

# The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers

By Joanna Bourke

Download now

Read Online 

## The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke

Everyone knows what it feels like to be in pain. Scraped knees, toothaches, migraines, giving birth, cancer, heart attacks, and heartaches: pain permeates our entire lives. We also witness other people - loved ones - suffering, and we 'feel with' them.

It is easy to assume this is the end of the story: 'pain-is-pain-is-pain', and that is all there is to say. But it is not. In fact, the way in which people respond to what they describe as 'painful' has changed considerably over time. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, for example, people believed that pain served a specific (and positive) function - it was a message from God or Nature; it would perfect the spirit. 'Suffer in this life and you wouldn't suffer in the *next* one'. Submission to pain was required. Nothing could be more removed from twentieth and twenty-first century understandings, where pain is regarded as an unremitting evil to be 'fought'.

Focusing on the English-speaking world, this book tells the story of pain since the eighteenth century, addressing fundamental questions about the experience and nature of suffering over the last three centuries. How have those in pain interpreted their suffering - and how have these interpretations changed over time? How have people learnt to conduct themselves when suffering? How do friends and family react? And what about medical professionals: should they immerse themselves in the suffering person or is the best response a kind of professional detachment?

As Joanna Bourke shows in this fascinating investigation, people have come up with many different answers to these questions over time. And a history of pain can tell us a great deal about how we might respond to our own suffering in the present - and, just as importantly, to the suffering of those around us.

 [Download The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers ...pdf](#)



# The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers

By Joanna Bourke

## The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke

Everyone knows what it feels like to be in pain. Scraped knees, toothaches, migraines, giving birth, cancer, heart attacks, and heartaches: pain permeates our entire lives. We also witness other people - loved ones - suffering, and we 'feel with' them.

It is easy to assume this is the end of the story: 'pain-is-pain-is-pain', and that is all there is to say. But it is not. In fact, the way in which people respond to what they describe as 'painful' has changed considerably over time. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, for example, people believed that pain served a specific (and positive) function - it was a message from God or Nature; it would perfect the spirit. 'Suffer in this life and you wouldn't suffer in the *next* one'. Submission to pain was required. Nothing could be more removed from twentieth and twenty-first century understandings, where pain is regarded as an unremitting evil to be 'fought'.


Focusing on the English-speaking world, this book tells the story of pain since the eighteenth century, addressing fundamental questions about the experience and nature of suffering over the last three centuries. How have those in pain interpreted their suffering - and how have these interpretations changed over time? How have people learnt to conduct themselves when suffering? How do friends and family react? And what about medical professionals: should they immerse themselves in the suffering person or is the best response a kind of professional detachment?

As Joanna Bourke shows in this fascinating investigation, people have come up with many different answers to these questions over time. And a history of pain can tell us a great deal about how we might respond to our own suffering in the present - and, just as importantly, to the suffering of those around us.

## The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #905802 in Books
- Published on: 2014-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.50" h x 1.10" w x 9.30" l, 1.77 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 416 pages

 [Download The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

### Review

"This book is rich with examples illustrating medical, religious, racial, and gendered discourses about its subject and the impact these have had, and continue to have, in the provision of medical care to the public . . . A fascinating read" --Library Journal

"Bourke has done a fine job of detailing the story of pain and the folly it reveals."  
--Kirkus Reviews

"The Story of Pain is full of harrowing first-hand accounts of excruciating pain . . . But on balance, reading The Story of Pain is more pleasant than painful. Bourke has, for the most part, put together a fantastic, compelling, and engaging history. She writes scrupulously and generously." --Bookforum

"The Story of Pain is a bold exploration grounded in historical sources . . . [it] opens an enormous field of inquiry with interesting but unexplored ramifications . . . Bourke's work prompts the need for a study of contemporary understandings of religion and pain. The field is open." --National Catholic Reporter

### About the Author

**Joanna Bourke** is Professor of History at Birkbeck College at University of London. She is the prize-winning author of nine books, including histories of modern warfare, military medicine, psychology and psychiatry, the emotions, and rape. Among others, she is the author of *Dismembering the Male: Men's Bodies, Britain, and the Great War* (1996), *An Intimate History of Killing* (1999), *Fear: A Cultural History* (2005) and *Rape: A History from 1860 to the Present* (2007), *What it Means to be Human: Reflections from 1791 to the Present* (2011), and *Wounding the World: How Military Violence and War-Play Invade our Lives* (2014). *An Intimate History of Killing* won the Wolfson Prize and the Fraenkel Prize, and "Eyewitness," her audio history of Britain, won a number of prizes, including the Gold for the Most Original Audio. She is also a frequent contributor to TV and radio shows, and a regular newspaper correspondent.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Wayne Santiago:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers had been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The reserve The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers is not only giving you a lot more new information but also for being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship using the book The Story of Pain: From Prayer to

Painkillers. You never truly feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

**Vincent Ashworth:**

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity along with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can actually hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It ok you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Cell phone. Like The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

**Timothy Bennington:**

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top collection in your reading list will be The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

**Gary Jensen:**

Do you like reading a e-book? Confuse to looking for your best book? Or your book had been rare? Why so many problem for the book? But virtually any people feel that they enjoy regarding reading. Some people likes looking at, not only science book and also novel and The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers or maybe others sources were given information for you. After you know how the truly amazing a book, you feel need to read more and more. Science publication was created for teacher or even students especially. Those guides are helping them to put their knowledge. In different case, beside science e-book, any other book likes The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers to make your spare time far more colorful. Many types of book like this one.

**Download and Read Online The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke #RTSQ8Y4FCXO**

## **Read The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke for online ebook**

The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke books to read online.

## **Online The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke ebook PDF download**

**The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke Doc**

**The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke Mobipocket**

**The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers By Joanna Bourke EPub**