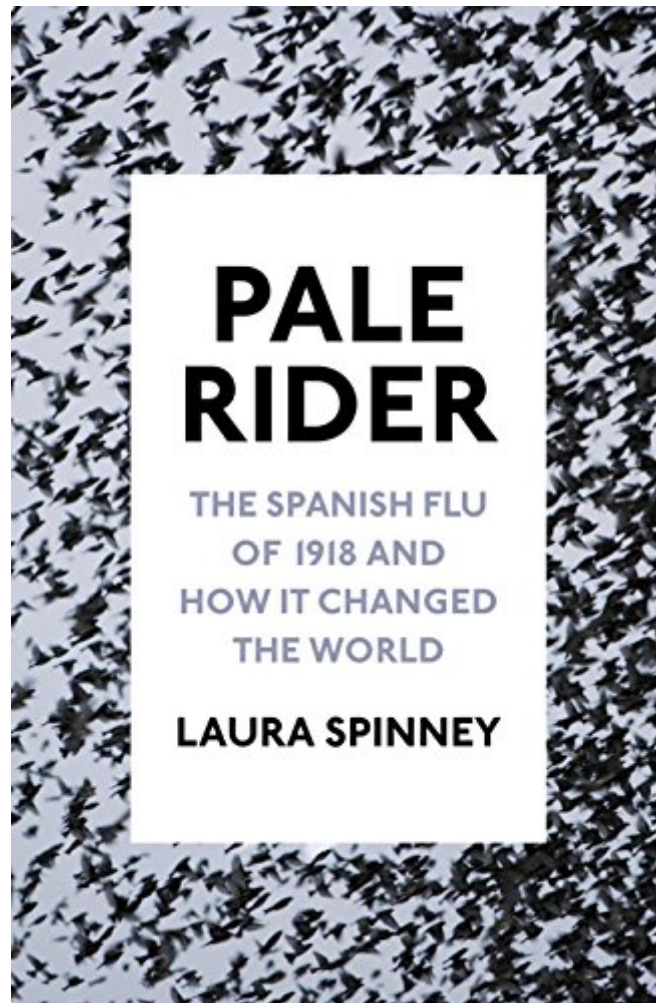




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# Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu Of 1918 And How It Changed The World



## Synopsis

'Magisterial' Observer 'Riveting' Sunday Times With a death toll of between 50 and 100 million people and a global reach, the Spanish flu of 1918-1920 was the greatest human disaster, not only of the twentieth century, but possibly in all of recorded history. And yet, in our popular conception it exists largely as a footnote to World War I. In *Pale Rider*, Laura Spinney recounts the story of an overlooked pandemic, tracing it from Alaska to Brazil, from Persia to Spain, and from South Africa to Odessa. Telling the story from the point of view of those who lived through it, she shows how the pandemic was shaped by the interaction of a virus and the humans it encountered; and how this devastating natural experiment put both the ingenuity and the vulnerability of humans to the test. Drawing on the latest research in history, virology, epidemiology, psychology, and economics, Laura Spinney narrates a catastrophe that changed humanity for decades to come, and continues to make itself felt today. In the process she demonstrates that the Spanish flu was as significant if not more so than as two world wars in shaping the modern world; in disrupting, and often permanently altering, global politics, race relations, family structures, and thinking across medicine, religion and the arts.

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## Customer Reviews

Meticulously researched and reported. This book opens the reader's eyes to in of the most devastating events in the past century, but one that we tend to view far more lightly than we should. It's hard to believe how swiftly and widely it spread and the extent of its devastation. The hunt for "patient zero" is a fascinating account of a major, and continuing, project of forensic medicine.

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