



Who Am I?: And If So, How Many?

By Richard David Precht



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What is truth? What is love? Does life have meaning? Bestselling author Richard David Precht, “the Mick Jagger of the nonfiction book” (*Tagesanzeiger Zürich*), has traveled the globe searching for answers—and his odyssey has become one of the most talked-about books around the world. Combining classic philosophy and cutting-edge neuroscience, Precht guides readers through the thickest jungles of academic discourse with the greatest of ease, taking on subjects as challenging and divisive as abortion, cloning, the eating of animals, euthanasia, the ethics of reproductive science, and the very future of humanity.

Who knows? By the end of this wildly entertaining journey, you just might be able to answer, *Who Am I?*



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Precht, a German journalist, synthesizes philosophical views on topics like morality, happiness, and the soul with insights gleaned from biology and the neurosciences. While the accounts of philosophers like Immanuel Kant, anatomists such as Ramón y Cajal, and neurosurgeons like Robert White are necessarily brief and somewhat narrow, the author emphasizes the many and instructive intersections between them—what Wittgenstein and studies of deaf children can teach us about language, what Descartes and neurobiology tell us about identity formation. Precht moves between his various topics with the easy style of Alain de Botton; however, the conceit of tying each chapter to a specific city or place, thereby giving currency to the book's subtitle, is forced and redundant in light of the author's ability to move through philosophical and scientific fields with such fluency. Nonetheless, as an introduction to philosophy and one that shows its continuing relevance in a world increasingly determined by biological definitions of identity and behavior, it is a remarkably informative and lively read. (Mar.)

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Review

“Precht moves between his various topics with the easy style of Alain de Botton...

A remarkably informative and lively read.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Precht takes his title from the ravings of a drunken friend. But he takes the framework for his wide-ranging inquiry from a stone-cold sober Immanuel Kant, who reduced the philosophic project to four questions: What can I know? What should I do? What can I hope for? What is man? But inebriated friend and sober philosopher share an interest in the human experience, an experience Precht illuminates by showing that no matter how much modern neuroscience and psychology may have reframed Kant's first three questions, it is still the philosopher who must supply the final answers...Readers learn, for instance, that while neuroscientists can explain the biochemistry involved when the brain acquires new knowledge, only philosophy can interpret the way the human self distills knowledge in language and moral judgment. Similar reasoning demonstrates why the philosopher seeking understanding must move beyond brain mapping to explain morality and beyond hormones to fathom love...serious readers everywhere will appreciate a book that restores philosophy to contemporary relevance.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

“This book not only instructs but delights the reader. It goes down like a cool beer on a warm summer's eve.” —*Der Spiegel*

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“Both entertaining and instructive . . . accessible to every reader.” —*L'Est républicain*

“A sweeping guide that goes right to the heart of things.” —*Buchjournal*

About the Author

Richard David Precht is a German philosopher, writer, and journalist. He lives in Luxembourg.

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From reader reviews:

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What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They have to answer that question because just their can do which. It said that about publication. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on guardería until university need that Who Am I?: And If So, How Many? to read.

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Gary Games:

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