

Blockbuster Drugs: The Rise and Decline of the Pharmaceutical Industry



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(Ms. Shaina Legros III)*

BLOCKBUSTER DRUGS: THE RISE AND DECLINE OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

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Audible Studios on Brilliance, United States, 2016. CD-Audio. Book Condition: New. Unabridged. 171 x 133 mm. Language: English . Brand New. Blockbuster drugs each of which generates more than a billion dollars a year in revenue have revolutionized the industry since the early 1980s, when sales of Tagamet alone transformed a minor Philadelphia-based firm into the world's ninth-largest pharmaceutical company. In *Blockbuster Drugs*, Jie Jack Li tells the fascinating stories behind the discovery and development of these highly lucrative medicines, while also exploring the tumult the industry now faces as the patent cliff nears. Having spent most of his career in drug research and development, Li brings an insider's eye to the narrative as he recounts the tales of discovery behind such drugs as Tagamet, Zantac, Claritin, Prilosec, Nexium, Serouquel, Plavix, and Ambien. As he discusses each breakthrough, Li also shows that scientific research is filled with human drama: serendipitous discoveries, sudden insights, tense confrontations. For instance, the author tells of James Black, who persisted in the research that led to Tagamet—and that would ultimately win him a Nobel Prize despite pressure from top executives to pursue more profitable work. The audiobook shows how research behind Prilosec combined creativity, international cooperation, and luck: the turning point being a chance encounter of American and Swedish scientists at a conference in Uppsala. There are also tales of fabulous rewards: George Rieveschl, the chemist who invented Benadryl, made a fortune on royalties and of unjust desserts. Finally, Li shows that for the world's largest prescription drug manufacturers, recent years have been harrowing, as many popular drugs have come off patent in the U.S. market, meaning hundreds of billions of dollars in lost revenue. Anyone who enjoys tales of scientific discovery, or is curious about the history behind the prescriptions they take, or wants a revealing inside look...

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