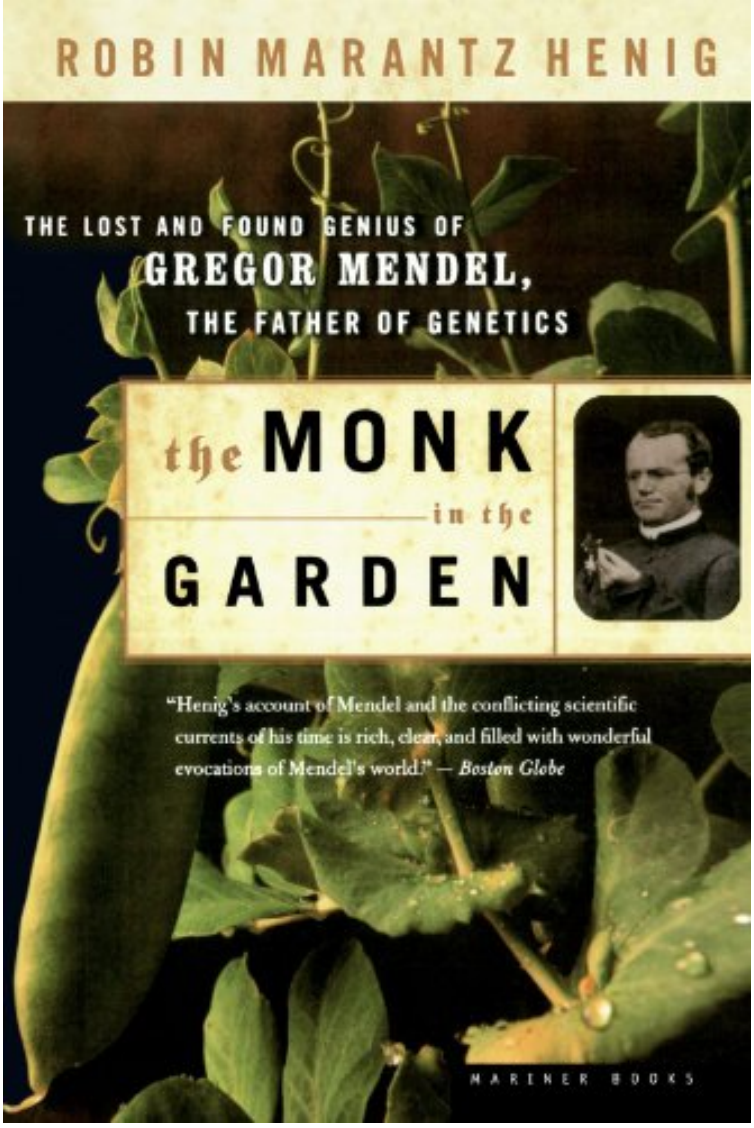
(Download free pdf) The Monk in the Garden: The Lost and Found Genius of Gregor Mendel, the Father of Genetics

The Monk in the Garden: The Lost and Found Genius of Gregor Mendel, the Father of Genetics

Robin Marantz Henig
*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



Donwload Read Online

#693674 in Books Mariner Books 2001-05-12 2001-05-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.25 x .56 x 5.50l, .86 #File Name: 0618127410304 pagesGreat product! | File size: 19.Mb

Robin Marantz Henig : The Monk in the Garden: The Lost and Found Genius of Gregor Mendel, the Father of Genetics before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Monk in the Garden: The Lost and Found Genius of Gregor Mendel, the Father of Genetics:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Elizabeth FriarThank you.0 of 0 people found the

following review helpful. Beautiful story!By StarlaThis book contains a great story and one of the most complete pictures of Mendel and his experiments I've ever seen. The author also specifies what she found in research and what she supposes based on the people and circumstances involved, without chopping up the narrative. Highly recommended for biology and genetics teachers, students, and anyone interested in science and/or history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is one of the best non-fiction everBy Elaine Khodorkovskythank you for delivering it so quick, this is one of the best non-fiction ever written

In THE MONK IN THE GARDEN, award-winning author Robin Marantz Henig vividly evokes a little-known chapter in science, taking us back to the birth of genetics, a field that continues to challenge the way we think about life itself. Shrouded in mystery, Gregor Mendel's quiet life and discoveries make for fascinating reading. Among his pea plants Henig finds a tale filled with intrigue, jealousy, and a healthy dose of bad timing. She "has done a remarkable job of fleshing out the myth with what few facts there are" (Washington Post Book World) and has delivered Mendel's story with grace and glittering prose. THE MONK IN THE GARDEN is both a "classic tale of redemption" (New York Times Book Review) and a science book of the highest literary order.

.com The Moravian monk and naturalist Gregor Mendel (1822-1884) labored quietly over the years in his abbey's garden, becoming known locally as a reliable meteorologist with an unusually green thumb. He was much more than that, of course, but his transforming experiments in what a later acolyte would call "genetics" were less well known. When he published the results of his many attempts to discover the mechanisms by which traits are passed from one generation to the next--in Mendel's case, in sweet peas--it was in the proceedings of a local scientific study group, and it would take nearly two decades before researchers in more august institutions would in turn discover Mendel's work and apply it to their own revolutionizing biology in the process. Mendel's life was full of disappointments: he failed his qualifying examinations to teach high school several times, and he had trouble getting the scientific establishment of his day to take him seriously. In her lucid, often moving life of the great (and to all purposes self-taught) scientist, Robin Marantz Henig gives readers a view of the deeply religious man himself and of his work not only in the context of his time but also in light of recent developments in the constantly changing field of genetics. Taking issue with historians of science who have sought to discount Mendel's contributions to the field, she makes a well-defended claim that the monk in his small garden should be honored as a genius: "a man with a vision and the dedication to carry it to its brilliant, radical conclusion." Her book is a fitting, and very welcome, memorial. --Gregory McNameeFrom Library JournalThe author of numerous books (e.g., A Dancing Matrix: How Science Confronts Emerging Viruses) and articles on popular science and medicine, Henig here recounts the life of Gregor Mendel, the 19th-century monk who laid the groundwork for modern genetics through his pea-breeding experiments. Instead of using the standard biographical form, the author, who describes her writing as "educated deduction," employs a more descriptive, narrative style a few steps removed from the currently popular fictional biography. Very little information exists about Mendel, many of whose papers were burned after his death, and Henig fills in the blanks with probable scenarios. She paints an exceptionally human portrait of the monk that falls between the inflated hero and the beneficiary of lucky accidents. Henig's Mendel is a realistic compromise, a man who experienced failures and successes through intuition, luck (good and bad), and hard work. General readers will find the story very engaging, and the introduction to genetic theories is clearly outlined. This work will not be as appealing to scientists, who may take issue with "filling in the blanks" and the simplified discussion of genetics. Recommended for the general science collections of all public and academic libraries.DMarianne Stowell Bracke, Univ. of Houston Libs. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sA clear and engaging account of the life and times of the Moravian monk whose passion for numbers and painstaking work with pea plants laid the foundation for the modern science of genetics.Science writer Henig (A Dancing Matrix, 1993, etc.) acknowledges at the start that conjecture and educated deduction were needed in telling Mendels story, for very little of his writing (three papers, seven letters, and a brief autobiography written when he was only 28) survives. However, Henig is not telling Mendels story in a vacuum. She depicts the intellectual milieu of 19th-century Europe, the beliefs and arguments about creation, spontaneous generation, and inheritance, and the storm of controversy that followed publication of Darwins Origin of Species. Mendels immediate world, an Augustinian monastery where teaching and research were emphasized, gave him the freedom to pursue scientific study in the fields that fascinated him: mathematics, botany, physics, and meteorology. Lacking records telling exactly how, when, in what order his botanical experiments were done, Henig pictures Mendel in his monastery garden, tweezers in one pudgy hand and a camels hair paintbrush in the other, moving slowly along his rows of pea plants, collecting pollen. While his cross-breeding experiments were meticulous, his 1865 report of his findings on heredity went largely unnoticed. Darwin never read the copy of Mendels paper he received, and the only scientist who did acknowledge it (Nageli, a German botanist) misinterpreted itpossibly intentionally and perhaps through jealousy. A widely read horticultural textbook published in 1881 did cite Mendels work, but it was not until 1900 (16 years after his death) that Mendels paper was noticed by three scientists working in three different countries. Henig deftly explores the circumstances surrounding the rediscovery of Mendels work and his subsequent enshrinement as an unappreciated

genius and father of a new science. Henig not only achieves her goal of making Mendel come alive as a flawed but brilliant human being, but provides a fascinating picture as well of a scientific age when luck and personalitiesand not just brainsdetermined success. -- Copyright 2000 Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.