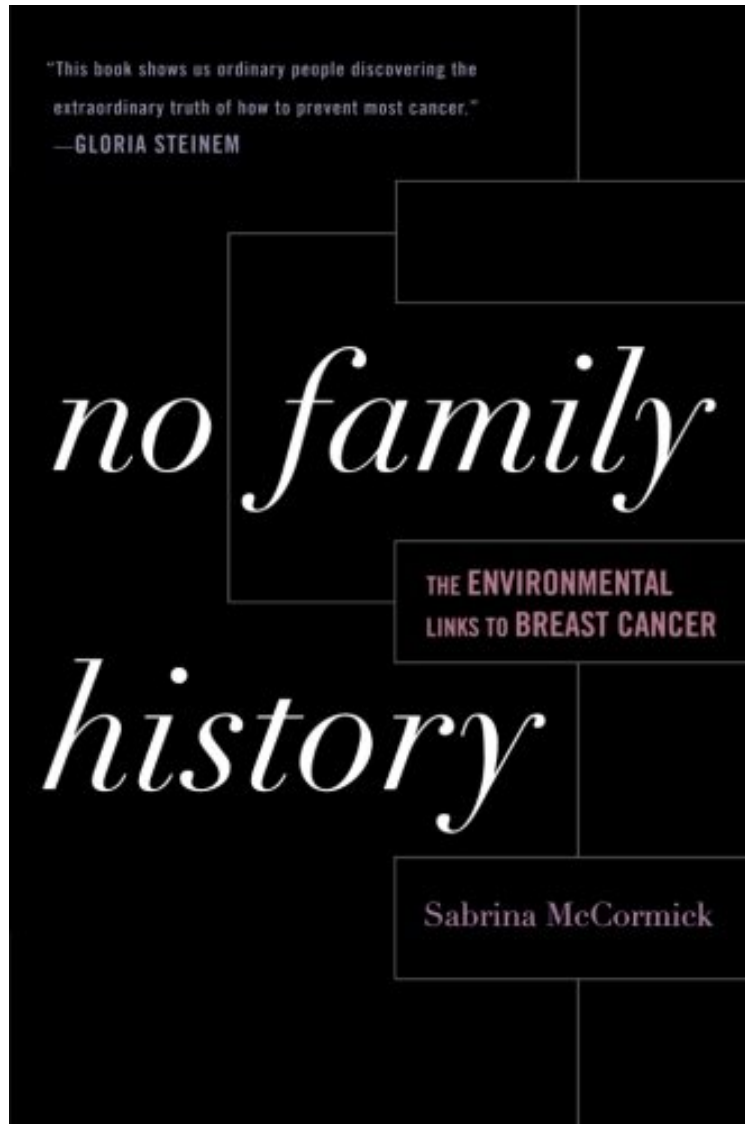


(Download) No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer (New Social Formations)

No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer (New Social Formations)

Sabrina McCormick

ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



 Download

 Read Online

#1562481 in Books Rowman Littlefield Publishers 2010-07-16 2010-07-16 Original language: English PDF #1 9.14 x .58 x 6.13l, .65 #File Name: 0742564096190 pages | File size: 72.Mb

Sabrina McCormick : No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer (New Social Formations) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer (New Social Formations):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. a must-read on breast cancer preventionBy Linda SternI could not put this book down! I had just gone through a year's worth of breast cancer diagnosis, surgery and treatment and

suddenly this book brought everything together and helped make sense of it all. This very readable book was written by an environmental science professor. It covers many aspects of the epidemic scale of breast cancer among women and shows that while generous resources have poured into detection, treatment, and cure, only scant resources have gone into prevention. The book discusses the corporations that manufacture profitable pharmaceuticals, the use of untested and unregulated chemicals that are part of everyday life, as well as the organizations that sponsor cancer fund-raising activities. McCormick then asks the hard questions about exactly where money that is raised for research goes, how much CEO's make, etc. Shockingly, it is thought that manufacturers of some personal care products may include untested chemicals that may be carcinogenic! It weaves the story of Robin, a 43-year-old breast cancer patient in Long Island throughout the book. Included is information about pesticides, radiation, plastics, personal care products, and more. Body burden studies are explained. However, the good news is that things are beginning to change! Air pollution regulations, proper notification of pesticide spraying, toxic use reduction programs, review panels that include patients, and advocacy programs are sprouting up all over the country. European standards mandated the testing of chemicals in personal care products. This forced U.S. companies to produce two products for two markets, or to change. Some have changed to meet the higher E.U. standards that protect women. There is a list of Breast Cancer and Environmental Health Organizations and 16 pages of references. A film with the same title is available from the author. McCormick also has a website: [...].

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Details provide a broader picture. By Seema I have read all the science articles that I can find, but this book paints a broader picture of details that I haven't seen elsewhere. I'm only halfway through, and here are the things I like: the author takes a personal story and weaves it through to narrate the story of the breast cancer movement, the number of individual articles that are collated to show that cancer is growing as an epidemic, the illustration that outlawing a single chemical is not going to stop cancer, the descriptions of why our public health policies formed the way they are. Other books that I have liked in this Genre "And the Band Played On" and "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down". Highly recommend this book. It's a longer read, but well worth the journey.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Playing against a stacked deck. By C. Wagner McCormick argues that little money is to be made in prevention (p. 4), but plenty in treatment and many of the corporate sponsors not only make fortunes in treatment but manufacture carcinogenic products. Not only may the U.S. cancer rates be going up (p. 13), but early detection does not necessarily guarantee better survival rates. Chemical hazards appear to be increasing. Detection and cure companies may spend as much on marketing as research and development (p. 36)... According to the author, "In the 1960s, a number of government officials made the decision that it would be more economically beneficial to cure than to prevent it." (p. 62). (If you enjoyed that anecdote, how about a Greek insurance company that decided it would be more financially sound to amputate the feet of diabetics than to provide diabetic footwear?) So, goofy medical decisions are not confined to the continental U.S.A. Pharmaceuticals drive the research agenda to genetics and away from environmental exploration (pp. 74-75.), not that a friendly environment is a business thing to do anyway. It is the same old story. But, studies concluded that chemicals banned decades previously still coursed through the living tissues of the study group (p. 118). The book includes brief bios of cancer victims and attempts to study environmental factors, as stifled by big business interests. By contrast, European countries tend to screen for dangerous chemicals and attempt to eliminate them from their ecosystem. Follow the Money was begun to make corporate fund-raisers for breast cancer (I did not say breast cancer prevention!) accountable (p. 130). Folks who wish to investigate environmental factors appear to be playing against a stacked deck. The book contains a list of organizations, references, and index. Readers may also be interested in "Pink Ribbon Blues" by Sulik. I gave this book four stars because it is not a "Silent Spring," or "The Jungle" and is not likely to keep my senators awake at night, especially the one whose wife takes stock from health insurers.

No Family History presents compelling evidence of environmental links to breast cancer, ranging from everyday cosmetics to industrial waste. Sabrina McCormick weaves the story of one survivor with no family history into a powerful exploration of the big business of breast cancer. As drugs, pink products, and corporate sponsorships generate enormous revenue to find a cure, a growing number of experts argue that we should instead increase focus on prevention—reducing environmental exposures that have contributed to the sharp increase of breast cancer rates.

From Publishers Weekly While billions of dollars have gone toward researching treatments, and ultimately a cure, for breast cancer, very little has gone toward studying preventative action, except on the personal level (diet, exercise, etc.). This eye-opening book from health and sociology scholar McCormick explores numerous environmental causes of breast cancer, but more importantly casts a harsh light on the motivations of industries that donate to cancer research while manufacturing carcinogenic toxins. The narrative takes a tour of research data and advocacy groups while following the progress of one Long Island woman undergoing breast cancer treatment. McCormick's text is full of disturbing details, in the form of statistics and individual obstacles; there are thousands of breast cancer diagnoses every year, many for women who take good care of themselves and don't engage in risk behaviors. McCormick also addresses the inevitable question, "Why me?", with a compelling and strident determinism, attempting to jog readers

into realizing that giving money and buying products with pink ribbons isn't enough; rather, people must become aware of the chemicals around them and hold corporations accountable with their spending dollars. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. The role of economics in determining what we know and what we don't know about breast cancer comes to life in *No Family History: The Environmental Links to Breast Cancer*. Read this book to get to the root of what we face in ending the breast cancer epidemic. (Barbara A. Brenner, executive director, Breast Cancer Action) What sociologists do best is help us understand how society shapes human beliefs. The society of breast cancer is chock full of beliefs about genes, chemicals, cures, female beauty, and the value of early detection. It's about time that a thoughtful sociologist shined a light on this dark and terrifying landscape and turned over a few rocks. *No Family History* is an important corrective to pink ribbons and positive thinking. (Sandra Steingraber, Scholar in Residence, Ithaca College) *No Family History* shows us ordinary people discovering the extraordinary truth of how to prevent most cancer. It forces us to ask the crucial questions: Who profits from causing, detecting, and treating cancer? Why do we hear so much about the search for a cure, and so little about preventing cancer in the first place? (Gloria Steinem) This eye-opening book from health and sociology scholar McCormick explores numerous environmental causes of breast cancer, but more importantly casts a harsh light on the motivations of industries that donate to cancer research while manufacturing carcinogenic toxins.... McCormick's text is full of disturbing details, in the form of statistics and individual obstacles. (Publishers Weekly) McCormick presents a convincing argument for changing the nature of the breast-cancer-awareness campaign from finding a cure to teaching more about prevention. Plenty of studies are cited to support her claims.... The evidence is there, and it's compelling. As much a call to action as an informative thesis, the book provides a wealth of resources for anyone interested in learning more about the issue. (Booklist) This book details the struggles and achievements of survivors who have forced their way into the scientific discussion and helped bring some accountability to manufacturers. This book is unique in its look at the activists and their demands for a refocus in breast cancer research. Researchers, activists, and politicians, take note. (Library Journal) New ways of reducing breast cancer rate accompany a powerful survey weaving personal experience with political conflicts and health concerns. Any health or general lending library should have this! (Midwest Book)

About the Author Sabrina McCormick is a Science and Technology Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of the Sciences working in the Environmental Protection Agency. She is also research faculty at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. She was previously a Robert Wood Johnson fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, and she is the director and producer of the award-winning documentary *No Family History*. Her website is www.nofamilyhistory.org.