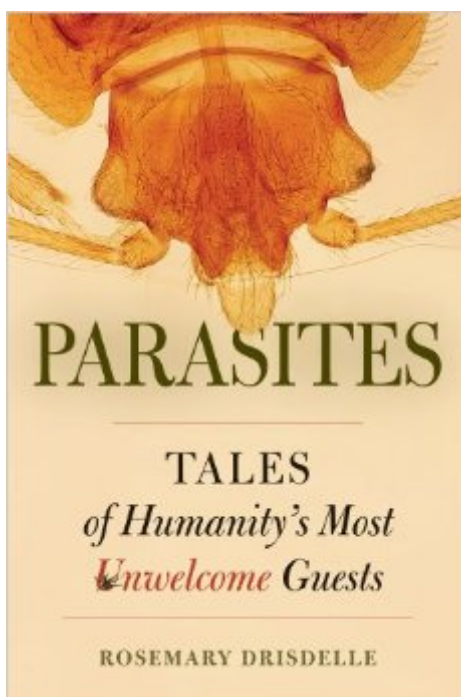


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# Parasites: Tales Of Humanity's Most Unwelcome Guests



## Synopsis

Hidden away within living tissues, parasites are all around us--and inside us. Yet, despite their unsavory characteristics, as we find in this compulsively readable book, parasites have played an enormous role in civilizations through time and around the globe. *Parasites: Tales of Humanity's Most Unwelcome Guests* puts amoebae, roundworms, tapeworms, mites, and others at the center of the action as human cultures have evolved and declined. It shows their role in exploration, war, and even terrorist plots, often through an unpredictable ripple effect. It reveals them as invisible threats in our food, water, and luggage; as invaders that have shaped behaviors and taboos; and as unexpected partners in such venues as crime scene investigations. *Parasites* also describes their evolution and life histories and considers their significant benefits. Deftly blending the sociological with the scientific, this natural and social history of parasites looks closely at a fascinating, often disgusting group of organisms and discovers that they are in fact an integral thread in the web of life.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Other reviewers say Drisdelle's book is "not for the squeamish." I agree with that if you agree that parents and aspiring parents do not fit in that category. I need not even tell other existing parents what I mean by that. For the aspiring parents I will say that parenting is a wonderful experience and a responsibility to take seriously, and yes there is some slight chance [snicker] that your child might eject a semi-liquid substance on you that out-squeams anything you've felt from viewing Hollywood

special effects. Parents do not have the luxury of being squeamish, so "not for the squeamish" does not apply to you. Who should read this book: parents, people interested in science, the people who run your local water treatment plant (Chapter 3 esp.), adventurers/world travelers, Scout troop leaders and anyone else who might ever help introduce your kids to the magnificent wonders of the outdoors and camping. Life and nature should be enjoyed, but some of the stories in this book may help you and your loved ones avoid making a simple mistake that has significant, lifelong consequences. You'll have to draw your own conclusions about what is or isn't the appropriate level of caution, but the book will help you understand, for example, why it can be risky to drink clear mountain water downstream from a beaver dam. Who else? Anyone who is unsure why certain foods must be cooked properly. Some people know that pork must be cooked, and other people avoid it altogether. Those simple steps have eliminated a great deal of dangerous health problems. However with a deeper insight into the parasites that can exist in infected, undercooked pork, you can understand why even those steps are only a part of the solution, and you'll appreciate the wisdom of hand-washing.

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