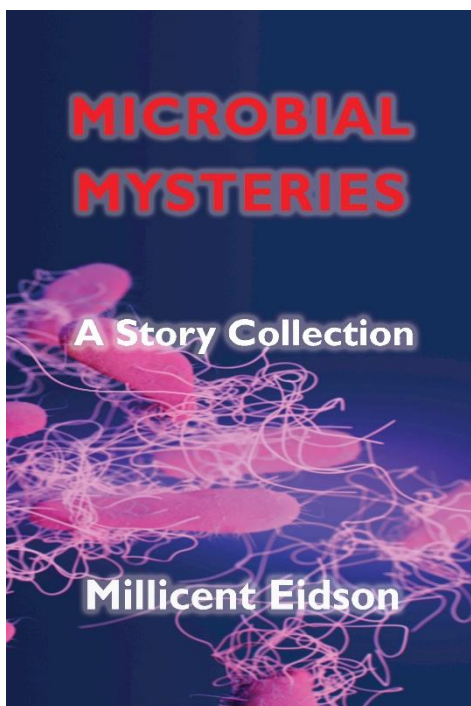


**MICROBIAL MYSTERIES: A Story Collection**  
**(MayaVerse Book 0, Copyright © 2023)**



All distributors are listed at  
<https://books2read.com/MicrobialMysteries>

Ebook: ISBN 978-1-955481-10-6  
Paperback: ISBN 978-1-955481-11-3

“El Chinche,” the initial story in this collection, was recognized by the Arizona Mystery Writers with an Honorable Mention.

Bats and bearded dragons, raccoons and baby goats—animals are our fellow Earth creatures. But they pose a threat. Each species harbors invisible microbes, ready to leap into human bodies. In this compilation of ten short medical thrillers and one graphic poem, public health disease detectives are challenged by mysterious outbreaks from zoonotic viruses, bacteria, and parasites.

Published by Maya Maguire Media, 35 Cherry St., #701 Burlington, Vermont 05401;  
[mayaverse@drmayamaguire.com](mailto:mayaverse@drmayamaguire.com); <https://drmayamaguire.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](mailto:mayaverse@drmayamaguire.com)

**"MICROBIAL MYSTERIES: A Story Collection"** 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 mystery, women's fiction, romantic suspense, and horror. How do each of these elements contribute to the overall arc and your enjoyment of the stories?
2. What do short stories offer compared to full-length novels?
3. Is your reading enriched by the different points-of-view and style of each story?
4. What are some biological, regional, cultural, and religious influences on our perceptions of 'the other'?
5. How do geography and history influence these stories?
6. How do these stories about disease microbes from animals, many taking place prior to the COVID pandemic, foreshadow societal, medical, and public health challenges beginning in 2020?
7. Does the appearance of characters from the novels in these short stories benefit your understanding of the MayaVerse and the characters' relationships with Maya Maguire in the novels?
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. How can someone with a veterinary medical degree contribute to disease investigations?
10. For authenticity, writers often rely on personal experience, while protecting privacy of those sharing life events with the author. Writers also use research and close consultation with others to create characters, plot events, and settings not their own. As a reader, do you have a preferred balance of work informed by an author's imagination, research, and representation of their background?

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