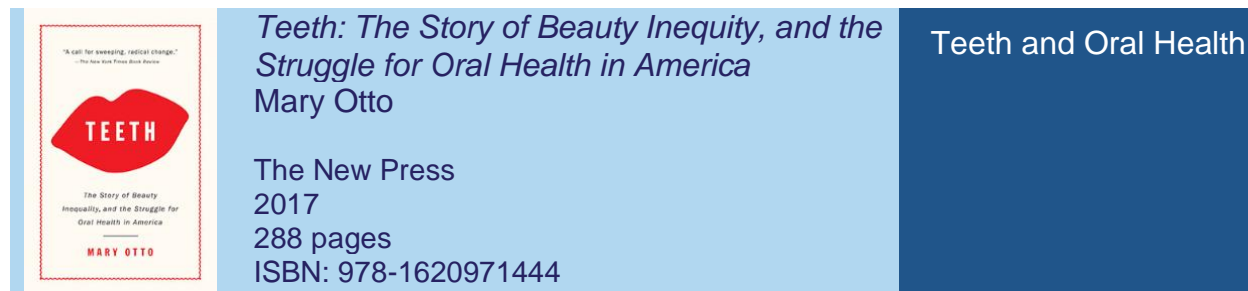


Discussion Guide



Summary

Teeth takes readers on a journey into America's silent epidemic of oral disease, exposing the hidden connections between tooth decay and stunted job prospects, low educational achievement, decreased social mobility, and the troubling state of our public health. *Teeth* reveals that toothaches are not an occasional inconvenience, but rather a chronic reality for millions of people, including disproportionate numbers of the elderly and people of color. Otto also goes back in time to understand the roots of our predicament in the history of dentistry, showing how it became separated from mainstream medicine, despite a century of growing evidence that oral health and general bodily health are closely related.

Questions

1. What ideas were Mary Otto trying to convey?
2. Which part or parts of the different book chapters resonated with you and why?
3. Were there any quotes (or passages) that stood out to you? Why?
4. What surprised you most about the book? Why?
5. Mary Otto talks about the disparity of dental care in America. What stood out to you most?
6. What insights did you gain about the history of dentistry and the development of the profession? In chapter 5, Harris and Hayden fought to bring dental and medical education together. What were some of the barriers to bringing these together?
7. For you, what was your least favorite or most challenging part? Why?
8. What were your key take aways from reading this book?
9. If you could ask the author one question about this book, what would that be?
10. Would you recommend this book to friends and family? Why or why not?