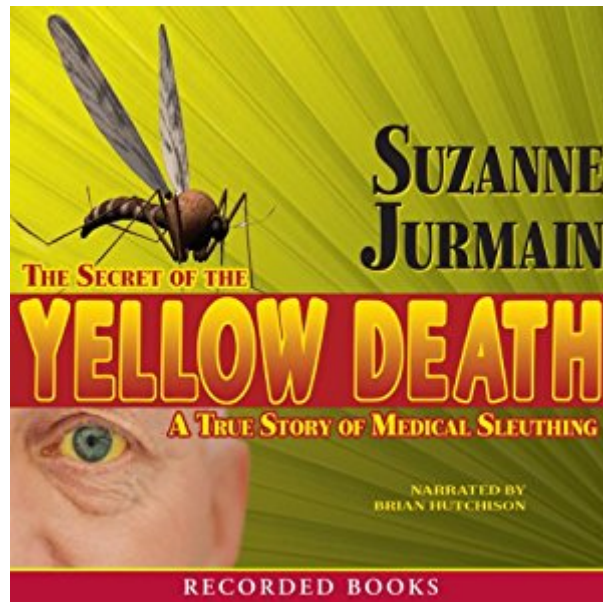


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# Secret Of The Yellow Death



## Synopsis

In the summer of 1899, U.S. forces in Cuba discover the island is rampant with Yellow Fever. So the U.S. government sends a group of four elite Army doctors headed by Dr. Walter Reed to determine what is causing the outbreak. Working against the clock as more lives are claimed, the doctors investigate the theory that mosquitoes might be spreading the disease. During their experiments, two of the doctors contract Yellow Fever, and one actually dies. As the pressure intensifies, Reed obtains additional funding to conduct targeted experiments-and proves a theory with little previous support in the scientific community. In *The Secret of the Yellow Death*, author Suzanne Jurmain presents a technical subject as a compelling real-life detective story sure to capture young readers' imaginations. Narrator Brian Hutchison's performance masterfully imparts the doctors' hope and determination as they desperately search for a life-saving answer.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Best Sellers Rank: #90 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Science & Nature

## Customer Reviews

THE SECRET OF THE YELLOW DEATH by Suzanne Jurmain is 101 pages long with about 50 photographs and illustrations. Most excellent is a photograph of a real medical chart called a "fever chart" showing a patient's temperature changes over the course of two weeks, during the onset and recovery from yellow fever (pages 42-32). Also excellent is a photograph of a real typed consent form, used for recruiting human volunteers for a yellow fever study (page 64). The book begins by grabbing the reader with a half-page description of the symptoms of yellow fever. This vivid narrative will not be boring or dull to any child ("The whites of his eyes looked like lemons. Sometimes he cried out or babbled in delirium.") The hunt for the prevention or treatment of yellow fever begins on page 6, when Walter Reed, M.D., traveled to Cuba, on orders from the U.S. government. We learn about an existing (but incorrect) theory that yellow fever was caused by

bacteria, and we learn about a correct, but discounted, theory that yellow fever was transmitted by mosquitoes. The book is careful to follow each new concept with an example. When the term "bacteriologist" is used, we are told that bacteriology involves placing "tiny amounts of tissue into tubes or dishes filled with a food substance like gelatin or bouillon . . . watch to see if any of the samples grew. . . bacteria that might prove to be the cause of yellow fever." (page 15). We learn of an experiment where doctors had mosquitoes bite yellow fever patients, and then had the same mosquitoes bite healthy volunteers. The idea for this experiment came from earlier work on ticks that caused "Texas fever" in cattle. We learn about problems that prevented Walter Reed's experiments from working right away.

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