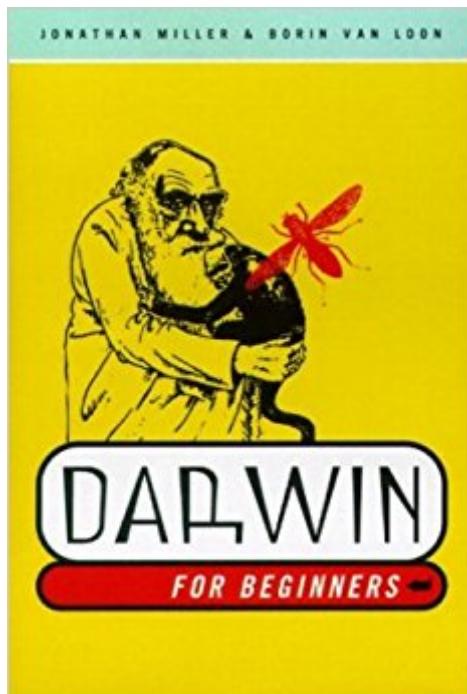


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Darwin For Beginners



Synopsis

The Beginner Books -- "Their cartoon format and irreverent wit make difficult ideas accessible and entertaining." -- Newsday taking us through the upheavals in biological thought which made The Origins of Species possible, Jonathan Miller introduces us to that odd revolutionary, Charles Darwin -- a remarkably timid man who spent most of his life in seclusion; a semi-invalid riddled with doubts, fearing the controversy his theories might unleash; yet also the man who finally undermined belief in God's creation. Along the way we meet a fascinating cast of characters: Darwin's scientific predecessors, his contemporaries (including Alfred Russell Wallace, whose anticipation of natural selection forced Darwin to publish), his opponents, and his successors whose work in modern genetics provided necessary modifications to Darwin's own work. Splendidly illustrated, this clever, witty, highly informative book is the perfect introduction to Darwin's life and thought.

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Customer Reviews

The Beginner Books -- "Their cartoon format and irreverent wit make difficult ideas accessible and entertaining." -- Newsday taking us through the upheavals in biological thought which made The Origins of Species possible, Jonathan Miller introduces us to that odd revolutionary, Charles Darwin -- a remarkably timid man who spent most of his life in seclusion; a semi-invalid riddled with doubts, fearing the controversy his theories might unleash; yet also the man who finally undermined belief in God's creation. Along the way we meet a fascinating cast of characters: Darwin's scientific predecessors, his contemporaries (including Alfred Russell Wallace, whose anticipation of natural

selection forced Darwin to publish), his opponents, and his successors whose work in modern genetics provided necessary modifications to Darwin's own work. Splendidly illustrated, this clever, witty, highly informative book is the perfect introduction to Darwin's life and thought.

Author Sir JONATHAN MILLER is an English physician, who came to prominence in the 1950s as a specialist in neurology, but transitioned to acting in a comedy revue (Beyond the Fringe) in the 1960s. He began directing operas in the 1970s for the National Theatre and later ran the Old Vic Theatre. He wrote/presented more than a dozen BBC documentaries, and is known as a TV personality/public intellectual throughout Britain and the United States. BORIN VAN LOON is a British illustrator and comic book artist, best known for his illustrations for the *Introducing...* series of graphic books on complex subjects. He is an author, collagist, and surrealist painter, and has worked for a wide variety of clients in editorial, publishing and promotion. He has created an eclectic collage/cartoon mural on the subject of DNA and genetics for the Health Matters Gallery in London's Science Museum.

This book is not exactly as the title claims 'Darwin for Beginners'. A more appropriate title would be 'Darwin for Beginners who are frustrated with reading other complicated books, but managed to get crude understanding of evolution from it.' Whew! I know, long title. But that is the truth. This well illustrated book does not approach the theory of evolution directly, but instead presents the idea from the point of view of people (biologists) proposing and discussing plausible explanations for the variation in life - explanations which sometimes reinforced and sometimes conflicted with one another. To put it another way, it explains how the idea of evolution had evolved and was accepted among the scientific community. In a very simple and easy to understand manner it gives us a window into the thinking of scientists of that time.

This book has a unique way of telling the story of Charles Darwin through a sort of cartoon strip. This is a great introduction to the story of Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. I would highly recommend this for anyone interested in the theory of evolution and the history behind it. This book would be a great introduction for children or those wanting to know more about this topic.

Amazing

This is a great lightweight book on Darwin's life and the development of the idea of evolution.

Though it would be a shame to stop an exploration of natural selection here, it's a great starting point because it provides the context in which Darwin's thoughts came to be. It also discusses objections and criticisms of natural selection, how it has been misunderstood and abused, and how Darwin himself treated problematic aspects of the theory. I don't know that the illustrations and such are very revealing or useful, but they definitely make the book easy and fun to read, though the last few pages become more text-based. Overall, it's a well executed introduction to a very influential and oft misinterpreted person. But though this book is for beginners, please don't stay one... go and read "Origin of Species."

No-nonsense discussion on the Theory of Evolution, including a look at the people, places, and events that shaped its derivation. It provides a concise summary of Charles Darwin, the man and the scientist, including the dispelling of myths concerning his alleged anti-religious bent. The book is an easy read, yet is packed with factoids and information that provides an essential basis for evolutionary thought. While the book cover gives an appearance of child literature, young and old will find it enlightening and helpful.

This lively, clever, humorous little book IS accurate -- "scientifically correct," in the words of Dr. Tim M. Berra of Ohio State University (author of "Evolution and the Myth of Creationism," 1990, Stanford University Press). I agree with him that it would be a great gift for students to give to their parents to help them understand evolution. The illustrations, many of which are worth a thousand words, are at once engaging, informative, and great fun. Solid history and science in superlative format.

Real cheap, childish attempt. Should be ashamed to have on . Total waste of money. Shame on me.

An illustrated narrative tells, all too briefly, the story of Darwin the man and his revolutionary discovery of how the living world came to be. Thanks to its amusing, but informative, cartoon style exegesis, this little gem is a uniquely powerful antidote to creationist propaganda in the classroom. The best introduction to Darwin and his ideas you're likely to see.

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