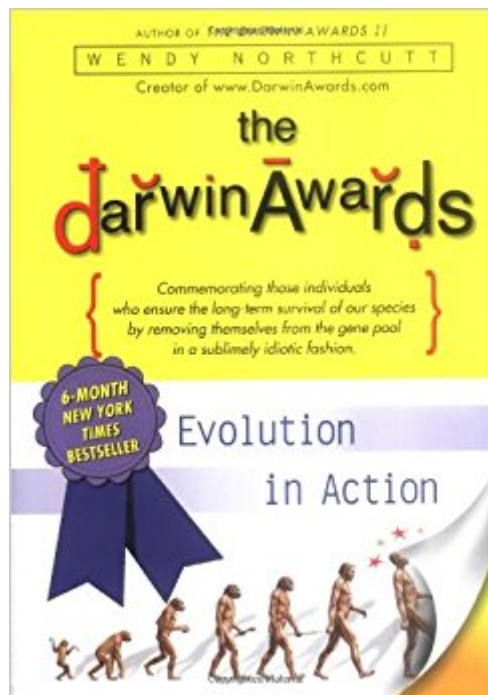




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# The Darwin Awards: Evolution In Action (Darwin Awards (Plume Books))



## Synopsis

The hilarious *New York Times* bestselling phenomenon—more than 1.5 million copies sold! *The Darwin Awards* shares the stories of those human beings who improve the gene pool by removing themselves from it in a sublimely idiotic fashion. Marvel at the thief who tries to steal live electrical wires. Gape at the lawnchair jockey who floats to a height of 16,000 feet suspended by helium balloons. And learn from the man who peers into a gasoline can using a cigarette lighter. All contend for Darwin Awards when their choices culminate in magnificent misadventures. These tales of trial and awe-inspiring error—verified by the author and endorsed by website readers—illustrate the ongoing saga of survival of the fittest in all its selective glory. *The Darwin Awards* vividly portrays the finest examples of evolution in action, and shows us just how uncommon common sense can be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“*The Darwin Awards* is a riot to read. Deeply entertaining.”—*San Francisco Weekly*  
“Delightfully funny, *The Darwin Awards*, taken together, constitute a delicious sermon in support of common sense.”—*The Baltimore Sun*

A graduate of UC Berkeley with a degree in molecular biology, Wendy Northcutt began collecting the stories that make up the Darwin Awards in 1993. Her award-winning Web site [www.DarwinAwards.com](http://www.DarwinAwards.com) is one of the most popular humor pages on the Web. *The Darwin*

Awards have been profiled in *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and on NPR's *All Things Considered*. Wendy is the author of the international bestsellers *The Darwin Awards: Evolution in Action*, *The Darwin Awards 2: Unnatural Selection*, *The Darwin Awards 3: Survival of the Fittest*, *The Darwin Awards 4: Intelligent Design*, *The Darwin Awards: Next Evolution*, and *The Darwin Awards: Countdown to Extinction*.

Wendy Northcutt had the imagination and good sense to start the Darwin Awards some years ago, and she's now compiled the best ones into a book. "The Darwin Awards" examines what Northcutt calls "the finest examples of evolution in action"--that is to say, just-plain-stupid folks who are killed (or sometimes just maimed) through direct result of their own stupidity. Northcutt's premise is based on the idea that these idiots have done the human race a favor by removing themselves from the gene pool. Northcutt not only details some hilarious stories herein, she tells you whether or not they were "confirmed by the Darwin Awards" (most were) and what newspapers or magazines the original accounts appear in when the unfortunate event first took place. She also examines a number of remarkably resilient urban legends (remember the one about the guys, the dynamite, the iced-over lake, the SUV that hadn't yet been fully paid for, and the faithful dog?) and gives you her take on possible origins of the stories and what clearly makes them urban legends instead of true, out-and-out Darwin Award contenders. This book is a laugh a minute. You will be astonished at some of the idiotic things people do without thinking--looking into a gas tank or a loaded gun with a lit match, trying to get fish by dropping live electrical wires into a lake (then wandering in to retrieve said fish without removing or turning off the wires), and so on and so on. What a guilty pleasure this book is!

The correct book showed up so yeah. Not really an option between picking anything other than 1 or 5 stars.

Charles Darwin's theory of the "survival of the fittest" implies, by extension, that idiots will die, thus the premise of this humorous volume. Wendy Northcutt has compiled a series of anecdotes of fatal stupidity, from the drunken pilot who took off with a gust lock in place to the prison guard falling through a skylight as he "supervised" conjugal visits. Many of these stories involve alcohol, which is not so much stupidity as it impairment. The story of a man awakened in the middle of the night by a phone and mistaking his bedside gun for a receiver speaks less of a lack of intelligence than it does nighttime confusion. Other anecdotes are truly hilarious in their lack of common sense. A person

must die to be awarded a Darwin Award, so these stories aren't for the fainthearted. They have all been carefully documented to avoid inclusions of urban legends. Unfortunately, as a whole, the book is simply not as funny as the individual stories I used to receive in my inbox. Too many borderline anecdotes are included. Although this book makes a good gift for those who revel in the stupidity of others, don't expect laughs on every page.

I love the Darwin Award books and the site it's. The stories always make me laugh. I'm glad that I have the book that started it all.

Classic literature on stupidity

When ever my husband and I take a car trip, one of the first things we pack is THE DARWIN AWARDS. It is unbelievable that people are so careless and stupid about what they do in life. The stories are funny, and sad, that stupidity is supreme in the human race. And the short stories keep us laughing, making our long trip seem very short.

one time easy read, making fun of other people stupidity

Great. Just what to expect!

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