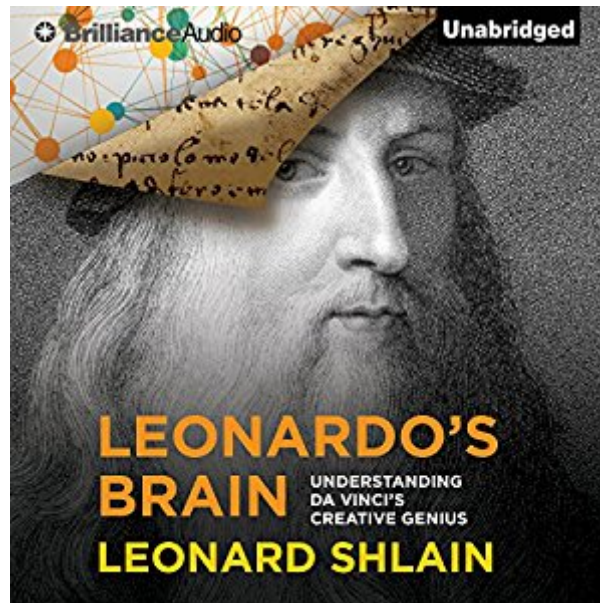




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# Leonardo's Brain: Understanding Da Vinci's Creative Genius



## Synopsis

Bestselling author Leonard Shlain explores the life, art, and mind of Leonardo da Vinci, seeking to explain his singularity by looking at his achievements in art, science, psychology, and military strategy (yes), and then employing state of the art left-right brain scientific research to explain his universal genius. Shlain shows that no other person in human history has excelled in so many different areas as Da Vinci and he peels back the layers to explore the how and the why.

Leonardo's Brain uses Da Vinci as a starting point for an exploration of human creativity. With his lucid style, and his remarkable ability to discern connections in a wide range of fields, Shlain brings the listener into the world of history's greatest mind. Shlain asserts that Leonardo's genius came from a unique creative ability that allowed him to understand and excel in a wide range of fields. From here Shlain jumps off and discusses the history and current research on human creativity that revolves around the right brain-left brain split. Most of us now know that there is a split between the right and the left side of the brain; the left primarily controls our rational mind, the right our emotions. Shlain discusses the cutting edge research that is refining our understanding of the split brain model and deepening our knowledge about the nature of human creativity. There is more integration between the left and right brains than previously thought. Shlain argues that Leonardo was unique in human history for the degree of integration that he showed. He also speculates on whether or not the qualities of Leonardo's brain and his creativity presage the future evolution of man. Leonardo's Brain integrates art, history, science, medicine, neuroscience, psychology, and philosophy uniting all of the ideas that Leonard Shlain studied and wrote about since the publication of the influential and bestselling Art and Physics in 1991.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Easy to read, delightfully clear and brilliantly illuminating. Leonardo (Da Vinci and Shlain) are unique humans. This book is a must read for anyone who is interested in expanding their cognitive aesthetic.

It is an easy to read, carefully crafted book that I enjoyed reading. I am sure I will come back to it again. The parts in which Shain makes explicit references to Leonardo da Vinci's writings/drawings/pictures to provide some form of evidence/support for his (Shain's) arguments/observations are more credible and thought provoking than some other parts of the book where such references are missing. But then again perhaps it is somewhat intentional on the part of the author that some parts do satiate the left brain of the reader, whereas some other parts invite the reader to take a leap of faith with the right brain...

I knew Dr. Shlain, read his other books & I had heard him lecture about this subject. His enthusiasm, breadth of knowledge, & humor were invigorating & I got to re experience those memories as I read this book. I so appreciate his daughter completing his book. He would be so proud of her. Thank you. Dr. Grace Lusk

Boring, repetitive text filled with speculations that are flimsy or even groundless and often just silly. (Shlain seems to genuinely believe that Leonardo was some superhuman being along the lines of the uncanny X-Men.) The material on brain hemispheres is old hat, the biography of DaVinci has been done before by others, and the rest is hot air.

Thought provoking with many new insights into the rare genius of Leonardo DaVinci with some links and possible interpretations for current understandings of right and left brain thinking. Inspiring and requiring Re read.

Fascinating explanation of the creative process and the underlying proposed structure of Leonardo's brain. Explores his groundbreaking work and how it relates to our current understanding of consciousness, creativity and connections. One of the many excellent sections explains right

brain and left brain attributes.

Written in just the right way that makes it interesting and accessible to all. This book craftily sneaks its more challenging scientific concepts right by you by burying them among fascinating historical details about the genius and his times. Without realizing it, you have comprehended the "aha" moments scattered throughout. But don't worry, even if you miss a few, it doesn't detract from the read.

It was hard to stay focused on the material as there were so many divergences that were difficult to relate directly to Leonardo's brain. There was interesting biographical information about him and my interest in further reading is peaked, but I didn't finish the book with a coherent understanding of his brain or mind or both.

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