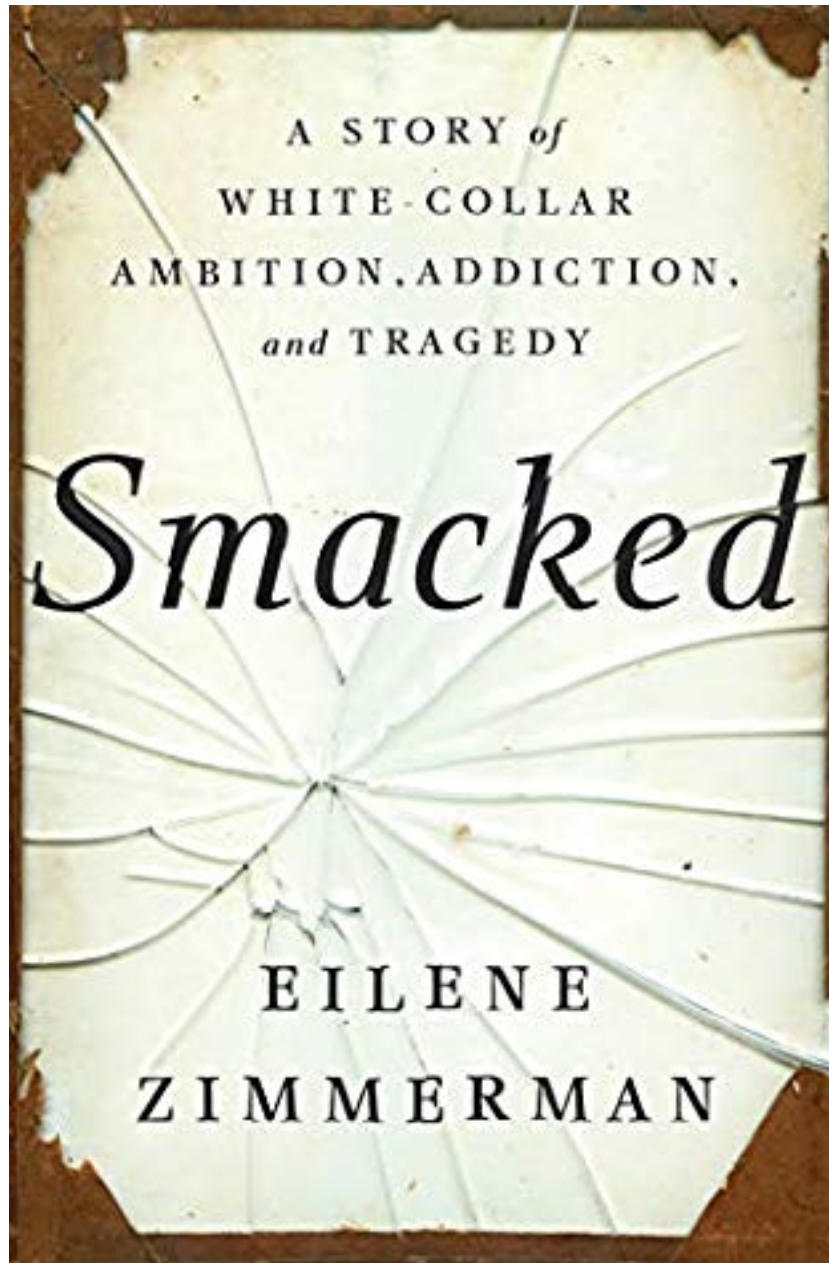


Smacked: A Story of White-Collar Ambition, Addiction, and Tragedy Book PDF Download



By:
Eilene B. Zimmerman

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Smacked: A Story of White-Collar Ambition, Addiction, and Tragedy Book PDF Summary -

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What people Say:

Jenna

Many people think of drug abuse and addiction as a problem mainly afflicting the impoverished. Most books I've read about addiction focused mainly on poor people, especially in Appalachia. This book is a reminder that addiction is a disease that afflicts rich and poor alike.

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is the story of Ms. Zimmerman's ex-husband and father of her children's addiction. After discovering his dead body, she came to learn that Peter had been abusing drugs which led to his death. Until then, she and everyone else had been unaware of his addiction. It's wonderfully written and engaging and shows a side of the drug crisis that many do not know of.

I recommend this book to those who, like me, strive to get a better understanding of how and why people become addicts. Most of the book deals with the Zimmerman's lives before and after Peter's death but the author also includes research about drug abuse, sharing what she has come to learn through her own personal tragedy. She writes honestly and openly and it's well worth reading if you'd like to know more about this subject. In some ways, it's reminiscent of

, so if you liked that book, you should definitely like this one as well.

I'll end with a quote from the book that is a good reminder:

Kayo

Couldn't put this book down. You hear about it in the news, but this is one familys nightmare. Very

touching, and relevant for today.

Thanks to author, publisher and Netgalley for the chance to read this book. While I got the book for free, it had no bearing on the rating I gave it.

Adrienne

In this brave and suspenseful memoir, Eilene Zimmerman traces a deeply personal family story while illuminating urgent and troubling social issues. Smacked is an exquisite examination of the repercussions of addiction, as well as the influence of white-collar money and ambition, upon a family. A profoundly absorbing and important book.

Colleen Flaherty

I feel a bit guilty about this rating when she's a good writer who shared something so personal, but I just feel like the book missed making a substantial point.

What I liked - I gave it three stars because it was well-written, well-researched and what seemed like an honest recounting of a tragedy in her life.

What I didn't like - It's so hard to diminish someone's experience as they see it, but this book seems to be trying to make the point of "wealth and privilege can blind people to drug

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What I liked - I gave it three stars because it was well-written, well-researched and what seemed like an honest recounting of a tragedy in her life.

What I didn't like - It's so hard to diminish someone's experience as they see it, but this book seems to be trying to make the point of "wealth and privilege can blind people to drug addiction." But this story folds out like she married and divorced a narcissistic, emotionally abusive asshole who wasn't a good father and just became worse because of addiction. She was a victim of him long before his addiction, and then the end of the book she's mourning him, but it's not clear that he was ever a positive presence in her life (other than giving her children).

Her self-reflection is there of how privilege, class and race blinded her to things, but it falls short and doesn't really explain why this is tragic or even indicative of patterns in others (except for a bunch of stats at the end - I'll get there). I've lost someone in my life to drugs, and it was easy to ignore a problem for a long time as he was from a good family and privileged. But he was also kind, artistic and wonderful, and we feel that loss heavily. That's the story of the opioid epidemic I hear working on legislative issues over and over - not assholes who are so broken they inevitably turn to drugs. She's trying to change your perspective on who would become a drug addict, but the worst stereotype of drug addicts is they are morally bankrupt people to begin with, and that's just not true. It is in this book.

Obviously my personal bias is clouding my judgement, but I have one more complaint that relates to her not having a point. The last two chapters veer from her story and basically read like a research paper taking a stab at everything with stats that kind of relate to addiction - youth today, social media, prescription rates, law schools, corporate culture - what is she trying to say? Modern day = bad, therefore addiction probably?

So in essence, is this a book about her story or a book about the opioid crisis? It feels like it's the latter, which is too crammed and makes her story seem like a cautionary tale, but that doesn't work for me at all. Word vomit over.

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(free review copy) Is this the definitive book on addiction in America? Certainly not. However, in my quest to read as much as I can about addiction to better understand and offer support to those in the circle of addiction, I find memoirs such as this one invaluable ~ the story of a lawyer's ex-wife who had to piece together the trajectory of her ex's addiction after he died an incredibly tragic death due to drug use.

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As a reader who has consumed a lot of media on this topic, much of the reporting on addiction in the book is rudimentary to me, but probably won't be for many readers. However, the memoir part is heartbreaking and will haunt me.