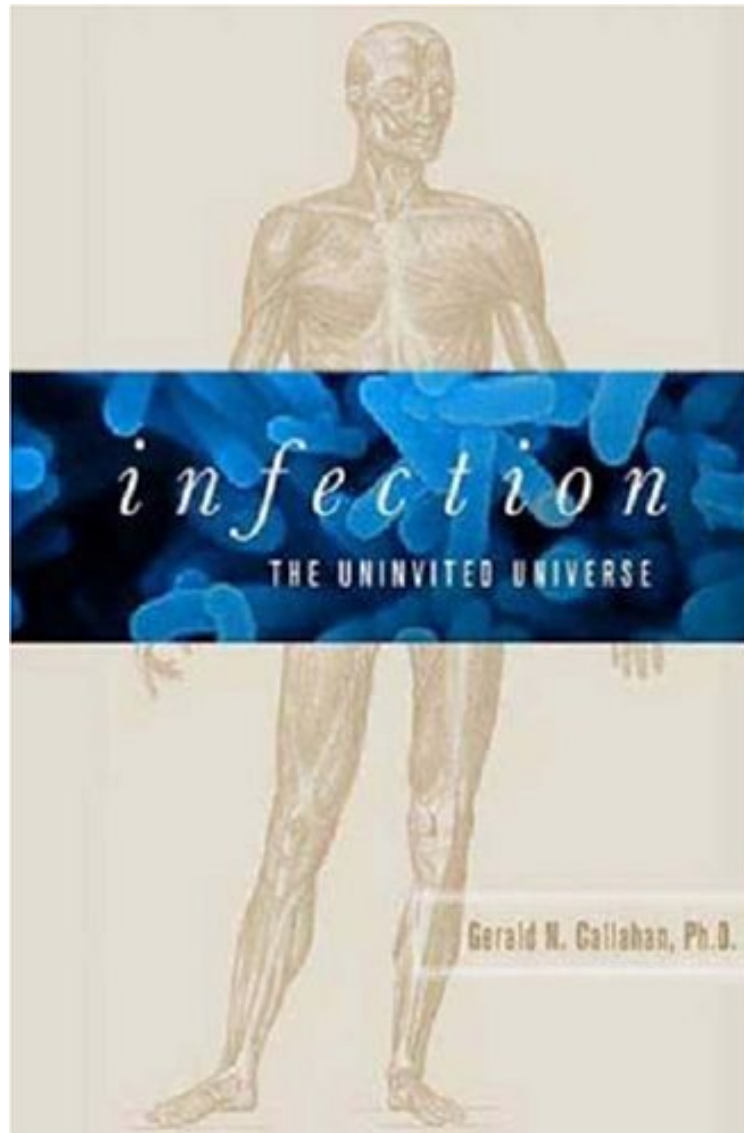


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Infection: The Uninvited Universe

Gerald N. Callahan

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Gerald N. Callahan : Infection: The Uninvited Universe before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infection: The Uninvited Universe:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, but Ultimately Uninspiring By Customer Perhaps it was because I enjoyed Prof. Callahan's other work, "Faith, Madness and Spontaneous Human Combustion" that this one left me flat. Callahan's treatment of the immune system in that book was awesome, gripping and truly inspiring. I rate it as one of the best reads I have ever undertaken. Yet while he has a lot of interesting facts laid out in 'Infection: The

Universal Universe,' and presents them in (usually) a warm and readable manner, this book simply doesn't inspire like the mentioned work on the immune system. Not only that, but he can't help sliding into politically correct dogma on occasion, a habit that is very distracting to me. The offense is only occasional and mild, but ends up taking something away from the overall credibility a writer must work so hard to gain and maintain. I did not really enjoy reading this book, though I learned a tidbit or two. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but nothing really new...By Rebecca D. Gold This book is well-written and covers the topic, but it lacks that sharp perspective, wit, and new ideas that really great books of this type have. There's not really anything here you couldn't find anywhere else, and presented more in-depth. It reads as rather a quick overview; perhaps I've read so many of these kinds of books that I expect a more focused and in-depth treatment of the subject. I have no complaints about this book and wouldn't tell you not to buy it, but I will tell you that there are better, more interesting ones. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Distracting Political agenda By epinurse I thoroughly enjoyed the Microbiology aspect of the book and how the author weaved interesting stories and factoids into it but I was distracted by his need to interject his left winged political agenda into the book. I found it inappropriate and detracted from the book. It ruined an otherwise well written book. I see another reviewer noticed this as well.

We use antibacterial soap to wash our hands, we swab doorknobs with antibacterial wipes, we pop antibiotics at the first sign of disease - all to avoid infection. But we are all infected. From before birth to after death, infection is what makes humans human. In a startling, chilling, and inspiring narrative, veteran microbiologist, and author Gerald Callahan, explores the world of the microscopic creatures that live on, in, and around us. Did you know that: our overuse of antibiotics is placing us on the cusp of a resurgence of diseases we had thought long conquered? and, many ailments - from schizophrenia and gastric ulcers to obsessive-compulsive disorder - are now being linked to infections? Infection will awaken you to the microscopic brethren that ensure our health as well as take it from us. For better or worse, infection shapes our lives.

From Booklist Microbiologist-pathologist Callahan has compelling news. Only about 10 percent of the cells of a human body can be called human. The remainder are bacteria. This is a good thing, for without these bacteria, we would surely die. It is the vastly underrated microbiotic system that sustains and even enables life. Lacking a complete set of healthy bacteria allowing us to digest food and fend off illness, individual existence would be impossible. Largely responsible for strengthening the immune system, these good germs ought to be sought after and nourished, Callahan says. Pointing to a number of illnesses, from asthma to acute lymphoblastic lymphoma, that can be at least partially linked to a lack of exposure to certain bacterial infections, Callahan makes a case for lackadaisical housekeeping. Not so sloppy as to foster the germs that deliver infectious diseases such as malaria, AIDS, SARS, or influenza, however, any of which might deal the ultimate blow that cleanses the planet of humanity. Callahan writes of an at-times unpleasant topic in clear, reader-friendly language. Donna Chavez Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Chapter One