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# The Diseasing Of America's Children: Exposing The ADHD Fiasco And Empowering Parents To Take Back Control



## Synopsis

How parents, teachers, and even professionals are being deceived by the "ADHD Establishment" regarding ADHD and other childhood behavior disorders and the drugs used to treat them. The issue of diagnosing children with behavioral diseases that do not conform to a scientific definition of disease, and then medicating them is a scandal ready to erupt. In *The Diseasing of America's Children*, popular family psychologist, speaker, and best-selling author John Rosemond joins with pediatrician Dr. Bose Ravenel to uncover the fiction and fallacy behind attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder (ODD), early-onset bipolar disorder (EOBD), and the drugs prescribed to treat them. Rosemond and Ravenel will: reveal the pseudo-science behind these diagnoses explain how parents, teachers, and even professionals are deceived expose the short- and long-term dangers behavioral drugs pose to children discuss how America's schools are unwittingly feeding the diagnostic beast reveal the simple, common sense truth behind these behavior problems and give parents a practical program for curing these problems without drugs or dependence on professionals

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was not written to make anyone feel comfortable and for that reason it's the most valuable book I've read on children. Never have I found so much powerful information in such a usable format. But if you're not ready to question the status quo, hear the truth about childrearing practices you hold dear and make dramatic changes in how you think about your family, then don't

bother picking this up. Like all real treasure, it's not for wimps. While this book's title tells you it's about ADHD, I'm recommending it for all parents, teachers, grandparents and social workers. Even if your child hasn't been diagnosed I would wager that you know one who has. Perhaps you've suspected that some child in your world is a little "too hyper" or heard that even adults can be ADHD and thought of someone close to you. The first half of this book takes the ADHD bull by the horns and doesn't let go until every aspect of the disorder is dissected. With a historical overview that puts everything into perspective and a no-holds-barred approach to research that points fingers, names names and calls a fraud a fraud, Ravenel and Rosemond systematically clear up misconceptions, highlight hidden truths and answer every question you could possibly have. The style of writing is conversational but passionate, stern but with great humor. I found myself alternatively laughing and crying my way through the chapters. The second half of the book offers sure-fire methods for raising children with (or without) ADHD. In fact, the authors offer real life examples of children who never showed their symptoms again after the parents made recommended changes. My years "in the trenches" with hundreds of children and families have shown me that the methods suggested here will make life immeasurably more sane for all families, with or without any imbalances. Of course there's no book I agree with 100% so I'd be remiss if I didn't mention a couple places where I take issue with the authors. There's a small section on potty training that I feel reflects their lack of direct experience with the subject. As someone who has gone through potty training with more children than I can remember, I would suggest the authors have placed the exact unrealistic expectations on mothers in this area that they criticize other professionals for doing in academic achievement. There are some places where the wisdom of the grandmothers does not translate and this is one of them. I've heard that in Rosemond's other books he gives advice more to my liking and I look forward to reviewing them in the future. The other topics I had a hard time swallowing were the review of how reading was taught and the recommendations for regulating television viewing. While I agree these topics are problematic, I think the details may warrant discussion and personalization, since schools and families are so unique. But these complaints refer to a handful of pages in a 250 page book that I cannot recommend too highly.

I've become convinced that abortion is no longer the most hotly debated issue in America today....it's ADD and ADHD. There's a great deal of passion on all sides of the issue. Unfortunately, the jungle that is ADHD realm is thick and disorienting. Rosemond's effort on the topic is a good one, and one that is likely one of the more comprehensive works that takes the "other side" of the debate. It should not be surprising to anyone reading reviews of this book that you are going to encounter

some that adore Rosemond's other work, think this book is spot on, and highly recommend it because it represents "the truth" in their eyes. Likewise, you shouldn't be surprised that there are those on the other side of the debate from Rosemond that will refer to his work as drivel, unscientific, wrong, crazy, wacko, etc. This would even include another author, whose work is just as one sided as she perceives Rosemond's work to be. What Rosemond will at least get you to do, if you can work your way through his book with an open mind, is to ask questions, especially in the face of a diagnosis. So, in an effort to actually review the book itself, I offer this.....what are your motivations for reading a book about "ADHD" which questions the disorder and the medical treatment that is so often recommended? If your motivation is to read "the other side" because you know, going in, you're going to disagree, you're going to get precisely what you're looking for... a book that will provide you with multiple opportunities for cathartic outbursts of "...now that's just CRAZY." If you are presently the parent of a child that has been diagnosed with ADHD and you are at the beginning of the journey down the path of treatment and therapy, you may find this book helpful in that it provides a lengthy and detailed perspective on ADHD that will be very, very different from what you may be hearing at the school, in the pediatrician's office, or at the psychiatrist's office. Understand that Rosemond is a "traditional parenting" expert ( and I think it fair to call him an expert ) and his effort here is an honest one. At a minimum, with an open mind, you should find the discussion of ADHD by Rosemond a very interesting and thought provoking one. For the other perspective, Russell A. Barkley's work is well worth your time, in the name of being thorough in your research efforts. The thrust of Rosemond and Ravenel's work is to strongly question the science between linking ADD and ADHD to a genetic brain disorder. They question the ADHD literature's alleged overstatement of the effectiveness of the medication that is prescribed to children and the alleged understatement of the side effects of that medication. Accordingly, the symptoms of the disorder are behavioral issues, not biochemical issues. Ravenel, a doctor, has switched sides on this issue... and his perspective, in particular, is an interesting one. What is often mistaken about the Rosemond/Ravenel work is that their 4 prong suggestion for behavioral therapy is interpreted by those in the Barkley camp as suggesting that Rosemond/Ravenel believe that ADHD is caused by excessive electronic media useage, diet, poor parenting etc. Actually, Rosemond and Ravenel don't believe that there is such a disorder as ADHD, but do believe that children do, in fact, exhibit the behaviors that those in the Barkley camp refer to as symptoms. I don't think Barkley fails to understand Rosemond's perspective. Rosemond's work is not necessarily as easy to dismiss as many would like to believe. Whether you agree with all, part, or none of this book may depend upon your preconceived notions and the amount of reading you've done on "the other side." I'm carefully

avoiding offering my own opinion of ADHD because it's not relevant to this review at all. The book is a good one, and it's well worth your time and effort - along with a careful examination of other works (I suggest Barkley's but there are others) and then a careful comparison. What I have found is that sometimes, one side of this debate has a great deal of difficulty answering the challenges made by the other side of the debate. But you can't really evaluate either side effectively until you've read about them. So, here's what I think represents your best chance to engage in what should perhaps be referred to as the Anti ADHD side of the debate. For those unfamiliar with Rosemond's work, he is very direct and sometimes even colorful in his choice of words. This is viewed by some as antagonistic (note the word Fiasco in the title of this book). I doubt that there's some conspiracy to offend here, but there is a push, in the title and in the opening pages of this book, to grab your attention. At times, the barbs can be distracting to the message of the book - one of the reasons it might have earned one less star than 5, from me) but the book is still very well written, and it is an easy read. Finally, you should be aware that there is very, very little agreement between Rosemond and Barkley on just about anything related to ADHD. Accordingly, it can be a very difficult path to walk when you are faced with a diagnosis or even the suggestion of inquiry. I've yet to come across a definitive work that sets forth both sides and attempt to walk methodically and accurately between them. Maybe that isn't possible. Good book. Easy to read. Worth your time if you're making an honest inquiry.

I was so excited when this book arrived and read through it very quickly. I was desperately looking for information to help my 7-year old (diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and ADHD). The reason I sped through the book is because I was trying to get to the "good part". I wanted specific information on how I can help my son pay attention in class, keep his hands to himself and improve in reading and spelling without putting him on drugs. Unfortunately, 90% of the book is written to convince the reader that there is no such thing as ADHD or ADD, etc. I already agree that these "diseases" are over-diagnosed but as a parent and schoolteacher whether they have an actual disease or not doesn't take away the "symptoms". The 10% of the book that referred to success stories really didn't benefit my situation. My husband and I are both educators, we have raised our child with traditional discipline, we eat mostly organic vegetables (grass-fed, organic beef), very limited sugar/processed foods, little to no TV or video-games during the school year and he goes to a non-denominational, phonics-teaching private school. We are already trying all the things that should have produced the "honor-roll" poster child. But, after reading the book, I cannot say that I learned anything new to apply. It would be a good read for couples before they

have children or if their children are still young.

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