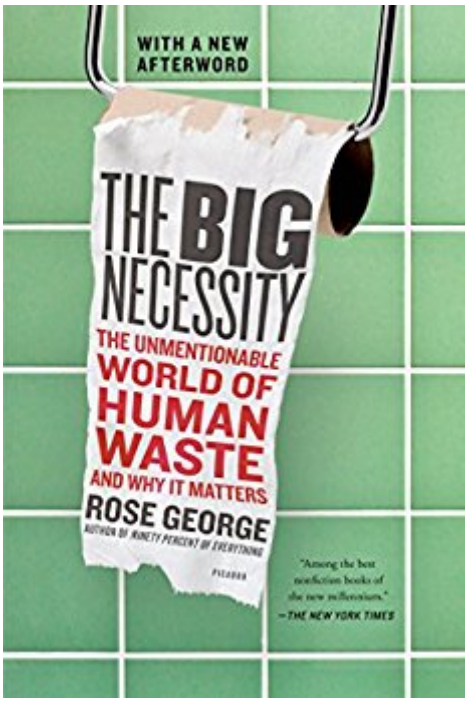
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The Big Necessity: The Unmentionable World Of Human Waste And Why It Matters



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Synopsis

"One smart book . . . delving deep into the history and implications of a daily act that dare not speak its name." Ã¢â ¬â •NewsweekAcclaimed as "extraordinary" (The New York Times) and "a classic" (Los Angeles Times), The Big Necessity is on its way to removing the taboo on bodily wasteÃ¢â ¬â •something common to all and as natural as breathing. We prefer not to talk about it, but we shouldÃ¢â ¬â •even those of us who take care of our business in pristine, sanitary conditions. Disease spread by waste kills more people worldwide every year than any other single cause of death. Even in America, nearly two million people have no access to an indoor toilet. Yet the subject remains unmentionable.Moving from the underground sewers of Paris, London, and New York (an infrastructure disaster waiting to happen) to an Indian slum where ten toilets are shared by 60,000 people, The Big Necessity breaks the silence, revealing everything that matters about how people doÃ¢â ¬â •and don'tÃ¢â ¬â •deal with their own waste. With razor-sharp wit and crusading urgency, mixing levity with gravity, Rose George has turned the subject we like to avoid into a cause with the most serious of consequences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was one of the most interesting, enlightening books that I have read in awhile! My bachelor's degree is in biological sciences, but I am a civil rights lawyer, so I appreciated her approach that touched on not just the science, but also public policy and human rights issues implicated by waste and sanitation practices. Definitely a book for people who are fans of anything written by Mary Roach- it's not a PhD dissertation, of course, but it does a pretty great job at at least opening the door (and then some) on any single issue discussed in the book. Chapters are more or less organized by country and the issues faced there currently and historically. I got some weird looks every time someone asked what I was reading at the pool this summer, but it also sparked some frank, interesting conversations with others who recognize the tremendous importance of these issues, worldwide. Since this book is heavy on annual statistics, my only very minor issue is that in 2016, some of the information was a bit dated or left me wanting to know updated statistics, for example, whether certain countries met NGO/WHO goals for sanitation by whatever year that has now passed- not a criticism of the book, as I was aware that this book was a bit dated by the time I picked it up. Highly recommended, nonetheless!

People in the 1st world may not realize that people in the 3rd world need sanitation more than anything else. If they can get toilets - and by toilet, we mean a hole in the ground with privacy and safety, they can achieve better health. Better health translates immediately among the poor to less sick time and higher income. Higher income means money for education and other things that will improve lives for the next generation. This book points out that well-meaning Americans or Europeans can build a school in Africa, even pay a teacher's salary, but if there is no girls' toilet safe from prying eyes, the girls can't go to school. This book really explores the problem, and shows why you can't just "build them toilets". It is a process of education. In India, there is a movement for "open defecation free" (ODF) villages. ODF is a health issue, a development issue, a women's issue. If people are hungry, and you give them access to toilets, it is the same as giving them food: They suffer less malnutrition because they suffer less diarrhea. Next time you want to give to a charity that gives laptops to slum children, give to a charity that gives them toilets instead.

This book is full of information that I never knew existed. May be more than I ever wanted to know. It is a topic most people don't want to discuss. However I often wondered how this 'Big Necessity" is

handled, not only here in the US but abroad. The enormity is mind boggling. This book will make one think how fortunate we in the US are to have sanitary systems in place that are monitored and strictly managed. Some of the practices around the world will shock the readers but leave them more aware of the importance of a well run sanitation program in cities as well as in the country. It's hard to say I enjoyed reading about the 'Big Necessity" but I would recommend the book.. However, don't plan on discussing the topic with all audiences. I'm looking forward to our book club's discussion. We are all retired nurses who are well versed in the topic. It should prove enlightening. I know this sounds strange but I really enjoyed the book.Our city museum has a traveling exhibit running now on 'Poop' I plan on attending this afternoon. Wouldn't have given it a second thought before I was exposed to this book.

This is a book, on its face, that deals with a subject most people never want to discussÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â¦.human waste. However, with 7 billion people on the planet, it is going to occur and more likely than not, it is going to wind up polluting a river, a food supply, or some other area vital to human survival.The author deals with the subject matter by traveling the world and examining the various methods of disposal used, as well as the technologies that are available to safely dispose of the massive amount of excreta produced every day around the world. And it is a lot! She travels from Japan, who seem to have a toilet fetish, to India where people go where and when they want, to the United States, which appears to be the only country that won't call the bodily process of elimination what it is. We use every euphemism in the book to be able to keep the toilet word out of the conversation.A combination tale of political incompetence and corruption to a review of the technological fixes available, and needed, this book is a very important read for all of us, but particularly environmentalists striving to get clean water to 3rd world countries. They might just be better off getting safe disposal methods to these places prior to trying to establish clean water supplies. It is a book that I highly recommend!

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