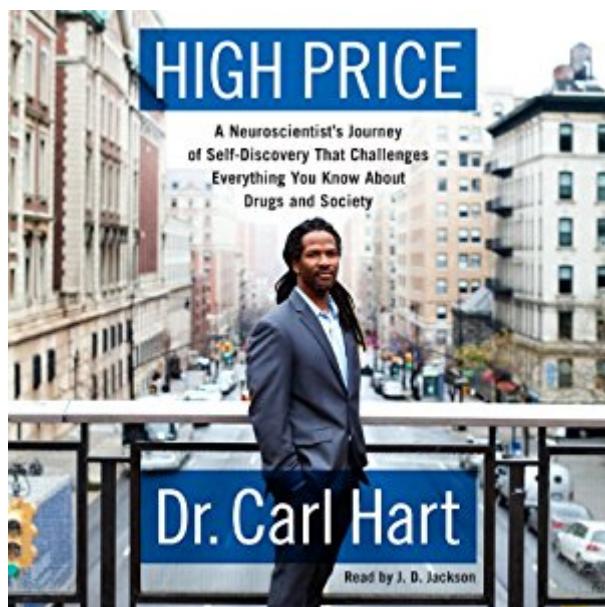


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# High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey Of Self-Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs And Society



## **Synopsis**

A pioneering neuroscientist shares his story of growing up in one of Miami's toughest neighborhoods and how it led him to his groundbreaking work in drug addiction. As a youth, Carl Hart didn't realize the value of school; he studied just enough to stay on the basketball team. At the same time, he was immersed in street life. Today he is a cutting-edge neuroscientist - Columbia University's first tenured African American professor in the sciences - whose landmark, controversial research is redefining our understanding of addiction. In this provocative and eye-opening memoir, he recalls his journey of self-discovery and weaves his past and present. Hart goes beyond the hype of the antidrug movement as he examines the relationship among drugs, pleasure, choice, and motivation, both in the brain and in society. His findings shed new light on common ideas about race, poverty, and drugs, and explain why current policies are failing. Though Hart escaped neighborhoods that were dominated by entrenched poverty and the knot of problems associated with it, he has not turned his back on his roots. Determined to make a difference, he tirelessly applies his scientific research to help save real lives. But balancing his former street life with his achievements today has not been easy - a struggle he reflects on publicly for the first time. A powerful story of hope and change, of a scientist who has dedicated his life to helping others, *High Price* will alter the way we think about poverty, race, and addiction - and how we can effect change.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Amazing! This book should be required reading in high school. It explains so much about the reality of poverty, racism, and drugs, versus how they are portrayed in the media. This book makes sense of many of my experiences which have been at odds with my expectations based on what I "know". This book also shows the path to how we could make real attacks on these problems, surprisingly often this would not require hugely expensive programs. But the main thing about this book is that I feel like my eyes have been opened to understand a lot of what I see happening so that it makes sense and it really humanizes the situations.

This book was seriously well written. He had the compassion to write so that anyone whether scientists or not could understand exactly where he was coming from. I appreciate his commitment to this cause was so deep that he allowed us in to his world and put himself in a very vulnerable place all in order that the reader would have a better understanding of the material he was presenting.

Wow, just Wow! If you are looking for a dry academic discussion of drug effects and policy this isn't it. On the other hand you are looking for a book that takes you on an autobiographical journey from the neighborhood to Columbia University while all along the way exposing you to a different view of drugs and society then this is it. Many black folks will relate to Dr. Hart's experiences and many white folks will be shocked and saddened at the truth of race relations in America. While this is not a book about race relations per se', one simply cannot responsibly discuss drug policy without addressing race in America. At first I was somewhat put off with the intensely personal narrative that Dr. Hart shared; but as the book unfolded I can see his message could not have been communicated without it. There are certainly people as intelligent as Dr. Hart but few as brave. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants a better understanding of drugs and society.

Dr. Hart's book is an eye opener because it shows the discrepancies that exist between what science knows about drug use and the current policies of our government which appear to be driven by fear; but not fear of a drug but of the 'out' group that uses the drug. He clearly explains the how crack and powder cocaine differ and explains the rationale for the disparity in sentencing guidelines for people convicted of possession of them. He also demonstrates that the vast majority of people who use drugs don't necessarily become 'addicted' in the sense portrayed in the media. Personally, I do not take drugs and his book does not incline me to take them; however, I recognize that the current attitudes and policies summed up in the phrase, 'the war on drugs', is ineffective,

oppressive, and ultimately futile. I also see that a massive dose of truth will need to be administered before the current situation will drastically change. I applaud Dr. Hart for his courage and sensitivity in producing this book.

First, I should note that I enjoyed reading this book. It is well written and a fast read. The main issues that keep me from giving it a better review are the content and organization of the book. I was hoping for more on the psychopharmacology, neuroscience and psychology of drugs and addiction. Although there is some focus on these issues in the book, they only comprise perhaps 10% of the content. The book is primarily the autobiography of Dr. Hart, and discussions of research and policy at times seemed to be inserted within the autobiography almost capriciously. In this respect the organization of the book could have been much better, as well as containing more scientific discussion of drugs and addiction. However, the author did have an interesting life and tells his story well. I think potential readers should understand the book's primary focus and not get misled as I did. But it was an enjoyable read.

Amazing book about a topic that is so misunderstood by most people. Reading Dr. Hart's book changed my entire perception of drug addiction and abuse, and made me realize how inappropriate and discriminatory our drug laws are. Every person should read this book. Every school must teach this material.

Excellent and insightful book. Carl Hart goes in depth with his life's struggles, the grips of drugs on inner city and his life, and the public perception in the wake of the Crack scare of the 1980's and the scares that follow in the 90's and early 00's. This book was assigned to us for class, and it's become moving in which it changes my perception and understanding on illicit drugs, and the real reason why certain drugs are restricted and the causes for drug scares that results in laws and regulations being passed to suppress the use of. Highly recommended for general reading, honestly you won't be disappointed.

Carl Hart's book was actually even better than I thought it would be. It's an engaging, thoroughly readable memoir mixed with an eye-opening and world-view challenging review of the law and science around drug use. Many of the things I thought I knew were proven to be simply wrong, and it's not very often that a single book can revamp my entire perspective on an important issue. Should be required reading for law makers, medical professionals, social service workers, and

citizens who care about justice or health. Read it; you won't regret it.

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