicians. They believed the 46-year-old woman was pregnant with twins, but she had not delivered and was...

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