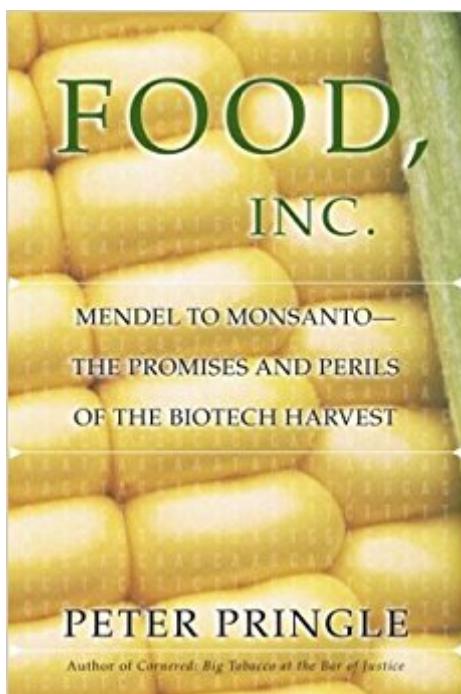


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# Food, Inc.: Mendel To Monsanto--The Promises And Perils Of The Biotech Harvest



## Synopsis

A balanced and well-researched account of the dispute over genetically modified foods. The British government must make a decision by Spring 2004 as to where the UK stands in this matter and the author exposes the propaganda science and fear-mongering so prevalent in this issue.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; First Edition edition (June 3, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0743226119

ISBN-13: 978-0743226110

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.9 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,039,443 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Nutrition > Genetically Engineered Food #1557 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Safety & First Aid #2368 in Books > Medical Books > Basic Sciences > Genetics

## Customer Reviews

Imagine a world where yellow beans are patented, aromatic basmati rice has lost its fragrance because of genetic tinkering and Canadian farmers are sued by multinational behemoths because pollen from GM (genetically modified) crops somehow got into their fields and fertilized their plants. You don't have to imagine it: this, says Pringle, is the world we live in today. A widely published journalist, Pringle (Those Are Real Bullets) paints a troubling picture of the world's food supply. Multinational corporations are able to patent genes from crops that have been cultivated by farmers for centuries; governments of starving African nations refuse GM food they fear is poisonous; scientists hastily publish research that is blown out of proportion by the news media; and "green" activists vandalize greenhouses and fields where scientists are conducting GM research. Pringle roundly castigates all sides. Scientists, he says, have been remarkably inventive in their endeavors to improve the food we eat, using a gene from daffodils, for example, in growing golden rice with high levels of vitamin A that can help prevent blindness in the undernourished. But large corporations, he asserts, have squandered the public's good will toward GM products as they rushed so-called "Frankenfoods" into stores without adequate testing or disclosure of what makes it different. Pringle gives some glimmer of hope for the future through time-honored methods of

cross-pollination, but his main story is of an industry with great potential for feeding starving millions and reducing our reliance on chemical pesticides, but that has instead created a global mess. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Adult/High School-Biotechnology inspires hope in some and horror in others. A complex topic, it invokes many contemporary concerns-third world famine, biodiversity, corporate responsibility, the ethics of corporate ownership of the processes of life itself-and involves a bewildering array of interrelated national and international legal, political, scientific, and economic forces. Public discourse is polarized with scaremongering on one side and arrogance on the other, and it is difficult for the nonspecialist to arrive at an informed opinion. Here, in readable, journalistic fashion, Pringle provides what has been missing: facts and explanations, reasoned argument, and common ground. He reveals many dimensions of several controversies that will be familiar to most readers from media coverage, yet remain poorly understood: Is the monarch butterfly endangered by pesticide-laced corn? Are we throwing away our heritage of biodiversity? Are plant hunters cultural pirates? As the title indicates, Pringle points out the danger of a few large and poorly regulated corporations owning and controlling so much of the world's agriculture and genetic technology, but he doesn't demonize. Rather than simplifying a complicated subject, he accomplishes the more difficult task of presenting the complexities of genetic science, academic politics, corporate strategies, or international treaties in such a clear and interesting manner that readers come to appreciate and understand them. This is a book to satisfy curiosity and engender concern, and any of its chapters would provide an excellent subject for discussion groups. Christine C. Menefee, Fairfax County Public Library, VA  
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I second those people who found this book to be a bit TOO concise. In failing to offer important details about issues like Dr. Pusztai's experiments, or the L-triptophan contamination (in this case, the author even gives out the wrong information that more than one brand was involved), the book may be at times misleading. On the other hand, it is fairly unbiased. But in the sense that it shows how both sides on this issue have gone a little overboard in their efforts, by exaggerating their claims. Anyway, it's worth reading if you have some previous knowledge about the issue and want to refresh your mind on the most relevant events.

I wouldn't listen to the negative nancies here. These books are needed in our culture. There may be

some parts that are not in-depth or some facts that are slightly skewed but it doesn't change the fact that these companies are purely about greed and power. At the top they will do anything in their power to rip apart small farms and herald the new awakening of everything GMO without producing but a couple ridiculous studies that have no bearing on if they are safe or not. When Monsanto sees a problem they buy \*\*\*\*. They buy any and everything they can to silence that problem. Maybe there are some decent people working at the company but let me tell you if I met one of these people face to face I would spit on them. They are dirt. Nothing they have done to this point is positive for our culture, our farms, or our children. They are liars and cowards to the bone. There is a reason European countries are banning GMOs. They have absolutely no safety regulations whatsoever. The book is more of an overview of the science and history behind the tech and firms. It may not be the best but it gives you a balanced view on the culture behind a lot of biotech history. A good quick read. Probably more like 4 stars but I must give it the full as these things right now are very important for our culture to understand it the fullest degree.

THis book was very interesting! explains everything to the detail, and doesn't get too boring. It makes you look at food a different way and ask yourself if the food you are eating is probably genetically modified.

Good information& history of GMO. Beginning is great; then it tapers off. Need to update this book with current events.

My main reservation with the book is that it really doesn't give you enough information to make up your own mind, it covers a lot of different 'events' in the history of GM but it doesn't go below the surface, beyond what you would read in a newspaper article. For example, it talks about the work of Berkeley researchers showing contamination of Mexican crops with American GM ones, and it talks about how the critics claimed the researchers made mistakes 1st year grad students are taught not to make, and it talks about how it is the only article Nature has taken away support after publishing it. And that's it, then it moves on to another topic. But: What was the flaw in the study? What was the defense of the authors? What have follow up studies concluded? I don't know, because it is not in the book. So what did I learn from this? That GM is a research topic that raises controversies, which is the reason I bought the book in the first place! But I did not learn about the true potential danger of contamination from GM to non-GM crops. This is not an isolated example, most of the book (written by a journalist) is consistent with the cynical view that journalists know a bit of everything,

but a lot about nothing...I will have to read another book on GM-food to really make up my mind, not a lot of informative information here. Just a bunch of facts and anecdotes leaving out the true scientific value of them out!

This book and the movie that goes with it are awesome. Everyone should be growing and eating their own food to the extent possible to them. They should be buying from local farmers who use sustainable, chemical free methods.I also recommend: A Animal Vegetable Miracle 1ST Edition Eat healthy and live drug [prescription medicines] free!

I read this whole book. What a boring read it was. I hope I never meet the author for he must be the most boring person alive. I had to re read many sentences especially ones starting with conjunction to make sense of it. I only give it 2 stars instead of 1 because there was a few interesting facts about rice and how industrializing agriculture saved a billion people from starving.

These are so great! The product arrived on time and was well packaged. My wife has been baking some wonderful loaves of artisan-type rye, white and whole wheat breads. They are very crusty, and we had experienced some difficulty finding a product that could handle the crust. This product worked extremely well, cutting through the crust with ease. We are very pleased with our recent purchase. as a gift to Tommy, good quality with low price. good product with high quality.

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