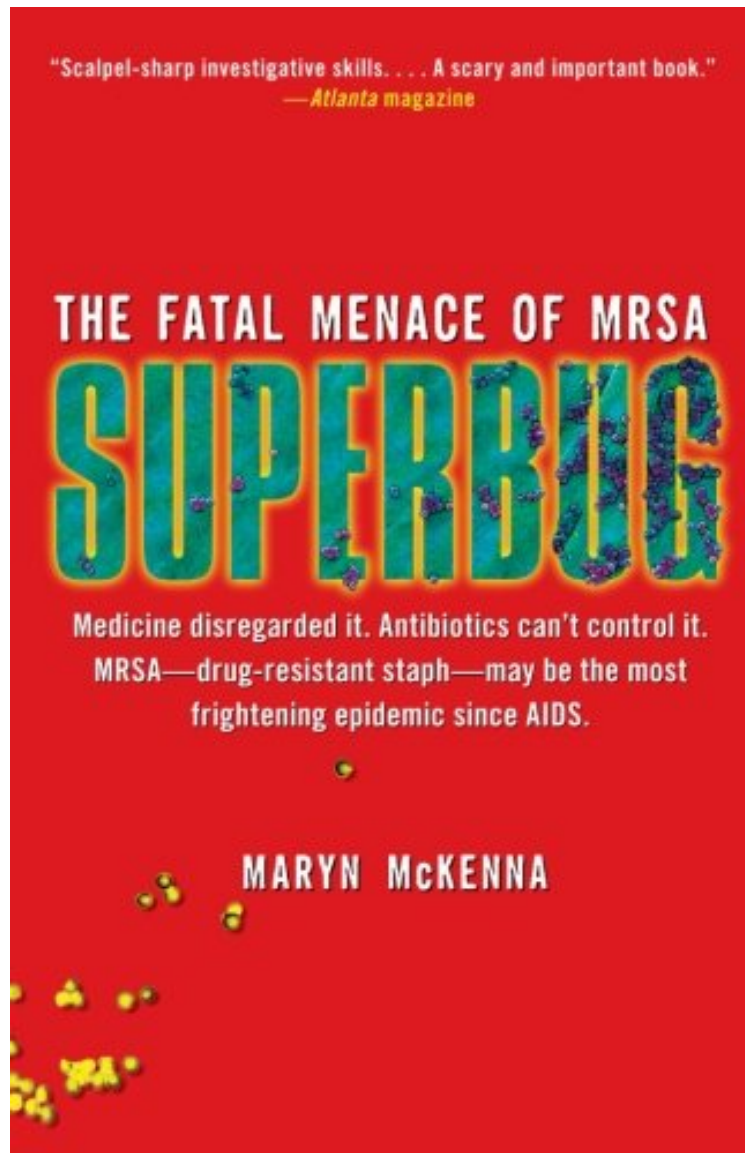


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Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA

Maryn McKenna

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Maryn McKenna : Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superbug: The Fatal Menace of MRSA:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. handwashing education was pretty serious at my workplace 17 years ago By Tone Ford Makes you wonder what the system can do, handwashing education was pretty serious at my workplace 17 years ago, but that education has quietened down since then. This book will ensure that handwashing is done properly wherever I am, and I might lessen hospital visits to only necessary ones! What I really wanted to find

out while reading the cases on MRSA was how was it spreading so fast, and that was not really satisfactorily satisfied, ah well. Good book, well done Maryn. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Will scare you and educate you. By facade2u This book covers the history of MRSA. It also explains what is happening now in the communities, hospitals, prisons and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) in regards to MRSA's. Even if you think you know about MRSA, this is a read that may save your life or someone you know or care for. Medications that work or don't have an affect are discussed, as well as signs and symptoms. Knowledge is power and this book definitely empowers the reader. MRSA very well could be the next epidemic - turned pandemic. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kept me up at night, turning pages. By Linda San Diego Amazing book. Kept me up until 1 a.m. several nights. . . I couldn't turn the pages fast enough. I always think I'll find this kind of riveting story in fiction but I think non-fiction often has the most interesting stories. McKenna's writing style is flawless journalistic story telling. I want more like this. Reminded me of reading The Hot Zone.

LURKING in our homes, hospitals, schools, and farms is a terrifying pathogen that is evolving faster than the medical community can track it or drug developers can create antibiotics to quell it. That pathogen is MRSA methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Superbug is the first book to tell the story of its shocking spread and the alarming danger it poses to us all. Doctors long thought that MRSA was confined to hospitals and clinics, infecting almost exclusively those who were either already ill or old. But through remarkable reporting, including hundreds of interviews with the leading researchers and doctors tracking the deadly bacterium, acclaimed science journalist Maryn McKenna reveals the hidden history of MRSA's relentless advance how it has overwhelmed hospitals, assaulted families, and infiltrated agriculture and livestock, moving inexorably into the food chain. Taking readers into the medical centers where frustrated physicians must discard drug after drug as they struggle to keep patients alive, she discloses an explosion of cases that demonstrate how MRSA is growing more virulent, while evolving resistance to antibiotics with astonishing speed. It may infect us at any time, no matter how healthy we are; it is carried by a stunning number of our household pets; and it has been detected in food animals from cows to chickens to pigs. With the sensitivity of a novelist, McKenna portrays the emotional and financial devastation endured by MRSA's victims, vividly describing the many stealthy ways in which the pathogen overtakes the body and the shock and grief of parents whose healthy children were felled by infection in just hours. Through dogged detective work, she discloses the unheard warnings that predicted the current crisis and lays bare the flaws that have allowed MRSA to rage out of control: misplaced government spending, inadequate public health surveillance, misguided agricultural practices, and vast overuse of the few precious drugs we have left. Empowering readers with the knowledge they need for self-defense, Superbug sounds an alarm: MRSA has evolved into a global emergency that touches almost every aspect of modern life. It is, as one deeply concerned researcher tells McKenna, "the biggest thing since AIDS."

From Booklist Via several real-life firsthand accounts, public-health journalist McKenna lays bare, often all too graphically, the ravages of a disease with the potential to do grievous international harm because there is virtually no known treatment for it. Although humans and staphylococci have been close travelling companions virtually forever, and those pesky germs occasionally make our travels difficult, once upon a time scientists believed they had discovered the key to stifling staph infections forever: antibiotics. Case closed. But not so fast. There is a particularly feisty, methicillin-resistant strain, staphylococcus aureus, aka MRSA, that apparently has plans to outlast and outlive by outsmarting just about every known antibiotic thrown at it. First thought to reside solely within the walls of hospitals and to affect those with severely compromised immune systems, MRSA surreptitiously evolved a street persona. With the bacterias quick-changing, deadly brothers lurking in hospitals, gyms, and locker rooms, experts at the epicenter of research report that the hunt for a vaccine may be a last-ditch strategy to fend off a wily predator. -- Donna Chavez A gripping account of one of the most devastating infectious agents on the planet...A meticulously researched, frightening report on a deadly pathogen. (Kirkus)[McKenna] has written a meticulously detailed account of MRSA hits like a sledgehammer and outlines the past, present and future of the bacteria. (The Washington Examiner) During her years as a reporter covering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Maryn McKenna grew accustomed to being called Scary Disease Girl, the bearer of titillating tales of exotic ailments unlikely to affect most people. McKenna's new book, Superbug, is less deliciously frightening and more just plain scary. (Chicago Tribune) Where will the next major epidemic come from? According to Superbug, that epidemic is already here. (Boing Boing) From the Author I'd been an epidemics-and-disasters reporter for years before I heard of MRSA -- and once I discovered it, I couldn't stop thinking about it. I was following a group of disease detectives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, through an investigation of bizarre skin infections in Los Angeles. The CDC wanted to know where men were picking them up. I wanted to know something more fundamental: How could a minor problem -- something that the victims all described as looking like a tiny spider bite -- blow up into massive infections that ate away at skin and muscle, put people into the hospital for weeks and drained their health and their bank accounts? Where had it come from? And if it could do that, what else was it capable of? SUPERBUG: The Fatal Menace of MRSA is my account of what I found when I tried to answer those

questions: a global epidemic, hiding in plain sight. It has been building for five decades. Every year, it kills thousands of people, sickens millions and costs billions of dollars. It affects hospitals and families, schools and prisons, children and seniors, and now, most troublingly, farms, livestock and food. The story of MRSA -- methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or drug-resistant staph -- is the story of how we took the antibiotic miracle for granted, and how we failed to plan for the creative survival tactics of the bacteria that are mankind's oldest companions. But it is also a tale with many threads woven through it: How we schedule our work lives. How we choose to feed our families. How we take care of people confined to institutions, whether those institutions are prisons or nursing homes. How much we're willing to trust in technology. And when something new and different emerges -- something extraordinary, something threatening -- how, and whether, we recognize it in time.