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The Anthrax Letters: A Bioterrorism Expert Investigates The Attacks That Shocked America

The ANTHRAX LETTERS

A Bioterrorism Expert Investigates
the Attacks That Shocked America

CASE CLOSED?



Leonard A. Cole



Synopsis

At 2:00 a.m. on October 2, 2001, Robert Stevens entered a hospital emergency room. Feverish, nauseated, and barely conscious, no one knew what was making him sick. Three days later he was dead. Stevens was the first fatal victim of bioterrorism in America. Bioterrorism expert Leonard Cole has written the definitive account of the Anthrax attacks. Cole is the only person outside law enforcement to have interviewed every one of the surviving inhalation-anthrax victims, along with the relatives, friends, and associates of those who died, as well as the public health officials, scientists, researchers, hospital workers, and treating physicians. Fast paced and riveting, this minute-by-minute chronicle of the anthrax attacks recounts more than a history of recent current events, it uncovers the untold and perhaps even more important story of how scientists, doctors, and researchers perform life-saving work under intense pressure and public scrutiny. Updated with new information about Ivins and a series of upcoming Congressional hearings into the FBI's conduct in this case, *The Anthrax Letters* amply demonstrates how vulnerable America was in 2001 and whether we are better prepared now for a bioterror attack.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a well written book that presents detailed information about the hideous Anthrax Attacks. I was very disappointed in the conclusion which seems to be: There is not enough solid evidence to convict Bruce Ivins of the crime, but he probably did it. What is missing from the book is that NPR's Frontline along with major scientific organizations that have reviewed the case have concluded that

he could not have done the crime. He had neither the means or opportunity, and his lab schedule was actually not abnormal for him. Dr. Cole doesn't seem to come to grips with the fact that the Anthrax killings were an inside job like the rest of 9/11 that was used as a Psyop by the Bush Administration to bamboozle the American public into allowing the Neocons to rush to war in the Middle East to grab their oil resources. The book is an interesting read, but it falls far short of defining the actual reality and true motivation of the crime. What is revealed in the book is that it took real expertise and large amounts of equipment to develop and package the lethal material. We can hardly sleep soundly knowing that it was "Made In America."

I have read other books on the 2001 anthrax attack, but I believe Leonard Cole's book is still the best on the subject. Cole focuses not only on anthrax itself as a disease, but provides a sympathetic and thorough account of those afflicted by the attack. What is of lasting value in this book is the account of the public health response and the challenges the attack posed. Disbelief, the inability to identify the source of symptoms displayed by the victims, and an unwillingness to acknowledge reality delayed response. Coordination between government agencies and medical facilities was haphazard, and successful only where determined physicians and public health officials aggressively dealt with the situation. Politics muddied some responses. These are lessons learned that apply not only to an anthrax attack but to other kinds of public health emergencies. Although the author includes material about the perpetrator and possible motives, neither he nor the investigation is really the primary focus of the book.

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