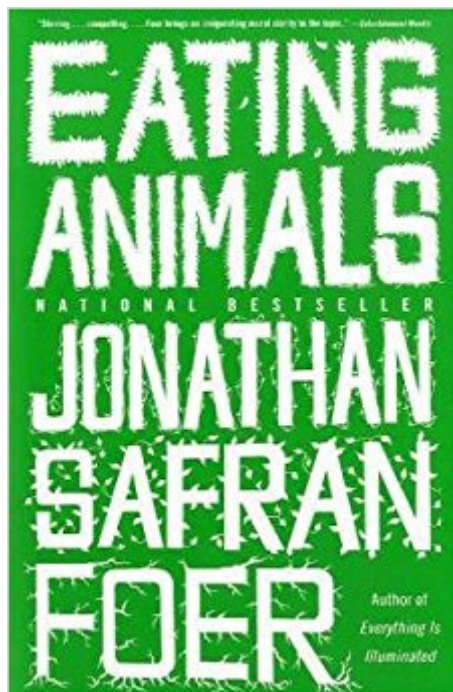


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# Eating Animals



## Synopsis

Jonathan Safran Foer spent much of his life oscillating between enthusiastic carnivore and occasional vegetarian. Once he started a family, the moral dimensions of food became increasingly important. Faced with the prospect of being unable to explain why we eat some animals and not others, Foer set out to explore the origins of many eating traditions and the fictions involved with creating them. Traveling to the darkest corners of our dining habits, Foer raises the unspoken question behind every fish we eat, every chicken we fry, and every burger we grill. Part memoir and part investigative report, *Eating Animals* is a book that, in the words of the Los Angeles Times, places Jonathan Safran Foer "at the table with our greatest philosophers."

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Back Bay Books (September 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316069884

ISBN-13: 978-0316069885

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 741 customer reviews

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Nature & Ecology > Animal Rights #2 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics &

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. The latest from novelist Foer is a surprising but characteristically brilliant memoir-investigation, boasting an exhaustively-argued account of one man-child's decade-long struggle with vegetarianism. On the eve of becoming a father, Foer takes all the arguments for and against vegetarianism a neurotic step beyond and, to decide how to feed his coming baby, investigates everything from the intelligence level of our most popular meat providers-cattle, pigs, and poultry-to the specious self-justifications (his own included) for eating some meat products and not others. Foer offers a lighthearted counterpoint to his investigation in doting portraits of his loving grandmother, and her meat-and-potatoes comfort food, leaving him to wrestle with the comparative weight of food's socio-cultural significance and its economic-moral-political meaning. Without pulling

any punches-factory farming is given the full expose treatment-Foer combines an array of facts, astutely-written anecdotes, and his furious, inward-spinning energy to make a personal, highly entertaining take on an increasingly visible (and book-selling) moral question; call it, perhaps, An Omnivore's Dilemma. --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** If this book were packaged like a loaf of bread, its Nutrition Facts box would list high percentages of graphic descriptions of factory farm methods of animal breeding, mass confinement, and assembly-line slaughter as well as the brutality and waste of high-tech fishing methods; fresh studies of animal (fish included) intelligence and their capacity for suffering; and undiluted facts about industrial animal agriculture's major role in global warming. Sensitive to the centrality of food in culture and family life, Foer, author of the novels *Everything Is Illuminated* (2002) and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2005), frames his first nonfiction book within the story of his Holocaust survivor grandmother's complex relationship with food and his response to fatherhood. He presents assiduously assembled facts (supported by 70 pages of end notes) about the miserable lives and deaths of industrialized chickens, pigs, fish, and cattle and about agricultural pollution and how factory farming engenders species-leaping flu pandemics. He also asks philosophical questions, such as why we eat such smart and affectionate animals as pigs but not dogs. Foer brings extraordinary artistry, clarity, valor, and compassion to this staggering investigation into the ethics, horrors, and dangers of factory farming. An indelible book that should reach a diverse audience and deepen the conversation about how best to live on a rapidly changing planet. --Donna Seaman --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

Jonathan Safran Foer's "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" is my favorite book, and I decided to check out this one just for the heck of it with no real interest in vegetarianism or veganism. This book really opened my eyes to the source of the meat we buy and the many ill effects of factory farming. Although I have not become vegan or vegetarian, this book motivated me to make the deliberate decision to never buy meat, milk, eggs, and other animal products at the grocery store (I still allow myself to eat these things occasionally at restaurants and friends' houses). It has allowed me to make more informed decisions on the food I eat. I also appreciated that the author is not one-sided; he presents the topic from a wide range of perspectives, giving you a pretty comprehensive view of the farming industry and making the book both interesting and informative. I highly recommend this book.

This book is a well written, thoughtful and thoroughly researched account of the current state of the American factory farming system. Furthermore, Foer illuminates the philosophical and ethical quandaries that are inherent with consuming animal meat in our modern society. On a personal note, in my adult life I've been everything from a true vegetarian to a blissful omnivore to, most recently, a "lacto-ovo, pescetarian". Eating Animals has now inspired me to go vegan because it has reignited in me a feeling of obligation and responsibility that I haven't had in a long time. I now feel an obligation to be honest with myself about what ethics are important and responsibility to start making choices that match these ethics. For instance, if I happened to see a neighbor brutally beating his dog to the point of blood, my ethics would compel me to step in and take umbrage with his actions. That type of violence turns my stomach and angers me deeply. If this is the case how can I reconcile my ethical convictions that torture and suffering of innocent creatures is wrong and then blindly eat meat or dairy that is routinely produced under such conditions? This question is essentially the crux of the book and the main philosophical issue that Foer explores.

most people put more thought into the fuel they put in their car than the food they put in their body. if you don't know where your food comes from read this book. JSF does a wonderful job explaining the system of factory farming, a system that is unsustainable for the animals and the humans that consume them. your diet affects your health several animals lives and the future of all life on this planet. make an informed decision.

Jonathan Foer has an eye-opening message here and we all need to hear and head it for this Mother Earth is the only home we have and our eating animals is contributing to its destruction more than you know. So read and head and reach and teach others. Peace.

This is a superb book with the potential to be life changing for the right person at the right time. It happened to be the straw that broke the camel's back for me after going back and forth on the question of whether to eat meat for several years, and I have been happily vegetarian ever since reading it around five years ago. The book's purpose is not to present groundbreaking information about how animals in the food system are treated; most of the facts were already available elsewhere as of the book's publishing. Safran Foer's biggest contribution is in synthesizing a wide body of information into a powerful narrative. I highly recommend Eating Animals to everyone, regardless of fluency with the horrific state of animal welfare in today's food system. At the very least, it will be a fascinating read about one of our society's most critical problems.

This book will change how any thinking person would feel about food animals and how they are treated. Hard to believe it will not change one's marketing choices . 99+% of food animals are raised by corporations who maximize profit at animal's expense. The author spent years observing and documenting facts for this work. Just gut-wrenching. Policy makers should do their home work, and this is a great place to start. We should be ashamed that this goes on.

No longer are families running farms that provide healthy, natural, nourishing meat. Instead, huge factories are pumping out mutated meat that has been genetically altered and manipulated so much that the animal's anatomies themselves are changing. After more than three years of research, Jonathan Foer gives an in-depth look at factory farming and how it is effecting the entire world today. Foer takes a surprisingly objective view on everything and does no preaching about being or becoming a vegetarian. Instead he simply shows you the horrifying world of factory farming then let's you decide for yourself. There are some complex implications that come from factory farming and after reading this book, I now know the consequences that come from eating meat on a daily basis. Environmentally, morally, and for the overall health of people, eating animals at the rate most people eat them simply doesn't make sense anymore, and if there is any doubt in your mind as to whether it is right or wrong, read this book and get the facts that you think you are aware of, and then decide. At a time when the world seems to be unraveling, one of the most simple, and unselfish of things that can be done to better the world is to become a vegetarian. It's basic and easy once you start and after a lifetime of living you won't be responsible for so many evil things. Simple put down the steak, pick up the potato, and go pet all the little cows and pigs whose lives you are saving.

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