For centuries, physicians, alchemists, and astrologers sought the universal panacea, a cure-all that would eradicate disease and prolong life. In their efforts to unlock the hidden secrets of nature, explorers scoured the farthest reaches of the known world and returned with the horns of unicorns, the roots of deadly mandrakes, and tales of mysterious, ancient remedies used in the Arabic world. Winding its way amidst accusations of fraud, quackery, and diabolical sorcery, this is a story about the foundations of modern medicine and our own, modern quest for the ultimate cure.