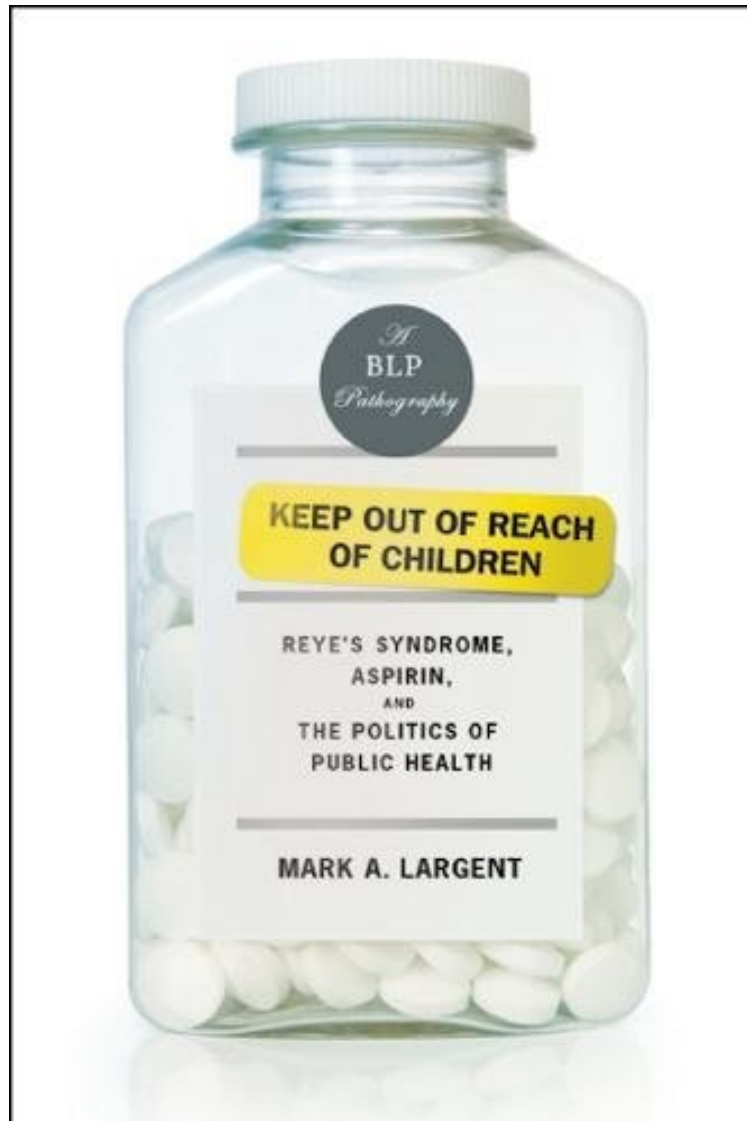


(Download pdf) Keep Out of Reach of Children: Reyes Syndrome, Aspirin, and the Politics of Public Health (Bellevue Literary Press Pathographies)

Keep Out of Reach of Children: Reyes Syndrome, Aspirin, and the Politics of Public Health (Bellevue Literary Press Pathographies)

Mark A. Largent

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Mark A. Largent : Keep Out of Reach of Children: Reyes Syndrome, Aspirin, and the Politics of Public Health (Bellevue Literary Press Pathographies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Keep Out of Reach of Children: Reyes Syndrome, Aspirin, and the Politics of Public Health (Bellevue Literary Press Pathographies):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy AETD Did not like this book. Seemed like a college thesis. Boring as heck. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Interesting "Pathography" of Reye's SyndromeBy emmejay Toward the end of when I was a kid growing up on aspirin, a syndrome called Reye's grew notorious, afflicting children who were well on their way to recovery from a routine illness (usually chicken pox or influenza) but then relapsed with severe inflammation that often led to death or permanent brain damage. This book is a "pathography" of Reye's (what an interesting concept! I want to explore more in the series from the Bellevue Literary Press) -- an epidemiology that examines the syndrome's emergence almost from nowhere in the early 1960s and disappearance almost without a trace in the late 1980s, and its association with the use of aspirin in children. The author describes the syndrome and its earliest reportings; explores the possible causes including toxins, insecticides, viruses, underlying genetic abnormalities, and salicylates such as aspirin; and documents the process toward requiring warning labels on salicylate products, including how manufacturers politicked to thwart doctors, legislators and regulators. He ends with the true but unsatisfying conclusion: the syndrome simply disappeared before studies could prove causation or correlation. Largent brings both professional and personal interest to the topic: he's a science historian who himself developed Reye's in the early 1970s at age two and survived without impairment. Though somewhat repetitive and somewhat fuzzy (perhaps necessarily, due to the lack of scientific data), it's an interesting, lightly journalistic read. (Review based on an advance reading copy provided by the publisher.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's probably okay to give your child aspirin nowBy Meaghan I was born in 1985 and was never given aspirin as a kid because of the story that it can cause Reye's Syndrome. Reading this book I was a bit stunned to discover they never found any sure proof that aspirin was behind this peculiar condition, and there is some evidence that it was not. Case in point: the author himself is a Reye's survivor and he was not exposed to aspirin. I liked the book and I think anyone with an interest in public health and/or medicine in general would like it, but it did kind of peter out at the end. Which is understandable, given that (spoiler alert) Reye's Syndrome itself kind of quietly disappeared before anyone could even find out for sure what it was, whether it was a toxin, some kind of virus, who knows.

A fascinating history of a public health crisis. Compellingly written and insightful, *Keep Out of Reach of Children* traces the discovery of Reyes syndrome, research into its causes, industry's efforts to avoid warning labels on one suspected cause, aspirin, and the feared disease's sudden disappearance. Largent's empathy is with the myriad children and parents harmed by the disease, while he challenges the triumphalist view that labeling solved the crisis. ERIK M. CONWAY, coauthor of *Merchants of Doubt* Largent's engaging and honest account explores how medical mysteries are shaped by prevailing narratives about venal drug companies, heroic investigators, and Johnny-come-lately politicians. HELEN EPSTEIN, author of *The Invisible Cure* Fascinating. . . . Thought-provoking. Booklist Well-researched. . . . A revealing work. Kirkus Reviews Reyes syndrome, identified in 1963, was a debilitating, rare condition that typically afflicted healthy children just emerging from the flu or other minor illnesses. It began with vomiting, followed by confusion, coma, and in 50 percent of all cases, death. Survivors were often left with permanent liver or brain damage. Desperate, terrorized parents and doctors pursued dramatic, often ineffectual treatments. For over fifteen years, many inconclusive theories were posited as to its causes. The Centers for Disease Control dispatched its Epidemic Intelligence Service to investigate, culminating in a study that suggested a link to aspirin. Congress held hearings at which parents, researchers, and pharmaceutical executives testified. The result was a warning to parents and doctors to avoid pediatric use of aspirin, leading to the widespread substitution of alternative fever and pain reducers. But before a true cause was definitively established, Reyes syndrome simply vanished. A harrowing medical mystery, *Keep Out of Reach of Children* is the first and only book to chart the history of Reyes syndrome and reveal the confluence of scientific and social forces that determined the public health policy response, for better or for ill. Mark A. Largent, a survivor of Reyes syndrome, is the author of *Vaccine: The Debate in Modern America* and *Breeding Contempt: The History of Coerced Sterilization in the United States*. He is a historian of science, Associate Professor in James Madison College at Michigan State University, and Associate Dean in Lyman Briggs College at Michigan State University. He lives in Lansing, Michigan.

In this fascinating account, Reyes syndrome survivor Largent weaves his own tale throughout the bigger story about this puzzling medical condition. . . . This thought-provoking work certainly meets the goal of the publisher's Pathologies Series to chart the impact of disease on human individuals and populations from the biological, historical, and cultural perspectives. Booklist A well-researched history of Reyes syndrome that explores how science, medicine and politics interact. . . . As Largent examines the dispute over whether to require warning labels on bottles of aspirin, he also scrutinizes the actions and interactions some might say the machinations of pharmaceutical companies, consumer rights groups, epidemiologists, public health officials, courts and the U.S. Congress. . . . A revealing work. Kirkus s An absorbing study of the interrelationships of science, business, politics, and public health. . . . Both professionals and lay readers interested in science will enjoy this work. Library Journal Meticulous. . . . If one thing becomes clear in Largent's narrative, it's that the regulatory process itself is disordered. Publishers Weekly Far more

than a story of parental interests or threats to childrens health. . . . Recommend[ed] for any concerned with public health management, research studies, aspirin and its management, or the processes of intervention, protection, and research that dictate the choices of public health as a whole. Midwest Book /California Bookwatch