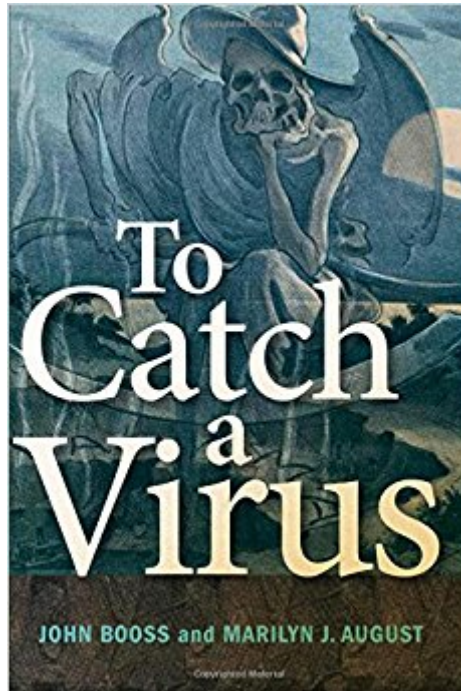




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# To Catch A Virus



## Synopsis

Expert storytellers weave together the science, technological advances, medical urgencies, and human stories that chronicle the development of the field of diagnostic virology. Follows a historical discoveries that defined viruses and their roles in infectious diseases over a century of developments, epidemics, and molecular advances, and continuing into the 21st century with AIDS, HIV, and a future that in no way resembles the past. Features the great names and personalities of diagnostic virology, their contributions, their associations, and their challenges to prove findings that some considered fantasy. Describes how scientists applied revolutionary technologies, studying viruses, first in animal models and tissue culture and progressing to molecular and genetic techniques. Appeals to the pioneer and adventure-seeker who is interested in how a scientific field evolves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Author Marilyn J. August has been nominated by the National League of American Pen Women as a Letters Achiever. Pen Women is a nation-wide organization composed of professional women in art, letters and music and has been around for more than 100 years <http://www.nlapw.org/history/> . Two women in each artistic field are honored at a Celebrity Luncheon by the local Santa Clara County Branch of the organization, and Dr. August has been selected as one of the Letters Achievers for 2014.

Very informative and meticulously researched . Cleverly formatted to be appealing to a layperson. Clearly a subject relevant to all yet investigated by few. Hats off to the authors. Well done and well recommended.

This book is written for the technically inclined layman. It is meticulously written and reads well. This book will especially suit someone in medicine or the bio-tech field.

highly recommended. very informative and very well-written.

An excellent history of virology.

Very insightful and interesting. So inspiring to learn about the history of those who often sacrificed they own lives to discover and combat these deadly viruses that took so many lives.

Very detailed, nice set of references if I ever wanted to find where protocols or procedures originally developed but I think I was looking for a little more easy read virology history. If i want true virology I go to work.

To catch a virus is an outstanding chronicle on the history of investigative virology. Our modern medicine is still struggling to come up with an effective treatment on viral infections without much success. At this point of our time, we simply wish to protect ourselves from those dreadful viral illnesses by getting vaccinated. However, vaccines are available only for a limited number of viral diseases today. The book starts by describing early investigators who subjected themselves willingly to a viral infection with a fatal outcome, as our concept on an animal experiment was not conceived at that time. From the book, I even learned that blacksmiths were involved in patient care a long time ago. Steadily but somewhat slowly, we began to understand the nature of the virus, which the book describes so well. At the end of each chapter, one can see a comprehensive list of references for those who incline to delve into the subject further. The book ends with a succinct synopsis of each chapter by showing a well-organized timeline. Professor Booss is an internationally well-known eminent scholar, neurologist and virologist, having written and edited books on neuro-virology. In this book, he proved himself to be a delightful storyteller, as well. Also, the book contains photographs of many investigators who contributed to the study of the virus, which adds depth to the book. Perusing the photographs was, to me, highly inspirational as well. The book is also

sprinkled with pertinent vintage illustrations or posts related to the viral disease, some hugely hilarious and entertaining. To catch a virus is the result of an assiduous research. Drs. Booss and August meticulously prepared the books. The outcome of their effort is a book that is as thorough as it is readable. Yes, the book is scholarly and comprehensive, ideal for the students and professionals in the discipline of biology/medicine and for people in the field of public health. However, the book is also recommended to general readers who are concerned about viral diseases that go on rampages from time to time.

Similar in style to *Confronting Contagion*, *To Catch a Virus* covers the history of virology, including a decent amount of biographical information on important figures in the field across the years and should appeal as a reference for specialists or as general reading for the virology-curious. The chapters are organized chronologically, but also thematically, giving each era of virology a dominant, defining characteristic or focus for discussion, such as the early years combating yellow fever, the key development of cell culture assays, or the new insights permitted by electron microscopy or immunological understandings. Figure The importance of immunology to understanding viruses means that sections of this book would also serve as a useful resource for any immunology course. Each chapter has a long list of references with in-text citations, much like a review paper would, and the text is accompanied by really superb picture selections, from portraits and snapshots of virologists to relevant wartime propaganda posters to the elegant viruses themselves. Though covering the length of virology history, this book is not a comprehensive discussion of all types of viruses, neither in terms of classification, mechanism, or treatment. It is more a history of how viruses have been understood and discovered with details of novel research technique and medical treatment developments, and some representative examples of viruses where appropriate.

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