



DARWIN'S DOUBT

THE EXPLOSIVE ORIGIN OF ANIMAL LIFE AND
THE CASE FOR INTELLIGENT DESIGN

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THE POSSIBILITY OF INTELLIGENT DESIGN

The owner of a remote island estate has been murdered while out riding. When the local sheriff arrives, he learns there are several obvious suspects: the volatile gamekeeper, the owner of a neighboring estate with whom the murder victim has had a long-running feud, and the estate owner's estranged wife, who had been living on the island in a small mother-in-law cottage. The sheriff quickly learns the basic facts of the case. The victim was found dead, facedown on the beach, with his horse standing nearby. Any one of the three suspects could have taken a rifle, from an unlocked shed at the edge of the property. All were healthy enough to have hiked to the scene of the crime. Each of them has a motive. And none has an alibi.

But as the investigation unfolds additional facts come to light. Most importantly, when the coroner arrives, he determines that although the victim was shot in the stomach and then his head was harshly bludgeoned by the butt of the rifle, these injuries served merely to conceal the bullet wound that actually killed the estate owner. The man was dead when he hit the ground. What killed him was a perfect shot entering the head just behind the right ear, exactly where an expert marksman would place a bullet. Moreover, ballistics shows that this bullet came from a different gun altogether from the one stored in the shed, a weapon likely fired from quite a distance.

The sheriff then returns to the list of suspects and, one by one, eliminates them. Abundant evidence shows that none of the three prime

suspects is a particularly good shot, much less a world-class marksman. The landowner's estranged wife has a shaky hand and no experience with firearms. The volatile gamekeeper has extremely poor eyesight. And the neighboring landowner turns out to have an alibi after all—as well as a broken arm, which would have prevented him from holding the kind of rifle from which the bullet was fired. There is, however, one other person living on the estate, though not even the other suspects suspect him. He is the victim's loyal and longtime personal assistant, a timorous older man much beloved by both the family and the other servants. No one wants to consider him as a possible suspect. But is it possible that he could have had something to do with the crime after all? Might an unexpected suspect—indeed “the butler”—have done it?

Clearly, standard evolutionary theory has reached an impasse. Neither neo-Darwinism nor a host of more recent proposals (punctuated equilibrium, self-organization, evolutionary developmental biology, neutral evolution, epigenetic inheritance, natural genetic engineering) have succeeded in explaining the origin of the novel animal forms that arose in the Cambrian period. Yet all these evolutionary theories have two things in common: they rely on strictly material processes, and they also have failed to identify a cause capable of generating the information necessary to produce new forms of life.

This raises a question. Is it possible that a different or unexpected kind of cause might provide a more adequate explanation for the origin of the new *form* and *information*—as well as the other distinctive features—present in the Cambrian explosion? In particular, is it possible that intelligent design—the purposeful action of a conscious and rational agent—might have played a role in the Cambrian explosion?

INTRODUCING INTELLIGENT DESIGN

When the case for intelligent design is made, it's often hard to get contemporary evolutionary biologists to see why such an idea should even be considered or why discussions of design should play any role in biology at all. Though many biologists now acknowledge serious deficiencies in current strictly materialistic theories of evolution, they resist considering alternatives that involve intelligent guidance, direction, or design.

Praise for **STEPHEN C. MEYER'S**

DARWIN'S DOUBT

“Stephen Meyer’s new book *Darwin’s Doubt* represents an opportunity for bridge-building, rather than dismissive polarization—bridges across cultural divides in great need of professional, respectful dialog—and bridges to span evolutionary gaps.”

—**Dr. George Church**, Professor of Genetics,
Harvard Medical School, and author of *Regensis*

“*Darwin’s Doubt* is an intriguing exploration of one of the most remarkable periods in the evolutionary history of life—the rapid efflorescence of complex body plans written in the fossils of the Burgess Shale. In laying out his case for intelligent design (ID) based on this evidence, Meyer has emerged from the “ID wars” of the past decade as perhaps the most thoughtful and engaging advocate of this controversial perspective. No matter what convictions or beliefs one holds about evolution, Darwinism or intelligent design, *Darwin’s Doubt* is a book that should be read, engaged and discussed.”

—**Dr. Scott Turner**, Professor of Biology, State University of New York,
Author of *The Tinkerer’s Accomplice, How Design Emerges from Life Itself*

“Stephen Meyer elegantly explains why the sudden appearance of animal forms in the Cambrian period gave Darwin pause. He also demonstrates, based on cutting-edge molecular biology, why explaining the origin of animals is now not just a problem of missing fossils, but an even greater engineering problem at the molecular level. With mathematical precision, he shows why the neo-Darwinian mechanism cannot produce the genetic information and novel proteins—or systems for regulating their expression—that are required to build new animals.

An excellent book and a must read for anyone who wants to understanding of the very real—though often unreported—scientific challenges facing neo-Darwinism.”

—**Dr. Russell Carlson**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,
Director of the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia

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“Darwin’s Doubt is by far the most up-to-date, accurate, comprehensive and in-depth review of the evidence from all relevant scientific fields that I have encountered in 40 years of studying the Cambrian explosion. An engaging investigation of the origin of animal life and a compelling case for intelligent design.”

Dr. Wolf-Ekkehard Lönnig, Senior Scientist (Biologist),
Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, (emeritus), Cologne, Germany

“It is hard for us paleontologists, steeped as we are in a tradition of Darwinian analysis, to admit that neo-Darwinian explanations for the Cambrian Explosion have failed miserably. New data acquired in recent years, instead of solving Darwin’s dilemma, have rather made it worse. Meyer describes the dimensions of the problem with clarity and precision. His book is a game changer for the study of evolution and evolutionary biology. Stephen Meyer points us in the right direction as we seek a new theory for the origin of Cambrian animal phyla.”

–Mark McMenamin, Paleontologist, Mt. Holyoke College, Author:
The Emergence of Animals (Columbia University Press)

“Darwin’s Doubt is another excellent book by Stephen Meyer. I particularly like his refutation of the concept of self-assembly of biological systems. The book explains the difference between specified complexity and order and shows that natural forces cannot generate the kind of complexity we see in living systems. I know from my personal work in the Systems Centre at Bristol University that complex systems do not create themselves but require an intelligent designer. Stephen Meyer has clearly listened to the arguments of those who are sceptical about intelligent design and has addressed them thoroughly. It is really important that Darwinists read this book carefully and give a response.

–Professor Stuart Burgess, Professor of Design and Nature,
Head of Mechanical Engineering at Bristol University