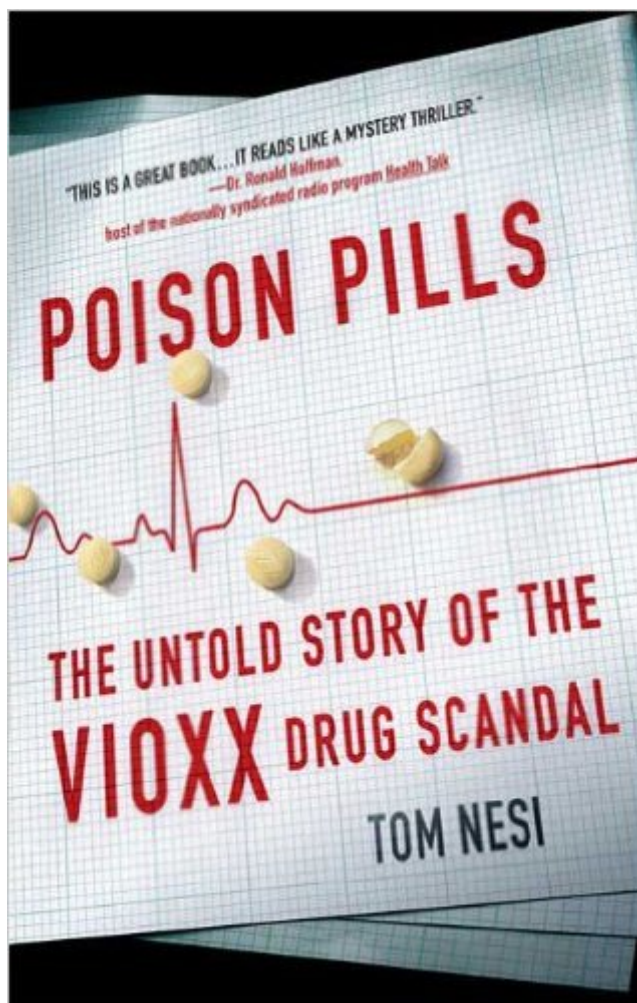


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# Poison Pills: The Untold Story Of The Vioxx Drug Scandal



## Synopsis

To the millions of Americans who suffer from chronic pain and arthritis, Vioxx seemed like a miracle. One of the most widely promoted and prescribed pain medications in the worldâused by more than twenty million peopleâwith annual sales of \$2.5 billion, Vioxx became a pharmaceutical bonanza before being abruptly taken off the market in September 2004 after it was revealed that it led to an increased risk of heart-related disease and death.Â Drawing on internal documents, video footage, court testimony, and exclusive interviews, as well as three decades of experience inside the medical industry, Tom Nesi tells the dramatic story of what the drugâs manufacturer, Merck, knew and when. Set against a fascinating history of the origins of the modern pharmaceutical industry, *Poison Pills* is a shocking tale that involves the breakdown of the United States medical system, the failures of the Food and Drug Administration, and the enormous profits made by a large pharmaceutical corporation at the potential cost of thousands of lives.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I enjoyed 'Poison Pills.' It is, first, well-written for a book of its kind, with a simple, straightforward narrative that doesn't get in the way of things. Second, the book is substantial in content, both overtly and between its lines. On the outset, 'Poison Pills' provides an excellent case study of the duplicity and dysfunction present in much of the modern-day pharmacological industry (along with its academic and political bedfellows). We see here, framed in the Vioxx debacle, a well-rounded portrait of the questionable infrastructure which forms the bedrock of modern Western medicine --

an infrastructure so riddled with bias, vested interest, and shortsightedness, it continues even when lives hang in the balance. The story of Vioxx is, really, one of the human condition -- or, at least, that condition which is prevalent today, as characterized by the desperate attempts to control and manipulate one's fellow man for various kinds of personal gain. Assumptions, illusions, smearing, the rigorous twisting of facts -- all the classical manipulative tricks are represented in the case of Vioxx and Merck, and we would do well to take note and learn from the lessons contained within. In this regard, we see the book's most important feature: not the questions that are answered, those that are raised. Namely, the Vioxx debacle forces us to question the basic, underlying legitimacy of many of our institutions, from social to governmental to political to commercial to personal, almost all of which would, when placed under the microscope, appear to be based largely on assumptions, self-interest, and other questionable foundations. Much to learn here, indeed.

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