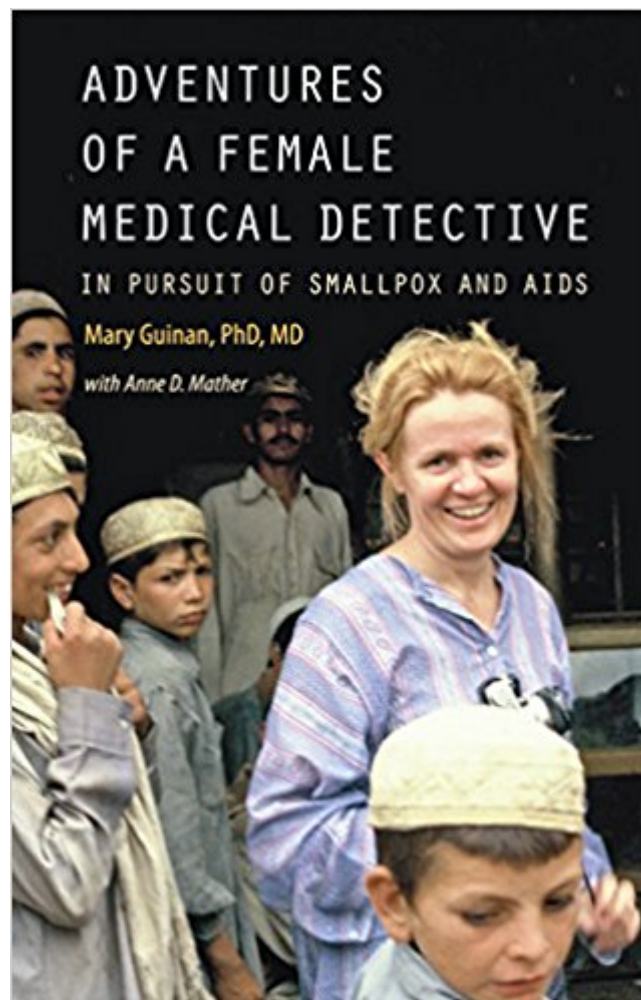




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# Adventures Of A Female Medical Detective: In Pursuit Of Smallpox And AIDS



## Synopsis

In 1974, a young doctor arrived at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with one goal in mind: to help eradicate smallpox. The only woman physician in her class in the Epidemic Intelligence Service, a two-year epidemiology training program, Mary Guinan soon was selected to join India's Smallpox Eradication Program, which searched out and isolated patients with the disease. By May of 1975, the World Health Organization declared Uttar Pradesh smallpox-free. During her barrier-crossing career, Dr. Guinan met arms-seeking Afghan insurgents in Pakistan and got caught in the cross fire between religious groups in Lebanon. She treated some of the first AIDS patients and served as an expert witness in defense of a pharmacist who was denied employment for having HIV—leading to a landmark decision that still protects HIV patients from workplace discrimination. Randy Shilts's best-selling book on the epidemic, *And the Band Played On*, features her AIDS work. In *Adventures of a Female Medical Detective*, Guinan weaves together twelve vivid stories of her life in medicine, describing her individual experiences in controlling outbreaks, researching new diseases, and caring for patients with untreatable infections. She offers readers a feisty, engaging, and uniquely female perspective from a time when very few women worked in the field. Occasionally heartbreaking, sometimes hilarious, Guinan's account of her pathbreaking career will inspire public health students and future medical detectives—and give all readers insight into that part of the government exclusively devoted to protecting their health.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In *Adventures of a Female Medical Detective*, Guinan weaves together twelve vivid stories of her life in medicine, describing her individual experiences in controlling outbreaks, researching new diseases, and caring for patients with untreatable infections. She offers readers a feisty, engaging, and uniquely female perspective from a time when very few women worked in the field. Occasionally heartbreaking, sometimes hilarious, Guinan's account of her path breaking career will inspire public health students and future medical medical detectives and give all readers insight into that part of the government exclusively devoted to protecting their health." (*American Medical Women's Association Journal*) "From the comfort of your sofa or chair, there's nothing quite like a good adventure. But Hemingway, Roosevelt, Heyerdahl, Peary, you can put them aside after you've read *Adventures of a Female Medical Detective*. Author Mary Guinan, PhD, MD, is a true pioneer, and the stories she tells of her early career are jaw-dropping... In every job-related battle she fought, Guinan's tenacity is impressive and empowering." (*Bookworm Sez*) "... a rip-roaring read... As a 'medical detective', Guinan presents a series of case studies in explicit homage to super-sleuth Sherlock Holmes." (*Nature*) "A punchy whodunnit is backed with plain talk of misogyny." (*Times Higher Education*) "Light-hearted and easy to read...Guinan's stories embody the modesty and humor inherent in the culture of epidemiology as practiced by the Epidemiologic Intelligence Service (EIS) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention." (*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*) "In this valuable memoir, frontline public health heroine Mary Guinan shares poignant and often hilarious tales, many privy to her only as a woman with an open mind and heart. Informative, insightful, and compassionate, the stories from this inquisitive, gloriously successful disease cowgirl are a delight to read." (Joel G. Breman, MD, DTPH, FIDSA, FASTMH) "*Adventures of a Female Medical Detective* is a must read.Â  Bold, informative, and heartfelt, it recounts important events from the career of Mary Guinan and the mission of the CDC.Â  Her adventurous works demonstrate curiosity and compassion, and her courageous dedication to scientific integrity and action reflects the best in public health." (James W. Curran, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University) "If you want to hear what a real-life public health hero is truly like, pick up the story of Dr. Mary Guinan, who has simultaneously overcome gender-based discrimination and literally improved the health of millions." (David Holtgrave, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health) "Imagine Sherlock Holmes tracking diseases instead of criminals. Dr. Mary Guinan's sharp and humorous account of the frontlines of many of the key public health mysteries of the last few decades is that and more as she confronts the scientific, moral, and political challenges of keeping the nation healthy." (Nicholas Freudenberg, Distinguished Professor of Public Health, School of

Public Health and Hunter College, City University of New York)"From the back of an elephant tracking smallpox to the bedside of a dying patient tracking AIDS, Mary Guinan shows the detective work required to understand and control infectious diseases around the world.Â Sometimes funny, often scary, these stories inform, educate, and leave us appreciative of the people on the front lines protecting the publicâ€™s health." (Don Francis)"... a frank and illuminating look at how scientists â• actually work to combat disease." (The Washington Post)

Mary Guinan, PhD, MD, was the founding dean of the School of Community Health Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and is now professor emerita. She was the first woman to serve as the chief scientific advisor to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Anne D. Mather was the managing editor of the CDC newsletter, the MMWR, during the years when smallpox was eradicated and AIDS was discovered.

I think that many non-fiction books are too long and would have been better off as long articles in a journal or magazine. I feel the opposite way about this book; it was too short and didn't include enough details. So many layers of richness are missing. For example, she and another doctor are assigned to assess the health of women and children in a refugee camp. Getting there is very dangerous, and she travels with a large group, but almost nothing is said about the journey. Then she says almost nothing about the camp or the women. She writes that at the end of their health survey, the other doctor leaves and she stays to write up the conclusions, but she doesn't tell the readers anything about her conclusions. The author has lead a fascinating life, but this book needs a different co-author to bring the full story to life.

This book is a "must read" for every student looking for a career that offers unexpected adventures, medical detective work, and the chance to make a real difference in the world! Through her own life stories, Dr Mary Guinan shows the excitement of a career in the front lines of public health. Don't miss it!

Mary Guinan has made a major contribution to global health and this slim volume is very humble. I wish I could have enjoyed more of her emotional landscape but this is a must read as we sort out how women are the "unsung" heroes in global health. Thank you Mary, for sharing.....

Interesting subject written in a conversational tone so that you can understand regardless of your

science background. I could identify with her because of my science background, and because I lived through the same time period where discrimination against women was prevalent.

I've enjoyed several books within the genre from men, so appreciate not only the medical side, but the impact that gender has had on women in medicine. Kudos to Dr. Guinean for her work in public health.

An ok read. Not terribly engaging. It is overpriced for its content. I would not recommend it to a friend.

Wonderful book and excellent service. Thank you!

I follow anything reliable in public health and CDC activity.

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