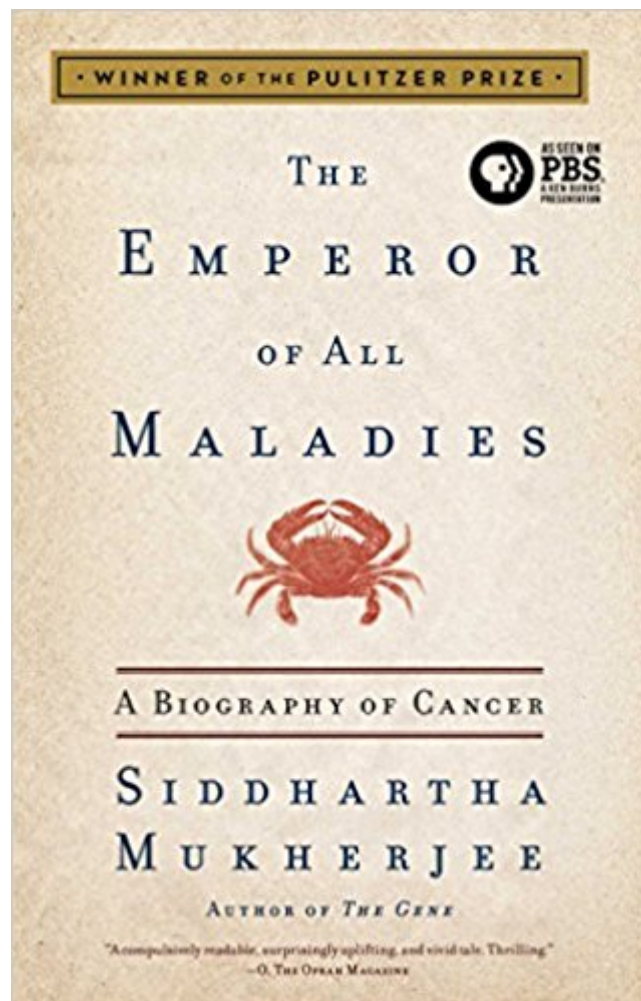




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The Emperor Of All Maladies: A Biography Of Cancer



Synopsis

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, and now a documentary from Ken Burns on PBS, *The Emperor of All Maladies* is a magnificent, profoundly humane “biography” of cancer from its first documented appearances thousands of years ago through the epic battles in the twentieth century to cure, control, and conquer it to a radical new understanding of its essence. Physician, researcher, and award-winning science writer, Siddhartha Mukherjee examines cancer with a cellular biologist’s precision, a historian’s perspective, and a biographer’s passion. The result is an astonishingly lucid and eloquent chronicle of a disease humans have lived with and perished from for more than five thousand years. The story of cancer is a story of human ingenuity, resilience, and perseverance, but also of hubris, paternalism, and misperception. Mukherjee recounts centuries of discoveries, setbacks, victories, and deaths, told through the eyes of his predecessors and peers, training their wits against an infinitely resourceful adversary that, just three decades ago, was thought to be easily vanquished in an all-out “war against cancer.” The book reads like a literary thriller with cancer as the protagonist. From the Persian Queen Atossa, whose Greek slave may have cut off her diseased breast, to the nineteenth-century recipients of primitive radiation and chemotherapy to Mukherjee’s own leukemia patient, Carla, *The Emperor of All Maladies* is about the people who have soldiered through fiercely demanding regimens in order to survive and to increase our understanding of this iconic disease. Riveting, urgent, and surprising, *The Emperor of All Maladies* provides a fascinating glimpse into the future of cancer treatments. It is an illuminating book that provides hope and clarity to those seeking to demystify cancer.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, November 2010: "In 2010, about six hundred thousand Americans, and more than 7 million humans around the world, will die of cancer." With this sobering statistic, physician and researcher Siddhartha Mukherjee begins his comprehensive and eloquent "biography" of one of the most virulent diseases of our time. An exhaustive account of cancer's origins, *The Emperor of All Maladies* illustrates how modern treatments--multi-pronged chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery, as well as preventative care--came into existence thanks to a century's worth of research, trials, and small, essential breakthroughs around the globe. While *The Emperor of All Maladies* is rich with the science and history behind the fight against cancer, it is also a meditation on illness, medical ethics, and the complex, intertwining lives of doctors and patients. Mukherjee's profound compassion--for cancer patients, their families, as well as the oncologists who, all too often, can offer little hope--makes this book a very human history of an elusive and complicated disease. --Lynette Mong --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Mukherjee's magisterial history of cancer research is poorly served by Stephen Hoye's impersonal, tone-deaf narration. Mukherjee is a practicing oncologist, and his is a deeply personal account, replete with stories of his own patients and practice, that begs for an intimate reading. But Hoye is pedantic, dry, stentorian--everything that this book isn't--and his newscaster's delivery cannot convey the author's compassion for his patients or the suspense and thrill of scientific discovery that the book so brilliantly describes. A Scribner hardcover. (Nov.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Last April I was diagnosed with acute leukaemia. After a stem cell transplant I am coming up for a year. When you are told you have cancer you are bewildered. You are also very angry. I asked myself was there something I had done in my past that was going to deprive me seeing my two sons grow up into happy young men and dads. The first two weeks go by in a weird nightmare. Day 17 your hair falls out. Your peeing orange from the chemo drugs, which have put me off Lucozade for life. You double check all your insurances are up to date and update a will to make sure my wife does not have any hassles with the tax authorities. At the age of 44 you are very angry. You realise you are likely going to die. You are angry because you have no idea what is doing it. What you planned for when you were older is all meaningless. But, thanks to certain stubbornness and

amazing treatment and care, and a generous gift of life from a German donor of life giving stem cells, I am alive. This book helps explain many of the questions I had. It does it in a way that makes sense if you don't have a degree in science. What was until recently a death sentence is no longer the case. The battle against cancer was waged by intrepid individuals, and this book explains the war so far. It outlines the causes of cancer, whether it is a virus, bacteria, induced by smoking or chemicals, or just our own body playing up and turning on itself. It explains how our own understanding is still basic but advancing year by year, and treatments, if not cures, are being found for many, although not all cancers. I learned that what was once a death sentence is not the case today. I am looking forward to see my sons become men. This book gave me clarity, it gave me hope.

It's a very informative book with lots of resources offered. I listened to the audible first before getting the printed book. I am very impressed with the author Mr. Mukherjee's knowledge and specialties. It's really worth studying and learning from this book.

Amazing detail.. sometimes difficult to read due to content, not because of the writer.... I purchased about 3 yrs ago and lost during a move, so bought it again.. have not yet finished, as it is quite a long story, but sooo well written.. I was a Hospice nurse for about 5 yrs and that was enough for me.. we all know our lives will end, but to end prematurely due to whatever ailment can be very traumatic, no matter the cause.. Great author and Great writing..

Having witnessed cancer affect the lives of several close friends and family, I decided it was time to learn what we know about it. I didn't fathom how complex a disease it is, or how epic the war which humanity has waged against it has been. More than science in a vacuum, it has taken a combination of awareness, hope, resourcefulness, activism, and luck to get as far as we have come--and yet we are still not close to having a cure-all. There is something fundamental and logically sound about cancer, which Mukherjee does an amazing job of revealing. Cancer will only become more and more a part of our lives. This book is a good way to prepare for it.

This is incredibly well written and he does a wonderful job of simplifying an incredibly complex subject into manageable text. It is thought provoking and informative. This is a great read regardless of your interests. This book will make you interested in the histories of the various cancers as well as the evolution of treatments. I highly recommend this to anybody considering it and even those that are not. Well worth the read!

Fascinating story. Well written. I can't believe that it took 100 years for surgeons to recognize that the radical, disfiguring radical mastectomy surgery approach was equal to a lumpectomy with radiation. It gives me pause to think of the women who lost their breasts, most of their lymph nodes, some ribs and some of their chest wall when a lumpectomy and targeted radiation would have given them the same odds with minimal disfigurement. I can't put the book down.

What is there to write after all the just praise this book has received? Only that everything you have read or heard about this book is correct. Only it is better. I've never encountered a book on a scientific topic that is neither over the heads of lay persons or too simple for experts in the field. This book does the best a book can do: it makes you think and speculate. This is the only book I would recommend wholeheartedly to anyone. If you have been touched by cancer and want to know more about the history, definitions, and prognosis for cancer research and treatment, you can do no better than to start here. If you've worked in the cancer community, this book will connect the dots of things you were sure you understood previously. Or at least what you know will be stated more clearly. If you enjoy good writing and don't necessarily think you have an interest in cancer, you will revel in the Mukherjee's prose. Good oncologists are a dime a dozen, so to speak, but few if any have yet been able to clearly communicate such a misunderstood topic as the author does here. This book won't help to find a cure for cancer, but it helps explain why that is the wrong way to look at it. It is about cancers (plural) and each case is unique. And cautious, realistic optimism is justified in many cases.

Incredible, essential reading if anyone in your life has been touched by cancer (so...that makes just about anyone on the planet today). While it will force you to tears at times, it's worth watching the PBS special that was derived from the text. Both the book and the TV miniseries show the fragility of humankind in its battle against natural forces, and bring home the reasons why we can't afford to cut medical research or public broadcast funding.

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