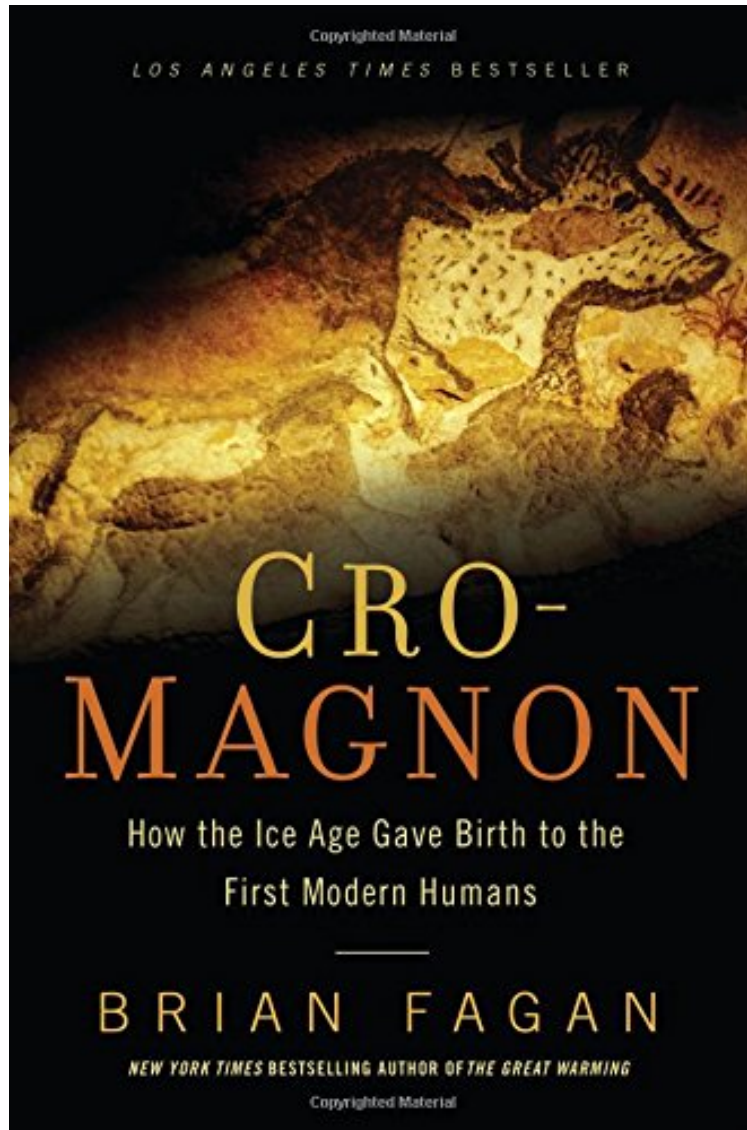


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Cro-Magnon: How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans

Brian Fagan

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Brian Fagan : Cro-Magnon: How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cro-Magnon: How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans:

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by the writing that the needle was one of the main differences between Cro Magnon and Neanderthal; also speech and language.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. interesting analysis of the interplay of environment and developmentBy CustomerThe study was interesting and broadening. I love to be able to think about the human past and our common striving to find meaning. It seems to me that the basic thrust of this book--that the times we find ourselves living in has an overwhelming influence on how we develop, both individually and as a society. We do not develop in a vacuum and have wide but still somewhat limited control on what we allow to influence us.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Abraham LincolnGood read, I always wondered what life must have been like back in the days of the Little Ice Age and how people managed to get along. How did people go from learning how to use fire and to paint on cave walls in France to learning how to make a rocking chair. That is a wonder that probably could be explained by some smart nerd of a professor who tells you he knows everything about early people but, in fact, he was never there and knows only what he thinks he knows.

They survived by their wits in a snowbound world, hunting, and sometimes being hunted by, animals many times their size. By flickering firelight, they drew bison, deer, and mammoths on cavern walls- vibrant images that seize our imaginations after thirty thousand years. They are known to archaeologists as the Cro-Magnons-but who were they? Simply put, these people were among the first anatomically modern humans. For millennia, their hunter-gatherer culture flourished in small pockets across Ice Age Europe, the distant forerunner to the civilization we live in now.Bestselling author Brian Fagan brings these early humans out of the deep freeze with his trademark mix of erudition, cutting-edge science, and vivid storytelling. Cro-Magnon reveals human society in its infancy, facing enormous environmental challenges from glaciers, predators, and a rival species of humans-the Neanderthals. Cro-Magnon captures the adaptability that has made humans an unmatched success as a species. Living on a frozen continent with only crude tools, Ice Age humans survived and thrived. In these pages, we meet our most remarkable ancestors.

Archaeology contributing editor Brian Fagan provides readers with intimate accounts of what he imagines Ice Age life was like for both the vanishing Neanderthals and the invading Homo sapiens who developed the basis of modern culture. He lauds the endless ingenuity and adaptability' of ordinary men and women living in bitterly cold Paleolithic Europe. My DNA tells me that, genetically, I'm one of them,' Fagan concludes, and I'm proud of it.' Archaeology (Editors' Pick)Fagan provides readers with a fascinating discussion of the lifestyle of Neanderthals and early modern humans In bringing these ancient human societies to life, Fagan combines an engaging narrative style with a well-written and easily understood scholarly discussionan excellent resource. National Speleological Society newsletterHighly entertaining and instructive[Fagan] does an admirable job in bringing vividly to life the Europe of between eighty and ten thousand years ago Fagan's book has been overtaken by the onward progress of his sciencethis happens to lots of such booksand there are aspects of his case that invite debate. But it is an admirable book nevertheless; the re-imagining of the past is entertainingly done, and a great deal of science, especially climate science, is accessibly introduced on the way. Barnes Noble [A] fascinating accountFagan's narratives of cave-painting and hunting among other anecdotes really bring this history-laden book to life. Green LifeAbout the AuthorBrian Fagan was born in England and spent several years doing fieldwork in Africa. He is Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of New York Times bestseller The Great Warming and many other books, including Fish on Friday: Feasting, Fasting, and the Discovery of the New World, and several books on climate history, including The Little Ice Age and The Long Summer.From AudioFileFagan's history of the emergence of modern humans spans tens of thousands of years, but his perspective is personal and immediate. His work is based on decades of study of ancient artifacts and visits to archaeological sites around the world. James Langton, who surely possesses one of the most listenable voices in audiobooks today, fits easily into the persona Fagan has defined, creating a narrative perspective that is attentive, observant, factual, open to speculation, and never dogmatic in tone. Langton's perfectly articulated rendering keeps the narrative line clear, even when its dates and names might be crowding the listener's mind. One misses the illustrations and maps contained in the book. (The book and audiobook are best experienced together.) But Fagan excels in powers of description, and he receives his due here with a narrator as engaged and as discerning as he is. D.A.W. Winner of AudioFile Earphones Award AudioFile 2010, Portland, Maine