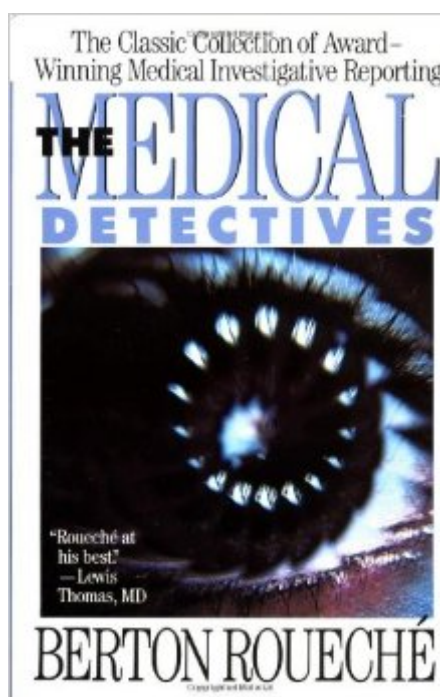


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# The Medical Detectives: The Classic Collection Of Award-Winning Medical Investigative Reporting (Truman Talley)



## Synopsis

What do Lyme's disease in Long Island, a pig from New Jersey, and an amateur pianist have in common? All are subjects in three of 25 utterly fascinating tales of strange illnesses, rare diseases, poisons, and parasites - each tale a thriller of medical suspense by the incomparable Berton Roueche'. Roueche's true narratives have long been favorites for readers of "The New Yorker." Now the best of these articles are collected here to astound new readers with intriguing tales of epidemics in America's small towns, threats of contagion in our biggest cities, even bubonic plague in a peaceful urban park.

## Book Information

Series: Truman Talley

Paperback: 432 pages

Publisher: Plume; Reprint edition (March 30, 1991)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0452265886

ISBN-13: 978-0452265882

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Berton Roueche© wrote for the "New Yorker" magazine for almost half a century, and was winner of the 1950 Albert Lasker Medical Journalism Award. His many volumes on physicians and medical detectives, including this book, were collected from his articles in the "New Yorker." "The Medical Detectives" volume II is great bedtime reading, because the good guys, i.e. physicians and epidemiologists always get their villain (whether it's a germ, poison gas, or a disgruntled boyfriend). Volume II's twenty-three case histories date from 1947 to 1984, before the days when Big Insurance dictated how long patients would stay in hospitals and what kind of treatment they would receive. Some of the doctors in this book actually made house calls! A couple of the cases really stayed with me, because the patients were kept in the hospital for weeks at a time just to track down a

diagnosis. In one case, a man had the hiccups. In the other, a woman had a headache. Can you guess what would happen to these patients if they went to an emergency room, today? Anyone who is interested in medical detection will be both engrossed and instructed by Rouech's careful, detailed true-life mysteries. The cases contained in this volume range from the man who hiccupped for 27 years through the deliberate poisoning of a family. One of my favorites from 1948 is called, "The Fog". This does not refer to John Carpenter's famous 1980 horror movie, but a true story that is in some ways even more frightening than anything Hollywood could produce. It takes place in Donora, Pennsylvania, a gritty mill town along the Monongahela River, which is infamous for its fogs: "They are greasy, gagging fogs, often intact even at high noon, and they sometimes last for two or three days.

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