



Dark Nature: A Natural History of Evil

By Lyall Watson

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Redefining good and evil in biological terms, the author of *Supernature* explains how the evil that exists in our world can be controlled, drawing on research in psychology, ecology, anthropology, and genetics to examine the biological realities of evil. \$30,000 ad/promo.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Watson (*Supernature*), who labels himself "an old-fashioned naturalist," ranges through philosophy, psychology, anthropology, history, ecology and especially biology. He begins with the unlikely pair of Aristotle and Goldilocks, the former who urged humans to strive for "the golden mean" and the latter who was satisfied only when things were "just right." We living creatures are pawns of our genes, no matter what species we belong to, and the genes operate on three rules, according to Watson: be nasty to outsiders, be nice to insiders and cheat where possible. It is because of these rules that our bodies repel parasites, that Serbs kill Croats and that human babies often pretend to be younger or hungrier than they are. Watson believes that aggression is in our genes and examines such phenomena as war, rape and murder as manifestations of that aggression. But while he firmly believes that humans are made up of both good and evil and that natural selection is completely amoral, he is sanguine about humans as the world's first ethical animals with the capability of making moral decisions. \$30,000 ad/promo; author tour.

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From [Booklist](#)

Watson examines evil's many manifestations, from corporate national evil (e.g., the death camps of Nazi Germany) to shocking cases of personal evil (e.g., the two English boys who kidnapped and killed a toddler in 1993) to common street malevolence. He considers humanity's darker nature clinically, albeit within the framework of his view of evil as "a force of nature," a "part of the ecology [that] needs to be seen as such." He suggests that, although inherent to human existence, evil can be controlled and maybe eliminated if humans manage to "evolve" away from it. This thoughtful book, while certainly not light literature, will reward those diligent enough to digest its complex but well-argued points. *Mike Tribby*

About the Author

Lyall Watson was born in South Africa and educated there and in Britain, taking his Ph. D. at London University in 1963. He had a vast and varied career; he was involved in anthropology in Jordan, Nigeria, Indonesia and Brazil; archaeological excavations in Israel, Turkey and Peru; palaeontology in South and East Africa; marine biology in the Indian Ocean; botany in the deserts of Sonora; medical research in the Philippines; and represented the Seychelles on the International Whaling Commission. He spent years pursuing the paranormal and published many important works in the area. He died in June 2008.

Users Review

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Katie Doll:

Typically the book Dark Nature: A Natural History of Evil will bring you to the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to describe the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book Dark Nature: A Natural History of Evil is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Leonard Jones:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with pals is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try point that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not experiencing tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Dark Nature: A Natural History of Evil, you can enjoy both. It is very good combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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