

A close-up photograph of a hand wearing a blue nitrile glove holding a clear petri dish. The dish contains a yellowish-green agar medium with numerous small, circular, green bacterial colonies. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with a person in a white lab coat and safety glasses. The overall color palette is dominated by greens and yellows, with a black and yellow torn-edge effect at the bottom.

BIOWEAPONS

LESLIE BUTEYN

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Chapter 1 ATTACK

The year was 2001.
It was late September.
The US was on edge.
Terrorists had hit.
Planes flew into buildings.
Thousands died.
Even more were hurt.

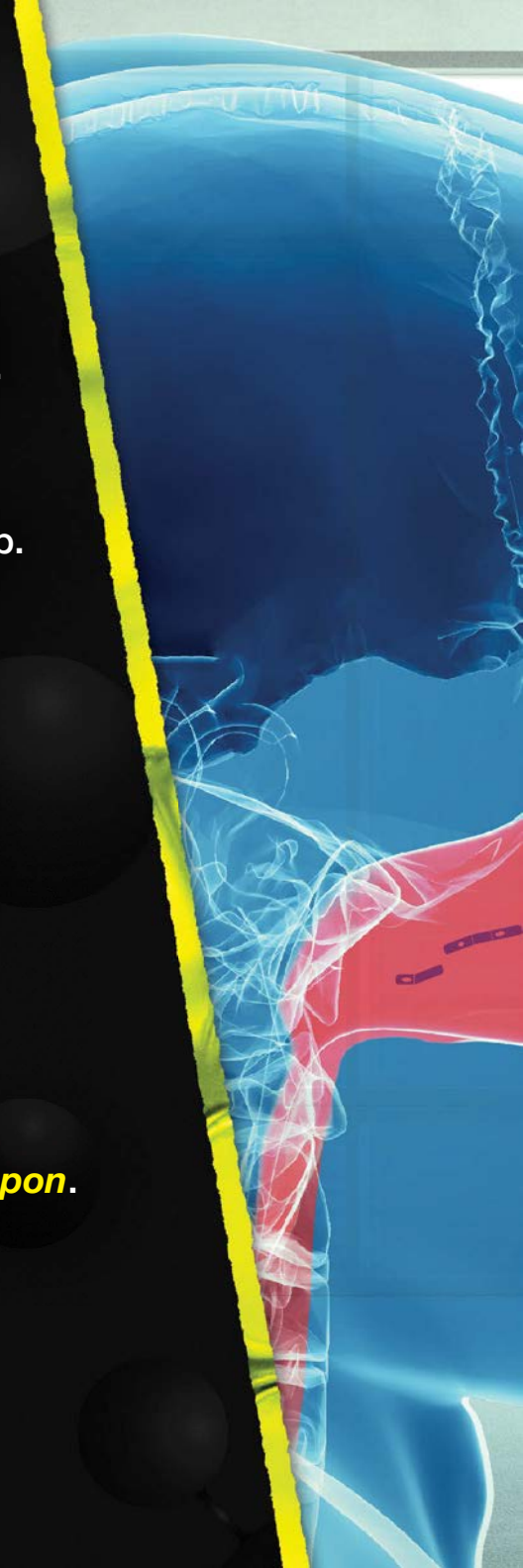
Life seemed to stop.
Planes were grounded.
People did not work.

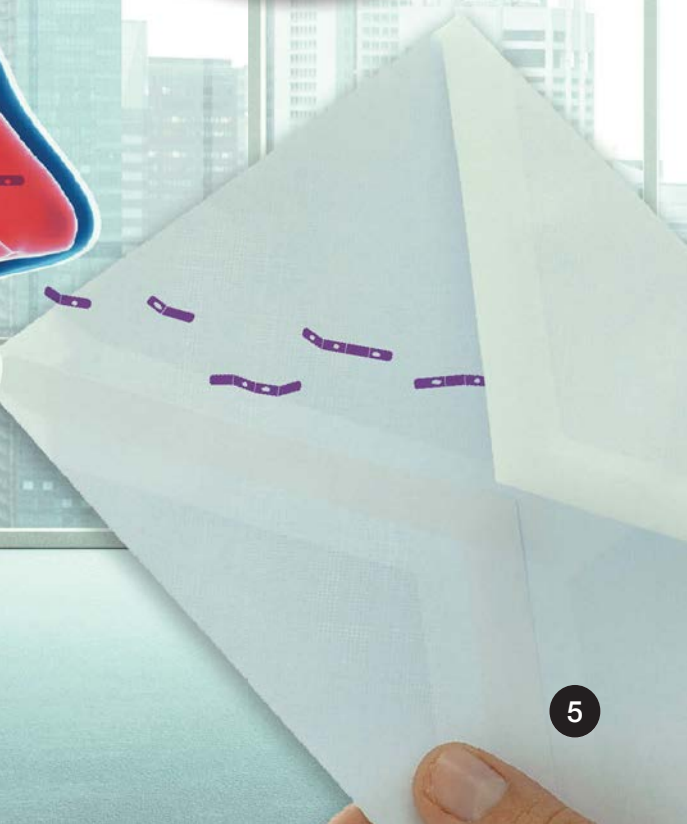
It was a week later.
Life was starting again.
Planes flew.
Most went back to work.
Mail was delivered.

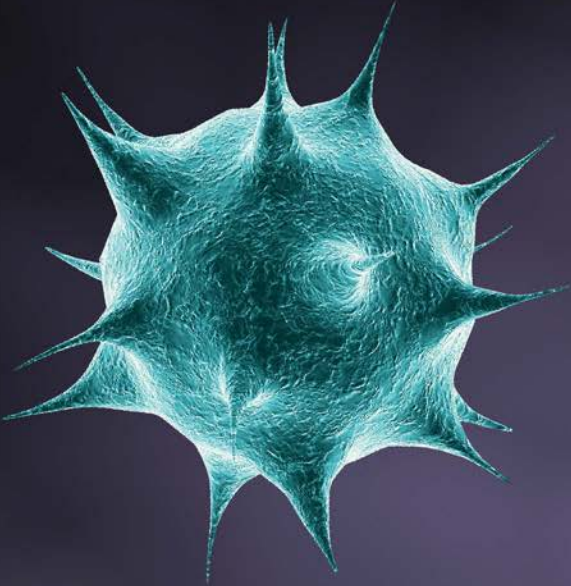
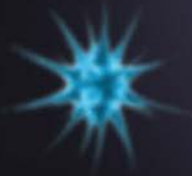
Most mail was normal.
But some was not.
It carried a **germ**.
Anthrax was its name.
This makes people sick.
It can even kill.

The germ was from a lab.
Someone sent it.
This was on purpose.
The goal was to harm.

People opened mail.
The germ flew out.
It got into the air.
People breathed it.
Many got sick.
Some died.
The germ was a **bioweapon**.







Chapter 2

GERMS

Germs come in many forms.

A **virus** is one kind.

Bacteria is another.

Toxins are too.

So is **fungus**.

Germs can be good.


They help the body work well.

Some help the gut.

Others protect skin.







But many are bad.
Some get in the air.
People breathe them.
They get sick.

Contact makes people sick too.
Germs are on something.
People touch it.

Some use germs on purpose.
They use them to hurt or kill.
This is **germ warfare**.

Germ Fact

Some germs have
been around for
more than 250
million years.





Chapter 3 HISTORY

Germ warfare is not new.
It started long ago.
Some used poison.
They put it on spears.
Arrows were used too.

People used germs to kill.
Sometimes it was to kill one.
Other times it was to kill many.

Many countries did not like it.
They thought this was wrong.
There were two **treaties**.
One was in 1925.
Many signed it.
But not all did.
Here is what they agreed.
They would not use germs.
But they could have them.
Some worked to make more.

The next treaty was in 1972.
More signed.
It was a **ban**.
Countries would not use germs.
They would not make or store them.
Not all countries agreed.
Some did not sign.
Only 178 did.

Germ Fact

The Geneva Protocol is the name of the treaty from 1925. It is named for Geneva, Switzerland, where the countries met to discuss it.





