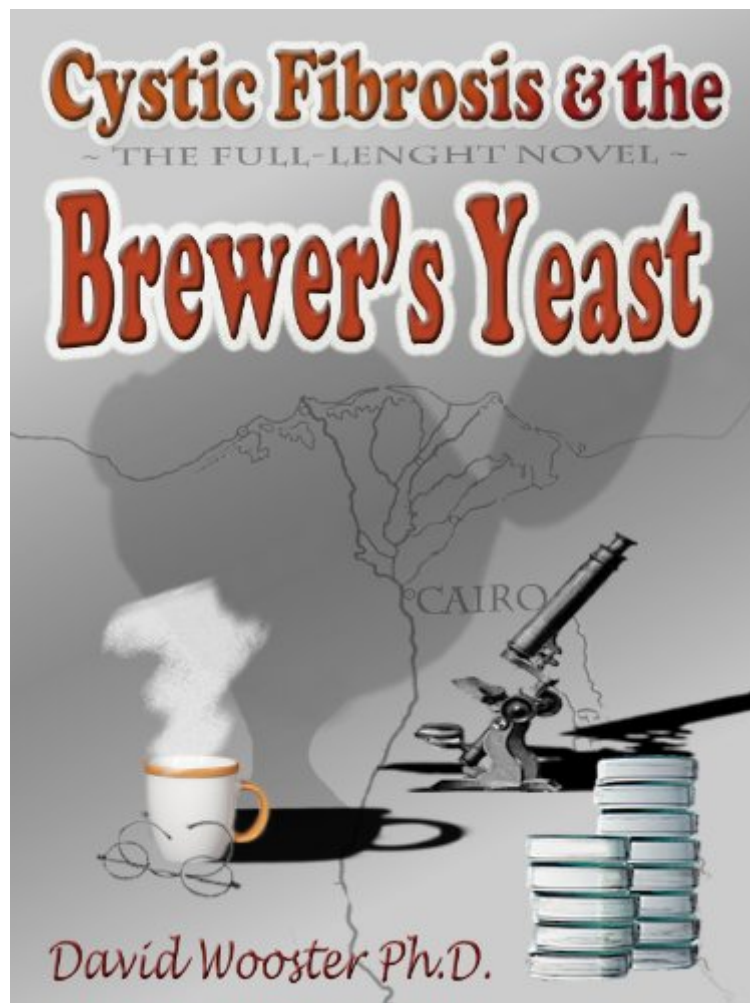


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Cystic Fibrosis & The Brewer's Yeast: A Microbiology Tale



Synopsis

Ben Ketchum is an assistant professor at a small college in Montana with just one year left to secure his tenure or he's going to be out of a job, this at a time when there are already alarming cutbacks going on in science due to Hurricane Katrina and the Iraq War. And as if to complicate his life further, the all important anthrax grant Ben was counting on didn't come through so now he's forced to begin a new project, this one involving a different type of microbe than what he's used to: the brewer's yeast. To learn all he can about the yeast, Ben takes two weeks off and travels first to exotic Egypt where he discovers the yeast's role in building this once-great civilization, including brewing beer, making wine, raising bread as well as the pyramids. He then travels to Germany, a more recent example of a beer culture, where he uncovers the yeast's influence in Western civilization including his own country. Ben's day-to-day concerns with being a mentor, teacher, and scientist while at the same time having to secure his tenure, is a unifying theme. Each story is woven together with interesting facts about ancient history & science so as to give the reader an appreciation for not only what it's like to run a modern research laboratory, but also how our everyday world has been shaped by unseen microbes, often for thousands of years. For example, Ben's search for the brewer's yeast leads him to uncover details about the Bubonic plague & beer steins, wine amphora, Hitler, beer halls, the Lewis & Clark Expedition, whiskey, pretzels, pasteurization and Egyptian mummies. He also teams up with two eccentric microbiologists and develops a love interest while in Egypt: the beautiful young medical doctor Tahany Hassan. This novel is based on a true story...inspired by the author's experiences in graduate school and as a scientist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles California. In this novel you'll also discover diverse facts about: cystic fibrosis & cholera, proteins, DNA, water, dinosaur fossils, Yellowstone, the US Civil War, Pompeii, Mark Twain, Art Deco, Gutenberg's printing press, Galileo & Jupiter's moons, Homer, Custer & Sitting Bull, Egyptian hieroglyphics, Kaopectate, Elephants, King Tut's bandages, chocolate beer, plate tectonics, Abraham Lincoln & smallpox, Prohibition, Julius Caesar, Isaac Newton, Oktoberfest, Albert Einstein, bierkellers, the Mayflower, spontaneous generation, Vegemite, alchemy, Louis Pasteur & germ theory, Johnny Appleseed, Adolphus Coors, the Rosetta Stone, Watson & Crick, osmosis, chromatography, the Trevi Fountain & Roman Baths, Gregor Mendel, elk skin & collagen, enzymes, gene splicing, hemoglobin, Sacagawea, Thomas Jefferson, the Big Bang, Hittites, the Iron Age, Greek fire, steam engines, glucose, papyrus, Apollo 12, ATP & TNT, Ben Franklin & electricity, Ramses the Great, Saladin, and much more. This is the full-length novel and contains the novellas "Secret Life of the Brewer's Yeast" and "The Secret Life of Water: A

Microbiology Tale" within its pages.

Book Information

File Size: 2995 KB

Print Length: 340 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: November 16, 2013

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B006HDILUU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #606,357 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #23

in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Children's Health > Cystic Fibrosis #109 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science > Biological Sciences > Biology > Microbiology #1154 in Books > Medical Books > Basic Sciences > Microbiology

Customer Reviews

Very informational.

I was never a fan of history at school but if it had been taught this way maybe ...Wooster spanned centuries and continents in his account of how the good and bad microbes influenced history. He has a sort of mad-professorial style in keeping with the main character. The story does jump around a lot and contains many amusing spelling and grammar glitches [1] but for the most part flows easily. I particularly enjoyed the hundreds of endnotes, which make up about a quarter of the volume and make an interesting side-journey on their own. By linking the endnotes in both directions, he showed great foresight. All in all a great read. [1]... heard of elk or deer ice sickles ...You're enzymes are liberating glucose who's intricacy could put ...Stanley spelled Stanly in an exact 6.:1 ratio

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