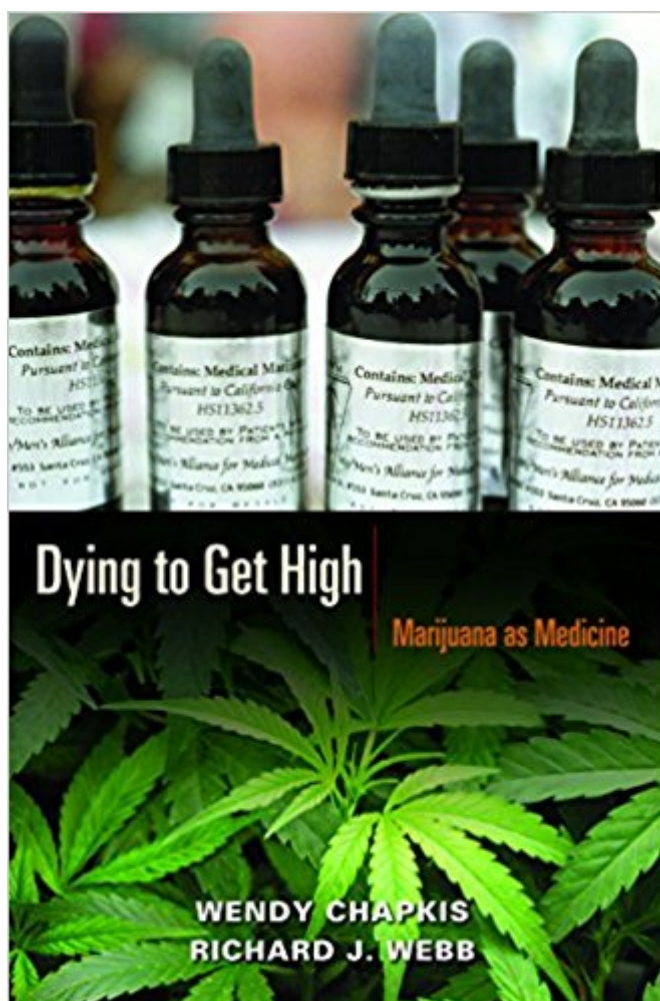


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Dying To Get High: Marijuana As Medicine



Synopsis

Dying to Get High with Susie Bright on Boing Boing!Warring Wines; â™You Want to Fight?â™; Nurse Mary Jane in Santa CruzHigh Times interviews the authorsAlternet excerpt of the book ("How Pot Became Demonized")Discussion from the Santa Cruz MetroMarijuana as medicine has been a politically charged topic in this country for more than three decades. Despite overwhelming public support and growing scientific evidence of its therapeutic effects (relief of the nausea caused by chemotherapy for cancer and AIDS, control over seizures or spasticity caused by epilepsy or MS, and relief from chronic and acute pain, to name a few), the drug remains illegal under federal law.In Dying to Get High, noted sociologist Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb investigate one community of seriously-ill patients fighting the federal government for the right to use physician-recommended marijuana. Based in Santa Cruz, California, the Wo/Menâ™s Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) is a unique patient-caregiver cooperative providing marijuana free of charge to mostly terminally ill members. For a brief period in 2004, it even operated the only legal non-governmental medical marijuana garden in the country, protected by the federal courts against the DEA. Using as their stage this fascinating profile of one remarkable organization, Chapkis and Webb tackle the broader, complex history of medical marijuana in America. Through compelling interviews with patients, public officials, law enforcement officers and physicians, Chapkis and Webb ask what distinguishes a legitimate patient from an illegitimate pothead, good drugs from bad, medicinal effects from just getting high. Dying to Get High combines abstract argument and the messier terrain of how people actually live, suffer and die, and offers a moving account of what is at stake in ongoing debates over the legalization of medical marijuana.

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Customer Reviews

Sociologist Chapkis (Live Sex Acts: Women Performing Erotic Labor) and educator Webb chronicle the experiences of caregivers, patients and local officials in the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a nonprofit formed in the wake of California's "Compassionate Use Act of 1996" dedicated to education, research and providing cannabis to patients suffering from "chronic and life-threatening illnesses." Focusing on cannabis's benefits to the seriously ill, the authors investigate many aspects of this complicated issue, including marijuana cooperatives versus big pharma, the power of making one's own health care decisions, and the implications of alternative medicine's growing mainstream cachet. Chapkis and Webb rely on "anecdotal patient reports, not clinical trials," noting that the DEA and National Institute on Drug Abuse have for decades successfully instituted a policy of blocking "even carefully designed, FDA-approved research on the medical value of marijuana." While the authors mention arguments against medical marijuana ("'crude botanicals' are not real medicine; marijuana is reduced to and synonymous with smoking...; and 'feeling better' isn't always therapeutic"), patient testimony is largely positive and discussion of adverse effects limited. Still, this volume presents a great deal of information and perspective, and should be of value to the chronically ill and their caregivers, as well as those involved in public policy. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Chapkis and Webb have done a masterful job in describing the intricacies of the drug debate and offer brilliant analysis on a complex and controversial subject. Both baby boomers and the current teenage population will find this book important and compelling reading."-Terry Williams,author of Crackhouse: Notes from the End of the Line"Offering nuance in the place of slogans, Dying to Get High tells an inspiring story of the tactics and philosophies of a little-understood health movement." -Steven Epstein,author of Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Researchâ œCriticizes the disconnect between public policy and practical knowledge of the lives of medical marijuana users.â •The Chronicle Review"The authors offer a compelling take on the political and cultural debates that surround this issue." -Portland Phoenix"Chapkis and Webbâ ™s new book provides a human element to the history, pharmacology, psychology, and politics of medical marijuana in a way that no other work has. The book is as riveting as a detective novel, as informative as a textbook,

and as moving as a romance. I loved reading it and sure wish Iâ™d written it."-Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D. ,Author of Understanding Marijuana"Chapkis and Webb offer a well-written exposition of the polemics involved in the medical marijuana controversy. . . . Chapkis and Webb have skillfully intertwined abstract concepts with "real life" experiences that exemplify the costs and benefits of the medical marijuana drama."-ChoiceâœAn interesting and intelligent contribution to the contemporary history of drugs.â•Stephen Snelders,VU-University Medical Center, Amsterdam"A thought provoking portrait of a Santa Cruz cannabis collective."-The Chronicle of Higher EducationâœAddresses many important questions and contradictions in government policy, effectively rebutting official propaganda with common sense, scientific facts and the anecdotal evidence recorded by WAMM patients... the book is so well-written and researched that even the most hard-hearted will be persuaded that the Fedâ™s policies against the medicinal use of cannabis need to change now.â•High Times"Their book offers an important overview of a public policy matter that is certain to become more significant in the coming years."-SocietyBooks of Note"Dying to Get High: Marijuana as Medicine is an important and accessible bookâ™not heavy on academic jargon, but rather lively and engaging, like a true detective novelâ™with a broad appeal to those interested in the medical potential of cannabis, an end to the drug war and grass roots activism." -High Times"Emphasis here is on the human experienceâ™extensive interviews provide a unique look at the day-to-day issues faced by chronic and terminally ill patients who find relief through the marijuana that is grown and distributed to them at no cost. WAMMâ™s history, philosophies, and relationship with local officials are also examined."-Library Journal"Offers a fascinating look at medi-pot, medi-pot patients, and the state of the nationâ™s drug laws, a must-read for every pot-law reformer." -Austin ChronicleâœThe authors clarify many of the issues relating to medical marijuana and how it differs from recreational use.â•Library Journal"This is a beautifully written account from the front lines of a struggle between a federal drug war complex determined to keep demonizing marijuana and the growing movement of patients and doctors who have found marijuana to be a valuable medicine. Voters in California and many other states have strongly supported the patients. The moving stories in this book show why."-Craig Reinerman,co-author of Crack in America: Demon Drugs and Social Justice

I was given the assignment of reading and relating "Dying To Get High" to a sociological perspective explained to us for my Sociology 1005 course. The author develops a carefully constructed, thoroughly-researched argument, and executes it superbly. The book touches on an audience of recreational marijuana users, yet remains professional and factual in support of medical users. I

personally was fascinated in learning the history of cannabis use, and particularly enjoyed learning the actual facts involving the extent of harm and benefit that comes from the drug. With an enormous array of personal quotes, experiment results and medical analyses incorporated in the reading, nearly every perspective on the situation is covered and considered. I would recommend this book not only to people looking to educate themselves the controversial political issues revolving around marijuana, but also anybody confused about which rumors and myths about pot are true, and which are fabricated lies aimed to dissuade the general public from any connection with the drug.

I really wish that all politicians that are trying to make laws about marijuana in this country would read this book so that they could get a much better understanding of the impacts that their decisions have when they vote against medical marijuana. This is seriously a great book, even for people who understand the situation already. I would recommend this to anyone.

This is an interesting book, with some great observations on the issues surrounding medical marijuana use. I was planning to use it as a reference, and bought the Kindle version, but it has no page numbers!! Why would you ever release a book by academics without including page numbers? I find that utterly ridiculous and now wish I'd simply bought a paperback version. Others may want to keep this in mind for this and any other Kindle purchases if it is intended for research purposes.

Very informative book my kiddo needed for a research project. She learned a lot of info from this book here

Stories from the battle against patients and their medicine. Heart-felt and real. George and I are in it, so it's one of our favorites! :) Jean

Widely considered the "gold standard" of the medi-pot movement, the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a co-op that distributes free cannabis to seriously ill people, provides the central focus of this book. The activist founders of WAMM, Mike and Valerie Corral, have tirelessly challenged the federal prohibition of cannabis as medicine. WAMM members are stricken with AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and other ailments, but lawmakers in Washington continue to insist that these patients are simply "potheads scamming the system." Against the

backdrop of WAMM's struggles and successes, authors Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb examine the history of cannabis and medicine in America, placing the current controversy in context. Chapters examining scientific research and legal developments are packed with information, plus the book is interspersed with interviews of patients, caregivers, physicians, police and lawmakers that put a human perspective on the need for truly legal medicinal pot. "Dying to Get High" addresses many important questions and contradictions in the Federal policy, effectively defusing government propaganda with common sense, scientific facts and the anecdotal evidence recorded by WAMM patients. Compassionate readers will be moved by the stories of suffering, and the book is so well-written and researched that even the most hard-hearted prohibitionist will be persuaded that the laws criminalizing the medicinal use of cannabis need to change.

Dying to Get High for the most part concentrates on the story of a medical Marijuana collective in California. It more or less sickens me the harrassment these people went through for growing something that helps people who have serious illnesses and giving it away to them more or less for free. The therapeutic uses of Marijuana is something big Pharma is scared to death of. You have a "drug" that is helpful in many ways and no matter how hard they have tried over the years, they can't seem to find any health problems that arise from smoking Marijuana. However many if not most of the drugs that big Pharma pushes have serious side effects and absolutely will damage your health in both the long and short term. Besides that many Americans, mainly because of the influence of Christianity, have this idea that pleasure is evil and will do anything possible to keep people from feeling good. Most likely Marijuana will be decriminalized in California soon but I predict the criminal United States federal government/courts will step in and violate the constitution yet again.

I have spent the past 4 years helping out at the Wo/Men's Alliance for Medical Marijuana and in fact I am the current Webmaster for wamm.org. This book is worth reading if you are interested in any aspect of herbal remedies, cannabis, medicine, sociology, science, drugs, welfare, drug guides or pharmacology. The personal accounts are accurate and heartwarming. Many of the people who Chapkis and Webb interview have since passed. Its about time somebody told their story and exposed the injustice perpetrated upon this healing plant and upon WAMM in particular. Thank you again and again for a job well done. Buy this book and Chapkis/Webb have generously agreed that 30% of all sales will go directly back to WAMM. This book was a labor of love and it shows.

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