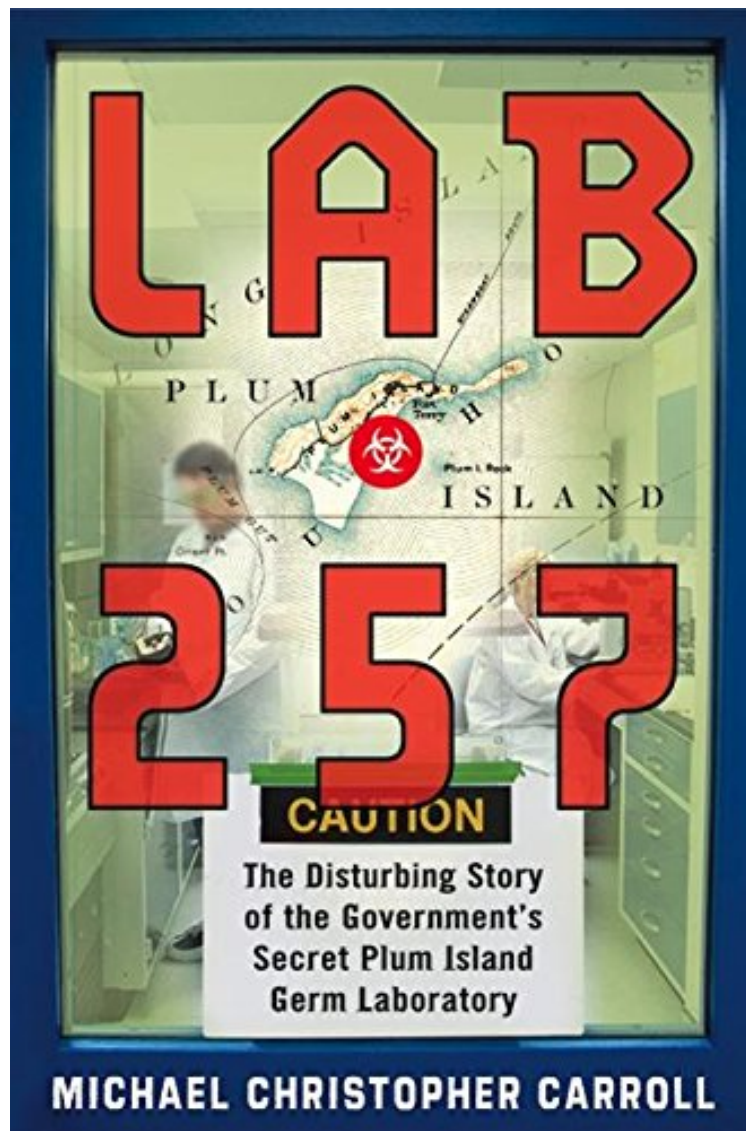


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Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government's Secret Plum Island Germ Laboratory

Michael C. Carroll

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Michael C. Carroll : Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government's Secret Plum Island Germ Laboratory before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government's Secret Plum Island Germ Laboratory:

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account about the politics in play at only one of the places the US government oversees. It provides insight into what the population is risking when there is not oversight from the public. It is a very real danger and a threat that should not be taken lightly. Secrets abound with the US Government, it is up to we the people to keep them open about what goes on in these places and demand accountability for things that go wrong. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Read By Kevin J. Hartnett Loved it, great read, a place I was always interested in. Scary information about such a mysterious place. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book as good as The Hot Zone By CustomerA book as good as The Hot Zone. It's no wonder why we have so many weird and odd diseases when a lab in the USA is run by the government. I now have a better idea of just where Lyme Disease and the West Nile Virus came from. That lab is right by where the first cases of Lyme Disease turned up. Those cases turned up in Lyme Conn, hence the name Lyme. This book will even change the minds of people who defend our government and the agencies who are trying to coverup everything and blame someone else. Read it for yourself and make up your own mind.

Nestled near the Hamptons, the fashionable summer playground of America's rich and famous, and in the shadow of New York City, lies an unimposing 840-acre island unidentified on most maps. On the few on which it can be found, Plum Island is marked red or yellow, and stamped U.S. government restricted or dangerous animal diseases. Though many people live the good life within a scant mile or two from its shores, few know the name of this pork chop shaped island. Even fewer can say whether it is inhabited, or why it doesn't exist on the map. That's all about to change. Lab 257: The Disturbing Story of the Government's Secret Plum Island Germ Laboratory blows the lid off the stunning true nature and checkered history of Plum Island. It shows that the seemingly bucolic island on the edge of the largest population center in the United States is a ticking biological time bomb that none of us can safely ignore. Based on innumerable declassified government documents, scores of in-depth interviews, and access to Plum Island itself, this is an eye-opening, suspenseful account of a federal government germ laboratory gone terribly wrong. For the first time, Lab 257 takes you deep inside this secret world and presents startling revelations including virus outbreaks, biological meltdowns, infected workers who were denied assistance in diagnosis by Plum Island brass, the periodic flushing of contaminated raw sewage into area waters, and the insidious connections between Plum Island, Lyme disease, and the deadly 1999 West Nile virus outbreak. An exploration of the complex world of microbiology, viruses, and bacteria, Lab 257 also shows how the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which ran Plum Island for the last half century, is far more than wholesome grade-A eggs and the food pyramid. The book probes what's in store for Plum Island's new owner, the Department of Homeland Security, in this age of bioterrorism. And for those interested in questions of national security and safety, it is a call to action for those concerned with protecting present and future generations from preventable biological catastrophes. Lab 257 will change forever our current understanding of Plum Island -- a place that is, in the words of one insider, "a biological Three Mile Island."

.com That the United States government engaged in dangerous biological research during World War II will come as no surprise to Americans jaded by revelations of secret medical experiments and radiation exposures. But that the accident-plagued facility where it happened--and continues to happen--is just off the coast of Long Island may alarm many readers of Michael Christopher Carroll's Lab 257. Carroll, an attorney by trade, gamely takes on complex microbiology and shady government record-keeping in telling the story of Plum Island, home of the Animal Disease Center--no place for a casual picnic. The lab, initially set up by the Army to research ways of destroying Soviet farm animals (and to keep them from destroying ours), has often dealt with bacteria and viruses that can be passed from animals to humans. Carroll draws compelling causal links between Plum Island and the introduction of Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and duck enteritis, all non-native germs that wreaked sudden havoc in North America, and all germs that Plum Island scientists were allegedly working with. With hurricanes and terrorists on his mind, Carroll asks readers to imagine a scenario in which the Plum Island lab might release pathogens into the most densely populated area in the country. He ends the book with two chilling questions. First, does the United States need a research facility that investigates animal pathogens with potential for human transmission? Second, considering that Plum Island never had a particularly good safety record, is it the right place for such a facility? Lab 257, while occasionally veering into unsupported speculation, introduces key questions to the debate on biological security in the 21st century. --Therese Littleton From Publishers Weekly This strong first effort by New York lawyer Carroll centers on a U.S. government biological research center devoted to studying such exotic and virulent diseases as African swine fever, Rift Valley fever, foot-and-mouth disease and West Nile virus. Plum Island is quietly nestled a mere two miles off of Long Island, 85 miles from New York City, and Carroll argues convincingly that the island is dangerously insecure. Based on sedulous research into declassified government files and interviews with Plum Island scientists and employees, he offers clear and convincing evidence that Plum Island is rife with the potential for a catastrophic disaster either from an accident or, equally frightening, terrorist action. Carroll raises two chilling questions: Is there a connection between Lyme disease and Plum Island research? (Old Lyme, Conn., the location of the disease's initial 1975 outbreak, is close to Plum Island.) And what about West Nile virus, which also suddenly appeared in close proximity to Plum Island? Carroll offers clear descriptions of the dangers inherent in studying deadly viruses that could infect untold numbers of

humans, disrupt the food supply or cripple an entire industry dangers heightened by a lack of even minimally adequate security. The author acknowledges that the times demand that the U.S. have a research facility like the one at Plum Island and ends this provocative book with a list of reasonable, well-conceived suggestions on how to make the research lab safe, or at least safer. Readers will hope that someone takes notice. 16 pages of bw photos not seen by PW. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Eighty-five miles from New York City, in the heart of the exclusive Hamptons, lies Plum Island, site of a U.S. government laboratory that is experimenting with some of the world's deadliest germs, including African swine fever, Japanese encephalitis, and the West Nile virus. The unimposing 840-acre island, not identified on most maps, has been the site of biological warfare research since 1954 and has had a secret and nefarious history, including a head researcher recruited from Nazi Germany's germ-warfare program and a nuclear scientist who has met repeatedly with Osama bin Laden. Drawing on five years of research of government documents and interviews with scientists, Carroll delivers a riveting expose of secret government involvement in germ-warfare experimentation on animals and the unsafe facilities and practices of a lab that is officially charged with protecting the American livestock industry. Readers interested in natural security and safety issues will appreciate this disturbing look at a secret government laboratory in a book as absorbing and as fascinating as *The Hot Zone* and *The Coming Plague* (both 1994). Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved