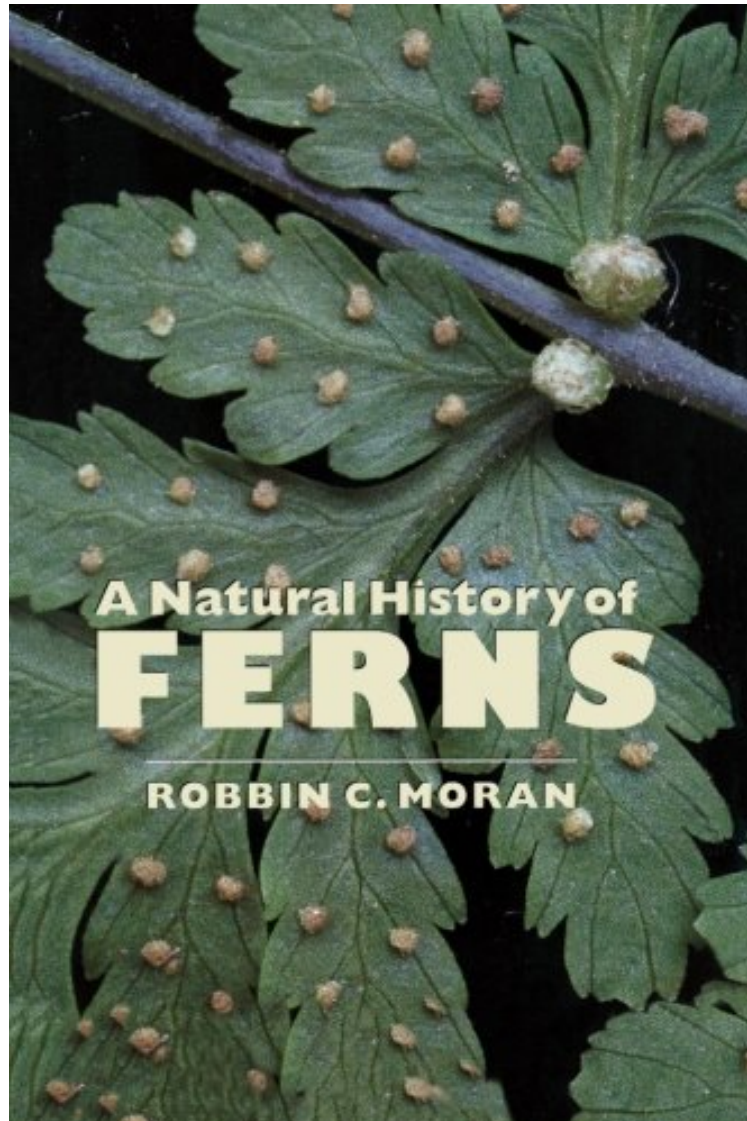


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A Natural History of Ferns

Robbin C. Moran

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Robbin C. Moran : A Natural History of Ferns before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Natural History of Ferns:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Every serious nature lover and gardener should read this. By Customer Many of the chapters in this captivating book on the many aspects of ferns I first read as articles written for the American Fern Society newsletter 'The Fiddleheads Forum'. It was wonderful to have these articles expanded and offered in book form and to have easy access to enjoy them over and over again. I have been fortunate to get to know

the s author thru visits to New York Botanical Garden. I bought this copy to pass along to a young man who was our translator on a fern tour to Japan. I believe he has found another facet to add to his interest in Japanese culture! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction to ferns By Franz Kafka This is a highly readable introduction to ferns by Robbin Moran, a botanist at the NY Botanical Gardens. The book is at once literate, anecdotal, and scientific. You can read it for information, for instruction, and for entertainment. How many books on botany cite both Shakespeare and a Walter Matthau movie in furthering the story of ferns? Moran spends a good part of a chapter discussing the movie, *A New Leaf*, which deals with Elaine May, as a botanist, discovering a new species of fern and naming it after her true love, Matthau. Indeed, Moran's enthusiasm for the movie shows no bounds--he presented it one evening at a summer workshop in Maine that I attended. But don't get me wrong--the book is serious science with a sense of humor, sort of like a more focused version of a Stephen Jay Gould book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not just about ferns! By Platanthera102 What a wonderful, clear, interesting, beautifully written book. Dr. Moran is the curator of botany at the New York Botanical Garden, and has such a great understanding of the natural world, and more importantly how to communicate that so people become enthused about it too.

A Natural History of Ferns is an entertaining and informative look at why ferns and their relatives are unique among plants. Ferns live in habitats from the tropics to polar latitudes, and unlike seed plants, which endow each seed with the resources to help their offspring, ferns reproduce by minute spores. There are floating ferns, ferns that climb or live on trees, and ferns that are trees. There are poisonous ferns, iridescent ferns, and resurrection ferns that survive desert heat and drought. The relations of ferns and people are equally varied. Moran sheds light on Robinson Crusoe's ferns, the role of ferns in movies, and how ferns get their names. *A Natural History of Ferns* provides just what is needed for those who wish to grow ferns or observe them in their habitats with greater understanding and appreciation.

From Booklist From the curator of ferns at the New York Botanical Garden comes a meticulously researched, soundly organized, and entertainingly written treatise on the biology of one of nature's loveliest--and often most misunderstood--plants. Ferns, for all their cool beauty and exotic allure, are anomalies of the plant world because of their distinctive form of reproduction, by spore rather than seed. Moran examines this and other essential processes in a scholarly manual that sets forth in a single volume the wealth of material usually accessible only through intricate research. As opposed to field guides focusing primarily on identification, this history explains the unique life cycle and explores the evolutionary adaptations that have occurred throughout the species' 340-million-year history. Exhibiting a storyteller's flair, Moran opens each chapter with an engaging vignette or anecdote to instantly engage the reader, thus elevating what could be a pedantic discourse into an enjoyable discussion. Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved These masterfully written tales and the solid science behind them make this a terrific book for fern enthusiasts or anyone interested in our natural world. American Gardener The author has presented his topics with a fresh approach, so that even seasoned fern-lovers will see events from new vantage points. Pacific Horticulture This book is like nothing else on the subject. First, its not a field guide. . . . Secondly, its fun to read. The Los Angeles Times Most gardeners suspect that there is something very complex about ferns, but few of us have the chance to delve into their mysteries. Robbin Moran's book makes their magic accessible in all its strange detail. Horticulture A joy to read, this book features science writing that goes beyond description, revealing patterns and mechanismsthe essence of natural history. Choice The structure of the book, a series of essays, allows Mr. Moran to make full use of his ability to render understandable the complexities of nature and to draw in the reader as a storyteller does. American Rhododendron Society Journal Educators need this book. Plant Talk Here is an author who plainly delights in his subject and one neednt be a fern aficionado to share his enthusiasm. California Garden This is science writing at its best. New Scientist I learned in botany classes that ferns reproduce by spores, but I never really understood what makes a spore so different from a seed until I read *A Natural History of Ferns*. Columbus Dispatch Here is science writing at its best; one simply must have this book. Hardy Fern Foundation Quarterly