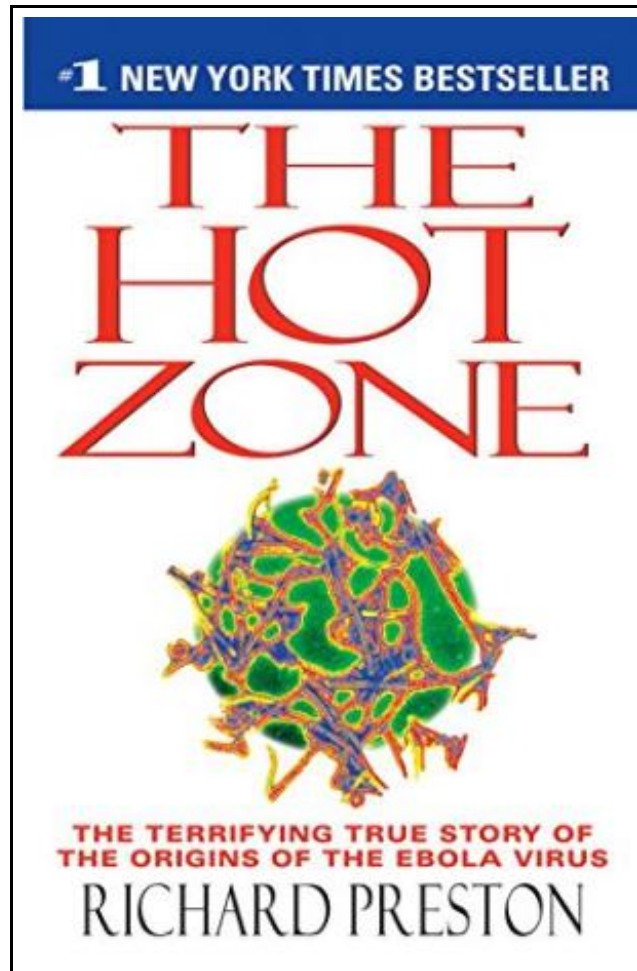


The Hot Zone: The Terrifying True Story of the Origins of the Ebola Virus



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Reviews

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(Prof. Jean Dare)

THE HOT ZONE: THE TERRIFYING TRUE STORY OF THE ORIGINS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS

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Anchor. 1 Paperback(s), 1994. soft. Book Condition: New. A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure, and in a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. Finally, a secret military team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus before it can spread or start a panic. Based on his 1992 New Yorker article describing a real-life outbreak to rival any fictional thriller, Richard Preston describes an Ebola outbreak that this time was only infectious among lab monkeys. And yet, as he makes clear in gruesome detail, the event of rare and lethal viruses "crashing" into the human race is all too possible. "Far more infectious than AIDS, filoviruses (thread viruses) are relentless killer machines that consume a human body in days, causing a gruesome death. Symptoms include liquefying flesh, spurts of blood, black vomit and brain sludge. Outbreaks of the Ebola filovirus devastated Sudan and Zaire in 1976. And in 1989 Philippine monkeys in a Reston, Va., research lab, found to be infected with Ebola, were the target of a U.S. Army-led biohazard task force that decontaminated the lab, exterminating hundreds of monkeys to prevent the possible airborne spread of the disease to humans. In a horrifying and riveting report, portions of which appeared in The New Yorker, Preston exposes a real-life nightmare potentially as lethal as the fictive runaway germs in Michael Crichton's The Andromeda Strain. Preston plausibly argues that the emergence of AIDS, Ebola and other highly adaptable rain-forest viruses is a consequence of ecological ruin of the tropics." Publishers Weekly 323.



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