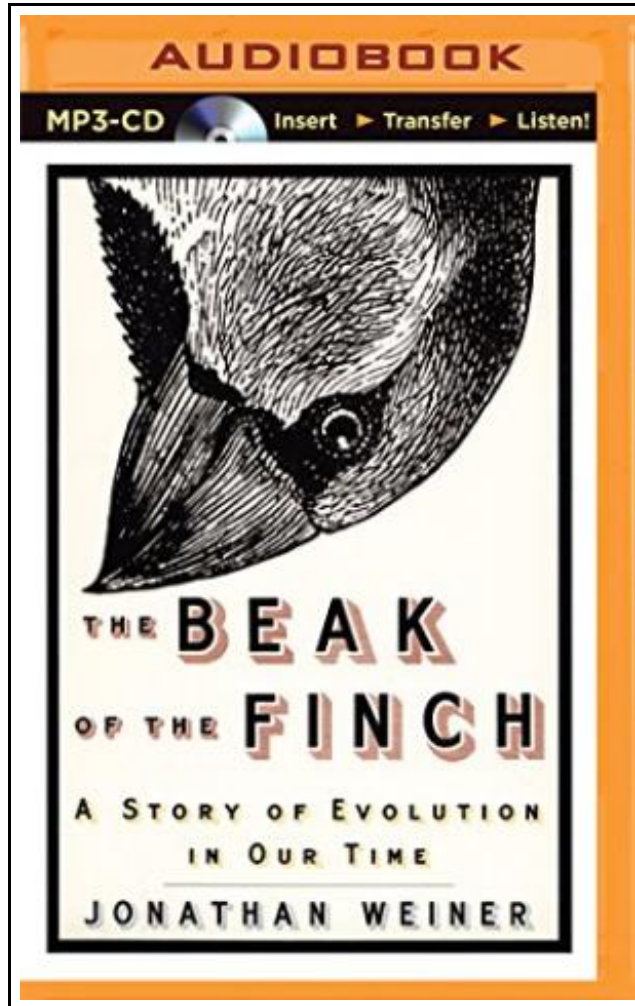


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THE BEAK OF THE FINCH: A STORY OF EVOLUTION IN OUR TIME



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BRILLIANCE AUDIO, United States, 2015. CD-Audio. Book Condition: New. Unabridged. 170 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New. The Beak of the Finch tells the story of two Princeton University scientists evolutionary biologists engaged in an extraordinary investigation. They are watching, and recording, evolution as it is occurring now among the very species of Galapagos finches that inspired Darwin s early musings on the origin of species. They are studying the evolutionary process not through the cryptic medium of fossils but in real time, in the wild, in the flesh. The finches that Darwin took from Galapagos at the time of his voyage on the Beagle led to his first veiled hints about his revolutionary theory. But Darwin himself never saw evolution as Peter and Rosemary Grant have been seeing it in the act of happening. For more than twenty years they have been monitoring generation after generation of finches on the island of Daphne Major measuring, weighing, observing, tracking, analyzing on computers their struggle for existence. We see the Grants at work on the island among the thousands of living, nesting, hatching, growing birds whose world and lives are the Grants primary laboratory. We explore the special circumstances that make the Galapagos archipelago a paradise for evolutionary research: an isolated population of birds that cannot easily fly away and mate with other populations, islands that are the tips of young volcanoes and thus still rapidly evolving as does the life that they support, a food supply changing radically in response to radical variations of climate so that in a brief span of time the Grants can see the beak of the finch adapt. And we watch the Grants team observe evolution at a level that was totally inaccessible to Darwin: the molecular level, as the DNA in the...



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