



On Immunity: An Inoculation

By Eula Biss



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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:

Katrina White:

The actual book *On Immunity: An Inoculation* will bring someone to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book you just read, this book very ideal to you. The book *On Immunity: An Inoculation* is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Kevin Vargas:

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book entitled On Immunity: An Inoculation your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a guide then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The On Immunity: An Inoculation giving you a different experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful data for your better life on this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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