



Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary

By Gail Jarrow

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In March 1907, the lives of three remarkable people collided at a New York City brownstone where Mary Mallon worked as a cook. They were brought together by typhoid fever, a dreaded scourge that killed tens of thousands of Americans each

year. Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary is the first middle-grade trade book that tells the true story of the woman who unwittingly spread deadly bacteria, the epidemiologist who discovered her trail of infection, and the health department that decided her fate. This gripping story follows this tragic disease as it shatters lives from the early twentieth century to today. It will keep readers on the edges of the seats wondering what happened to Mary and the innocent typhoid victims. With glossary, timeline, list of well-known typhoid sufferers and victims, further resource section, author's note, and source notes.

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Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary By Gail Jarrow Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5 Up—Just who was Typhoid Mary? In this second installment of a planned trilogy featuring deadly diseases, the first being *Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat* (Calkins Creek, 2014), Jarrow relates the account of Typhoid Mary, also known as Mary Mallon, and places it in historical context, explaining the devastating effects of typhoid fever. A symptomless carrier of typhoid, Mallon was a cook who inadvertently infected numerous people and was responsible for many deaths. Jarrow skillfully weaves Mallon's story into that of two other key figures working to fight and contain the disease: George Albert Soper, a sanitation engineer and typhoid expert; and Sara Josephine Baker, a doctor working at the New York City Department of Health. Citing newspaper articles, courtroom documents, and the personal accounts of several doctors, Jarrow acts as a medical detective, following the lives of Mallon, Soper, and Baker while illuminating a fascinating chapter in public health history. The work of Soper and Baker led to a dramatic decrease in typhoid cases as well as other infectious diseases. Mary, sadly, believed that she neither carried typhoid germs nor that she was responsible for outbreaks and spent most of her life virtually imprisoned on North Brother Island in New York's East River. A nonfiction page-turner relying upon extensive research and copious source notes, this is a fantastic addition to any library.—Ragan O'Malley, Saint Ann's School, Brooklyn, NY

Review

“A nonfiction page-turner relying upon extensive research and copious source notes, this is a fantastic addition to any library.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“[E]ngrossing . . . a top-notch addition to the popular topic of deadly diseases.” – *Kirkus Reviews*, **starred review**

“The writing is lucid, well organized, and informative. . . . [R]eaders who are curious about Typhoid Mary . . . will find this an absorbing account of what actually happened.” – *Booklist*, **starred review**

“[C]aptivating.” – *Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

About the Author

Gail Jarrow's nonfiction books have received numerous awards and distinctions, including a YALSA Award Nomination, Orbis Pictus Recommended Book, National Science Teachers Association Recommended Book, Kirkus Reviews Best Book, and a VOYA Honor Book. *Fatal Fever* is her sixth book for Calkins Creek.

Users Review

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