Dear Mr. Ellenberg,

CDC epidemiologist Frank Skorzeny struggles to avert a new Black Death when an untreatable bubonic plague strain is brought from the Grand Canyon to Manhattan. With all antibiotics failing, he turns to his mentor Rudi, who suggests a little known alternative, bacteriophages. As they try to identify the right phage to target the plague bacteria, Frank’s management of the epidemic is complicated by an inability to bond emotionally with his patients, a flaw rooted in his failure to save his wife from a resistant infection several years earlier. With the epidemic spreading beyond New York, and then internationally, Rudi and Frank finally isolate an effective phage variety, which cures the infection quickly and consistently. But before the discovery can be announced, a corrupt politician in New York with a financial interest in the epidemic continuing, expels Frank from the laboratory and confiscates the phages, while at the same time publicly disparaging him for not having been able to save his own wife.

Pandora’s Poison is a completed 78,000 word novel in the medical thriller genre perfected by Michael Crichton. From what I have heard, this is the type of fiction in which you are particularly interested, and hope you would consider representing my work.

Thank you,

Patrick McKeon

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