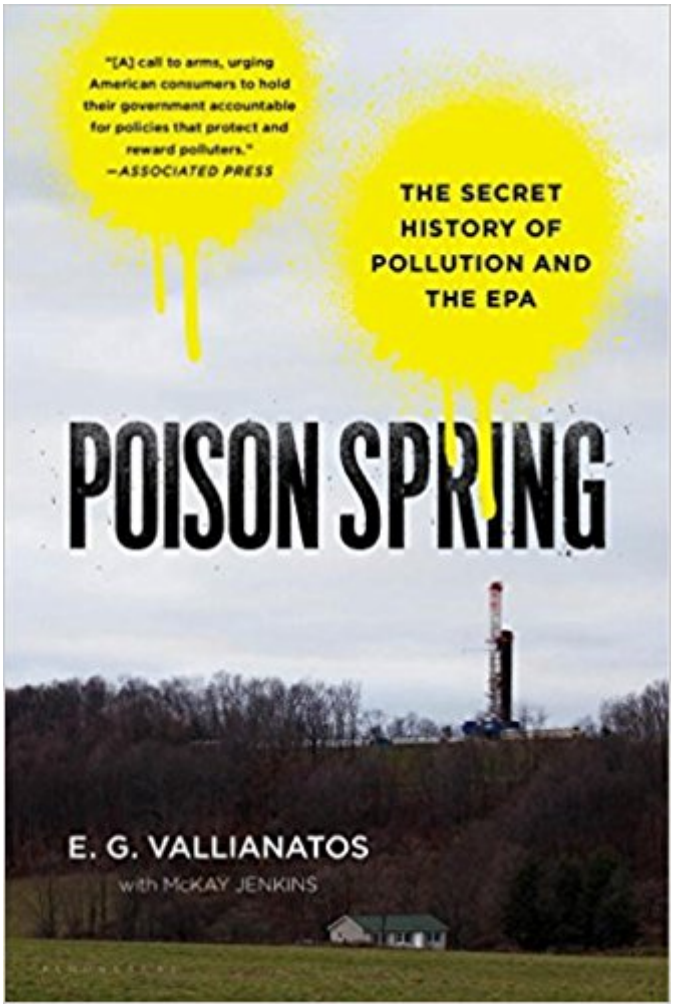
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Poison Spring: The Secret History Of Pollution And The EPA



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Synopsis

When you order a meal in a restaurant, you won’t find malathion, kelthane or arsenic listed on the menu as an ingredient of your entrÃƒÂ©e, but these and scores of other pesticides and dangerous chemicals are in the food we eat. They are dumped into the environment where they seep into our water supply and float in the air we breathe. The use of these poisons is approved-or in some cases, simply ignored--by the Environmental Protection Agency. Poison Spring documents, in devastating detail, the EPA’s corruption and misuse of science and public trust. In its half-century of existence, the agency has repeatedly reinforced the chemical-industrial complex by endorsing deadly chemicals, botching field investigations, turning a blind eye to toxic disasters, and swallowing the self-serving claims of industry. E. G. Vallianatos, who saw the EPA from the inside for more than two decades with rising dismay, reveals in Poison Spring how the agency has allowed our lands and waters to be poisoned with more toxic chemicals than ever. No one who cares for the natural world, or for the health of future generations, can ignore this powerful exposÃƒÂ©.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review Two outstanding environmental writers team up to tell the excoriating story of catastrophic collusion between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the chemical industry. Vallianatos worked for the EPA from 1979 to 2004 and witnessed the systematic undermining of the agencyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mission to set standards for environmental and health safety by major chemical manufacturers whose ruthless lobbying strategies were as insidious as the

ecologically disastrous pesticides they aggressively promoted and brazenly misused. The title of this jaw-dropping exposÃƒÂ© is a riff on Rachel CarsonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 1963 landmark protest of the use of DDT, Silent Spring. The carefully documented crimes and betrayals Poison Spring reveals unfold on two fronts. Most alarming are the harrowing facts about the thousands of deadly synthetic chemicals that have for decades been released into the biosphere and which we continually absorb, from dioxin to agrochemical nerve gas to the weed killer Roundup. Vallianatos and Jenkins explain the science behind these poisons and their many dire effects, from cancer to the death of honeybee colonies. Equally appalling is the silencing of heroic EPA whistle-Ã Â- blowers, fraudulent scientific studies, and the hijacking of the democratic process. In this riveting indictment, Vallianatos and Jenkins valiantly divulge the blinding greed and unfathomable stupidity behind these unconscionable lies and travestiesÃ¢â ¬â •assaults against the very fabric of life. A resounding call for genuine and sustained environmental responsibility. --Donna Seaman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Ã¢â ¬Å“In this riveting indictment, Vallianatos and Jenkins valiantly divulge the blinding greed and unfathomable stupidity behind the unconscionable lies and travesties--assaults against the very fabric of life. A resounding call for genuine and sustained environmental responsibility.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Booklist, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Å“An alarming, comprehensive account of a Ã¢â ¬Ëœfatally compromised' EPA mission crippled by bad enforcement practices and numerous corrupting influences.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Publishers Weekly, starred reviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Poison Spring is Vallianatos' call to arms, urging American consumers to hold their government accountable for policies that protect and reward polluters.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Associated PressÃ¢â ¬Å“Like biologist Rachel Carson, Vallianatos, former staff scientist at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Jenkins sound the alarm about toxins in common use . . . An indictment that implicates pesticides in wildlife and livestock die-offs, as well as in human maladies and deaths.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Library Journal

Mr. Vallianatos has the expertise, knowledge and experience, to be in a unique place that allows him to write this very well researched book that tells is like it is. He rings the warning bell as he exposes practices that have been going on for too long unchecked and he does not mince his words when it comes to indicating where blame lies. This book could be an instrument of change, if it is read by many people thus creating an awakening by setting the record straight and laying down the bare facts. A must read for anyone who is concerned about the environment, and the quality of

human life on Earth.

It’s Big Tobacco all over again, but this time in pesticides and herbicides. Science doesn’t matter. Deaths don’t matter. Laws don’t matter. Nothing is allowed to stand in the way of Big Chem. We now use more than five billion pounds of pesticides a year in the USA. So the plan is working. Yet losses from insects, which would stand at 41% of the crop if we used no chemicals at all, instead stand at 37%. But of course with that comes pollution, disease, and shrinking biodiversity. So it’s not even beneficial, is one of Vallianatos’ many points in Poison Spring. Only between .0000001% and .003% of pesticides actually reach their target insects. The rest goes into the air, soil and water to kill everything else.Like the pill culture in medicine, Big Chem has us using insecticides when simple crop rotation would do. (In 1954, before the chemical supermarket, we became smart enough to hold losses from insects to 10%.) When one doesn’t work well, we try another, and the bigger the farm, the more insecticide per acre, year in year out. This is blind reductionism - "There is a tragic lack of holistic thinking in the agriculture establishment."Having spent 25 years at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Vallianatos is telling all. How the agency is there specifically and only to accommodate Big Chem, with which it always sides against consumers, farmers, and its own scientists. How EPA scientists who try to do real science are transferred out, hounded out, or fired. How the government continually cuts EPA back, to the point of requiring it to shut down labs and actually destroy all the documentation in them. How industry provides EPA’s data, edits its documents, and cripples its regulations, when they don’t ignore them outright. It appears most staffers’ goal is to get recruited by industry, so they co-operate enthusiastically.The public lies are there in black and white, right on the labels. The "entirely misleading term inert" is a collection of petroleum distillate ingredients that are poisons at least as toxic as the so-called active ingredients. "They are carcinogens, all of them." And so 220,000 die each year and 750,000 are sickened - and those figures are from the 1990s. Today, we see skyrocketing cases of Parkinson’s, ADHD and autism - all classic symptoms of these chemicals.Insecticides kill everything. They disable pollen from germinating. They prevent uptake of vital nutrients from the soil. And they promote super weeds that even our most vile chemicals can’t kill. Farmers have much higher (40-100%) incidences of certain cancers and neurological conditions, because they live in this stuff. Freshwater fish two thousand miles from the spraying are polluted with extremely high concentrations of the toxins. There is no water that is unaffected any more.Vallianatos is not the least surprised by the disappearance of monarch butterflies or by bee "Colony Collapse Disorder". Inside EPA they have known for decades that the products they approve kill those beneficial beings. In addition, bee

pollen sold in healthfood stores contains pollen sized time release capsules of Penncap M - Parathion - one of the worst toxic chemicals ever unleashed. Bees simply bring them home along with rest of the pollen, and ensure death well beyond the hive. 67 million birds that come into contact with farm sprays are killed every year. The list is endless.Possibly most frightening of all is that this entire book is only about the damage wrought by pesticides and herbicides, because that's the author's bailiwick. There are 88,000 new (since 1945) chemical compounds out there, used in food, in furniture, in construction materials, in everything. We don't know how they affect everything they come in contact with (especially ourselves), and we know nothing about how they interact with each other, because we've never looked. EPA is not there to protect you from them. No one is. Poison Spring is the tip of a filthy iceberg.David Wineberg

Scary but should be required reading

Loved it .. Must Read , if you really want the truth about our food And so much more..

Powerful and accessible critique of regulatory capture and outright corruption in laboratory testing.

Haven't finished reading it yet but it's an eye opener.

Very informative book!

This book should bring almost everyone to their peak of awareness regarding how the public is treated as pawns by the Fed.

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