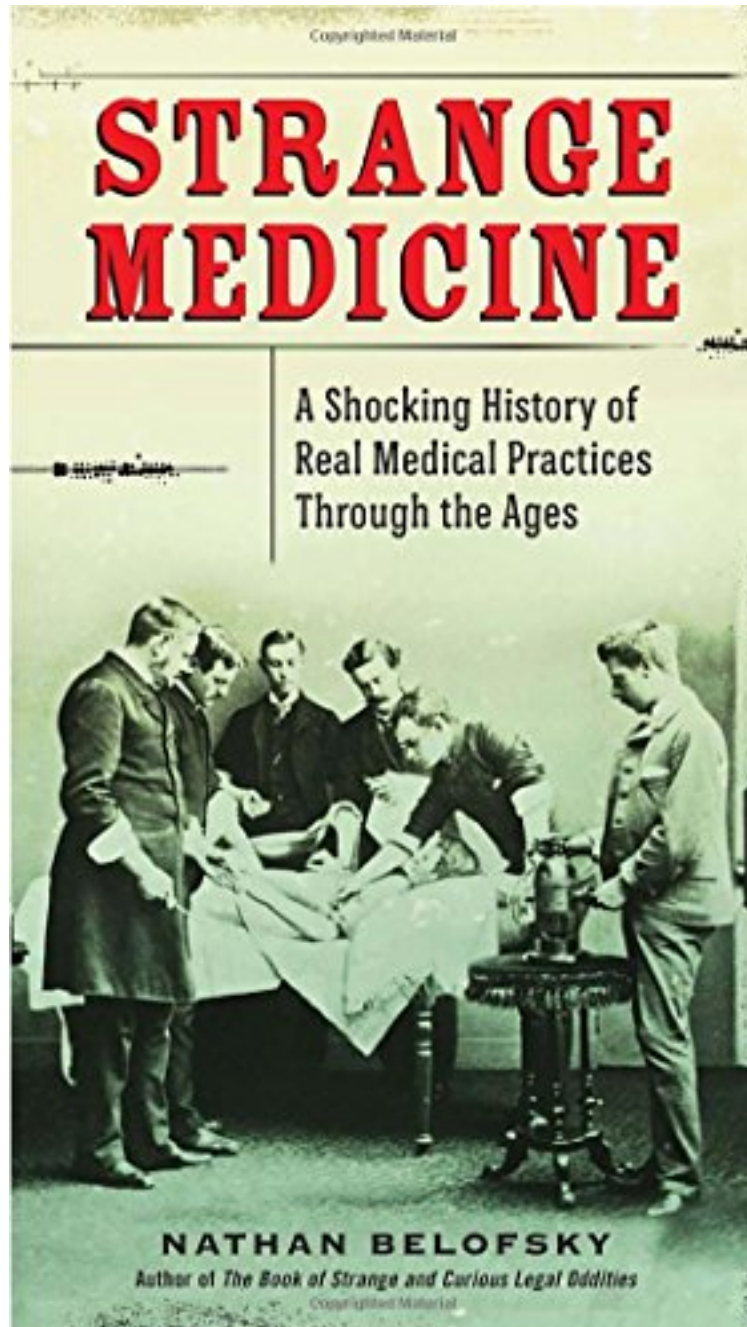


[Download] Strange Medicine: A Shocking History of Real Medical Practices Through the Ages

# Strange Medicine: A Shocking History of Real Medical Practices Through the Ages

*Nathan Belofsky*

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#209796 in Books Nathan Belofsky 2013-07-02 2013-07-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.01 x .66 x 4.56l, .35 #File Name: 0399159959224 pagesStrange Medicine | File size: 38.Mb

**Nathan Belofsky : Strange Medicine: A Shocking History of Real Medical Practices Through the Ages** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Strange Medicine: A Shocking History of Real Medical Practices Through the Ages*:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but repetitive  
By Laura P. This book is interesting if you want to know some fun trivia, or to be profoundly grateful not to have been born in medieval times. My issue with it was that it seemed so repetitive from about the middle of the book to the end. I think if it was organized differently--by procedure, perhaps, instead of eras of medicine--it would have been better. It felt like the author was including the interesting bits of information he found as he found it instead of working to organize it in a readable way. I wish he'd instead gathered all of the information about a topic, such as bloodletting, and discussed it in detail instead of writing about it over and over again throughout the book with nothing new to add. It's strange, because the book feels both too long and too short. It's so repetitive on some information, but also doesn't go deep enough into any of the topics. I wanted to learn more, and instead it's kind of a pithy overview on interesting things. Overall, an okay read.  
8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The information was interesting but it wasn't well written and ...  
By Kindle Customer  
The information was interesting but it wasn't well written and referred to things without explaining some background about the subjects or referencing pictures that weren't included. Would have benefited from having fewer topics and go a bit more in depth about them and including pictures they were talking about  
18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Disappointed Disorganized  
By Tom Quattrochi  
I'm going to have to agree with other reviewers. Against my better judgement, I was curious so I bought it anyway. Turns out the book is a bit scatterbrained, shallow and disjointed. I'm disappointed this wasn't what I had hoped - as a science educator and neuroscientist.

*Strange Medicine* casts a gimlet eye on the practice of medicine through the ages that highlights the most dubious ideas, bizarre treatments, and biggest blunders. From bad science and oafish behavior to stomach-turning procedures that hurt more than helped, *Strange Medicine* presents strange but true facts and an honor roll of doctors, scientists, and dreamers who inadvertently turned the clock of medicine backward: The ancient Egyptians applied electric eels to cure gout. Medieval dentists burned candles in patients' mouths to kill invisible worms gnawing at their teeth. Renaissance physicians timed surgical procedures according to the position of the stars, and instructed epileptics to collect fresh blood from the newly beheaded. Dr. Walter Freeman, the world's foremost practitioner of lobotomies, practiced his craft while traveling on family camping trips, cramming the back of the station wagon with kids and surgical tools then hammering ice picks into the eye sockets of his patients in between hikes in the woods. *Strange Medicine* is an illuminating panorama of medical history as you've never seen it before.

From Publishers Weekly  
Belofsky (*The Book of Strange and Curious Legal Oddities*) conjures horror and hilarity--sometimes at the same time--in this cheeky history of 2,400 years of doctors doing "more harm than good" and occasionally fumbling their way toward "Eureka!"...medicine sunk to its lowest point during its "Heroic Era."...Benjamin Rush, the father of American psychiatry, would strap patients...and spin them "like tops for hours on end."...Makes a shot in the rear seem like a walk in the park. From Booklist