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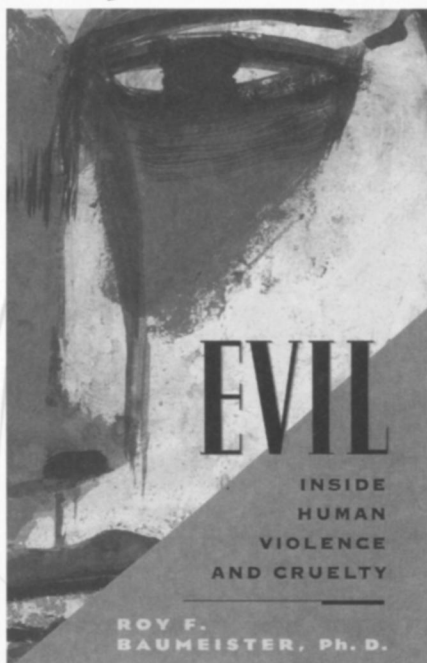
Crystalline Connections

In our modern era of moral relativism, we might think that the term "evil" is old-fashioned. In *Evil*, we realize quickly that it is not, as we follow Roy Baumeister's strikingly original approach to the questions: Why is there evil? and What can scientific research tell us about the origins and persistence of evil behavior?

Integrating evidence from psychology, criminology, sociology, history, anthropology, and other disciplines to provide insight into the roots of cruelty and violence, Baumeister finds vivid examples, both historical and modern, that address compelling human issues: How do "ordinary" people find themselves beating their wives? Murdering rival gang members? Torturing political prisoners? Betraying their colleagues to the secret police? Why do cycles of revenge so often escalate? With an examination of our culture's myths about evil, the book progresses through the whys of evil toward a discussion of a paradox in human psychology—our tendency toward guilt, a natural mechanism that suppresses evil, and our inclination toward ambivalence, a feeling that enables evil to flourish.

Baumeister casts new light on these issues as he examines the gap between the victim's viewpoint and that of the perpetrator and explores various elements behind evil, from egotism and revenge to idealism and sadism. A fascinating study of humankind's oldest problems, *Evil* has profound implications for the way we conduct our lives and govern our society.

—from W.H. Freeman



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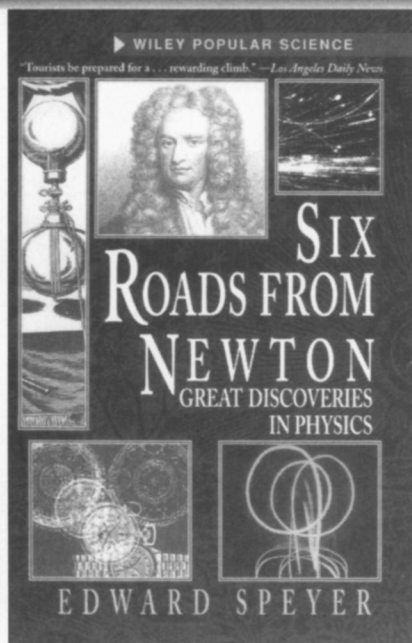
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