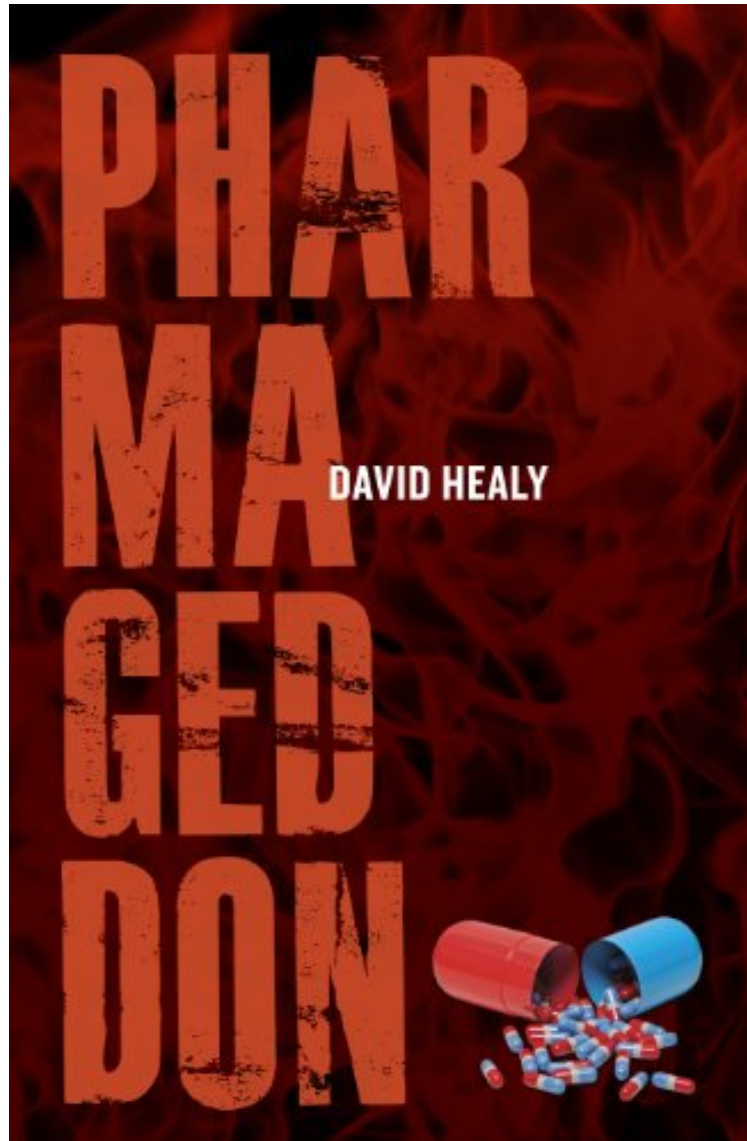


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pharmaceutical professions. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An eye-opener on Big Pharma By Nathan Shachar In spite of a weak and roundabout opening, it picks up nicely. It is, hands down, the most comprehensive account of how the good idea of evidence-based medicine morphed into a daemonic of greedy exploitation. If you want to know - few do - how utterly grotesque the production, approval and evaluation of new drugs have become, read this. (And I am no anti-market leftist, quite the reverse.) 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Important book By Simone This book was eye-opening for me. I have a background in research so consider myself a wise consumer. Dr. Healy showed me otherwise. I was blown away by chapter 3, "Follow the Evidence." The 2006 FDA report on antidepressants was almost painful to read - how we have all been fooled! Depressed patients improve without treatment 40% of the time; only 1 in 10 patients responds specifically to an anti-depressant. Fascinating reading that will leave you outraged.

This searing indictment, David Healy's most comprehensive and forceful argument against the pharmaceuticalization of medicine, tackles problems in health care that are leading to a growing number of deaths and disabilities. Healy, who was the first to draw attention to the now well-publicized suicide-inducing side effects of many anti-depressants, attributes our current state of affairs to three key factors: product rather than process patents on drugs, the classification of certain drugs as prescription-only, and industry-controlled drug trials. These developments have tied the survival of pharmaceutical companies to the development of blockbuster drugs, so that they must overhype benefits and deny real hazards. Healy further explains why these trends have basically ended the possibility of universal health care in the United States and elsewhere around the world. He concludes with suggestions for reform of our currently corrupted evidence-based medical system.