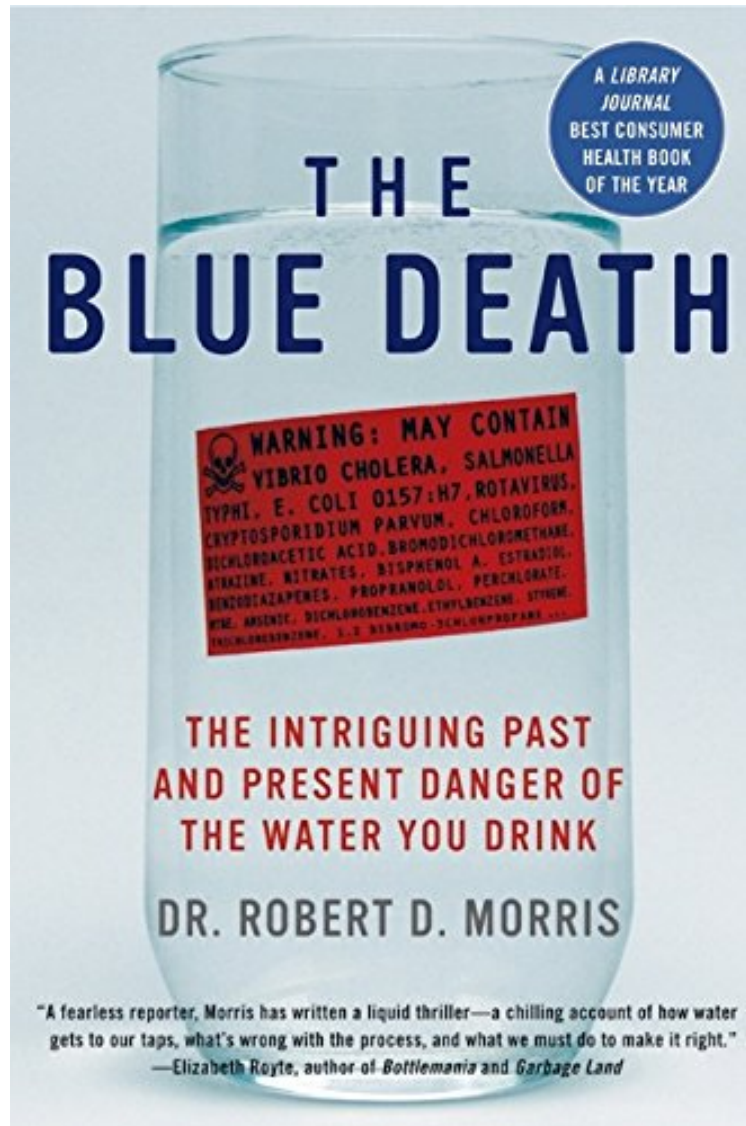


(Read free) The Blue Death: The Intriguing Past and Present Danger of the Water You Drink

The Blue Death: The Intriguing Past and Present Danger of the Water You Drink

Robert D. Morris

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#506568 in Books Morris Robert D 2008-08-05 2008-08-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .72 x 5.311, .59 #File Name: 0060730900320 pages The Blue Death The Intriguing Past and Present Danger of the Water You Drink | File size: 35.Mb

Robert D. Morris : The Blue Death: The Intriguing Past and Present Danger of the Water You Drink before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Blue Death: The Intriguing Past and Present Danger of the Water You Drink:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Since the Flint water crisis we need to understand why this is

happening and how to prevent it. Morris has written a classic. By S. Mallicoat Amazing book about the evolution of water distribution and the collision with sanitation engineering. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Think Twice Before You Drink that Water By Donna Fricke Usually I'm too busy reading books to take the time to review them, but I'll make an exception for this fine book. I'm in a Sierra Club book discussion group in Downeast Maine and we spend many a cold winter hour reading and discussing books recommended by the attendees of the group. I had never heard of the book before and found the beginning a bit slow and almost too detailed until I realized what the author was doing. He was/is making all readers "you are there scientists." We improve as scientists as science improves and we see early on that scientific discovery is subject to the marketplace, egos, politics, power struggles. Nothing new between the early 19th C. and now and to demonstrate this he takes us all over the world with examples of the struggle to provide safe water to rural and urban populations. In many ways, there's little difference between the water problems of the 19th C. and the 21st. The name of the game is still chlorine and under-regulation by whoever may be in control of our water--even if it's us. I had to test my well when I built my house and again when I remortgaged, but otherwise no one tells me I should test my water periodically. We so naively trust water, and as this book demonstrates so well: water is a killer. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Gregg Loesch Well written non fiction about discovery of the spread of illness through drinking water over past 200 years.

During a devastating nineteenth-century cholera outbreak, English physician John Snow proved that the deadly disease could hide in a drop of water. In the twentieth century, burgeoning cities would subdue cholera and typhoid by building massive filtration plants and bubbling poisonous gas through their drinking water. But in the new millennium, the demon of waterborne disease is threatening to reemerge, and the results could be catastrophic. In this fascinating, sobering account, Dr. Robert Morris depicts the epidemics that have shaken nations, celebrates the scientists who reached into the invisible and ultimately saved millions of lives, and sounds a timely warning we dare not ignore about the natural and man-made hazards present in the water we drink.

From Publishers Weekly In this engrossing and disquieting book, the author, who specializes in drinking water epidemiology, raises the alarm about hidden perils in our water. He traces the history of the search for water-borne pathogens from the mid-19th century, when doctors discovered the bacterium that causes cholera (the blue death), to the 20th century, when it was found that chlorination and filtration would block many of the organisms responsible for diseases such as typhoid fever, dysentery and cholera. But today, our water supply is far from safe. Some pathogens elude conventional filters; others are resistant to chlorine; and chlorinated drinking water may increase the risk of certain cancers. Climate change, emerging diseases, toxic chemicals, decaying pipes and terrorism also threaten our water. To dramatize his thesis, Morris describes devastating outbreaks of gastrointestinal disease, such as the one caused by a parasite in Milwaukee's drinking water that sickened 400,000 people in 1993. During the 19th century, doctors had to overcome opposition from those who refused to believe that diseases could be waterborne. Now, epidemiologists and researchers who advocate for tighter controls on drinking water must battle drinking water industry lobbyists who resist regulatory efforts. Morris argues persuasively that unless we do more to protect the water we drink, we court disaster. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist *Starred* As physician and outspoken public health expert Morris recounts, with crystal clarity, some of history's epic drinking water disasters, from the 1853 London cholera outbreak to the 1993 cryptosporidiosis outbreak that sickened some 4,000 Milwaukee residents, and how thousands were saved by improved water treatment, it's easy to be lulled into smug contentedness. After all, American water is protected by not just the Clean Water Act but also the Safe Drinking Water Act. Morris contends, however, that outdated and inadequate filtration, by means employing possibly carcinogenic chlorine, fails to remove thousands of potentially hazardous chemicals from public freshwater sources. Add that concern to a water-delivery infrastructure at or nearing the end of its design-life expectancy, and you have reason enough to shake off all science-has-saved-us complacency. Throw in the too-easily-downplayed threat of bioterrorism, and you may join in Morris' clarion call for a fiercely proactive torrent of new technology in addition to expensive, if unglamorous, infrastructure replacement. Morris put the words death, disease, and disaster in the book's title to warn readers that his no-holds-barred narrative isn't for the squeamish. Pass the vodka, please. Uh, no ice. Chavez, Donna Riveting (Kirkus s (starred)) Engrossing (Publishers Weekly)