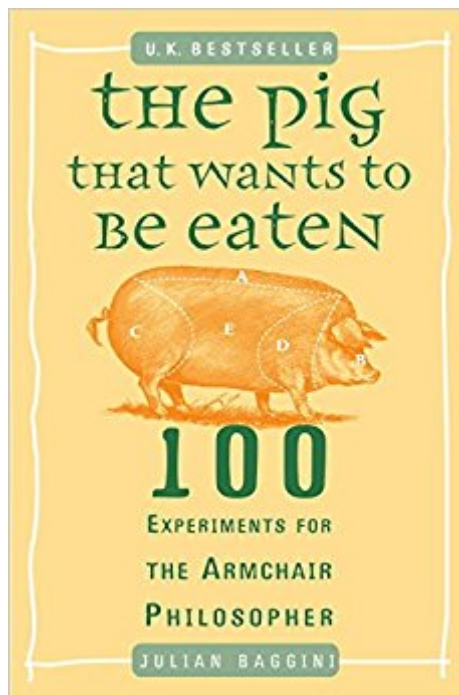




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The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten: 100 Experiments For The Armchair Philosopher



Synopsis

Both entertaining and startling, *The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten* offers one hundred philosophical puzzles that stimulate thought on a host of moral, social, and personal dilemmas. Taking examples from sources as diverse as Plato and Steven Spielberg, author Julian Baggini presents abstract philosophical issues in concrete terms, suggesting possible solutions while encouraging readers to draw their own conclusions: Lively, clever, and thought-provoking, *The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten* is a portable feast for the mind that is sure to satisfy any intellectual appetite.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For Stelios, the teletransporter is the only way to travel." So begins one of the 100 philosophically based brain teasers in Baggini's clever book. Each entry includes an imagined scenario, which is based on sources from Plato to Sir Bernard Williams, followed by commentary that introduces a series of mind-bending questions and broadens the possible contexts: e.g., if Stelios's body is disintegrated and then recomposed by the transporter, is Stelios still the same person he was? Is it ever ethical to eat animals, even if they want to be eaten? Is there really an all-powerful, all-knowing and all-loving God? Is it right to do something wrong if it doesn't hurt anyone? Is torture ever a good option? Baggini, the editor of the U.K.'s *Philosopher's Magazine*, offers no firm answers, only hints as to where the discussion might go next. The conceit of the volume forces some repetitiveness and some simplification, but overall, it effectively explores aesthetics, ethics, language, logic, religion, mind and the self. More importantly, it's hugely entertaining. Any one of these thought experiments would serve as a great party game, keeping the conversation going for hours. (July) Copyright ©

“This book is like the Sudoku of moral philosophy: apply your mind to any of its ‘thought experiments’ while stuck on the Tube, and quickly be transported out of rush-hour hell.” —New Statesman

If you are at all interested in philosophy, you have probably seen these problems before, and possibly better presented. The author tries to present them in a somewhat novel way, wittily naming the protagonists of many of the anecdotes, but the outlines are all familiar, and many times repetitive. For this reader, at least, the attempts at a whimsical tone come off as cloying, and most of the conundrums are not treated in great depth. If you are interested in this sort of book, but far better done, I'd highly recommend Nigel Warburton's "A Little History of Philosophy". Its range is broader, the exploration more intellectual, and the tone less annoying.

Not really what I was expecting, but then I'm not sure what I was expecting. It's a 100 different philosophical puzzles/conundrums/thought experiments where the author gives a scenario, usually a classic philosophical setup (like an anecdote that is an updated version of Plato's idea of people in a cave who know only their shadows on the cave wall). Then he asks you to think about it and raises lots of questions and gives you things to ponder about it. Few of these are really that thrilling. If the point is to get people excited about philosophical questions, this effort scores fairly high on the "Meh" scale.

Super interesting. As a philosophy major I love just opening this up, reading an experiment (a few pages long) and thinking about it. Also great to read with your significant other or friend and discuss your thoughts and opinions. Written simply enough that an average reader could read it and enjoy thinking about it, but the problems are complex enough that even a philosophy major would love dissecting and thinking about the experiments and their potential outcomes.

This is a treasure. This book is a perfect party exercise as you can flip open to a random page, read the scenario and then have deep discussion with your guests. It never fails to spark the life into an otherwise dying party and overall it's a good read. Some of the ideas aren't as good as others but the good gems you come across in here are worth it all.

Good survey of modern philosophy. Author needs a good editor to sharpen prose and to enforce consistency.

Good for those that like the philosophical thought process that these short pieces inspire. You can pick it up and read a few minutes and get in one whole "chapter". Recommended.

Some of the 100 thought experiments aren't as good as others, but there are many very thought provoking ideas. I enjoyed reading the book slowly, taking a little time after each example to think a bit more about them.

This book provides 100 thought experiments to help you ponder issues pertaining to various schools of thought in philosophy. It's a great book, easy read but still conveys the dense philosophical ideas.

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