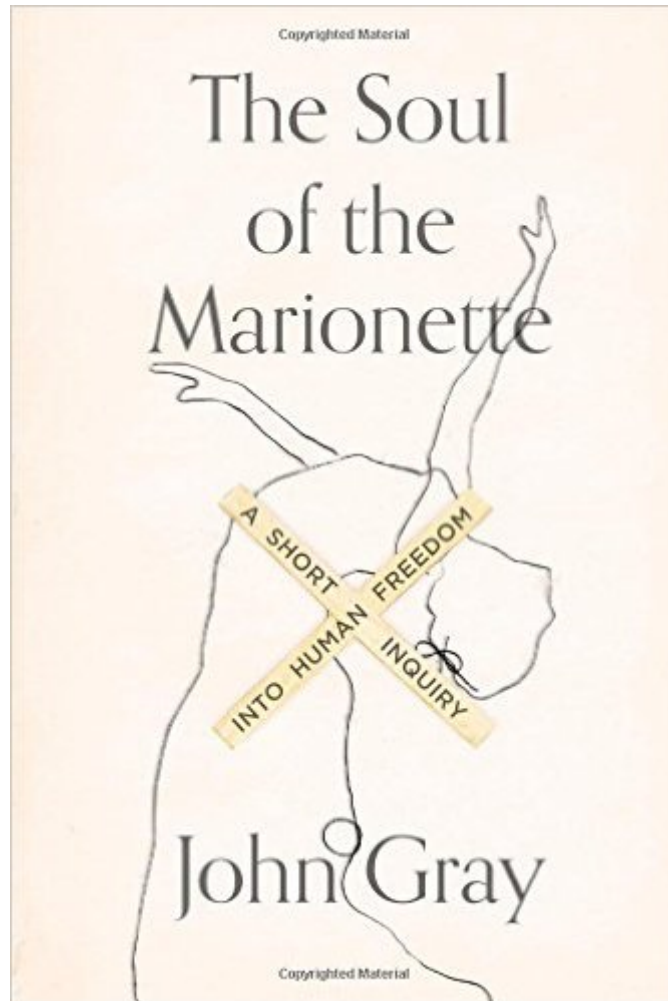


The book was found

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



## Synopsis

Compared with that of humans, the life of the marionette looks more like an enviable state of freedom. 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

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (May 19, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374261180

ISBN-13: 978-0374261184

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #517,793 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #240 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Free Will & Determinism](#) #2184 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Ethics & Morality](#)

## Customer Reviews

In this book, John Gray covers familiar ground, eloquently. He plunders obscure writers and leans heavily on his knowledge of history to build an argument that deconstructs human exceptionalism and to dispel the notion that people, society and culture progress in some linear fashion. His thesis is that humans create the illusion of order because the alternative — embracing the certainty that we are mortal and meaningless creatures (— œflawed, intermittently lucid animals— •) in an indifferent world — fills many of us with paralyzing dread. That created sense of order was once overseen by invented gods, then an invented god and now by science (which, in a sense, elevates human ingenuity to the status of an invented god). Regardless of how it is embodied, the underlying

impulse is to create a sense of purpose and progress that he, of course, considers false. The title is based on a short story that brings to life the crux of the issue. Which is truly free, the marionettes (who have no control over their actions and are free to simply allow external forces to work upon them) or the person at the end of the strings (who, ostensibly, must constantly impose a " and question the veracity and quality a " of their plan). In the case of humans, our sense of self (the part of us that thinks we are unique) can be thought of as the puppet master while our physical bodies are the puppets. We look to our puppet master concept of existence (that we exert meaningful agency upon our actions, our selves and our world) when in fact we are enslaved by the unlimited freedom facing us because, as Gray puts it, a human life is spent anxiously deciding how to live.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Soul of the Marionette: A Short Inquiry into Human Freedom Naval Researches: Or a Candid Inquiry into the Conduct of Admirals Byron, Graves, Hood and Rodney, into the Actions Off Grenada, Chesapeake, ... of April, 1782 (American Revolutionary) Funeral March of a Marionette: Sheet (Alfred Masterwork Edition) March of a Marionette: Bassoon Solo with Piano - Grade 2.5 Soul Mates & Twin Flames: Discover a Timeless Love, Fulfill Your Soul's Purpose, and Experience a Higher Level of Love (Soul Mates, Twin Flames, Karmic ... Spirits, Endless Love, Spiritual Partner) Freedom from Poverty: NGOs and Human Rights Praxis (Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights) An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue (Natural Law Paper) The Empire of Trauma: An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood Man for Himself: An Inquiry Into the Psychology of Ethics Did Muhammad Exist?: An Inquiry Into Islam's Obscure Origins The Ancient Alien Question: A New Inquiry Into the Existence, Evidence, and Influence of Ancient Visitors The Territorial Imperative: A Personal Inquiry into the Animal Origins of Property and Nations Essays That Will Get You into Medical School (Essays That Will Get You Into...Series) [Second Edition] (Barron's Essays That Will Get You Into Medical School) Upside Down: How the Left Turned Right into Wrong, Truth into Lies, and Good into Bad Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) Voices of Freedom: A Documentary History (Fourth Edition) (Vol. 1) (Voices of Freedom (WW Norton)) The Global Sexual Revolution: Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom The Therapist and the Soul: From Fate to Freedom Southern Cooking Cookbooks: southern cooking recipes Collection Of the Best, Healthy, Delicious And Recommended Soul Food Cookbook (soul food for diabetes,Southern Cookbook): Best Fried Chicken The Best of Soul Food - Recipes To Warm Your Heart & Soul

[Dmca](#)