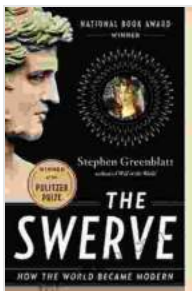


# The Swerve: How the World Became Modern

In 1417, a young Italian scholar named Poggio Bracciolini stumbled upon a lost ancient text in a monastery in Constance, Germany. The text was a copy of Lucretius's *De rerum natura*, a poem about the nature of the universe. It had been lost for centuries, and its rediscovery had a profound impact on the Renaissance and the modern world.



## The Swerve: How the World Became Modern

by Stephen Greenblatt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 6079 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 377 pages



Lucretius was an Epicurean philosopher who lived in the first century BC. His poem *De rerum natura* is a brilliant exposition of Epicureanism, a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of reason, science, and the pursuit of happiness. Lucretius's poem was a radical departure from the Christian worldview that dominated the Middle Ages. It argued that the universe was not created by a god, but was instead the result of natural processes. It also denied the existence of an afterlife, and argued that the only way to achieve happiness was to live a virtuous life in this world.

Poggio Bracciolini's rediscovery of *De rerum natura* had a profound impact on the Renaissance. It helped to revive interest in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, and it provided a new philosophical foundation for the humanism that was at the heart of the Renaissance. The Renaissance was a period of great intellectual and artistic ferment, and it was in this period that the modern world was born.

*The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* is a groundbreaking work of history that tells the story of the rediscovery of *De rerum natura*. Stephen Greenblatt, one of the world's leading historians, brings to life the characters and events that led to the rediscovery of Lucretius's poem. He shows how the rediscovery of *De rerum natura* helped to shape the Renaissance and the modern world, and he argues that it is one of the most important events in human history.

*The Swerve* is a fascinating and thought-provoking book that will appeal to anyone interested in history, philosophy, or the Renaissance. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the origins of the modern world.

### **Praise for *The Swerve***

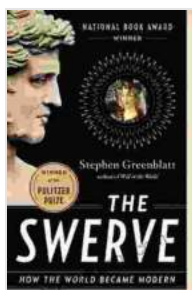
"A masterpiece of historical writing." — *The New York Times*

"A brilliant and original work that will change the way we think about the Renaissance." — *The Washington Post*

"A tour de force of scholarship and storytelling." — *The Guardian*

### **About the Author**

Stephen Greenblatt is a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and one of the world's leading authorities on the Renaissance. He is the author of several books, including *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* and *Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare*. He is currently a professor of English at Harvard University.



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