

Mariah Blake's **They Poisoned the World** is a critically acclaimed investigative work that exposes the secret history and corporate cover-up surrounding forever chemicals (PFAS). Reviews widely praise the book as an "outrage" and a "wakeup call" that interweaves deep investigative reporting with the moving stories of citizen activists who fought against chemical giants like DuPont and 3M.

Investigative Depth: The book is based on years of reporting, hundreds of interviews, and thousands of documents, many previously classified. It traces the origins of PFAS contamination back to the Manhattan Project and the post-war years, revealing how manufacturers long knew about the health risks, including links to cancer and birth defects, but concealed the information.

Human Stories: What gives the book its power and readability is the focus on ordinary people forced into activism. A central narrative follows residents of Hoosick Falls, New York—including an insurance underwriter, a local doctor, and a young mother—as they uncover their water supply contamination and fight for justice.

Critique of Regulation: Reviews highlight the book's argument that lax government regulation allowed manufacturers to turn the public into "guinea pigs in a vast, uncontrolled chemistry experiment". The narrative demonstrates that change often requires intense, sustained public pressure, as authorities rarely act without it.

Impact and Call to Action: The book is described as "humane and revelatory," intended to provoke outrage and inspire an environmental movement akin to *Silent Spring*.

Minor Criticisms: While overwhelmingly positive, one review noted that the book occasionally "milk[ed] the trauma and drama" of the individuals and could have offered more insight into broader systemic solutions beyond individual activism.

Overall, *They Poisoned the World* is considered a powerful and essential read for understanding the pervasive and ongoing crisis of forever chemicals and corporate environmental negligence.

