

TOMATOLAND

BARRY
ESTABROOK

READ BY PETE LARKIN

"With great skill and compassion, Estabrook explores the science, ingenuity, and human misery behind the modern American tomato."

—ERIC SCHLOSSER, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fast Food Nation*

Supermarket produce sections bulging with a year-round supply of perfectly round, bright red-orange tomatoes have become all but a national birthright. But in *Tomatoland*, investigative food journalist Barry Estabrook reveals the huge human and environmental cost of the \$5 billion fresh tomato industry. Fields are sprayed with more than one hundred different herbicides and pesticides. The relentless drive for low costs has fostered a thriving modern-day slave trade in the United States. How have we come to this point?

Estabrook traces the supermarket tomato from its birthplace in the deserts of Peru to the impoverished town of Immokalee, Florida, a.k.a. the tomato capital of the United States. He visits the laboratories of seedsmen, then moves on to commercial growers who operate on tens of thousands of acres, and eventually arrives on a hillside field in Pennsylvania, where he meets an obsessed farmer who produces delectable tomatoes for the nation's top restaurants. *Tomatoland* reads like a suspenseful whodunit as well as an exposé of today's agribusiness systems and the price we pay as a society when we take taste and thought out of our food purchases.

James Beard Award-winning journalist **Barry Estabrook** was a contributing editor at *Gourmet* magazine for eight years, writing investigative articles about where food comes from. He was the founding editor of *Eating Well* magazine and has written for the *New York Times Magazine*, *Men's Health*, *Audubon*, and the *Washington Post*.

Pete Larkin has worked in a wide variety of media. An award-winning on-camera host, he was the public address announcer for the New York Mets for five years and has done hundreds of commercials and narrations. His recordings include *The Pun Also Rises* by John Pollack and *Physics for Future Presidents* by Richard A. Muller.



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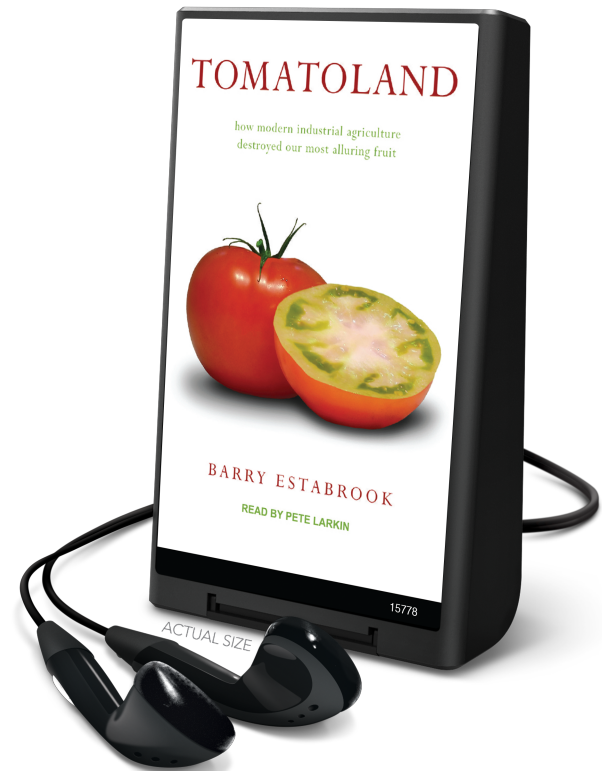
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