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Super-Charged: How Outlaws, Hippies, And Scientists Reinvented Marijuana

SUPER **CHARGED**



How Outlaws, Hippies & Scientists
Reinvented *Marijuana*

JIM RENDON

READ BY MICHAEL HINTON



Synopsis

Marijuana has been illegal in the United States since 1937. Yet, thanks in large part to a loosely connected underground world of breeders, dealers, and smokers, there are currently more than 2000 varieties available. And since 1996, when California first passed legislation allowing for legalized medical marijuana, the underground has slowly surfaced, pushing what was once a decentralized, lawless world closer to the corporate world of business, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals. Super-Charged gets up close and personal with the people who have transformed this controversial drug. With personalities and backgrounds as diverse as the plant itself, the growers include a former Silicon Valley software entrepreneur, third-generation Humboldt, California, growers, a publicly traded pharmaceutical company, and the famous marijuana personality Jorge Cervantes. Jim Rendon takes listeners behind the scenes and into the homes and grow operations of the committed, quality-obsessed practitioners in the international underground industry responsible for creating today's super-charged cannabis.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 17 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Tantor Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 30, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B0711YPHYX

Best Sellers Rank: #18 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Gardening #30 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Essays #48 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Marijuana Cultivation

Customer Reviews

Quick read. Interesting topic and great narrative. The story moves quickly from person to person as the author journeys his way through the underground and mainstream world of cannabis. This is certainly not a book intended to serve as a botanical guide. It is a social history, albeit a modern social history of the cannabis plant as told through the lenses of players in the California growing

community and overseas. I will subtract two stars for lack of editing; the book looks like it is in need of another edit to remove redundant material.

The change in the nature of marijuana, and the marijuana business is a great tale of what entrepreneurs can do if government would only get out of the way. In my 50 years of pot smoking, the product has improved dramatically, the price has declined, and the availability and acceptance of the product has increased. I find it almost unbelievable that this has occurred while the government has been engaged in a self-proclaimed war on drugs, but then if the government was good at stopping people from doing what they want to do, we would have a very different world. The author does a great job of describing and humanizing the parallel economy, and society, that has evolved along with the product. As the Dead say: Oh what a long strange trip it has been, and this book is a good guide to how that trip has occurred.

Ripping good investigative journalism. A bit superficial on medicine and science. Still, you learn things you can find nowhere else.

Interesting facts for the most part

I didn't really like the book. Thought it was really opinionated and biased. I didn't like the material because of what was discussed in it. I thought after reading it... "Another person trying to get on the cannabis train." Honestly.

Great read! The book introduces some great characters and, in the process, shows the irony that those same home-schooled geneticists/ growers who played such an important role in making cannabis more potent now find themselves at the mercy of a legal markets and dispensaries whose product owes so much to them. I found myself sympathizing with the growers far more than I ever thought I could.

This is a very well-written story of how marijuana became a multi-billion dollar international "industry" operating outside of the usual channels of governments and businesses. It's amazing to read how an underground network of loosely associated enthusiasts created varieties of a famously illegal plant capable of producing over 20-percent dry weight of a single bioactive molecule (THC). Usual extractions of medicines derived from plants are on the order of a fraction of one-percent.

Medical applications of the myriad of cannabinoids in marijuana, such as THC, CBD, and CBG, are yet to be fully realized, yet amateur growers are largely responsible for this incredible feat. When governments come to their collective senses and allow serious research on medical applications, hundreds of varieties with various concentrations and combinations of medicinal cannabinoids will already be here and available to all. A broad-spectrum medicine not controlled by the government and pharmaceutical industry can be grown in back yards. Is it any wonder that it is still illegal? That the author was able to compile an excellent history via story-telling, and present botanical explanations of the breeding process with such easily understood text with flow is laudable.

... this book is a fascinating read. Every election cycle we get a little closer to having marijuana legalized on a national level and I want to know what we're in for. Pot is not my thing, but I do want to be an informed voter. After reading this book I feel like I have been given a grounding in a world that I knew nothing about. It's all here: the breeding, the growing, the selling, the politics. Changed the way I think about the whole subject, and I had fun reading it.

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