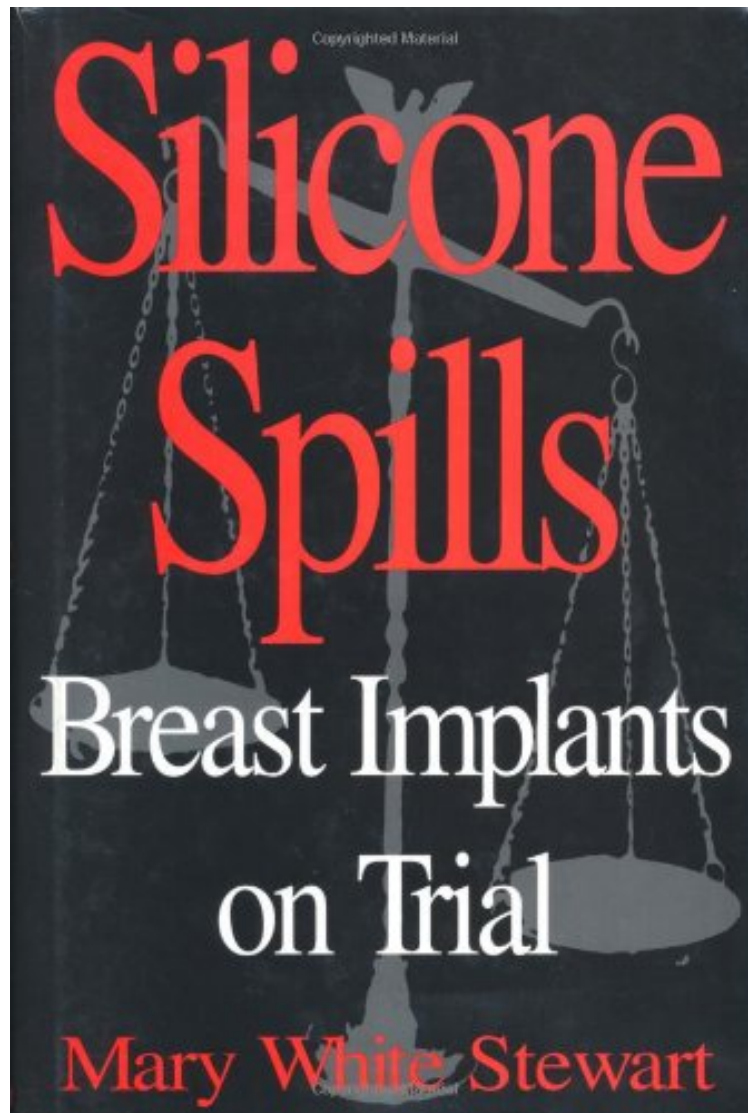


[Download] Silicone Spills: Breast Implants on Trial

## Silicone Spills: Breast Implants on Trial

Mary White Stewart

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**Mary White Stewart : Silicone Spills: Breast Implants on Trial** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Silicone Spills: Breast Implants on Trial:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A voice of truth in a complex issue By Patricia A. Faussett As Ms Stewart points out in her introduction, the studies that claim to prove that there is no relationship between breast implants and atypical autoimmune diseases prove NO SUCH THING..they were not designed to answer that question. Those often touted studies are actually flawed and biased which any researcher who understands statistical analysis will see. Ms Stewart's approach is not biased, but actually entirely upright and marked with a sense of integrity. She

takes an extremely complex and overtly political issue and brings a sense of truth to it that needs to be heard. These many thousands of women are sick because toxic chemicals have been implanted and spilled into their bodies, and that is not a normal event in life. Political posturing has tainted the ugly truth in this issue because interested parties are not willing to lose their financial investment. I applaud Ms Stewart for her important work, which will probably be suppressed and discredited. That's just the way things work in this country, to the detriment of women everywhere. By the way, I had breast implants and I DID get sick from them, without a doubt whatsoever. Am I biased? No, just telling the truth as I experienced it.

3 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Biased account that substitutes sympathy for thought  
By A Customer  
The book gives short shrift to the many studies (Harvard, Mayo Clinic, Holland, etc.) that show that women with implants do not suffer from the diseases in question at a rate any higher than those without them. Instead she talks with the women who have these conditions (lupus, auto-immune, etc.) and allows her sympathy for them to cancel out the statistics. Although she cites some obscure newspaper articles on the issue, she nowhere cites the NY Times' Gina Kolata because of the latter's extensive unbiased reporting of the lack of evidence associating implants with these conditions.

5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Life changing book read a little too late  
By A Customer  
After getting breast implants I was given this book. It changed my outlook on everything. I wish I could go back and get these things as small as they used to be. As well as bringing light to the subject of silicone leakage it also alludes to the back pains associated with artificially large breast like mine.

For 30 years, silicone gel breast implants were marketed to and implanted in at least one million women in the U.S. alone, damaging the health of hundreds of thousands. To many women seeking to improve their appearance, these virtually untested implants were promoted as a safe, lifelong answer to their needs. In actuality, however, they have been the cause of devastating, often irreversible health problems, making the implantation of these bags of gel one of the worst health care debacles in recent memory. Lawsuits against the manufacturers and the resulting trials have made prominent headlines and are a matter of public records, but until the publication of *Silicone Spills: Breast Implants on Trial*, there has never been a sophisticated and accurate presentation of the women who have had implants, why they have had them, and what has happened to them socially, medically, and legally as a result. *Silicone Spills* portrays the breast implant business as a personal and social tragedy, as well as a complex legal and political controversy. Sociologist Mary White Stewart interviewed over 50 women at great length, examined questionnaires completed by 60 other women, observed pre-trial hearings and courtroom proceedings during the litigation against implant manufacturers, and read countless documents and press coverage about the cases. The fascinating and horrifying story she tells in this book, full of women's personal experiences, is a tale of corporate greed, of the commodification and medicalization of women's bodies, and of women's lack of personal and economic power. How can so many women have been damaged and failed by the very people and institutions that exist to protect them? *Silicone Spills* reveals that the complex answers to this question lie in our culture, in which women continue to be eager consumers of any procedures and products that seductively promise physical transformation into the desirable feminine ideal.

From *Publishers Weekly* Arguing that pseudoscientific theories of race from the 19th and early 20th centuries still impact our current standards of beauty and "unhappiness" with our own bodies, prolific critic Gilman (*Difference and Pathology*) explores plastic surgery as an extension of psychotherapy. He traces the history of aesthetic surgery from its initial function of hiding disease (most particularly syphilis) to its later incarnation as a means of erasing ethnic identity (specifically Jewish identifications by nose shape and size) and creating a more "normal" appearance. Freud and other analysts were instrumental in establishing theories of aesthetic surgery and, Gilman argues, "provided a label for what it cured: inferiority." Several of Gilman's chapters are devoted to tracing this intersection between theories of race, aesthetics and psychology in the works of early psychoanalysts. Although his overarching argument is compelling, Gilman's work relies heavily on technical language. This work will be most useful to the surgeons and therapists who counsel people seeking plastic surgery and to cultural critics interested in tracing mutations in concepts of health, happiness and beauty. (Nov.) FYI: Also due in November is *Silicone Spill: Breast Implants on Trial*, by Univ. of Nevada sociologist Mary White Weaver, depicting the social, legal and health-care battles fought by women with implant-related health problems. (Praeger, \$26.95 226p ISBN 0-275-96359-4) Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. "This is a tragic story of big business, disinterested government, a powerful medical profession, and certainly less powerful female consumers.... Highly recommended for college and university libraries." -- *Choice*

About the Author MARY WHITE STEWART is Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of the Interdisciplinary Ph.D Program in Social Psychology at the University of Nevada, Reno. She teaches and writes in the areas of gender, family violence, social psychology, and deviance. She was the jury consultant for the plaintiff in the *Mahlum v. Dow Chemical* case.