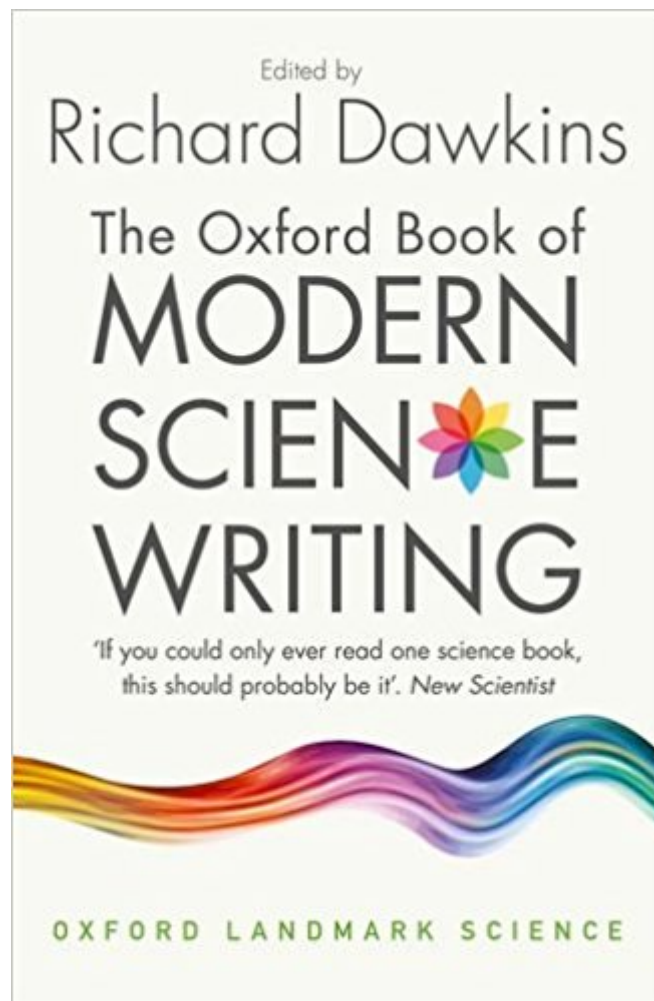


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The Oxford Book Of Modern Science Writing (Oxford Landmark Science)



Synopsis

Boasting almost one hundred articles and book excerpts, *The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing* is a breathtaking celebration of the finest writing by scientists--the best such collection in print--packed with scintillating essays on everything from "The Discovery of Lucy" to "The Terror and Vastness of the Universe." Edited by best-selling author and renowned scientist Richard Dawkins, this sterling collection brings together exhilarating pieces by a who's who of scientists and science writers, including Stephen Pinker, Stephen Jay Gould, Martin Gardner, Albert Einstein, Julian Huxley, and many dozens more. Readers will find excerpts from bestsellers such as Douglas R. Hofstadter's *Gödel, Escher, Bach*, Francis Crick's *Life Itself*, Loren Eiseley's *The Immense Journey*, Daniel Dennett's *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, and Rachel Carson's *The Sea Around Us*. There are classic essays ranging from J.B.S. Haldane's "On Being the Right Size" and Garrett Hardin's "The Tragedy of the Commons" to Alan Turing's "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" and Albert Einstein's famed New York Times article on "Relativity." And readers will also discover lesser-known but engaging pieces such as Lewis Thomas's "Seven Wonders of Science," J. Robert Oppenheimer on "War and Physicists," and Freeman Dyson's memoir of studying under Hans Bethe. A must-read volume for all science buffs, *The Oxford Book of Modern Science Writing* is a rich and vibrant anthology that captures the poetry and excitement of scientific thought and discovery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Impressive...There's no fluff here, it's all solid scientific thought, research and writing." --Wired.com

Richard Dawkins is the first holder of the Charles Simonyi Chair of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford, and is a Fellow of New College, Oxford. His bestselling books include *The Selfish Gene*, *The Blind Watchmaker*, *River Out of Eden*, *Climbing Mount Improbable*, *Unweaving the Rainbow*, and *The Ancestor's Tale*. Dawkins is a Fellow of both the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Literature.

What a fine compilation of texts from witty scientists; a bunch of smart people sharing thrilling breakthroughs and the means they used to do so. This may stretch your view of nature widely together with a boost on your itching curiosity. Not to mention that my reading list was generously updated.

Love the book, but I'm giving it only four stars because it was somewhat damaged.

I am using this edition in my English course of Science and Nature writing. We've started with the "What Scientist Study" and the subject matter is intense and very critical in discussion. This is definitely a strong and precise description of scientists and the fields in which they credit.

I own a couple of Dawkins' books: "The God Delusion," "Evolution...", and "The Blind Watchmaker" (the latter is still unread). While he is a fantastic debater and critical thinker in his own right, this book represents an amazing anthology of illustrative scientific writing. I work for a university and find myself writing about faculty's scientific work often. I bought this book and "A Field Guide for Science Writers" at the same time. While the field guide is directly applicable to my vocation, I had a hard time putting down Dawkins' book. It is an amazing collection of intriguing and, at times, exceptionally elegant writing. I have read several of the selected works already and now have several more on my read pile. Another reviewer gave this book lesser ratings because the binding was tight. I agree. If we are talking about the physical production, I would say that part of that is because the pages are sturdy - which is a good thing. The only caveat I would offer is that without the context of the entirety of the selected works, a moderate amount of scientific literacy is necessary to fully appreciate some of the selections. If you enjoy learning and researching the things you don't already understand, even people who aren't well versed in science will appreciate the selections. Everyone should appreciate the prosaic treatment of such complex subjects. If you enjoy science or good writing, this is a must have, IMO.

It is a testament to Richard Dawkins's impeccable selection of writings that I ploughed through nearly four-hundred pages of isolated essays and extracts in about a week. His introductions are suitably brief and he understands that a short passage on context and some obligatory praise for the author is enough as these writings largely speak for themselves. Although it is (as has already been mentioned in a few other reviews) a bit heavy on evolutionary biology there is enough variety to keep one happily reading. I should note that another big plus for anyone with a budding interest in science is that Dawkins has put together something of a tasting plate of authors and styles. This book has lead me to the works of Richard Feynman, Daniel Dennett and the heroic Carl Sagan and there are no doubt more to come.

This excellent compendium nicely gives the lie to all sorts of literary, religious, and pseudoscientific philistines who fancy themselves to be on some sort of higher spiritual plane than offered by a naturalistic worldview. All of these samplings are good, and many are inspirational. Please just enjoy these readings. My main quibble would be Dawkins's self-effacement in not including any of his own writings, perhaps from **Unweaving the Rainbow.** And maybe a Richard Feynman selection, or Michael Faraday's description of a burning candle. There is no blame in this, because scientific literature offers so many gems that it would be impossible to include them all in a book of reasonable length. May we hope for a second volume?

This is an excellent compendium of science writings that span back to the days of Darwin. Dawkins covers and inspires with his selection.

This book is proof that Richard Dawkins really does cherish his role as "Professor for public understanding of science". He really does want the world to learn and not only from his mouth. The book itself is a compilation of OTHER science writers about THEIR work. Personally, my interests lie in biology, but this book has opened my eyes to the world of astronomy, physics and.. dare I say.. Mathematics? Consider this book as a greatest hits CD of all the best musicians of this century, its worth it to read and the actual quality of the book itself is awesome. Very thick, quality pages. This book makes me want to learn more, so In my eyes, it is an inspiration.

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