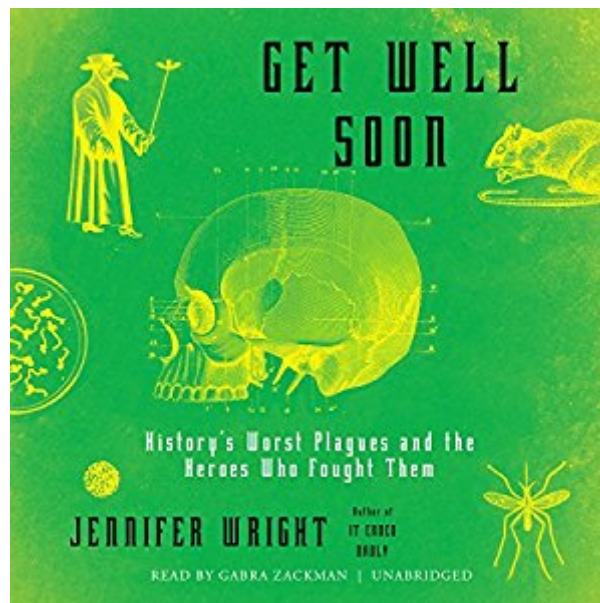




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Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues And The Heroes Who Fought Them



Synopsis

A witty, irreverent tour of history's worst plagues - from the Antonine Plague, to leprosy, to polio - and a celebration of the heroes who fought them. In 1518, in a small town in Alsace, Frau Troffea began dancing and didn't stop. She danced until she was carried away six days later, and soon 34 more villagers joined her. Then more. In a month more than 400 people had been stricken by the mysterious dancing plague. In late-19th-century England an eccentric gentleman founded the No Nose Club in his gracious townhome - a social club for those who had lost their noses, and other body parts, to the plague of syphilis for which there was then no cure. And in turn-of-the-century New York, an Irish cook caused two lethal outbreaks of typhoid fever, a case that transformed her into the notorious Typhoid Mary. Throughout time, humans have been terrified and fascinated by the diseases history and circumstance have dropped on them. Some of their responses to those outbreaks are almost too strange to believe in hindsight. *Get Well Soon* delivers the gruesome, morbid details of some of the worst plagues we've suffered as a species, as well as stories of the heroic figures who selflessly fought to ease the suffering of their fellow man. With her signature mix of in-depth research and storytelling, and not a little dark humor, Jennifer Wright explores history's most gripping and deadly outbreaks, and ultimately looks at the surprising ways they've shaped history and humanity for almost as long as anyone can remember.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you enjoy reading about diseases, epidemics and pandemics this is the book for you! The

chapters are short enough to keep most readers interested, and I enjoy this author and her sense of humor so much that I just want to sit down with her and hang out over a cup of coffee. There are a lot of interesting facts in this book (with citations, she didn't just pull facts off of the internet or invent them - unlike a lot of books that has been publishing lately), interspersed with the author's witty and often hilarious opinion. I found this book extremely interesting, and if you have any interest in diseases, and especially how society has handled (or mishandled) past crises, and you don't mind having a good chuckle in the process, definitely get this book.

TL;DR: the more kindly and quickly sick folks are treated, the faster the plagues that beset us gets resolved. Ignoring or Shunning sick folks as dirty sinners makes everything much worse for everybody. Easy to read if you like oddities &/or irreverent takes on history, this accounting of various plagues and what did or didn't fix them is worth the read. I thought I knew most of this, but the author included illnesses I hadn't heard of, and made some historical detail make a lot of sense. It also shows how the determination and passion of single individuals can help the lives of others; and how ignorant fools who want to be right/seen as righteous even when they are not can cause untold suffering for millions of folks over centuries. It was fascinating enough that some guy I sat next to on an airplane read a whole chapter along with me.

This exceptional book about diseases is definitely not a textbook. The author infuses a sense of humor, as well as political views in a delightful way. Her research on the diseases and the historical context surrounding them was impeccable.

I love this book. I work in the medical field, and have a hankering for history, so plagues throughout time definitely hits the spot for me. Jennifer Wright is both highly intelligent and sarcastic, providing factual references mixed with witty remarks. I highly recommend this book, I can't wait to read her others!

This book has some very interesting stories that I didn't learn about in school. It's really cool that people are doing this, but this book doesn't read like a technical manual. It's fun to read even though the subject matter is dark. I look forward to reading this author's next project!

The author is skilled in providing just enough medical detail about the disease but also stories that highlight real cases. This did not disappoint.

This is an excellent book and a MUST read for anyone interested in the history of medicine in the world!

This is one of the best books in this genre, the authors voice comes through so well. It's very "Pro-Vax" which I love, but might alienate some readers. It fantastically explains the reasons for vaccines and how they were developed along with a dark humor reality check about what letting these diseases return would actually mean.

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