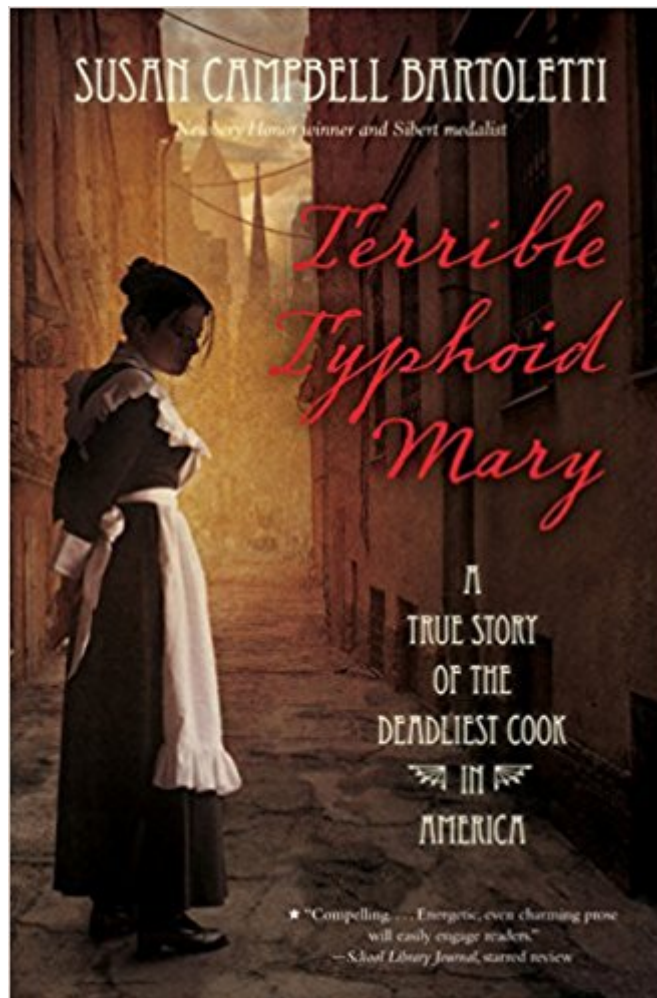




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# Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story Of The Deadliest Cook In America



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (August 4, 2015)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 45 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #47,451 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Teens > Personal

Health > Diseases, Illnesses & Injuries #6 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference >

History > United States > 19th Century #10 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Prejudice

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

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

\* "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." — Bulletin

Quick easy read about Typhoid Mary. Very interesting!!

Terrible Typhoid Mary is a great book that gives a concise overview of what is known about Mary Mallon's life. The book provides enough background information about medicine and society in

Mary's time to really set the stage for the story. I enjoyed this book and will recommend it to others.

interesting

Purchased for grandson's required summer reading. He read and said it is a good and interesting book.

I found this to be a well written book and one of the few that humanized Mary. She was a proud, stubborn woman who didn't understand the implications of her condition and was ostracized because of it.

This book is simply written and would make a good story for sixth or seventh grade child who had to write a report. it introduces health concepts in a simple and straightforward manner. I would recommend for preteen reading.

I am now in my half way through this book. It is a great book to read. Besides, the vocabularies inside are not hard so it is really suitable for ESL students. :D

I have always been fascinated with this story. This book was very simple worded for a younger reader but it was still a great book!

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