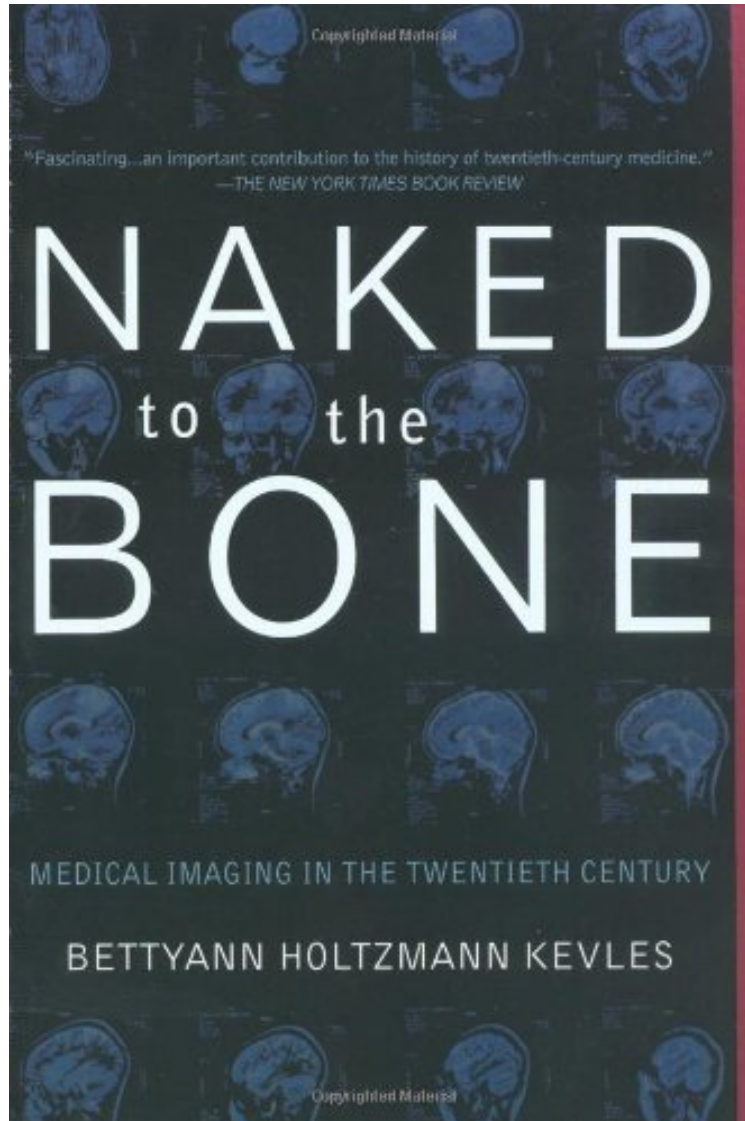


(Mobile ebook) Naked To The Bone: Medical Imaging In The Twentieth Century

Naked To The Bone: Medical Imaging In The Twentieth Century

Bettyann H. Kevles

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Bettyann H. Kevles : Naked To The Bone: Medical Imaging In The Twentieth Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Naked To The Bone: Medical Imaging In The Twentieth Century:

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cultureBy Bai LipingCulture history with so few insight into the actual technological development. Add very little value to people who are interested in the developmental process of those instruments. I have to return this book to .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good!By TaraOnKIThis book was purchased as a curriculum assignment for a course in radiation history. I have to say that I truly enjoyed reading this book, it is well written and very interesting.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great historical narrativeBy William R. PetroskyA great historical narrative. Recommended reading for anyone interested in following the developments since 1895 that brought us to the technology we use in the 21st century.

A century ago, the living body, like most of the material world, was opaque. Then Wilhelm Roentgen captured and X-ray image of his wife's fingerher wedding ring floating around a white boneand our range of vision changed forever. By the 1920s, X-ray technology was common-place: all army recruits had lined up for chest pictures during WWI, and children were examining the bones of their feet in shoe store fluoroscopes, spectacularly unaware of the radiation they were absorbing. Through lucid prose, vivid anecdotes, and over seventy striking illustrations, science writer Bettyann Holtzman Kevles shows how X-rays and the subsequent daughter technologiesCT, MRI, PET, ultrasoundtransformed the practice of medicine (from pediatrics to neurosurgery), the rules of evidence in courts, and the vision of artists.

.com It is difficult for us to imagine how mysterious the inside of a living person seemed only 100 years ago, when x-rays were discovered. At that time only God could see a person in the mother's womb; now ultrasound baby pictures, like the one of Bettyann Kevles's grandson on the dedication page of *Naked to the Bone*, can be mailed out six months before the child is born. Kevles provides an excellent history of the technology of medical imaging--x-rays, CT, NMR, PET, ultrasound, and mammography--but builds on it to examine the wider ramifications of bodily transparency. Anyone going through the high-tech diagnostic gauntlet of the turn of the millennium will want to read this book.From Publishers WeeklyThough it would be hard to imagine a topic with less apparent general appeal, this addition to the Sloan Technology Series is in fact a very good read. Writing 101 years after the discovery of X rays by Wilhelm Roentgen, the author presents the history of the technology, showing how it was refined over the following 50 years and challenged after WWII by newer technologies based on television and the computer. Because of X rays, people began to see the world differently, and we now are at the point where we "no longer accept surfaces as barriers, but see them instead as smoky scrim through which we now have access." At the same time, X rays became associated with tissue damage and ultimately with cancer, making them the first technology with a "built-in time bomb." This has caused us to think differently about science than we did before, the author claims, even though fear of the unintended consequences of knowledge goes back in our culture at least as far as Icarus and is more recently manifested in the cautionary tales of Drs. Faust and Frankenstein. The second wave of imaging technology, involving CT, MRI and PET scans, has had less of a traumatic effect on culture, perhaps because each advance was a more gradual accretion based on previous efforts. While this is interesting science, it is the cultural effects spelled out in the final chapter on "The Transparent Body in Late Twentieth-Century Culture" that constitute the heart of this engrossing and informative book. Illustrated. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalX-rays, CT scans, and other imaging technologies have been part of every major advance in clinical medicine in the century, and this book ably captures how new methods in diagnostic imaging heralded new treatments and how the quest for better treatments spawned the invention of better tools for "seeing" within the human body. Kevles, a science writer and reviewer, has done a good job of collecting vivid and apt anecdotes from the history of medical imaging and using them to illustrate the advances?and pitfalls?of the technology. The first half of the book is a particularly thorough and readable history of X-rays, which were the principal diagnostic tool of the first half of the 20th century; the remainder covers more than a dozen imaging devices and techniques, including ultrasound, mammography, PET scans, and the like, ending with a sort of poststructuralist chapter on "artists," whose palette now includes CT scans. This volume will be particularly useful in general collections with strong patronage in science, technology, and medicine and a wise acquisition for specialized collections in the history of science and technology.?Mark L. Shelton, Univ. of Massachusetts Medical Ctr., WorcesterCopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.