



Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America

By Susan Campbell Bartoletti

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What happens when a person's reputation has been forever damaged? With archival photographs and text among other primary sources, this riveting biography of Mary Mallon by the Sibert medalist and Newbery Honor winner Susan Bartoletti looks beyond the tabloid scandal of Mary's controversial life. How she was treated by medical and legal officials reveals a lesser-known story of human and constitutional rights, entangled with the science of pathology and enduring questions about who Mary Mallon really was. How did her name become synonymous with deadly disease? And who is really responsible for the lasting legacy of Typhoid Mary? This thorough exploration includes an author's note, timeline, annotated source notes, and bibliography.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 5 Up—This well-researched biography of Mary Mallon, also known as Typhoid Mary, begins in 1906, when Mallon was hired as a cook for a wealthy family vacationing in Oyster Bay, Long Island. The outbreak of typhoid that swept through the household a few weeks later turned out to be a pivotal event that forever changed her life. George Soper, a sanitation engineer and typhoid expert, was hired to discover the source of the disease. He eventually determined that Mallon was what was known as a healthy carrier: although she experienced no symptoms of typhoid, her body continued to produce the bacteria, which she inadvertently shed. Soper took his discovery to the New York City Board of Health, and soon thereafter, Mallon was arrested and quarantined against her will on North Brother Island. Mallon has often been described as ignorant and a menace to society due to her refusal to stop working as a cook when she was later briefly released from quarantine, but Bartoletti tells the woman's story with empathy and understanding. The author also explores the myriad violations of Mallon's civil rights and her unusually harsh treatment in comparison to other healthy typhoid carriers (nationwide 50 carriers were identified at the time, but only Mary was quarantined). Energetic, even charming prose (chapter headings include "In Which Mrs. Warren Has a Servant Problem") will easily engage readers. Pair this work with Gail Jarrow's *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary* (Boyds Mills, 2015). VERDICT Middle grade biography lovers will gravitate toward this compelling title.—Ragan O'Malley, Saint Ann's School, Brooklyn, NY

Review

* "Bartoletti tells the woman's story with empathy and understanding [and] explores the myriad violations of Mallon's civil rights and her unusually harsh treatment in comparison to other healthy typhoid carriers. Energetic, even charming prose will easily engage readers."

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

* "Expertly weaving together both historical background and contemporary knowledge about disease and public health, Bartoletti enlivens Mallon's story with engrossing anecdotes and provocative critical inquiry while debunking misconceptions."

—*Booklist*, starred review

"[A] thoroughly researched biography."

—*Publishers Weekly*

* "Bartoletti skillfully weaves the answers into the beginning of the story, before moving on to Soper's cat-and-mouse game of tracking Mary down and then keeping her quarantined for most of the rest of her life...excellent nonfiction."

—*Horn Book Magazine*, starred review

"A very comprehensive and engaging account of the sad life story of Mary Mallon."

—VOYA

"Bartoletti delivers a fast-moving biography of Mallon herself...Enthusiastic and accessible, but it remains respectful, offering understanding and empathy for the numerous people affected by the outbreaks that followed in Mallon's wake."

About the Author

Susan Campbell Bartoletti is the award-winning author of several books for young readers, including *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine, 1845–1850*, winner of the Robert F. Sibert Medal. She lives in Moscow, Pennsylvania. Visit her website at www.scbartoletti.com.

Users Review

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Gina Gregg:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is usually reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you will need this *Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America*.

Ellen Jorge:

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Katherine Velasquez:

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