America Fooled is the non-sensational, fact-filled story of how Americans have come to believe that depression and other mental problems are caused by chemical imbalances which can be fixed with pills. It reveals how the drug studies used to achieve FDA approval are designed, paid for and written by the drug companies themselves and are purposely deceptive. Part 1 of America Fooled is focused on antidepressants, their effectiveness, and their side effects including the permanent brain damage that results from long-term use about which so few Americans have any knowledge (including those who prescribe and those who take antidepressants). Part 2 deals with the various approaches used throughout history to treat more serious mental problems including the use
of antipsychotics. The side effects of antipsychotics are also discussed. Part 3 relates how to avoid and overcome the mental problems which have increased so dramatically across our nation and do so without drugs. Over 1,800 references to the best of the medical and psychological research are given though each page is written to be understood by the average American.

Greetings Dr. Scott,
Recently, I was shopping around Amazon.com and accidentally came across your book America Fooled. I cannot find the correct, profound words to tell you how liberating this book was. Thank you so very much for writing the book!! Each page was captivating--one of the few books I've read in recent years that deserved more than the graduate skim.

I call the chance of finding your book a *happy accident.* My FAVORITE theorist EVER is Viktor Frankl, so seeing your pages reflect the absence of meaning and purpose in society as a causation of dysfunction of the mind and how pharmaceutical companies are capitalizing on this, was so pleasing! I hold two Masters Degrees: One in Sociology and the other in Counseling & Human Services. Currently, I am working on my PhD in Health Psy & Behavioral Medicine. I heavily research the Holocaust and am contemplating a dissertation on some aspect of those who survived this psychological hell with NO meds while in the camps. However, lately I am torn between this direction and one on the legal drug pushing by pharmaceutical companies in the US and psychotropic effects on children. I am trying to come up with an idea of how I could sandwich these two concepts.

My husband and I own/operate a Group Facility where we care for 8 teens 24/7 that are DHS state placements. Over the few years that we have been in operation, only a few lads have been with us that were not on *handfuls* of meds! I am sooo very torn over the irreversible damage these kiddos have suffered, and am angry at how the meds are used as a form of social *control* with these kids. I want to CHANGE how things are done. Although we have managed to remove a few off the meds, and keep a few from getting on them--the level meds are used on state placed kids under the age of 18 is next to criminal! For example, some meds boys in our facility have been on reflect usage of: Trileptal, Geodon, Lithium, Seroquel, Omacor, Wellbutrin, Abilify, Clonidine, Topamax, Trazadone, Invega, and Celexas generic substitute. I cannot tell you how many times their Bxs have been out of control to where we had to call the Sheriff, or that their Bx was so irrational they have caused damage to the facility and/or staffs property. I want to help get these kids off meds...for it is NOT the kids causing the damage, it is the meds facilitating these thoughts of damaging!

My husband and I have five biological children, BUT have also raised nine nieces and nephews who have been either abandoned by parents, or were in the system. Luckily, none were placed on meds. However, one non-
biological child was *diagnosed with ADHD* in the 99th percentile right at the beginning point of us gaining custody. My husband and I said *NO!* to the sales pitch of meds minutes after the *diagnosis,* vowing to *parent* him and use behavioral management techniques. At the end of 1st grade, his teacher called and begged me to put him on meds!! I was FURIOUS!! I just could not stand the thought of our nephew confronting us 20 years from now on why we put him on Ritalin. Had I not had a higher education with a psychology basis, I probably would have accepted the advice AND the previous sales pitch out of trust!

We also foster children, previous residents of Group level care, one of which was on Risperdal. It is amazing that some of these psychiatrists wont even look up from writing on a paper or spend more than 10 minutes with the client before writing a prescription! This is highly unethical.

Being a female I am certain I can expect to be intimidated for standing up against the meds, but I will NOT back down. I too am an instructor for Psy and Soc and have been able to reach several students with Gary Nulls film The Drugging of Americas Children, [which I HIGHLY recommend-you can see this film on drugawareness.org]as well as training my staff on the dangers of these meds. I want to make a difference in this world. After serving 17 yrs in Boy Scouting, I believe in the *Leave No Trace* camping ideology. However I feel that this same concept can be used in the outside world by people who should be leaving this world in a better place than they found it in.

Vanessa L. Dahn MA, LPC, NCC, BCPC
Executive Director SLGC, LLC & Sociology & Psychology Instructor

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