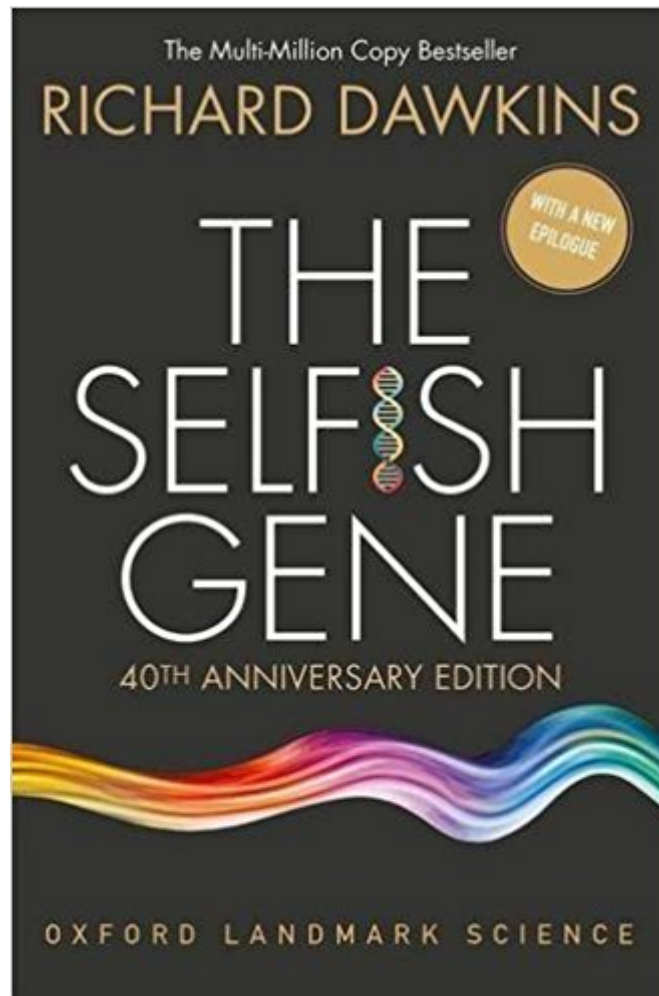




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The Selfish Gene: 40th Anniversary Edition (Oxford Landmark Science)



Synopsis

The million copy international bestseller, critically acclaimed and translated into over 25 languages. As influential today as when it was first published, *The Selfish Gene* has become a classic exposition of evolutionary thought. Professor Dawkins articulates a gene's eye view of evolution - a view giving centre stage to these persistent units of information, and in which organisms can be seen as vehicles for their replication. This imaginative, powerful, and stylistically brilliant work not only brought the insights of Neo-Darwinism to a wide audience, but galvanized the biology community, generating much debate and stimulating whole new areas of research. Forty years later, its insights remain as relevant today as on the day it was published. This 40th anniversary edition includes a new epilogue from the author discussing the continuing relevance of these ideas in evolutionary biology today, as well as the original prefaces and foreword, and extracts from early reviews. Oxford Landmark Science books are 'must-read' classics of modern science writing which have crystallized big ideas, and shaped the way we think.

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Customer Reviews

It is a shame that this is required reading. I had some reservations about writing this review as I am a fan of Dawkins and the circle of academics he is grouped with. But I must have standards and not break from them because of a bias. It should be noted that this review might not be understood by some who are not familiar with the theory, my apologies for this. I will also apologies for my own wordiness, though to my credit I'm not a world renown author who has been writing for over 40

years...There are three main knocks I have against this book. The first being it's wordiness, the second being lack of references, and the third being lack of evidence when there might actually be some. Dawkins addressed the comments of previous editions being too simple in explaining genetics. I am not referring to this type of explanation. I am referring to a different kind of wordiness- For example in the chapter Genesmanship, Dawkins went to great lengths explaining why individuals do not favor others who are not related to them when it is obvious they share some genes. He could have simply stated that one or two genes aren't likely to overpower millions voting to favor someone who is related. As a related note, I wonder why Dawkins never listed examples of exactly how much favoritism kin generally give each other and how much this changes when families are put together that are not blood related, adoptions, marriage with kids from previous partners, etc... Every chapter seemed to be begging for both more real world examples and simpler wording. The second knock is lack of referencing. I know this is a book explaining a theory, which I give leeway for. But I wanted everything that could be referenced to be referenced.

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