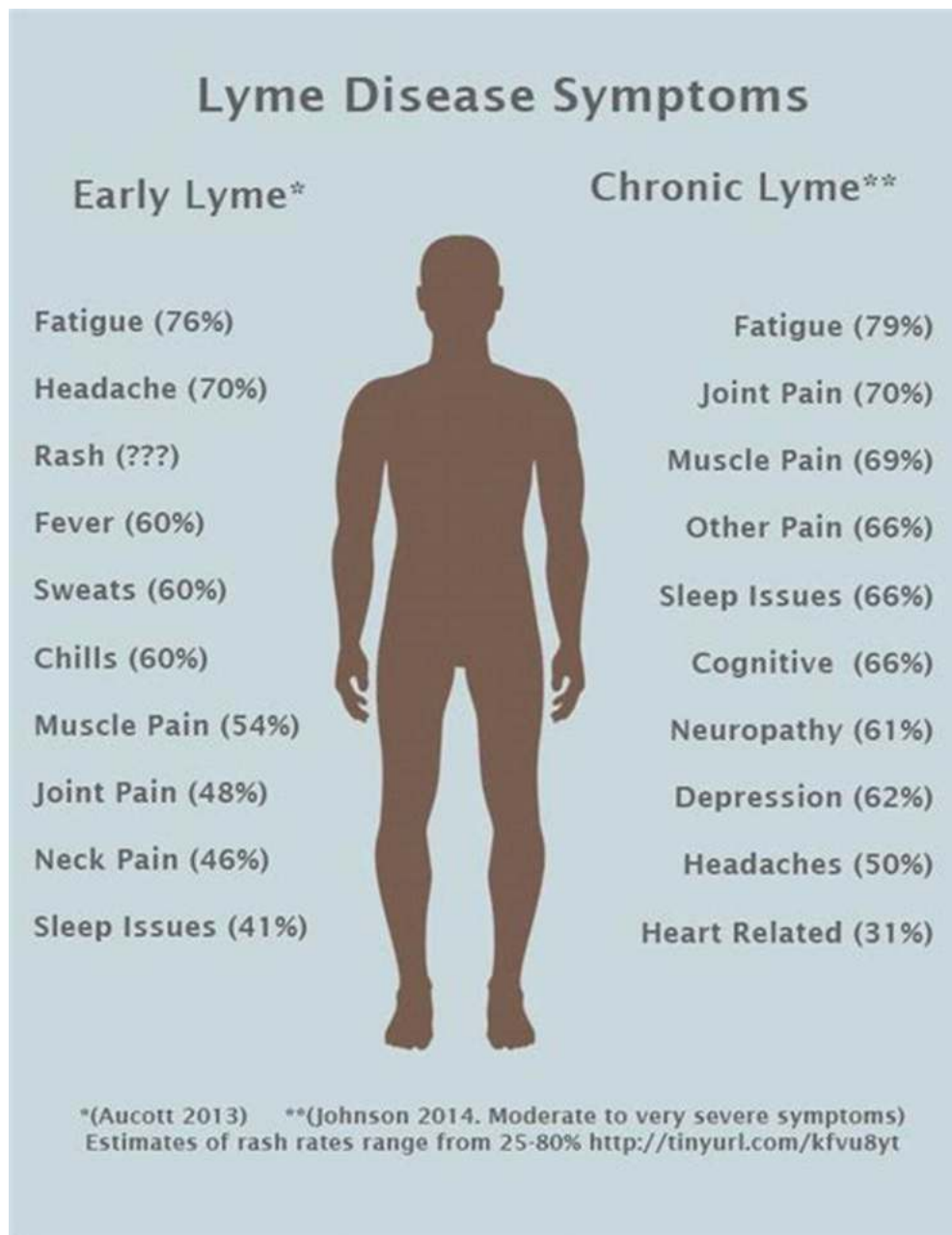


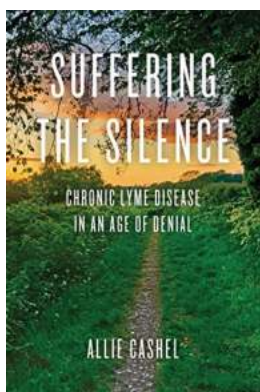
Chronic Lyme Disease In An Age Of Denial



Chronic Lyme Disease is a debilitating condition that affects thousands of individuals worldwide. Despite its prevalence, there is a concerning trend of denial surrounding this illness. In this article, we will delve into the intricacies of Chronic Lyme Disease, explore the reasons behind the denial, and shed light on the experiences of those battling this condition.

Understanding Chronic Lyme Disease

Chronic Lyme Disease, also known as post-treatment Lyme Disease syndrome (PTLDS), is a condition that occurs when an individual continues to experience symptoms even after receiving appropriate antibiotic treatment for Lyme Disease. These persistent symptoms can include fatigue, joint pain, cognitive difficulties, and neurological issues.



Suffering the Silence: Chronic Lyme Disease in an Age of Denial by Allie Cashel (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3166 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 249 pages
Recaps	: Included



The primary cause of Chronic Lyme Disease is the *Borrelia burgdorferi* bacterium, which is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected black-legged ticks. However, the denial surrounding this disease stems from various factors, making it difficult for those affected to receive proper diagnosis and treatment.

Reasons Behind Denial

One of the main reasons contributing to the denial of Chronic Lyme Disease is the lack of awareness and understanding among healthcare professionals. Many medical practitioners are still unaware of the persistent nature of Lyme Disease

and fail to recognize the symptoms of Chronic Lyme Disease. As a result, misdiagnosis or dismissal of symptoms as psychosomatic occurs regularly.

Additionally, there is a lack of consensus among medical societies regarding the existence of Chronic Lyme Disease. Some argue that the symptoms experienced by individuals are simply unrelated to Lyme Disease, leading to further skepticism and denial. This lack of agreement within the medical community can be frustrating for patients seeking validation and appropriate treatment.

The Impact on Patients

The denial surrounding Chronic Lyme Disease takes a significant toll on patients. Not only do they have to contend with physical symptoms that can be debilitating, but they also face the challenge of being doubted and dismissed by medical professionals. The frustration and despair experienced by these patients can negatively impact their mental health and overall quality of life.

Furthermore, the lack of recognition of Chronic Lyme Disease hinders the development of effective treatments and therapies. Research funding is often directed towards diseases with widespread acceptance, leaving individuals with Chronic Lyme Disease with limited options for relief. This further perpetuates the cycle of denial and exacerbates the suffering of those affected.

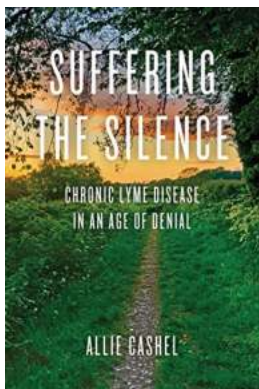
Overcoming Denial - The Importance of Advocacy

Overcoming denial surrounding Chronic Lyme Disease requires a collective effort from patients, advocates, and healthcare professionals. Increasing awareness about the persistent nature of the disease and its impact on individuals is crucial. Education campaigns can help bridge the knowledge gap and ensure that healthcare providers are equipped to recognize and address Chronic Lyme Disease symptoms accurately.

Advocacy groups play a crucial role in giving a voice to those affected by Chronic Lyme Disease. By sharing personal stories, organizing events, and raising funds for research, these groups expedite progress towards better understanding and treatment options for patients. With continued efforts, the denial surrounding Chronic Lyme Disease can be dismantled, and individuals can receive the support and validation they desperately need.

In

Chronic Lyme Disease is an often overlooked and misunderstood condition that plagues many individuals. In an age of denial, it is vital to shed light on the realities of this disease and advocate for increased recognition and research. By doing so, we can provide hope and support to those living with Chronic Lyme Disease and work towards a better future where denial no longer holds sway.



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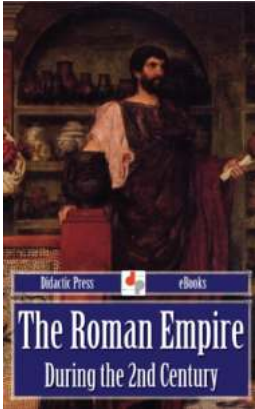
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Allie Cashel has suffered from chronic Lyme disease for sixteen years—but much of the medical community refuses to recognize her symptoms as the result of

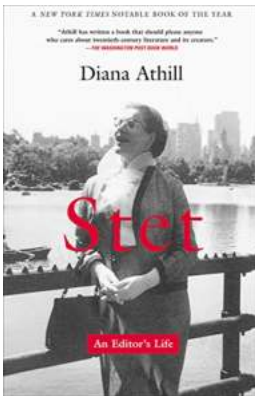
infectious disease. In *Suffering the Silence: Chronic Lyme Disease in an Age of Denial*, Cashel paints a living portrait of what is often called post-treatment Lyme syndrome, featuring the stories of chronic Lyme patients from around the world and their struggle for recognition and treatment.

In the United States alone, at least 300,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year, and it is estimated that 20 percent of them go on to develop chronic symptoms of the disease, including (but not limited to) muscle and joint pain; digestive problems; extreme fatigue, confusion, and dizziness; sensations of burning and numbness; and immune-system dysfunction. Before reaching a final diagnosis, many of these patients are misdiagnosed with diseases and conditions like lupus, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, depression, anxiety, and even dementia. Despite these numbers and routine misdiagnoses, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) claim it is impossible for the Lyme bacteria to survive in the body after standard antibiotic therapy. For these chronic patients who have their suffering routinely dismissed by doctors—and even family and friends—the social effects of the illness can be as crippling as the disease itself. *Suffering the Silence* is a personal and provocative call to break the stigma and ignorance that currently surrounds chronic Lyme disease and other misunderstood chronic illnesses—but it is also a message of hope and comfort for Lyme sufferers, encouraging them to share their stories, seek out treatment, and remember that they are not alone.



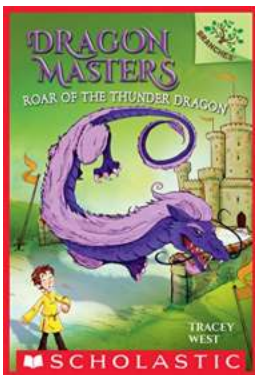
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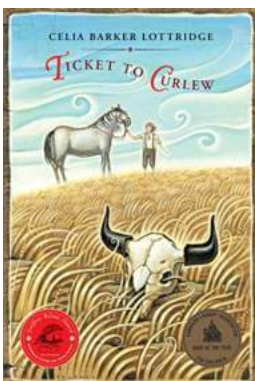
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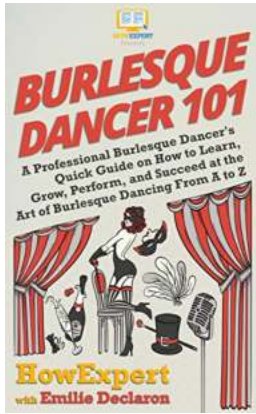
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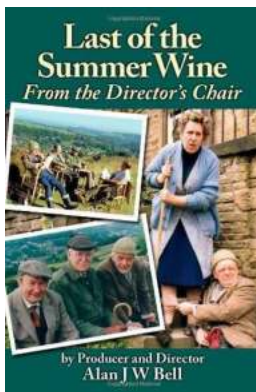
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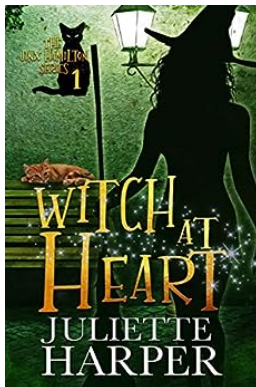
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