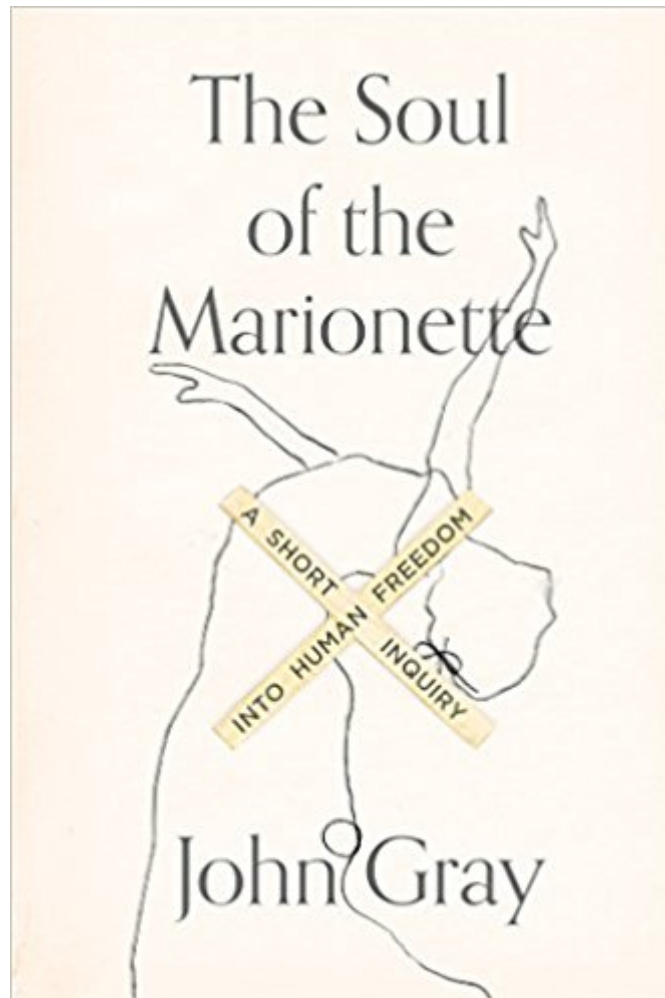


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The Soul Of The Marionette: A Short Inquiry Into Human Freedom



Synopsis

In his brilliantly enjoyable and freewheeling new book, John Gray draws together the religious, philosophic, and fantastical traditions that question the very idea of human freedom. We flatter ourselves about the nature of free will and yet the most enormous forces--logical, physical, metaphysical--constrain our every action. Many writers and intellectuals have always understood this, but instead of embracing our condition we battle against it, with everyone from world conquerors to modern scientists dreaming of a "human dominion" almost comically at odds with our true state. Filled with wonderful examples and drawing on the widest possible reading (from the Gnostics to Philip K. Dick), *The Soul of the Marionette* is a stimulating and engaging meditation on everything from cybernetics to the fairground marionettes of the title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[*The Soul of the Marionette*] is pervaded by the signature skepticism of its author, a British philosopher. Trapped in bodies, burdened by mortality, and cursed with self-reflective thought, we are limited in our freedom. Gray dismisses modern rationalism, with its faith in human progress, as a kind of Gnosticism made from scraps of decayed Christianity, whose central myth is that knowledge will set us free. Spirited tours through the lives and work of various artists add texture to his provocative arguments. *The New Yorker* "Illusion-piercing sobriety." *Booklist* (starred review) "[A]n intelligently written, thought-provoking book." *Publishers Weekly* "Gray connects the dots among science fiction (including that of Stanislaw Lem),

Borges, the human-sacrificing Aztecs, global warming, and the loss of privacy (and freedom) that the cyberrevolution has wrought, challenging readers to make some leaps of logic and come to counterintuitive conclusions. Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

John Gray is the author of many critically acclaimed books, including *The Silence of Animals*, *The Immortalization Commission*, *Black Mass*, and *Straw Dogs*. A regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books*, he has been a professor of politics at Oxford, visiting professor at Harvard and Yale, and professor of European thought at the London School of Economics. He now writes full-time.

Just kidding in the title. Relax. I've read dogs and animals. Both important for me personally. This as well. Good bit of overlap perhaps in them but not enough to complain about unless you have a photographic memory. If you do then go to hell. Kidding again... If you're ready for Gray then you'll get all 3. It's not as though you have the choice.

If you like John Gray, this is more of the same, and very good, but I'd recommend starting with *STRAW DOGS* and moving on from there

i like it, what can i say, it's accessible philosophy, with soul.

no problems

BRILLIANT AS USUAL-- GRAY WRITES WITH CLARITY AND STYLE SELDOM SEEN--A CORMAC MCCARTHY FOR THE NON FICTION WORLD-IF YOU HAVE NOT PARTAKEN OF HIS PRIOR WORKS--STRAW DOGS, HERESIES, ENLIGHTENMENTS WAKE, ETC INDULGE YOUR INTELLECT-- YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED!J TUTTON MD

This book had so many interesting stories and history of religions. It was not what I expected but I very much enjoyed it.

Wonderful ideas and stories. Book arrived as promised. I would buy again from this seller and by this writer.

John Gray is always enlightening.

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