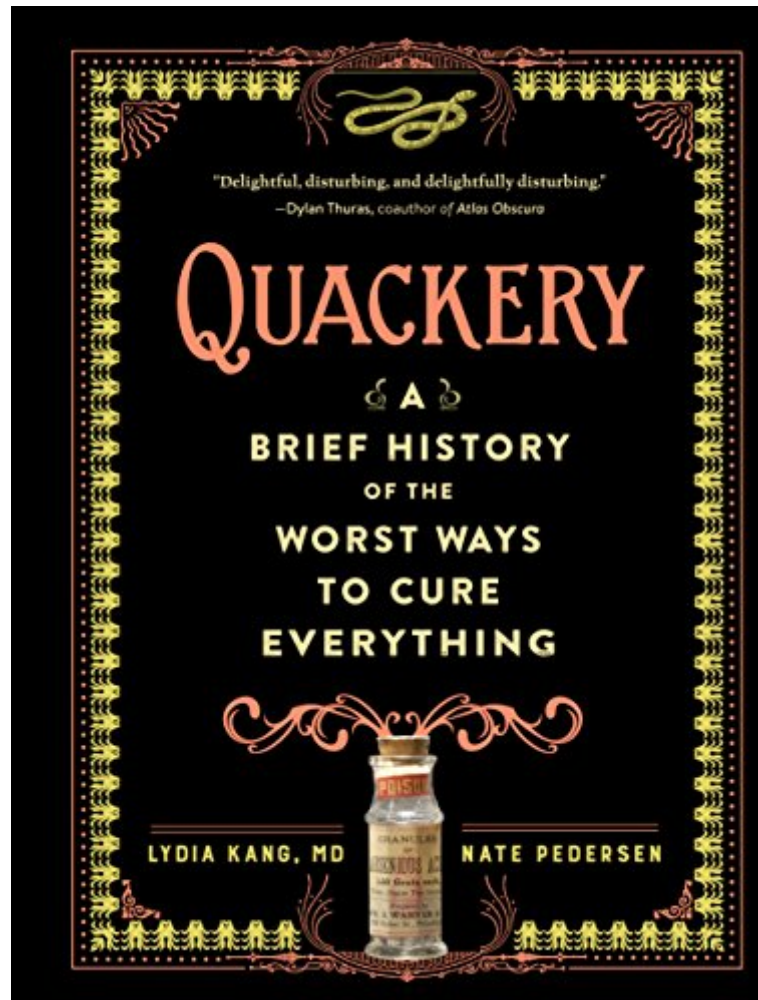




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Quackery: A Brief History Of The Worst Ways To Cure Everything



Synopsis

What won't we try in our quest for perfect health, beauty, and the fountain of youth? Well, just imagine a time when doctors prescribed morphine for crying infants. When liquefied gold was touted as immortality in a glass. And when strychnine—yes, that strychnine, the one used in rat poison—was dosed like Viagra. Looking back with fascination, horror, and not a little dash of dark, knowing humor, Quackery recounts the lively, at times unbelievable, history of medical misfires and malpractices. Ranging from the merely weird to the outright dangerous, here are dozens of outlandish, morbidly hilarious "treatments" conceived by doctors and scientists, by spiritualists and snake oil salesmen (yes, they literally tried to sell snake oil) that were predicated on a range of cluelessness, trial and error, and straight-up scams. With vintage illustrations, photographs, and advertisements throughout, Quackery seamlessly combines macabre humor with science and storytelling to reveal an important and disturbing side of the ever-evolving field of medicine.

Book Information

File Size: 23866 KB

Print Length: 352 pages

Publisher: Workman Publishing Company (October 17, 2017)

Publication Date: October 17, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B06XDX2X15

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #181,881 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #75

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Science & Medicine > Medicine #83 in Books

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