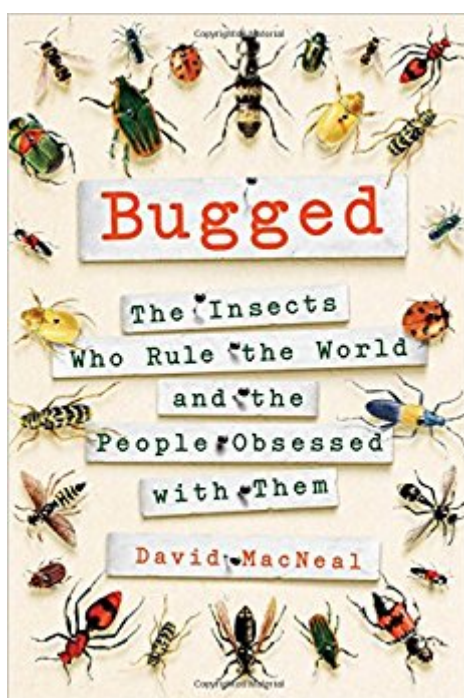


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Bugged: The Insects Who Rule The World And The People Obsessed With Them



Synopsis

"Creepy, beautiful, icky and amazing." —Penny Le Couteur, author of *Napoleon's Button*
Insects have been shaping our ecological world and plant life for over 400 million years. In fact, our world is essentially run by bugs—there are 1.4 billion for every human on the planet. In *Bugged*, journalist David MacNeal takes us on an off-beat scientific journey that weaves together history, travel, and culture in order to define our relationship with these mini-monsters. MacNeal introduces a cast of bug-lovers—from a woman facilitating tarantula sex and an exterminator nursing bedbugs (on his own blood), to a kingpin of the black market insect trade and a "maggotologist" who obsess over the crucial role insects play in our everyday lives. Just like bugs, this book is global in its scope, diversity, and intrigue. Hands-on with pet beetles in Japan, releasing lab-raised mosquitoes in Brazil, beekeeping on a Greek island, or using urine and antlers as means of ancient pest control, MacNeal's quest appeals to the squeamish and brave alike. Demonstrating insects' amazingly complex mechanics, he strings together varied interactions we humans have with them, like extermination, epidemics, and biomimicry. And, when the journey comes to an end, MacNeal examines their commercial role in our world in an effort to help us ultimately cherish (and maybe even eat) bugs.

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Customer Reviews

"Bugged is worth reading and contemplating. Mr. MacNeal has an admirable talent for explaining science and nature in comprehensible language." —*The Wall Street*

Journal "While working with bugs requires a strong tolerance for what others might consider creepy or gross, Bugged shows that fascinating careers await those brave enough to take the plunge."
 "The New York Post" Entomology at its most enchanting... MacNeal is a witty, informed guide to a world of winged and scuttling wonders."
 "Nature" Entertaining... [Macneal's] enthusiasm for insects is contagious."
 "Science Magazine" Readers willing to consider creepy crawlies in a different light will glean much from this thoroughly enjoyable text."
 "Library Journal" An enjoyable and important immersion... MacNeal brings boundless enthusiasm to this survey of the insect world."
 "Booklist" MacNeal delivers a joy-filled dose of science, reminding readers that the strange and alien creatures in our midst are not to be feared, but celebrated."
 "Publishers Weekly" The world of insects as described in magnificent detail in Bugged is creepy, beautiful, icky and amazing."
 Penny Le Couteur, author of Napoleon's Button

DAVID MACNEAL is a journalist exploring the fringes of science, technology and culture. His articles have appeared in Wired, Arts Technica, VICE, and other publications. Aside from geeking out over comic books, he bakes exquisite pies (especially blueberry) and drinks an array of whiskeys. Sometimes the glasses contain bugs. He currently lives in Denver.

This book is full of fun surprises and unexpected knowledge. You really don't think about the impact the insects have on our every day life but this makes you think about it. MacNeal traveled the world tasting and meeting so many of these little ones. He describes his experiences in a way that really draws me into the rooms, the labs, or into the van without having to smell the smells and taste the tastes or the textures ;) I have eaten insects before and it's fun to try it out but I'm not sure I'm ready to fully commit long term. I really enjoyed learning about the people who have dedicated their lives to the study and to changing our planet hopefully for the better. This is a great historical, scientific, and comical view into the world of bugs.

Even if you have only a little time to read any of this book, read the parts about BED BUGS! Well written and fun to read about reality.

Delightful and easy to read, really entertaining, and sneakily comprehensive, educational, and cool. Perfect for an airplane or train ride.

I really wanted to love this book. I've been fascinated by Entomology since pinning and collecting bugs since the age of 7. Unfortunately, it reads like a stream of consciousness regurgitation of random facts that don't seem related to chapter topics. I am sure that the author would be brilliant talking about computers or pop culture, but his efforts in this arena seem stilted. The attempts at humor are sophomoric and ill-placed. I usually love to read footnotes, but quit because the author pushed his humor and it too frequently fell flat. I think he attempted to compete with Mary Roach's writing, but there is nowhere near the subtle wit mixed with scientific data. This book is great if you are a millennial looking for kicks, learning about bugs, and enjoy an inflated sense of humor. If you really want to learn about insects in a fun and informal way this is not the book for you. Too many facts jammed into one chapter without a common theme and then cultural side jokes sprinkled in. The book could have used a better editor. That may have really helped with the ADHD jumble of anecdotes. I have read almost half the book and I can't retain any interesting facts about insects. On a positive note, the illustrations are gorgeous.

I have gotten more and more involved in the study of insects, both through observation and literature, so looked forward to 'Bugged.'. Bugged was a little different than I expected. I learned a lot about insects and entomological history....that alone makes the read well worthwhile. The subtitle is really appropriate because that is the heart of the book...insects that rule and those obsessed. MacNeal picks about ten topics (chapters) to showcase current entomological problems/concerns including natural sources for medical products, honeybee collapse, the bedbug outbreak, the black market insect trade (who knew?) and much more. Each topic is thoroughly researched and referenced. However, interviews with those 'obsessed' left me feeling like I was reading a script for a "reality show." I'm ambivalent about how I liked this technique, but it's his style and perhaps an endearing one. Some turns of phrase, I must say, put me off. In places he seems gratuitously crude e.g., 'gigantic-ass cockroaches', 'pissed me off', and such phrases. scattered throughout the work. I'm not a prude and may use similar language myself but I don't enjoy seeing it in print. I think it distracted from scientific objectivity. All-in-all an engaging and on the whole, a scholarly read. I will most likely re-read it.

Great read! If you enjoyed Marlene Zuk's "Sex on Six Legs: Lessons on Life, Love, and Language from the Insect World", this is right up your alley. It's similar in that each chapter explores a fascinating topic or sub-discipline in entomology (e.g., medical entomology, forensic entomology, the insect pet trade, sericulture/silk production, entomophagy, apiculture-- just to name a few), but

for whatever reason I enjoyed this one even more. I'm an entomologist, but as usual (given how vast this field of study is), I learned a ton from this book-- some of it strictly scientific, some of it more under the pop culture umbrella. So whether you're a board-certified entomologist or someone who's never voluntarily touched an insect, you'll get something out of this book. Lastly-- as someone who used to specialize in planthopper taxonomy, I love that the peanut-headed lanternfly got a shout-out (just wait til you see why...).

My son, David, has created an anthology of stories that stimulate the mind. His narrative is as if he is in your living room telling stories about his adventures. I can vouch that he went to all of these amazing places and met all of these interesting people. Towards the end of the book (Chapter 9) you will see just how adventurous he was. I know I am a bit biased, but I truly found the book to have just the right mixture of science and personality. Some reviewers have mentioned that this book is written well enough to be used as a reference book for beginning entomology classes at a university or college because his two years of research led to a bibliography with 21 pages of references that can be accessed to further your knowledge in specific areas of entomology. A fascinating read with humor, honesty, and loads of bug facts.

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