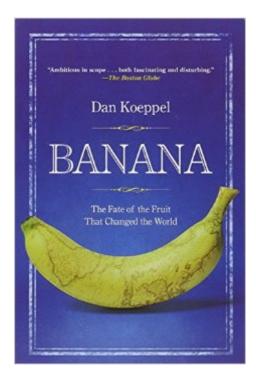
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Banana: The Fate Of The Fruit That Changed The World





Synopsis

Read Dan Koeppel's posts on the Penguin Blog.In the vein of the bestselling Salt and Cod, a gripping chronicle of the myth, mystery, and uncertain fate of the worldâ [™]s most popular fruit In this fascinating and surprising exploration of the bananaâ [™]s history, cultural significance, and endangered future, award-winning journalist Dan Koeppel gives readers plenty of food for thought. Fast-paced and highly entertaining, Banana takes us from jungle to supermarket, from corporate boardrooms to kitchen tables around the world. We begin in the Garden of Edenâ "examining scholarsâ [™] belief that Eveâ [™]s â œappleâ • was actually a bananaâ " and travel to early-twentieth-century Central America, where aptly named â œbanana republicsâ • rose and fell over the crop, while the companies now known as Chiquita and Dole conquered the marketplace. Koeppel then chronicles the bananaâ [™]s path to the present, ultimatelyâ "and most alarminglyâ "taking us to banana plantations across the globe that are being destroyed by a fast-moving blight, with no cure in sightâ "and to the high-tech labs where new bananas are literally being built in test tubes, in a race to save the worldâ [™]s most beloved fruit.

Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages Publisher: Plume; Reprint edition (December 30, 2008) Language: English ISBN-10: 0452290082 ISBN-13: 978-0452290082 Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (140 customer reviews) Best Sellers Rank: #52,740 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > History #16 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Crop Science #30 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Agriculture

Customer Reviews

"Yes, we have no bananas", goes the song, and even if you are not a devotee of tin pan alley ballads, you can probably make that catchy tune of 1923 sound in your head. It was written at a time when, yes, the world risked losing all its bananas, and yes, we ourselves might have no bananas in the future. If that means you won't have bananas to slice upon your cereal, OK, but for others in the world it means they simply won't have enough food. It isn't all a dire story, but in _Banana: The Fate

of the Fruit That Changed the World_ (Hudson Street Press), Dan Koeppel, a popular nature writer, has covered a huge amount of history and biology, both of which are full of dark intimations of the worst aspects of human nature. "The _____ That Changed the World" subtitle is overused, but Koeppel makes it clear that this time it accurately applies. The banana, or the way humans have cultivated and used it, has raised and toppled nations, and still affects current geopolitical forces.Bananas have traveled around the world, starting from the wild varieties of South China, Southeast Asia, and India, giving hundreds of cultivated varieties. It is surprising that some have textures like apples, and some must be cooked, and many of them have tart or creamy flavors that American shoppers know nothing about. This is because we buy one banana, the Cavendish which has good properties to make it transportable and long-lasting, but that it forms almost all the world's commercially cultured bananas is its weakness, perhaps a dangerous one. We have been through this before; the Cavendish is not your grandparent's banana.

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