



# **CORONA**

## **A Microbial Mystery**

**Millicent Eidson**

**CORONA: A Microbial Mystery.** MayaVerse Book 3. Copyright © 2023.

In New Mexico, veterinarian Maya Maguire approaches the end of her training as one of CDC's elite epidemic shock troops. Despite unfinished business with a toxic colleague, her work and personal life fall into place. Until COVID, and its impact on loved ones. After investigating the first human case in Arizona, her focus shifts to coronavirus in animals. As a Chinese American adoptee, her origin story comes full circle like an ouroboros—a dragon eating its tail.

**Book Club Discussion Questions**

Schedule with the author at [drmamayaguire@gmail.com](mailto:drmamayaguire@gmail.com)

1. The genre elements include 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. What are some biological, regional, cultural, and religious influences on our perceptions of 'the other'?
4. How does the 'me too' theme impact the story? How do you define sexual harassment? What do you think of the decisions the characters take in response to it?
5. Geographic locations are intended as a characters in themselves. How do geography and history influence the story?
6. Maya's perceptions are enlarged by her work in other countries. In what ways do you think exposure to other cultures and ways of life impact us?
7. What do you think of Maya's challenges and choices for handling personal grief?
8. What are the roadblocks to achieving a work-life balance based on gender and economic status?
9. This story begins in late 2019 when the pandemic starts in China, and extends to summer 2021 when some functions of daily life begin the transition back to pre-COVID days. Although the story is fiction, what elements of the story resonate with your own experience of the pandemic?
10. How should public health policy balance the needs of society versus those of individuals, especially in the face of different perspectives?
11. 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?
12. What is the role of climate change in the story and for zoonotic diseases?
13. How can someone with a veterinary medical degree contribute to disease investigations?
14. For authenticity, writers often rely on personal experience, while protecting the 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.

Maya Maguire Media, PO Box 1214, Burlington, Vermont 05402;  
<https://drmamayaguire.com>. For a link to story distributors in multiple formats, see  
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