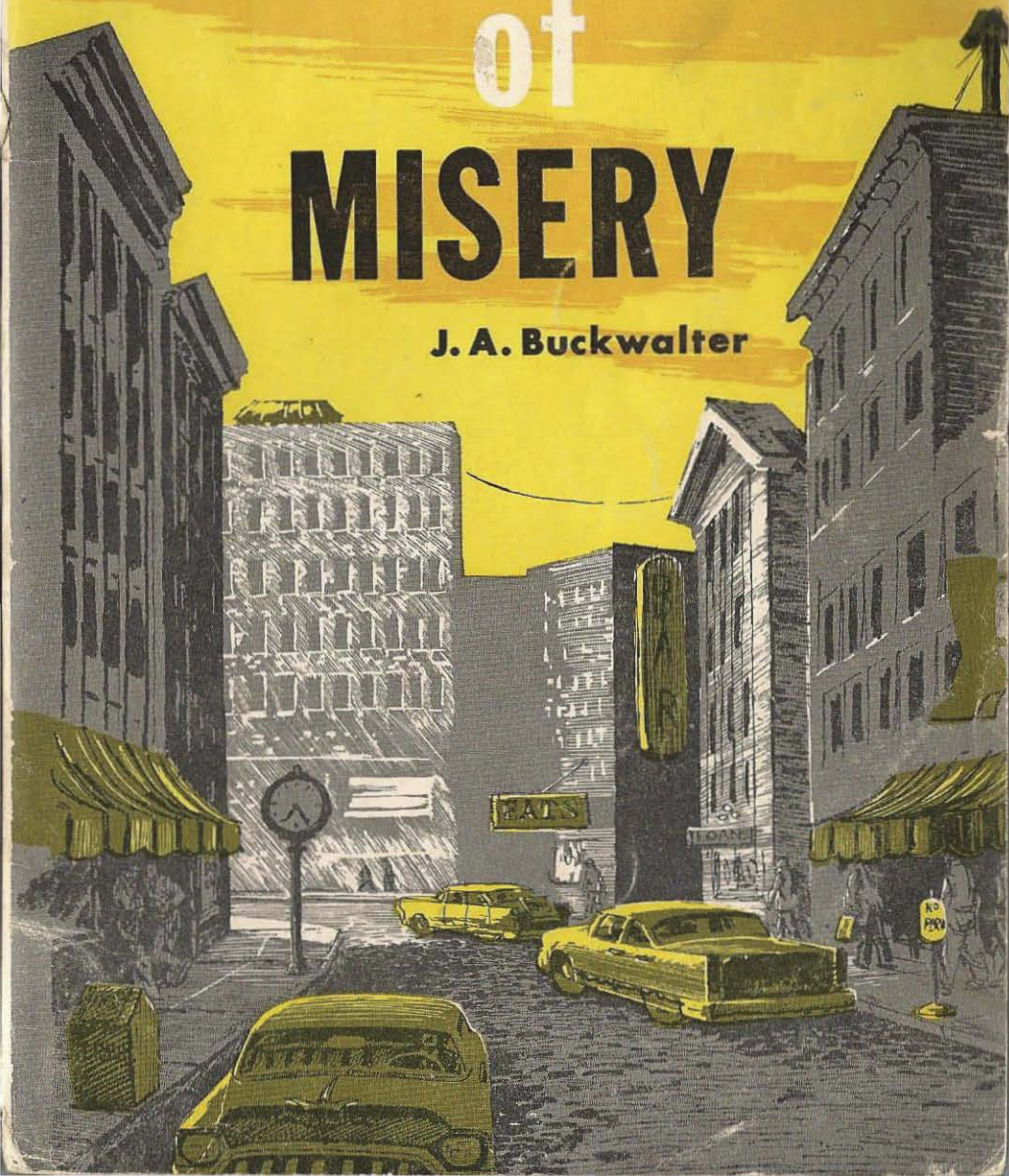


MERCHANTS of MISERY

J. A. Buckwalter



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FOREWORD

We love our children. But their happiness is threatened by criminals who would sell them into slavery which is many times more miserable and dastardly than mere servitude.

Formerly the "dope barons" confined their nefarious traffic to adults, but in the last decade, these parasites, who would create any sort of human misery for money, have pushed their infamous business into all levels of society.

They have invaded our high schools and recreational centers to take advantage of the inexperience, immaturity, and curiosity of our teen-agers. In many of our major cities dope addiction among our youth has been increasing at a rapid rate.

The right sort of education will prevent our children from falling prey to the seductive methods of these "merchants of misery." You, as a parent or teacher, must know the truth so that you may inform your children. You, as a voter, must know the truth so that you can demand law enforcement. With the facts Mr. Buckwalter has provided in this volume, you can create in the minds of boys and girls a defense against the temptation to play with drugs. You can build a deep moral conviction against the practice of all vice.

The author emphasizes the fact that individuals with deep moral convictions established during their youth are not to be found among drug addicts. As a rule, narcotics addicts come from among those of our youth who have "professed a tolerance toward vices." A lack of moral and religious values and discipline in the home, school, and community is the root of drug addiction and of all vice.

have been. He referred to the remorse that comes too late, and ended with the words, "What's the use?"

A new hope is now appearing for drug addicts who either voluntarily or through commitment have completed withdrawal and are determined to achieve complete rehabilitation. This hope is in the form of therapeutic group organizations somewhat like Alcoholics Anonymous. The movement started at the Lexington Federal hospital in 1947, when a veteran of several unsuccessful cures decided to try creating a group, somewhat like the AA groups, among the patients who were far enough along in treatment to offer likely material for successful work. The project began inauspiciously with three in attendance at the first meeting.

The group achieved some tangible success and continues as Addicts Anonymous. One of the group went to New York to found Narcotics Anonymous. Two other similar organizations have been formed: the Notrol Group at the Federal Penitentiary at Lorton, West Virginia, and the HFD (Habit Forming Drugs) Group at Santa Monica, California.

The manner of procedure follows in general the twelve steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Meetings are devoted to what is essentially group therapy, with perhaps two former addicts relating their experience of gaining normal health. Some critics consider the approach too emotional, but it is having some success, which time alone can confirm. The religious motive is strongly present, and seems to be one recurring factor in rehabilitation throughout the years.

Only God Can Help

In the words of Freda Roberts, the ex-wife of Al Bowlly, the English singer, "But let nobody ever mistake

this: Dope is a plague. It was a false rose tint to me. A rose tint which blasted my whole life. Only God can help a girl who gets hooked. Only God."—Joachin Joesten, *Dope, Inc.*, page 33.

Many a slave of habit has found release in a surrender to the Master of life who alone can bring to struggling men and women the mastery of life. God is the Great Deliverer. In Him Freda Roberts and Danny Carlsen of Narcotics Anonymous and many others have found deliverance from narcotic slavery. He is the one sure cure. He can lift the lowest and the most enslaved.

Youth's Right to Know



IN VIEW of the shattered lives I witness daily, I cannot too emphatically stress the need for prevention of drug addiction," says Danny Carlsen, founder of Narcotics Anonymous. He adds, "This, I believe, can be achieved only when young people are thoroughly forewarned and armed with facts concerning marijuana and other narcotics."

Mr. Carlsen speaks with deep conviction born of years of torment. No one knows better than he how fortunate he is to be one of the very few who have escaped the merciless clutches of heroin. No one understands better the fearful toll heroin addiction takes among the youth of our land. "Few people realize," he says, "the death and destruction following in heroin's wake, and the number of youth who, unprepared for the force of their attacker, are mutilated beyond salvage and abandoned like so much refuse on the rubbish heaps of life."

"Most addicts become addicted when very young. Ask any addict twenty-five, forty-five, or sixty-five years of

age, how old he was when he became addicted. In at least 90 per cent of the cases the answer is, 'Before I was twenty-one.' More often it is sixteen, seventeen, or eighteen years. Exceptions, of course, are medical addicts who received drugs legitimately for severe pain or prolonged illness, and some psychopathic addicts.

"Experts give many reasons why individuals take drugs. To my mind there is only one reason why the majority of addicts began taking drugs, and that can be summed up in one word: ignorance. Ignorance of the true effects of the drug has lured most victims into the trap of addiction. . . .

"Make no mistake about it—*no one can withstand the habit-forming properties of heroin*, regardless of his character, will power, or any other quality. Heroin reduces its user to a will-less person who cannot exist without it. Those who have successfully overcome dependence on heroin after being addicted to it are so few as to be considered 'miraculous' cases."

Narcotics addiction is not limited to any sector of society. It includes among its victims writers, lawyers, teachers, tradesmen, doctors, nurses, musicians, businessmen, and society bigwigs, as well as those whose environment was that of the slums. We must never make the mistake of thinking that only the neurotic, the emotionally unstable, or the criminal types become addicted.

Speaking of his past and his future, Danny Carlsen says, "I cannot go back now to unravel the threads that wove the pattern for the waste and heartache that make up my life; but I can go forward, earnestly and unceasingly endeavoring to tell the truth to those who have the right to know what I should have been told."

The importance of youth's *right to know* the truth