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Before Prozac: The Troubled History of Mood Disorders in Psychiatry (Hardback)

By Edward Shorter

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 2008. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Psychiatry today is a barren tundra, writes medical historian Edward Shorter, where drugs that don't work are used to treat diseases that don't exist. In this provocative volume, Shorter illuminates this dismal landscape, in a revealing account of why psychiatry is losing ground in the struggle to treat depression. Naturally, the book looks at such culprits as the pharmaceutical industry, which is not inclined to market drugs once the patent expires, leading to the endless introduction of new-but not necessarily better-drugs. But the heart of the book focuses on an unexpected villain: the FDA, the very agency charged with ensuring drug safety and effectiveness. Shorter describes how the FDA permits companies to test new products only against placebo. If you can beat sugar pills, you get your drug licensed, whether or not it is actually better than (or even as good as) current medications, thus sweeping from the shelves drugs that may be superior but have lost patent protection. The book also examines the FDA's early power struggles against the drug industry, an influence-grab that had little...



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Reviews

Comprehensive information for book fans. It is one of the most amazing book I actually have read. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

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