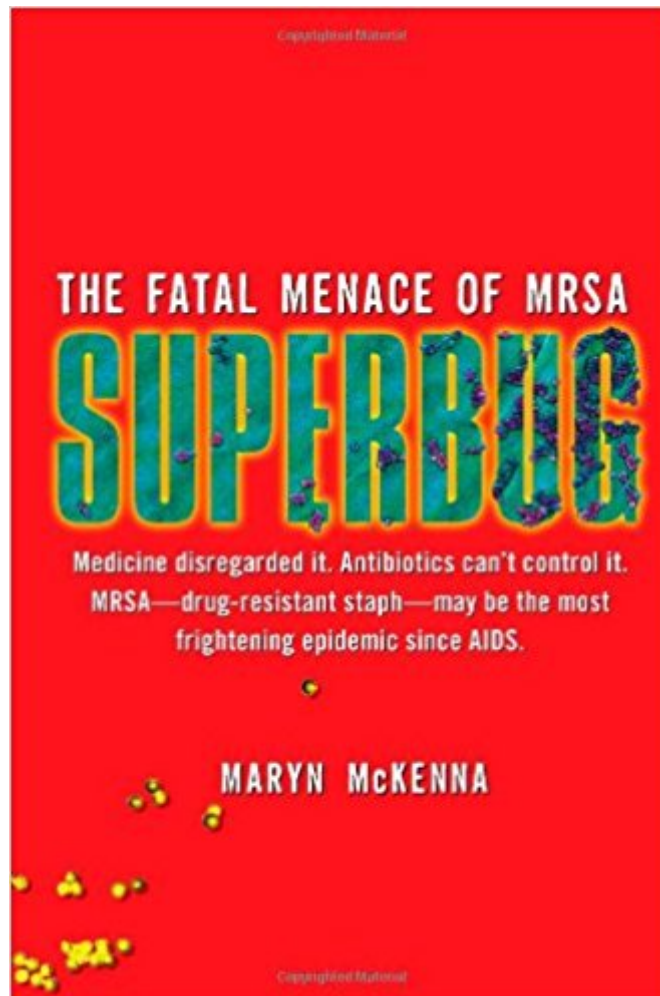




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Superbug: The Fatal Menace Of MRSA



Synopsis

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." --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

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Customer Reviews

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 bacteria's 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

Maryn McKenna is an award-winning science and medical writer and author of [The Way We Live Now](#) (named one of the top 10 science books of 2004 by [The New York Times](#)). She currently works as a contributing writer for the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota and is a media fellow at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. She is a graduate of Georgetown University and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, and has also studied at Harvard Medical School. She lives in Minneapolis.

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.

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.

Well-written, yet terrifying play by play account of how MRSA has infiltrated our hospitals and communities...this book is a fast read, but leaves many questions unanswered. The true terror is that is due to the fact that, as of now, there are no answers.

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.

As a person who had MRSA for over 10 years. Then entered my system and nearly died. MRSA is getting much less press then AID'S or now Ebola. Book is a good read but not great. Goes on too long. Better if you cut out 100 pages.

The author does an excellent job of documenting the progression and evolution of this deadly, opportunistic, nasty bacteria. I would recommend this book for anyone because the author does do such a good job of conferring information in layman's terms. Yet, with that said, this book is especially educational for anyone in the healthcare industry.

A must read for all medical professionals.... What a wakeup call. All professionals must continue to collaborate and work together to subside the mutation and spread of MRSA.

EVERYONE WHO READS THIS WILL BE SO SCARED OUT OF THEIR PANTS. Prepare for this epidemic. It is here and exploding. I have it. Remember a few things that work. 91% alcohol.

Manuka Honey. Activated Charcoal. Olive Leaf Extract. Oregano Oil extract, Fresh garlic bath soaks and clorox bath soaks. WATCH OUT. KNOW THE SIGNS. THIS KILLS BIG TIME. 2104 250k people died of the "reported" cases of MRSA, but it was likely 4 times higher than that because normally the doctor writes the last thing that went wrong, like kidney or heart failure, rather than what caused it like MRSA. Be informed. This book is excellent, however older, still applies up to 2014. Go online, research MRSA. Also go to PBS and watch NIGHTMARE BACTERIA and there are a few others on PBS, but this one explains it very well. BE SCARED. BE PREPARED.

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