



**THE FAILURE OF HEALTH CARE
IN URBAN AMERICA**

**MAMA
MIGHT BE
BETTER
OFF DEAD**

LAURIE KAYE ABRAHAM

WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY DAVID A. ANSELL, MD

READ BY LISA RENÉE PITTS

Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham

Harriet A. Washington



Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham

Mama Might Be Better Off Dead Laurie Kaye Abraham,2019-05-10 A provocative examination of our health care delivery for the poor Such an honest and candid account is essential Alex Kotlowitz national bestselling author of There Are No Children Here Mama Might Be Better Off Dead immerses readers in the lives of four generations of a poor African American family from North Lawndale Chicago who are beset with the devastating illnesses that are all too common in America s inner cities Headed by Jackie Banes who oversees the care of a diabetic grandmother a husband on kidney dialysis an ailing father and three children the Banes family contends with countless medical crises From visits to emergency rooms and dialysis units to trials with home care to struggles for Medicaid eligibility Laurie Kaye Abraham chronicles their access or lack thereof to medical care Their story reveals an inadequate health care system that is further undermined by the effects of poverty Mama Might Be Better Off Dead is an unsettling profound look at the human face of health care in America This new edition includes an incisive foreword by David Ansell a physician who worked at Mt Sinai Hospital where much of the Banes family s narrative unfolds Goes to the heart of today s problem Powerful deeply searching Washington Post A powerful indictment of the big business of medicine Los Angeles Times Abraham illuminates the problems with passion and skill Kirkus Reviews This personally observed lucid chronicle and call for reform of our ailing health system covers all levels of responsibility in the medical establishment Publishers Weekly Clearly identifies in human and policy terms how healthcare programs have failed a population desperately in need of help Library Journal

Mama Might be Better Off Dead Laurie Abraham,1993

Handbook of Health Social Work Sarah Gehlert,Teri Browne,2006-03-20 The Handbook of Health Social Work provides a comprehensive and evidence based overview of contemporary social work practice in health care Written from a wellness perspective the chapters cover the spectrum of health social work settings with contributions from a wide range of experts The resulting resource offers both a foundation for social work practice in health care and a guide for strategy policy and program development in proactive and actionable terms Three sections present the material The Foundations of Social Work in Health Care provides information that is basic and central to the operations of social workers in health care including conceptual underpinnings the development of the profession the wide array of roles performed by social workers in health care settings ethical issues and decision making in a variety of arenas public health and social work health policy and social work and the understanding of community factors in health social work Health Social Work Practice A Spectrum of Critical Considerations delves into critical practice issues such as theories of health behavior assessment effective communication with both clients and other members of health care teams intersections between health and mental health the effects of religion and spirituality on health care family and health sexuality in health care and substance abuse Health Social Work Selected Areas of Practice presents a range of examples of social work practice including settings that involve older adults nephrology oncology chronic diseases such as diabetes heart disease and HIV AIDS genetics end of life care pain management and palliative care and alternative treatments and traditional healers The first book of its kind to unite the entire body of health social work knowledge the Handbook of Health Social Work is a must read for social work educators administrators students and practitioners

Medical Apartheid Harriet A. Washington, 2008-01-08 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER The first full history of Black America's shocking mistreatment as unwilling and unwitting experimental subjects at the hands of the medical establishment. No one concerned with issues of public health and racial justice can afford not to read this masterful book. Washington has unearthed a shocking amount of information and shaped it into a riveting, carefully documented book. New York Times. From the era of slavery to the present day, starting with the earliest encounters between Black Americans and Western medical researchers and the racist pseudoscience that resulted, *Medical Apartheid* details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge, a tradition that continues today within some Black populations. It reveals how Blacks have historically been prey to grave robbing as well as unauthorized autopsies and dissections. Moving into the twentieth century, it shows how the pseudoscience of eugenics and social Darwinism was used to justify experimental exploitation and shoddy medical treatment of Blacks. Shocking new details about the government's notorious Tuskegee experiment are revealed, as are similar, less well-known medical atrocities conducted by the government, the armed forces, prisons, and private institutions. The product of years of prodigious research into medical journals and experimental reports, long undisturbed, *Medical Apartheid* reveals the hidden underbelly of scientific research and makes possible for the first time an understanding of the roots of the African American health deficit. At last, it provides the fullest possible context for comprehending the behavioral fallout that has caused Black Americans to view researchers and indeed the whole medical establishment with such deep distrust.

The Death Gap David A. Ansell, MD, 2021-06-16 We hear plenty about the widening income gap between the rich and the poor in America and about the expanding distance separating the haves and the have-nots. But when detailing the many things that the poor have not, we often overlook the most critical: their health. The poor die sooner. Blacks die sooner. And poor urban Blacks die sooner than almost all other Americans. In nearly four decades as a doctor at hospitals serving some of the poorest communities in Chicago, David A. Ansell, MD, has witnessed firsthand the lives behind these devastating statistics. In *The Death Gap*, he gives a grim survey of these realities drawn from observations and stories of his patients. While the contrasts and disparities among Chicago's communities are particularly stark, the death gap is truly a nationwide epidemic, as Ansell shows: there is a thirty-five-year difference in life expectancy between the healthiest and wealthiest and the poorest and sickest American neighborhoods. If you are poor where you live in America can dictate when you die. It doesn't need to be this way; such divisions are not inevitable. Ansell calls out the social and cultural arguments that have been raised as ways of explaining or excusing these gaps, and he lays bare the structural violence, the racism, economic exploitation, and discrimination that is really to blame. Inequality is a disease, Ansell argues, and we need to treat and eradicate it as we would any major illness. To do so, he outlines a vision that will provide the foundation for a healthier nation for all. As the COVID-19 mortality rates in underserved communities proved, inequality is all around us, and often the distance between high and low life expectancy can be a matter of just a few blocks. Updated with a new foreword by Chicago mayor Lori Lightfoot and an afterword by Ansell, *The Death Gap* speaks to the urgency to face this national health crisis head on.

The Autobiography of a Transgender Scientist Ben Barres, 2018-10-30 A leading scientist describes his life his gender transition his scientific work and his advocacy for gender equality in science Ben Barres was known for his groundbreaking scientific work and for his groundbreaking advocacy for gender equality in science In this book completed shortly before his death from pancreatic cancer in December 2017 Barres born in 1954 describes a life full of remarkable accomplishments from his childhood as a precocious math and science whiz to his experiences as a female student at MIT in the 1970s to his female to male transition in his forties to his scientific work and role as teacher and mentor at Stanford Barres recounts his early life his interest in science first manifested as a fascination with the mad scientist in Superman his academic successes and his gender confusion Barres felt even as a very young child that he was assigned the wrong gender After years of being acutely uncomfortable in his own skin Barres transitioned from female to male He reports he felt nothing but relief on becoming his true self He was proud to be a role model for transgender scientists As an undergraduate at MIT Barres experienced discrimination but it was after transitioning that he realized how differently male and female scientists are treated He became an advocate for gender equality in science and later in life responded pointedly to Larry Summers's speculation that women were innately unsuited to be scientists Privileged white men Barres writes miss the basic point that in the face of negative stereotyping talented women will not be recognized At Stanford Barres made important discoveries about glia the most numerous cells in the brain and he describes some of his work The most rewarding part of his job however was mentoring young scientists That and his advocacy for women and transgender scientists ensures his legacy

The Husbands and Wives Club Laurie Abraham, 2010-03-09 A PAGE TURNING GLIMPSE INTO FIVE MARRIAGES AND THE FIGHT TO SAVE THEM For more than a year journalist Laurie Abraham sat in with five troubled couples as they underwent the searing process of group marriage therapy Published as The New York Times Magazine's cover story Can This Marriage Be Saved the resulting article generated intense reader response and received the Award for Excellence in Journalism from the American Psychoanalytic Association Though the article allowed Abraham to focus on only one couple this book which grew out of it and the reaction it inspired tells the moving fascinating story of all five The couples Can Leigh and Aaron find the intimacy their marriage lacks will Bella and Joe resolve the imbalance of power that threatens to topple their marriage are Sue Ellen and Mark as ideal as they seem what happened to Rachael that Michael cannot acknowledge and do Marie and Clem with the help of therapist Judith Coch come back from the brink of divorce With the dexterity of a novelist Abraham recounts the travails triumphs and reversals that beset the five couples They work with their therapist and each other to find out whether they can rediscover the satisfaction in marriage that they once had At times wrenching at times inspiring the sessions bring out the long hidden resentments misunderstandings unmet desires and unspoken needs that bedevil any imperiled couple At the same time these encounters provide road maps to reconciliation and revival that can be used by anyone in a relationship Along the way the author draws on her explorations of literature and Freudian theory modern science and today's cutting edge research to decode the patterns and habits that suggest whether a troubled marriage will survive or die Both an important look at the state of marital dysfunction and a reaffirmation of the enduring bonds of love The Husbands and Wives Club is an extraordinary year in the life of the American marriage

Hell Is a Very Small Place Jean Casella, James Ridgeway, Sarah Shourd, 2014-11-11 An unforgettable look at the peculiar horrors and humiliations involved in solitary confinement from the prisoners who have survived it New York Review of Books On any given day the United States holds more than eighty thousand people in solitary confinement a punishment that beyond fifteen days has been denounced as a form of cruel and degrading treatment by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Now in a book that will add a startling new dimension to the debates around human rights and prison reform former and current prisoners describe the devastating effects of isolation on their minds and bodies the solidarity expressed between individuals who live side by side for years without ever meeting one another face to face the ever present specters of madness and suicide and the struggle to maintain hope and humanity As Chelsea Manning wrote from her own solitary confinement cell The personal accounts by prisoners are some of the most disturbing that I have ever read These firsthand accounts are supplemented by the writing of noted experts exploring the psychological legal ethical and political dimensions of solitary confinement Do we really think it makes sense to lock so many people alone in tiny cells for twenty three hours a day for months sometimes for years at a time That is not going to make us safer That s not going to make us stronger President Barack Obama Elegant but harrowing San Francisco Chronicle A potent cry of anguish from men and women buried way down in the hole Kirkus Reviews

Social Causes of Health and Disease William C. Cockerham, 2007-10-16 In this exciting new book William Cockerham a leading medical sociologist assesses the evidence that social factors have direct causal effects on health and many diseases He argues that stress poverty unhealthy lifestyles and unpleasant living and work conditions can all be directly associated with illness Noting a new emphasis upon social structure in both theory and multi level research techniques he argues that a paradigm shift is now emerging in 21st century medical sociology which looks beyond individual explanations for health and disease As the old gives way to the new in medical sociology the field is headed toward a fundamentally different orientation William Cockerham s clear and compelling account is at the forefront of these changes This lively and accessible book offers a coherent introduction to social epidemiology as well as challenging aspects of the existing literature It will be indispensable reading for all students and scholars of medical sociology especially those with the courage to confront the possibility that society really does make people sick

Community Health Equity Fernando De Maio, Raj C. Shah, MD, John Mazzeo, David A. Ansell, MD, 2019-03-29 Perhaps more than any other American city Chicago has been a center for the study of both urban history and economic inequity *Community Health Equity* assembles a century of research to show the range of effects that Chicago s structural socioeconomic inequalities have had on patients and medical facilities alike The work collected here makes clear that when a city is sharply divided by power wealth and race the citizens who most need high quality health care and social services have the greatest difficulty accessing them Achieving good health is not simply a matter of making the right choices as an individual the research demonstrates it s the product of large scale political and economic forces Understanding these forces and what we can do to correct them should be critical not only to doctors but to sociologists and students of the urban environment and no city offers more inspiring examples for action to overcome social injustice in health than Chicago

Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery Sean Morey Smith, Christopher Willoughby, 2021-12-08 CONTENTS Foreword Vanessa Northington Gamble Introduction Healing and the History of Medicine in the Atlantic World Sean Morey Smith and Christopher D E Willoughby Zemis and Zombies Amerindian Healing Legacies on Hispaniola Lauren Derby Poisoned Relations Medical Choices and Poison Accusations within Enslaved Communities Chelsea Berry Blood and Hair Barbers Sangrados and the West African Corporeal Imagination in Salvador da Bahia 1793 1843 Mary E Hicks Examining Antebellum Medicine through Haptic Studies Deirdre Cooper Owens Unbelievable Suffering Rethinking Feigned Illness in Slavery and the Slave Trade Elise A Mitchell Medicalizing Manumission Slavery Disability and Medical Testimony in Late Colonial Colombia Brandi M Waters A Case Study in Charleston Impressions of the Early National Slave Hospital Rana A Hogarth From Skin to Blood Interpreting Racial Immunity to Yellow Fever Timothy James Lockley Black Bodies Medical Science and the Age of Emancipation Leslie A Schwalm Epilogue Black Atlantic Healing in the Wake Sharla M Fett

Medical Sociology William C. Cockerham, 2012 For upper division undergraduate beginning graduate level courses in Medical Sociology and for Behavioral Science courses in schools of Public Health Medicine Pharmacy and Nursing Offers a comprehensive overview of the most current issues in medical sociology The standard text in the field this best selling introduction to medical sociology presents the most recent and relevant ideas concepts themes issues debates and research findings It contains first person accounts from patients physicians and other health care providers It is based on a worldwide review of the literature and provides the most recent health statistics data and studies available while identifying the most important trends and issues Note MySearchLab does not come automatically packaged with this text To purchase MySearchLab please visit www.mysearchlab.com or you can purchase a ValuePack of the text MySearchLab with Pearson eText at no additional cost ValuePack ISBN 10 0205806449 ValuePack ISBN 13 9780205806447

... and the Pursuit of National Health Kooijman, 2023-10-09 Why is there no national health insurance in the United States of America This question became popular again when President Bill Clinton's Health Security Plan of 1993 proved to be a failure Throughout the twentieth century every attempt to enact a national health insurance program failed The majority of the working population is covered by private employer based health insurance the elderly and welfare poor by the government programs Medicare and Medicaid of 1965 while a growing number of Americans remain uninsured This study focuses on two important decisions that have shaped American health care policy the exclusion of national health insurance from the Social Security Act of 1935 and the shift of focus from a health insurance program for the working population to a hospital insurance program for the elderly and the welfare poor Based on presidential archives and the papers of social security policymakers this study examines the incremental strategy to achieve health insurance coverage for all Americans The result is a compelling history of political compromise that will be of interest to both the scholars of the welfare state and the scholars of American ideology and exceptionalism

Physical Change and Aging, Seventh Edition Sue V. Saxon, PhD, Mary Jean Etten, EdD, GNP, CMP, FT, Elizabeth A. Perkins, PhD, RNLD, FAAIDD, FGSA, 2021-09-26 Praise for the new edition In this 7th edition of *Physical Change and Aging A Guide for the Helping Professions* the authors Drs Saxon Etten and Perkins bring to all health care professionals and those interacting with older adults a multidisciplinary foundational reference with state of the art and science approaches to caring for aging persons in our society This comprehensive book provides geriatric care principles for the expert care provider as well as the novice learner in one book through a compelling reading style that transforms complex principles into simple to comprehend and apply principles Marion Newton PhD RN BSN MN PMHCNS BC PMHNP BC ANEF The seventh edition of this classic multidisciplinary text for students of gerontology continues to offer practical user friendly and comprehensive information about the physical changes and common pathologies associated with the aging process Fully updated with current information regarding diagnosis risk factors prevention recommendations treatment approaches and medications along with new statistics on prevalence and evidence based clinical guidelines this textbook focuses on physical changes and common pathologies of aging while also considering the psychological and social implications with which they are inextricably linked Through a systems based approach positive aspects of aging are emphasized showing the reader how older adults can gain greater personal control through lifestyle changes and preventive health strategies Included is important content related to teaching health and well being such as nutrition medications aging with lifelong disabilities complementary and alternative therapies and death and dying The seventh edition features a new chapter on gerontechnology with new content on the influence of pandemics including COVID 19 on death dying grieving and funeral rituals This multifaceted text also delivers new and updated information on diagnosis and treatment along with stressed behaviors and interventions to promote more personal control over the individual aging process Helpful appendices include practical suggestions for improving safety for older adults and websites of relevant organizations along with a glossary of medical terms used in the text Purchase includes digital access for use on most mobile devices or computers New to the Seventh Edition A brand new chapter on gerontechnology Updated information on diagnosis and treatment risk factors and prevention recommendations New statistics for prevalence and clinical guidelines recommendations Focus on behaviors and interventions providing personal control over aging process Practical suggestions for improving older adult safety Influence of COVID 19 on death dying grieving and funeral rituals Test bank and PowerPoint slides Key Features A unique systems based approach covering the anatomy and physiology of each organ system Focuses on common health problems within each body system Addresses psychological and social implications of aging Provides evidence based treatment strategies Describes practical applications of aging data how to use the data to so adults can gain greater personal freedom Useful as textbook practitioner s guide and family caregiver resource

We've Got You Covered Liran Einav, Amy Finkelstein, 2023-07-25 From a MacArthur Genius MIT economist and pre eminent Stanford economist comes a lively and provocative proposal for American health insurance reform Few of us need convincing that the American health insurance system needs reform But many of the existing proposals focus on expanding one relatively successful piece of the system or building in piecemeal additions These proposals miss the point As the Stanford health economist Liran Einav and the MIT economist and MacArthur Genius Amy Finkelstein argue our health care system was never deliberately designed but rather pieced together to deal with issues as they became politically relevant The result is a sprawling yet arbitrary and inadequate mess It has left 30 million Americans without formal insurance Many of the rest live in constant danger of losing their coverage if they lose their job give birth get older get healthier get richer or move It s time to tear it all down and rebuild sensibly and deliberately Marshaling original research striking insights from American history and comparative analysis of what works and what doesn t from systems around the world Einav and Finkelstein argue for automatic basic and free universal coverage for everyone along with the option to buy additional supplemental coverage Their wholly original argument and comprehensive blueprint for an American universal health insurance system will surprise and provoke We ve Got You Covered is an erudite yet lively and accessible prescription we cannot afford to ignore

Living Fountains Or Broken Cisterns E. A. Sutherland, 1995 Originally published Battle Creek Mich Review and Herald Pub Co 1900

AIDS in Africa Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS., 2005 This report presents three hypothetical case studies for how the AIDS epidemic in Africa could evolve over the next 20 years based on policy decisions taken today by African leaders and the rest of the world and considers the factors likely to drive the future responses of African countries and the international community The scenarios draw on the age old tradition of story telling rather than using data projections to explore the wider context of the AIDS epidemic reflecting the complexity of the subject matter

Physical Change and Aging Sue V. Saxon, PhD, Mary Jean Etten, EdD, GNP, CMP, FT, Elizabeth A. Perkins, PhD, RNLD, FAAIDD, FGSA, 2009-11-09 This book has been honed into an elegant compendium This outstanding work should be widely read it is perhaps the best example of an integrative approach to gerontology Score 94 4 stars Doody s This book serves as an authoritative textbook and guide to the physical changes and common pathologies associated with the aging process with special emphasis on the psychological and social implications of these changes in the lives of older adults This fifth edition presents the newly available research findings that differentiate normal aging from actual pathology The authors provide a thoroughly updated and expanded review of important topics in aging including death and grieving complementary and alternative therapies nutrition exercise and much more The book also demonstrates how the elderly population can gain greater personal control over aging through lifestyle modifications and preventive health strategies Key topics introduced and discussed Psychosocial theories of aging Changes and disorders in the skeletal nervous cardiovascular and respiratory systems Dementia delirium and mild cognitive impairment Aging in persons with lifelong disabilities This volume serves as a comprehensive textbook for students studying to become health care professionals and is also a fundamental resource for gerontologists nurses social workers psychologists rehabilitation specialists clergy and counselors

Cities From Scratch Brodwyn Fischer, Bryan McCann, Javier Auyero, 2014-02-28 This collection of essays challenges long entrenched ideas about the history nature and significance of the informal neighborhoods that house the vast majority of Latin America's urban poor Until recently scholars have mainly viewed these settlements through the prisms of crime and drug related violence modernization and development theories populist or revolutionary politics or debates about the cultures of poverty Yet shantytowns have proven both more durable and more multifaceted than any of these perspectives foresaw Far from being accidental offshoots of more dynamic economic and political developments they are now a permanent and integral part of Latin America's urban societies critical to struggles over democratization economic transformation identity politics and the drug and arms trades Integrating historical cultural and social scientific methodologies this collection brings together recent research from across Latin America from the informal neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City Managua and Buenos Aires Amid alarmist exposés Cities from Scratch intervenes by considering Latin American shantytowns at a new level of interdisciplinary complexity Contributors Javier Auyero Mariana Cavalcanti Rato Diniz Emilio Duhau Sujatha Fernandes Brodwyn Fischer Bryan McCann Edward Murphy Dennis Rodgers

National Library of Medicine Current Catalog National Library of Medicine (U.S.), 1993

This book delves into *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham. *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham is a crucial topic that must be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. This book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. This book is structured into several chapters, namely:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction to *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham
 - Chapter 2: Essential Elements of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham
 - Chapter 3: *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham in Everyday Life
 - Chapter 4: *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham in Specific Contexts
 - Chapter 5: Conclusion
2. In chapter 1, this book will provide an overview of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham. This chapter will explore what *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham is, why *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham is vital, and how to effectively learn about *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham.
3. In chapter 2, the author will delve into the foundational concepts of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham. The second chapter will elucidate the essential principles that must be understood to grasp *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham in its entirety.
4. In chapter 3, the author will examine the practical applications of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham in daily life. This chapter will showcase real-world examples of how *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham can be effectively utilized in everyday scenarios.
5. In chapter 4, the author will scrutinize the relevance of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America* Laurie Kaye Abraham.

America Laurie Kaye Abraham in specific contexts. This chapter will explore how Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.

6. In chapter 5, this book will draw a conclusion about Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham. The final chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.

The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. This book is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham.

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Mama Might Be Better Off Dead The Failure Of Health Care In Urban America Laurie Kaye Abraham Introduction

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