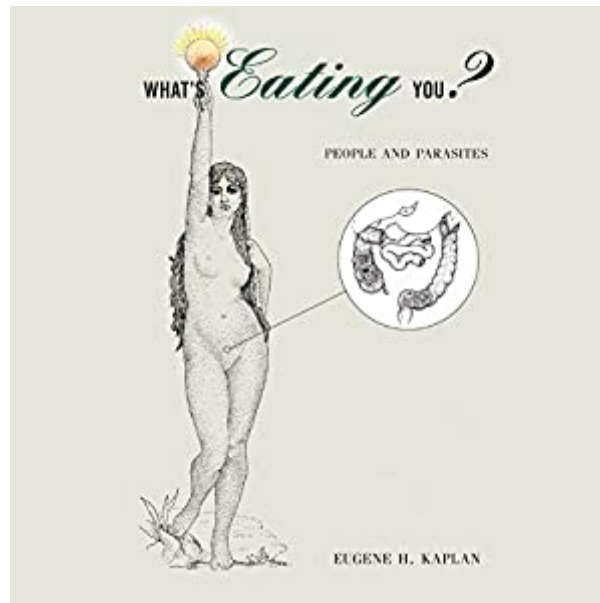




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What's Eating You?: People And Parasites



Synopsis

In *What's Eating You?* Eugene Kaplan recounts the true and harrowing tales of his adventures with parasites, and in the process introduces readers to the intimately interwoven lives of host and parasite. Kaplan has spent his life traveling the globe exploring oceans and jungles, and incidentally acquiring parasites in his gut. Here, he leads readers on an unforgettable journey into the bizarre yet oddly beautiful world of parasites. In a narrative that is by turns frightening, disgusting, and laugh-out-loud funny, Kaplan describes how drinking contaminated water can cause a three-foot-long worm to burst from your arm; how he "gave birth" to a parasite the size and thickness of a pencil while working in Israel; why you should never wave a dead snake in front of your privates; and why fleas are attracted to his wife. Kaplan tells stories about leeches feasting on soldiers in Vietnam; sea cucumbers with teeth in their anuses that seem to encourage the entry of symbiotic fish; the habits of parasites that cause dysentery, river blindness, and other horrifying diseases--and much, much more. Along the way, he explains the underlying science, including parasite evolution and host-parasite physiology. Informative, frequently lurid, and hugely entertaining, this beautifully illustrated book is a must-read for health-conscious travelers, and anyone who has ever wondered if they picked up a tapeworm from that last sushi dinner. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Unlike many of the people who might read this book, I have actually taken a college course in Human Parasitology and worked in a hospital lab, so for me, much of it was like the proverbial trip

down memory lane. That said, I must admit that I learned a few things I didn't know and was reminded of things long forgotten. I found the book to be well written and quite entertaining. Dr. Kaplan manages to bring a lighthearted and amusing style to what could otherwise be a rather tedious subject. This book will be right at home on the shelf of any well educated layman with an interest in medicine or any of the biological sciences. No one should be intimidated by the Latin names included throughout. There will not be a test at the end. Readers with the curiosity to seek further information about a particular pest will find them quite useful. Reader Beware. Try to fight the urge to find too many symptoms in yourself, your family, and your associates.

All I can say is "yuck!", but as a compliment. This is a really cool, interesting book that makes you feel a little uncomfortable reading it. It teaches you so many cool things about parasites. You will be shocked and disgusted

I had to purchase this for a biology class and was pleasantly surprised. It's a very well written book, with good information, and presented in a way that is interesting and fun to read.

Pros: Introduction to parasites is great, as well as the visual images.Cons: I wish it told me about even more parasites and the clade or/and evolution.

This book is an excellent popular intro to parasitology. The author makes some educated guesses regarding parasites in history, but I accept them as high probability conjectures Worthwhile reading!.

More than I ever wanted to know about really disgusting -- i.e., big -- parasites. Well written and charmingly illustrated (the style, not the substance) but not my thing AT ALL. For those who like this sort of thing, this will probably be very much the sort of thing they like.

After enjoying the excellent Parasite Rex by Carl Zimmer, I thought this would be a good read. I was disappointed by my experience. The book is largely a series of anecdotes about the author's travels and personal experience with mainly intestinal parasites. There is quite a lot of "gross-out" humor, which I'm sure plays well at cocktail parties, but seemed to fall flat on paper. His descriptions of parasites and their life cycles was disjointed and difficult for me to follow, even though I am a physician and have studied the subject in the past. I'm sure Dr. Kaplan is a mensch, but I would not recommend his book.

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