

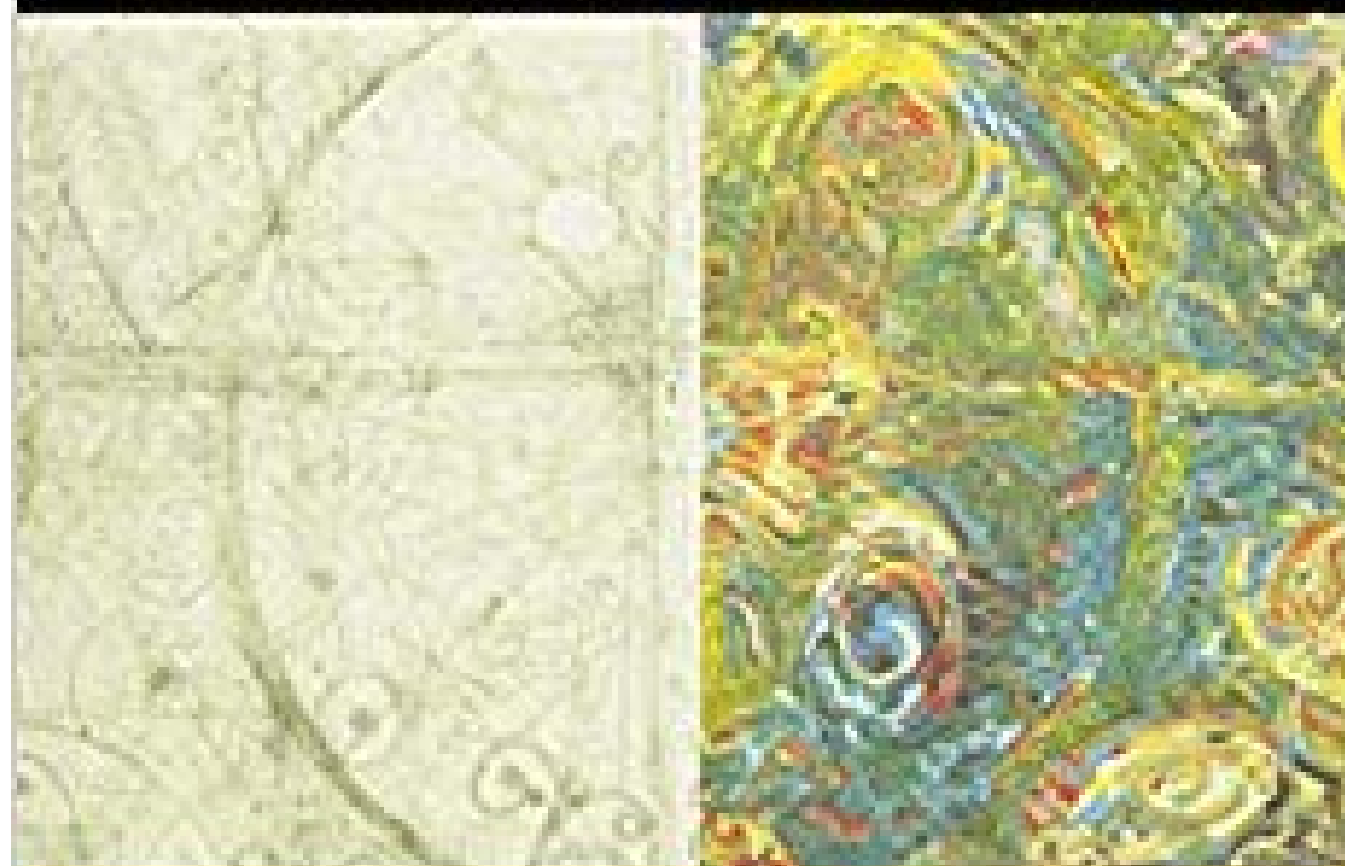
A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITORS' CHOICE

ANTONIO DAMASIO

Bestselling author of *DESCARTES' ERROR*

*The* FEELING of  
WHAT HAPPENS

BODY AND EMOTION  
IN THE MAKING OF CONSCIOUSNESS



"ONE OF THE BEST BRAIN STORIES OF THE DECADE."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

Antonio Damasio

## The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness



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The publication of this book can be an event in the making. Worldwide scientists, psychologists, and philosophers are waiting around to read Antonio Damasio's new theory of the nature of awareness and the structure of the self. In his bestselling *Descartes' Error*, Damasio revealed the crucial importance of emotion in the making of reason. A famous and revered scientist and clinician, Damasio has spent decades following amnesiacs down medical center corridors, waiting for comatose patients to awaken, and devising ingenious study using PET scans to piece together the fantastic puzzle of consciousness. Building upon this foundation, he right now shows how consciousness is established. A hymn to the options of human existence, a magnificent work of ingenious technology, a gorgeously written publication, *The Feeling of What Happens* has already been being hailed as a traditional. Without our bodies there may be no awareness, which is at heart a system for survival that engages body, emotion, and brain in the glorious spiral of individual life. Consciousness is the feeling of what happens-our mind noticing your body's reaction to the globe and responding to that experience.



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A great book, however the goal still seems a long way off This is a fabulous book about the way that the mind interacts with your body, and with signals from the external world, to create consciousness. That being said, there are long stretches of theorizing that could have been usefully broken up by more study -- laboratory or medical; Pinker's *The Way the Mind Works* strikes an improved combination. More significantly, I'm not really convinced that Damasio achieves his objective: to explain consciousness. *The Feeling of What Goes On* is likely the most important scientific book written on human mental function There is no need for me to review this book. Furthermore, to the level that he sticks to the cognitive science lingo of mapping and pictures, I kept thinking that what he considers to become the essence of awareness -- second-order images of the interaction of images of the world with images from the body -- could be replicated on a pc, without this producing awareness in the feeling that humans and (other) animals have it. While I can't look at like under a microscope, I am convinced it exists. Therefore, I accept validity criteria beyond the scientific technique that might be suitable to studying subjective phenomenon. In the end, not merely was emotion not really rational, actually studying it was most likely not rational.. I've suggested it to numerous professors. I liked this book very much and found it to be quite idea provoking. Clearly, he's carrying out some philosophizing and in an area such as for example consciousness, I don't know how one could prevent this.His observation is verifiable. To be honest, that 1964 volume was decades ahead of its time, prior to Damasio's, in fact it is still a useful resource if you can get a copy..We also like Damasio's other books, which are a lot more readable, but somewhat less fascinating. I believe the analysis of consciousness brings up similar types of epistemological difficulties, so I can forgive Damasio for pushing the limits of the existing scientific paradigm and its own underlying assumptions.We don't fault Damasio for including non-scientific speculations or using empirical case studies to back up some of his thinking. While it could be criticized on several grounds including being hard to check out, having redundancies and made up of a lot of speculation, it still provides good theoretical ideas that are plausible and worth taking into consideration. I worth scientific rigor, but I also don't dismiss creative thinking. Five Stars An excellent book. John Dunlosky and Janet Metcalfe Idea provoking, but controversial. Interestingly, it really is difficult to study like via the scientific method, yet people are willing to quit their lives for love. While the reserve remaining me with a much-improved understanding of the biological helps of consciousness, an evaluation of preconditions does not an description make. If you want to wade into reading a few of Damasio's more accessible work, then "Looking for Spinoza" might be a better place to start. .received a much warmer reception. While mathematics might be more exact, it can't always catch every dimension of human being experience. Similarly, I don't believe initial inquiries in to the nature of awareness can prevent speculation or a lack of precision sometimes.." Damasio, 1999, p.under no circumstances came to pass.. Thank you.. But that. I supply the guy credit for taking the whole question on to begin with.. Another Opportunity for the Affective Domain "There would have been good reason to expect that, as the brand new century started the expanding human brain sciences would make emotion component of their agenda. .by James J..Twentieth Hundred years science.. This may only help our knowledge of emotions and awareness as more talented people become involved in studying these areas.relocated emotion back into the brain, but relegated it to the low neural strata connected with ancestors whom no-one worshipped.. At least he is asking the important questions and taking a "swing at the ball" in terms of explaining them in a way that engages others in meaningful dialogue and further research. These structures—non-important to consciousness itself—provide more complex details for organisms to end up being conscious of, without consciousness itself being more technical or of a different kind.I also like this Damasio is focusing significant interest on the part of the emotions in thinking and awareness in general. fact is that consciousness isn't a monolith, at least not really in humans: it could be separated into simple and complex types, and the neurological proof makes the separation transparent.Handbook of Emotion

Regulation . Gross, editor. Another is the consignment of Benjamin Bloom's analysis team's second quantity Taxonomy of Educational Objectives Book 2/Affective Domain to a collector's item in used book heaps. Although it might come out that points aren't quite what he says, he has established a new benchmark for explorations in this area and made difficult principles accessible to large numbers of people. It is unfortunate how quickly its importance was dismissed, but Damasio's statement largely displays why Bloom's older volume 1 on the cognitive domain Taxonomy of Educational Objectives, Handbook 1: Cognitive Domain I really believe it's the fact that terms are fuzzier than mathematics that allows someone like Shakespeare to express beautiful thoughts poetically. I do have a bias that consciousness is a lot more than an epiphenomenon. Metacognition noted that history reveals psychologists regarding metacognition with identical low status and held metacognition hostage for a time as an element of consciousness not really worth the study. Damasio's function seems instrumental in accounting for the exponential upswing in analysis on impact. 26) This statement defines a concept of consciousness that pertains to any organism capable of feelings—which ability he does an admirable work of dissecting.. After all, it is usually at the level of intuition that most great discoveries obtain start.. I will transformation my review when I end it, but I would like to work on books that help, not something I have to push through. Usually do not recommend for the novice searching for information. Critical thinking required. In his introduction Damasio states: “The . I find him provocative, but in a good way. it is like wading through marsh I've only read a little bit, it really is like wading through marsh. One source is the background of citations on "emotion regulation" in the ” (p. 16) Unlike this assertion, the separation into basic and complex types of consciousness is not transparent. What the neurological evidence does make clear is that one structures are crucial to consciousness and others aren't, although those that aren't essential provide phenomena—vision, hearing, taste, vocabulary—that may become mindful. 39 With that declaration, Damasio courageously took his own discipline's psychologists and neuroscientists to the woodshed for ignoring the need for the affective domain, and that quotation probably explains the love-hate relationship that different reviewers exhibit about this particular book. Actually, a monolithic concept of consciousness offers a much more obvious explanation of the neurological proof, and Damasio himself provides one that is original and adequate: “the feeling of what goes on when we discover or hear or touch...” (p. I came across the book fascinating, not really particularly challenging reading, and a useful resource if you ask me as a college instructor and faculty developer. Five Stars Excellent! Five Stars Excellent! The nearer he gets to that ultimate goal, the more he lapses into metaphors and appeals to poetry, a sure sign of difficulty. The reviews of the book by every major newspaper and scientific firm are written within the jacket of the book. Let's just say that anyone who desires to understand the Human Condition should examine this book. Five Stars Good book Five Stars Publication is in excellent condition



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