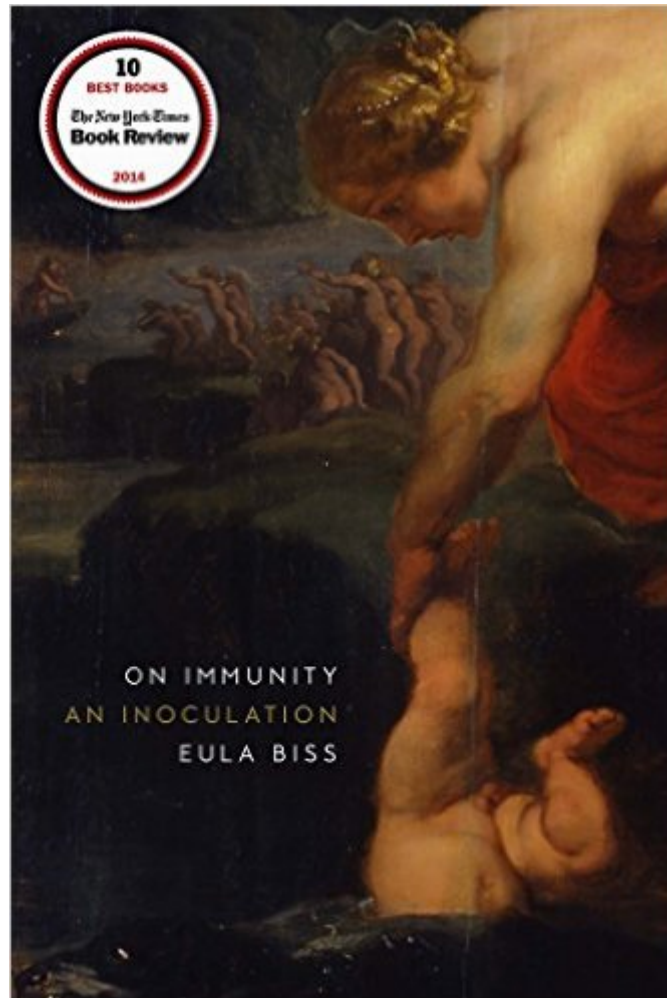


The book was found

On Immunity: An Inoculation



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ScienceThrillers Review: *On Immunity: An Inoculation* by Eula Biss is an extraordinary, unclassifiable, vital book that deserves to be widely read and reflected upon. Written by a critically acclaimed essayist, *On Immunity* is a memoir, an essay collection, a history, a social commentary, a parenting guide, a literary work... The author herself has a hard time succinctly answering the question, "What is your book about?" I'll tell you what *On Immunity* is about by telling you why it's an

important book. As a scientist and medical professional myself, I "believe" in vaccination. My kids get their immunizations on schedule, I get my flu shot every fall. I bristle when I encounter anti-vaccine people and propaganda. And like many other people in my shoes, I look at the data on the benefits versus risks of vaccination, and I wonder why "those people" don't get it. Essentially, I'm asking, "What is WRONG with those people?" But did I ever truly, honestly explore the question from a more neutral perspective, not, what is wrong with vaccine refuseniks, but, why do they perceive the world so differently from the way I do? Fortunately, Eula Biss has deeply explored this important question, and in unfailingly beautiful, intelligent prose, she has answered it with a depth and breadth that astonishes. Clinical study data have nothing to do with it, which really shouldn't surprise anyone. In how many aspects of our lives do we ignore data and make decisions based on other considerations? Many-no, most. Biss makes crucial insights into the numerous complex streams that feed the anti-vaccine movement. To begin, she uses an ongoing metaphor of the vampire. The act of injecting a foreign substance into the body is fraught with metaphysical significance.

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