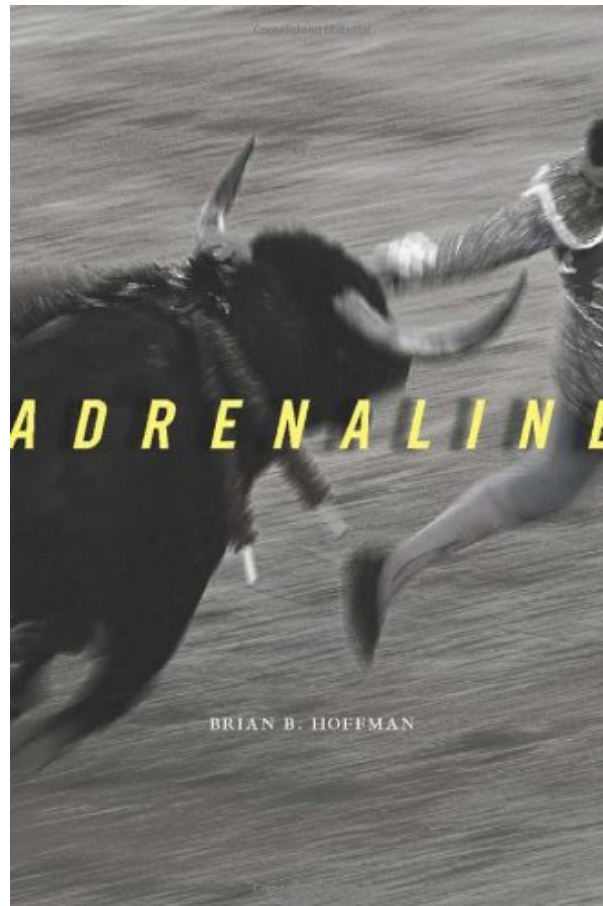
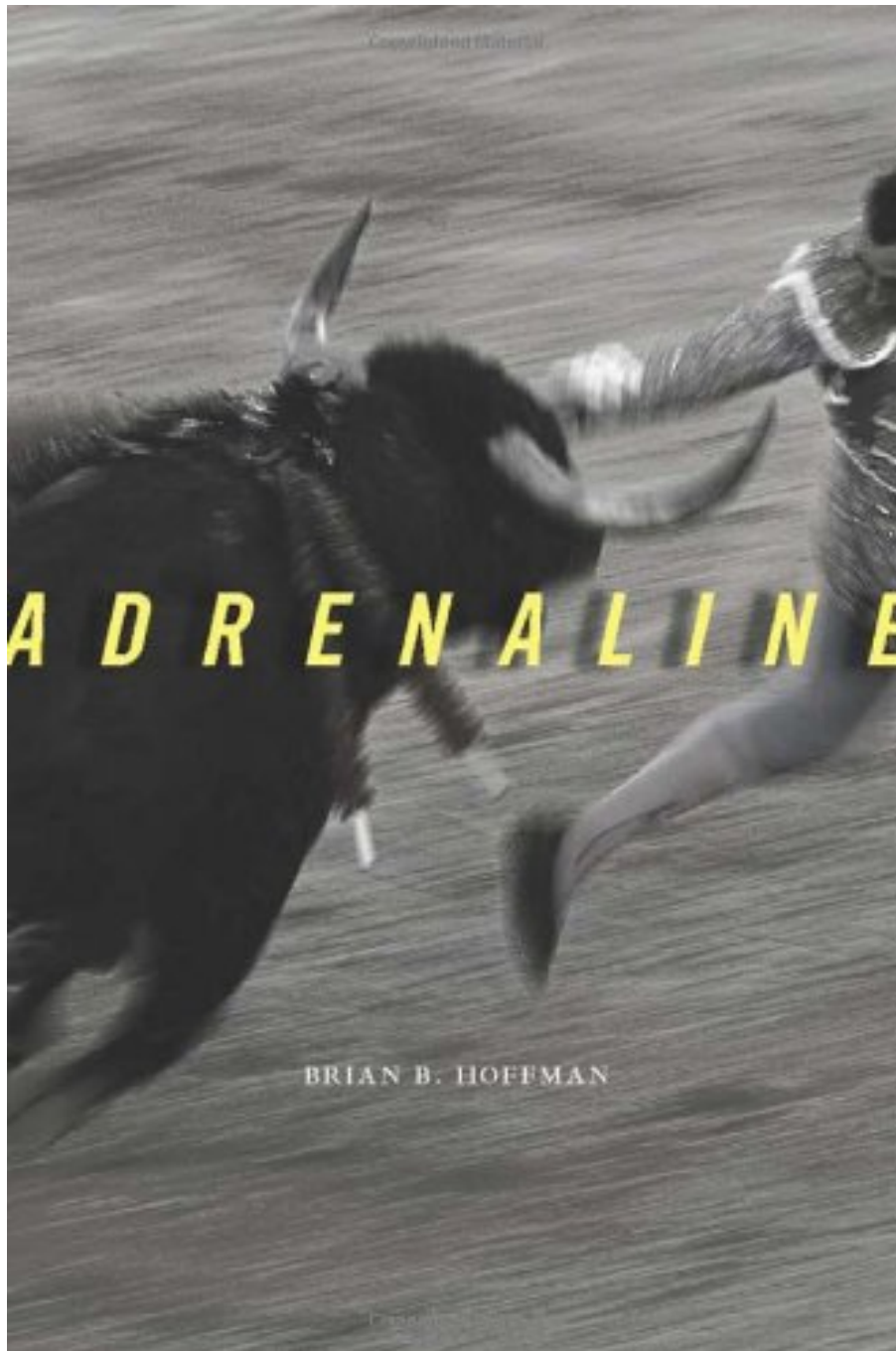


# ADRENALINE BY BRIAN B. HOFFMAN



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## Review

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Inducing highs of excitement, anger, and terror, adrenaline fuels the extremes of human experience. A rush empowers superhuman feats in emergencies. Risk-taking junkies seek to replicate this feeling in dangerous recreations. And a surge may literally scare us to death. Adrenaline brings us up to speed on the fascinating molecule that drives some of our most potent experiences.

Adrenaline was discovered in 1894 and quickly made its way out of the lab into clinics around the world. In this engrossing account, Brian Hoffman examines adrenaline in all its capacities, from a vital regulator of physiological functions to the subject of Nobel Prize-winning breakthroughs. Because its biochemical pathways are prototypical, adrenaline has had widespread application in hormone research leading to the development of powerful new drugs. Hoffman introduces the scientists to whom we owe our understanding, tracing the paths of their discoveries and aspirations and allowing us to appreciate the crucial role adrenaline has played in pushing modern medicine forward.

Hoffman also investigates the vivid, at times lurid, place adrenaline occupies in the popular imagination, where accounts of its life-giving and lethal properties often leave the realm of fact. Famous as the catalyst of the “fight or flight” response, adrenaline has also received forensic attention as a perfect poison, untraceable in the bloodstream—and rumors persist of its power to revive the dead. True to the spirit of its topic, Adrenaline is a stimulating journey that reveals the truth behind adrenaline’s scientific importance and enduring popular appeal.

- Sales Rank: #1379053 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Harvard University Press
- Published on: 2013-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.75" h x 5.75" w x 1.00" l, 1.02 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages

## Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

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Brian B. Hoffman is Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

#### Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.

Prepare to be entertained.

By Dr. Alveolus

This marvelous little volume provides a complete historical review of the discovery of a most important hormone in the human body. In addition, the biology of adrenaline is neatly and clearly explained including all its actions and related pharmaceuticals. The work is really detailed. Everything you want to know about adrenaline is contained between the covers. But most importantly, the book relates these aspects to everyday life in a humorous and entertaining fashion. How else do we go from a discussion of murder by adrenaline injections to societal stressors that result in increases in heart attacks and strokes. The Appendix lists winners

of Nobel prizes that were related to discoveries about adrenaline. The best thing about the book, though, is that it is a fun read. Very enjoyable. Learning about a serious subject in a non-serious way is just the best.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

Don't skip the Notes

By ACB

Reading Adrenaline is like reading two books in one. There's the fascinating tale of adrenaline's discovery coupled with the stories of its discoverers. Hoffman has created a wonderful treat for the expert and the novice, the lover of science or biography and all those in between.

One of the delights of the book are Hoffman's captivating "Notes". Therein I learned everything from the official song of the Catecholamine Club to how authors from Arthur Conan Doyle to Philip Roth have weaved adrenaline into their own works. Not bad for a book about a hormone.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Thrilling story of Adrenaline as narrated by Dr. Brian B. Hoffman

By MANGADHARA MADINEEDI

When I first met Dr. Brian Hoffman more than a decade and half ago, he was visiting Boston from Palo Alto. Brian said, "I have done enough basic sciences research and I am looking forward to seeing how I can bring that knowledge to the bedside so that it translates into practical principles and improves patient care." Brian accomplished just that by writing a book titled "Adrenaline"! I read and reread the book. It is the encyclopedia of the century story of Adrenaline. It will be a catalyst for generations of medical students and researchers who will be inspired by reading the book. "Adrenaline" brings the fruits of basic research to the bedside! There has never been a book like this published before and there won't be one like it in the foreseeable future that will have such a succinct and complete biography on Adrenaline! The end notes are superb! Lay public will enjoy reading this wonderful story about Adrenaline!

Mangadhara R. Madineedi, MD,MSA

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