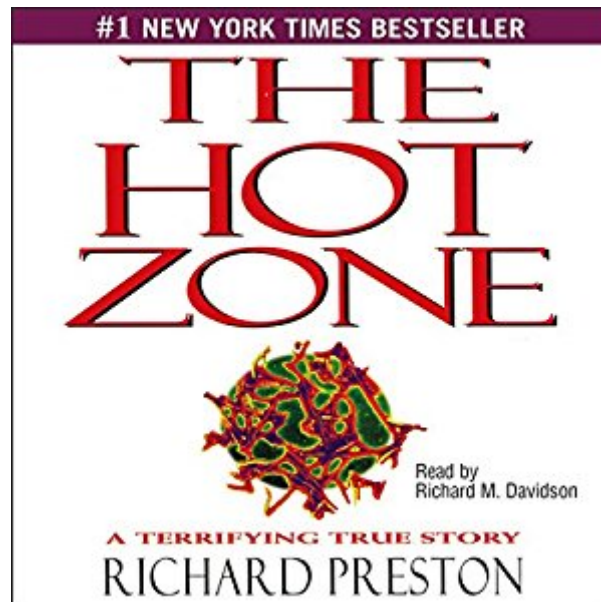




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The Hot Zone: A Terrifying True Story



Synopsis

A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days, 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. The Hot Zone tells this dramatic story, giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, The Hot Zone proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read this book when it first came out in the 1990's. I'm writing this review now because, 1- the current (July 2014) outbreak of Ebola is "the deadliest in recorded history," and 2- I've NEVER forgotten the book. I can honestly say that in a way, it scarred me for life. The book terrified me. The thing that is so terrifying is the way the poor people who contract the disease die. It is just horrible. Once you start reading, you won't be able to put it down. But be warned, it is very disturbing. I really cannot think of anything on Earth more important than preventing the spread of Ebola. Please don't disagree until you have at least read this book.

Ebola Virus' history and lots of information about how a virus gets its name (location of victim) and who gets to name the strain (researcher who isolates it) and how transmission pathways are determined and when Ebola first "jumped" across a room from infected to "clean" monkeys in a lab

because it had aerosolized due to pressure-washing (sound familiar Dallas?). It tells how all fluids of ebola patients (including monkeys), rooms, toilets, floors drains, even the water from the sewer pipes from the sinks and showers the researchers have washed their hands with and shower off their suits with is BOILED then CHEMICALLY TREATED then ISOLATED and then something else...and I think of how many times that Dallas patient threw up into his residential sinks and toilets thus the municipal water system in Dallas. Then the cleaning crew power washes his bloody vomit from the sidewalk into the storm drain! Viruses seek out living hosts...many, if not most hosts they will not even kill...so who knows where those sewer viruses are now...oh, yeah, there are like a billion aggressive ebola seeking hosts in a drop the size of the period at the end of this sentence. Book describes military vets and how well trained they are to handle research into ebola. It's just a great book. Reads like a novel and not technical, but very accurate. Never dull! Covers the bat cave in Africa where ebola may have started. Great book for lay person to understand. Only half finished. Had to stop and write the review because of all the ebola in the news now. WHO has an ebola map that is interactive...very scary.

I have a red dot in the center of my forehead--right between my eyes. It is called a cherry angioma. I like to think it is a my third eye, my sixth sense manifested. I tend to have a knack for tuning into things that become immediately relevant in my life and I like to think this was the case with picking up The Hot Zone. I can't remember where it started; my fascination with germs and viruses. I remember being a kid and quizzing my mother on things like 'guess how many virus particles can fit on the period at the end of this sentence? Thanks to Richard Preston, I remember. The Hot Zone is scarier than any Stephen King novel I ever read and any film by Wes Craven I ever laid eyes on because when I read those stories and I watch those movies I know that those things can't harm me. I do not have the satisfaction of 100% assuredness with The Hot Zone. The viruses covered in this book seems a hundred thousand miles away. Marburg, Lassa, Ebola, Hendra are viruses that are thought to originate on other continents, the mother of all birth places--Africa-- is the pool for which many of the deadliest viruses spring, but the modern world has made a thousand miles really close. In the words of Richard Preston, viruses do not crawl or walk, fly or swim. They ride. They could easily hitch a ride to North America in the bloodstream of some oblivious amplifier and if I were so unlucky the ride would end or rather layover in my back yard. *crosses self* The writing in the Hot Zone was engaging and relentless, poetic and spellbinding, horrendous and terrifying. The fear of being invaded is pervasive in the minds of most people and with Ebola and its sister virus Marburg, the virus invades but it not only invades, it consumes,

liquefies, and terrorizes those it grows close to and in and on. AND it is happening now. Today. This minute. In Western Africa: Sierra Leone and Liberia in small towns and villages Africans lie dying on filthy mats, in pools of their own vomit and blood. Corpses lie under trees gathering flies because people are too afraid to get near enough to bury them and the volunteer teams whose job it is to sanitize and dispose of dead bodies are bogged down by an increasing demand for their attention and a swelling mountain of dead bodies. When I purchased *The Hot Zone* on my kindle I expected to read an account of events that happened years ago and have now settled. I was only half right. The outbreak of Ebola strain Reston in Washington U. S. of A happened years ago but is still very much active today and one of the most deadly strains of the virus Ebola Zaire which some have reported has death rate of 90% is ravaging its way through small parts of Western Africa as I type this. Because of this book I know what Ebola is, what it is capable of doing, and I have a spotty understanding of where it might have originated. I now know that zoonosis is a term for a disease that originated in a species of animal and now made the genetic leap to thrive or kill in humans. *The Hot Zone* should be flying off the shelves, real and virtual, at this very hour, because at the end of the day the best way to save ourselves from our invisible enemies is to arm ourselves with knowledge of where it hides, lives and thrives, and sometimes that starts out with a bit of intuition, a third eye, a cherry angioma.

Four-Stars for R. Preston's focused story that weaves through the past decades since Ebola first emerged from the rainforest. He carefully connects the main players as their paths cross again and again, their lives altered by this unseen, unclean thing, the filovirus (Ebola) sisters. One cannot help but to realize how at risk we humans are that a virus hidden deep in the jungles of Africa could hop-scotch around the world in a day, traveling incognito inside its naive host. Ebola is even now on the Tarmac at an African airport, waiting in silence, undetected. We skim the headlines on the internet and give it a mental shrug, Sudan, it's a long ways away but this is happening, right now! Oh, the FIFTH-STAR is for 's WhisperSynch (audio enhanced Kindle books). Love it, makes reading and listening to audiobook into one; no time lost while driving, pick up reading back at home. Just open the iPad Kindle app and it knows automatically where it left off on the iPhone, driving in from Lubbock. Sorry, the Kindle reader still doesn't do it for me and neither does the PaperWhite connect with WhisperSynch. Hillbilly

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