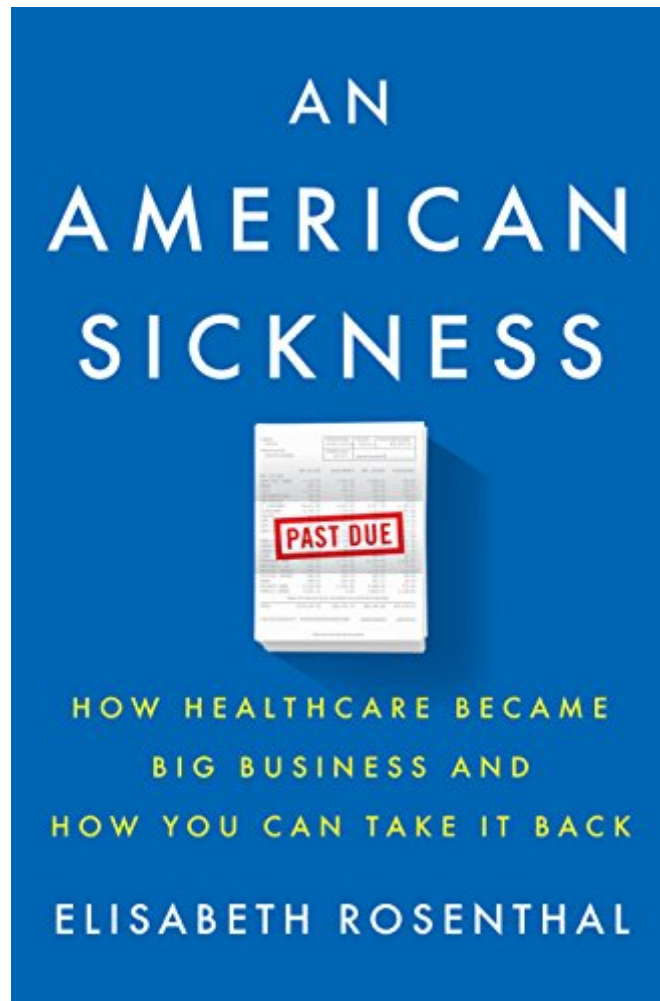


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An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business And How You Can Take It Back



Synopsis

Award-winning *New York Times* reporter Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal reveals the dangerous, expensive, and dysfunctional American healthcare system, and tells us exactly what we can do to solve its myriad of problems. It is well-documented that our healthcare system has grave problems, but how, in only a matter of decades, did things get this bad? Dr. Elisabeth Rosenthal doesn't just explain the symptoms, she diagnoses and treats the disease itself. Rosenthal spells out in clear and practical terms exactly how to decode medical doublespeak, avoid the pitfalls of the pharmaceuticals racket, and get the care you and your family deserve. She takes you inside the doctor-patient relationship, explaining step-by-step the workings of a profession badly lacking transparency. This is about what we can do, as individual patients, both to navigate a byzantine system but also to demand far-reaching reform. Breaking down the monolithic business into its individual industries—the hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, drug manufacturers—which together comprise our healthcare system, Rosenthal tells the story of the history of American medicine as never before. The situation is far worse than we think, and has become like that much more recently than we realize. Hospitals, which are managed by business executives, behave like predatory lenders, hounding patients and seizing their homes. Research charities are in bed with big pharmaceutical companies, which surreptitiously profit from the donations made by working people. Americans are dying from routine medical conditions when affordable and straightforward solutions exist. Dr. Rosenthal explains for the first time how various social and financial incentives have encouraged a disastrous and immoral system to organically spring up in a shocking short space of time. The system is in tatters; but we can fight back. *An American Sickness* is the frontline defense against a healthcare system that no longer has our wellbeing at heart. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

Print Length: 416 pages

Publisher: Penguin Press (April 11, 2017)

Publication Date: April 11, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01IOHQ9LO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #585,657 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #58

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Business & Money > Industries > Insurance > Health #133

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