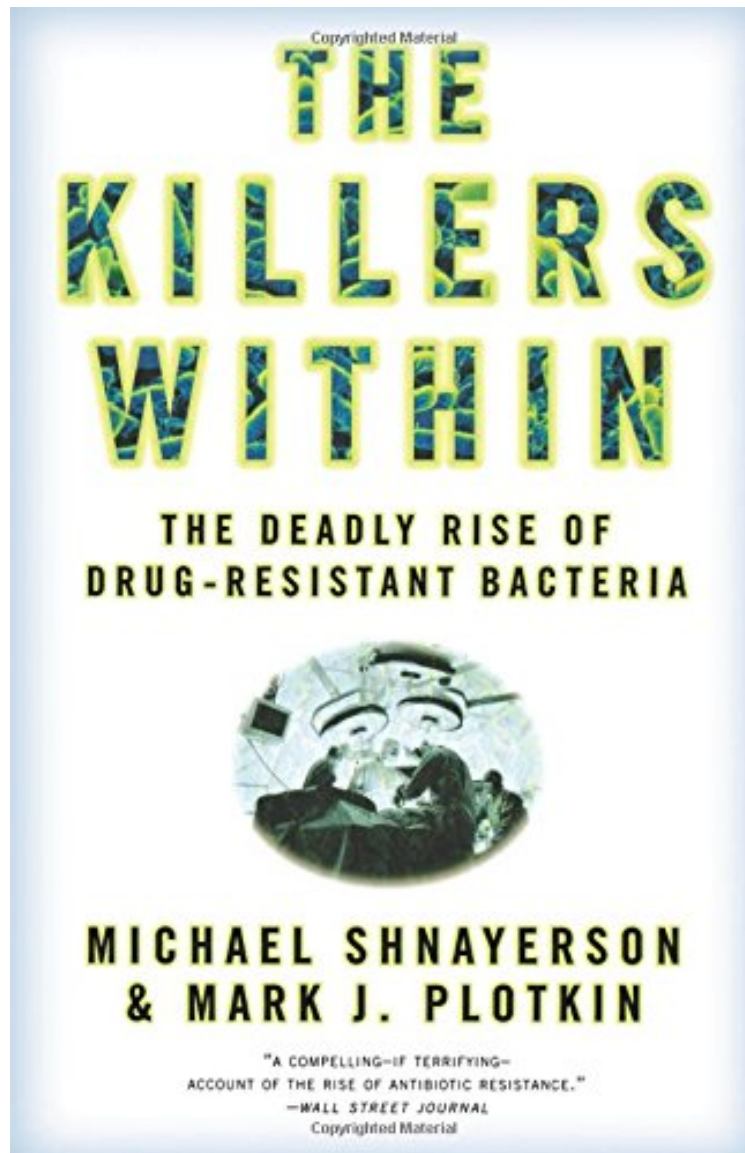


The Killers Within: The Deadly Rise Of Drug-Resistant Bacteria

Michael Shnayerson, Mark J. Plotkin

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Michael Shnayerson, Mark J. Plotkin : The Killers Within: The Deadly Rise Of Drug-Resistant Bacteria before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Killers Within: The Deadly Rise Of Drug-Resistant Bacteria:

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D'Angelo Needed this book for class and it wasn't hardly used. No rips or tears. Good quality book for a great price. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. For Strong Immune Systems By Mr. Stephen A. Burke I never excelled in microbiology so the narrative lost me at times. It was, however, a good book with scary true stories. Stays in my library between *Germes* and *The Hot Zone*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A well researched informative book. Should be required reading ... By Mammaluke A well researched informative book. Should be required reading for all college students who want to enter the medical / research field.

A battle is taking place on the frontiers of medicine between rapidly evolving bacteria and the doctors struggling to outwit them. "The Killers Within" tells this horror story that just happens to be true.

From Publishers Weekly Bacteria preceded human life by millions of years but will they also outlive us? Shnayerson, a staff writer at *Vanity Fair* magazine, and Plotkin, an ethnobotanist, paint an alarming picture of the crisis posed by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. They focus on the three most common types: enterococci, streptococci and staphylococci. They tell of the deadly *S. aureus* a particularly virulent strain of staph that has shown up in deadly resistant strains and the infamous "flesh-eating bacteria" (necrotizing fasciitis), whose incidence has been on the rise. They explain the myriad factors that have contributed to antibiotic-resistant bacteria and disease, most important among them the overprescription and misuse of the drugs, including the antibiotics fed to livestock to promote growth. Sharing the latest research, the authors suggest that future antibiotics are in the most unlikely places, from shark-bellies and silkworms to the saliva of the Indonesian Komodo dragon. Shnayerson and Plotkin write in a lively, journalistic style and spotlight many victims, microbiologists and other "faces" behind the statistics, going far to make the copious scientific information accessible to general readers (though some may still be daunted). Yet their alarmist tone may strike many readers as overly sensationalistic and grating. Moreover, many of the facts about antibiotics abuse and drug-resistant bacteria are simply old news, and this book may not drum up much interest in spite of its informative analysis. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal At first glance, Shnayerson, a *Vanity Fair* staff writer, and noted ethnobotanist Plotkin (*Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice*) seem an unlikely pair to be writing a book about antibiotic resistance. Yet the reader quickly becomes engrossed in their tale. The authors provide an extremely readable look at the overuse of antibiotics, the methods bacteria use to develop resistance, the role of antibiotics as animal growth promoters, and the outlook for antibiotics. Drawing on a vast number of interviews with key people in the field, Shnayerson and Plotkin have managed to demonstrate their concern over the future of antibiotics while keeping the scientific background manageable for lay readers. A brief, annotated bibliography and list of web sites adds to the work. An interesting complement to Gerald Grob's *The Deadly Truth*, which discusses the inevitability of disease, this work also offers readers a riveting update to the section on antibiotics in Laurie Garrett's *The Coming Plague*. Recommended for public and academic collections. Tina Neville, Univ. of South Florida at St. Petersburg Lib. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Scientific American* Commenting in 1969 on the success of antibiotics, U.S. Surgeon General William Stewart declared: "We can close the books on infectious diseases." Commenting three decades later on the rapid spread of bacterial resistance to antibiotics, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher declared: "We are seeing a global resurgence of infectious diseases." Shnayerson and Plotkin (respectively, a staff writer at *Vanity Fair* and an ethnobotanist serving as president of the Conservation Team) recount what brought about the resurgence: "The principal cause was overuse--and misuse--of antibiotics." Poor infection control in hospitals and nursing homes is a contributing factor. Is there a way of stopping the march of the bugs? Maybe. The authors explore several possibilities but stop short of predicting that any of them will succeed. Editors of *Scientific American*