



Stoned: A Doctor's Case for Medical Marijuana

David Casarett M.D.

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A doctor discovers the surprising truth about marijuana

No substance on earth is as hotly debated as marijuana. Opponents claim it's dangerous, addictive, carcinogenic, and a gateway to serious drug abuse. Fans claim it as a wonder drug, treating cancer, anorexia, AIDS, chronic pain, glaucoma, arthritis, migraines, PTSD, and insomnia. Patients suffering from these conditions need—and deserve—hard facts based on medical evidence, not hysteria and superstition.

In *Stoned*, palliative care physician Dr. David Casarett sets out to do anything—including experimenting on himself—to find evidence of marijuana's medical potential. He smears mysterious marijuana paste on his legs and samples pot wine. He poses as a patient at a seedy California clinic and takes lessons from an artisanal hash maker. In conversations with researchers, doctors, and patients around the world he learns how marijuana works—and doesn't—in the real world.

Dr. Casarett unearths tales of near-miraculous success, such as a child with chronic seizures who finally found relief in cannabidiol oil. In Tel Aviv, he learns of a nursing home that's found success giving marijuana to dementia patients. On the other hand, one patient who believed marijuana cured her lung cancer has clearly been misled. As Casarett sifts the myth and misinformation from the scientific evidence, he explains, among other things:

- Why marijuana might be the best treatment option for some types of pain
- Why there's no significant risk of lung damage from smoking pot
- Why most marijuana-infused beer or wine won't get you high

Often humorous, occasionally heartbreaking, and full of counterintuitive conclusions, *Stoned* offers a compassionate and much-needed medical practitioner's perspective on the potential of this misunderstood plant.

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