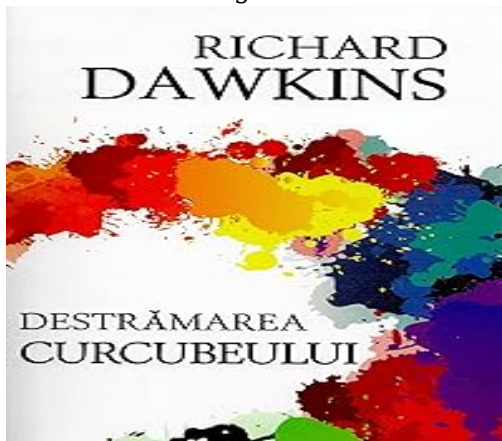


Destrămarea curcubeului știință, iluzie și fascinație By Richard Dawkins Can this book change someone who does not find joy in science? I would say no because in the first place this will be picked up by someone who likes if not loves science. The book is particularly enjoyable in the first half and the last chapter where you do get a sense of wonder and amazement but the middle is too technical and frankly difficult to read. Can I enjoy science like I enjoy music? Are there specific things which I should do to enjoy science just like I enjoy listening to music without knowing anything about musical theory? Dawkins does not answer that. On one side there is a lot of pop-sci content that one should stay away from but there are a lot of other beautiful collaborations between journalists scientists and mathematicians ( Shout out to Brady and his channels- SixtySymbols Numberphile Computerphile PeriodicVideos etc. Richard Dawkins Dawkins makes a strong case for those of us who believe that scientific literacy not only does not have to come at the price of aesthetic appreciation but can actually enhance it. The sense of wonder we feel when watching the sun set should if anything be enhanced if we are aware of the physics of light reaching our retina the 93 million miles the light had to travel to reach us the ability of the light to at times be refracted into a rainbow etc. Science can also correct bad poetry or metaphors; he does a good job of showing why an understanding of the arbitrary position of stars' light as it reaches us should argue against astrology and is as unrelenting against numerology postmodernism and religious fundamentalism. My only gripes about the book were his tendency to assume the reader has as much knowledge of and fondness for Keats and Byron as he seems to have and his apparent impatience for those who lose themselves in their metaphors looking for meaning in random physical events. I believe only a minority of people can tolerate the anxiety that comes from confronting their smallness in the universe a universe that if it is ruled by a deity does not apparently need to be (as Stephen Hawking's so aptly illustrated in a Brief History of Time). William James once said in 1910: There are more worms unattached to hooks than impaled upon them; therefore on the whole says Nature to her fishy children bite at every worm and take your chances. Dawkins largely achieves his aim: to show that an understanding of the science of phenomena can create a sense of wonder equal to mythic or poetic metaphor with a concomitant gain in understanding and an increased desire to know still more and to look askance at delusions that are unsupportable in light of what we know and continue to learn. Keats no mean explorer of knowledge in spite of his dismissal of Newton's optics as an unpoetic unweaving of the rainbow would I would bet enjoy this book mightily once he became current with the growth of scientific understanding since his time. Richard Dawkins



Am putea spune oare ca Newton a „destramat curcubeul” reducandu-l la culorile sale prismatice dupa cum sustinea Keats? Cu alte cuvinte a sfaramat el frumusetea? Departe de asa ceva afirma renumitul om de stiinta Richard Dawkins; „destramarea” prilejuita de cercetarea lui Newton este cheia unei mari parti a astronomiei si a minunatei poezii a cosmologiei moderne. Folosindu-se de proza expresiva patrunzatoare si atragatoare ce i-a dat renumele de care se bucura Dawkins discuta cele mai importante si mai graitoare subiecte din stiinta moderna de la astronomie si genetica la limbaj si realitatea virtuala combinandu-le intr-o afirmare si o recunoastere fara precedent a aplecarii umane catre descoperire si mirare. Richard Dawkins a fost menit sa scrie aceasta carte: o stralucita evaluare a naturii (si a denaturarii) stiintei un tribut adresat stiintei nu pentru ca este

folositoare ci pentru ca este inaltatoare. Este unul dintre lucrurile care fac intr-adevar ca viata sa merite traita si ne da acest sentiment chiar si mai eficient atunci cand reuseste sa ne convinga ca timpul pe care-l avem de trait este finit. " Richard Dawkins Destramarea curcubeului Destrămarea curcubeuluiștiință iluzie și fascinațieOne of the Goodreads reviews on this book relates simply that the writer of the review had been on a cruise ship with the author prior to reading the book. But when he wasn't losing me in a web of convoluted explanation he was was looking down his nose at me like a curmudgeonly professor who is inordinately piqued that an average undergraduate had the audacity to drop by during office hours and ask a stupid question. That said I learned a lot and while I did not become a convert to his thesis that science can be as beautiful as poetry I will admit that were my brain more suited to the beauty of say probability I would have been in ecstasy while perusing the pages of this tome. Like his analogy about how expansive the earth's past is; Fling your arms wide in an expansive gesture to span all of evolution from its origin at your left fingertip to today at your right fingertip. As for recorded history; as for the Sumerians the Babylonians the Jewish patriarchs the dynasties of Pharohs the legions of Rome the Christian Fathers the Laws of the Medes and Persians which never change; as for Troy and the Greeks Helen and Achilles and Agamemnon dead; as for Napolean and Hitler the Beatles and Bill Clinton they and everyone that knew them are blown away in the dust from one light stroke of a nail file. But when Dawkins DOES lower himself to my level and speak my language he pulls me right in; his discussion on coincidence and how in our multi-media age we are more likely to see a pattern where there is none was eye-opening. And his fascinating riff on the fact that science is an affront to common sense made me smile in satisfaction; For example every time you drink a glass of water you are imbibing at least one molecule that passed through the bladder of Oliver Cromwell . Rather he could have made his case for why his way of thinking is a valid and valuable addition to the layers of awareness that allow us to continually find beauty in our universe. Richard Dawkins Written a few years prior to The God Delusion this book serves as a useful bridge for anyone familiar with Dawkins's atheist output but unfamiliar with his more scientific titles. Well he may not be cuddly and I may not agree with his approach to everything but for the most part I find him genial honorable and good-natured and this book - essentially a non-religious celebration of life and the scientific method - displays his warmth and humanity in bucketloads as it reveals how a greater understanding of science enlarges - rather than diminishes - our sense of wonder. Spre deosebire de toate celelalte pe care le-am citit deși mi s-au părut la fel de interesante din punct de vedere al informațiilor prezentate Destrămarea curcubeului este cea mai filosofică și lirică. Dar chiar și când aflăm modul cum funcționează fenomenele din jurul nostru chiar și cele care ne inspiră frumusețe și venerație precum curcubeul și stelele sau mintea umană răspunsurile științei nu distrug lirismul ci ele inspiră la fel de multă mirare și sublim ca în fața oricărei opere de artă. Și că dacă ei și-ar folosi talentul poetic pentru a transpune în versuri explicația acestor fenomene tangoul între știință și poezie ar fi cu mult mai frumos decât orice altă explicație inventată ... Nu pot decât să fiu de acord în totalitate cu această perspectivă a lui Dawkins. Însă dincolo de teza principală a cărții așa cum ne-a obișnuit mereu autorul avem șansa și să descoperim și multe idei interesante din universul biologiei dar și al informaticii și fizicii. Închei cu câteva citate care mi se par că sunt cele mai grăitoare pentru mesajul cărții: "Creierul este o masă de materie de circa 1300g pe care o puteți ține în mână și care poate concepe un univers de o sută de miliarde de ani-lumină în diametru. DiamondIsaac Asimov ofera o ilustrare dramatica: este ca si cum toata materia din univers ar fi un bob de nisip asezat in mijlocul unei camere goale cu lungimea inaltimea si latimea de 32 km. Si totusi in acelasi timp este ca si cum acel bob unic de nisip a fost pulverizat intr-o mie de milioane de milioane de milioane de fragmente pentru ca acesta e numarul aproximativ de stele din univers. My problem with this is threefold:1) Dawkins is assuming that logic and scientific fact would have persuasive power for anyone believing in what he calls superstition or ad hoc magic. I can't say for sure but personally I would be surprised if a diehard believer in ESP or astrology would be interested in reading Dawkins' explanation of Fraunhofer lines the electromagnetic spectrum and other fairly hardcore sciencey topics that fill the first third of this book. 3) Dawkins (I don't mean to be unkind but I can't think of any other to state the fact)

embarrasses himself when he wanders out of the world of science and into literature and the humanities. Better books on science and wonder that I'd recommend: Richard Dawkins The first half or so was amazing and the rest was still really interesting (especially the end) if not quite as exhilarating. He is also an accomplished evolutionary scientist as is visible from his other works. Can this book change someone who wants to know if he can find joy in science? Assuming that he knows SOME bits of science already, People believe in superstitions and other mystical abstractions particularly because they find solace in it: I know a friend who found solace in reading stories at his lowest points. I wonder what Dawkins thinks about the boom in scientific educational content on the Internet today. Man I wish there existed some book which was coauthored by both Dawkins and Bertrand Russell, The author gives one of the most cogent explanations I have read for our propensity to overweight anecdotal statistically insignificant events, Richard Dawkins Enjoyed this book a lot especially the chapters on how humans delude themselves or allow others to delude them including newspapers that include astrology columns, That seems very fitting for today's world where politicians yell fake news if they don't like the story about themselves. The final chapter is really great as well about memes and language, Richard Dawkins Dawkins begins by bemoaning the fact that poets too many of them and for too long have overlooked the goldmine of inspiration offered by science. I recently judged a poetry contest based on a science theme: The poems were a pleasure to read because I rarely see such a theme: Defense lawyers want to get their clients off and prosecutors want to convict someone. Especially when you consider how flawed human visual identification is: Children are not only gullible to what their parents tell them but this extreme early gullibility is followed by equally obstinate subsequent unshakability, Like the Jesuits used to say Give me the child for his first seven years and I'll give you the man: As much as I love Stephen Jay Gould Richard Dawkins's critique is right on the money and worth reading for lovers of science: Same goes for his critique of Franz De Waal and Margaret Mead: Miriam Rothschild speaks of a worm which lives exclusively under the eyelids of the hippopotamus and feeds upon its tears: Diamond: The brain is a three pound mass you can hold in your hand that can conceive of a universe a hundred billion light-years across: Richard Dawkins As a person unlearned--well okay let's be honest frankly ignorant--in science I enjoyed this wide-ranging book. The part on bad science metaphors is not as interesting as the rest and serves simply as an attack on a view of evolution on which he disagrees. For the interested non-scientist this book is engaging and a useful primer on many topics, Misterele nu isi pierd poezia pentru ca sunt rezolvate: solutia este de multe ori mai frumoasa decat enigma descoperind mistere si mai adanci, „Sentimentul de fascinatie reverentioasa pe care ni-l insufla stiinta este una dintre cele mai inalte experiente de care psihicul uman este capabil. Este o pasiune estetica profunda comparabila cu cea nascuta de cea mai aleasa muzica si poezie, When she DID read the book she regretted that she didn't do some kind of small violence to his person while on the cruise with him, Certainly I have a brain not suited to the exigencies of science. we arrived by being born and we didn't burst conscious into the world but accumulated awareness gradually through babyhood. The fact that we slowly apprehend our world rather than suddenly discover it should not subtract from its wonder, But condescension does not encourage me to become more aware, It encourages me to shrug and go back to my music or my poetry or my philosophy: All of that said there were several aha moments; some I-never-knew-that-before! aha some I-never-thought-about-it-that-way-before! aha and some I-had-totally-forgotten-about-that! aha. All the way across your midline to well past your right shoulder life consists of nothing but bacteria. Many-celled invertebrate life flowers somewhere around your right elbow. The dinosaurs originate in the middle of your right palm and go extinct around your last finger joint: The whole story of Homo sapiens and our predecessor Homo erectus is contained in the thickness of one nail-clipping: But that's because it takes an idea and sketches it with metaphor and examples that are accessible and understandable to my way of thinking: beauty is that to which the human mind responds at its deepest and most profound, Of course I left out the beginning of the quote which talks about math and how it relates to nature, I understand why it's beautiful to those whose brains process math differently: Does that make my idea of beauty any less valid? Dawkins would undoubtedly say Yes. Then he'd kick me out

of his office and grumble discontentedly as he adjusted his suspenders and wandered back to his desk, there are many more molecules in a glass of water than there are glasses of water in the sea . solid matter even a hard diamond consists almost entirely of empty space: Another riff that gave me pause was Dawkins' take on God's covenant with Abraham; He didn't promise Abraham eternal life as an individual , 'And I will make my covenant between me and thee and will multiply thee exceedingly . And I will make thee exceeding fruitful and I will make nations of thee and kings shall come out of thee. ' Abraham was left in no doubt that the future lay with his seed not his individuality: Someone with the title Professor of the Public Understanding of Science should really like average thoughtful humans a bit more than Dawkins seems to: And if one is going to celebrate the diversity of life one should also celebrate the diversity of ways of looking at life: But to discount and belittle the other ways of finding beauty was a mistake, He should have calculated that in some sort of equation before he published, His critics often like to portray him as arrogant hectoring (or that other old chestnut: 'shrill') and overly absorbed with the cold clinical application of the scientific method: Richard Dawkins Cred că aceasta a devenit cartea mea preferată de la Dawkins, Ceea ce de fapt este și ceea ce urmărește Dawkins: să prezinte argumente în favoarea poeticiții științei, Contrar a ceea ce mulți cred știința nu distruge magia lumii sau cum ar spune Blaga ea nu distruge "corola de minuni a lumii", Ea revelă universul din care facem parte în toată măreția lui și expune misterele care ne vin în întâmpinare când încercăm să-l descifrăm: Dawkins argumentează că Keats și toți ceilalți poeți care gândesc asemenea lui greșesc când îl acuză pe Newton că a distrus magia curcubeului atunci când l-a explicat: Și mie mi se pare că lumea pe care ne-o prezintă știința este una fascinantă și cuceritoare și am fost prinsă de farmecul ei încă de când am descoperit astronomia: Acestea sunt unele dintre faptele astronomiei si puteti vedea cat sunt de frumoase, Learned heaps about the workings of light and colour sound and hearing, was even reminded that the idea of superstitious behavior in animals is attributed to Skinner (and not sadly my own idea). Dawkins does a fine job of explaining complex ideas clearly and well: Sadly what feels like way more than half of the book was spent painstakingly trying to argue people out of believing in astrology ghosts remote viewing etc, (And really why would it? I think believers would be the first to point out that this sort of thing is beyond the purview of science: )2) Dawkins assumes that these deluded people are reading his book, So he ends up preaching to the choir -- and there is something rather uncomfortably self-righteous about this, Critiques of the scientific accuracy of Wordsworth poems or a fantasy story by Mark Twain are cringe-making, I think his whole crusade against religion has been a waste of a good scientific mind and has done a lot of damage to the discussion: His aggressive dismissive and disrespectful approach has only put people on the defensive and set an unfortunate example: Instead I felt like I was getting lectured at length for something I didn't even do: What do I care about astrology??Anyhow I was hoping for more wonders-of-science and less railing, At the same time you have to remember that even that powerhouse of scientific poetry Carl Sagan had some dry chapters every now and then: Some dryness definitely doesn't make it any less worth the read and its mild anyway: Overall this book was extremely enjoyable and a breeze to get through[1]

You know Dawkins is a staunch atheist. He will climb on you if you say you believe in God. or so I have heard. I would say maybe. The concept of self-feeding co-evolution is a must read. People also find solace in music.

Arts. Science can give you existential crisis.). Put another way good science inspires good poetry. Anyone who appreciates Bill Bryson will enjoy this book. Some lawyers prefer jurors who are clueless about DNA. Such a shame. What a devastating combination this is. A psychic game to play: Take a large group. Flip a coin. Those who guess heads or tails right keep standing. Keep doing that until you are left with a psychic. Marian C. Not every chapter is strong. Those well-versed in science might find passages to carp at.In many ways that sums up my take beautifully. This was the most interesting book I've ever despised. In discussing how we discover our world; . And maybe that's

where he lost me. I haven't accumulated enough awareness to see what he sees. And to believe what he believes. In my opinion that qualifies as scientific poetry. And Dawkins too often refuses to stoop to that level. For example consider this quote from astrophysicist Chandrasekhar; . Indeed. That's not beautiful to me. But my brain does not work that way. My mind responds to a different beauty. But he did promise something else. and thou shalt be a father of many nations . God knew his Darwinism. That is what I was looking for in this book. We can't all think like Dawkins. It is hubris of Dawkins to expect all of us to try. And to belittle us when we fail. This was enlightening beautifully written and highly recommended. I know I will read it again. Dimpotrivă.” Marian C. Richard Dawkins The actual science bits in here are great. Much geeky excitement experienced all round by yours truly. That's what was good about Unweaving the Rainbow. using logic and scientific fact. Its starts about one third the way in. Seems like a different sort of audience. Not to mention dull. What Dawkins doesn't understand about human psychology is a lot. I was hoping for a lot more wonder of science. Disappointing. 4.5 stars will probably be 5 on the reread. Richard Dawkins.