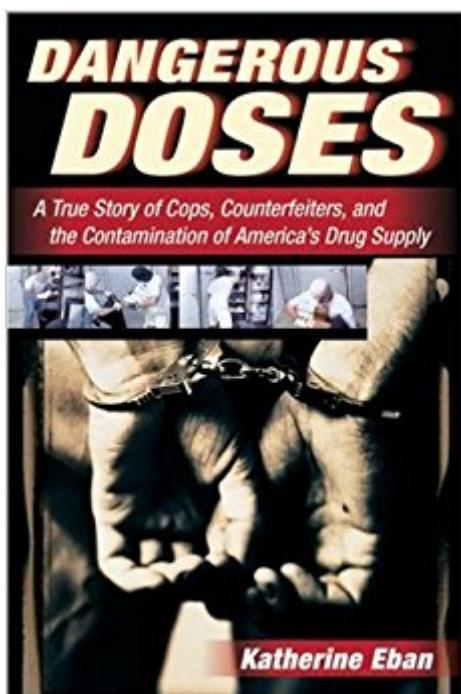


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# Dangerous Doses: A True Story Of Cops, Counterfeitors, And The Contamination Of America's Drug Supply



## Synopsis

In the tradition of the great investigative classics, Dangerous Doses exposes the dark side of America's pharmaceutical trade. Stolen, compromised, and counterfeit medicine increasingly makes its way into a poorly regulated distribution system—where it may reach unsuspecting patients who stake their lives on its effectiveness. Katherine Eban's hard-hitting exploration of America's secret ring of drug counterfeiters takes us to Florida, where tireless investigators follow the trail of medicine stolen in a seemingly minor break-in as it funnels into a sprawling national network of drug polluters. Their pursuit stretches from a strip joint in South Miami to the halls of Congress as they battle entrenched political interests and uncover an increasing threat to America's health. With the conscience of a crusading reporter, Eban has crafted a riveting narrative that shows how, when we most need protection, we may be most at risk. 

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

PRAISE FOR DANGEROUS DOSES "In a style reminiscent of some of the best detective storytellers, Eban takes us breathlessly through robberies, back-room deals, cluttered and dirty warehouses, crooked dealers, sociopathic profiteers, shell companies, and state and federal laws so porous that convicted felons can become prescription-drug brokers."--The Boston Globe "A riveting account of a 2 1/2-year investigation in South Florida . . . As Eban recounts, the scam was broken wide open by a 'ragtag' group of seasoned investigators who seem as if they were cast right out of an episode of The Wire."--Bernadine Healy, U.S. News & World Report A riveting account of a 2 1/2-year investigation in south Florida . . . As Eban recounts, the scam was broken wide open by

a 'ragtag' group of seasoned investigators who seem as if they were cast right out of an episode of *The Wire*." (Bernadine Healy US News and World Report)Katherine Eban's exposé on the poorly regulated prescription drug distribution system will have you calling your doctor to check your meds. To put it simply, she's done her homework on a terribly neglected system. " -- *Razor* magazine" In "Dangerous Doses," Katherine Eban showed how vulnerable America's drug supply is to counterfeiters. With such dangers lurking, it often seemed as if the real world trumped fiction this year (Newark Star-Ledger)Katherine Eban has delivered a dangerous dose of truth about the drugs that keep Americans alive. Her "murder-she-wrote" dramatic narrative turns everyone's neighborhood drugstore into a possible crime scene." (Wayne Barrett, author of *Rudy! An Investigative Biography*)In a style reminiscent of some of the best detective storytellers, Eban takes us breathlessly through robberies, back-room deals, cluttered and dirty warehouses, crooked dealers, sociopathic profiteers, shell companies, and state and federal laws so porous that convicted felons can become prescription-drug brokers (Boston Globe)This is a book that comes along so rarely in non-fiction-- brilliantly reported, written with the pace of a potboiler and harrowing in its societal repercussions. In *Dangerous Doses*, Katherine Eban takes us on a journey into the underbelly of the pharmaceutical industry so spooky and strange and sinister and deadly, you will have a hard time believing it is true. But it is, every word, which only makes *Dangerous Doses* shine even more. (Buzz Bissinger, author of *Friday Night Lights*)An investigative journalist digs into the chilling story of how degraded, expired, contaminated and diluted medicines are being sold to American pharmacies and hospitals. The result is a story rich in distinctive characters whose actions range from courageous to outrageous. Vivid writing and impressive documentation in a powerful indictment of a system in need of immediate repair." (Kirkus)A riveting tale. "*Dangerous Doses*" is part detective story, part pharmacological primer. (New York Sun)The book reads like a good novel....If this book receives wide attention, it could deal another blow to an already reeling pharmaceutical industry and users of prescription drugs will be wary after reading it. (Publishers Weekly)An exposé that wades into more rank Florida unseemliness than a Carl Hiaasen novel, and easily boasts three times the number of sleazebag villains. (salon.com)Katherine Eban combines investigative diligence, a natural story teller's gift for narrative, and a consumer advocate's practical prescriptions for what to do about the counterfeit drugs that may have contaminated the supply at your local drug store. The result: A rare literary event -- muckraking with a human face. (Victor Navasky, Publisher and Editorial Director *The Nation*)Warning: Katherine Eban's *Dangerous Doses* can give you headaches, raise your blood pressure and provoke anxiety. In extreme cases, it can leave you staring at a bottle of medicine and wondering: What do these pills

really contain? ... In her vibrant tale, Eban introduces us to these people and makes the message clear: It shouldn't happen to anyone, and it could happen to you." (Washington Post Book World)

In the tradition of the great investigative classics, Dangerous Doses exposes the dark side of America's pharmaceutical trade. Stolen, compromised, and counterfeit medicine increasingly is making its way into a poorly regulated distribution system, where it reaches unsuspecting patients who stake their lives on its effectiveness. Tragically, we cannot trust the purity of the costly drugs we get from our most reputable drugstores, or even hospital pharmacies. Katherine Eban's hard-hitting exploration of America's secret ring of drug counterfeiters takes us to Florida, where tireless investigators follow the trail of medicine stolen in a seemingly minor break-in as it funnels into a sprawling national network of drug polluters. Their pursuit stretches from a strip joint in South Miami to the halls of Congress, as they battle entrenched political interests and uncover an increasing threat to America's health. Eban's dynamic writing and first-hand reporting make Dangerous Doses an extraordinary read -- page-turning as she rides along with the team of dedicated investigators (who call themselves the Five Horsemen of the Apocalypse), and heartbreakingly as she tells stories of people whose lives were transformed by contaminated drugs. Eban has uncovered the greatest threat to America's drug supply: it is home-grown, secret, and so pervasive it will be difficult to eradicate. With the conscience of a crusading reporter, Eban has crafted a riveting narrative that shows how, when we most need protection, we may be most at risk.

1. True or False: "Pharmaceutical middlemen...buy, sell, sort, repackage and distribute 98% of the nation's medicine."
2. Which of the following characters have been granted a license to trade as a secondary pharmaceutical wholesaler:
  - "A convicted heroin seller who had spent years in the Florida prison system"
  - A woman who "pledged guilty in 2000 to selling stolen medicine through her husband's wholesale company (and) was still on probation."
  - "A fellow on federal probation after serving time for marijuana smuggling."
  - "The eighth grade dropout and heroin addict"
  - Small (big dollar) businessmen that feel threatened with extinction
3. What methods have been recorded as having been used by secondary wholesalers to buy low and sell high:
  - Parking lot resale. Cancer and AIDS drugs purchased directly from professional patients who sold, rather than took, their medicine.
  - Theft from competitor's warehouses
  - Theft from hospitals
  - Drug dilution and repackaging
  - The "Puerto Rican" turn, a.k.a. the U-boat diversion, in which wholesalers take advantage of large discounts to overseas buyers, including those in Puerto Rico, by establishing companies in Puerto Rico to buy drugs at a discount. Cargo planes turn around

mid-flight and resell drugs to states for a far higher price.F. All of the above4. True or False: Kevin Fagan, the father of a teenager poisoned by a counterfeit medication, touched the heart of Laura Bush with this personal letter:"Today, society is suffering from a moral breakdown where huge companies look only to the bottom line and not to what is the right thing to do...I ask that you, a parent as I, do whatever you can to bring forward legislation to require drug companies to document the shipping locations of prescription drugs from the point of origin to the end user...the general public."5. True or False: When Governor Jeb Bush was apprised of the situation, he signed the 1993 Prescription Drug Act. He told investigators (and heroes of this book), "You guys scared the hell out of me."6. To research this book, Katherine Ebana. Conducted over 160 significant interviews with people involved in the problem of contaminated medicine in America.b. Submitted sixteen Freedom of Information Requests to the Food and Drug Administration, the Florida health department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and other state pharmacy boardsc. Obtained over 13,000 pages of documentsd. All of the above7. Dangerous Dosesa. Is a fast paced account of the slow pace of the lawb. Is more rigorously documented than the trail of a prescription drugc. Is the scariest book I've ever readd. All of the aboveAnswers: 1. True (89) 2. F (72, 140, 82, 340, 183) 3. F. (95,99) 4. False (160) 5. True (266) 6. D 7. D

As a Director of Pharmacy, I strongly encourage DOPs working in specialty areas to read this. Things like the DSCSA work to prevent the entire premise of this book, but there are still concerns. I bet there are still some "good old boys" are still out there, trying to stack illegal cash....

This is a meticulous example of "American Greed" in the nation's drug supply. It details how a network of criminals have systematically penetrated the legitimate drug distribution system, putting thousands at risk. The thugs buy stolen drugs, relabel them as more costly versions, or co-mingle them with counterfeits - and reinsert them back into the drug distribution system of legitimate wholesalers and chain pharmacies. Not just Viagra - cancer drugs, drugs that maintain the clotting capabilities of dialysis patients - and more. The tragedy: Even when caught, the criminals do little or no jail time - and some are actually back in the businesses they were in when they committed their crimes!This is a great, great read!

This book left me with an awareness of how dangerous our own neighborhood pharmacy or hospital can be when they dispense pharmaceuticals to us. I will never see labels of trusted pharmaceutical companies the same after the awareness that this investigation brought. Most of us think that our

drugs come straight from the drug company to the pharmacy and are safely handled by all involved. This investigation will make you sick that there were so many victims of the middle distribution of our medications, and make you cheer for the brave protectors of our health.

If you weren't passionate about your work in pharmaceutical brand protection, you will be after reading Katherine Eban's ground breaking book. Having been professionally involved with "compliance" activities to meet California and global requirements for pharmaceutical serialization and product authentication since 2007, this recent read has ignited a true purpose for me in my current career path. It reads like a good mystery novel, but the shocking reality of the actual criminal activities that impact human health brings this story close to the heart.

I bought this book for my Law and Ethics course and it was a great read! I was surprised to learn how much adulterated drugs make it into circulation!

Although it is not widely known, five conscientious people - two Florida agents and three Miami Dade police officers saved us all from adulterated and counterfeit drugs in the early 2000's, Their story makes for fascinating reading. Highly recommend this book!

A poorly written set of laws governing prescription drug distributors encouraged criminal activities that imperiled the entire US. This is the story of how it was done, and of a group of investigators who exposed the system and the criminals. Fast-paced and factual.

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