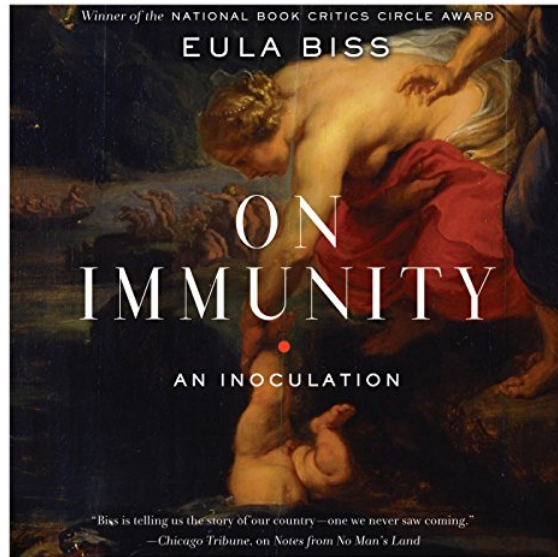
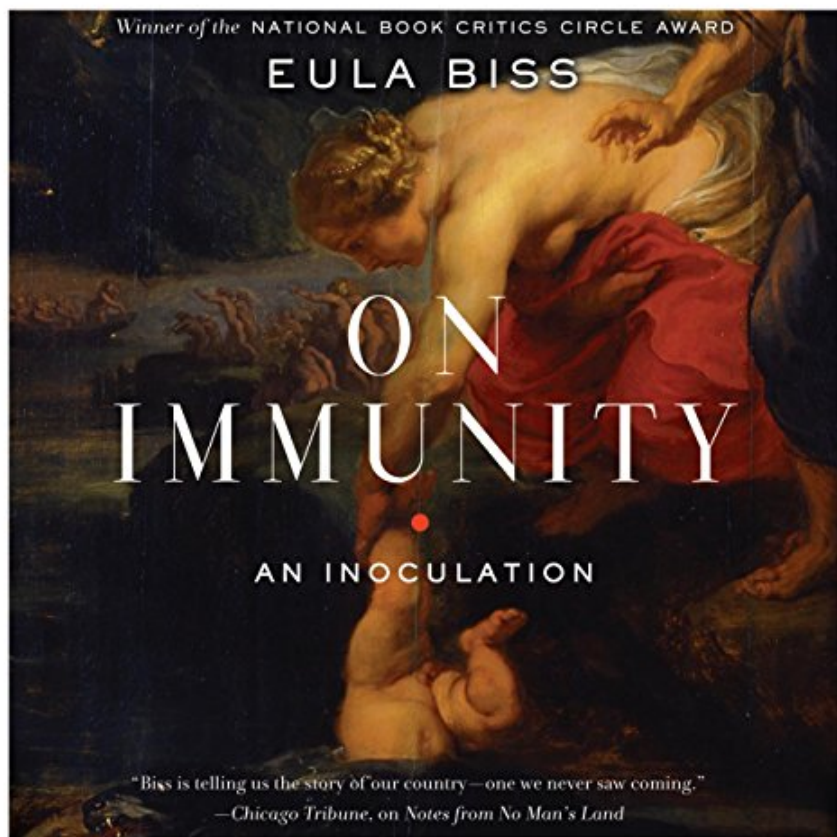


ON IMMUNITY BY EULA BISS



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Upon becoming a new mother, Eula Biss addresses a chronic condition of fear-fear of the government, the medical establishment, and what is in your child's air, food, mattress, medicine, and vaccines. She finds that you cannot immunize your child, or yourself, from the world. In this bold, fascinating book, Biss investigates the metaphors and myths surrounding our conception of immunity and its implications for the individual and the social body. As she hears more and more fears about vaccines, Biss researches what they mean for her own child, her immediate community, America, and the world, both historically and in the present moment. She extends a conversation with other mothers to meditations on Voltaire's *Candide*, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Susan Sontag's *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, and beyond. *On Immunity* is a moving account of how we are all interconnected—our bodies and our fates.

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About the Author

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

More like a journal than a history.

By William T. Lodge

This isn't a history of vaccines. it isn't even a scientific discussion of the pros and cons of vaccinating your kids. What is it, then? It's one persons reflections on their journey through the process of getting a kid their shots. Biss is more sympathetic to people who decide to skip immunizing their kids than some would like, but she does cover the negative side of that decision. It's well written and an easy read.

I can't give it 5 stars, because Biss could have given us a broader perspective on the history and science of

vaccines than she did. Instead, she spends time reflecting on the burdens of 21st century parenting. So she should, but the percentage devoted to this is too high.

Perhaps my expectations were the problem. It seems everyone had this as a top ten book of the year. It was a good book, I'm glad I read it, I don't feel cheated and I would recommend it to you. But - it's not great. Very good. Not top ten great.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Good book, good argument!

By Fathmom

Needed to read it for my microbiology class, but ended up liking it! Interesting read--Eula draws from her own experiences and passions to make a clear argument. It's an easy read too.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent meditation on the science, philosophy, and rhetoric of immunity

By ADM

Written as though a poet, sociologist, historian, and immunologist collaborated to produce the truth -- physical and political -- of immunization and vaccination. Informative, often counterintuitive, and insightful.

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