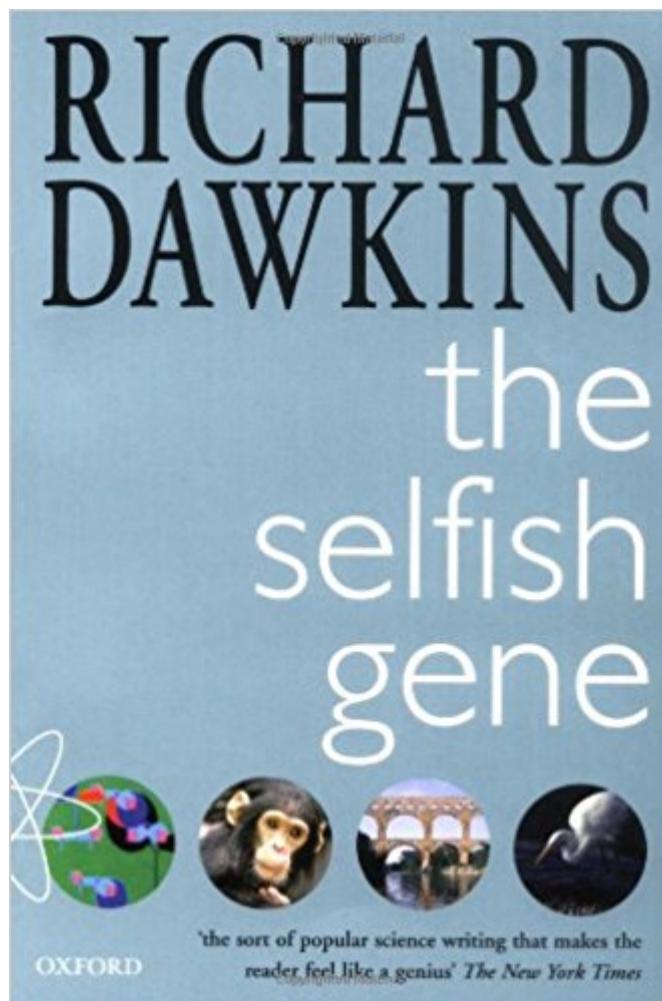


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The Selfish Gene (Popular Science)



Synopsis

Richard Dawkins' brilliant reformulation of the theory of natural selection has the rare distinction of having provoked as much excitement and interest outside the scientific community as within it. His theories have helped change the whole nature of the study of social biology, and have forced thousands of readers to rethink their beliefs about life. In his internationally bestselling, now classic volume, *The Selfish Gene*, Dawkins explains how the selfish gene can also be a subtle gene. The world of the selfish gene revolves around savage competition, ruthless exploitation, and deceit, and yet, Dawkins argues, acts of apparent altruism do exist in nature. Bees, for example, will commit suicide when they sting to protect the hive, and birds will risk their lives to warn the flock of an approaching hawk. This revised edition of Dawkins' fascinating book contains two new chapters. One, entitled "Nice Guys Finish First," demonstrates how cooperation can evolve even in a basically selfish world. The other new chapter, entitled "The Long Reach of the Gene," which reflects the arguments presented in Dawkins' *The Extended Phenotype*, clarifies the startling view that genes may reach outside the bodies in which they dwell and manipulate other individuals and even the world at large. Containing a wealth of remarkable new insights into the biological world, the second edition once again drives home the fact that truth is stranger than fiction.

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Customer Reviews

Inheriting the mantle of revolutionary biologist from Darwin, Watson, and Crick, Richard Dawkins

forced an enormous change in the way we see ourselves and the world with the publication of The Selfish Gene. Suppose, instead of thinking about organisms using genes to reproduce themselves, as we had since Mendel's work was rediscovered, we turn it around and imagine that "our" genes build and maintain us in order to make more genes. That simple reversal seems to answer many puzzlers which had stumped scientists for years, and we haven't thought of evolution in the same way since. Why are there miles and miles of "unused" DNA within each of our bodies? Why should a bee give up its own chance to reproduce to help raise her sisters and brothers? With a prophet's clarity, Dawkins told us the answers from the perspective of molecules competing for limited space and resources to produce more of their own kind. Drawing fascinating examples from every field of biology, he paved the way for a serious re-evaluation of evolution. He also introduced the concept of self-reproducing ideas, or memes, which (seemingly) use humans exclusively for their propagation. If we are puppets, he says, at least we can try to understand our strings. --Rob Lightner --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"A must-read for every student of the natural sciences. A classic....An excellent source for heated discussion..."--Paul Munro, University of Pittsburgh"Students find The Selfish Gene helps them understanding evolution and behavior in ways they didn't before. The book is exciting, provocative, well-written and allows students to think in evolutionary terms."--Janet Mann, Georgetown University"Well written with excellent examples, Dawkins presents a clear text of Behavior Genetics ideas."--Miriam R. Linver, University of Arizona

2017/08This is the 3rd time I read this book. Every time I come back reading it, I see something I didn't realize that it's there for a reason (from previous reading experience). The book is written in a way that left the reader curiosity gradually getting bigger and want to know more and more. You'll also see how Prof. Dawkins' different approach on seeing things. Keep in mind that this book is written long time ago, probably before you were born. You'll be amazed by the facts that you experience in your life predicted exactly how Prof. Dawkins selfish gene theory explained; and yet even if he didn't demand a dogmatic understanding but you'll find it's hard to deny and be critical on things explained and written so many years ago. Each chapter you read, highly correlated, strongly supporting arguments, evidences on ideas in the other chapters, explains the manifesto of your genes. I keep going back and forth chapters to chapters just to drop my jaw and think "omgeee he is right". It's brilliant. MUST READ!!! I wish I had read it long time ago when it's first published. For all of you who never read this book, I challenge you to proof him wrong.

Dawkins writes this book in a very clear and easy to understand way. This is good for someone like me, who prior to reading the book had little to no knowledge on genetics, or anything else on the subject. While his writing can be a little dry, as I expected it would be from a book on this subject, it was never a struggle to get through. He writes it in an accommodating way that allows those less knowledgeable on the subject to understand what is going on, without any difficult to understand lingo on the subject that I would perhaps struggle with. In each chapter he focuses on a subject to help us better understand what he is trying to tell us about our genetic tendencies, but he does this in a way that is a little unusual. Many of the chapter's focuses are on things that are unrelated to the specific topic of the book. While there are things that are related, like how DNA is formed, to more unrelated ones like what cases certain sexual partners are attracted to one another. This works pretty well and helps to bring his point across. All in all, the book left me feeling better educated on a range of topics addressed in the book, as well as in the selfishness of our genes.

You definitely want to get the 30th Anniversary version, for updates to original concepts. Although, I am definitely a layman, from a scholars mindset, I was able to follow the concepts being laid out in the book, for the most part, and found it amazing that in essence "we" are merely vehicles evolved out of the primordial gene pool, around our genes to protect them, in order for them to continue "replicating". I am sure as science continues to learn more and more about genes and DNA we may see further tweaks, but for the most part, Richard Dawkins theories have stood the test of time (or at least the past 30 years, during which more research has been done around these topics).

I have to say that, this book as the author mentions, its a book related to zoology, I'm a student who have been largely interested in genetics and its behaviours. And the way he goes to explain how altruism is not really related to group benefit necessarily its compelling. I love it.

Clear and entertaining explanation of one of the two most important scientific breakthrough in natural sciences, the other being Einstein's General Relativity. Dawkins does not claim to have everything figured out but their arguments are very convincing... it's a must read!

This book gives a me a whole different perspective of viewing the world, humans/animals, religions, culture, everything. How we are driven consciously/unconsciously by our genes, how relationship, sex, society and our entire value system are built upon. I have to say this book changed my life. If

you only read 10 books in your adult life, this is the top 3 on the list.

Thank you

Good read!

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