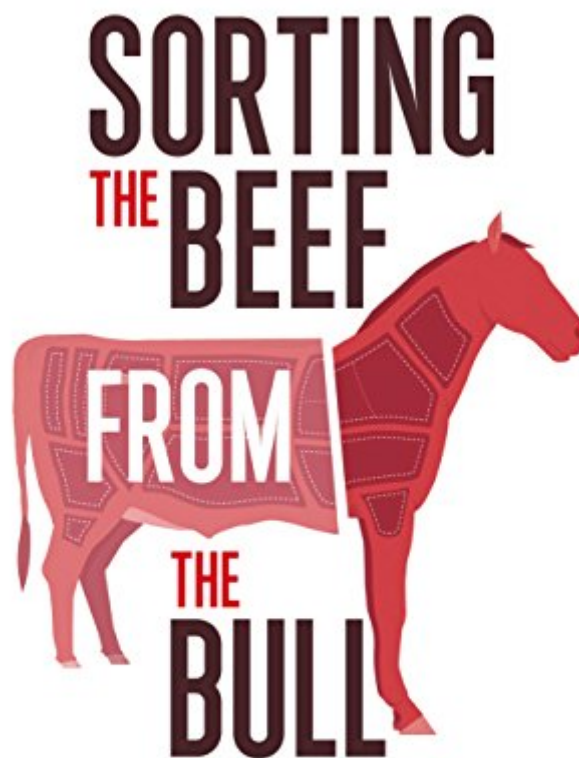


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Sorting The Beef From The Bull: The Science Of Food Fraud Forensics (Bloomsbury Sigma)



The Science of Food Fraud Forensics

Richard Evershed and Nicola Temple

BLOOMSBURY



Synopsis

Horsemeat in burgers was hard to swallow, but there are far more sinister culinary crimes afoot...Chicken eggs that haven't come from chickens, melamine in infant's milk in China, nut shells in spices – these are just some examples of the food fraud that has occurred in recent years. As our urban lifestyle takes us further and further away from our food sources, there are increasing opportunities for dishonesty, duplicity and profit-making short-cuts. Food adulteration, motivated by money, is an issue that has spanned the globe throughout human history. Whether it's a matter of making a good quality oil stretch a bit further by adding a little extra 'something' or labelling a food falsely to appeal to current consumer trends – it's all food fraud, and it costs the food industry billions of dollars each year. The price to consumers may be even higher, with some paying for these crimes with their health and, in some cases, their lives. *Sorting the Beef from the Bull* is a collection of food fraud tales from around the world. It explains the role of science in uncovering some of the century's biggest food scams, and explores the arms race between food forensics and fraudsters as new methods of detection spur more creative and sophisticated means of committing the crimes. This book equips us with the knowledge of what is possible in the world of food fraud and shines a light on the shady areas of our food supply system where these criminals lurk.

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Customer Reviews

Sorting the Beef from the Bull: The Science of Food Fraud Forensics by Richard Evershed and Nicola Temple. London, Bloomsbury Sigma. 2016 320pp. ISBN 13-978-1472911339 The authors make clear that this is not a book about bad eating habits or the evils of corporate capitalism in terms of agribusiness. It is about covert practices that are applied to food that gainsay the label. It is mostly about how we are not necessarily buying what we intend to buy and consume. Some times our food and potables are not what they claim to be and we are cheated out of some of our money. Sometimes we are poisoned. It is about food security, an often used but typically misunderstood concept. The general public that reads this book will get a clearer understanding of that term. It is about the intentional altering of food purely for profit. They provide methods to test our purchases based on known chemistry which identifies types of structures that can only apply to certain products. It is written clearly and in a style that is readable but most of us do not have a laboratory or the scientific background to examine the contents of what we eat. Really, we are not going to do that anyway. The science that they present does appear to be pretty sound though. The appendices do provide the chemical structures for those skilled at understanding them. Their approach to getting what you pay for is very much as my own is and it comes from the food philosophy (if such a genre exists) of Michael Pollan. If you are shopping at a grocery store, as much as possible avoid the interior aisles. Stick to the periphery where the food is all less processed and in some cases not processed at all.

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