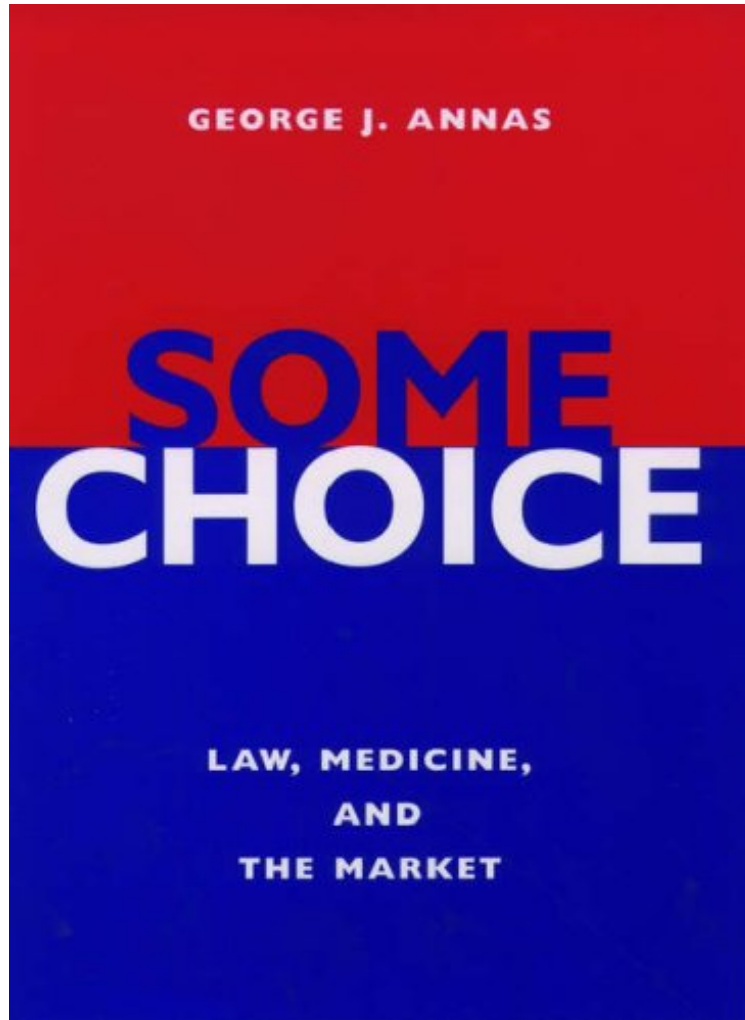


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Some Choice: Law, Medicine, and the Market

George J. Annas

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George J. Annas : Some Choice: Law, Medicine, and the Market before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Some Choice: Law, Medicine, and the Market*:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not A Book For the Complacent By Ann Ueda I am fortunate enough to actually have been taught by the writer of this book, Professor George Annas, who is also the chair of the Health Law Department at the School of Public Health at Boston University. Besides being a prolific writer, the man is gifted with an incredible legal mind and the soul of a humanist. As such, he is well equipped (and well regarded in the fields of health law and medical ethics) to briefly discuss the challenges, ethical dilemmas, and basic problems in a number of contemporary topics that currently provide us with no clear answers. The book provides a good overview of some of these topics, like tobacco control, medical research involving human beings, the true extent of choices involving one's "right" to die, and AIDS and TB. The true shock (which reads more like an "X Files" storyline than anything real--

I hope) is Chapter 13: "Our Most Important Product." The book price is worth getting just this one chapter; I won't ruin the surprise for you, but let's just say that, if you're like me, after reading this chapter you'll be running periodic Internet searches to see if anything related to this story comes up. (And wondering if the FBI, CIA, or other governmental agency is watching my searches.) Read it for yourself and then decide: Truth? Fiction? Is the Truth stranger than Fiction? As always, a thoughtful "kick in the butt" by Professor Annas, who consistently and skillfully forces us to face the difficult issues plaguing our medical research and technological advances. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. This book captures the essence of modern American culture. By Evelyne Shuster (shuster2@juno.com) American culture is unique in its emphasis on individual liberty and freedom of choice. In "Some Choice" George Annas brilliantly shows how these values have taken precedence over others as important, for example, equality, justice and solidarity, and how the liberty rhetoric has undermined the very essence of that which it intends to promote. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. good text for benchmarking. By A Customer An interesting book that presents a lot of legal history in regards to health care decision-making. Chapter 13 is a real eye-opener!

This book is a passionate critique of the shallowness of choice rhetoric used to camouflage critical personal and public policy issues in contemporary debates in American medicine. Our public discourse on life and death, from health care to medical research, and from risky behavior to assisted suicide, is dominated by the market model of consumerism augmented by appeals to individual freedom. In fact, however, in most cases there is no real choice left for individuals to make; the important choices have been made by others, and the illusion of choice fosters complacency. Knee-jerk libertarianism leads to a superficial consumer culture and life choices valued only by their monetary value. *Some Choice* uses the cases of cloning, drive-through deliveries, emergency medicine, genetic privacy, human experimentation, tobacco control, and physician-assisted suicide, among others, to suggest ways in which we can break through our vapid and superficial public discourse on life and death issues and begin to engage in a public dialogue that enriches our lives and society rather than cheapens them. George Annas is one of the most widely recognized names in current bioethics debates. His goal in this new book is to help open a national and international dialogue that sees the search for universal human rights as valuable, and international cooperation to define, protect, and promote them as central to life.