

Seth Mnookin

# THE PANIC VIRUS



A True Story of Medicine,  
Science, and Fear

READ BY DAN JOHN MILLER

Seth Mnookin

## The Panic Virus: A True Story of Medicine, Science, and Fear



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The Panic Virus is a gripping scientific detective story about how exactly grassroots radicals, snake-oil salesmen, and cynical journalists have perpetrated the largest health-scare hoax ever. Tens of millions of dollars have already been wasted appeasing denialists who think the federal government is perpetrating a wellness "holocaust" on children. It also explains how the endless level of information available online provides radicalized partisans by fueling their inclination to filter out anything that doesn't reinforce their way of thinking. It explores what happens when the media treats all viewpoints as equally valid, regardless of facts, from parents who think that vaccines caused their children's autism to right-wing radicals who believe that weather change is definitely a myth. Listeners will find out why definitive proof in science is virtually impossible, how rational decision producing is normally ruled by emotion, and why paupers' graves in the 1880s resulted in an outbreak of throat tumor in the 1950s. Like functions by Oliver Sacks and Richard Dawkins, The Panic Virus uses everyday experiences showing how research affects our lives. Declining vaccination rates have caused recent outbreaks of measles, whooping cough, and Hib-and kids around the country are dying because of this.



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One side attracts the heart, the additional to the brain The title of my review comes from a quote in the book by Arthur Allen, who was simply describing what, to date, has been the penultimate courtroom showdown in the debate over vaccines and autism. As a mother, I could not agree more. Decisions related to our children's health care are agonizing and should be done carefully, using the very best information available. For me, this publication summarizes that information as well as can be achieved when distilling complex science down to its most elemental truths. It was not what I love in a was not what I like. Those looking for the best proof of a negative will not think it is here, because it can't be done using technology, as Mnookin points out. Mnookin doesn't gloss over mistakes that were created by the CDC and additional government bodies in overseeing the basic safety of multiple vaccines. Even as someone who has a whole lot of respect for the contributions of vaccines to public health, I was taken aback by some of the factors he made regarding the lack of rigorous safety research in some areas related to vaccines. I found Panic Virus to end up being very timely considering the news coverage directed at relentless anti-vaccine organizations in the U.S. The Panic Virus focuses primarily on the debate over vaccines, thimerosal, and autism, nonetheless it doesn't end there. He also covers a few of the psychological reasons for why folks are so willing to have confidence in junk technology, and discusses Andrew Wakefield's chicanery at length. Finally, he gives a voice to family members whose children have already been harmed by the anti-vaccination movement. Good on Wakefield Five Stars Great book. The publication provides reader some insight into how vaccine applications were mishandled during the past, leading to open public outcry over the safety of the vaccines. I am amazed that this book hasn't gotten more media protection given the topic. It's well-researched, well-written, and about as fair as can be provided the heated subject matter. It's merely appalling that the technology of the controversial story will not get the press that the more sensational anti-vaccinators have obtained. Read it with an open mind. Great book/controversial topic Mnookin's book offers a comprehensive look at the history of general public vaccination campaigns in America and abroad. His examination starts dating back to smallpox and moves into other newer vaccines such as for example MMR and DPT. But this will not really distract the reader from the brick wall of scientific evidence presented regarding having less an association between vaccines and autism. It then connects these general public oppositions to the higher open public suspicion regarding the entire intention of authorities vaccine programs. Overall this reserve is quite informative and actually humorous sometimes. Mnookin presents both sides of the vaccination spectrum- those who are totally opposed and those who wholeheartedly support. I browse every footnote and was captivated by the accessible writing. I can now observe how a parent desperately looking for answers concerning how their child became suddenly autistic. Nevertheless, he also presents the science that has demonstrated as conclusively as possible that vaccines do not cause autism. Interestingly, in the event that you consider the negative reviews, you won't find any factual problems (people may state "he doesn't use details" and then neglect to prove that)-- it's the refrain of the anti-vaxx folks by and large simply repeating what they'd say to anyone who issues them. For someone like myself who finds it hard to deny scientific proof, the reserve gave me insight in to the strategies of anti-vaccine groups. Autism research is discussed in great details and there are several moving stories and families affected first hand by autism. I highly encourage anyone, specifically those who feel some doubts about vaccines, to read this book. what an incredible review of how vaccines got a bad name- and just why people believe the untrue details associated . Kudos to Mnookin for composing an engaging and informative reserve on what could have otherwise been a dry topic.. He does an excellent job of explaining how particular

groups of people could disregard current scientific data on vaccines and only listening to fringe doctors who charm to their emotions. Assiduously researched, the reserve is able to contact on a wide range of topics about how exactly we got where we are on the problem of vaccines. Kudos to Mnookin for composing an engaging and informative publication .S. It was not necessarily what I like. Even though to me it had been pretty clear which part of the debate the writer falls on, he however managed to present both sides of the argument and compose a pretty engaging tale while at it. Riveting and Informative Mnookin meritoriously winds together background, economics, science, and society in his publication to spotlight the intricate interplay between vaccines and humanity. Most importantly, Mnookin explains at length and with a good amount of good examples why panic and demand for change without a comprehensive scientific understanding could cause more harm than good. Scientists, the government, vaccine companies, parents, and kids are captured in a battle between your independent pace of scientific discovery and the desire to have the greatest vaccines and highest level of safety. Past instances in which vaccines possess intentionally or unintentionally triggered disaster stand as strong reason to lack trust in science (for instance, recent news in China exposed that vaccines given to children were artificial and ineffective). . Regardless, Mnookin's writing clearly suggests that it is certainly of the utmost importance that there is readily available and easily understandable scientific understanding on vaccine basic safety and benefit. Very readable Very readable Includes a few of the early failures / errors, and how anti-vaccine level of resistance increases with compulsion. In fairness, a couple of of the even more esoteric points about the science are a tiny bit off the mark. I recommend it for anyone concerned about Vaccinations. Five Stars Amazing break down of the controversy. Five Stars Excellent review of interactions between science investigations and emotions. But possibly the blame lies in the companies in charge of vaccine production, in the end, their definitive goal is to turn a profit..... Wow- what an incredible overview of how vaccines got a poor name- and why people believe the untrue info associated with them. Incredibly well researched, well written, historically accurate and educational.



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