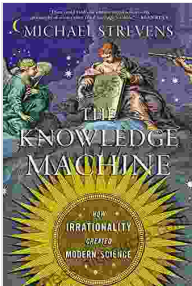


# The Knowledge Machine: How Irrationality Created Modern Science

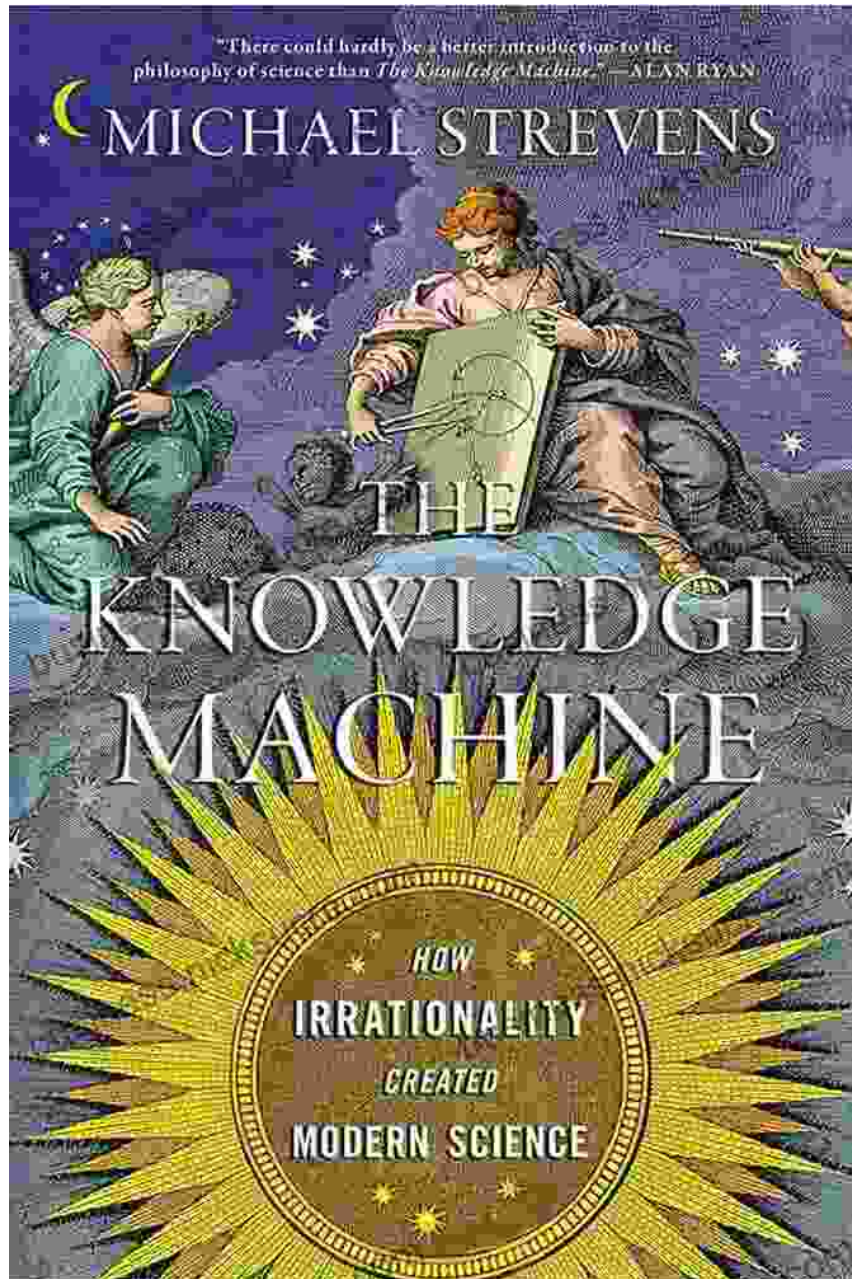


## The Knowledge Machine: How Irrationality Created Modern Science by Michael Strevens

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 29552 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 368 pages

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The Knowledge Machine: How Irrationality Created Modern Science is a book by Michael Strevens that argues that science is not a purely rational enterprise, but rather is driven by a combination of rational and irrational factors. Strevens provides a wealth of historical and philosophical evidence to support his claims, and his book has been praised by critics for its originality and insights.

Strevens begins his book by arguing that the traditional view of science as a purely rational enterprise is flawed. He points out that scientists are often motivated by a variety of irrational factors, such as curiosity, ambition, and the desire for recognition. He also argues that the process of scientific discovery is often messy and non-linear, and that it is often driven by hunches and intuitions rather than by pure reason.

Strevens then goes on to provide a wealth of historical evidence to support his claims. He shows that many of the most important scientific discoveries were made by scientists who were willing to embrace irrationality. For example, he argues that Isaac Newton's discovery of the laws of motion was driven by his obsession with alchemy and astrology. He also shows that Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was inspired by his travels to the Galapagos Islands, where he was struck by the diversity of life forms.

Strevens concludes his book by arguing that the irrationality of science is actually a strength. He argues that it allows scientists to explore new ideas and to challenge the status quo. He also argues that it helps to make science more accessible to the general public.

The Knowledge Machine is a fascinating and provocative book that challenges the traditional view of science. Strevens provides a wealth of evidence to support his claims, and he makes a compelling case for the importance of irrationality in the scientific process.

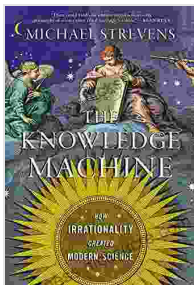
## **Reviews**

“A brilliant and original book that challenges the traditional view of science as a purely rational enterprise. Strevens shows that irrationality is actually a strength of science, allowing scientists to explore new ideas and to

challenge the status quo.” — Steven Pinker, author of *The Better Angels of Our Nature*

“A fascinating and thought-provoking book that will change the way you think about science. Strevens provides a wealth of evidence to support his claims, and he makes a compelling case for the importance of irrationality in the scientific process.” — David Deutsch, author of *The Beginning of Infinity*

“A must-read for anyone interested in the history and philosophy of science. Strevens provides a fresh and insightful perspective on the role of irrationality in the scientific process.” — Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, author of *Plato at the Googleplex*

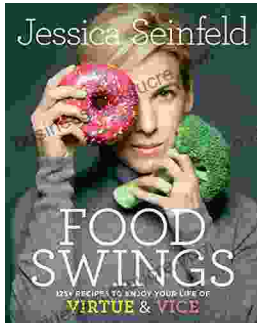


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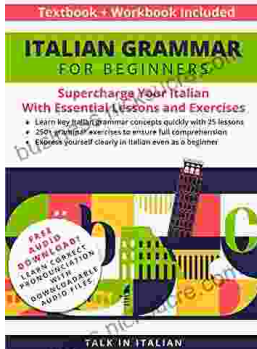
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