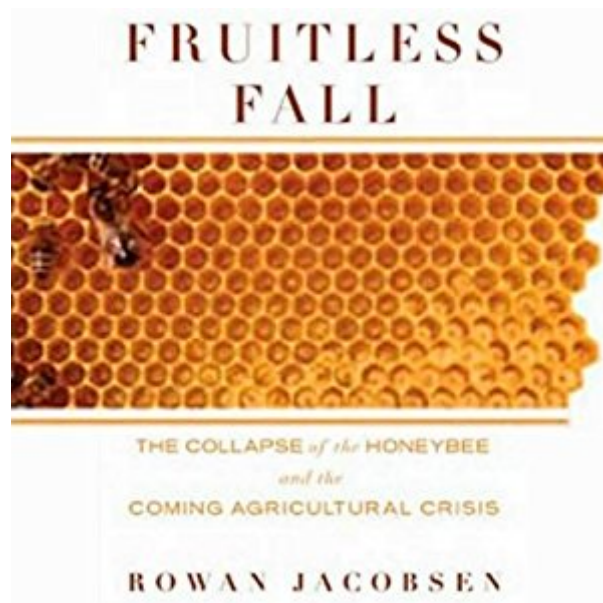




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Fruitless Fall: The Collapse Of The Honey Bee And The Coming Agricultural Crisis



Synopsis

Many people will remember that Rachel Carson predicted a silent spring, but she also warned of a fruitless fall, a time with no pollination and no fruit. The fruitless fall nearly became a reality when, in 2007, beekeepers watched 30 billion bees mysteriously die. And they continue to disappear. The remaining pollinators, essential to the cultivation of a third of American crops, are now trucked across the country and flown around the world, pushing them ever closer to collapse. *Fruitless Fall* does more than just highlight this growing agricultural catastrophe. It emphasizes the miracle of flowering plants and their pollination partners, and urges readers not to take the abundance of our Earth for granted. A new afterword by the author tracks the most recent developments in this ongoing crisis.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There are so many problems that bees are encountering right now and Rowan Jacobsen describes them all, in great detail, but not boring detail. Although the subject could be dry and depressing, he keeps it all very interesting. It's an easy read, fast-paced yet thorough. More people should read this, so maybe we could begin the process of fixing our world before we break it completely.

This very informative book by Jacobsen brings to light an issue that many knowledgeable environmental activists and concerned individuals are well aware of. The fact that humans are quickly depleting the Earth of its valuable resources, even the small ones that we tend to take for

granted. The Honey Bee and other wild creatures that perform a similar role are key elements in this edible chain of life we are part of. Without preaching to an alarming extent, Jacobsen takes path of describing the importance of the honey bee and just how many aspects of our lives (and those of other animals as well) will be altered in a devastating manner if the current decline of these unheralded and diligent workers continues. As the book heads into the latter part, he does invoke the message that this is not some insignificant issue that should be taken lightly. The message is clear. The writing is fluid and the minor tidbits of humor make this an easy novel to comprehend. It's about the battle that is being waged right under our noses. I highly recommend this book. It gives you the appreciation of the creatures that share this planet and their symbiotic relationship with planet Earth. For those that have read Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, this represents a present discussion of a similar scary issue.

This book is an engaging and very well written account of the importance of the European honeybee and it's near loss due to colony collapse disorder. Who remembers much of anything about this calamity that nearly destroyed a big part of our food supply? Disaster unfolding and we the public ignorant and unknowing thanks to our wonderful media!! The author carefully researches all the different scenarios blamed for the collapse, and the conclusion is basically - all of the above. The honeybee has been beset by new problems, and finally it all got to be just too much. All of our fruits and many of our vegetables rely on pollination by insects, of which the honey bee is the most hardworking and efficient. Losing the honeybee would be a complete disaster for the California almond growers for instance - but the hives are treated with scant respect by the growers. Maybe this has changed somewhat, but to me this whole story underscores the problems with agri-business style farming and food production, and points up how vulnerable our food supply really is. The book ends on an optimistic note - with research on how different varieties of bees cope with different problems, and a real surprise on regular honey bee behavior when the bees are allowed to build their own combs to the size they want. I have decided that next year I will be planting "nectaries" - plants to attract and feed pollinators throughout the garden and in abundance. I also plan to try keeping bees - should be an interesting project. In conclusion I thoroughly recommend this book - a well researched follow-on from *Silent Spring*, from which the title phrase, *Fruitless Fall*, was taken.

Lots of books out there about bees and their recent plight. I've read them all. This one is the best. Jacobsen explains fairly complex science in simple, clear, and compelling prose. Highly

recommended.

Good read, very informative. I enjoyed reading this book.

Excellent

An important book on the collapse of the honey bee. We need to make some big changes for mankind so we don't destroy ourselves and other species in the process.

I have given this book to many friends as it is a must read.

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