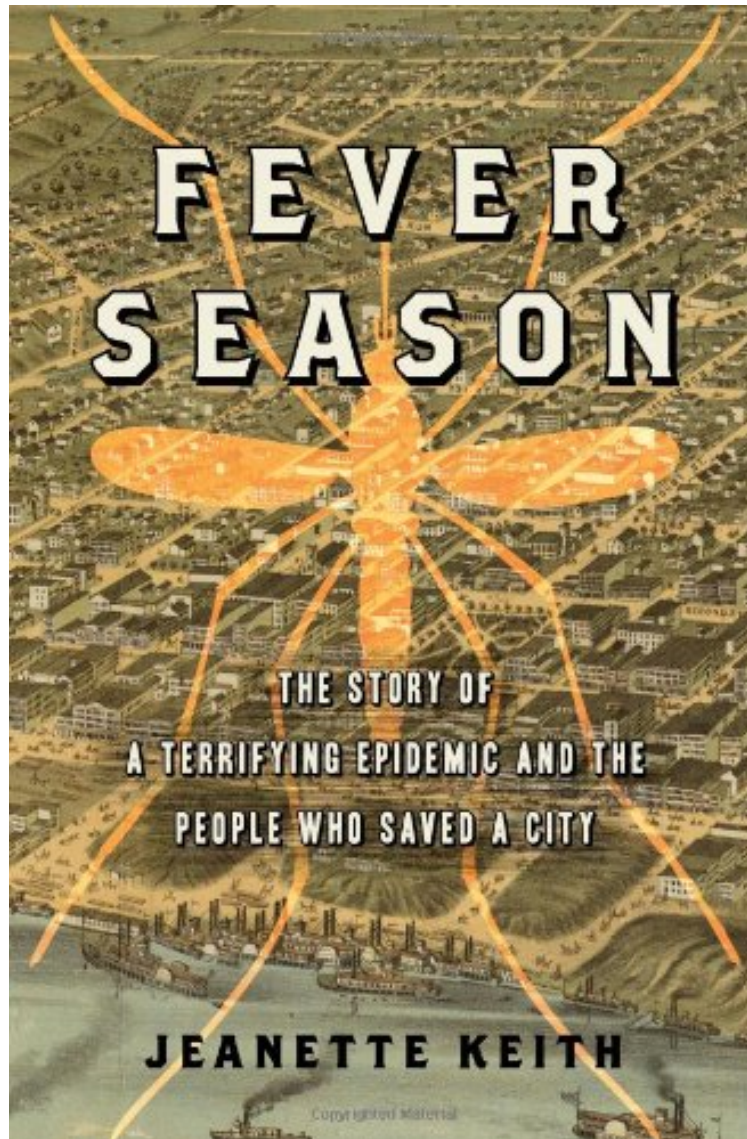


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Fever Season: The Story of a Terrifying Epidemic and the People Who Saved a City

Jeanette Keith

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Jeanette Keith : Fever Season: The Story of a Terrifying Epidemic and the People Who Saved a City before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fever Season: The Story of a Terrifying Epidemic and the People Who Saved a City:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history of life on the Mississippi River By C. Wagner If you

like history about the south or the Mississippi River, post civil war this is a great book. After traveling through this area, I decided to learn more about this city. This is one of those epidemics that most people have never heard of. Most people from the south or from the midwest would find this book of great historical interest. This epidemic could and probably did occur anywhere in the south or along the Mississippi or in the surrounding areas. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not Really About Yellow Fever, As Much As How People Reacted By Frederick S. Goethel I bought this book hoping for a good historical account of the yellow fever epidemic that occurred in Memphis in 1878. I was looking for a combination of how the disease affected the people and about the disease itself. As a member of the Board of Directors of a mosquito abatement district, I am familiar with yellow fever. In addition, I am familiar with the causes, effects, and mechanisms of transmission. It quickly became apparent that the author of this book knew little about yellow fever other than that it is transmitted by mosquitoes. Throughout the book, she mentions how exhausted people were and how they then came down with the disease. Exhaustion, while playing a minor role in transmission, is not, in itself, likely to make people more susceptible to contracting yellow fever. Yellow fever is a virus transmitted through the bite of a mosquito. Like colds, and numerous other viruses, your susceptibility is determined by a number of factors, including previous exposure to the disease, the number of potential victims and the viral load being carried by the individual mosquito. As more people died, and fled the city, there were less people for the mosquitoes to bite, thereby raising the potential for infection. In addition, as the disease spread, the viral load each mosquito carried was magnified as it had a significantly more likely chance of biting an infected person and picking up more virus than if the population were greater. The author spent a lot of the book describing who did what who fled the city, who stayed, who cared for people, etc. To be honest, after a while it became boring and repetitive as the names ran together and more and more people did the same actions; either staying or fleeing. Because of the repetitive nature of the book, and the authors seemingly lack of understanding about how yellow fever becomes an epidemic, I cannot recommend this book. I suggest there may be better books on the subject available. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. History I Never Knew By csusied I was glad to find out about this yellow fever epidemic. It is more of a history than a story. But it was informative and inspiring to learn about those who stayed to help and whole to live. I would have liked a chapter at the end about when and how they found out that mosquitoes carried the infection. The people of Memphis (and much of the South) struggled with this incurable killer disease year after year not knowing how it spread. The suffering of both victims and survivors was staggering.

While the American South had grown to expect a yellow fever breakout almost annually, the 1878 epidemic was without question the worst ever. Moving up the Mississippi River in the late summer, in the span of just a few months the fever killed more than eighteen thousand people. The city of Memphis, Tennessee, was particularly hard hit: Of the approximately twenty thousand who didn't flee the city, seventeen thousand contracted the fever, and more than five thousand died-the equivalent of a million New Yorkers dying in an epidemic today. Fever Season chronicles the drama in Memphis from the outbreak in August until the disease ran its course in late October. The story that Jeanette Keith uncovered is a profound-and never more relevant-account of how a catastrophe inspired reactions both heroic and cowardly. Some ministers, politicians, and police fled their constituents, while prostitutes and the poor risked their lives to nurse the sick. Using the vivid, anguished accounts and diaries of those who chose to stay and those who were left behind, Fever Season depicts the events of that summer and fall. In its pages we meet people of great courage and compassion, many of whom died for having those virtues. We also learn how a disaster can shape the future of a city.