

Mocking Time Pulls the Ambulance Doors Open on a Profession Running Out of Time

Scott J. Ash exposes the crisis behind America's emergency medical services and the clinicians still showing up when the system is already breaking.



Scott J. Ash

A veteran of the front lines with over three decades of experience, Scott is a nationally registered paramedic, accomplished author of *Mocking Time*, and leading EMS consultant dedicated to the future of emergency medical education.

Las Vegas, Nevada Jun 30, 2026 (IssueWire.com) - When an ambulance screams through traffic, most people look up for a moment, then return to their day. They see flashing lights. They hear the siren. They imagine speed, urgency, maybe disaster. What they rarely see is the person in the back, gloved hands moving fast, mind working faster, trying to buy a stranger a few more minutes against shock,

overdose, cardiac arrest, trauma, fear, and time itself.

That unseen world is where Scott J. Ash has spent more than three decades.

In his new book, *Mocking Time: How Paramedics Save Minutes, Lives, and The Crisis Behind Who Will Answer the Next Emergency Call?* Ash brings readers into the truth of modern paramedicine with the voice of someone who has lived it from the inside. This is not a glossy tribute to heroes in uniform. It is not another polite thank-you to first responders. It is a blunt, deeply human, and urgently needed look at a profession that America depends on while continuing to misunderstand, underpay, and exhaust the people who keep it alive.

Ash, a nationally registered paramedic, author, educator, and EMS consultant based in Las Vegas, writes with the clarity of a field clinician and the frustration of someone who has watched the same problems repeat for years. The public still reduces paramedics to “ambulance drivers,” a phrase that sounds harmless until it begins shaping policy, wages, staffing, education, safety, and respect. In *Mocking Time*, Ash argues that language is not just language. It becomes funding. It becomes culture. It becomes the reason a clinician can manage an airway in a living room, push life-saving medication under pressure, make split-second decisions without lab results or imaging, and still be treated as if the vehicle defines the work.

The book begins with a contradiction that is hard to ignore. Paramedics buy time for everyone else, yet the profession itself is denied time. No time to recover from the calls that follow them home. No time for sustainable education. No time for career growth. No time for real public understanding. No time for the system to ask what it costs to keep showing up.

That contradiction gives *Mocking Time* its emotional weight.

Ash takes readers into the places where medicine leaves the polished hospital floor and enters the real world. Kitchens. Bathrooms. Alleys. Highways. Shelters. Stairwells. Parking lots. Homes where fear has already taken over before the crew arrives. These are not controlled environments. There is no full medical team waiting at the bedside. No perfect lighting. No clean history. No certainty. There is a partner, a patient, a radio, a narrow window of time, and a decision that may matter for the rest of someone’s life.

But the book reaches beyond the scene of the call. Ash examines the forces that have pushed EMS toward crisis: poor wages, strained staffing, political neglect, outdated governance, public misconceptions, violence against providers, mental health injuries, ED boarding, 911 misuse, and the slow drain of experienced medics leaving faster than they can be replaced. The result is not just a workforce problem. It is a public safety problem. The question is no longer only how fast help can arrive. It is whether the right help will be available at all.

For Ash, the answer begins with refusing to keep pretending.

Mocking Time challenges the old idea that EMS exists mainly to transport patients. It argues for paramedicine as a true branch of healthcare, one that deserves stronger education pathways, clinical recognition, better workforce protection, smarter funding, and a culture that values rest and professional growth as much as toughness. The book speaks directly to EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, firefighter medics, flight medics, chiefs, educators, medical directors, policy makers, and anyone who has ever wondered what actually happens behind the ambulance doors.

The writing is fierce because the subject demands it. Ash does not romanticize burnout. He does not hide behind empty hero language. He gives readers the uncomfortable truth: praising paramedics is easy, but building a system that protects them is harder. Social media posts, holiday speeches, and applause do not fix staffing shortages. They do not repair backs, treat PTSD, increase wages, modernize education, or keep experienced clinicians from quietly walking away.

And yet, *Mocking Time* is not a book of despair. Its anger has direction. Its criticism has purpose. Ash is not simply naming what is broken. He is asking what EMS could become if the country finally treated paramedics as clinicians instead of expendable labor with sirens.

That is what makes the book timely. Across the country, emergency systems are stretched thin. Rural communities face gaps in advanced life support coverage. Urban systems depend on overtime and sacrifice to hold the line. New recruits are entering a profession where the work is demanding, the risks are real, and the respect often arrives only after tragedy.

Ash writes for the ones who still answer the tones anyway.

For the medic sitting in a parking lot at 2:37 a.m., running on bad coffee and muscle memory. For the EMT wondering if they can afford to stay. For the burned-out provider who knows the problem is not weakness, but a system built to consume dedication. For the leader willing to admit that tradition is not the same as progress.

Mocking Time opens the ambulance doors and refuses to let the public look away. It asks a simple, urgent question: if paramedics are trusted to buy time for the rest of us, when will we finally stop stealing theirs?

[Mocking Time](#) is now available on Amazon in Kindle eBook, paperback, and hardcover formats.

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