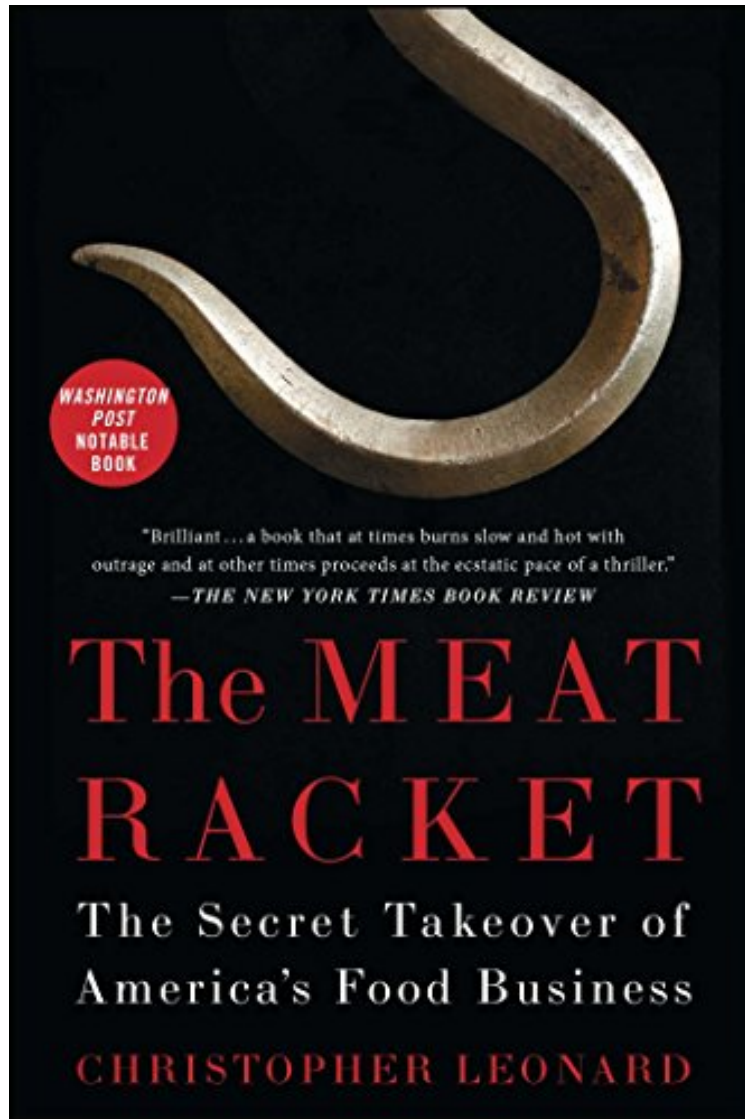


(Download) The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America's Food Business

The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America's Food Business

Christopher Leonard

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Christopher Leonard : The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America's Food Business before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Meat Racket: The Secret Takeover of America's Food Business:

78 of 79 people found the following review helpful. Thought-provoking and deeply reportedBy KonstantinThis is a fundamentally compassionate book. It is compassionate towards the small meat producers who are squeezed by modern economies of scale, and compassionate towards the titans of industry that created these economies.Leonard

gets out of the way of the story he is trying to tell. He manages to square the paradox of conveying admiration for the ambition and accomplishments of pioneers like Don Tyson while also seeing the fruits of those achievements clearly: hollowed-out towns across rural America, and meat this is made efficiently, but ruthlessly. Leonard dissects the distinct histories of the poultry, pork, and beef industries with precision and care. He is never preachy; where he indicts standard industry practices, he does so on the basis of meticulously gathered evidence. But he knows how not to get bogged down--the details he presents are always telling ones. He writes with the intimate ease of an expert about both regulatory maneuvering in Washington, DC and farmers and ranchers in Arkansas and Iowa. If you want to understand how America works today, read this book. If you want to know how that boneless, skinless chicken breast in the supermarket was created from a chicken, how it became poultry, read this book. It is a serious book, but also a quick read that captures you with the fluidity of its prose. HIGHLY RECOMMEND 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Gutsy! The truth that NOBODY in the meat business or government wants you to know. By Sandra Thomas Corruption is king and Mr. Leonard lays it out there for you to see. Our governmental agencies that are in place to prevent these very circumstances are in on the ground floor of layers and layers of corrupt business practices with plenty of money in a lobby group that can pay to see it done. The chicken and hog farmers depicted in this book are only a miniscule percentage of the number of people whose lives have been destroyed by these meat giants that keep preachers on staff to give the impression of how pious they are! Hypocrites, liars, and power mongers. Everything that American business has come to stand for. Too bad for the little guy that got in the way. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written By Linda H Fabulous book if the topic interests you at all. Very well research and told in a fascinating manner. Lots of facts but also lots of personal stories to flesh them out. I live in a small rural community that is in danger of being decimated by this industry. It was very helpful to understand how we got to this point where sustainable small farms became huge polluting factories. Now I can see that the growth of this horrifically damaging industry was not an inevitable evolution of the family farm, but came about because those in government and the court system did not do their jobs enforcing either environmental laws nor the laws designed to prevent companies from becoming too large. Now I see that this system can be reversed by changing the laws... I got the audio version and the reader was excellent. I listened in my car and many times regretted arriving at my destination because I was so caught up in the unfolding saga.

An investigative journalist takes you inside the corporate meat industry—a shocking, in-depth report every American should read. How much do you know about the meat on your dinner plate? Journalist Christopher Leonard spent more than a decade covering the country's biggest meat companies, including four years as the national agribusiness reporter for the Associated Press. Now he delivers the first comprehensive look inside the industrial meat system, exposing how a handful of companies executed an audacious corporate takeover of the nation's meat supply. Leonard's revealing account shines a light on the inner workings of Tyson Foods, a pioneer of the industrial system that dominates the market. You'll learn how the food industry got to where it is today, and how companies like Tyson have escaped the scrutiny they deserve. You'll discover how these companies are able to raise meat prices for consumers while pushing down the price they pay to farmers. And you'll even see how big business and politics have derailed efforts to change the system, from a years-long legal fight in Iowa to the Obama administration's recent failed attempt to pass reforms. Important, timely, and explosive, *The Meat Racket* is an unvarnished portrait of the food industry that now dominates America's heartland.

From Booklist "Before there is a chicken or an egg, there is Tyson." In his eye-opener to the inner workings of the corporations that control and manipulate the nation's meat supply, journalist Leonard reveals how these vertically integrated behemoths operate to the detriment of both farmers, who do the hard and risky work of raising animals, and consumers, who have actually fewer true choices when shopping in the grocery store or ordering at the local fast-food franchise. Putting human faces on economic statistics, Leonard documents the stories of exploited farmers, some of them Laotian immigrants seeking the American dream but driven to bankruptcy. Market control by these near monopolies has spread beyond chicken into pork and beef production as well. Leonard recounts the history of the Tyson family and how the generations have structured the corporation's exponential growth over the past decades, an expansion that even the American government appears powerless to rein in. --Mark Knoblauch "Unknown"; Brilliant "a book that at times burns slow and hot with outrage and at other times proceeds at the ecstatic pace of a thriller." (New York Times Book Review) "Only a very good writer could turn a story about chickens, hogs and cattle into a thriller, and Leonard is that. He brings his characters to life. . . . The book is a scary portrait of capitalism run amok." (Bethany McLean, *The Washington Post*) "[A] scorcher of a book." (The Daily Beast (Top 10 Nonfiction Books of 2014)) "Gripping... *The Meat Racket* is a riveting book, and the picture Mr. Leonard paints is a disturbing one." (Wall Street Journal) "Leonard's book argues that a handful of companies, led by Tyson, control our meat industry in ways that raise concerns about the impact on animals and humans alike, while tearing at the fabric of rural America." (Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*) "One of the best books of investigative reporting that I've seen in quite a while... if you think muckraking is dead or even on its last

legs, *The Meat Racket* is proof positive that it's very much alive. The big question is whether or not there are any reformers and regulators left who have the will and the strength to pick up the ball and run with it. (Strategy + Business) A fascinating look at what has happened in the past decades to the meat business as huge companies essentially staged a takeover while no one, except struggling farmers, paid mind. (New York Daily News) In his eye-opener to the inner workings of the corporations that control and manipulate the nation's meat supply, journalist Leonard reveals how these vertically integrated behemoths operate to the detriment of both farmers, who do the hard and risky work of raising animals, and consumers, who have actually fewer true choices when shopping in the grocery store or ordering at the local fast-food franchise. (Booklist) A minor miracle of reporting. Tyson isn't the sort of company that likes to show reporters around its operations; Leonard managed to penetrate that secrecy, and has painted an intimate picture of the company and the people who made it. (Grist) An engrossing report on the industrialized American meat business; a richly detailed examination of factory farming, which has reshaped small-town life for the worse. . . . An authoritative look at a ruthlessly efficient system. (Kirkus s) Cruelty, greed, and monopoly power--that is what Christopher Leonard has found at the heart of America's meat packing industry. This book offers a devastating portrait of an industry's irresponsible behavior. (Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*) Leonard's primary concern is the grim and gripping story of how American meat went industrial. But he also spins a nuanced tale of how the family farm was America's first small business--and what we've lost by letting it go. A fascinating read. (Tracie McMillan, author of *The American Way of Eating*) This eye-opening investigation into the semi-shady practices governing one of the nation's fundamental industries will make readers question how these megacompanies were ever allowed to grow so large and powerful. A compelling in-depth expose of the concentration of wealth and power at the heart of the U.S. meat industry. (Shelf Awareness for Readers) "Leonard, former national agribusiness reporter for *The Associated Press*, pulls off a stunning feat in putting the heat on the major industrial meat giants." (Publishers Weekly) A meticulous expose of the meat industry; Leonard, whether he means to or not, is also telling a broader story about American business, consumerism, and--most of all--greed. What makes *The Meat Racket* stand out is Leonard's superb storytelling and his clear passion for the topic. He is a man on a mission--and that is clearly the best kind of reporter to write a book like this. (Jessica Valenti Bookforum) I will admit when I picked up this book, it was more with the sense that it was something I should read than something that would be a page turner. And yet it immediately drew me in. Christopher Leonard's power is the ability to capture the human lives caught within the system, particularly the farmers but also the employees who helped build the corporations; this book is a compelling reminder that we all have a stake in how this business is conducted. (Sarah J. Gardner *Radish Magazine*) Brilliant; a book that at times burns slow and hot with outrage and at other times proceeds at the ecstatic pace of a thriller. (New York Times Book Review) "Only a very good writer could turn a story about chickens, hogs and cattle into a thriller, and Leonard is that. He brings his characters to life. . . . The book is a scary portrait of capitalism run amok." 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