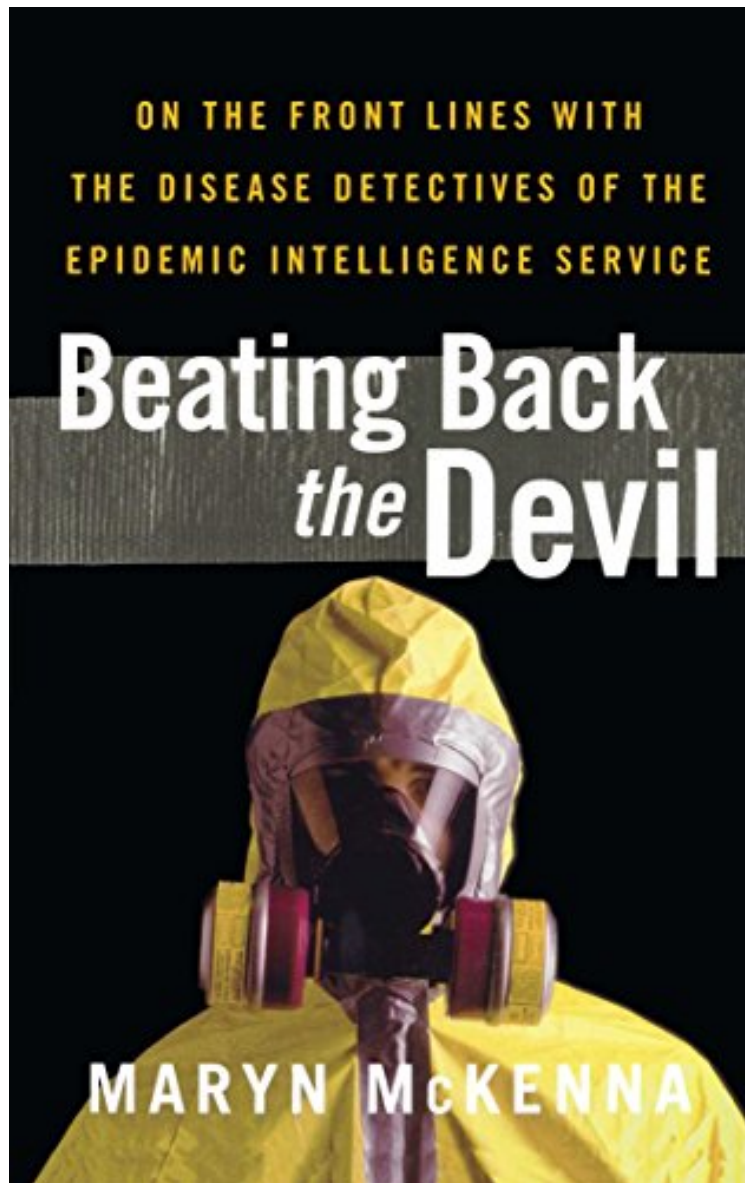


(Download pdf ebook) Beating Back the Devil

Beating Back the Devil

Maryn McKenna

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Maryn McKenna : Beating Back the Devil before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beating Back the Devil:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. LOVED IT, LOVED IT, LOVED IT! By Joyce Deering Fascinating!

I loved everything about this book. The employees who work in the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and their previous counterparts are owed a huge debt of gratitude. What they sacrifice in order to get the job done is amazing. I felt this book was well written except for the playing fast and loose with hyphens.....hyphenating words that don't need one, even names? Really? Who does that? It really does read like a true crime book. At the end of one of the investigations I had to take a break. It was a real roller- coaster ride. I will be reading more by this author, I'm certain. I hope the hyper hyphen-loving person steers clear of the next one...Eesh.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Best Infectious disease/Epidemiology non-textbook out thereBy Alex UnderwoodI was very pleased with this book. As is obvious from the title, the book is about the little known organization the EIS. The writing does an excellent job of presenting facts and history while also reading like a novel. The author does an excellent job detailing the history of the CDC and its role in public health in the United States. There are many different vignettes about different outbreaks and the professionals who work on them. These stories are extremely fascinating and read like a good true crime novel. If you are not in the medical field, certain parts might take some research to grasp. This is one of the best books I have read in this subject area. It keeps you entertained while divulging the requisite history of organizations and people.Grade: A0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Exciting account of real-world epidemicsBy Vicki M.Interesting history of the Epidemic Intelligence Service and its roles in disease discovery, treatment, and eradication across the world and in this country. Highly recommended; not "too" technical or basic.

The universal human instinct is to run from an outbreak of disease like Ebola. These doctors run toward it. Their job is to stop epidemics from happening.They are the disease detective corps of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the federal agency that tracks and tries to prevent disease outbreaks and bioterrorist attacks around the world. They are formally called the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS)a group founded more than fifty years ago out of fear that the Korean War might bring the use of biological weaponsand, like intelligence operatives in the traditional sense, they perform their work largely in anonymity. They are not household names, but over the years they were first to confront the outbreaks that became known as hantavirus, Ebola, and AIDS. Every day they work to protect us by hunting down the deadly threats that we forget until they dominate our headlines, West Nile virus, anthrax, and SARS among others.In this riveting narrative, Maryn McKenna the only journalist ever given full access to the EIS in its fifty-three-year historyfollows the first class of disease detectives to come to the CDC after September 11, the first to confront not just naturally occurring outbreaks but the man-made threat of bioterrorism. They are talented researchersmany with young familieswho trade two years of low pay and extremely long hours for the chance to be part of the group that are on the frontlines, in the yellow suits and masks, that has helped eradicate smallpox, push back polio, and solve the first major outbreaks of Legionnaires disease, toxic shock syndrome, and E. coli O157 and works to battle every new disease before it becomes an epidemic.Urgent, exhilarating, and compelling, *Beating Back the Devil* takes you inside the world of these medical detectives who are trying to stop the next epidemicbefore the epidemics stop us.

.com Among candidates for world's worst job, disease detective ranks pretty high. In *Beating Back the Devil*, Maryn McKenna examines the everyday fascinations and horrors faced by the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service. On a few hours' notice, these physicians are ready to travel anywhere in the world to track down new medical threats. McKenna writes about the group's response to such frightening incidents as the first outbreaks of Ebola and SARS. In matter-of-fact, first-person narratives, EIS doctors tell how they deal with crises brought on not only by biological threats, but by public health mismanagement, terrorism, and war. One doctor describes trying to save children while working in conflict-torn Zaire: "We would go into a center and find kids lying on the floor, severely dehydrated, with a clogged IV," he said. "Then we would go outside and find the relief workers building a stone fireplace.... And we'd have to say, Hot meals would be great, but in a few days you're not going to have any living kids to cook meals for.... Take this oral rehydration solution and sit by this child and spoon it into his mouth.... Don't do anything else, or this child is going to be dead." McKenna's research is painstakingly meticulous, and the doctors she profiles come across as brave firefighters of microbiological conflagrations. Not since Sherwin Nuland has an author so effectively revealed the dramatic side of medicine. --Therese LittletonFrom Publishers WeeklyFounded in 1951 because of a mistaken concern that troops in Korea had been exposed to biological weapons, the Epidemic Intelligence Service, or EIS, is the rapid-response force of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Young, highly trained, and fiercely committed," EIS health professionals, including doctors, dentists, nurses and veterinarians, respond rapidly and travel to any area of the world to examine possible threats to public health. Given unique access to the EIS, McKenna presents 11 case studies of epidemics, environmental threats and acts of terrorism EIS has dealt with. McKenna puts readers on the scene with doctors discovering the beginnings of the AIDS epidemic in 1980. She tells of an EIS team that in 1994 traveled to Zaire to assist in a cholera epidemic sparked by a genocidal war. After 9/11, EIS investigated the anthrax attacks that were spread through the mails. McKenna, a senior medical writer at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, provides an inside look at how EIS workers are trained. Recruits, selected through a competitive process, are given refresher courses in epidemiology, statistical analysis and interviewing techniques before beginning a two-

year on-the-job training. McKenna's personal portraits of these dedicated health professionals illuminate the bravery as well as the anxiety that accompany this demanding work. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Many federal agencies seem challenged when it comes to identifying enemies, but not agents of the Centers for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). The enemy for them is whatever illness is causing chaos with human health. Usually a germ or a virus, the culprit may be previously unknown, but it is always the enemy. What frequently gives these disease warriors pause, however, is an enemy's origin. To ascertain it, they must put all their medical and scientific detection skills into play, sometimes placing their own health on the line. The work of these highly specialized detectives is occasionally dramatic, often tedious, but always engaging. Interspersing enlightening flashbacks that show how the EIS has dealt with such public health threats as polio, smallpox, West Nile virus, and TB, science writer McKenna job-shadows the CDC's fifty-first class of EIS agents as they are put through grueling training sessions that, for the first time in the service's existence, include how to respond to the threat of biological terrorism. Donna Chavez Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved