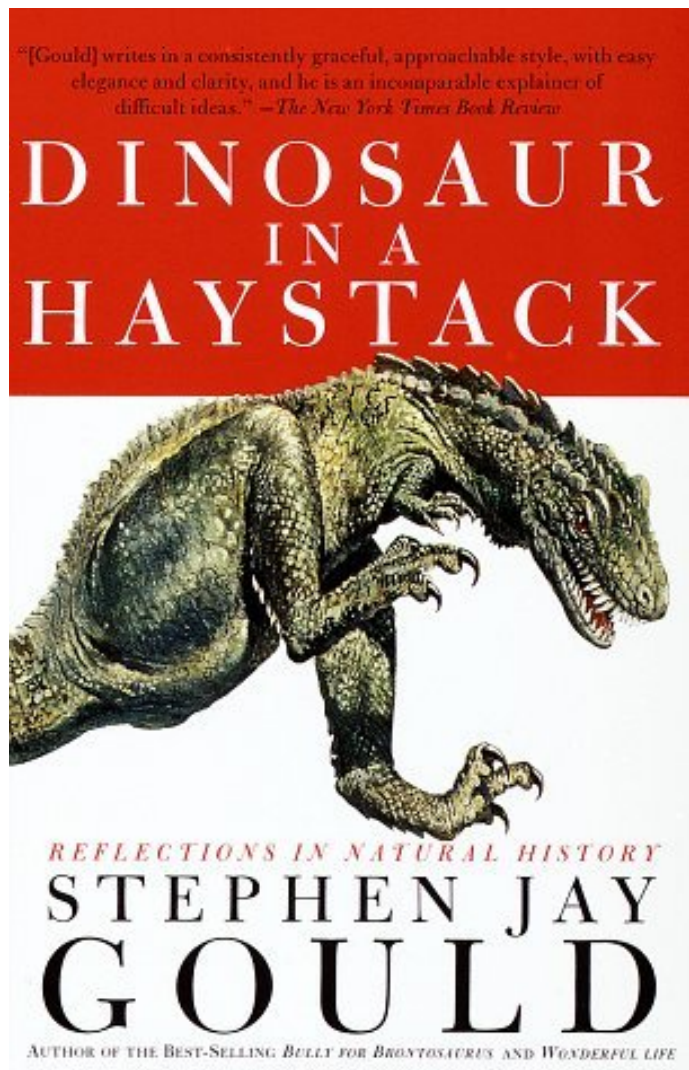


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**Stephen Jay Gould**

**Dinosaur in a Haystack: Reflections in Natural History  
(Reflections in Natural History #7)**



Title: Dinosaur in a Haystack: Reflections in Natural History (Reflections in Natural History #7)

Author: Stephen Jay Gould

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## Description

34 essays make up this collection by the author of 15 books-from giant fossils and fungus to blaauwbocks-you'll love it!

## Insightful reviews

Andy: One of Stephen Jay Gould's books that collect popular science essays he's written over the years. I find his writing to be an alternation between highly fascinating passages and tedious stretches. Some of his essays cover great topics - the huge slime mold out in Michigan, the history of eugenics thinkers, etc. - and some are on minutiae that I just found incredibly dull. On a more detailed level you see the very same alternation: paragraphs of great insight interspersed with distracting and meandering tangents that Gould's editor should really have insisted on cutting. And on an even more micro level you see the same thing: measured and eloquent diction mixed with a Dickensian propensity towards verbosity. So this book gets three stars, although you can really decompose that into half of one and half of five. Best essays are the first (which is a wonderful ode to the natural human love of science), one on fossilized magnolia leaves, and one on eugenics and the Nazis. Be warned that some topics appear repetitively, as this is a collection of essays written at separate points in times by the same person.

Annielaural: You just can't beat Gould. He is the best, the most complex, and the most interesting writer on science and the social scene.

Jason: Short-form essays good for the long-form subway commutes. After reading these, you certainly feel like you slept at a Holiday Inn Express last night; but you really do get a lot out of these in terms of scientific thought. Gould's such a great writer you forget that you're being educated. Worth grabbing for a used price and keeping handy on the night stand for a little late-night erudition. Also good for obscure scientific facts that you can impress your scientist friends with.

Alan Williams: i admire those collections of common historical past essays that Stephen Jay Gould wrote again within the overdue 90's and early 2000's. a few are a bit dated now, however the majority get up good to the try out of time, and likewise take me again to a time while i used to be simply getting into my very own occupation as a biologist / naturalist. How instances have changed, and the way they have stayed the same!

Alex Jeffries: Is there a examining record but dependent exclusively on influential scientists and thinkers who have been featured within the Simpsons? There must be. I grabbed this assortment from a used publication shop going into chapter 11 simply because I had simply obvious 'Lisa the Skeptic', which has an excellent cameo with Gould in it. What a cogent philosopher and brilliant synthesizer of information. The connections Gould makes to renowned culture, background and present occasions makes the deep technology he describes understandable, and his indisputable ardour for the topics makes every one essay a joy. prior to i stopped Dinosaur, I obtained one other of Gould's books, and together with a couple of Diane

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Ackerman works, i believe this would be the start of a rampage via very important typical background writings.

Colin: Stephen Jay Gould's tackle evolution in those essays is a little more well-rounded than - say - Richard Dawkins's. the place RD emphasises the ability of an easy notion to make adjustments over time, SJG mixes it up with reflections on history, philosophy and tradition in ways in which are continuously satisfying. i might suggest both one on their lonesome merits, and this publication isn't any exception.

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