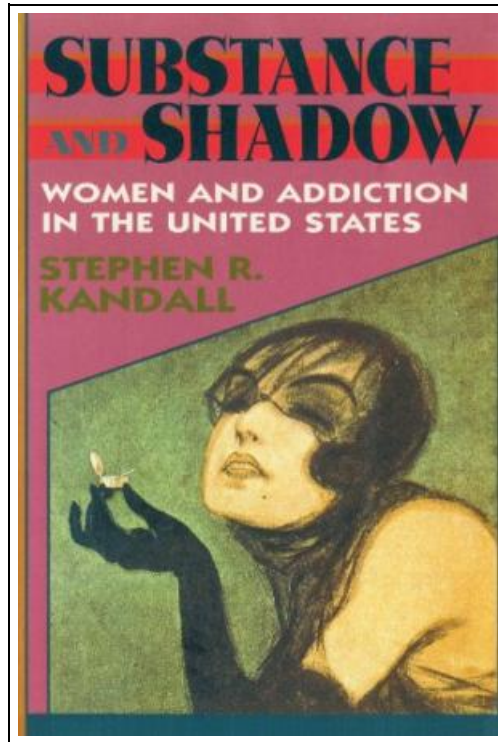


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SUBSTANCE AND SHADOW: WOMEN AND ADDICTION IN THE UNITED STATES (PAPERBACK)

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. New edition. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In 1989 Jennifer Johnson was convicted of delivering a controlled substance to a minor. That the minor happened to be Johnson's unborn child made her case all the more complex, controversial and ultimately historical. Stephen R. Kandall, a neonatologist and paediatrician, testified as an expert witness on Johnson's behalf. The experience caused him to wonder how one disadvantaged black woman's case became a prosecutorial battlefield in the war on drugs. This book is the product of Kandall's search through the annals of medicine and history to learn how women have fared in this conflict and how drug-dependent women have been treated for the past century and a half. Kandall's sleuthing uncovers a troubling story. Opium, laudanum, and morphine were primary ingredients in the curative powders and strengthening tonics that physicians freely prescribed and pharmacists dispensed to women a hundred and fifty years ago. Or a woman could easily dose herself with narcotics and alcohol in the readily available form of patent medicines sold in every town and touted in popular magazines. For the most part unaware of their dangers, women turned to these remedies for female complaints, such as womb disease and congestion of the ovaries, as well as for neurasthenia, a widespread but vague nervous malady attributed to women of weaker, more sensitive natures. By the latter half of the 19th century the majority of America's opiate addicts were women. This text shows how, though attitudes and drugs may vary over time - from the laudanum of yesteryear to the heroin of the 30s and 40s, the tranquilizers of the 50s, the consciousness-raising or prescription drugs of the 60s...



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