

[Read download] Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce

Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce

Douglas Starr

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*

BLOOD

AN EPIC HISTORY OF
MEDICINE AND COMMERCE

"RIVETING."
— NEW YORK TIMES



DOUGLAS STARR



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#685864 in Books Harper Perennial 2000-03-07 2000-03-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 1.24 x 6.131, 1.22 #File Name: 0688176496496 pages | File size: 15.Mb

Douglas Starr : Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy CustomerInteresting book3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A powerful story of the best and the worst of humanityBy CustomerThe author takes an incredible journey through the history of blood. You will be amazed at how key experiments throughout the years have forever changed out feelings towards the tissue we call blood. You will root "for the good guys" as they pioneer

medical research! But then you will cry when you see what modern business do once they got a hold of blood as a "product." You will see how greed, jealousy, and denial killed thousands and ruined the lives of many others. All because companies and some doctors would not listen to reason. Truly heartbreaking indeed. The author composes a beautiful symphony of history which is very easy to read and very difficult to put down. This book has certainly changed the way I think about business and medicine. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Really great overview of the blood "industry." By Richard R. Potter The reporter does a great job of giving us a history of blood transfusions from the earliest days to the present. The components of blood can be used for so many different products and who knew they the U.S. supplies the world with Plasma. All about the emotional and political implications of blood donation.

Powerfully involving narrative and incisive detail, clarity and inherent drama: Blood offers in abundance the qualities that define the best popular science writing. Here is the sweeping story of a substance that has been feared, revered, mythologized, and used in magic and medicine from earliest times--a substance that has become the center of a huge, secretive, and often dangerous worldwide commerce. Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Blood was described by judges as "a gripping page-turner, a significant contribution to the history of medicine and technology and a cautionary tale. Meticulously reported and exhaustively documented."

.com Don't faint! Blood may be a highly charged substance, symbolic of our spirit and essential for life, but we can gain much from reflecting on its power over us. Science journalist Douglas Starr has examined the history of blood's medical uses, and his report is at once intellectually engaging and emotionally compelling. Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce covers the late 17th century to the present, detailing experiments with animal blood (one violent madman was briefly calmed by infused calf's blood), the long ban on transfusions, direct artery-to-vein suture between donor and recipient, and today's global blood-banking industry. It's a great story that shows the long climb from great risk and heroism to relative safety. Our greatest stumble during this climb--the AIDS crisis of the 1980s--is the meat of the book. How could it have happened? Why were so many people given contaminated blood products after clear warnings about the risks of infection? Starr is unafraid to name names and lay bare the political and financial decisions that condemned so many thousands of hemophiliacs and surgical patients to early deaths. Those who don't learn from the past are bound to repeat it; Starr aims to help us keep the blood off of our hands. --Rob Lightner From Publishers Weekly The codirector of Boston University's graduate program in science journalism shows how it's done in this exemplary study of the role that blood has played in human affairs. Although Starr begins the story centuries ago, he concentrates on modern times. Throughout his coverage, information about advances in biology and physiology is introduced as needed, often enabling the reader to share in the excitement of scientific discovery. But this book is about much more than just biology. The politics of blood play a central role, from our race with the Germans during the Second World War to develop a system to enable battlefield transfusions to the squabbling and animosity present among the various blood collection agencies in the U.S. As Starr makes clear, as the global traffic in blood and blood products has expanded into a multibillion-dollar operation, the financial bottom line has begun to outweigh the importance of medical benefits. In riveting fashion, Starr explains how business practices enabled the AIDS virus to permeate the world's blood supply, leading to thousands of unnecessary deaths, particularly among hemophiliacs. Truly frightening are tales of the harvesting of blood and plasma from indigent and unhealthy third-world natives and the unwillingness of governments, third- and first-world alike, to take action to protect their citizens. Clear-eyed and wrought with superb attention to detail, this is first-class science writing, with a striking message. 16 pages of photos, not seen by PW. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Starr, codirector of the graduate program in science journalism at Boston University, energetically plunges into the social, ethical, and economic history of one of the most mysterious and culturally pertinent resources in human history: our very blood. He starts with the first blood transfusion, from a calf to a man, in 1667 Paris and runs through the changing mythological landscape, medical advances, and the political (and certainly military) power associated with possessing a rich blood supply. He closes with a discussion of contemporary issues, such as the threat posed by regarding blood as a commodity. This is science writing at its best: well researched, socially relevant, and highly enjoyable. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.