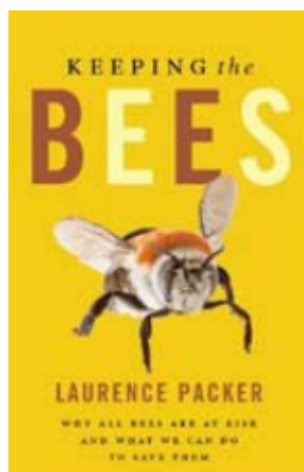


Keeping the Bees: Why All Bees Are at Risk and What We Can Do to Save Them

Author(s): Laurence Packer



No matter what you eat, how you dress, or where you live, your life would change for the worse if a few key insects disappeared. Although there are only a handful of pollinators among the more than 19,500 known species of

bees, the human diet would be severely diminished without them. Since the advent of colony collapse disorder in late 2006 - which resulted in millions of mysterious honey bee deaths - extinction is no mere science fiction scenario. (And the danger is not restricted to one species, either.)

York University biology professor and bee specialist Laurence Packer has written a love letter to these amazing creatures. It is also a wake-up call for anyone who is more apt to swat a bee than let it do its important work.

True, major crops like wheat and rice are grasses, and therefore wind pollinated. But we do not live on bread alone. Coffee, almonds, berries, tree fruits, most vegetables, and alfalfa - all worth billions of dollars per year - rely on bee pollination.

The typical agent of pollination is the domesticated honey bee. Back-up pollination duty is performed by a host of species such as bumblebees. Human activities like habitat destruction and pesticide use endanger these essential elements in the food chain. Any way you look at it, we hurt ourselves by failing to protect bees.

Packer is a very witty, lucid writer, whose passion for melittology (the study of bees) is unmistakable and quite infectious. His book is far from a depressing, finger-wagging treatise on impending ecological doom. He conforms to the fashion of alternating personal details (in this case, anecdotes from his field work in exotic locales) with factual information, and the bee lore that forms the book's focus is truly fascinating. *Keeping the Bees* is an engaging, illuminating read from start to finish.

Louise Fabiani

Obkrožite črko pred izjavami, ki so pravilni odgovori na vprašanja o besedilu Keeping the Bees: Why All Bees Are at Risk and What We Can Do to Save Them. Pri vsakem vprašanju je možen le en odgovor.

Example:

0. What does the title of the book suggest?

a) We should be careful when around bees.

- b) We are at risk if we save the bees.
- c) We should not worry about the bees.
- d) We can help the bees to survive.

16. What would happen if some important insects died out?

- a) Our lives would become more comfortable.
- b) The quality of our lives would worsen.
- c) We would not have to worry about swallowing them.
- d) We would not need to wear protective clothing.

17. How many species of bees fertilize plants with pollen?

- a) About 19,500.
- b) A few less than 19,500.
- c) A minority of them.
- d) The majority of them.

18. How does Prof Packer feel about bees?

- a) He wants to protect them.
- b) He swats them when he sees them.
- c) He sends them love letters.
- d) He calls them to do important work.

19. Do we need bees to grow coffee?

- a) Yes, we do.
- b) No, we don't.
- c) Only sometimes.
- d) Only when there is no wind.

20. Who/what are 'the essential elements in the food chain'?

- a) Only domesticated honey bees.
- b) All human activities.
- c) Habitat destruction and pesticide use.
- d) Agents of pollination.

21. How does the book affect the reader?

- a) The writer's enthusiasm is contagious.
- b) The writer's unmistakable style is infectious.
- c) The book makes you lucid and witty.
- d) The book makes you laugh at melittology.

22. What is Fabiani's final verdict on the book?

- a) It's subjective and overly personal.
- b) It's depressing and mostly sad.
- c) It's interesting and attractive.
- d) It's neither engaging nor illuminating.

Rešitve:

16. b 17. c 18. a 19. a 20. d 21. a 22. c