

“At once terrifying and inspiring, *The Perfect Predator* is a brilliant race-against-the-clock medical thriller that is also a celebration of love, commitment, and the power of scientific collaboration.”

— **Steven Johnson**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Where Good Ideas Come From* and *The Ghost Map*

“A remarkable story of love, resilience, the science of discovery, and quite possibly the future of medicine.”

— **Richard Horton, FRCP, FMedSci, Editor-in-Chief, *The Lancet***

“A thriller, a detective story, and at its core a profound romance, *The Perfect Predator* is [a] breathtaking story.... It’s a warning of the havoc that awaits us as antibiotics lose their power, and a glimpse of the science that could hold that dark future at bay — if we can summon the funding and the political will to create it.”

— **Maryn McKenna**, Senior Fellow of the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and author of *Big Chicken* and *Superbug*

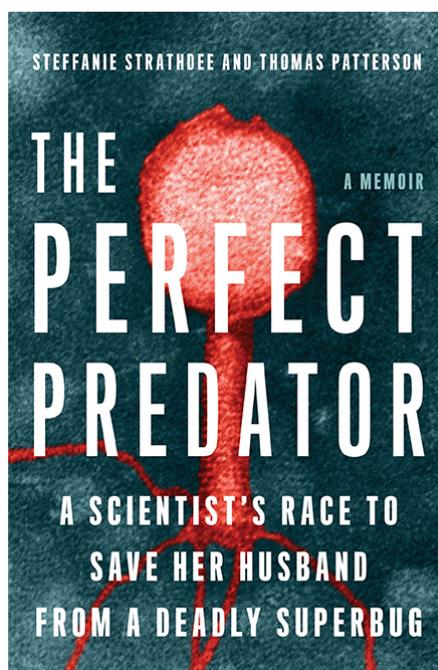
“*The Perfect Predator* is a compelling and heart-wrenching medical drama that would be completely unbelievable — if it weren’t 100% true! Strathdee and Patterson masterfully weave together the personal, medical, and scientific strands of their battle against one of the world’s worst superbugs, bringing not just Patterson, but a century-old medical technology back from the brink of death. This first-hand account of the front lines of the battle against the scourge of antimicrobial resistance underscores the human cost underlying the bland statistics.”

— **Rob Knight, PhD, Director, Center for Microbiome Innovation, University of California San Diego** and author of *Follow your Gut* and *Dirt Is Good*

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**A NAIL-BITING MEDICAL MYSTERY AND A  
SCIENTIST’S RACE TO SAVE HER HUSBAND’S LIFE  
FROM THE WORLD’S MOST DEADLY SUPERBUG!**

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In November of 2015, epidemiologist Steffanie Strathdee and her husband, psychologist Tom Patterson, were vacationing in Egypt when Tom came down with a stomach bug. What at first seemed like a case of severe food poisoning quickly turned critical, and by the time Tom had been transferred via emergency medevac to the world-class medical center at UC San Diego, where both he and Steffanie were on staff, blood work revealed why modern medicine was failing: Tom was fighting one of the most dangerous, antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the world.

Frantic, as her husband slipped into a coma and ever-closer to death, Strathdee combed through research old and new and came across phage therapy: the idea that the right virus, aka "the perfect predator," can kill even the most lethal bacteria. Phage treatment had fallen out of favor almost 100 years ago, after antibiotic use went mainstream. Now, with time running out, Strathdee appealed to phage researchers all over the world for help. She found allies at the FDA, researchers from Texas A&M, and a high-security Navy biomedical center-and together they resurrected a forgotten cure, and saved Tom.

**The Perfect Predator: A Scientist's Race to Save Her Husband from a Deadly Superbug: A Memoir** (on sale February 26, 2019; Hachette Books; ISBN 9780316418089; \$28; 352 pages) is a bracing medical-mystery memoir in the vein of *Brain on Fire*, that tells the incredible story of Strathdee's fight to save her husband's life, which led her to rediscover a forgotten treatment for antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Her search, and the inspired team of scientists and doctors she found, led to an experimental treatment that would save Tom and offer hope for solving one of the most lethal and urgent issues facing the world medical community today. A nail-biting tale of suspense...

**Steffanie Strathdee** is an infectious disease epidemiologist, and Associate Dean of Global Health Sciences and Professor and Harold Simon Chair at the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine. She also directs the new UC San Diego center for Innovative Phage Application and Therapeutics and is an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins and Simon Fraser Universities. She has been named one of *TIME*'s 50 Most Influential People in Health Care.

**Thomas Patterson** is an evolutionary sociobiologist and an experimental psychologist. A Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego, he has renowned expertise on behavioral interventions among HIV-positive persons and those at high risk of acquiring HIV and sexually transmitted infections.

Dr. Patterson and Dr. Strathdee have worked as husband and wife AIDS researchers on the Mexico-US border for over a decade. This is their first book together. <https://theprecpredator.com/>

**THE PERFECT PREDATOR**

*A Scientist's Race to Save Her Husband from a Deadly Superbug: A Memoir*

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