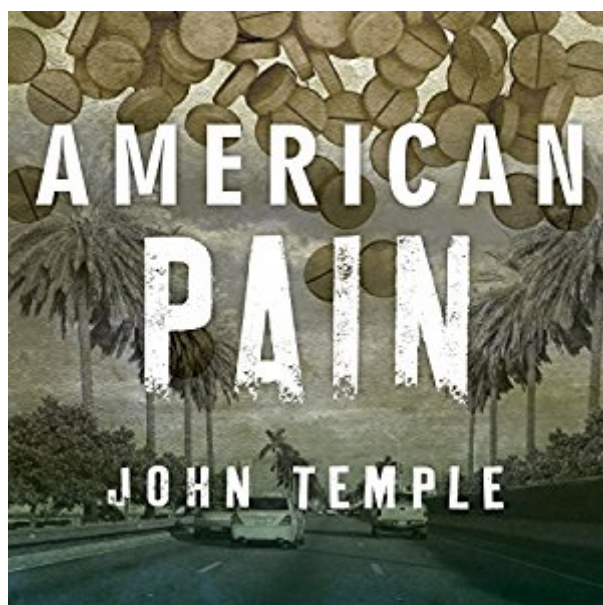


The book was found

American Pain: How A Young Felon And His Ring Of Doctors Unleashed America's Deadliest Drug Epidemic



Synopsis

The king of the Florida pill mills was American Pain, a megaclinic expressly created to serve addicts posing as patients. From a fortresslike former bank building, American Pain's doctors distributed massive quantities of oxycodone to hundreds of customers a day, mostly traffickers and addicts who came by the vanload. Inked muscleheads ran the clinic's security. Former strippers operated the pharmacy, counting out pills and stashing cash in garbage bags. Under their lab coats, the doctors carried guns, and it was all legal...sort of. American Pain chronicles the rise and fall of this game-changing pill mill and how it helped tip the nation into its current opioid crisis. The narrative, which swings back and forth between Florida and Kentucky, is populated by a diverse cast of characters. This includes the incongruous band of wealthy bad boys, thugs, and esteemed physicians who built American Pain as well as the penniless Kentucky clans who transformed themselves into painkiller trafficking rings. It includes addicts whose lives were devastated by American Pain's drugs and the federal agents and grieving mothers who labored for years to bring the clinic's crew to justice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The title of John Temple's work, "American Pain," is applicable in three ways. First, American Pain was the name of a now defunct Florida pill mill which Temple writes about with great insight. Secondly, American pain describes the experience of a collective group of Americans who seek help in addressing debilitating pain issues due to accidents or illness. Third, the term American pain

highlights the angst many of our friends, neighbors and other citizens experience when their loved ones become addicted to pain-killers, sometimes to the point of dying of an overdose. As other reviewers have written, the book reads like a good crime novel; it's truly a gripping story. However, the big take-away from this sordid tale is not the abhorrent activity of the felonious owners of the clinic and their complacent, complicit and over-prescribing physicians. The big story is not the lax Florida state laws which allowed this clinic and others to thrive. No, the take away can be found early on page 51 of American Pain and involves the US government's Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). "One of the DEA's most important and least recognized duties is to decide how much of each controlled substance can be manufactured. If the DEA decides that the amount of oxycodone being made exceeds the medical, scientific, research and industrial needs of the United States, it can reduce the drug's production, simply cut it down by denying pharmaceutical companies' annual requests to manufacture more of the drugs. Instead, year after year, the DEA had signed off on hikes in the manufacturing quotas of all popular prescription narcotics.

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