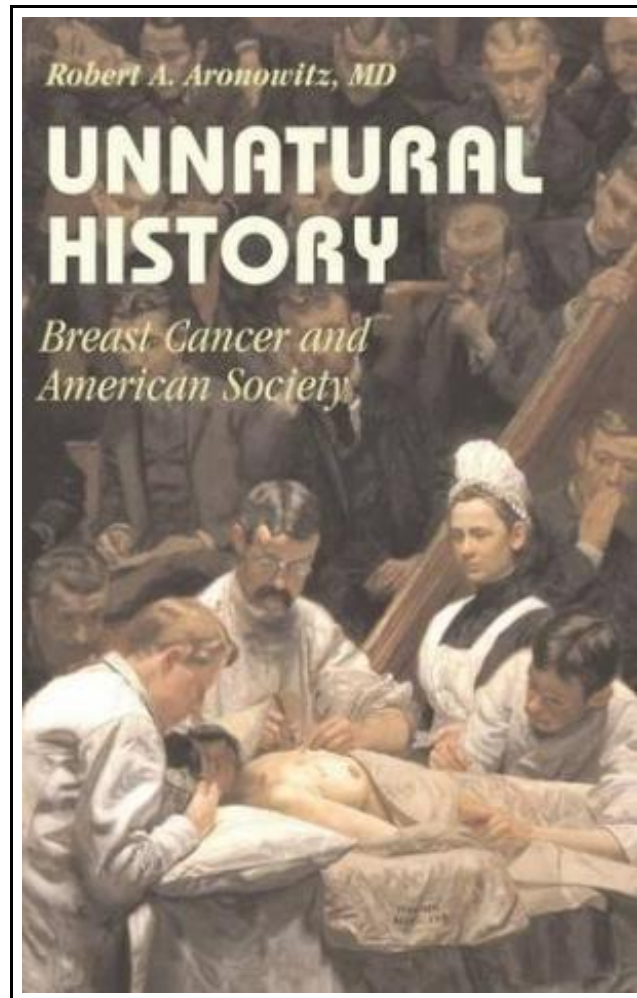


Unnatural History: Breast Cancer And American Society.



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Reviews

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(Jimmie Schmidt I)

UNNATURAL HISTORY: BREAST CANCER AND AMERICAN SOCIETY.



Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. First Edition.. 366 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. Like New. HEALTH. Explores the change over the last two centuries from isolated, private fears to an immense individual and collective risk of breast cancer. The book begins with the experiences of a Quaker woman diagnosed with breast cancer in 1812, and ends with our problematic era in which almost every woman is waiting for "the axe to fall." In between, the book traces changes in the beliefs and values of women and their doctors, medical knowledge and technology, clinical and public health practices, and the biological impact of the disease. The picture that emerges from Unnatural History is that our clinical, practical health, and societal responses to breast cancer have radically transformed the experience of the disease and its apparent societal impact, without necessarily having had much effect on the disease's biological devastation. Unnatural History suggests that we have oversold both the fear of breast cancer and the effectiveness of screening and treatment, leading to miscalculation at the individual and societal levels. Includes an Index. "A fascinating and thought-provoking study of the clinical experience of breast cancer patients and their physicians. Through an imaginative reconstruction of that experience, Aronowitz shows how culture -- in terms of values and medical ideas and practices -- has changed over the past two centuries, while shaping the perceived choices of both doctor and patient. The author wants us to think critically and circumstantially about how we evaluate risk and he succeeds admirably; this is an outstanding contribution to our understanding of medicine past and present." - Charles Rosenberg (Key Words: Breast Cancer, Medicine, Robert A. Aronowitz, Health, Breast Neoplasms, Medical History, Women, Disease, Tumors, Surgery, Surgeons, Screening, Radiology, Benjamin Rush, Pre-Cancers, Mortality, Mammography, Medical Advances, William S....



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