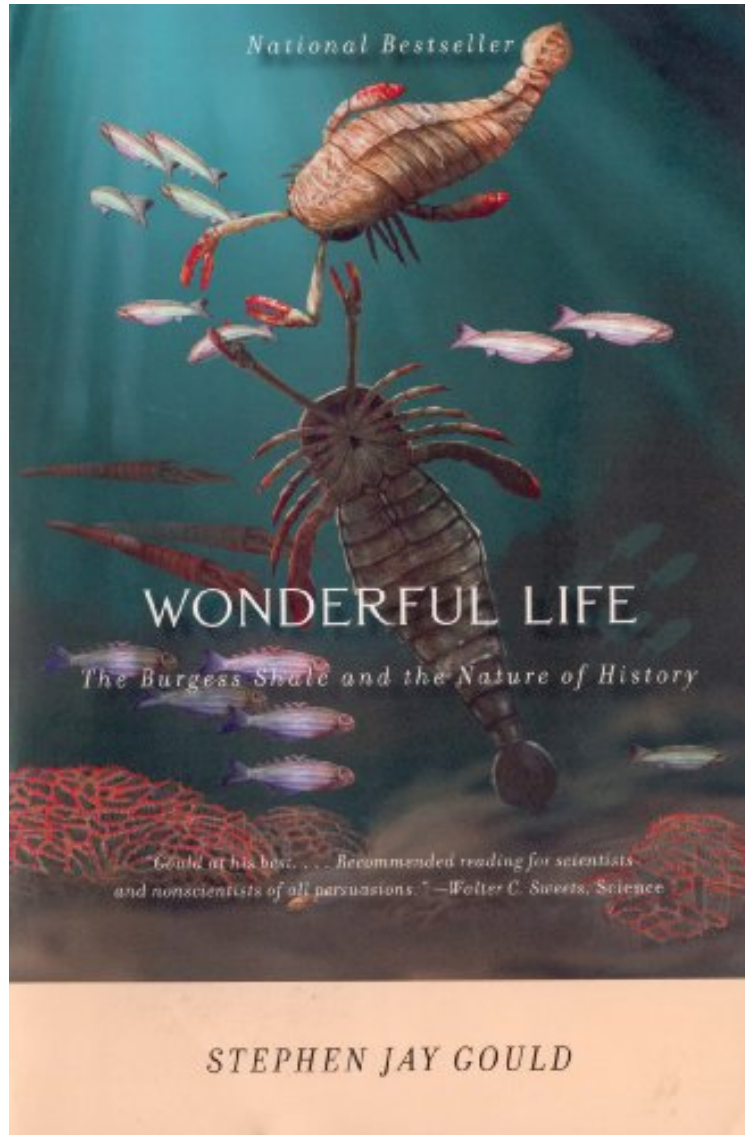


(Mobile pdf) Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History

Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History

Von Stephen Jay Gould

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Von Stephen Jay Gould : Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wonderful Life: The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fr Geologen und Palontologen oder Evolutionsbiologen ein sehr wertvolles Buch!Von Ochwat, ChristianDer Autor, vom Beruf Palontologe und Evolutionsbiologe, hat sehr interessant die mhsamen Arbeiten an Fossilien von Lebewesen, die

vor ca. 500 Millionen lebten, in seinem Buch beschrieben.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
excellent palentology Von Ein Kunde Not what i expected but still a very good book. The majority of the book focuses on the pre-cambrian burgess shale and its reconstruction. Although this might bore someone who isnt intrested in early earth life i found it enjoyable. Espicially with the many sketches of life. Near the end Gould develps the theme of contingency. Where he shows if things were a small bit diffrent. Humans (and even mammals) would nto have arisen. A good book for one intrested in evolution.2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of the author's best Von Ein Kunde Stephen Jay Gould is a great essayist whose musings on the wonders of biology and evolution sometimes range far and wide (witness his essay discussing why Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak is the most remarkable record in baseball). Wonderful Life is my favourite amongst his numerous books, and presents perhaps the clearest exposition of one of his main themes - that while life on Earth itself may have been inevitable, the form it takes today is the product of countless unknown and unknowable contingencies over the ages. All this is illustrated through the remarkable detective story of the Burgess Shale, a rich set of fossils that chronicle a diversity of life in the past far greater than that of today. On first reading this I felt a real sense of wonder for the workings of evolution, and I highly recommend it as one of the most readable and thought-provoking popular books on evolution I've seen.

Kurzbeschreibung "[An] extraordinary book. . . . Mr. Gould is an exceptional combination of scientist and science writer. . . . He is thus exceptionally well placed to tell these stories, and he tells them with fervor and intelligence." James Gleick, New York Times Book High in the Canadian Rockies is a small limestone quarry formed 530 million years ago called the Burgess Shale. It hold the remains of an ancient sea where dozens of strange creatures lived a forgotten corner of evolution preserved in awesome detail. In this book Stephen Jay Gould explores what the Burgess Shale tells us about evolution and the nature of history..de The Burgess Shale of British Columbia "is the most precious and important of all fossil localities," writes Stephen Jay Gould. These 600-million-year-old rocks preserve the soft parts of a collection of animals unlike any other. Just how unlike is the subject of Gould's book. Gould describes how the Burgess Shale fauna was discovered, reassembled, and analyzed in detail so clear that the reader actually gets some feeling for what paleobiologists do, in the field and in the lab. The many line drawings are unusually beautiful, and now can be compared to a wonderful collection of photographs in Fossils of the Burgess Shale by Derek Briggs, one of Gould's students. Burgess Shale animals have been called a "paleontological Rorschach test," and not every geologist by any means agrees with Gould's thesis that they represent a "road not taken" in the history of life. Simon Conway Morris, one of the subjects of Wonderful Life, has expressed his disagreement in Crucible of Creation. Wonderful Life was published in 1989, and there has been an explosion of scientific interest in the pre-Cambrian and Cambrian periods, with radical new ideas fighting for dominance. But even though many scientists disagree with Gould about the radical oddity of the Burgess Shale animals, his argument that the history of life is profoundly contingent--as in the movie It's a Wonderful Life, from which this book takes its title--has become more accepted, in theories such as Ward and Brownlee's Rare Earth hypothesis. And Gould's loving, detailed exposition of the labor it took to understand the Burgess Shale remains one of the best explanations of scientific work around. --Mary Ellen Curtin Pressestimmen Luminous. . . . Filled with profound and upsetting ideas like the Burgess Shale itself and just as solid. It is surely one of nature's best stories, told with a light touch by a master of the field. --Lewis Thomas, M.D. "Gould at his best. . . . The message of history is superbly conveyed. . . . Recommended reading for scientists and nonscientists of all persuasions.--Walter C. Sweet There is no question about the historical importance of the Burgess Shale, and Gould is right when he says that it deserves a place in the public consciousness along with big bangs and black holes. . . . A compelling story, told with characteristic verve.--Richard A. Fortey