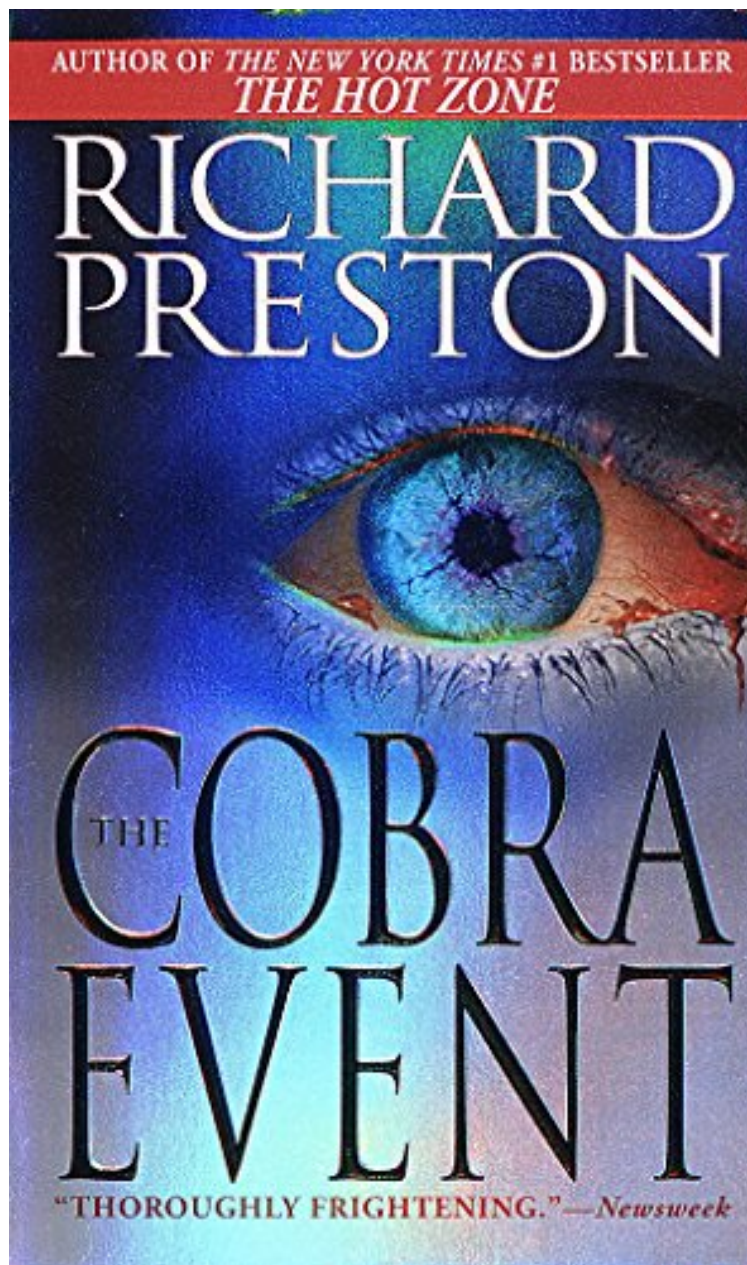


(Mobile book) The Cobra Event

The Cobra Event

Von Richard Preston

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Von Richard Preston : The Cobra Event before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cobra Event:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Richard

Preston's *The Cobra Event*: A Literary Masterpiece!
Von Ein Kunde
When I bought *The Cobra Event*, I didn't think I would enjoy it. I assumed it would join the ranks of many other unfinished books that I couldn't bring myself to attempt to read again. Within the first five minutes of reading this book, I was hooked. This book is thrilling and fast-paced. Preston describes every detail with intricate wording and accuracy while not overwording the less important elements. It also raises many questions about the medical profession and diseases throughout the world. The reader also learns while reading this entertaining book. Also, unlike some novels, a glossary of scientific terms can be found in the back of the book to ensure that the reader thoroughly understands the happenings in the book. The element of this book that makes it impossible to put down is the thrilling suspense throughout the entire book from the first page to the final sentences. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I would recommend it to any reader.
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Good research; awful writing
Von Ein Kunde
As all the magazine reviews have said, there's a lot of valuable research and privileged information in this book. But what may not be clear, except in the quotation from (of all places) "Entertainment Weekly", is that the writing is quite bad -- as if a very bright scholar or journalist had taken a night-school course in writing an "airport thriller", then talked a friend into publishing it without bringing in a co-writer or a good editor. (An editor is credited, if that's the right word here; I would have withdrawn my name if I were her.)
The plot is a little about forensics and epidemiology, new and interesting to most readers, and a whole lot about silly chases through tunnels and shafts, more like the script for a video game than a silly TV movie. What's missing, despite a few tries, is any insight into the only interesting character -- who is, as usual, the Bad Guy, not the Lovely Doctor or the Brave Agent. Worse, by making him a lone madman with a fixed address, rather than a resourceful and rational group, the entire plot becomes "Catch the Serial Murderer", his weapon almost irrelevant, rather than "Defeat Bio-Terrorism", without which there's no reason to publish or read this particular piece of fiction. The bookstores are already full of cops-versus-psycho novels.
At the sentence level, Preston's style is full of incorrect syntax, idiom, and semantics; mangled metaphors; pointless brand-names and jargon; jarring shifts between action and exposition -- sometimes within a single paragraph. It's like a poor imitation of the clumsily didactic novels of James Michener or Leon Uris. Perhaps there's something infectious about bio-terrorism as the theme of a bad novel. Tom Clancy's "Rainbow Six" has a very similar theme; the Big Bad Guy and his gang have the same technology and the same motivation (pruning, not profit or political change) -- and it's Clancy's most pointless and poorly-written novel.
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The most amazingly stupid ending I have ever read
Von Ein Kunde
I was amazed that a reviewer further down said the only good thing about this book was the action-packed ending. My reaction was just the opposite. I could have given this book 4 stars EXCEPT for the ridiculous ending. First off, the way the killer is found. What a cop-out. If Preston had allowed the killer to be found through forensics, that would have been one thing, but to have the hero and heroine just happen to take a load off right outside the killer's apartment building and just happen to look up at his third-floor window and spy his "high-tech" fan in it ... give me a break. What an incredible lack of imagination on Preston's part. Then we have this elite squad of special-op FBI SWAT types who are so incredibly dumb-ass that not a single one thinks to bring a flashlight along on a night-time operation. What next? Oh yes, the killer, who by this time should be having convulsions, throws one of his flash grenades into a chasm, separating the hero and heroine from each other, manages to work his way back around to the woman in total darkness (remember he lost his flashlight) through unfamiliar tunnels in what must have been five minutes time. He's sitting there waiting on her. But my absolute favorite part is where the hero falls 20-feet down a tunnel, head-first, and ALMOST breaks his neck. Hell, it didn't even seem to hurt him (or his suit). He then proceeds to spend what must have been an incredibly long time building a "sticky-probe" to drag the bomb over and diffuse it, all one-handed and upside-down, sitting on his head with his 'almost' broken neck. Can you imagine how long it would take to rip pieces of duct tape and tape Q-tips together one-handed, standing on your head no less? And then afterwards he manages to worm his way out of the tunnel in what seemed to me less than five minutes. Although I found first 3/4 of this book to be exciting if somewhat over the top, for me the quality of the ending is everything, no matter how good the rest of the book is. And the ending of this book flat out sucked.

Kurzbeschreibung
The Cobra Event is set in motion one spring morning in New York City, when a seventeen-year-old student wakes up feeling vaguely ill. Hours later she is having violent seizures, blood is pouring out of her nose, and she has begun a hideous process of self-cannibalization. Soon, other gruesome deaths of a similar nature have been discovered, and the Centers for Disease Control sends a forensic pathologist to investigate. What she finds precipitates a federal crisis. The details of this story are fictional, but they are based on a scrupulously thorough inquiry into the history of biological weapons and their use by civilian and military terrorists. Richard Preston's sources include members of the FBI and the United States military, public health officials, intelligence officers in foreign governments, and scientists who have been involved in the testing of strategic bioweapons. The accounts of what they have seen and what they expect to happen are chilling. *The Cobra Event* is a dramatic, heart-stopping account of a very real threat, told with the skill and authority that made Preston's *The Hot Zone* an internationally acclaimed

bestseller. From the Trade Paperback edition. Dieser Titel ist in englischer Sprache. New York, in den späten 90er Jahren. Ein 17-jähriges Mädchen macht sich auf den Weg zu ihrer Privatschule, obwohl sie eine Erkältung hat. Leider ist Kate Moran talentiert, schön und die erste Figur, die in Richard Prestons erstem Roman auftaucht -- insofern sind ihre Überlebenschancen vermutlich relativ gering. Und tatsächlich -- bereits im Zeichenunterricht schießt ihr der Mukus aus der Nase, und sie ist zuerst desorientiert. In Sekundenschnelle, so scheint es, wird sie von Schüttelkrämpfen gepackt und kann ausnahmsweise nicht mehr aufhören, sich selbst zu beißen. Das einzige, was dem Leser bleibt, ist zu hoffen, daß sie schnell stirbt, aber Kates Körper muß vorher noch einige widerliche Anfälle über sich ergehen lassen, und der Autor -- ein jakobinischer Zeremonienmeister par excellence -- schildert sie uns in all ihren bizarren und blutigen Einzelheiten. Das, was sich Kate eingefangen hatte, war eindeutig eine Erkältung ersten wissenschaftlichen Ranges. Prestons Heldin, Alice Austen, Ärztin bei den amerikanischen Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stellt bei der ersten von mehreren fesselnden Autopsieszenen fest, daß das Nervensystem des Mädchens praktisch zerstört wurde. Bis jetzt ist nur eine weitere Person bekannt, die auf gleiche Weise gestorben ist, aber hierbei handelt es sich um einen obdachlosen Mann. Austen muß die zwei Fälle, deren einziger gemeinsamer Nenner die U-Bahn zu sein scheint, in Zusammenhang bringen, bevor die Medien Wind davon bekommen und einen allgemeinen Paranoiaausbruch auslösen -- und bevor der Schöpfer des Virus wieder zuschlagen kann. Cobra ist selbst ein Paranoiaausbruch, ein provokativer Thriller, der einen dazu veranlaßt, sich zu fragen, wieviel Bioterrorismus es in der wirklichen Welt tatsächlich gibt. Preston, am besten bekannt für seine erschreckende Chronik über den Ebola-Virus, Hot Zone und andere tadellos recherchierte Sachbücher, gibt sich nicht zufrieden mit schnellen, alptraumhaften Szenen. Sein Roman ist statt dessen eine komplexe, in ungemessenen Tatsachen fest verankerte Moralie. Preston legt Wert auf die Vermittlung der "unsichtbaren Geschichte" der Biowaffentechnik und gleichermaßen des unbesungenen Heldenmuts seiner wissenschaftlichen Detektive (zusammen mit dem der Krankenschwestern und Techniker, die ihr Leben für die Medizin buchstäblich opfern). Wie ihrem Schöpfer, fehlt es diesen Figuren nicht an Humor -- so nennen sie diesen Virus aus Menschenhand "die ultimative Erkältung". Dem Leser werden dutzende von Szenen im Gedächtnis bleiben, und er wird von nun an die U-Bahn, Nagetiere, Autopsieskalpelle und -- vor allem -- laufende Nasen mit ganz anderen Augen sehen. In New York City in the late nineties, a 17-year-old girl heads off to her private school despite having a cold. Unfortunately, Kate Moran is talented, beautiful and the first character in Richard Preston's first novel, so her chances for survival are probably not good. In fact, by art class her nose is gushing mucus and she's severely disoriented. Within seconds, it seems, she's in convulsions and, most bizarrely, can't stop biting herself. All the reader can do is hope she'll die quickly, but Kate's body still has a few more disgusting turns to undergo, and the author--a Jacobean master of ceremonies par excellence--takes us through them in bizarre and bloody detail. Clearly, whatever Kate had was a head cold with a scientific vengeance. Preston's heroine, Alice Austen, a doctor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, realizes--in the first of several gripping autopsy scenes--that the girl's nervous system had been virtually destroyed. So far, only one other person is known to have died in the same way, but he was a homeless man. Austen must connect the two cases, seemingly linked only by the subway, before the media gets hold of them and fuels a bout of mass hysteria--and before the virus's creator can kill again. The Cobra Event is itself a paranoia-fest, a provocative thriller that makes you wonder exactly how much bioterrorism is taking place in the real world. Preston, best known for his terrifying chronicle of the Ebola virus, The Hot Zone, and other impeccably researched nonfictions, is not content to create fast-paced nightmarish scenes. His novel is, instead, a complex morality tale anchored in uncomfortable fact. Preston is keen to convey the "invisible history" of bioweapons engineering and, equally, to show the unsung heroism of his scientific detectives (along with that of the nurses and technicians who literally sacrifice their lives for medicine). Like their creator, these characters are not without a sense of humour. One calls the manmade virus "the ultimate head cold". Readers will never forget literally dozens of scenes and will never again see the subway, rodents, autopsy knives, and--above all--runny noses in the same light.