



On Immunity: An Inoculation

By Eula Biss

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On Immunity: An Inoculation By Eula Biss

The hugely acclaimed *New York Times* Best Seller, now available in paperback!

A National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist

ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF 2014:

The New York Times Book Review (Top 10), *Entertainment Weekly* (Top 10), *New York Magazine*, *Chicago Tribune* (Top 10), *Publishers Weekly* (Top 10), *Time Out New York* (Top 10), *Los Angeles Times*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, NPR's *Science Friday*, *Newsday*, *Slate*, *Refinery 29*, and many more...

In this bold, fascinating book, Eula Biss addresses our fear of the government, the medical establishment, and what may be in our children's air, food, mattresses, medicines, and vaccines. Reflecting on her own experience as a new mother, she suggests that we cannot immunize our children, or ourselves, against the world. As she explores the metaphors surrounding immunity, Biss extends her conversations with other mothers to meditations on the myth of Achilles, Voltaire's *Candide*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Susan Sontag's *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, and beyond. *On Immunity* is an inoculation against our fear and a moving account of how we are all interconnected—our bodies and our fates.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Subtle, spellbinding . . . Sontag said she wrote *Illness as Metaphor* to ‘calm the imagination, not to incite it,’ and *On Immunity* also seeks to cool and console . . . [Biss] advances from all sides, like a chess player, drawing on science, myth, literature to herd us to the only logical end, to vaccinate.” ?*Parul Sehgal, The New York Times Book Review*

“By exploring the anxieties about what's lurking inside our flu shots, the air, and ourselves, [Biss] drives home the message that we are all responsible for one another. *On Immunity* will make you consider that idea on a fairly profound level.” ?*Entertainment Weekly (Grade: A)*

“*On Immunity* . . . weaves metaphor and myth, science and sociology, philosophy and politics into a tapestry rich with insight and intelligence.” ?*Jerome Groopman, The New York Review of Books*

“A philosophical look at the history and practice of vaccination that reads like Joan Didion at her best. If you are yourself a nonfiction author, your initial response to this book might be to decide immediately on another line of work; Biss is that intimidatingly talented . . . This is cultural commentary at its highest level, a searching examination of the most profound issues of health, identity and the tensions between individual parenting decisions and society.” ?*The Washington Post*

“[An] elegant, intelligent and very beautiful book, which occupies a space between research and reflection, investigating our attitudes toward immunity and inoculation through a personal and cultural lens.” ?*Los Angeles Times*

About the Author

Eula Biss is the author of *The Balloonists* and *Notes from No Man's Land*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in criticism and which *Salon* deemed "the most accomplished book of essays anyone has written or published so far in the twenty-first century." Her work has appeared in *The Believer*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. She has received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Howard Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She lives in the Chicago area and teaches at Northwestern University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Battle:

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