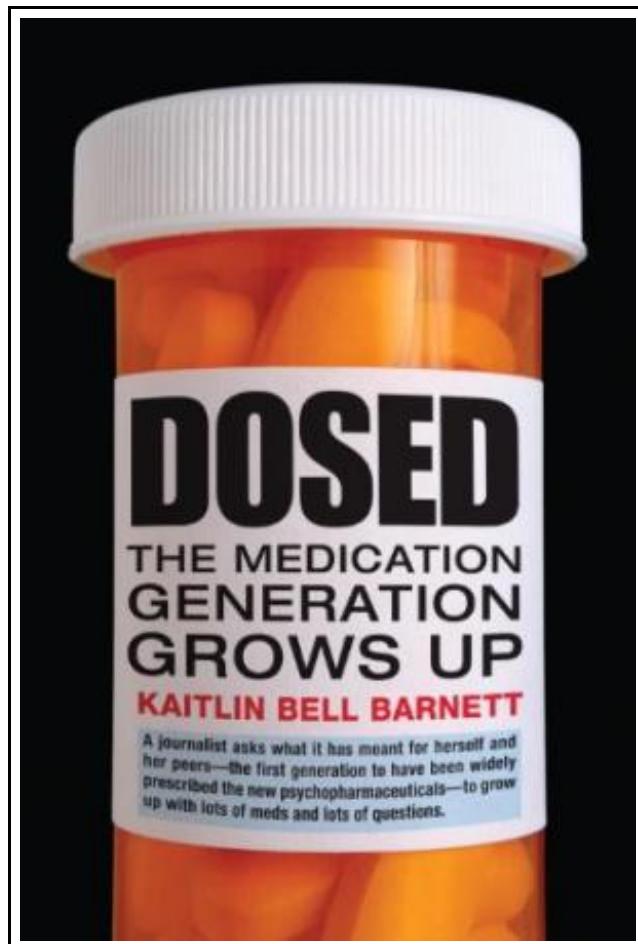


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Reviews

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(Bernardo Feeney Jr.)

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Beacon Press (MA), United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 221 x 147 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Over the last two decades, we have seen a dramatic spike in young people taking psychiatric medication. As new drugs have come on the market and diagnoses have proliferated, prescriptions have increased many times over. The issue has sparked heated debates, with most arguments breaking down into predictable pro-med advocacy or anti-med jeremiads. Yet, we've heard little from the medicated kids themselves. In *Dosed*, Kaitlin Bell Barnett, who began taking antidepressants as a teenager, takes a nuanced look at the issue as she weaves together stories from members of this medication generation, exploring how drugs informed their experiences at home, in school, and with the mental health professions. For many, taking meds has proved more complicated than merely popping a pill. The questions we all ask growing up--Who am I? and What can I achieve?--take on extra layers of complexity for kids who spend their formative years on medication. As Barnett shows, parents' fears that labeling kids will hurt their self-esteem means that many young children don't understand why they take pills at all, or what the drugs are supposed to accomplish. Teens must try to figure out whether intense emotions and risk-taking behaviors fall within the spectrum of normal adolescent angst, or whether they represent new symptoms or drug side effects. Young adults negotiate schoolwork, relationships, and the workplace, while struggling to find the right medication, dealing with breakdowns and relapses, and trying to decide whether they still need pharmaceutical treatment at all. And for some young people, what seemed like a quick fix turns into a saga of different diagnoses, symptoms, and a changing cocktail of medications. The results of what one psychopharmacologist...

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