

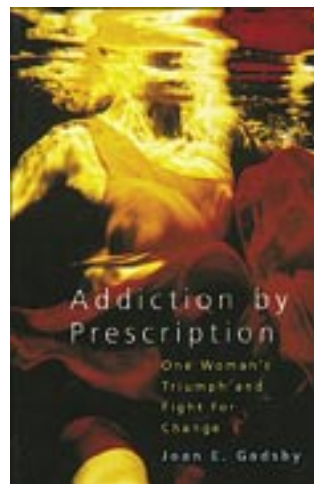
Addiction by Prescription

One Woman's Triumph and Fight for Change

Joan Gadsby

This is a harrowing and brutally frank story of one woman's struggle to free herself from mind-numbing and soul-destroying tranquillizing drugs.... But she did triumph and has produced a powerful call to action.

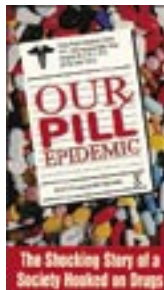
Dr. David Cohen, School of Social Work,
Florida International University



In 1966, Joan Gadsby's four-year-old son died of a brain tumour. In response, her trusted family physician prescribed a "chemical cocktail" of tranquillizers, sleeping pills and antidepressants — an act that initiated Gadsby's slow descent into an abyss of unrecognized addiction.

Over the next 20 years, Gadsby's career, her family relationships, her financial security and her health were all threatened. She was on various occasions arrested, restrained and sedated as a result of the paradoxical side effects of the drugs. It was only after she unintentionally overdosed and almost lost her life that she found out the insidious effects of the drugs, stopped taking them and went through the "hell" of withdrawal — alone.

Also available:



With Jack McGaw, award-winning TV documentary producer, Gadsby produced the television documentary *Our Pill Epidemic: The Shocking Story of a Society Hooked on Drugs*, which aired nationally.

VHS / 45 minutes
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Joan Gadsby is President of Market-Media International Corp. and lives in North Vancouver, B.C., where she was an elected councillor for 13 years. Drug-free for over 12 years, Gadsby's quality of life has improved tenfold. A former marketing executive with four of Canada's largest companies, she was selected as one of Canada's notable women by the Canadian University Women's Club.

Joan has become a health-promotion and wellness consultant to corporations, governments and healthcare organizations.

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