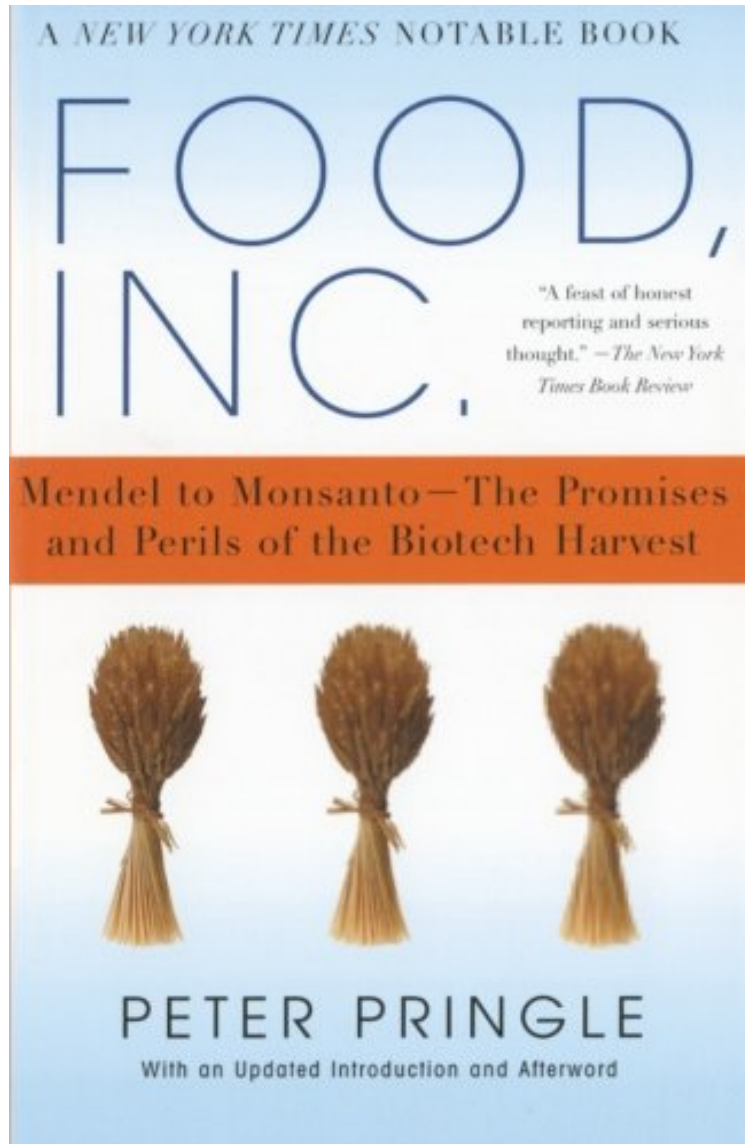


[Free] Food, Inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--The Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest

Food, Inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--The Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest

Peter Pringle

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#371788 in Books Peter Pringle 2005-02-21 2005-02-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.44 x .70 x 5.50l, .55 #File Name: 074326763X256 pages Food Inc Mendel to Monsanto the Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest | File size: 43.Mb

Peter Pringle : Food, Inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--The Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Food, Inc.: Mendel to Monsanto--The Promises and Perils of the Biotech Harvest:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Unbiased, but somewhat superficial
By Ariel B. Lima
I second those people who found this book to be a bit TOO concise. In failing to offer important details about issues like Dr. Pusztai's experiments, or the L-tryptophan contamination (in this case, the author even gives out the wrong information that more than one brand was involved), the book may be at times misleading. On the other hand, it is fairly unbiased. But in the sense that it shows how both sides on this issue have gone a little overboard in their efforts, by exaggerating their claims. Anyway, it's worth reading if you have some previous knowledge about the issue and want to refresh your mind on the most relevant events.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Maybe slightly flawed but nonetheless it is worth your time 10x over.
By Crank
I wouldn't listen to the negative nancies here. These books are needed in our culture. There may be some parts that are not in-depth or some facts that are slightly skewed but it doesn't change the fact that these companies are purely about greed and power. At the top they will do anything in their power to rip apart small farms and herald the new awakening of everything GMO without producing but a couple ridiculous studies that have no bearing on if they are safe or not. When Monsanto sees a problem they buy ****. They buy any and everything they can to silence that problem. Maybe there are some decent people working at the company but let me tell you if I met one of these people face to face I would spit on them. They are dirt. Nothing they have done to this point is positive for our culture, our farms, or our children. They are liars and cowards to the bone. There is a reason European countries are banning GMOs. They have absolutely no safety regulations whatsoever. The book is more of an overview of the science and history behind the tech and firms. It may not be the best but it gives you a balanced view on the culture behind a lot of biotech history. A good quick read. Probably more like 4 stars but I must give it the full as these things right now are very important for our culture to understand it the fullest degree.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great book
By brian Ishii
This book was very interesting! explains everything to the detail, and doesn't get too boring. It makes you look at food a different way and ask yourself if the food you are eating is probably genetically modified.

For most people, the global war over genetically modified foods is a distant and confusing one. The battles are conducted in the mystifying language of genetics. A handful of corporate "life science" giants, such as Monsanto, are pitted against a worldwide network of anticorporate ecowarriors like Greenpeace. And yet the possible benefits of biotech agriculture to our food supply are too vital to be left to either partisan. The companies claim to be leading a new agricultural revolution that will save the world with crops modified to survive frost, drought, pests, and plague. The greens warn that "playing God" with plant genes is dangerous. It could create new allergies, upset ecosystems, destroy biodiversity, and produce uncontrollable mutations. Worst of all, the antibiotech forces say, a single food conglomerate could end up telling us what to eat. In *Food, Inc.*, acclaimed journalist Peter Pringle shows how both sides in this overheated conflict have made false promises, engaged in propaganda science, and indulged in fear-mongering. In this urgent dispatch, he suggests that a fertile partnership between consumers, corporations, scientists, and farmers could still allow the biotech harvest to reach its full potential in helping to overcome the problem of world hunger, providing nutritious food and keeping the environment healthy.

From Publishers Weekly
Imagine a world where yellow beans are patented, aromatic basmati rice has lost its fragrance because of genetic tinkering and Canadian farmers are sued by multinational behemoths because pollen from GM (genetically modified) crops somehow got into their fields and fertilized their plants. You don't have to imagine it: this, says Pringle, is the world we live in today. A widely published journalist, Pringle (*Those Are Real Bullets*) paints a troubling picture of the world's food supply. Multinational corporations are able to patent genes from crops that have been cultivated by farmers for centuries; governments of starving African nations refuse GM food they fear is poisonous; scientists hastily publish research that is blown out of proportion by the news media; and "green" activists vandalize greenhouses and fields where scientists are conducting GM research. Pringle roundly castigates all sides. Scientists, he says, have been remarkably inventive in their endeavors to improve the food we eat, using a gene from daffodils, for example, in growing golden rice with high levels of vitamin A that can help prevent blindness in the undernourished. But large corporations, he asserts, have squandered the public's good will toward GM products as they rushed so-called "Frankenfoods" into stores without adequate testing or disclosure of what makes it different. Pringle gives some glimmer of hope for the future through time-honored methods of cross-pollination, but his main story is of an industry with great potential for feeding starving millions and reducing our reliance on chemical pesticides, but that has instead created a global mess.
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From School Library Journal
Adult/High School-Biotechnology inspires hope in some and horror in others. A complex topic, it invokes many contemporary concerns-third world famine, biodiversity, corporate responsibility, the ethics of corporate ownership of the processes of life itself-and involves a bewildering array of interrelated national and international legal, political, scientific, and economic forces. Public discourse is polarized with scaremongering on one side and arrogance on the other, and it is difficult for the nonspecialist to arrive at an informed opinion. Here, in readable, journalistic fashion, Pringle provides what has been missing: facts and explanations, reasoned argument, and common ground. He reveals many dimensions of several controversies that will be familiar to most readers from

media coverage, yet remain poorly understood: Is the monarch butterfly endangered by pesticide-laced corn? Are we throwing away our heritage of biodiversity? Are plant hunters cultural pirates? As the title indicates, Pringle points out the danger of a few large and poorly regulated corporations owning and controlling so much of the world's agriculture and genetic technology, but he doesn't demonize. Rather than simplifying a complicated subject, he accomplishes the more difficult task of presenting the complexities of genetic science, academic politics, corporate strategies, or international treaties in such a clear and interesting manner that readers come to appreciate and understand them. This is a book to satisfy curiosity and engender concern, and any of its chapters would provide an excellent subject for discussion groups.

Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA
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George McGovern
Peter Pringle, one of our most respected and perceptive authors, has given us the best book available on the complex and important matter of genetically modified foods. This book is the invaluable work of a dedicated craftsman in search of the truth behind the superheated rhetoric -- pro and con -- of the raging scientific food controversy.

Matt Ridley
Author of Genome
Peter Pringle has done the near-impossible: maintained an open mind about GM food. That makes his conclusions all the more valuable in this crucial debate.

Robert M. Goodman
Professor of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin
Madison
Peter Pringle presents the most comprehensive and lucid account yet of the history, science, and politics of food made with genetic engineering. Along the way he tells many fascinating stories, among them an account of the great Russian botanist N. I. Vavilov and how his massive food-crop seed collection came to be spared from Hitler's bombardment of Leningrad.