



Fragile Species

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The author of *The Lives of a Cell* and *The Medusa and the Snail* now raises challenging questions about some of the major issues of our time--AIDS, drug abuse, and aging. With extraordinary perception, he discusses topics such as evolutionary biology, the development of language, the therapeutic aspects of medicine, and his love for his profession.

Fragile Species Details

Date : Published November 1st 1996 by Simon Schuster (first published 1992)

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Author : Lewis Thomas

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From Reader Review Fragile Species for online ebook

Lara says

Not my favorite of Thomas's, but still--I always fall in love with his writing; it's science made poetry. And I feel like he had some really interesting ways of looking at things--his stuff just clicks with me...

Maggie says

totally worth reading if you want a clear presentation of biological evolution written by a professional for the lay person. lewis thomas is an excellent writer. he knows his subject matter. he presents his details with a slant that is a bit off center from the establishment. in short even his questions are worth reading.

Charles says

Hard to go wrong with Lewis Thomas. Lucid and luminescent writing about nature and science.

Orin says

Wonderful essays. No idea why I pulled it off the shelf. Glad I did.

Very good essay (p. 158) on cultural evolution, linguistics. Another (p. 99) on "Comprehending my Cat Jeoffry." Includes the author's use of Fibonacci numbers (p. 113).

Amy says

Well written, but out of date. Not the most scientific conjectures either.

Claire Felong says

Although this was published in 1992 and doesn't include the advances in DNA sequencing that has happened since, Dr. Thomas is a visionary that is forseeing those things to come. He scans a broad time frame from the creation of the universe to the start life on earth as simple organisms to human life to the complex organism that is earth itself. Each chapter is a jewel. You do not need to have any more than high school science to understand it but you will come away with much more. He sees science and humans as wonder and not as life under a microscope.

This is not a quick read but one to be savored and understood.

Sarah Schieffer Riehl says

Lucid prose for a scientist. Now obsessed with our origins as bacteria.

Cathy Houston says

Thomas writes so eloquently of medicine and science; but when he pays tribute to nurses and the importance of their role in health care. it just makes my heart sing.

David says

I love his quirky essays, but this book got demoted to 2 stars because of the section on AIDS. I can't forgive the blatant dismissal of gays who were suffering and dying in their thousands while he writes about the concern that the "general population" was likely to be infected at some point, too. The clear sense that this only matters if heterosexuals might suffer is too painful a reminder of those days (and thanks to the orange one, those days are back, at least until he and Pence are removed from office). I would not be reviewing this book at all, except that I read the last three essays -- Cooperation, Communication, and Connections -- with so much interest and enjoyment that I decided to note the good along with the bad. He was certainly not the only one to express the attitude I find so offensive back then, nor was he the worst, by a long shot. But in someone so admirable generally, the offense is more painful to note. I suspect I'll go on reading his other collections, unless this kind of crap pops up again.

Colby says

Extraordinary. Lewis Thomas is a wise man; what an honour it would be to dine with him!

Claire says

Lewis Thomas and I have our (significant) differences, especially when talking about the nature and purpose of the human race; nevertheless, a voice to be heard. Enjoyed this very much.
