

Tick Bites Ms.: A Novel That Explores the Dark Side of the American Dream



Tick Bites & MS...

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 4764 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 258 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Tick Bites Ms. is a novel by American author Jennifer Haigh. The novel tells the story of a woman named Ms. who is bitten by a tick and develops Lyme disease. The novel explores the physical and emotional toll that Lyme disease takes on Ms. and her family. It also examines the larger issues of healthcare in America and the challenges faced by those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Plot Summary

Ms. is a single mother of two children. She works as a waitress and is struggling to make ends meet. One day, she is bitten by a tick while hiking in the woods. At first, she does not think anything of it, but soon after, she begins to experience flu-like symptoms. She goes to the doctor, but they cannot figure out what is wrong with her. Her symptoms worsen over time, and she eventually loses her job and her home.

Ms. is eventually diagnosed with Lyme disease. She is prescribed antibiotics, but they do not help. She continues to suffer from debilitating symptoms, including fatigue, joint pain, and cognitive problems. Her children are also affected by her illness, as they have to watch their mother struggle and suffer.

Characters

- **Ms.:** The protagonist of the novel. She is a single mother of two children who is bitten by a tick and develops Lyme disease.
- **Her children:** Ms.'s two children. They are both affected by her illness, as they have to watch their mother struggle and suffer.
- **The doctor:** Ms.'s doctor. He is unable to figure out what is wrong with her at first, but eventually diagnoses her with Lyme disease.
- **The social worker:** Ms.'s social worker. She helps Ms. to get access to healthcare and other resources.

Themes

Tick Bites Ms. explores a number of themes, including:

- **The dark side of the American dream:** Ms. is a hard-working single mother who is trying to make a better life for her children. However, her life is turned upside down when she is bitten by a tick and develops Lyme disease. The novel shows how the American dream can be unattainable for those who are uninsured or underinsured.
- **The importance of healthcare:** Ms. struggles to get access to healthcare because she is uninsured. The novel shows how important

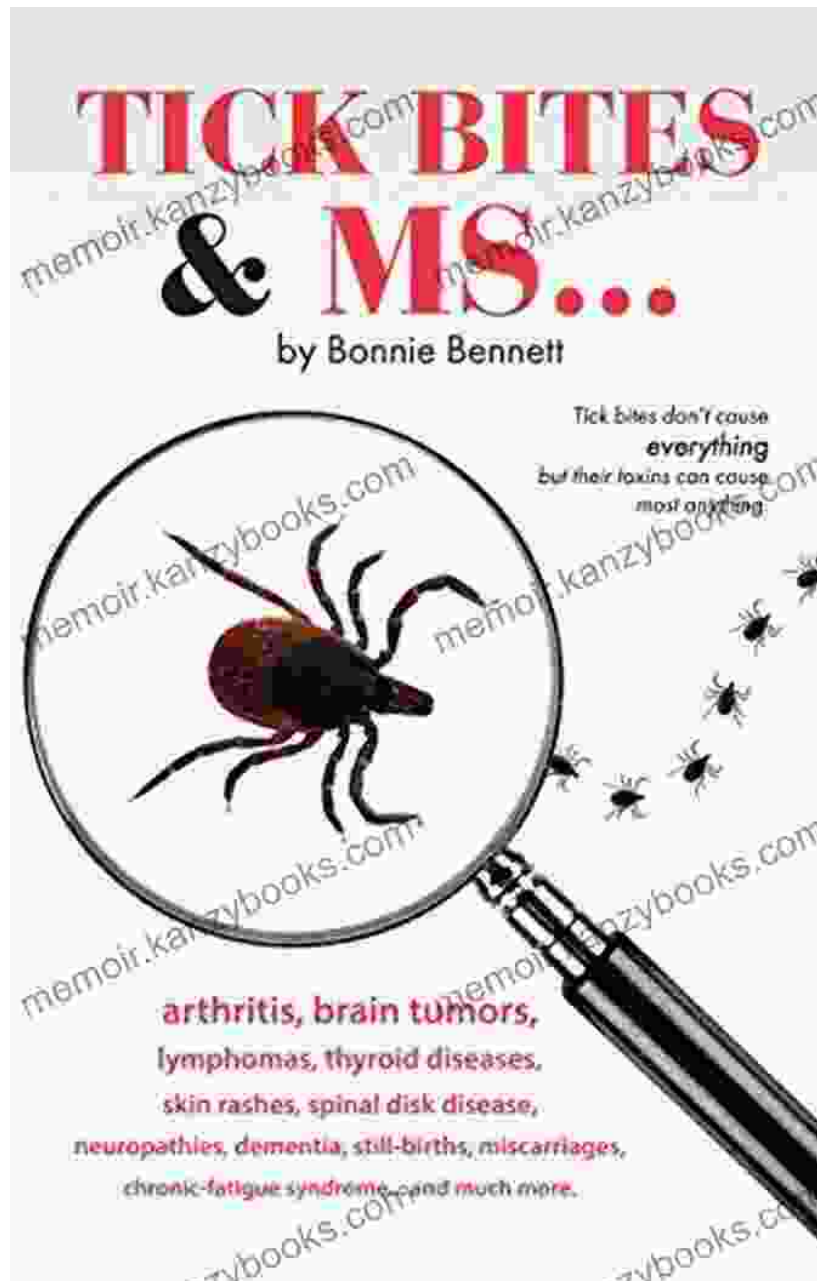
it is to have access to affordable healthcare, especially for those who are most vulnerable.

- **The resilience of the human spirit:** Despite all of the challenges she faces, Ms. never gives up hope. She continues to fight for her health and for a better life for her children. The novel shows the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

Critical Reception

Tick Bites Ms. has received critical acclaim. The New York Times called it "a powerful and moving novel that shines a light on the dark side of the American dream." The Washington Post called it "a must-read for anyone who cares about the future of healthcare in America." The novel was also a finalist for the National Book Award.

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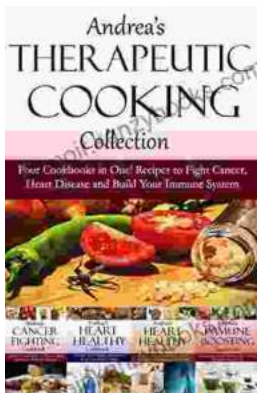
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