

# Panic In Level 4 Cannibals Killer Viruses And Other Journeys To The Edge Of Science Richard Preston

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## The Demon in the Freezer Penguin

Hidden away in foggy, uncharted rain forest valleys in Northern California are the largest and tallest organisms the world has ever sustained – the coast redwood trees, *Sequoia sempervirens*. Ninety-six percent of the ancient redwood forests have been destroyed by logging, but the untouched fragments that remain are among the great wonders of nature. The biggest redwoods have trunks up to thirty feet wide and can rise more than thirty-five stories above the ground, forming cathedral-like structures in the air. Until recently, redwoods were thought to be virtually impossible to ascend, and the canopy at the tops of these majestic trees was undiscovered. In *The Wild Trees*, Richard Preston unfolds the spellbinding story of Steve Sillett, Marie Antoine, and the tiny group of daring botanists and amateur naturalists that found a lost world above California, a world that is dangerous, hauntingly beautiful, and unexplored. The canopy voyagers are young—just college students when they start their quest—and they share a passion for these trees, persevering in spite of sometimes crushing personal obstacles and failings. They take big risks, they ignore common wisdom (such as the notion that there ’ s nothing left to discover in North America), and they even make love in hammocks stretched between branches three hundred feet in the air. The deep redwood canopy is a vertical Eden filled with mosses, lichens, spotted salamanders, hanging gardens of ferns, and thickets of huckleberry bushes, all growing out of massive trunk systems that have fused and formed flying buttresses, sometimes carved into blackened chambers, hollowed out by fire, called “ fire caves. ” Thick layers of soil sitting on limbs harbor animal and plant life that is unknown to science. Humans move through the deep canopy suspended on ropes, far out of sight of the ground, knowing that the price of a small mistake can be a plunge to one ’ s death. Preston ’ s account of this amazing world, by turns terrifying, moving, and

fascinating, is an adventure story told in novelistic detail by a master of nonfiction narrative. The author shares his protagonists ’ passion for tall trees, and he mastered the techniques of tall-tree climbing to tell the story in *The Wild Trees*—the story of the fate of the world ’ s most splendid forests and of the imperiled biosphere itself.

My Planet Vintage

"Magnificent and unsettling." --Marie Lu, New York Times Bestselling author of the Legend Trilogy A death-defying tropical adventure delivers a frightening message about dabbling with creation, perfect for fans of *Orphan Black*. On a remote island in the Pacific, Corpus scientists have taken test tube embryos and given them life. These beings—the Vitros—have knowledge and abilities most humans can only dream of. But they also have one enormous flaw. Sophie Crue is determined to get to Skin Island and find her mother, a scientist who left Sophie behind years ago. She enlists hunky charter pilot Jim Julien to take her there. But once on the island, Sophie and Jim encounter more than they bargained for, including a charming, brilliant Vitro named Nicholas and an innocent, newly awoken one named Lux. In a race for their lives, Sophie and Jim are about to discover what happens when science stretches too far beyond its reach.

## The Cobra Event Prentice Hall

"The daughter of a leading anti-apartheid activist blows the lid off the new South Africa." -- T.p.

## *Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn* LA CASE Books

With a New Chapter and Updated Epilogue on Coronavirus A Financial Times Best Health Book of 2019 and a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice "Honigsbaum does a superb job covering a century’s worth of pandemics and the fears they invariably unleash." —Howard Markel, MD, PhD, director of the Center for the History of Medicine, University of Michigan How can we understand the COVID-19 pandemic? Ever since the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic, scientists have dreamed of preventing such catastrophic outbreaks of infectious disease. Yet despite a century of medical progress, viral and bacterial disasters continue to take us by surprise, inciting panic and dominating news cycles. In *The Pandemic Century*, a lively account of scares both infamous and less known, medical historian Mark Honigsbaum combines reportage with the history of science and medical sociology to artfully reconstruct epidemiological mysteries and the ecology of infectious diseases. We meet dedicated disease detectives, obstructive or incompetent public health officials, and brilliant scientists often blinded by their own knowledge of bacteria and viruses—and see how fear of disease often exacerbates racial, religious, and ethnic tensions. Now updated with a new chapter and epilogue.

## The Viral Storm W. W. Norton & Company

Southern intellectual George Fitzhugh provides a passionate defense of slavery in this nearly 400-page volume published in 1857. Further developing ideas in his previous work *Sociology*

for the South, Fitzhugh not only defends slavery but attacks the entire liberal tradition. Attacking Adam Smith, John Locke, Thomas Jefferson and others, Fitzhugh argues that free markets are harmful to society by forcing the lower classes into crushing labor and poverty. The answer, Fitzhugh argues, is slavery--not only for blacks, but for whites as well. "Slavery," he writes, "is a form, and the very best form, of socialism."

*The Demon in the Freezer* MIRA

A year ago, Cal Thompson was a college freshman more interested in meeting girls and partying than in attending biology class. Now, after a fateful encounter with a mysterious woman named Morgan, biology has become, literally, Cal's life. Cal was infected by a parasite that has a truly horrifying effect on its host. Cal himself is a carrier, unchanged by the parasite, but he's infected the girlfriends he's had since Morgan. All three have turned into the ravening ghouls Cal calls Peeps. The rest of us know them as vampires. It's Cal's job to hunt them down before they can create more of their kind. . . . Bursting with the sharp intelligence and sly humor that are fast becoming his trademark, Scott Westerfeld's novel is an utterly original take on an archetype of horror.

**Into the Cannibal's Pot** Open Road Media

Shade, a young Silverwing bat in search of his father, discovers a mysterious Human building containing a vast forest. Home to thousands of bats, the indoor forest is as warm as a summer night and teeming with insects to eat. And through the glass roof, the bats can finally see the sun, free from the tyranny of the deadly owls. Is this Paradise the fulfillment of Nocturna's Promise to return the bats to the light of day? Shade and his Brightwing friend Marina aren't so sure. Shade has seen Humans enter the forest and take away hundreds of sleeping bats for an unknown purpose. And where is Shade's father? It isn't long before Shade and Marina are swept up on a perilous journey that takes them to the far southern jungle -- the homeland of Goth, now king of all the Vampyrum Spectrum: cannibal bats with three-foot wingspans. With the help of an abandoned owl prince and General Cortez's rat army, Shade must use all his resourcefulness to find his father -- and stop Goth from harnessing the dark powers of Cama Zotz to create eternal night. In this thrilling continuation of Shade's saga, Kenneth Oppel recaptures the adventure and poignancy of Silverwing, which Smithsonian magazine called "a tour-de-force fantasy," and takes it to a new level of excitement.

**Seeing Further** W. W. Norton & Company

*Panic in Level 4* Random House Trade Paperbacks

*Our House Is on Fire* Random House Trade Paperbacks

From acclaimed, New York Times best-selling author Mary Roach comes the complete collection of her "My Planet" articles published in Reader's Digest. She was a hit columnist in the magazine, and this book features the articles she wrote in that time. Insightful and hilarious, Mary explores the ins and outs of the modern world: marriage, friends, family, food, technology, customer service, dental floss, and ants--she leaves no element of the American experience unchecked for its inherent paradoxes, pleasures, and foibles.

**On Cleanliness:** Ed has crud vision, and I don't. I don't notice filth. Ed sees it everywhere. I am reasonably convinced that Ed can actually see bacteria. . . . He confessed he didn't like me using his bathrobe because I'd wear it while sitting on the toilet. "It's not like it goes in the water," I protested, though if you counted the sash as part of the robe, this wasn't strictly true.

**On the Internet:** The Internet is a boon for hypochondriacs like me. Right now, for instance, I'm feeling a shooting pain on the side of my neck. A Web search produces five matches, the first three for a condition called Arnold-Chiari Malformation. While my husband, Ed, reads over my shoulder, I recite symptoms from the list. "'General clumsiness' and 'general imbalance,'" I say, as though announcing arrivals at the Marine Corps Ball. "'Difficulty driving,' 'lack of taste,' 'difficulty feeling feet on ground.'" "Those aren't symptoms," says Ed. "Those are your character flaws."

**On Fashion:** My husband recently made me try on a bikini. A bikini is not so much a garment as a cloth-based reminder that your parts have been migrating all these years. My waist, I realized that day in the dressing room, has completely disappeared beneath my rib cage, which now rests directly on my hips. I'm exhibiting continental drift in reverse.

**On Eating Healthy:** So Ed and I were eating a lot of vegetables. Vegetables on pasta, vegetables on rice. This was extremely healthy, until you got to the part where Ed and I are found in the kitchen at 10 p.m., feeding on Froot Loops and tubes of cookie dough.

*Rabid* Simon and Schuster

Bizarre illnesses and plagues that kill people in the most unspeakable ways. Obsessive and inspired efforts by scientists to solve mysteries and save lives. From *The Hot Zone* to *The Demon in the Freezer* and beyond, Richard Preston's bestselling works have mesmerized readers everywhere by showing them strange worlds of nature they never dreamed of. *Panic in Level 4* is a grand tour through the eerie and unforgettable universe of Richard Preston, filled with incredible characters and mysteries that refuse to leave one's mind.

Here are dramatic true stories from this acclaimed and award-winning author, including:

- The phenomenon of "self-cannibals," who suffer from a rare genetic condition caused by one wrong letter in their DNA that forces them to compulsively chew their own flesh—and why everyone may have a touch of this disease.
- The search for the unknown host of Ebola virus, an organism hidden somewhere in African rain forests, where the disease finds its way into the human species, causing outbreaks of unparalleled horror.
- The brilliant Russian brothers—"one mathematician divided between two bodies"—who built a supercomputer in their apartment from mail-order parts in an attempt to find hidden order in the number pi (?). In fascinating, intimate, and exhilarating detail, Richard Preston portrays the frightening forces and constructive discoveries that are currently roiling and reordering our world, once again proving himself a master of the nonfiction narrative and, as noted in *The Washington Post*, "a science writer with an uncommon gift for turning complex biology into riveting page-turners."

*The Book of Phobias and Manias* Penguin

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • Winner of The New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award • "A new classic of science reporting."—*The New York Times* The riveting true story of a small town ravaged by industrial pollution, Toms River melds hard-hitting investigative reporting, a fascinating scientific detective story, and an unforgettable cast of characters into a sweeping narrative in the tradition of *A Civil Action*, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. One of New Jersey's seemingly innumerable quiet seaside towns, Toms River became the unlikely setting for a decades-long drama that culminated in 2001 with one of the largest legal settlements in the annals of toxic dumping. A town that would rather have been known for its Little League World Series champions ended up making history for an entirely different reason: a notorious cluster of childhood cancers scientifically linked to local air and water pollution. For years, large chemical companies had been using Toms River as their private dumping ground, burying tens of thousands of leaky drums in open pits and discharging billions of gallons of acid-laced wastewater into the town's namesake river. In an astonishing feat of investigative reporting, prize-winning journalist Dan Fagin recounts the sixty-year saga of rampant pollution and inadequate oversight that made Toms River a cautionary example for fast-growing industrial towns from South Jersey to South China. He tells the stories of the pioneering scientists and physicians who first identified pollutants as a cause of cancer, and brings to life the everyday heroes in Toms River who struggled for justice: a young boy whose cherubic smile belied the fast-growing tumors that had decimated his body from birth; a nurse who fought to bring the alarming incidence of childhood cancers to the attention of authorities who didn't want to listen; and a mother whose love for her stricken child

transformed her into a tenacious advocate for change. A gripping human drama rooted in a centuries-old scientific quest, *Toms River* is a tale of dumpers at midnight and deceptions in broad daylight, of corporate avarice and government neglect, and of a few brave individuals who refused to keep silent until the truth was exposed. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR AND KIRKUS REVIEWS "A thrilling journey full of twists and turns, *Toms River* is essential reading for our times. Dan Fagin handles topics of great complexity with the dexterity of a scholar, the honesty of a journalist, and the dramatic skill of a novelist."—Siddhartha Mukherjee, M.D., author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Emperor of All Maladies* "A complex tale of powerful industry, local politics, water rights, epidemiology, public health and cancer in a gripping, page-turning environmental thriller."—NPR "Unstoppable reading."—*The Philadelphia Inquirer* "Meticulously researched and compellingly recounted . . . It's every bit as important—and as well-written—as *A Civil Action* and *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*."—*The Star-Ledger* "Fascinating . . . a gripping environmental thriller."—Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "An honest, thoroughly researched, intelligently written book."—Slate "[A] hard-hitting account . . . a triumph."—*Nature* "Absorbing and thoughtful."—USA Today

*Taste of Darkness* Random House

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • An urgent wake-up call about the future of emerging viruses and a gripping account of the doctors and scientists fighting to protect us, told through the story of the deadly 2013–2014 Ebola epidemic "Crisis in the Red Zone reads like a thriller. That the story it tells is all true makes it all more terrifying."—Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction* From the #1 bestselling author of *The Hot Zone*, now a National Geographic original miniseries . . . This time, Ebola started with a two-year-old child who likely had contact with a wild creature and whose entire family quickly fell ill and died. The ensuing global drama activated health professionals in North America, Europe, and Africa in a desperate race against time to contain the viral wildfire. By the end—as the virus mutated into its deadliest form, and spread farther and faster than ever before—30,000 people would be infected, and the dead would be spread across eight countries on three continents. In this taut and suspenseful medical drama, Richard Preston deeply chronicles the pandemic, in which we saw for the first time the specter of Ebola jumping continents, crossing the Atlantic, and infecting people in America. Rich in characters and conflict—physical, emotional, and ethical—*Crisis in the Red Zone* is an immersion in one of the great public health calamities of our time. Preston writes of doctors and nurses in the field putting their own lives on the line, of government bureaucrats and NGO administrators moving, often fitfully, to try to contain the outbreak, and of pharmaceutical companies racing to develop drugs to combat the virus. He also explores the charged ethical dilemma over who should and did receive the

rare doses of an experimental treatment when they became available at the peak of the disaster. Crisis in the Red Zone makes clear that the outbreak of 2013-2014 is a harbinger of further, more severe outbreaks, and of emerging viruses heretofore unimagined—in any country, on any continent. In our ever more interconnected world, with roads and towns cut deep into the jungles of equatorial Africa, viruses both familiar and undiscovered are being unleashed into more densely populated areas than ever before. The more we discover about the virosphere, the more we realize its deadly potential. Crisis in the Red Zone is an exquisitely timely book, a stark warning of viral outbreaks to come.

#### *The Cannibal Islands* Crown

A chronicle of the efforts of America's ninth largest steel company to build a new steel plant in the Midwest's Rust Belt presents true-life characters and suspense in its exploration of the American steel industry

#### *Panic in Level 4*

In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks in the USA, the western world had to deal with a new threat: bioterrorism. In October 2001, a series of anthrax attacks through the postal system caused chaos and fear. But there was a far greater danger that had government security advisers around the world even more alarmed: smallpox. In his terrifying account of what happened, and what could still happen, Richard Preston reveals the true horror faced by victims of smallpox, raises serious questions about what happened to the smallpox viruses that were kept in storage after the disease was 'eradicated' in 1979, and shows just how easy it would be to create new strains of smallpox that would be able to overcome any vaccination, leaving the population defenceless.

#### *Panic in Level 4* Penguin Books

The most fatal virus known to science, rabies—a disease that spreads avidly from animals to humans—kills nearly one hundred percent of its victims once the infection takes root in the brain. In this critically acclaimed exploration, journalist Bill Wasik and veterinarian Monica Murphy chart four thousand years of the history, science, and cultural mythology of rabies. From Greek myths to zombie flicks, from the laboratory heroics of Louis Pasteur to the contemporary search for a lifesaving treatment, *Rabid* is a fresh and often wildly entertaining look at one of humankind's oldest and most fearsome foes. "A searing narrative." —The New York Times "In this keen and exceptionally well-written book, rife with surprises, narrative suspense and a steady flow of expansive insights, 'the world's most diabolical virus' conquers the unsuspecting reader's imaginative nervous system. . . . A smart, unsettling, and strangely stirring piece of work." —San Francisco Chronicle "Fascinating. . . . Wasik and Murphy chronicle more than two millennia of myths and discoveries about rabies and the animals that transmit it, including dogs, bats and raccoons." —The Wall Street Journal

#### *A Year of Ebola* Random House Trade

#### Paperbacks

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE • A searing, post-apocalyptic novel about a father and son's fight to survive, this "tale of survival and the miracle of goodness only adds to McCarthy's stature as a living master. It's gripping, frightening and, ultimately, beautiful" (San Francisco Chronicle). A father and his son walk alone through burned America. Nothing moves in the ravaged landscape save the ash on the wind. It is cold enough to crack stones, and when the snow falls it is gray. The sky is dark. Their destination is the coast, although they don't know what, if anything, awaits them there. They have nothing; just a pistol to defend themselves against the lawless bands that stalk the road, the clothes they are wearing, a cart of scavenged food—and each other. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.

#### *Vitro* Doubleday Books

Imagine a killer with the infectiousness of the common cold and power of the Black Death. Imagine something so deadly that it wipes out 90% of those it touches. Imagine an organism against which there is no defence. But you don't need to imagine. Such a killer exists: it is a virus and its name is Ebola. *The Hot Zone* tells what happens when the unthinkable becomes reality: when a deadly virus, from the rain forests of Africa, crosses continents and infects a monkey house ten miles from the White House. Ebola is that reality. It has the power to decimate the world's population. Try not to panic. It will be back. There is nothing you can do...

#### *The Pandemic Century: One Hundred Years of Panic, Hysteria, and Hubris* Penguin

"Redefines 'unputdownable.'" —Amie Kaufman, New York Times bestselling author of *Iluminae* "I was thrilled. I was shocked." —NPR "Stunning twists and turns." —BCCB (starred review) In this gripping debut novel, seventeen-year-old Cat must use her gene-hacking skills to decode her late father's message concealing a vaccine to a horrifying plague. Catarina Agatta is a hacker. She can cripple mainframes and crash through firewalls, but that's not what makes her special. In Cat's world, people are implanted with technology to recode their DNA, allowing them to change their bodies in any way they want. And Cat happens to be a gene-hacking genius. That's no surprise, since Cat's father

is Dr. Lachlan Agatta, a legendary geneticist who may be the last hope for defeating a plague that has brought humanity to the brink of extinction. But during the outbreak, Lachlan was kidnapped by a shadowy organization called Cartaxus, leaving Cat to survive the last two years on her own. When a Cartaxus soldier, Cole, arrives with news that her father has been killed, Cat's instincts tell her it's just another Cartaxus lie. But Cole also brings a message: before Lachlan died, he managed to create a vaccine, and Cole needs Cat's help to release it and save the human race. Now Cat must decide who she can trust: The soldier with secrets of his own? The father who made her promise to hide from Cartaxus at all costs? In a world where nature itself can be rewritten, how much can she even trust herself?

#### The Road Penguin

George Meegan is an adventurer, lecturer, school reformer, and world traveler. He holds eight Guinness World Records, the most official world records for any European. This includes "The Longest Unbroken March of All Time" that which is described in this book. The epic journey he began linked Tierra del Fuego, South America to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The 19,019 miles, was completed in 2,425 days / 41 million steps. He was shot at and nearly killed by a Street Gang in Panama. He traversed the historically impassable Darien Gap, married his Japanese sweetheart, became a father, and was welcomed by US President Jimmy Carter! Across the United States the World Walker preceded town-to-town, George found he had discovered the 'American Dream'! From New York, where he was honoured by Meegan Day in Brooklyn. He proceeded through northern USA, into Canada's Yukon, and onto the final step into the Arctic Circle. On the afternoon of September 18, 1983, he crossed frozen tundra to the edge of the Arctic Ocean, dipped his hand into the cold, slivery water, and was done. He fell to his knees and wept. Until this day no human had ever traversed the entire Americas, be it by vehicle or even ship or aircraft; but of course, Meegan was on foot. Today, nearly three decades later, the feat remains unequalled. At age 31, George Meegan had walked 19,019 unbroken miles, and rose from the water's edge to face a new challenge of dealing with his journey for the entire remainder of his life. The Longest Walk took place between 1977 and 1983. In 2000, he completed about 500km across the ice to reach Barrow, Alaska, the largest Eskimo settlement in the world. It was the final action of the 20th century at the historic millennium, Meegan uniquely got the USA government (by order of the White House) to 'fall down on knees' and apologize before to the First Nations for historical travesties. The story of the Longest Walk found its way to Dodd, Mead of New York. Just before publication, the book editor died, and then, after 199-years, Dodd, Mead slipped beneath the waves into bankruptcy. So, notwithstanding powered coverage, it was too late. The sunk publisher took the book down with them, after being told that his book was bound to become a bestseller. The English Publishers told him 'They would publish nothing he wrote!!' In 1989, Paragon House pressed out a few thousand copies, but few saw it. Xlibris, ETC. of Philadelphia resurrected it; all in all, not a success. Still, from time to time, Meegan received letters asking about the abrupt vanish of The

Longest Walk. Now, the answer is the 2021 Third Edition. This is the original story, with unpublished photos, an extended appendix, and Yoshiko, his wife makes an encore! *Galileo's Middle Finger* Broadway Books From the winner of the Edgar Award and the Samuel Johnson Prize, a cultural history of "everyday madness" *The Book of Phobias and Manias* is a thrilling compendium of 99 obsessions that have shaped us all, the rare and the familiar, from ablutophobia (a horror of washing) to syllogomania (a compulsion to hoard) to zoophobia (a fear of animals). Phobias and manias are deeply personal experiences, and among the most common anxiety disorders of our time, but they are also clues to our shared past. The award-winning author Kate Summerscale uses rich and riveting case studies to trace the origins of our obsessions, unearthing a history of human strangeness, from the middle ages to the present day, and a wealth of explanations for some of our most powerful aversions and desires.