The book’s scope is encyclopedic, from the genetics of addiction (genes are now thought to account for about 50 percent of addiction risk) to the semantics (when does use become abuse and then addiction?) and out to the periphery, where psychiatrists debate whether codependence is an actual psychologic condition or just a normal response to a set of outrageous circumstances. Mr. Sheff reports from various stops on the road to clean and sober, including an intervention, an adolescent group meeting and a few iterations of Alcoholics Anonymous. Among them are these: Should addicts, once detoxified, enter residential rehab programs, or can they safely stay home and go to outpatient programs? (Study results have been mixed, Mr. Sheff reports.)

Once an Addict - Barry Woodward. Once an addict. Once an addict. The fascinating true story of one man's escape from the murky drugs underworld. There's an old saying: 'Once an addict, always an addict' – but it's not always the case. I have known drug addiction, but I also know what it is to break away completely from that lifestyle. And I've come a long way since the days when drugs, crime and prison defined me as a person. I was once an addict, but now I am clean. There was a time when I was as addicted to the process of injecting as I was to the drugs. I used to crave the sensation of the needle sliding into my arm, the buzz of the chemicals flowing into my bloodstream. There's a term for this craving; it's called 'needle affliction'.

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