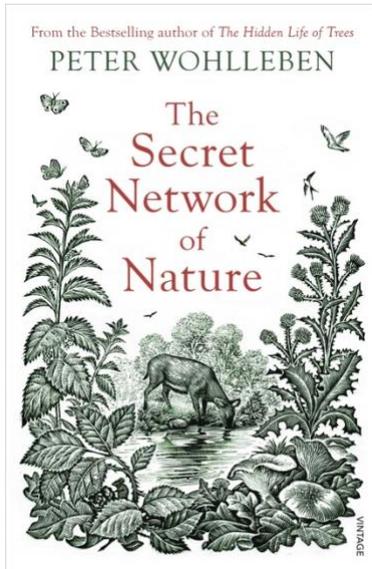


Bookology – Opinion and Reflection

The Secret Network of Nature by Peter Wohlleben

Written by Tiago Miranda



“Nature knows of only two paths for the future of every species: adapt or die out.”

Peter Wohlleben

One of the last of Peter’s trilogy after *The Hidden Life of Trees* and *The Inner Life of Animals*, he astounded many readers about the beauty of nature and how intricate it can be yet absent of deep technical terms. His vocabulary and full-filling character drive the reader to emerge in a dark hollow full of an unimaginable network that, for instance, if one piece is out of place, it may change the whole structure. By his easy-going and reliable literate manner, even an inexperienced reader can easily navigate his book, understanding interrelations of nature that probably never been thought before.

The importance of fauna and flora and the lack of disturbance may prove that we humans do not know how complex the web of life is after all. Our humanoid aspect of the world of, for example, creating artificial light may disrupt a lot of significant functions of certain organisms that provide for the network. As Peter says, “*The more artificial light there is in this world, the more confusion there is in the animal kingdom of the kind I’ve been describing, and the less successful those species that produce light themselves*”.

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It is difficult to understand for sure how nature created such a complex system, which according to Peter, *“nature is much more complex than a clock. In nature, not only does one cog connect with another: everything is connected in a network so intricate that we will probably never grasp it in its entirety”*, proving that from a minor change, as he mentioned about the introduction of wolves into the Yellowstone National Park as a disaster causing an ecosystem disruption, may compromise its elaborate system forever.

One of the essential things Peter mentions in the book is the relationship between soil and the biosphere. With his eloquent and credible way to explain complex subjects, he talks about the unique ecosystems of the environment and the inner decomposing dead body of animals and how important this morbid function provides to the cycle of life. As I quote, *“It’s somewhat easier to understand the process of death and renewal if we look at what’s happening to large dead animals. Dead animals? Yes, a dead animal is an ecosystem unto itself, a bit like a small planet in the universe of nature”*.

In addition, any fungi enthusiast like me would wait at some point for Peter to remark about it, and he did. Sincerely, the writer describes how roots interact with fungi, sharing information and transporting sugars from one tree to another to support weak members of the tree community, which in his own words, *“the fungi also help trees reach essential minerals”*.

The last part of the book is dedicated to the essential function of evolution and how the adaptation of the species plays a vital role in natural selection. Human beings cannot even grasp its model in detail.

“We need to leave things alone – on as large a scale as possible”.