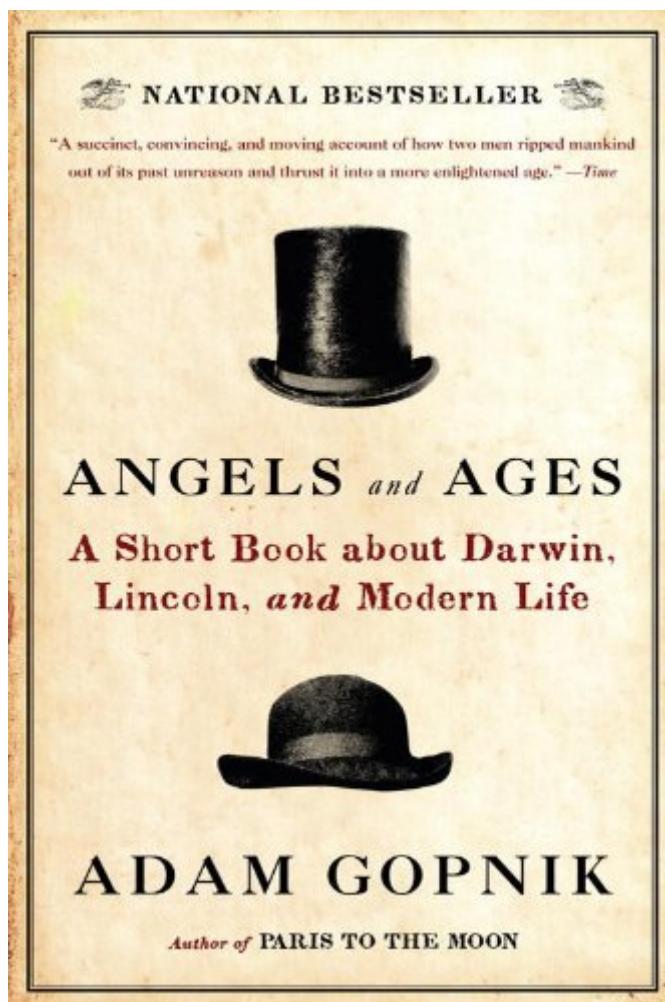


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Angels And Ages: A Short Book About Darwin, Lincoln, And Modern Life



Synopsis

In this captivating double life, Adam Gopnik searches for the men behind the icons of emancipation and evolution. Born by cosmic coincidence on the same day in 1809 and separated by an ocean, Lincoln and Darwin coauthored our sense of history and our understanding of man's place in the world. Here Gopnik reveals these two men as they really were: family men and social climbers, ambitious manipulators and courageous adventurers, grieving parents and brilliant scholars. Above all we see them as thinkers and writers, making and witnessing the great changes in thought that mark truly modern times. From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

File Size: 2972 KB

Print Length: 258 pages

Publisher: Vintage (January 27, 2009)

Publication Date: January 27, 2009

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B001NLKYAQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #174,104 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #40 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Historical Study > Historiography #144 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Scientists #164 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States > Presidents

Customer Reviews

The brilliance and insights of Adam Gopnik who makes an unexpected link to Darwin and Abraham Lincoln.

I really liked the comparison of Darwin's and Lincoln's intellectual progress and the ways in which

they communicated world-changing ideas.

Adam Gopnik is always worth paying attention to. Reading this book is a wonderful experience.

the thought that these two men were born on the same day and would completely change the way we look at thing is amazing. the book was easy to read and made me want to read more about them both.

The marriage between Darwin and Lincoln which Gopnik makes the uniting principle of this book doesn't work. The essays would have been better off presented separately--say, in a magazine like The New Yorker, which, as it happens, is how they started life. That both men were born on the same day of the same year, and that both were so influential (Darwin particularly so) in their time and after, is not sufficient to overcome the artificiality of so joining them (and only them). This short book is well worth reading (if you missed it in magazine form) for the truly fascinating and poignant first essay on Darwin--written in such a heartfelt and observant way. (The essays on Lincoln seem less engaging to me--somehow the book feel more devoted to Darwin, and so, a little unbalanced.) Gopnik's explorations of how Darwin and how Lincoln came to view religion and death over the course of their lives--differently from each other--were the most compelling aspect of the book, and seemed the most revealing about the emerging modern world. A curious little book--even if the Darwin/Lincoln aspect fails to achieve its purpose, still full of insight.

An excellent illustration of the sociologic impact of Lincoln and Darwin. Angels and Ages relates how these two men stood apart from their contemporaries and the impact these men had in changing social perceptions. This is not a dry, academic book. Perhaps Mr. Gopnik's biggest success is the humanity he imbues to both subjects, introducing the reader to these men on a more personal level. A very enjoyable read!

Excellent for any thoughtful person. Suits as a clue for those with modern notions of absolute truth. Serious thought is warranted.

Gopnik's literary style and superb analysis cover a great deal of ground in comparing historical figures not easily compared and contrasted for insights into "Modern Life."

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