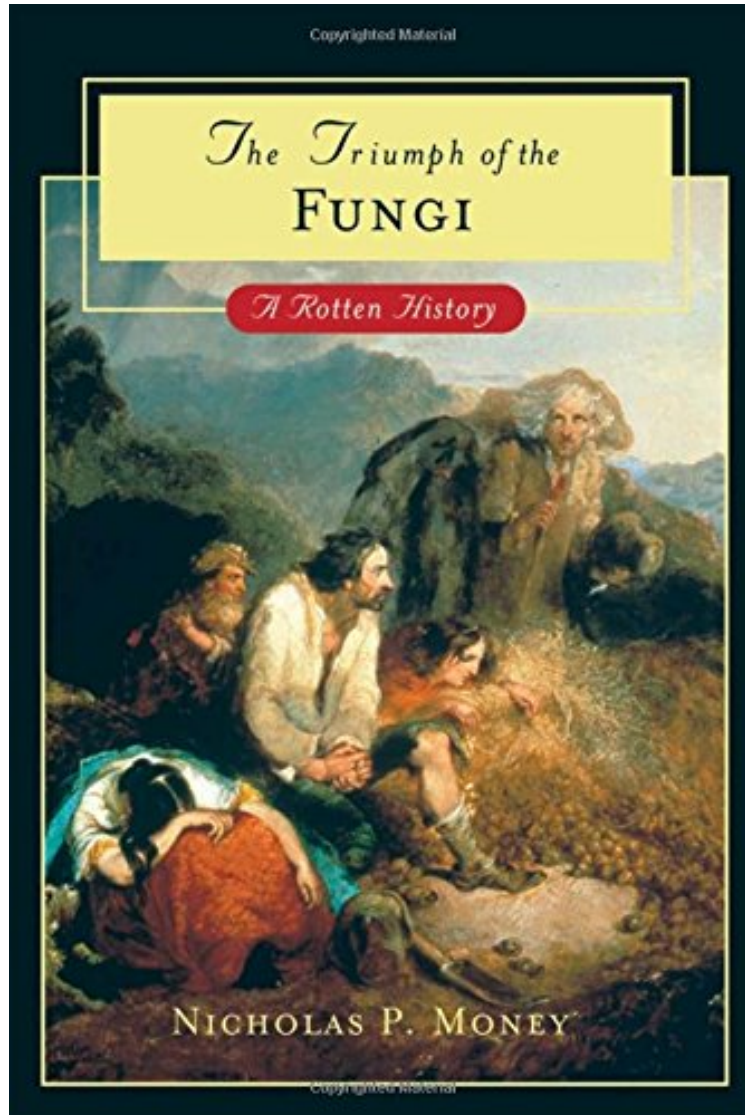


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The Triumph of the Fungi: A Rotten History

Nicholas P. Money

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Nicholas P. Money : The Triumph of the Fungi: A Rotten History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Triumph of the Fungi: A Rotten History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another good book by MoneyBy Laurence ChalemPresented as a collection of a few short stories, THE TRIUMPH OF THE FUNGI: A ROTTEN HISTORY is a good, accessible work of non-fiction written by a master of both fungi and prose. Dr. Money is such an engaging writer, that all his books are worth reading. This particular book focuses on the most deadly fungi, at least from the perspective of the organisms that are being killed. Indeed, according to some plants, these few fungi are mass murderers on the scale of many orders

of magnitude greater than the worst of human murderers. Highly recommended... - 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Jesus Contreras Great book, had my class in many heated arguments. The author presents his arguments very well and allows one to come to a good conclusion at the end. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Laugh While You Learn By Stephanie Young Could a book on fungus make you laugh out loud? If the book in question is Dr. Nicholas Money's wonderful *The Triumph of the Fungi*, it certainly could. I laughed the whole way through, starting with the subtitle - *A Rotten History*, and learned so much along the way. Each chapter of the book tackled a crop I take for granted, describing how it gained prominence, revealing who it enriched, and delving into what fungus destroyed or has the power to destroy it. Dr. Money tied in the historical aspects of each mycological disaster, making the book easy going, even for a nonscientist. As an English major, I only took two semesters of biology, so it would have been easy to lose me in the details. The numerous real-life examples, comparisons, quips, and allusions, however, made what would have been dry and inaccessible material in another author's hands fresh and fun. Before this book, I knew nothing about how dangerous monocultures are and how at risk current farming practices make us. I had only a glimmer of how complex the life cycles of fungi are. I certainly didn't realize how impossible it is for fungicides to keep up with the rapidity of evolution in the fungal world. And now I do. It took me months to read this book because I'm a teacher and, during the school year, I only get to read in 15-minute "Silent Reading" intervals. This kind of interrupted reading makes even great books take a loooong time to finish. To Dr. Money's credit, the book was so well written that even a sporadic reader found it easy to pick up where she left off and forge on. It's a rare book that entertains as well as it educates; *Triumph of the Fungi* does just that.

This book is concerned with the most devastating fungal diseases in history. These are the plagues of trees and crop plants, caused by invisible spores that have reshaped entire landscapes and decimated human populations. *The Triumph of the Fungi* focuses on the fascinating biology of the well- and lesser-known diseases, and also tells the stories of the scientists involved in their study, and of the people directly impacted by the loss of forest trees like the chestnut, and cash crops such as coffee and cacao. In a surprisingly brief time, human knowledge of the fungi that infect plants has evolved from Biblical superstition, to the recognition of the true nature of plant disease, and, more recently, to a sense of awe for the sophistication of these microbes. The crucial issue of human culpability in these fungal epidemics is addressed in the book's closing chapter.

"Money writes in an easy and pleasant fashion with strong personal opinions; he essentially provides a one-on-one colloquy." --*The Quarterly of Biology* "It is a seriously good read, packed with interesting and unexpected asides and notes, so you never quite know what to expect-enthusiasm and excitement exude from every page... This is a book all mycologists should read, and one that should be compulsory in plant pathology courses." --*Mycological Research* "Biologists and the scientifically informed public will benefit from the opportunity to learn about the classic fungal diseases of plants in a book written in an enjoyable, often witty style. ... Money uses colorful language in explaining much of the intricate biology of fungi; he is scientifically accurate and serious when appropriate." --*Choice* "The book rewards its readers-including those who begin the book with little interest in fungi-by focusing on plants with obvious importance to people (chestnut and elm trees; cacao, coffee and rubber plants; potatoes, corn and wheat) and by embedding lessons about fungal biology in stories peppered with memorable detail." --*American Scientist* "A first rate scholar and historian of plant pathology, Money is an able raconteur." -- *ycologist's Bookshelf* About the Author Nicholas P. Money is at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.