

[PDF] Anatomy Of An Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, And The Astonishing Rise Of Mental Illness In America

Robert Whitaker - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic

Author: Robert Whitaker

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Description:

From *Starred Review* When Whitaker (*Mad in America*, 2002) learned that between 1987 and 2007 the number of Americans disabled due to mental illness more than doubled despite a whopping \$40 billion annual psychotropic drug tab, it gave him pause. Given their widespread use—greater than even that of cholesterol-lowering drugs—he had believed that psychopharmaceuticals were magic bullets, knocking mental illness out of the game, returning formerly disabled people to the ranks of productive citizens. But the deeper he probed into clinical studies in prestigious scientific journals, some dating back more than 50 years, the more he noticed a shocking anomaly. Psychiatric drugs have repeatedly been shown to worsen mental illness, to say nothing of the risks of liver damage, weight gain, elevated cholesterol and blood sugar, and reduced cognitive function they entail. The reality, he says, is that, because no one knows what causes mental illness, there's no cure or palliation to be found in these pills. What with the conclusions Whitaker draws from his assembled literature and the accusations he levels at those who consciously deceive consumers eager for magical cures, his book will either blow the lid off a multibillion-dollar industry or cause him to be labeled a crackpot and, perhaps, medicated into obscurity. At the very least, it should prod those who take the drugs to question those who prescribe them. --Donna Chavez --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review "The timing of Robert Whitaker's *"Anatomy of an Epidemic,"* a comprehensive and highly readable history of psychiatry in the United States, couldn't be better."

—**Salon.com**

"Anatomy of an Epidemic offers some answers, charting controversial ground with mystery-novel pacing." —**TIME.com**

"Lucid, pointed and important, *Anatomy of an Epidemic* should be required reading for anyone considering extended use of psychiatric medicine. Whitaker is at the height of his powers." —**Greg Critser, author of *Generation Rx***

"Why are so many more people disabled by mental illness than ever before? Why are those so diagnosed dying 10-25 years earlier than others? In *Anatomy of an Epidemic* investigative reporter Robert Whitaker cuts through flawed science, greed and outright lies to reveal that the drugs hailed as the cure for mental disorders instead worsen them over the long term. But Whitaker's investigation also offers hope for the future: solid science backs nature's way of healing our mental ills through time and human relationships. Whitaker tenderly interviews children and adults who bear witness to the ravages of mental illness, and testify to their newly found "aliveness" when freed from the prison of mind-numbing drugs." —**Daniel Dorman, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, UCLA School of Medicine and author of *Dante's Cure: A Journey Out of Madness***

"This is the most alarming book I've read in years. The approach is neither polemical nor ideologically slanted. Relying on medical evidence and historical documentation, Whitaker builds his case like a prosecuting attorney." —**Carl Elliott, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Center for Bioethics, University of Minnesota and author of *Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream***

"*Anatomy of an Epidemic* investigates a profoundly troubling question: do psychiatric medications increase the likelihood that people taking them, far from being helped, are more likely to become chronically ill? In making a compelling case that our current psychotropic drugs are causing as much—if not more—harm than good, Robert Whitaker reviews the scientific literature thoroughly,

demonstrating how much of the evidence is on his side. There is nothing unorthodox here—this case is solid and evidence-backed. If psychiatry wants to retain its credibility with the public, it will now have to engage with the scientific argument at the core of this cogently and elegantly written book.”

—David Healy, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Cardiff University and author of *The Antidepressant Era* and *Let Them Eat Prozac*

“Anatomy of an Epidemic is a splendidly informed, wonderfully readable corrective to the conventional wisdom about the biological bases—and biological cures—for mental illness. This is itself a wise and necessary book—essential reading for all those who have experienced, or care for those who have experienced, mental illness—which means all of us! Robert Whitaker is a reliable, sensible, and persuasive, guide to the paradoxes and complexities of what we know about mental illness, and what we might be able to do to lessen the suffering it brings.”

—Jay Neugeboren, author of *Imagining Robert* and *Transforming Madness*

“Every so often a book comes along that exposes a vast deceit. Robert Whitaker has written that sort of book. Drawing on a prodigious quantity of psychiatric literature as well as heart-rending stories of individual patients, he exposes a deeply disturbing fraud perpetrated by the drug industry and much of modern psychiatry—at horrendous human and financial cost to patients, their families, and society as a whole. Scrupulously reported and written in compelling but unemotional style, this book shreds the myth woven around today’s psychiatric drugs.”

—Nils Bruzelius, former science editor for the *Boston Globe* and the *Washington Post*

“A devastating critique. . . . One day, we will look back at the way we think about and treat mental illness and wonder if we were all mad. *Anatomy of an Epidemic* should be required reading for both patients and physicians.”

—Shannon Brownlee, senior research fellow, New America Foundation and author of *Overtreated*

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