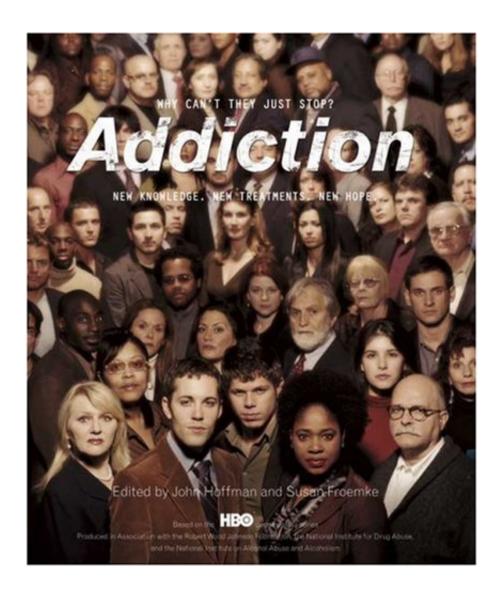


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About the Author

John Hoffman--Vice President of HBO Original Programming, has spent the past eleven years creating, producing, and supervising documentary programming for HBO, including the ADDICTION project, Hacking Democracy, the Emmy-nominated Last Letters Home: Voices of American Troops from the Battlefields of Iraq, and In Memoriam, New York City, 9/11/01. Before coming to HBO, Hoffman produced and created the children's television series Allegra's Window and served as executive director of AIDSFILMS, where he produced six multi-award-winning films, including AIDS: Changing the Rules.

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This companion book to the HBO documentary of the same name sheds light on the hidden American epidemic of addiction. Blending compelling personal narratives with statistics and expert opinion, all gleaned from over two years of research and reporting, ADDICTION offers a comprehensive and provocative look at the impact of chemical dependency on addicts, their loved ones, society, and the economy. Breaking the stigma that addicts are simply weak and immoral, it delves into new brain research proving that drugs and alcohol change the chemical composition of addicts' brains, making it veritably impossible for them to quit. The nation's top experts persuasively argue that the time has come for the blame to stop and the healing to begin.

ADDICTION also features material not included in the documentary: testimonials, original graphics and images, additional elaboration on theories and treatments of addiction, and more. Featuring a foreword by Sheila Nevins, the president of Documentary and Family Programming at HBO, an afterward by the best-selling author Susan Cheever, and the writing of David Sheff, this book is essential reading for anyone who has been impacted by what is now realized to be a very real and widespread disease.

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9 of 9 people found the following review helpful.

Good introduction to a complex problem.

By davec

I'm a physician who has provided medical care to many addicts over the years. I'm also the parent of an addict. Even for someone with medical training, this is one of the hardest illnesses to understand, because it is so damned complex: it is multidimensional in its causation, has both biologic and behavioral components, and leads to complications that are not just medical, but legal, social, and even moral. Of all the questions raised by addiction, perhaps the hardest for people to understand is the one expressed by the subtitle of this book: why can't they just stop? This book approaches this central question about as well as anything else out there. Since most readers are likely to be family or friends of addicts, I would caution you that, although the book goes through the groundwork nicely, you'll ultimately have to find your own workable answer to that central question, ie, as it applies to YOUR addict (and your own role in his/her illness).

The book covers the necessary subtopics well, eg, the various "drugs-of-choice," treatment modalities, and demographics, although I thought the paragraphs devoted to childhood addiction were stronger than those dealing with the young adult addict.

One criticism: This book isn't well suited for e-readers (like Kindle). It has a montage-like format with lots of graphics, sidebars, and quotes. The reading sequence gets lost on a Kindle. Other reviewers have noted the same problem. While I will recommend this book to anyone trying to get a handle on why a loved one is addicted, I would suggest they buy it in hard copy.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

This book is AMAZING! the cost and was wonderful and the shipping fast!

By rdteem

This book is an amazing book...its not just your typical addiction book, it has stories and so many useful facts and really keeps the attention! I have engulfed myself in this book and have learned so many new things about addiction and how the brain works when it comes to addiction! I would recommend this book to anyone, not just addicts or recovering addicts. Psychologists, social workers, family members of addicts and for anyone who would like to know about addiction and what it is like to use drugs or be addicted.

The cost of this book was wonderful and the shipping was fast. I used this book for a paper and had it here in plenty of time to read the whole book and write the paper using the information from the book!

Very recommended seller!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Very insightful.

By Trudie W. Yaeger

A wonderful insight into the world of addiction. It deals with all kinds of addictions, explained in very easy to understand terms and quite thoroughly. I learned about the book from an Oprah Show during the time my daughter was dealing with an addiction. It was so beneficial, insightful, enlightening and inspiring all at the same time. Well written with examples, pictures, references, etc. A great read for someone who knows, or is, dealing with an addiction.

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