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Mosquito: The Story Of Man's Deadliest Foe



Synopsis

Now in paperback--a fascinating work of popular science from a world-renowned expert on mosquitoes and a prize-winning reporter. In this lively and comprehensive portrait of the mosquito, its role in history, and its threat to mankind, Spielman and D'Antonio take a mosquito's-eye view of nature and man. They show us how mosquitoes breed, live, mate, and die, and introduce us to their enemies, both natural and man-made. The authors present tragic and often grotesque examples of how the mosquito has insinuated itself into human history, from the malaria that devastated invaders of ancient Rome to the current widespread West Nile fever panic. Filled with little-known facts and remarkable anecdotes that bring this tiny being into larger focus, *Mosquito* offers fascinating, alarming, and convincing evidence that the sooner we get to know this pesky insect, the better off we'll be.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Far from being just an itchy annoyance, a mosquito bite can also mark the transmission of a deadly disease. Millions worldwide die of malaria, yellow fever, and West Nile virus every year. Scientist Andrew Spielman tells the story of the tiny, ubiquitous insect, the diseases it carries, and the fight against them both in *Mosquito*. Spielman, who has spent much of his career battling mosquitoes and mosquito-borne illness, knows his subject intimately--perhaps too intimately, as the section on the different species drags a bit. Better is his handling of various historic epidemics, from the malaria outbreak that caused the French to abandon the Panama Canal to the 1999 West Nile virus

outbreak in New York City. Spielman also recounts stories of how the tiny pests were thwarted, including the way DDT came to be used as a weapon in the cold war (take our side and we'll get rid of your mosquitoes)--and why these efforts ultimately failed. Most important, Spielman details how cities should prepare themselves for the inevitable epidemics ahead. --Sunny Delaney --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Mosquito expert Spielman tells us, in this creepily fascinating book, that there are more than 2,500 kinds of those tiny, annoying, and extremely deadly creatures. Deadly? Yup: every year millions of people die from malaria, which is just one of the diseases carried by mosquitoes. Spielman and coauthor D'Antonio tell us everything we could possibly need to know about the mosquito: its life cycle, its natural enemies and predators, and, of course, its monumental impact on human history. (Did you know that mosquitoes contributed to Sir Francis Drake's defeat by the Spanish Armada, or that Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan had their plans of world domination brought to a screeching halt by the little pests?) This is truly an unexpected delight, an informative, entertaining, and sometimes skin-crawly book that should appeal to anyone with a taste for popular science. David Pitt Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An especially wet spring where I live brought an unusually dense (and unwelcome) mosquito population. I bought this book to learn more about the little pests, and was rewarded with a thorough, but easily readable education on the life cycle. The "most deadly foe" of the subtitle sounded a bit drastic, but it is quite true. The deadly disease it spreads in many parts of the world, is massive. I ended up grateful that in my area, mosquitoes only deliver itchy stings...which, after all, are largely preventable. The book tells what works and what doesn't.

Fascinating! Loving this book! So much history and information. Makes me respect (though I still hate) mosquitoes.

Great

For anyone who must venture outdoors and do battle with one of man's oldest foes, this outstanding volume should be, to borrow an overused line in multiple action movies, "required reading at the academy." Above that, the text shines as perfect example of a most knowledgeable researcher and

an accomplished writer coming to together to create a work that is as entertaining as it is informative. It is a concise compilation of first hand research and telling anecdotes, fascinating historical accounts of courageous sacrifices and often tragic outcomes, and practical and promising solutions, in the face of dire predictions and previously lost battles, for finding a way to live with this pesky triumph of evolution.

book

Great book!

A little dated but a GREAT read.

Maybe the mosquito (and other insects) will help offset the destructive impact of the human in time to restore equilibrium to our tortured planet. Whatever the future brings, this is a fascinating look at another very successful specie.

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