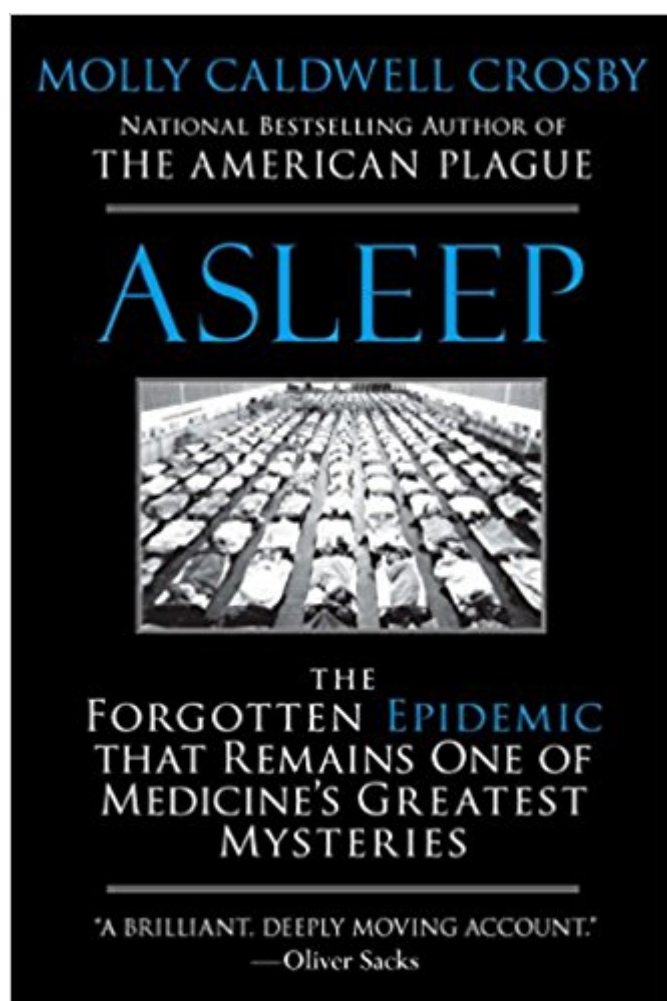


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# Asleep: The Forgotten Epidemic That Remains One Of Medicine's Greatest Mysteries



## Synopsis

A fascinating look at a bizarre, forgotten epidemic from the national bestselling author of *The American Plague*. In 1918, a world war raged, and a lethal strain of influenza circled the globe. In the midst of all this death, a bizarre disease appeared in Europe. Eventually known as encephalitis lethargica, or sleeping sickness, it spread worldwide, leaving millions dead or locked in institutions. Then, in 1927, it disappeared as suddenly as it arrived. *Asleep*, set in 1920s and '30s New York, follows a group of neurologists through hospitals and asylums as they try to solve this epidemic and treat its victims-who learned the worst fate was not dying of it, but surviving it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well-written and painstakingly researched. Excellent history, not only of the illness, but also of the times and cities involved. Worth the read for anyone but especially those with an interest in medicine. Helpful to have seen the movie *Awakenings* first as there are many references to this - and it will give the reader visuals of this illness.

Interesting read

Great historical account of the disease, illustrating the horrors, the damage it has caused, and the people and scientist who were involved in this mysterious and often forgotten disease.

This is an account of a little known epidemic, encephalitis lethargica, that has occurred several times in our history but seems to have been forgotten. Ms Crosby is a thorough researcher and a very good writer making somewhat dull information come alive.

In 2014, when we know the answers to so many medical/biologic mysteries of our past, this one remains unsolved. The book reads like a novel: easy to understand, and spellbinding.

What if you couldn't really wake up. This epidemic of sleeping sickness is hardly heard of, but it affected and killed dozens of people less than a century ago. Very enlightening and well written.

This book is well written (IMO) and makes an interesting read for a subject that could be dry. I got it for my epidemiology class, only after reading a bit of it in the library and findeing it really intrieging.

I have read several books on this topic, Molly does a great job covering the background of research and Doctors of the past.

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