But What If We're Wrong?: Thinking About The Present As If It Were The Past

Klosterman
Chuck
Wrong?
We're
But What If...
Synopsis

New York Times bestselling author Chuck Klosterman asks questions that are profound in their simplicity: How certain are we about our understanding of gravity? How certain are we about our understanding of time? What will be the defining memory of rock music, five hundred years from today? How seriously should we view the content of our dreams? How seriously should we view the content of television? Are all sports destined for extinction? Is it possible that the greatest artist of our era is currently unknown (or â€œweirdly still â€œwidely known, but entirely disrespectedâ€)? Is it possible that we â€œoverrateâ€ democracy? And perhaps most disturbing, is it possible that weâ€™ve reached the end of knowledge? Klosterman visualizes the contemporary world as it will appear to those who'll perceive it as the distant past. Kinetically slingshotting through a broad spectrum of objective and subjective problems, But What If Weâ€™re Wrong? is built on interviews with a variety of creative thinkers â€” George Saunders, David Byrne, Jonathan Lethem, Kathryn Schulz, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Brian Greene, Junot Díaz, Amanda Petrusich, Ryan Adams, Nick Bostrom, Dan Carlin, and Richard Linklater, among others â€” interwoven with the type of high-wire humor and nontraditional analysis only Klosterman would dare to attempt. Itâ€™s a seemingly impossible achievement: a book about the things we cannot know, explained as if we did. Itâ€™s about how we live now, once â€œnowâ€ has become â€œthen.â€

Book Information

Hardcover: 288 pages
Publisher: Blue Rider Press; 1 edition (June 7, 2016)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0399184120
Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1 x 8.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (111 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,559 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) Â #1 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Epistemology Â #5 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Essays & Correspondence > Essays Â #10 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > General

Customer Reviews

"But What If We're Wrong?" is an excellent concept with some critical flaws. This seems to be the case with a lot of Klosterman books. Don't get me wrong: I am a Klosterman fan, and I admire his
ability to think critically about pop culture subjects. All of his writing is engaging. But this book falls short in its exposition, is often dry and plodding, and seems occasionally to miss obvious explanations for topics which he frames as undiscovered. His early thoughts on gravity, for example, make an interesting argument for science as a form of religion. In other words, that our understanding of science in five hundred years will likely be vastly different from now, and thus the things which we reflexively accept as unquestionable truths today will likely be understood differently far into the future. We believe most of science because we are told to believe it. But his argument for this -- with gravity as the example -- is wanting. Klosterman reasons that because our understanding of science has included beliefs held longer than we have understood gravity and have now been proven false or changed, that our understanding of gravity is thus destined to change as well. But this dismisses ancillary advances in our ability to understand the value of replication in science, and it also dismisses the changing value of time in understanding the pace of cultural evolution. In other words, technological and scientific advancement occurs now over a smaller time frame than it did a thousand years ago, and will in a thousand years occur more rapidly than now. It is not an A-to-B comparison. For example, it took nearly the entire history of human knowledge to build our first understandings of computers, but less than a century to advance computer technology beyond a human’s innate ability.

Download to continue reading...

But What If We’re Wrong?: Thinking About the Present As If It Were the Past Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past (Critical Perspectives On The Past) My Youth Romantic Comedy Is Wrong, As I Expected @ comic, Vol. 2 - manga (My Youth Romantic Comedy Is Wrong, As I Expected @ comic (manga)) Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon? Sword Oratoria, Vol. 1 - light novel (Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon? On the Side: Sword Oratoria) Chose the Wrong Guy, Gave Him the Wrong Finger Criminal Volume 7: Wrong Place, Wrong Time Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys: Common Core Trade Book Grade 3 Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs, Kathleen V. Kudlinski Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs! How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking The Beatles Were Fab (and They Were Funny) When Bugs Were Big, Plants Were Strange, and Tetrapods Stalked the Earth: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life before Dinosaurs Left Behind Series Prequel Set (The Rising, Anarchist is Born Before they were Left Behind/ The Regime, Evil Advances Before they were Left Behind/ The Rapture, In the Twinkling of an Eye Countdown to the Earth’s Last Days) If I Were A kid in Ancient China (If I Were A kid in Ancient...) 100 Secrets of the Art World: Everything You Always Wanted to Know from Artists, Collectors and Curators, but Were Afraid to Ask Everything You Ever Wanted to
Know About Cartooning But Were Afraid to Draw (Christopher Hart Titles) Get to Know Your Gut: Everything You Wanted to Know about Burping, Bloating, Candida, Constipation, Food Allergies, Farting, and Poo but Were Afraid to Ask Music Theory for Guitarists: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask (Guitar Method) But My Family Would Never Eat Vegan!: 125 Recipes to Win Everyone Over_ Picky kids will try it, hungry adults won’t miss meat, and holiday traditions can live on! (But I Could Never Go Vegan!) The American Journey: Reconstruction to the Present (THE AMER JOURNEY RECON/PRESENT) What Were You Thinking?: $600-Per-Hour Legal Advice on Relationships, Marriage, and Divorce

Dmca