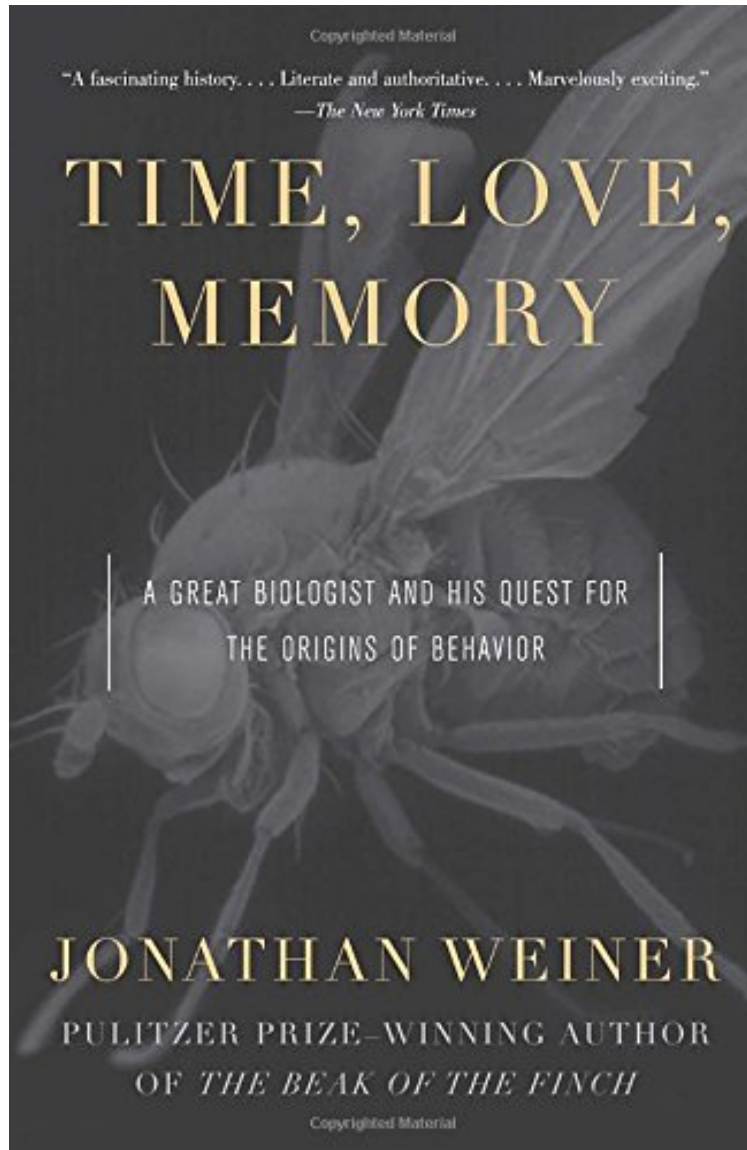


Time, Love, Memory: A Great Biologist and His Quest for the Origins of Behavior

Jonathan Weiner

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



#64781 in Books Weiner, Jonathan 2000-04-04 2000-04-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .70 x 5.201, .72 #File Name: 0679763902320 pages | File size: 77.Mb

Jonathan Weiner : Time, Love, Memory: A Great Biologist and His Quest for the Origins of Behavior before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Time, Love, Memory: A Great Biologist and His Quest for the Origins of Behavior:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A thoughtful and insightful history of the birth of modern molecular

geneticsBy CustomerWeiner is capable of describing complex data and thorny hypotheses with great clarity. His tale of Seymour Benzer was filled with the small anecdotes that we all shared about this great scientist, but also with insight into the brilliance of the man and his colleagues. A compelling book. I want to read it yet again to better understand the depth of Benzer's work. The historical review of genetics and the major players, including Mendel, Morgan, Sturtevant, and others that opened the field to the molecular revolution, gave me insights beyond my own lifetime of science. His differences of opinion with other great scientists such as Delbruck, Crick reflected the warmth and humanity of an extraordinary generation of physicists turned biologists. A delightful book to read. My only reservation is the closing chapter on human brains. He misunderstands the nature of Blindsight, and his description of Carol Miller's notions of localization of "apathy" is not up to the standard of the rest of the book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant and AstonishingBy McBarbA must read for non-specialists who want to understand the amazing breakthroughs in genetics and the characters and backstory behind it. I couldn't put it down!42 of 45 people found the following review helpful. Don't believe everything they taught youBy Richard S. Sullivan... This is a great book by the Pulitzer Prize winning author of Beak of the Finch. It moves right along and was a cliff hanger, it kept me on the edge of my seat waiting to see which next of my cherished beliefs was going to be dashed in the name of science....If you think that human nature is largely a result of nurture and you wish to hang on to this belief for dear life, be very afraid, this is not your book.The book is well written with lots of interviews and original research by the author who already has proven his chops as a science writer. If biology, evolution or genetics is an interest, this is your book.

The story of Nobel Prizewinning discoveries regarding the molecular mechanisms controlling the body's circadian rhythm.How much of our fate is decided before we are born? Which of our characteristics is inscribed in our DNA? Weiner brings us into Benzer's Fly Rooms at the California Institute of Technology, where Benzer, and his associates are in the process of finding answers, often astonishing ones, to these questions. Part biography, part thrilling scientific detective story, Time, Love, Memory forcefully demonstrates how Benzer's studies are changing our world view--and even our lives.Jonathan Weiner, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for The Beak of the Finch, brings his brilliant reporting skills to the story of Seymour Benzer, the Brooklyn-born maverick scientist whose study of genetics and experiments with fruit fly genes has helped revolutionize our knowledge of the connections between DNA and behavior both animal and human.

.com In the words of Jonathan Weiner, "Time, love, and memory are ... three cornerstones of the pyramid of behavior." While some find it difficult to view humans as mere machines, molecular biologists maintain that most behavior is genetically based. Even skeptics and opponents agree that molecular biology may well change the way we all live in the 21st century. Little-known outside this exploding field, Seymour Benzer, his mentors, and his generations of students have studied the common fruit fly, *Drosophila*, and discovered genes that seem to have some influence upon our internal clock, our sexuality, and our ability to learn from our experiences. Weiner (whose last book, *The Beak of the Finch*, won a Pulitzer Prize) has written an affectionate history about the development of the science while offering charming glimpses of the people involved--trading haircuts to stretch their grant money in the early years, roaming the laboratory into the wee hours, naming the genes associated with learning after Pavlov's dogs. It's not all sweetness and light, however; ethical questions are raised, some of the hype (and hysteria) surrounding the human genome project is dissipated, and the complicated "clockwork" gene "looks less like an invitation to human intervention and more like a cautionary tale or object lesson for anyone who might try, in the 21st century, to improve on nature's four-billion-year-old designs." That said, the scientists in Weiner's tale reveal a very human side of this fast-moving science, and their belief that they'll find answers to important questions is contagious and compelling. As Benzer himself said, "It's a wonderful, fabulous world, and it's been kicking around a long time." --C.B. DelaneyFrom Publishers WeeklyFrom the winner of the 1995 Pulitzer for nonfiction (for *The Beak of the Finch*) comes a vigorously engrossing scientific biography that brings out from the shadows one of the unsung pioneers of molecular biology: brash, eccentric, Brooklyn-born California Institute of Technology physicist-turned-biologist Seymour Benzer. In 1953At the year Francis Crick and James Watson discovered the structure of DNAABenzer, then at Purdue, invented a way to use viral DNA to map the interior of a gene. Benzer's mapping techniques would help Crick crack the genetic code in the early 1960s. Forsaking viruses and *E. coli* bacteria for the fruit fly, in the mid-1960s, Benzer began tracking tiny genetic mutations in scores of generations passing through his contraptionAa maze of test-tube tunnels with a light source to which the flies instinctively gravitated. With his wife, neuropathologist Carol Miller, Benzer discovered that the fly brain and the human brain surprisingly share nearly identical genetic sequences. Today their fellow scientists, using mutant fruit flies or mice, attempt to throw light on the genetic coding of memory, learning, courtship, sex assignment, disease and aging. An unresolved question hangs over this enterprise: Will solid links between genes and human behavior ever be established? Weiner answers with a cautious "yes" in this elegantly written scientific detective story told with panache and great lucidity. Benzer, a free spirit with a taste for crashing Hollywood funerals and eating strange food (filet of snake, crocodile tail), may lack the charisma of his Caltech colleague, the late

physicist Richard Feynman, but, through Weiner's absorbing presentation, his unorthodox ways in and out of the laboratory will grow on readers. 50 illustrations. Agent, Victoria Pryor. BOMC dual main selection; first serial to the New Yorker. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Armed with only a few test tubes, a light bulb, and 100 fruit flies, physicist-turned-biologist Seymour Bezmour revolutionized molecular biology. Weiner's fascinating book recounts how Bezmour's beautifully simple experiments revealed the genetic origins of human behavior. (LJ 5/15/99) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.