
The Medical Detectives Berton Roueche

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A Medical Mystery
and Other Medical Detective Stories
The Classic Collection of Award-Winning Medical Investigative Reporting
The Remedy
How Doctors Think

*The Medical
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Berton
Roueché*

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NATHANAEL CARNEY

People, Travels, Places
Penguin

Modern technology has given rise to electronic medical records, remote monitoring systems, and satellite-enabled real-time examinations in which patient and physician might be separated by thousands of miles. Yet, when it comes to diagnosing difficult cases, the clinician's strongest asset might just be one of the oldest tools of the medical profession—careful listening. *True Medical Detective Stories* is a fascinating compendium of nineteen true-life medical cases, each solved by clinical deduction and facilitated by careful listening. These accounts present puzzling low-tech cases—most of them serious, some humorous—that were solved either at the bedside or by epidemiological studies. Dr. Clifton Meador's book is a wonderful contribution to the genre of medical detective stories mastered by the legendary Berton Roueché. As a staff writer

at *The New Yorker* from 1944 until his death fifty years later, Roueché popularized this form, which has provided source material for feature films and most recently supplied scenarios featured in medical television dramas, such as *House*. While Hollywood frequently oversimplifies and elides the real clinical situations, *True Medical Detective Stories* sets the record straight with a voice of authority and an engaging style rooted in the fact that most of the cases presented involve Dr. Meador's actual patients. Dr. Meador discovered Berton Roueché's writing as a teenager, when he first read *Eleven Blue Men*. In an astonishing twist of fate, Roueché, in later years, traveled to Nashville to meet with Dr. Meador and discuss one of his cases, with Roueché's account published posthumously under the title, *The Man Who Grew Two Breasts*. In a fitting tribute to Roueché, this perplexing case is revisited by Dr. Meador in the opening chapter of this highly enjoyable book. *True Medical Detective Stories* is a captivating read that will keep you marveling

over the idiosyncrasies of the human body and the ingenuity of the human mind.

Survival of the Sickest

LP Open Road Media
CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS! "Portrays epidemiologists as disease detectives who tirelessly hunt for clues and excel at deductive reasoning. Even Sherlock Holmes would be proud of this astute group of professionals."—Booklist
This updated edition features a brand new section detailing important facts about the coronavirus and tips for keeping yourself and your family safe. Despite advances in health care, infectious microbes continue to be a formidable adversary to scientists and doctors. Vaccines and antibiotics, the mainstays of modern medicine, have not been able to conquer infectious microbes because of their amazing ability to adapt, evolve, and spread to new places. Terrorism aside, one of the greatest dangers from infectious disease we face today is from a massive outbreak of drug-resistant microbes. *Deadly Outbreaks* recounts the scientific adventures of a special group of intrepid

individuals who investigate these outbreaks around the world and figure out how to stop them. Part homicide detective, part physician, these medical investigators must view the problem from every angle, exhausting every possible source of contamination. Any data gathered in the field must be stripped of human sorrows and carefully analyzed into hard statistics. Author Alexandra Levitt, PhD, is an expert on emerging diseases and other public health threats. Here she shares insider accounts she's collected that go behind the alarming headlines we've seen in the media: mysterious food poisonings, unexplained deaths at a children's hospital, a strange neurologic disease afflicting slaughterhouse workers, flocks of birds dropping dead out of the sky, and drug-resistant malaria running rampant in a refugee camp. Meet the resourceful investigators—doctors, veterinarians, and research scientists—and discover the truth behind these cases and more.

Programming Pearls

Harper Collins

A collection of more than

fifty hard-to-crack medical quandaries, featuring the best of The New York Times Magazine's popular Diagnosis column—now a Netflix original series “Lisa Sanders is a paragon of the modern medical detective storyteller.”—Atul Gawande, author of *Being Mortal* As a Yale School of Medicine physician, the New York Times bestselling author of *Every Patient Tells a Story*, and an inspiration and adviser for the hit Fox TV drama *House, M.D.*, Lisa Sanders has seen it all. And yet she is often confounded by the cases she describes in her column: unexpected collections of symptoms that she and other physicians struggle to diagnose. A twenty-eight-year-old man, vacationing in the Bahamas for his birthday, tries some barracuda for dinner. Hours later, he collapses on the dance floor with crippling stomach pains. A middle-aged woman returns to her doctor, after visiting two days earlier with a mild rash on the back of her hands. Now the rash has turned purple and has spread across her entire body in whiplike streaks. A young elephant trainer in a traveling circus, once

head-butted by a rogue zebra, is suddenly beset with splitting headaches, as if someone were “slamming a door inside his head.” In each of these cases, the path to diagnosis—and treatment—is winding, sometimes frustratingly unclear. Dr. Sanders shows how making the right diagnosis requires expertise, painstaking procedure, and sometimes a little luck. Intricate, gripping, and full of twists and turns, *Diagnosis* puts readers in the doctor's place. It lets them see what doctors see, feel the uncertainty they feel—and experience the thrill when the puzzle is finally solved.

Body Brokers Univ of California Press

The Medical DetectivesThe Classic Collection of Award-Winning Medical Investigative Reporting

Plume

Level 4: Virus Hunters of

the CDC Franklin Classics

The commander of the Army virology unit that battled the Ebola virus, now a top official at the Centers for Disease Control, looks back on his thirty-year career fighting deadly viruses

Microbe Anchor

The classic collection of award-winning medical

investigative reporting. What do Lyme's disease in Long Island, a pig from New Jersey, and an amateur pianist have in common? All are subjects in three of 24 utterly fascinating tales of strange illnesses, rare diseases, poisons, and parasites—each tale a thriller of medical suspense by the incomparable Berton Roueché. The best of his New Yorker articles are collected here to astound readers with intriguing tales of epidemics in America's small towns, threats of contagion in our biggest cities, even bubonic plague in a peaceful urban park. In each true story, local health authorities and epidemiologists race against time to find the clue to an unknown and possibly fatal disease. Sometimes a life hangs in the balance, and the culprit may be as innocuous as a bowl of oatmeal. Award-winning journalist Berton Roueché is unfailingly exact, informative, and able to keep anyone reading till dawn.

Robert Koch, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Quest to Cure Tuberculosis The Medical Detectives The Classic Collection of Award-

Winning Medical Investigative Reporting Whether a virus is unintentionally released via our modern transportation system, or deliberately by terrorists, even a small scale biological event could have a profound effect on our society. Yet our current public health system is completely unprepared to detect and respond quickly enough to avert a disease related crisis.

The Man who Grew Two Breasts Dutton Adult This collection of stories of pioneering medical researchers provide readers with a look into the fascinating history of many of the most important medical advancements in recent years, and brings readers up to date on the ethics and controversies in current medical practice.

Every Patient Tells a Story HarperCollins The story of a notorious New York eccentric and the journalist who chronicled his life: "A little masterpiece of observation and storytelling" (Ian McEwan). Joseph Mitchell was a cornerstone of the New Yorker staff for decades, but his prolific career was shattered by an extraordinary case of

writer's block. For the final thirty-two years of his life, Mitchell published nothing. And the key to his silence may lie in his last major work: the biography of a supposed Harvard grad turned Greenwich Village tramp named Joe Gould. Gould was, in Mitchell's words, "an odd and penniless and unemployable little man who came to this city in 1916 and ducked and dodged and held on as hard as he could for over thirty-five years." As Mitchell learns more about Gould's epic Oral History—a reputedly nine-million-word collection of philosophizing, wanderings, and hearsay—he eventually uncovers a secret that adds even more intrigue to the already unusual story of the local legend. Originally written as two separate pieces ("Professor Sea Gull" in 1942 and then "Joe Gould's Secret" twenty-two years later), this magnum opus captures Mitchell at his peak. As the reader comes to understand Gould's secret, Mitchell's words become all the more haunting. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Joseph Mitchell including rare images from the author's

estate.

Taking the Quantum Leap
Broadway

As an increasing number of colleges and universities call for an epidemiologic content into liberal arts programs. This title is designed to meet the needs of instructors teaching and overview or introductory course of epidemiology. In an easy-to-read and understandable format, the text demonstrates applied approaches in everyday life and also to specific health outcomes. Key Features: Numbers case studies Text boxes and vignettes throughout Exhibits Photographs Figures Illustrations Looking for more real-life evidence? Check out Cases 1-5, 19, & 21 in Essential Case Studies in Public Health, Putting Public Health into Practice.

Deadly Outbreaks W.H. Freeman

For two hundred years a noble Venetian family has suffered from an inherited disease that strikes their members in middle age, stealing their sleep, eating holes in their brains, and ending their lives in a matter of months. In Papua New Guinea, a primitive tribe is nearly obliterated by a sickness whose chief

symptom is uncontrollable laughter. Across Europe, millions of sheep rub their fleeces raw before collapsing. In England, cows attack their owners in the milking parlors, while in the American West, thousands of deer starve to death in fields full of grass. What these strange conditions—including fatal familial insomnia, kuru, scrapie, and mad cow disease—share is their cause: prions. Prions are ordinary proteins that sometimes go wrong, resulting in neurological illnesses that are always fatal. Even more mysterious and frightening, prions are almost impossible to destroy because they are not alive and have no DNA—and the diseases they bring are now spreading around the world. In *The Family That Couldn't Sleep*, essayist and journalist D. T. Max tells the spellbinding story of the prion's hidden past and deadly future. Through exclusive interviews and original archival research, Max explains this story's connection to human greed and ambition—from the Prussian chemist Justus von Liebig, who made cattle meatier by feeding them the flesh of

other cows, to New Guinean natives whose custom of eating the brains of the dead nearly wiped them out. The biologists who have investigated these afflictions are just as extraordinary—for example, Daniel Carleton Gajdusek, a self-described “pedagogic pedophile” who cracked kuru and won the Nobel Prize, and another Nobel winner, Stanley Prusiner, a driven, feared self-promoter who identified the key protein that revolutionized prion study. With remarkable precision, grace, and sympathy, Max—who himself suffers from an inherited neurological illness—explores maladies that have tormented humanity for centuries and gives reason to hope that someday cures will be found. And he eloquently demonstrates that in our relationship to nature and these ailments, we have been our own worst enemy. Advance praise “*The Family that Couldn't Sleep* is a riveting detective story that plumbs one of the deepest mysteries of biology. The story takes the reader from the torments of an Italian family cursed with sleeplessness to the mad

cows of England (and, now, America), following an unlikely trail of misfolded proteins. D. T. Max unfolds his absorbing narrative with rare grace and makes the science sing.” –Michael Pollan, author of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma* and *The Botany of Desire* “Much has been written about prions and Mad Cow Disease—nearly all of it is worthless. Thankfully, from the world of journalism comes D.T. Max to set things right. Throw all those other “Mad Cow” books in the trash: This is the book to read about prions—or whatever you want to call them. It’s a riveting tale, told by someone with a very special understanding, derived in part from his own strange ailment. Find a cozy spot, clear your schedule and dive in.” – Laurie Garrett, author of *Betrayal of Trust* and *The Coming Plague* “D. T. Max deftly unfolds the mysterious prion in all its villainous guises. Although scientists do not fully understand these proteins—how they replicate and wreak such havoc in their victims’ brains—*The Family That Couldn’t Sleep* reveals their historical, cultural, and scientific place in our world. Prepare to be enlightened, entertained,

and frightened.” –Katrina Firlik, MD, author of *Another Day in the Frontal Lobe* “A great book. D.T. Max has drawn the curtain on a cabinet of folly and malady that will stagger your imagination.” – Philip Weiss, author of *American Taboo* “D.T. Max has combined the enthralling medical anthropology of Oliver Sacks with the gothic horror of Stephen King to produce a medical detective story that is as intelligent as it is spooky. The villain of *The Family That Couldn’t Sleep* is the prion, a tiny little protein that causes some of the most terrifying, brain-mangling, creepy diseases known to man. Always fascinating—how could it not be, given that its characters include cannibals, mad cows, madder sheep, a Nobel prize-winning pedophile, and, most poignantly, an Italian family cursed by fatal insomnia?—Max’s book is also a gripping account of scientific discovery, and a heartfelt meditation on what it means to be cursed with an incurable, and brutal, illness.” – David Plotz, author of *The Genius Factory*

The Incurable Wound and Further Narratives of Medical Detection

Random House Trade Paperbacks
On average, a physician will interrupt a patient describing her symptoms within eighteen seconds. In that short time, many doctors decide on the likely diagnosis and best treatment. Often, decisions made this way are correct, but at crucial moments they can also be wrong—with catastrophic consequences. In this myth-shattering book, Jerome Groopman pinpoints the forces and thought processes behind the decisions doctors make. Groopman explores why doctors err and shows when and how they can—with our help—avoid snap judgments, embrace uncertainty, communicate effectively, and deploy other skills that can profoundly impact our health. This book is the first to describe in detail the warning signs of erroneous medical thinking and reveal how new technologies may actually hinder accurate diagnoses. *How Doctors Think* offers direct, intelligent questions patients can ask their doctors to help them get back on track. Groopman draws on a wealth of research, extensive interviews with some of the country’s best

doctors, and his own experiences as a doctor and as a patient. He has learned many of the lessons in this book the hard way, from his own mistakes and from errors his doctors made in treating his own debilitating medical problems. *How Doctors Think* reveals a profound new view of twenty-first-century medical practice, giving doctors and patients the vital information they need to make better judgments together.

The Elite Medical Detectives of the Epidemic Intelligence Service

CRC Press
Forensic Pharmacology explores the many links between drugs and forensic science, from drug-induced violence and crime to determining whether a person taking a certain medication is capable of standing trial for a crime, to the forgery of prescriptions. The reader is introduced to the daily work of the scientists, and the principles of pharmacology and toxicology, as well as the various classes and technical analysis of drugs of abuse.

Joe Gould's Secret
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
The classic collection of

award-winning medical investigative reporting. What do Lyme's disease in Long Island, a pig from New Jersey, and an amateur pianist have in common? All are subjects in three of 24 utterly fascinating tales of strange illnesses, rare diseases, poisons, and parasites—each tale a thriller of medical suspense by the incomparable Berton Roueche. The best of his New Yorker articles are collected here to astound readers with intriguing tales of epidemics in America's small towns, threats of contagion in our biggest cities, even bubonic plague in a peaceful urban park. In each true story, local health authorities and epidemiologists race against time to find the clue to an unknown and possibly fatal disease. Sometimes a life hangs in the balance, and the culprit may be as innocuous as a bowl of oatmeal. Award-winning journalist Berton Roueche is unfailingly exact, informative, and able to keep anyone reading till dawn.

The Medical Detectives
Harper Collins

This book entertainingly traces the history of physics from the

observations of the early Greeks through the discoveries of Galileo and Newton to the dazzling theories of such scientists as Planck, Einstein, Bohr, and Bohm. This humanized view of science opens up the mind-stretching visions of how quantum mechanics, God, human thought, and will are related, and provides profound implications for our understanding of the nature of reality and our relationship to the cosmos.

Medical Ethics Jones &

Bartlett Publishers

Mysteries of modern

American medicine--

involving strange

allergies, food poisonings,

environmental

contaminations, and

outbreaks of mass

hysteria--are solved in

engrossing and instructive

narratives conducted by a

renowned medical writer

Inside America's

Underground Trade in

Human Remains

Amacom Books

A riveting exploration of

the most difficult and

important part of what

doctors do, by Yale School

of Medicine physician Dr.

Lisa Sanders, author of

the monthly New York

Times Magazine column

"Diagnosis," the

inspiration for the hit Fox

TV series *House, M.D.* "The experience of being ill can be like waking up in a foreign country. Life, as you formerly knew it, is on hold while you travel through this other world as unknown as it is unexpected. When I see patients in the hospital or in my office who are suddenly, surprisingly ill, what they really want to know is, 'What is wrong with me?' They want a road map that will help them manage their new surroundings. The ability to give this unnerving and unfamiliar place a name, to know it—on some level—restores a measure of control, independent of whether or not that diagnosis comes attached to a cure. Because, even today, a diagnosis is frequently all a good doctor has to offer." A healthy young man suddenly loses his memory—making him unable to remember the events of each passing hour. Two patients diagnosed with Lyme disease improve after antibiotic treatment—only to have their symptoms mysteriously return. A young woman lies dying in the ICU—bleeding, jaundiced, incoherent—and none of her doctors know what is killing her. In *Every*

Patient Tells a Story, Dr. Lisa Sanders takes us bedside to witness the process of solving these and other diagnostic dilemmas, providing a firsthand account of the expertise and intuition that lead a doctor to make the right diagnosis. Never in human history have doctors had the knowledge, the tools, and the skills that they have today to diagnose illness and disease. And yet mistakes are made, diagnoses missed, symptoms or tests misunderstood. In this high-tech world of modern medicine, Sanders shows us that knowledge, while essential, is not sufficient to unravel the complexities of illness. She presents an unflinching look inside the detective story that marks nearly every illness—the diagnosis—revealing the combination of uncertainty and intrigue that doctors face when confronting patients who are sick or dying. Through dramatic stories of patients with baffling symptoms, Sanders portrays the absolute necessity and surprising difficulties of getting the patient's story, the challenges of the physical exam, the pitfalls of doctor-to-doctor

communication, the vagaries of tests, and the near calamity of diagnostic errors. In *Every Patient Tells a Story*, Dr. Sanders chronicles the real-life drama of doctors solving these difficult medical mysteries that not only illustrate the art and science of diagnosis, but often save the patients' lives.

Are We Ready for the Next Plague? Penguin An "engaging and . . . thought-provoking" memoir of battling public health crises in early 20th-century New York City—from the pioneering female physician and children's health advocate who 'caught' Typhoid Mary (The New York Times) New York's Lower East Side was said to be the most densely populated square mile on earth in the 1890s. Health inspectors called the neighborhood "the suicide ward." Diarrhea epidemics raged each summer, killing thousands of children. Sweatshop babies with smallpox and typhus dozed in garment heaps destined for fashionable shops. Desperate mothers paced the streets to soothe their feverish children and white mourning cloths hung from every building. A third of the children

living there died before their fifth birthday. By 1911, the child death rate had fallen sharply and The New York Times hailed the city as the healthiest on earth. In this witty and highly personal autobiography, public health crusader Dr. S. Josephine Baker explains how this transformation was achieved. By the time she retired in 1923, Baker was famous worldwide for saving the lives of 90,000 children. The programs she developed, many still in use today, have saved the lives of millions more. She fought for women's suffrage, toured Russia in the 1930s, and captured "Typhoid" Mary Mallon, twice. She was also an astute observer of her times, and *Fighting for Life* is one of the most honest, compassionate memoirs of American medicine ever written.

The Medical Detectives, Volume II Createspace Independent Pub Picking up where Berton Roueche's *The Medical Detectives* left off, *The Deadly Dinner Party* presents fifteen edge-of-your-seat, real-life medical detective stories written by a practicing physician. Award-winning author Jonathan Edlow, M.D., shows the doctor as detective and the epidemiologist as elite sleuth in stories that are as gripping as the best thrillers. In these stories a notorious stomach bug turns a suburban dinner party into a disaster that almost claims its host; a diminutive woman routinely eats more than her football-playing boyfriend but continually loses weight; a young executive is diagnosed with lung cancer, yet the

tumors seem to wax and wane inexplicably. Written for the lay person who wishes to better grasp how doctors decipher the myriad clues and puzzling symptoms they often encounter, each story presents a very different case where doctors must work to find the accurate diagnosis before it is too late. Edlow uses his unique ability to relate complex medical concepts in a writing style that is clear, engaging and easily understandable. The resulting stories both entertain us and teach us much about medicine, its history and the subtle interactions among pathogens, humans, and the environment. *Epidemiology 101* Yale University Press Offers eight accounts of strange illnesses and the medical detectives who found their causes

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