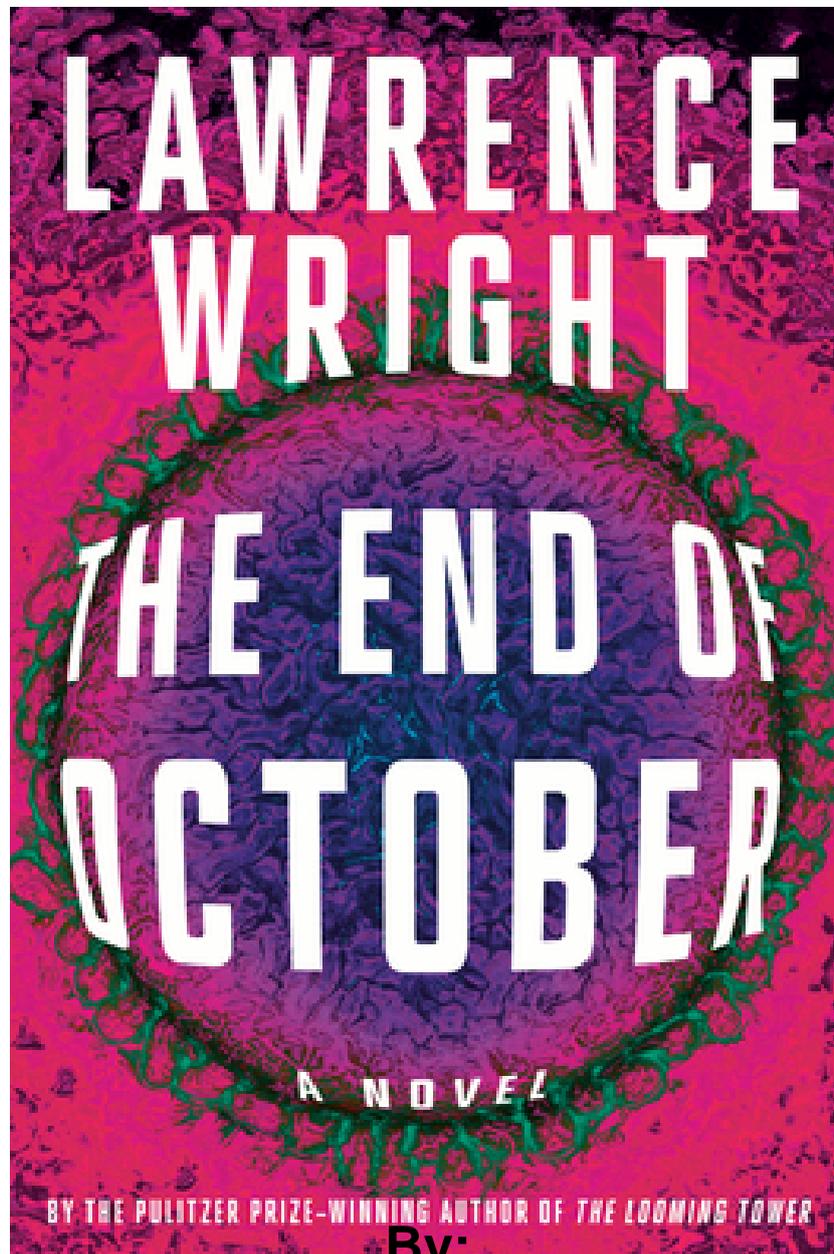


The End of October Book PDF Download



By:
Lawrence Wright

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What people Say:

Roxane

There may be spoilers ahead.

I will say that a lot of research went into this book. This is not a lazily written book but it is poorly written. Sometimes, when a writer does a lot of research and wants the reader to know they are a credible expert on their subject, they make fiction seem like nonfiction. If you want a primer on pandemics (TIMELY), then sure, this book offers something useful. The problem is that there are just pages upon pages of what are, essentially, lectures on pandemics, vacc

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It's interesting that this book was written well before the coronavirus because so much of it is prescient. Wright did a good job of anticipating what might happen in a global pandemic and unfortunately, much of what he predicts as part of the novel's plot, is already happening.

There are some ludicrous plot holes. The protagonist, Henry, is one of the most important epidemiologists in the world and no government can get him a flight back to the US? Really? He works for the CDC, and again, is super important, but he can't make sure his family is secure? Sometimes his disability gets in the way, sometimes it is completely forgotten in the narrative. He pretends to convert to Islam because, well, reasons. And girl, I guess. And then after hundreds of pages, he wraps up the ending by skipping past like ten scenes we needed to see to understand the ending. O M G. Sir! What? This is not my area of expertise but the depiction of disability seems realllly problematic. There are some confounding flashbacks that are not well tied to the present day narrative. There are shifts in POV to characters who are never developed. So much is happening that is not good.

A character will do something, and then the author will explain why that character did that thing even though it is always, always, patently obvious. There are all these unnecessary and extensive expository ramblings. Nearly every scene ends with an editorial aside. It's kind of... shocking just how unfortunate some of the writing is. As a writer I take no pleasure in saying this because writing a book is hard work and, like I said, the amount of work that went into this book is plainly obvious. It just forgot that it was supposed to be a novel. Writing is hard.

Donna Backshall

It's difficult to believe

was written just before the *ish* hit the global fan a couple months ago.

If I'd read

, say, last fall, I'd have said "Cool speculative fiction, but wow, people wouldn't suck that bad in a real crisis, would they?"

Now I'm just nodding and thinking "Yep. That happened. And that too. We didn't measure up any better."

pretty much nailed the political finger-pointing and lack of preparedness, the world economy deteriorati

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Carolyn

4.5 stars.

Lawrence Wright is an esteemed journalist and author. Among his many honours is his Pulitzer Prize for the non-fiction book, *The Looming Tower* about the rise of al-Qaeda and the road to 9/11. This is a meticulously researched book in the form of a novel. It contains much factual information about historic epidemics and their rampage through the world's™ population and the social, political and economic aftermath. It also provided details of cyberattacks, bio-warfare and experimentatio

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Written before the present COVID pandemic, the author displays a mastery of historic details and scientific information. This is a chilling, prophetic novel forecasting what is happening now all over the world. The Kongoli virus described in this work of fiction is more deadly than the fearsome present Coronavirus.

The amount of information early in the book was overwhelming. I felt that the character of Dr. Henry Parsons was only there to connect parts of the narrative and move the story along. Dr. Henry is sent to Indonesia by WHO. He is considered the leading epidemiologist in infectious diseases.

There has been an outbreak of a disease of unknown origin in an Indonesian camp killing dozens of young men. Members of Doctors Without Borders have also died. It was evident that a coverup of the disease was underway. Dr. Henry was initially refused entrance and told the men were terrorists who were executed. When Dr. Henry finally examines the dead and dying, he realizes that this is a new, unknown viral disease. It has characteristics of the Coronavirus but is also similar to Ebola which manifests itself by hemorrhagic fever, bleeding from the eyes and other parts of the body while the lungs dissolve.

The Kongoli pandemic moves from Indonesia to Mecca at the time of the annual hajj. Despite efforts to contain it, there are many deaths. Pilgrims returning to their home countries before the quarantine is enforced spread the contagion. It is also being transported by avian migration. We see the horrific symptoms of the disease through the eyes of Dr. Henry Parsons. The borders of Saudi Arabia are closed and planes grounded.

Dr. Henry is a small man, bent and deformed by rickets and using a cane. He has a loving family in Atlanta and is desperate to return to them. This is impossible since the country is in lockdown. He becomes friendly with Majid, a doctor and Saudi Prince. He and Dr. Henry discuss philosophy, religion, and how to best deal with the disease. Henry reveals to Majid the shocking truth of his young boyhood and how he developed rickets, a story he has never told anyone.

Partway through the book, the story becomes character-driven. Dr. Henry and his family become compelling, well-developed characters. The heroic Majid helps Henry escape the country. He begins the ordeal of making his way back home to his family.

Faith

This book was fast paced and entertaining and the author obviously did a lot of research before writing it. I've read a lot of escaped-killer-virus books, but I never thought I would be living inside one. This book was not better than the others I have read, but its huge advantage is its timeliness. It was told from the point of view of a scientist who was separated from his family as the virus that was first seen in an Indonesian detention camp spread around the world. It also included the st

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Denise

Hello readers -- I rarely give 5 stars to a fiction book but this one completely blew me away! To say that it is prescient and timely is an understatement. If you have a desire to really understand what is going on in the world right now, this is a novel that you cannot afford to miss! It is shocking and absorbing with so much information that I can't even relay it in a review. I was overcome with so many emotions as I read this and I think it is one that every sentient being on the planet cannot

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It starts with a few cases in an Indonesian camp set aside for Muslims with HIV. Termed the Kongoli virus, this is a killer unlike anything seen since the pandemic Spanish Flu of 1918. As it infects the entire world, there are only a few who understand what has happened and its ramifications. Doctor and epidemiologist, Henry Parsons, is one of those few. His history is unusual, he's gone around the globe fighting epidemics of horrific proportion. "Science knows no borders, nor does disease -- especially a disease that can literally fly across international boundaries." This novel explores the nature of a virus unlike any that has occurred in recent human history and its aftermath is beyond chilling. "Disease was more powerful than armies. Disease was more arbitrary than terrorists. Disease was crueler than human imagination." The entire world is under attack and there is no treatment for the scourge affecting the world population. There are no spoilers here but I urge you to read this chilling story of a world in ruins.

The writing and research involved in this novel are of epic proportions. The science, the human component, the political fallout are all so vividly described. If you only read one book this year, I urge you to pick up this one. I know it's going to be tough as you sit in self-quarantine lock-down with little information on our own situation with COVID-19, but the message within is extremely powerful and must be communicated. Don't be complacent. "But nature is not a stable force. It evolves, it changes, and it never comes complacent." Our way of life, our civilization, our future depends on us getting a handle on these organisms and saving humanity. This is real. And I realize this is a work of fiction, but it is so eerily close to what is happening now that it totally petrified me. Maybe you don't have the stomach or nerve to read this now while you are sitting at home in isolation and worrying about your family and your job, but I'm telling you that our lives are now entering into the phase of nightmare and this book puts it all out there.

Thank you to NetGalley and Alfred A. Knopf Publishers for this e-book ARC to read, review, and highly recommend. DO NOT MISS IT.