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*Jay Phelan*

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**Jay Phelan : What Is Life? A Guide to Biology by Phelan, Jay. (W. H. Freeman,2012) [Hardcover] Second (2nd) edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Is Life? A Guide to Biology by Phelan, Jay. (W. H. Freeman,2012) [Hardcover] Second (2nd) edition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great Book for Biology for Non MajorsBy EmpathyI really enjoyed this book. It's written simply. The complex concepts are simply stated. Illustrations abound. Everyday examples are included that support the material. For example, homeostasis was supported by an athlete who died from heat exhaustion. The supplemental online support that the publisher created has great videos so students who despise biology (like myself) can understand complex topics such as the Kreb's cycle of photosynthesis. I actually started to like biology a little. Great job! I have not sold this book back; it's a keeper!PS: There are many versions of this book. I have the instructor's edition, which is exactly the same as the student version. I spoke to my professor and he was fine with me using this book, but buyer beware. Some instructors will panic if they see a student with an instructor copy as they often have to re-write tests.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It Was OKBy AmethystleI am probably a bit biased, as my teacher did not like this book and did not want to use it, but was forced to based on the department curriculum. However, I found this book merely okay. We barely used it in class, so I felt that I should not have purchased this book but rented it.The information is pretty standard for a General Biology class (which is what I needed it for). It is hard to judge the information quality, as it is all factual. So, I guess in that respect the information

quality is good. The overall quality of the book itself was poor. The book is a large soft-cover. It arrived with a large crease in the cover, and several rips in pages. However, the pages themselves were very thin and ripped easily, so I can hardly blame the person who had this before me, as I probably ripped a couple of pages myself during the 12 weeks I needed it. However, the book was in such poor shape that my college bookstore would not accept it back at the end of the term and I ended up donating it instead. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Student Says Best Bio Book Ever By kail'm a philosophy major who had to take a life science class to graduate. This was the assigned textbook and it's great. Fun to read and very informative. There's a big difference between the editions though so make sure to get the one that was assigned --I made that mistake. This book is obviously a passion project of the professor and the updates aren't cosmetic (read to make money) but quite substantial. In fact if you're interested in biology you could read this textbook for fun. Also he wrote Mean Genes and that's quite good as well, but more of an armchair read. The professor teaches at UCLA and his lectures are available online.

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