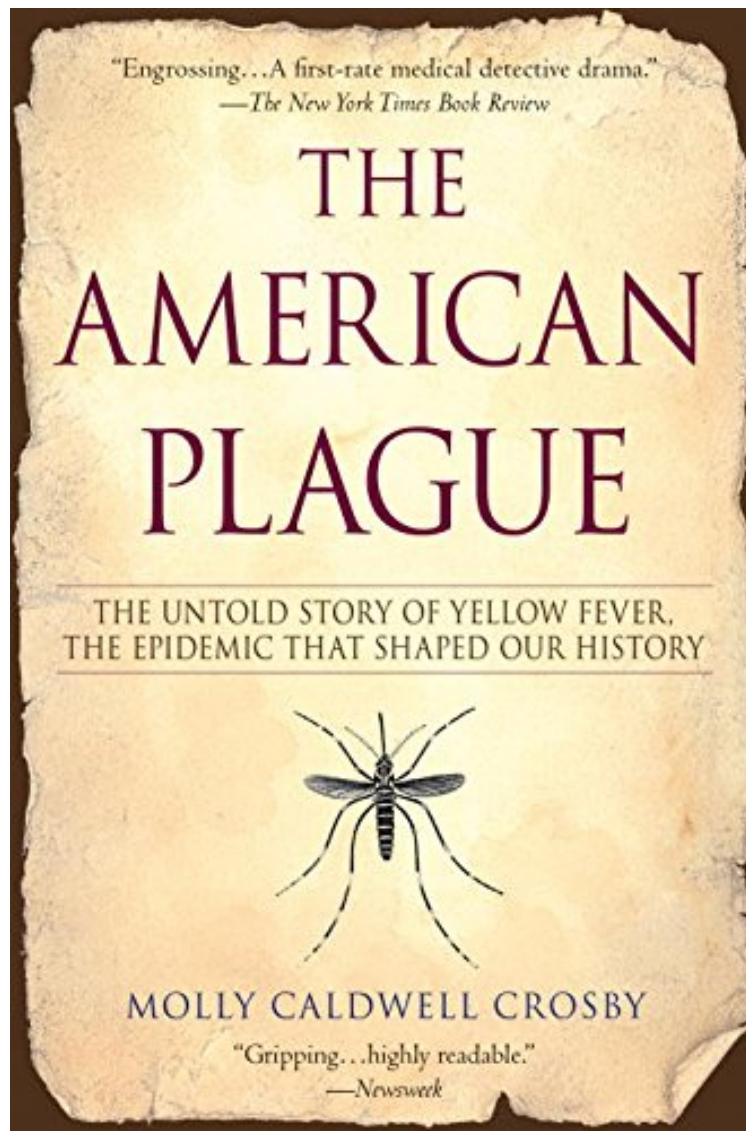


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## The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, The Epidemic That Shaped Our History

Molly Caldwell Crosby  
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#117748 in Books Molly Caldwell Crosby 2007-09-04 2007-09-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x 1.06 x 5.511, .81 #File Name: 0425217752400 pagesThe American Plague The Untold Story of Yellow Fever the Epidemic that Shaped Our History | File size: 23.Mb

**Molly Caldwell Crosby : The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, The Epidemic That Shaped Our History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, The Epidemic That Shaped Our History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read for the aspiring medical scientist!By Lucas WilkinsOutstanding look into a devastating smite of disease in Memphis, TN. At times, it was difficult to read for long periods, because the writing literally made me feel as though I was in the midst of a yellow fever epidemic. The book continues to describe the inspiring story of the medical scientists, who at great risks to themselves, relentlessly tracked down the origin of the disease, ultimately permanently handicapping yellow fever's ability to deal death to the thousands. Good read!!!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling and insightful.By persephoneDeeply insightful, a compelling read. Well written, cautionary tale. Well worth the time for anyone.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. RivetingBy Kindle CustomerThe story of the city of Memphis, Tennessee and its battles with Yellow Fever in 1878. A story about men like Walter Reed and Carlos Finlay, who discovered that mosquitoes were the vector of transmission.

In this national-bestselling account, a journalist traces the course of yellow fever, stopping in 1878 Memphis to "vividly [evoke] the Faulkner-meets-'Dawn of the Dead' horrors,"\*-and moving on to today's strain of the killer virus. Over the course of history, yellow fever has paralyzed governments, halted commerce, quarantined cities, moved the U.S. capital, and altered the outcome of wars. During a single summer in Memphis alone, it cost more lives than the Chicago fire, the San Francisco earthquake, and the Johnstown flood combined. In 1900, the U.S. sent three doctors to Cuba to discover how yellow fever was spread. There, they launched one of history's most controversial human studies. Compelling and terrifying, *The American Plague* depicts the story of yellow fever and its reign in this country-and in Africa, where even today it strikes thousands every year. With "arresting tales of heroism,"\*\* it is a story as much about the nature of human beings as it is about the nature of disease.

From Publishers WeeklyIn a summer of panic and death in 1878, more than half the population of Memphis, Tenn., fled the raging yellow fever epidemic, which finally waned when cooler weather set in. The disease had been transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which came in swarms on ships from the Caribbean or West Africa. This account has a narrower scope than James Dickerson's recent *Yellow Fever*, focusing on the Memphis tragedy, but journalist Crosby offers a forceful narrative of a disease's ravages and the quest to find its cause and cure. Crosby is particularly good at evoking the horrific conditions in Memphis, "a city of corpses" and rife with illness characterized by high fever, black vomit and hemorrhaging, treated by primitive methods. Crosby also relates arresting tales of heroism, such as how two nuns returned to the quarantined city from a vacation to nurse the victims. The author profiles scientists, some of whom died in their fight to identify the cause of this deadly disease. She also describes more recent outbreaks in Africa: yellow fever is making a frightening comeback despite the existence of a vaccine. Photos. Barnes Noble Discover New Writers selection. (Nov. 7) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Engrossing...Crosby, a journalist, profiles the outbreak as it rips through Memphis, the city hardest hit. A first-rate medical detective drama...It is good to be reminded of the occasional nobility of the human spirit." - *New York Times Book* "Gripping...highly readable." - *Newsweek* "...painstaking investigation is important not just for the sweep of detail but for getting things impeccably right. Whether Crosby is writing about...Memphis, the death of a family in a plantation house in Mississippi or the itinerary of Walter Reed in Havana, she provides meticulous documentation to back up the narrative." - *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis"Through vivid prose and classic storytelling, Crosby seamlessly blends history and science to tell us how yellow fever haunted the nation--and why, if we're not extremely vigilant, it will haunt us again." - Hampton Sides, author of *Hellhound on His Trail* and *Ghost Soldiers*"In her masterful debut, Molly Caldwell Crosby uses rich detail and a stunning cast of characters to bring to vivid life the devastating yellow fever epidemic of 1878...this book captivated me from the first line--and it haunted me long after I'd turned the final page." - Candice Millard, author of *Destiny of the Republic* and *The River of Doubt*From the Author I am not from Memphis originally, and after moving here, I began hearing about the tragic yellow fever epidemic and its far reaching consequences. As a non-Memphian, I was struck by how few people outside of this region had ever heard of the epidemic, which was the greatest urban disaster of its time, with a death toll higher than the Chicago fire and San Francisco earthquake--combined. That is what inspired me to tell this story. I wanted to take the reader into Memphis in 1878, into the city's problems and promise as summer approaches. While most U.S. cities in both the North and the South suffered through yellow fever outbreaks for two-hundred years, 1878 stands out as the worst--when Memphis became a "city of corpses"--and the last major yellow fever epidemic in the U.S.