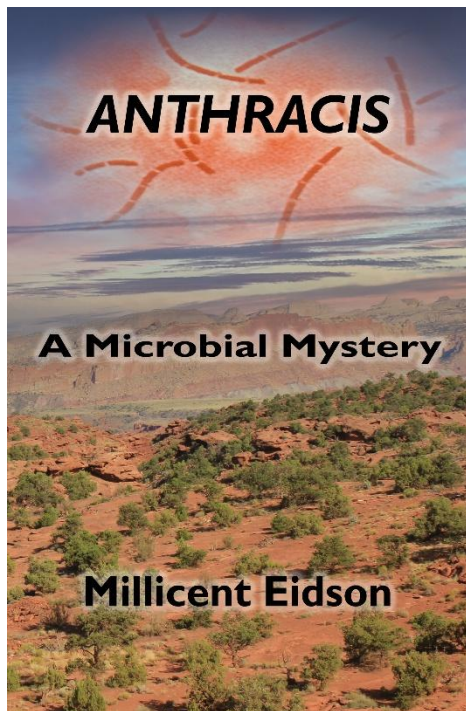


ANTHRACIS: A Microbial Mystery (MayaVerse Book 1, Copyright © 2021)



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"Millicent Eidson's unparalleled talent shines through in this remarkable work, ensuring a thrilling reading experience. I confidently predict that this offering will be warmly embraced by the literary world, solidifying Millicent Eidson's place among the most esteemed authors of our time."—Midwest Book Review

Anthraxis is the debut novel in an alphabetical series featuring Maya Maguire, medical detective, in her journey as an Asian American veterinarian solving microbial mysteries. The spectacular southwestern desert is alive with *Bacillus anthracis* spores, and the summer is the hottest on record. As a new veterinary epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Maya Maguire confronts the largest, most complex anthrax outbreak in U.S. history.

Published by Maya Maguire Media, 35 Cherry St., #701 Burlington, Vermont 05401;
mayaverse@drmamayaguire.com; <https://drmamayaguire.com>.

Dr. Millicent Eidson: Unraveling Mysteries, One Microbe at a Time

Dr. Millicent Eidson, a master of intrigue and suspense, weaves her literary magic through the pages of the Maya Maguire microbial mystery series. With a keen eye for detail and a passion for scientific puzzles, she invites readers into a world where microbes hold secrets more treacherous than any criminal. Millicent's career as a public health veterinarian and epidemiologist began at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. After days filled with pathogens and outbreaks, the nights belonged to whispered tales of microbes dancing in her imagination. Upon retirement, her passion for storytelling blossomed into the MayaVerse.

Book Club Discussion Questions

Schedule with the author at mayaverse@drmayamaguire.com

"ANTHRACIS: A Microbial Mystery" crosses genres, with multiple themes in the framework of a zoonotic disease. These questions may help in thinking about and discussing the novel.

1. The genre elements include medical thriller, crime fiction, mystery, women's fiction, and romantic suspense. How do each of these elements contribute to the overall arc and your enjoyment of the story?
2. The main character is a young Chinese American woman adopted as an infant by an Irish-heritage family living in the Southwest. What elements of the character's background enrich the story?
3. How do issues of immigration play into plot and character development? Characters have strong diverging views on immigration and race, some informed by religion. How are these diverse viewpoints developed and justified?
4. What are some biological, regional, cultural, and religious influences on our perceptions of 'the other'? How does the theme of disability influence the story?
5. The Southwest is intended as a character in itself. How do the geography and history influence the story?
6. What are differences between public health and health care? How should our society achieve a balance supporting both?
7. Does the novel's style increase engagement with the characters, alternating first-person diary entries with Maya's third-person point of view?
8. Zoonotic diseases are those in common between humans and non-human animals. How are transmission, investigation, prevention, and control more complex for zoonotic diseases than those infecting only humans?
9. What is the role of climate change in the story and for zoonotic diseases?
10. How can someone with a veterinary medical degree contribute to disease investigations?
11. Like *Anthraxis*, the television series *The West Wing* and its subsequent podcast *The West Wing Weekly* illuminate government service. How do the challenges and rewards differ depending on career, training, background, and character?

This book is intended for an adult audience, and may contain language, characters, themes, and content that are offensive or triggering to some readers.