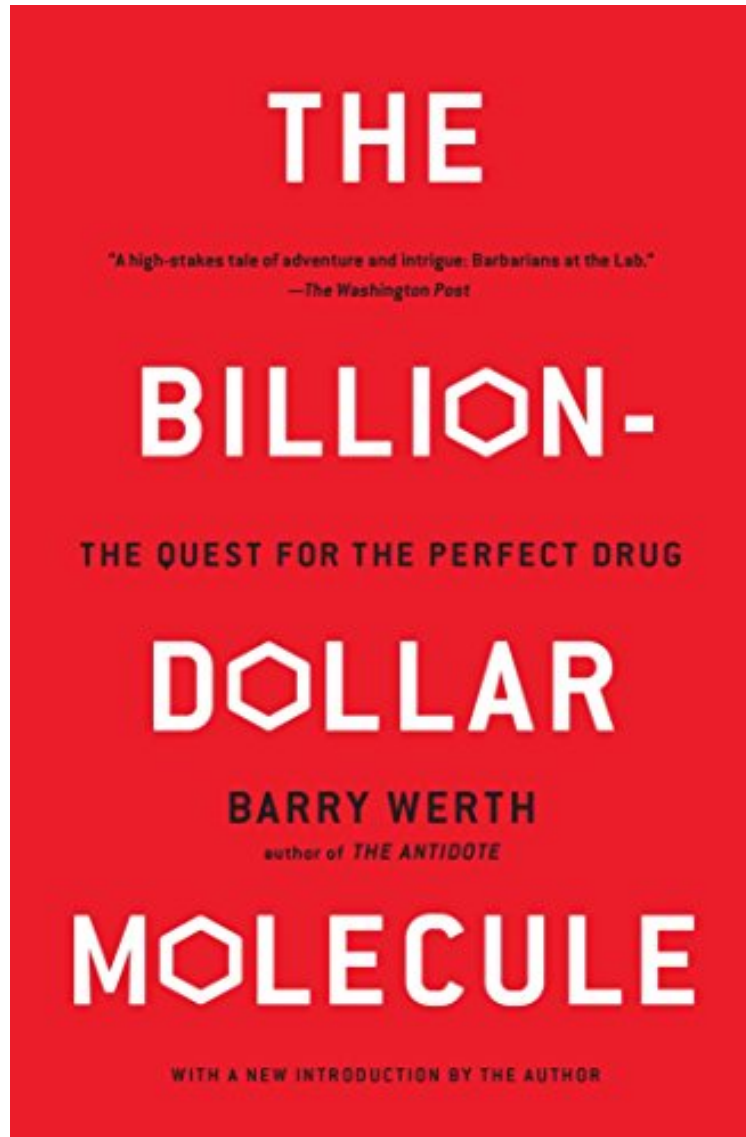


(Download) The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug

# The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug

Barry Werth

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**Barry Werth : The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Billion Dollar Molecule: One Company's Quest for the Perfect Drug:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Watch Your BackBy Ravi MadhavanBarry Werth's book provides a

view of the high business and personal risks involved in developing drugs. \$ 100 million and much more are sought after to research and develop a drug that only has a promise and could easily do nothing or even worse cause harm. That's the business risk and the leaders have to put on a confident front and do whatever or say whatever to make sure the money keeps coming in. On the personal side many extremely bright and confident PhD/MDs battle it out to be the one that makes the discovery or get credit for it. Quite often this battle is in the same company between friends and colleagues who may not in the end remain as such. Much of it reminds you of high school but then again we probably never do leave that stage as much as we like to think. The constant use of molecule and target names and descriptions can make a difficult read but there is much more soap opera than science. One finishes the book wondering how we have come so far in medicine/pharmaceuticals but I guess the same competitive spirit that can so often get in the way of progress also can make it go further and its tough to know when its more trouble than benefit. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the Billion Dollar Molecule follows the brilliant Josh Boger as he attempts to become the next ...By CustomerChronicling the rise of Vertex, one of the first companies to dabble in rational drug design, the Billion Dollar Molecule follows the brilliant Josh Boger as he attempts to become the next Merck. The scope of scientific context and the way in which the author weaves together various players is both witty and insightful. However I couldn't help feeling that the author's journalistic prowess obscured and glossed over the actual science that Vertex and its counterparts were performing. As somebody who was hoping for a sort of Elegant Universe meets the pharmaceutical industry structured within a compelling narrative, I was disappointed. The narrative (specifically the sequence of causality dating back from the 1900s to the 1980s) is brilliant, but the science, the real red meat of a book like this, is largely absent. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Incredible Journey into a New Era of Pharmeceutacal ScienceBy E. BrittonI purchased this book when I was hired at Vertex. I realize the book is a bit dated now but it is extremely interesting to read about the beginnings of the company and talking to colleagues who worked side by side with some of the people mentioned. The drive and ambition paired with world class talent and intelligence of all the scientists and businessmen is almost unbelievable and should make anyone more motivated to do and be more. I highly recommend giving it a read especially if you are in the biotech field.

Join journalist Barry Werth as he pulls back the curtain on Vertex, a start-up pharmaceutical company, and witness firsthand the intense drama being played out in the pioneering and hugely profitable field of drug research. Founded by Joshua Boger, a dynamic Harvard- and Merck-trained scientific whiz kid, Vertex is dedicated to designing -- atom by atom -- both a new life-saving immunosuppressant drug, and a drug to combat the virus that causes AIDS. You will be hooked from start to finish, as you go from the labs, where obsessive, fiercely competitive scientists struggle for a breakthrough, to Wall Street, where the wheeling and dealing takes on a life of its own, as Boger courts investors and finally decides to take Vertex public. Here is a fascinating no-holds-barred account of the business of science, which includes an updated epilogue about the most recent developments in the quest for a drug to cure AIDS.

.com From test tubes to the Wall Street IPO and beyond, this is the riveting true story of a start-up pharmaceutical company working to create an anti-AIDS drug. Scientifically accurate, yet written with an attention to plot, timing, dialogue, and development of character more characteristic of the best thrillers. From Publishers Weekly A startup pharmaceutical company is the focus of this intriguing look at the nexus of biotechnology and high finance; features a new epilogue by the author. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Werth, a freelance writer on science and business issues, chronicles Joshua Boger's start-up of Vertex, a biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery of new drugs. Boger, a successful organic chemist with Merck, left his position as a senior director to establish Vertex. He recruited an exceptional group of researchers with the aim of integrating the most advanced disciplines in molecular biology to develop an immune-suppressing drug used in organ transplants and a potent HIV protease inhibitor to help thwart AIDS. Werth also discusses Vertex's financing and initial public stock offering. Recommended for science and business collections in public libraries and for special libraries in the pharmaceutical industry.- Bruce Slutsky, New Jersey Inst. of Tech. Lib., Newark Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.