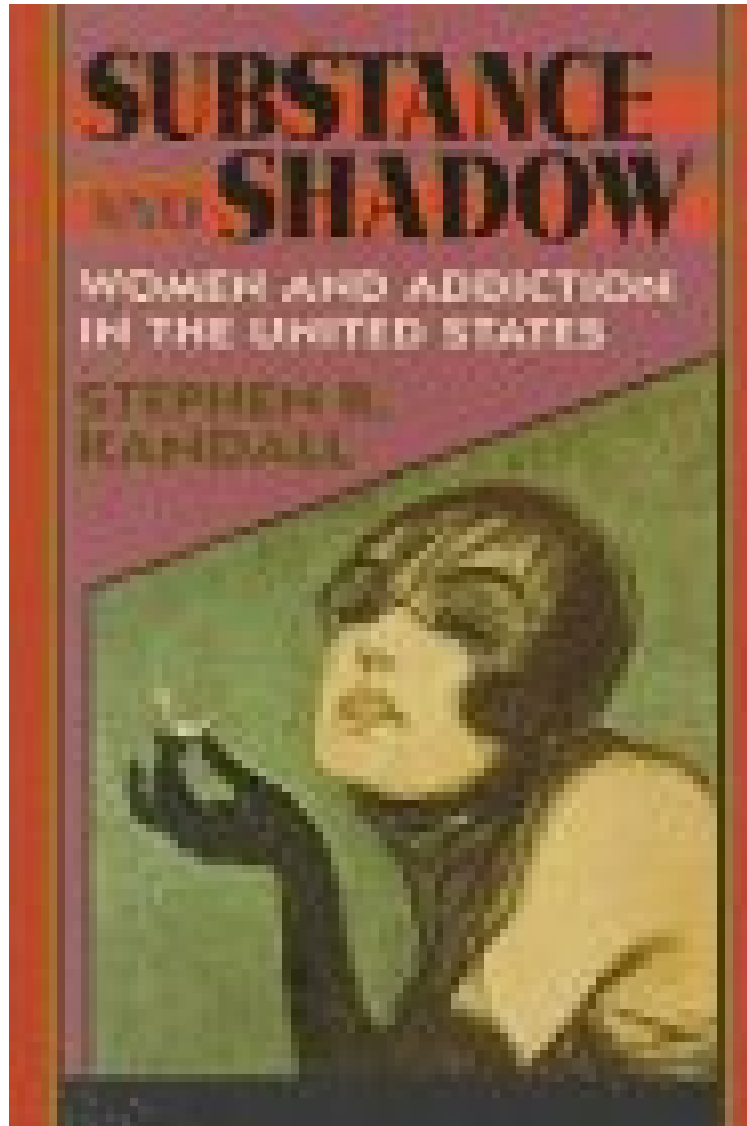


(Download pdf) Substance and Shadow: Women and Addiction in the United States

Substance and Shadow: Women and Addiction in the United States

Stephen Kandall

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Stephen Kandall : Substance and Shadow: Women and Addiction in the United States before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Substance and Shadow: Women and Addiction in the United States:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. substantial and well-referenced By Jana Burson The author is a renowned neonatologist, and this book is scholarly, filled with references. The author talks about the paternalistic methods of physicians in previous centuries, and how their attitudes increased the risk for female addiction to opioids. He traces the history of drug policy in the U.S., paying special attention to how the policies affected female addicts in

particular. This is heavier reading than many other books about women and addiction, but full of detail and moderately interesting. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Substance and Shadow: Women and Addiction By Gladys A. Smith Phenomenal historical view of the woman's experience with addiction. A detailed view of addiction to include all substances. Great for a text in a class or for personal knowledge. Fantastic book.

In 1989 Jennifer Johnson was convicted of delivering a controlled substance to a minor. That the minor happened to be Johnson's unborn child made her case all the more complex, controversial, and ultimately, historical. Stephen R. Kandall, a neonatologist and pediatrician, testified as an expert witness on Johnson's behalf. The experience caused him to wonder how one disadvantaged black woman's case became a prosecutorial battlefield in the war on drugs. This book is the product of Kandall's search through the annals of medicine and history to learn how women have fared in this conflict and how drug-dependent women have been treated for the past century and a half. Kandall's sleuthing uncovers an intriguing and troubling story. Opium, laudanum, and morphine were primary ingredients in the curative "powders" and strengthening "tonics" that physicians freely prescribed and pharmacists dispensed to women a hundred and fifty years ago. Or a woman could easily dose herself with narcotics and alcohol in the readily available form of "patent" medicines sold in every town and touted in popular magazines ("Over a million bottles sold and in every one a cure!"). For the most part unaware of their dangers, women turned to these remedies for "female complaints," such as "womb disease" and "congestion of the ovaries," as well as for "neurasthenia," a widespread but vague nervous malady attributed to women's weaker, more sensitive natures. Not surprisingly, by the latter half of the nineteenth century the majority of America's opiate addicts were women. The more things change, the more they remain the same: Substance and Shadow shows how, though attitudes and drugs may vary over time--from the laudanum of yesteryear to the heroin of the thirties and forties, the tranquilizers of the fifties, the consciousness-raising or prescription drugs of the sixties, and the ascendance of crack use in the eighties--dependency remains an issue for women. Kandall traces the history of questionable treatment that has followed this trend. From the maintenance clinics of the early twenties to the "federal farms" of mid-century to the detoxification efforts and methadone maintenance that flourished in the wake of the Women's Movement, attempts to treat drug-dependent women have been far from adequate. As he describes current policies that put money into drug interdiction and prisons, but offer little in the way of treatment or hope for women like Jennifer Johnson, Kandall calls our attention to the social and personal costs of demonizing and punishing women addicts rather than trying to improve their circumstances and give them genuine help.

From Library Journal Kandall, the chief of neonatology at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York and professor of pediatrics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, traces public attitudes and legal and government policy toward licit and illicit drug addiction, particularly women's addictions, from the mid-19th century to the present. Kandall's thorough combing of clinic records, previous studies, government documents, medical texts, and news accounts yields several conclusions. For example, although public perception and treatment programs have tended to focus on male addiction, women addicts have always made up a significant portion of the addiction population. Kandall finds a link between female sexuality and drug use and demonstrates the inadequacy of past treatment for women. While the first several chapters are slow going, later chapters build on this material to summarize the history of women's addiction, note treatment failures, and suggest alternatives. Kandall makes a significant contribution that will be of interest not only to historians and women's studies programs but to medical and social-service professionals. Linda V. Carlisle, Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Taking a historical approach to the problem of women and addiction, Kandall begins by examining the ways in which nineteenth-century physicians overmedicated their female patients. He also traces society's changing attitudes toward drugs, from general tolerance to the beginnings of antidrug legislation shortly before World War I. From the "classic era" of drug enforcement in the 1920s, through World War II and its aftermath, into the drug culture of the 1960s, and up to the present day, Kandall traces the evolution of a national drug policy, examines the link between drugs and crime, surveys the kinds of drugs that were prevalent, and discusses treatment options. He is also careful to point out that, though illegal drugs tend to get the most publicity, there is continued abuse of legal, prescription drugs as well. This careful, well-documented survey will be of special interest to anyone seeking a historical perspective on the complex problems of women and drugs. Mary Ellen Quinn [A] fascinating new book...[which views] our history from a pharmaceutical perspective...Kandall's approach is sober, thoughtful--and passionately critical of the carelessness of doctors who have been so quick to prescribe narcotics for their female patients. (Elle) In his book, Dr. Kandall traces the woeful history of women's treatment for drug dependence over the past century and a half and, in the process, reveals the roots and costs of today's oftentimes punitive policies toward addicted women. (TIPs Notes) This book pursues several main themes and statements: women have always made up a significant proportion of drug users and addicts; to an important but largely hushed-up extent, their addiction experiences have been supported by inappropriate and excessive medication by physicians and pharmacists, and attention to these problems have only come late in the day; women as childbearers and the relationships between female sexuality and drug use are central to

the story...[This is a] much-needed antidote to other books that equate drug addiction with male experiences. (Jordan Goodman *Social History of Medicine* [UK])As a historical account, the book succeeds. It is a well-researched chronology of women's use of and dependence on drugs, starting with the 19th century, when the majority of opium addicts were women who obtained the drugs legally from physicians, druggists, or charlatans. For readers interested in the development of federal treatment and research programs for women or personal accounts by addicted women, *Substance and Shadow* is an excellent source of references. Particularly rich are the early chapters, which document the major role of iatrogenesis in drug abuse and dependence among women at the turn of the century...*Substance and Shadow* offers a solid, useful chronology of women's involvement with drugs and society's response to it; I will use it often for reference purposes. (Sally Satel *New England Journal of Medicine*)This careful, well-documented survey will be of special interest to anyone seeking a historical perspective on the complex problems of women and drugs. (Booklist)Although the historical literature is replete with references to drug use by males, female drug-users have remained largely invisible. This book reduces that discrepancy by providing a comprehensive historical examination of women, drug use, and addiction. The book is not simply an epidemiology essay; rather, it exposes the interrelationship of women, drug use, medicine, and politics. It is all the more impressive because of the dearth of historical information on the subject. (Choice)