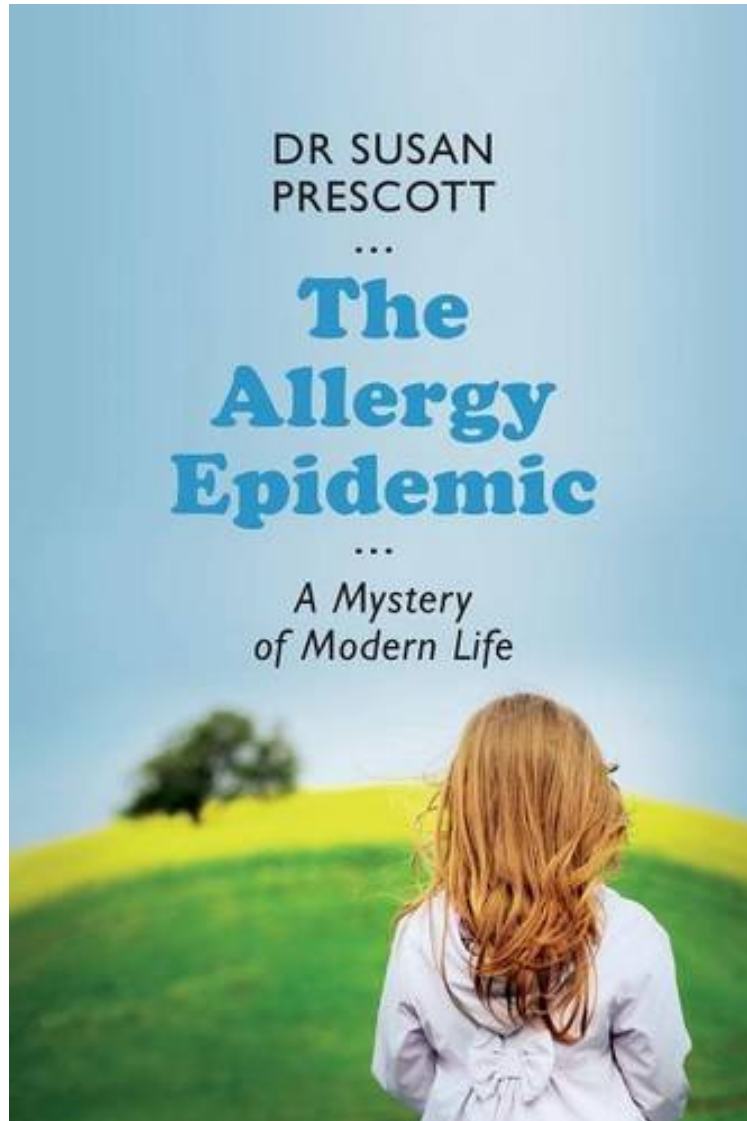


[PDF] The Allergy Epidemic: A Mystery of Modern Life

The Allergy Epidemic: A Mystery of Modern Life

Susan Prescott

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Susan Prescott : The Allergy Epidemic: A Mystery of Modern Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Allergy Epidemic: A Mystery of Modern Life:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Superb Book! By Alan C. Logan So I just did an Advanced Search on books - since 2007 there are over 500 paperback books and 200 hardcover books with "allergy/allergies" in the title or subtitle! That in itself is an indication that there is indeed an Allergy Epidemic. In this sea of books, unless you are purchasing a medical textbook, The Allergy Epidemic is really the only one you will need. It takes one of the most difficult subjects in medicine/science - the human immune system - and makes it as understandable as it will ever

be. The Allergy Epidemic is actually several books within one book. The first chapter highlights the real world setting of a busy allergy clinic in visceral terms - the reader actually feels as if they are in the clinic; the calm confidence of the clinical team in the midst of saving lives. Although parents who read the book to understand more about severe childhood allergy probably know it too well, Chapter One serves as a reminder that allergies are not merely a seasonal nuisance. Moving on, Chapter two, The Making of an Allergist is a mini memoir and ode to those who have inspired the author to take a road less traveled in medicine. This is the type of background that is rarely provided in a trade health paperback, however those that do include some detail on the fabric of the health expert/author always stand out (Best e.g. David Servan-Schreiber in *Anticancer, A New Way of Life* - interestingly, he also obtained an M.D. and PhD combination). As the chapters unfold, the reader is on a journey through all the leading suspects related to the global epidemic of allergy. Writes Dr Prescott in setting the stage... "It has taken decades for us to recognize the consequences of progressive industrialization on the health of our planet. And now we are seeing the effects on our own health. While many body systems are sensitive to environmental change, the impact on the immune system has been dramatic." Environmental change is of course, as the author acknowledges, a broad term - and throughout her career, she and her team of experts have been peeling back the environmental layers of the proverbial onion - nutrition, pollution, microbes, medication use, sunlight, stress and much more - it's all covered in the book to provide a reader with a sort of State of the Science. The consistent point of reference is early life origins - i.e. how might these factors influence allergy in pregnancy and early life. A good portion of the book is devoted to food allergy and related discussions of eczema and asthma are well covered. I always enjoy it when book content matches its title and subtitle, and indeed this book is a 100% match. The primary discussions revolve around the mystery - some but not all steps have been taken in the process of unraveling the mystery. There are no digressions into pseudoscientific allergy testing and obscure "cures" - these make up many of the competing titles in the category - again, 700 books floating around and finally THE expert has written for the general public. From Dr Prescott's original discoveries about how the immune system works, to ground-breaking studies on environmental factors related to allergy, there simply isn't a more qualified expert to discuss the matter. Last note - the book is an import from Australia, so there is no deep discount on . Yes, you can get books on the topic for half the price, with their fantastical claims of cure and promises of prevention...but you get what you pay for. There are no such false promissory notes of cure/prevention written by Dr Prescott. It states clearly on the back cover of *The Allergy Epidemic* that all author proceeds go directly into allergy research. Obviously, then, the book was not written for profit, it was written for patients and caregivers...and as a "side-effect" for the purposes of further unraveling the mystery. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight into allergies By Carter Dunn Explains the science and management of allergies very well, and discusses the future, esp epigenetics. Recommend it to parents, med students, and anyone else interested. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Allison Freeman A great review that will help families understand the atopic condition

As an internationally renowned specialist in childhood allergy and immunology, Prof. Susan Prescott takes us on a journey into the science behind the allergy epidemic. As both an allergy specialist working in a busy children's hospital and as a cutting edge research scientist, Prescott is perfectly placed to explore how and why we are experiencing an epidemic rise in allergic diseases, as well as the practical side of dealing with these potentially serious conditions. With clear, no-nonsense explanations and a very personable style, Prescott informs, assures, and educates in this book.