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The Secret of the Yellow Death: A Story of Medical Sleuthing

Ruth-Anne Brown

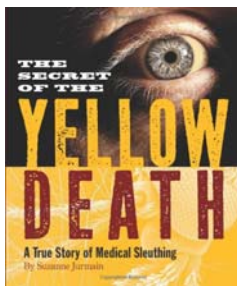
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Jurmain, Suzanne. *The Secret of the Yellow Death: A Story of Medical Sleuthing*. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. ISBN 9780618965816. \$19.00. 104 p.

Reviewer: Ruth-Anne Brown

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational;

Subject: Yellow fever--Diagnosis--Cuba--Juvenile literature; Yellow fever--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

First comes a chill, then the skin turns yellow and the whites of the eyes look like lemons. Doctors did not know a cure, but they did know the signs of yellow fever. Between 1800 and 1900, yellow fever infected almost half a million U.S. citizens and killed roughly one million. On May, 24, 1900 the U.S. government sent four American army doctors to Cuba. Their mission was to find the cause of yellow fever. *The Secret of the Yellow Death* recounts the journey and findings of Jesse Lazear, Walter Reed, James Carroll, and Aristides Agramonte. After testing several theories, the doctors found that a local doctor, Carlos Finlay, had been right for decades. Mosquitoes carry the disease and infect the individuals they bite.

Jurmain gives a faithful narrative of the discovery of yellow fever's origin. The research is shown through the personal life of each doctor. Pictures of the people, places, and experiments add richness and clarity to the text. An appendix and index are available. This informational book leaves the reader wondering what will happen next.

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