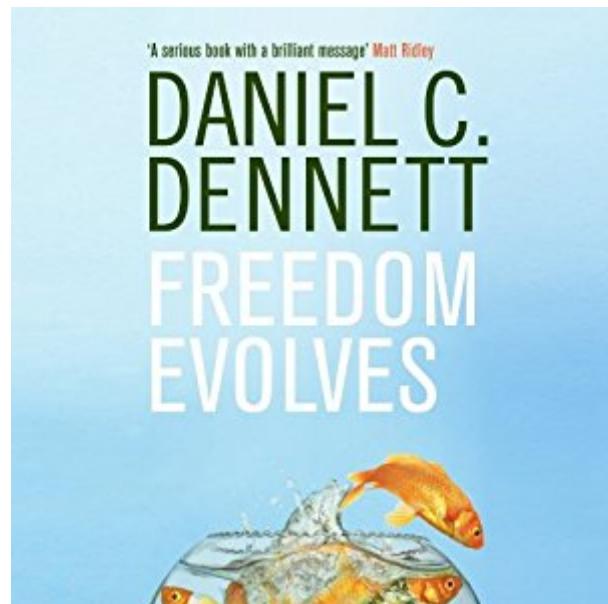


The book was found

Freedom Evolves



Synopsis

Can there be freedom and free will in a deterministic world? Renowned philosopher Daniel Dennett emphatically answers "yes!" Using an array of provocative formulations, Dennett sets out to show how we alone among the animals have evolved minds that give us free will and morality. Weaving a richly detailed narrative, Dennett explains in a series of strikingly original arguments - drawing upon evolutionary biology, cognitive neuroscience, economics, and philosophy - that far from being an enemy of traditional explorations of freedom, morality, and meaning, the evolutionary perspective can be an indispensable ally. In *Freedom Evolves*, Dennett seeks to place ethics on the foundation it deserves: a realistic, naturalistic, potentially unified vision of our place in nature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To those who are short on time (and money) here are the 309 pages: In each CONCRETE situation/moment determinism DEFINES an ONLY ONE POSSIBLE outcome (human action, thought, emotion, decision including)- the one that did, is going or will realize. But IF the situation would have been DIFFERENT (even SLIGHTLY) deterministic outcome could or should be different also. Thus when she looks back in time and does NOT (or don't want) notice the difference between actual and imaginable situations she thinks/believes that there had been multiple choices and that it had been her FREE WILL to choose the one that did realize actually; and she rejoices or blames herself. As circumstances in her (and all mankind) life are full with subtle nuances she (and others) take for granted (or pretend to think) that the nuances do not matter and that she really IS a Free Will "boss" of her life and must take a full responsibility of her actions (which incidentally is important

as it WILL have a deterministic effect on future events). Read an excellent review by Royce E. Buehler below and buy this book at a good discount.

Dennet is brilliant, as usual.

All I can say is "Wow." I admit to struggling with this excellent book for much of the first half, then, after digesting as much as I could, the last half was a bit easier. Dennett does his usual outstanding job of defining and carefully leading us through the many different arguments around his controversial topic of Free Will. Having read both *Consciousness Explained* and *Darwin's Dangerous Ideas*, I was really looking forward to this book as well. Little did I know that it would so challenge my focus and ingrained ideas about determinism and free will. Dennett shows that determinism does not imply inevitability. As if that isn't enough to struggle with, he then goes on to show that indeterminism doesn't give us free will as most people argue it does. And then, to add insult to injury, Dennett shows clearly how there are real options in a deterministic world. Free will becomes "real, but it is not a preexisting feature of our existence, like the law of gravity. It is also not what tradition declares it to be: a God-like power to exempt oneself from the causal fabric of the physical world. It is an evolved creation of human activity and beliefs, and it is just as real as such other human creations as music and money. And even more valuable." Since I speak and lecture on Ethics as a Process, I was most interested in Dennett's view on ethics. He gave me much to think about as he states that: "I have not sought to replace the voluminous work in ethics with some Darwinian alternative, but rather to place that work on the foundation it deserves: a realistic, naturalistic, potentially unified vision of our place in nature." No doubt I will have to return to this book again soon. And there is also no doubt that I will enjoy it even more the next time around and learn perhaps as much as my first time through. This is definitely a five out of five on my review scale!

The major questions of human existence treated with plain language and illuminating propositions. Critical reviews on key concepts such as determinism, naturalism and freedom.

excellent!

Excellent book.

This book does a magnificent job of presenting the idea of freedom in a mathematical format that

simply cannot be refuted. Are we determined mechanisms in a determined universe? Dennet says yes. But he argues effectively that this does NOT mean that we are fatally doomed to any particular future. He says that we are as free in our will as we could ask to be, and the reason is that so much is determined! Our nature allows so much to take part in our decisions that it ultimately gives us control; any other way, and we'd be simply be response mechanisms. What a brilliant argument he presents in this masterpiece!

This is a more accessible book for non-specialists than most of Dennett's writings. Without a belief in god and knowing that there is no soul, Dennett helps us to understand that there is a self. He has the beginnings of the right answer to the question "What is the individual self?" The answer he gives is that it is the center of narrative identity.

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