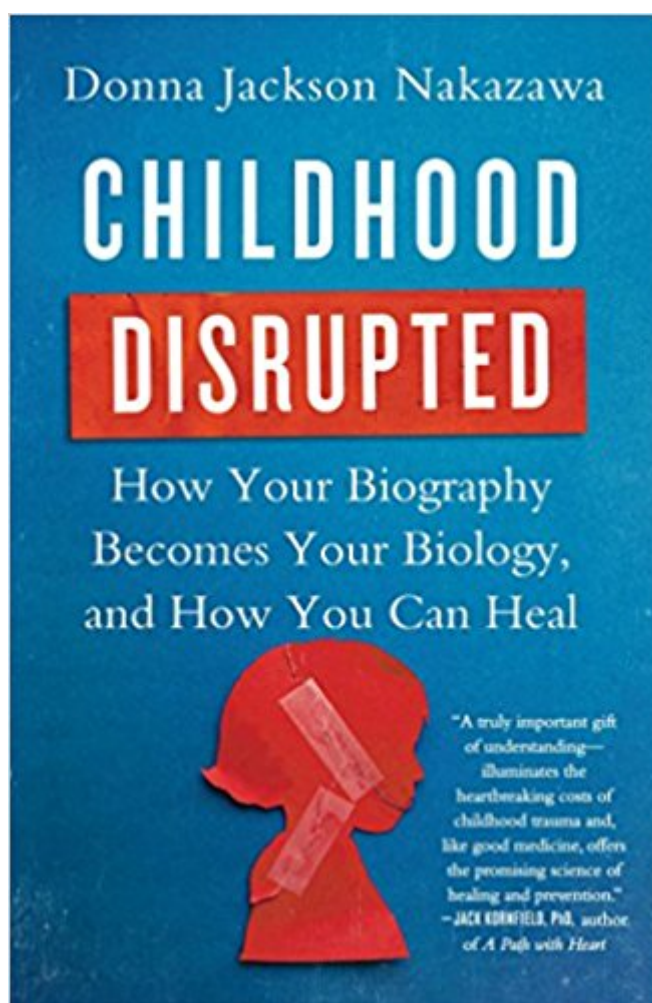


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# Childhood Disrupted: How Your Biography Becomes Your Biology, And How You Can Heal



## Synopsis

A “courageous, compassionate, and rigorous every-person’s guide” (Christina Bethell, PhD, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) that shows the link between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and adult illnesses such as heart disease, autoimmune disease, and cancer. Childhood Disrupted also explains how to cope and heal from these emotional traumas. Your biography becomes your biology. The emotional trauma we suffer as children not only shapes our emotional lives as adults, but it also affects our physical health, longevity, and overall wellbeing. Scientists now know on a bio-chemical level exactly how parents’ chronic fights, divorce, death in the family, being bullied or hazed, and growing up with a hypercritical, alcoholic, or mentally ill parent can leave permanent, physical “fingerprints” on our brains. When children encounter sudden or chronic adversity, stress hormones cause powerful changes in the body, altering the body’s chemistry. The developing immune system and brain react to this chemical barrage by permanently resetting children’s stress response to “high,” which in turn can have a devastating impact on their mental and physical health as they grow up. Donna Jackson Nakazawa shares stories from people who have recognized and overcome their adverse experiences, shows why some children are more immune to stress than others, and explains why women are at particular risk. “Groundbreaking” (Tara Brach, PhD, author of Radical Acceptance) in its research, inspiring in its clarity, Childhood Disrupted explains how you can reset your biology and help your loved ones find ways to heal. “A truly important gift of understanding” illuminates the heartbreaking costs of childhood trauma and like good medicine offers the promising science of healing and prevention” (Jack Kornfield, author of A Path With Heart).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A truly important gift of understanding that illuminates the heartbreaking costs of childhood trauma and like good medicine offers the promising science of healing and prevention." (Jack Kornfield, PhD, author of *A Path With Heart*) "This groundbreaking book connects the dots between early life trauma and the physical and mental suffering so many live with as adults. Author Donna Jackson Nakazawa fully engages us with fascinating, clearly written science and moving stories from her own and others' struggles with life-changing illness. *Childhood Disrupted* offers a blend of fresh insight into the impact of trauma and invaluable guidance in turning toward healing!" (Tara Brach, Ph.D. Author of *Radical Acceptance* and *True Refuge*) "Long overdue . . . *Childhood Disrupted* is a courageous, compassionate and rigorous every-persons guide through the common roots and enduring impact of childhood trauma in each of our lives. Linking breakthrough science with our everyday lived experience, *Childhood Disrupted* inescapably and artfully leads the reader to take practical steps and grasp the urgency of coming to terms with and taking a stand to heal the legacy of trauma in our personal and collective lives. This book reframes the common experience of childhood trauma through a lens of possibility for a life and society with an inexhaustible commitment to the safe, stable and nurturing relationships our health and healing require." (Christina Bethell, PhD, MBH, MPH Professor of Child Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) "Donna Jackson Nakazawa's *Childhood Disrupted* masterfully captures the complexity of how early life adversity imprints on our biology and stalks our health into adulthood. Heart rending stories of hardship and triumph laced with medical facts and findings creates a framework of practical advice for remaining unbroken in a challenging world." (Margaret M. McCarthy, PhD, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Pharmacology, University of Maryland School of Medicine) "Donna has once again taken a difficult medical topic and made it not only easy to understand, but a great read. Eye-opening and inspiring, *Childhood Disrupted* provides a paradigm-shifting road map for understanding how early stress is linked to later illness, and offers a must-read vision for how to begin healing at any age. This book will help readers and especially women better understand the biology of stress, and jump start important new conversations about our health and well-being!" (DeLisa Fairweather, PhD, Director of Cardiovascular Translational

Research, Mayo Clinic) "Childhood Disrupted helps shift the paradigm in our understanding of health and well-being by unveiling the role that early adversity plays in our physical and emotional adult health. Donna offers a missing piece of the puzzle as to why women suffer in disproportionate numbers from chronic physical and mental health conditions, and opens a new and much-needed door for healing." (Amy Myers MD author, New York Times Best Seller - The Autoimmune Solution) "Childhood Disrupted is a timely book that summarizes the effects of childhood adversity, incorporating the current science in a very personalized and approachable way. The more we understand about childhood adversity and its imprint on our body and brain, the more we can help each other recover from its harmful effects. This is an important read for anyone looking to help those afflicted by childhood adversity, whether personally or in a caring role such as parents, teachers, and health care workers." (Ryan Herringa, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health) "Every few years a book comes along that changes the way we view ourselves, our society, and our place in the world. This is such a book. Compulsively readable and deeply moving, Childhood Disrupted contains surprising insights into the power of childhood experience on every page." (Shannon Brownlee, MS, author of Overtreated: Why Too Much Medicine is Making Us Sicker and Poorer and senior vice president of the Lown Institute) "In this stimulating book that eloquently describes the effects of one's biography on mind, brain, and body, Nakazawa guides us through a step by step path to recovery. This work represents an invaluable source of hope and inspiration for anyone who is suffering from the aftermath of early adverse experience." (Ruth A Lanius, MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, Harris-Woodman Chair, director, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) research unit, University of Western Ontario) "If you want to know why you've been married three times. Or why you just can't stop smoking. Or why the ability to control your drinking is slipping away from you. Or why you have so many physical problems that doctors just can't seem to help you with. Or why you feel as if there's no joy in your life even though you're 'successful' . . . Read Childhood Disrupted, and you'll learn that the problems you've been grappling with in your adult life have their roots in childhood events that you probably didn't even consider had any bearing on what you're dealing with now. Donna Jackson Nakazawa does a thorough and outstanding investigation of exactly how your childhood made you ill and/or joyless, and how you can heal." (Jane Stevens, editor, ACEsConnection.com) "Childhood Disrupted is a book of major significance that describes clearly and understandably what has been learned in recent years about the important subject of human development and how what happens in childhood affects our well-being, biomedical health, and life

expectancy as adults. It will be appreciated by many." (Vincent J. Felitti, MD, CEO, The California Institute of Preventive Medicine) "Childhood Disrupted is a must have book for every person with facing mental or physical health challenges and their loved ones and an inspiring read for every health care professional." (Gerard E. Mullin MD, Associate Professor of Medicine The Johns Hopkins Univ. School of Medicine, author of The Gut Balance Revolution: Boost Your Metabolism, Restore Your Inner Ecology and Lose the Weight for Good!) "Nakazawa writes compassionately for readers struggling to make sense of what happened during their childhoods and how their health may be affected . . . [An] engaging work of scientific translation." (Health Affairs)

Donna Jackson Nakazawa is an award-winning science journalist, public speaker, and author of The Last Best Cure, in which she chronicled her yearlong journey to health, and The Autoimmune Epidemic, an investigation into the reasons behind today's rising rates of autoimmune diseases. She is also a contributor to the Andrew Weil Integrative Medicine Library book Integrative Gastroenterology. Ms. Nakazawa lectures nationwide. Learn more at [DonnaJacksonNakazawa.com](http://DonnaJacksonNakazawa.com).

If as a child you have ever suffered physical abuse, sexual abuse, verbal abuse, divorce, hunger, bullying, or lived with family members who were suicidal, imprisoned, mentally ill, from a dysfunctional family, or abused drugs, then this book is a must read. Your health depends on it. Donna Nakazawa unpacks one of the greatest discoveries in modern psychology and medicine today, the groundbreaking study on Adverse Childhood Experiences by medical doctor Vincent Felitti and Robert Anda. If you have experienced any of the 10 ACE's above, then your health is already at risk. I have personally experienced 8 out of 10 ACE's and thus identified with everything in this book. I have suffered from chronic headaches, chronic fatigue, heart disease, BPH, gynecomastia, and bilirubin, resulting from trauma. I was on Amitriptyline, Venlafaxine, Tizanidine, Lipitor, Hydrocodone, and NSAID's for years, and nothing helped until I began EMDR therapy for trauma as described in this book. The headaches and illnesses are largely gone. Through scientific research, Nakazawa demonstrates how our genes are changed based on our childhood trauma, known as epigenetic imprinting and methylation. The result is an inflammation of the organs through cortisol and cytokines, leading to inevitable illnesses in our adulthood. The science is virtually incontrovertible, and the research is extensive. Each chapter illustrates this process with real life stories that grip the heart yet give hope. If you've suffered childhood trauma, then you will certainly

identify with the research and stories here. This is a profound and enlightening book. The last three chapters give cutting-edge information on how to begin a pathway towards recovery, from personal to professional approaches. This is one of the best books I have ever read on childhood trauma (see also *The Body Keeps the Score* by Van Der Kolk). It is very well written and researched. I highly recommend it.

Donna writes from the heart, while also researching the science intensely. She explains complicated concepts in a way the non-scientific reader can grasp easily. And the information is groundbreaking. You need to know this!! I learned so much from this book. As I face my 50s and live with a few chronic illnesses, it's been important to understand all kinds of possible causes. The cause of childhood stress is one I wouldn't know about were it not for Donna's books. Beyond the cause or contributing factors information, this book covers solutions. And, of course, putting solutions in place is an important part of healing. Highly recommend this for anyone who lives with chronic illness.

I am intensely interested in this subject as I work with many people who have high ACE scores. We can't afford to NOT get educated about this important research as we relate, interact and help others. This is an excellent book to help us get started. As part of humanity, we owe it to ourselves and others to consider the findings Nakazawa presents.

This was a life changer for me. This is a great summary of what is happening in this topic right now. Have read many books on this topic, but this one seems to deliver. Note.. read at the pace you feel comfortable. Some content may bring up some raw emotions.

Excellent in many ways. Very helpful in understanding the who, what, and why. Highly recommend it.

A very well-written, insightful book on the tremendous impact negative parenting can have years after raising. Nakazawa uses documented, scientific studies to explore the long term impact of negative childhood experiences. Wish I had read it decades ago.

Great science. Not perfect, but really good. Objective. Easy to read and understand, maybe especially if you already have an inkling about the subject matter. In terms of the author's credibility ...I've noticed that investigative journalists usually know how to get it right.

Every parent or person with an autoimmune disorder MUST READ THIS BOOK! Neuroimmunology takes a big step forward.

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