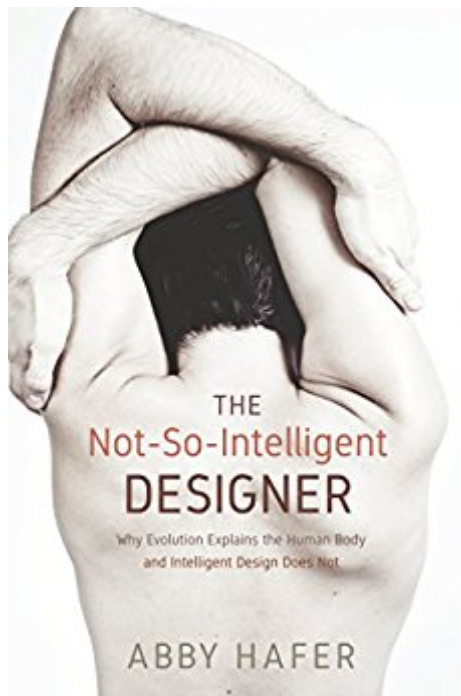


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# The Not-So-Intelligent Designer: Why Evolution Explains The Human Body And Intelligent Design Does Not



## Synopsis

Why do men's testicles hang outside the body? Why does our appendix sometimes explode and kill us? And who does the Designer like better, anyway--us or squid? These and other questions are addressed in *The Not-So-Intelligent Designer: Why Evolution Explains the Human Body and Intelligent Design Does Not*. Dr. Abby Hafer argues that the human body has many faulty design features that would never have been the choice of an intelligent creator. She also points out that there are other animals that got better body parts, which makes the Designer look a bit strange; discusses the history and politics of Intelligent Design and creationism; reveals animals that shouldn't exist according to Intelligent Design; and disposes of the idea of irreducible complexity. Her points are illustrated with pictures, wit, and erudition.

"Where has this book been all my life? This work by Dr. Hafer systematically overturns the arguments of the intelligent design movement with wit and plain language. As a pastor, I appreciate Hafer's contribution to clarity in our public discourse, both scientific and political. Her intention may be to restore science to its rightful place, but she has also done the faith community a favor, liberating it from a silly and unnecessary controversy."--Julia Tipton Rendon, Crossroads United Church of Christ, Indianola, IA

"For an adequate account of the world, we must take a sober look at life as it really is. Hafer shows that things are a whole lot messier and makeshift than what some intelligent design theories would incline us to believe. This book has the potential not only to alter the political terrain in wars over evolution and creationism but also to prompt believers like me to rethink how we should talk about God as Creator."--Thomas Jay Oord, author of *Divine Grace and Emerging Creation*

"I've been dreaming of a politically edgy treatment of intelligent design and here it is at last. Abby Hafer is acutely intelligent and wonderfully witty. Read this book and laugh your way to clarity and wisdom."--Wesley J. Wildman, Boston University, Boston, MA

"Three cheers for Abby Hafer! She did it and no one thought it could be done! She wrote a devastating critique of intelligent design that is clear, funny, scientifically accurate, and charming. Her book is a marvel of how popular science should be written. Oh, were there more scientific writers like Abby . . ."--Michael Martin, Boston University, Boston, MA

"A delightful exploration of the quirks of our bodies that make biology so much fun, evolution so fascinating, life so explicable, and intelligent design creationism so preposterous."--Steven Pinker, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

"*The Not-So-Intelligent Designer* is a much-needed work in an America where anti-intellectualism is rampant and, shockingly, even candidates for high office frequently reject evolution. Abby Hafer has that rare ability to communicate complex scientific ideas in understandable terms for non-scientists, and this book is sure to enlighten many."--David Niose, author of *Fighting Back the Right*

"Hafer's book is a valuable

contribution to debunking the claims of intelligent design and the notion of one or more gods intervening in the physics and biology of the real world. She writes in an engaging style that entertains as well as informs. I enthusiastically recommend it."--Ellery Schempp, Brown University, Providence, RIDr. Abby Hafer has a doctorate in zoology from Oxford University. She is a Senior Lecturer who teaches human anatomy and physiology at Curry College. She gives frequent public lectures on why evolution is true and Intelligent Design/Creationism is not.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Hafer tells us that the scientific community largely ignores the rants of religious people trying to mute the voice of science. Scientists tend to spend their time and effort writing scientific papers. Hafer is a zoologist from Oxford University. She knows that most people do not read scientific papers or journals â “ especially the creationists and proponents of Intelligent Design. Hafer thus set out to write a book that people who are not in the scientific community will read. This is it. It disabuses the falsehood that is spread by the ID people against science generally, and evolution specifically. ID and Creationism are different, she explains. But both are religious views, contrary to

what their proponents would like the public to believe. ID has its "headquarters" in the Discovery Institute, a place that they try to pass off as a scientific institution, but as Hafer points out, it does not even own a single microscope. It has published no scientific paper. From data gleaned from all its publications, its most often used words begin with the root "arg\_". The word "data" hardly appeared and when it does it was attributed to others. There is only one time that it had a paper appearing in a scientific journal. That was in 2004. It was a paper by Stephen Meyer, "a big ID promoter". His article, "The origin of biological information and the higher taxonomic categories" was published in a genuine biological journal, "Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington". Within months, it was revealed that the article did not pass through the normal peer review. It was accepted by the then editor, Richard Von Sternberg. On further investigation, they found that the Discovery Institute paid Sternberg \$77,375 and another \$16,581 in expenses.

**The Not-So-Intelligent Designer: Why Evolution Explains the Human Body and Intelligent Design Does Not** by Abby Hafer • "The Not-So-Intelligent Designer" is a delightful contribution that provides compelling information of how the human body is badly "designed". Dr. Hafer provides the public with an accessible reference on evolution while exposing the Intelligent Design (ID) movement as a political pressure group of science denialism. This enlightening and fun 266-page book includes thirty-five short chapters covering a wide-range of topics on evolution and creationism.

**Positives:**

1. An engaging well-written book with a touch of humor.
2. The fascinating topic of evolution and exposing the Intelligent Design (ID) as the political science denial movement that it is.
3. Dr. Hafer has a doctorate in zoology who teaches human anatomy and physiology at Curry College. She has mastery of the topic and uses her wit and knowledge to enlighten the public.
4. This book focuses on the many quirks of the human body and convincingly shows how the human body evolved versus being created. "Human bodies are just too badly put together to stand up to even reasonable design specifications, much less infallible ones."
5. Succeeds in clearly showing how the ID controversy is not a scientific issue, but a political one. "ID is the idea that biological organisms have come about due to the deliberate work of an intelligent Creator. It further argues that new species cannot come about through evolution by natural selection, and must be the work of a Designer."
6. Goes over the classic debunked examples of the ID movement. "The usual examples given for irreducible complexity are the human blood clotting sequence, the bacterial flagellum, and the human eye."
- 7.

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