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Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World

Dan Koeppel

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Dan Koeppel : Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More information on the banana than you can shake a banana-shaped stick at
By David S. Saunders
I read some articles recently about the potential extinction of the banana and I went to get a better understanding of what is really going on. After reading this book, I know more about the banana, it's many varieties, and the blight of Panama disease that affects this food around the globe. I now know that a banana is technically an herb and that the ubiquitous Cavendish banana outsells every variety of apple and orange combined. Banana cultivation and trade has also had a significant impact on world history. I learned about all of that and more in this well-written, easy read of a book. Mission accomplished.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great story
By The Wizard
Told with the detail you need to understand the problem now facing our "favorite fruit". Pleasingly, although it doesn't defend them, it is not a diatribe against Dole and Chiquita (ex United Fruit).
0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. Enjoy your banana with knowledge of its historyBy Daniel ElanEnjoy your banana with knowledge of its history, the fragility when diversity lacks, and the USA relation to "banana republics."

Read Dan Koeppel's posts on the Penguin Blog. A gripping biological detective story that uncovers the myth, mystery, and endangered fate of the world's most humble fruit To most people, a banana is a banana: a simple yellow fruit. Americans eat more bananas than apples and oranges combined. In other parts of the world, bananas are what keep millions of people alive. But for all its ubiquity, the banana is surprisingly mysterious; nobody knows how bananas evolved or exactly where they originated. Rich cultural lore surrounds the fruit: In ancient translations of the Bible, the "apple" consumed by Eve is actually a banana (it makes sense, doesn't it?). Entire Central American nations have been said to rise and fall over the banana. But the biggest mystery about the banana today is whether it will survive. A seedless fruit with a unique reproductive system, every banana is a genetic duplicate of the next, and therefore susceptible to the same blights. Today's yellow banana, the Cavendish, is increasingly threatened by such a blight—and there's no cure in sight. Banana combines a pop-science journey around the globe, a fascinating tale of an iconic American business enterprise, and a look into the alternately tragic and hilarious banana subculture (one does exist)—ultimately taking us to the high-tech labs where new bananas are literally being built in test tubes, in a race to save the world's most beloved fruit.