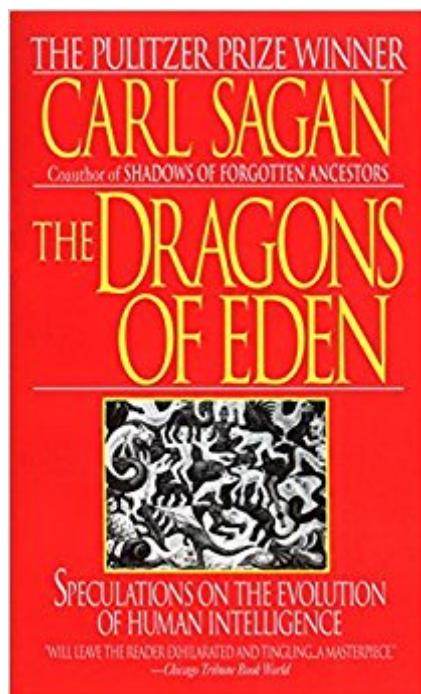


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The Dragons Of Eden: Speculations On The Evolution Of Human Intelligence



Synopsis

Dr. Carl Sagan takes us on a great reading adventure, offering his vivid and startling insight into the brain of man and beast, the origin of human intelligence, the function of our most haunting legends--and their amazing links to recent discoveries."A history of the human brain from the big bang, fifteen billion years ago, to the day before yesterday...It's a delight."THE NEW YORK TIMES

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

About nine years ago, in about an eight-month span, I read *Cosmos*, *Demon-Haunted World*, *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*, *Dragons of Eden*, *Pale Blue Dot*, *Contact*, and *Broca's Brain*. That period of time changed my life forever. Recently, I decided to bring a more educated and critical mind to *Dragons of Eden*, and I now realize why I read it so fast the first time: lucid, thought-provoking ... this is the kind of book, if there is such a one, that you sprinkle salt on and gobble up in one bite. Sagan was not anti-religion, he was pro-common sense. I challenge any intelligent, educated person to deny the essential truth of evolution after reading this (of course, the people who are most in need of reading this would never pick it up in the first place; Sagan, as they say, is preaching to the choir). He proceeds in his writing like he knows his general premise is correct (that humans DID evolve from lower life-forms) and he gently guides those who have doubts about evolution through valid arguments made simple, that appear to the critical and careful reader to be self-evident. But *Dragons of Eden* is not a polemic against creationism: in fact, the book is chock-full of biblical imagery and mythology, but is used for what should be its true purpose, to understand where humans have been, not where they are or are yet to go. Brilliantly illustrated, the

Dragons of Eden rewards all who read it with a sense of enlightenment. Only the segment on computer technology towards the end of the book seems dated (but humorously quaint). After 29 years, this is a stupendous feat! It just goes to show that in 1976, Sagan was so far ahead of nonscientists that we are still catching up to his vivid examples of the evolution of human intelligence.

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