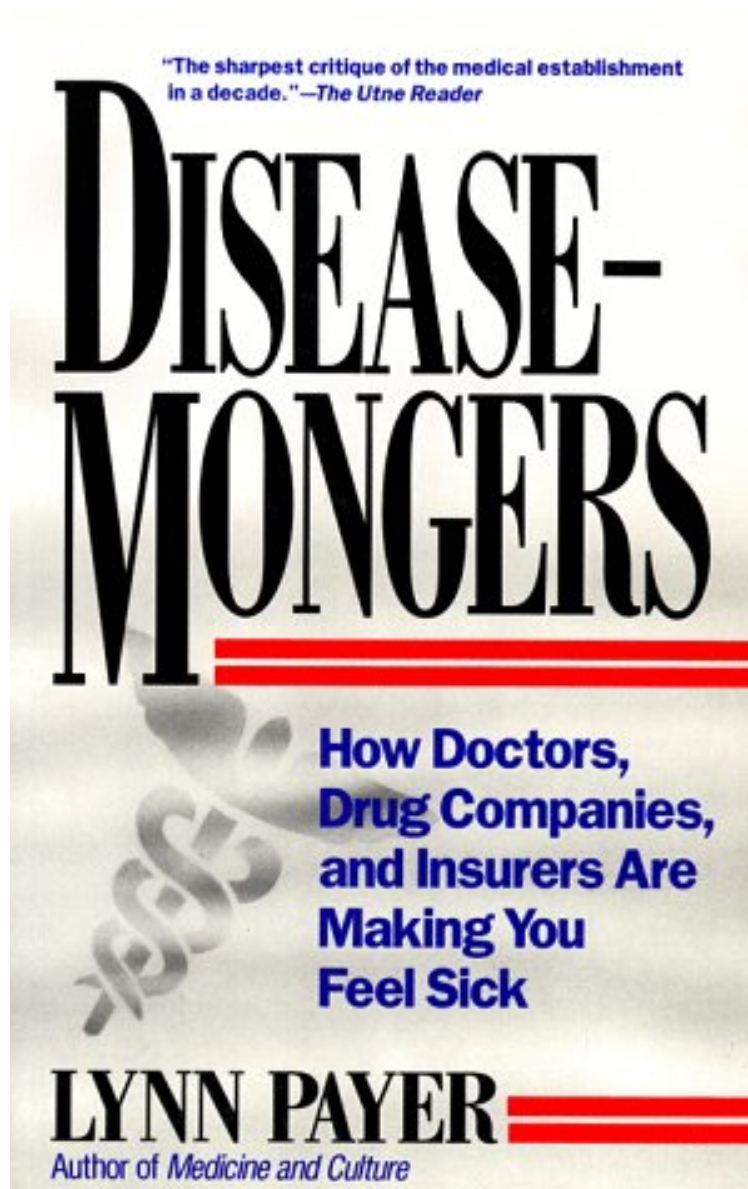


(Free read ebook) Disease-Mongers: How Doctors, Drug Companies, and Insurers Are Making You Feel Sick

Disease-Mongers: How Doctors, Drug Companies, and Insurers Are Making You Feel Sick

Lynn Payer

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Lynn Payer : Disease-Mongers: How Doctors, Drug Companies, and Insurers Are Making You Feel Sick before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disease-Mongers: How Doctors, Drug Companies, and Insurers Are Making You Feel Sick:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By helen herrera
very informative book
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This book exposes the medical and pharmaceutical industries, yes ...
By Mr. R. M. Wigzell
This book exposes the medical and pharmaceutical industries, yes they are industries with profit as their bottom line. I can justify this because I live in Africa where drugs are sold at or near cost. The same drug you pay \$500 for in the USA you can get for pennies in Africa. For example, it is really strange that Autism and Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) don't feature here, I see kids running around doing things that kids are meant to do. That goes for many other "diseases".
8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. More Relevant Now Than When It Was Written
By A Customer
As diseases like "obesity" proliferate and as medical technologies detect more and more (often innocent) anomalies which are then frequently overtreated, Lynn Payer's fine, insightful, and entertaining book is more worthwhile and apropos than ever. She offers an early example of the romance with technology and overestimation of its benefits when citing the French novel "Dr. Knock", when a modern marvel of a doctor moves into a French village of the early 1900s with the latest technology, a thermometer. He soon has all its denizens overconcerned with the arthritis they formerly handled routinely while measuring their temperature fluctuations daily and obsessing about them. I would also recommend Gilbert Welch's fine and up-to-date book, "Should I Be Tested for Cancer? Maybe Not and Here's Why". The suffering caused by overtesting and overtreatment is not trivial. Cheers to those who examine and balance costs and benefits of culturally-prescribed medical norms.

Supported throughout by testimonies and interviews of prominent physicians and scientists concerned about disease-mongering, it takes an in-depth look at medical professionals who have a stake in keeping their patients convinced that they are, or are in immediate danger of becoming, sick. Examines each of the factors which have contributed to this insidious phenomenon—;from an increase in the number of doctors and their specializations to the role of insurance companies. Details how to avoid disease-mongering professionals and how to keep your physician honest when dealing with you. Packed with case studies and anecdotes.

From Publishers Weekly
Are your health care providers duping you? Payer (How to Avoid a Hysterectomy), formerly chief medical correspondent for the International Herald Tribune and health editor for the New York Times , seems to think so, arguing that far too many doctors, as well as drug companies and insurers, are bilking the public, frightening people with unnecessary tests and concentrating far too much on benign conditions--e.g., fibrocystic breast disease, mitral valve prolapse and insomnia. Even though young women fall victim to breast cancer, for example, she opposes regular mammogram screenings for women under age 50 because the test often does not find cancer in the women. She cites studies showing that women who underwent regular screenings did not fare much better against breast cancer than those who were not screened. And she's concerned that since mammograms detect noncancerous abnormalities that must be checked out, they cause anguish and unnecessary surgical expense²¹⁵ . When it comes to insurance, she advises that if a person has a pre-existing condition that he or she does not want to acknowledge, the person should make sure there is no way an insurance company can find out about it (either through medical or pharmacy records or from a central medical data bank). To be sure, there are devious drug companies and incompetent and crooked physicians who will wreak havoc with one's health. And yes, doctors often administer far too many tests in order to prevent a malpractice challenge. But does that mean the public should abandon medicine--or common sense?
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From Library Journal
Payer's book seems to be addressed to the "worried well" or hypochondriacs and offers scant comfort to anyone living with any medical condition for which ignoring or minimizing symptoms and simply being tougher may not be the best idea. This book has many important ideas and insights into the way we conceptualize disease but is severely limited by the author's anecdotal style (though the text is heavily referenced) and her focus on individuals, making only passing acknowledgment of the social, economic, and ethical contexts expressed more coherently and sensitively in Arthur Barsky's *Worried Sick: Our Troubled Quest for Wellness* (Little, Brown, 1988) or Daniel Callahan's *What Kind of Life: The Limits of Medical Progress* (LJ 1/90). An optional purchase.- Mary Chitty, Biotrends Research, Natick, Mass.
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