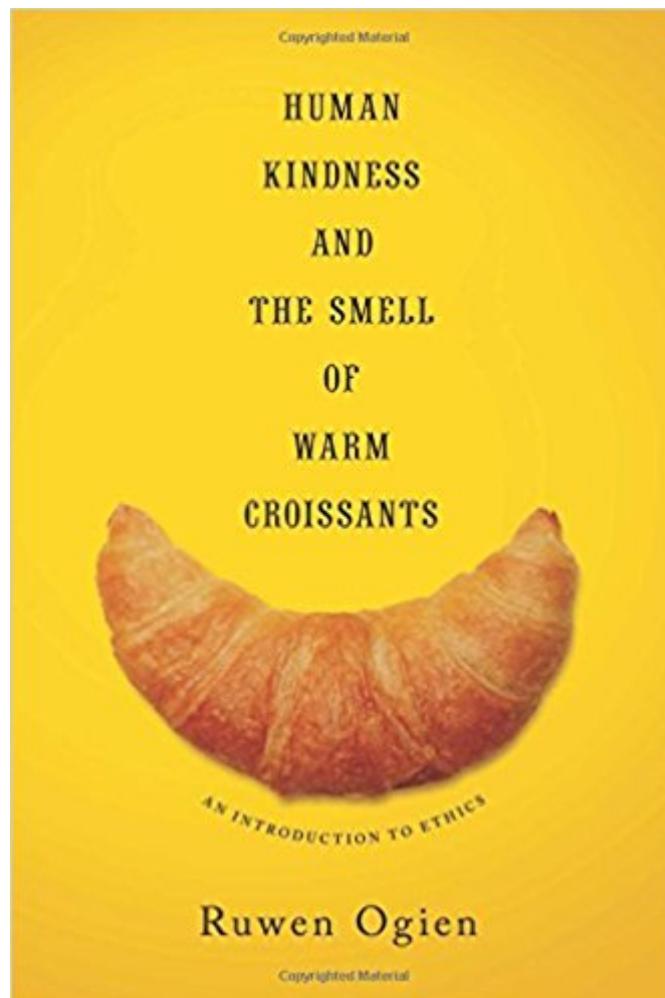




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Human Kindness And The Smell Of Warm Croissants: An Introduction To Ethics



Synopsis

Human Kindness and the Smell of Warm Croissants makes philosophy fun, tactile, and popular. Moral thinking is simple, Ruwen Ogien argues, and as inherent as the senses. In our daily experiences, in the situations we confront and in the scenes we witness, we develop an understanding of right and wrong as sophisticated as the moral outlook of the world's most gifted philosophers. By drawing on this knowledge to navigate life's most perplexing problems, ethics becomes second nature. Ogien explores, through experimental philosophy and other methods, the responses nineteen real-world conundrums provoke. Is a short, mediocre life better than no life at all? Is it acceptable to kill a healthy person so his organs can save five others? Would you swap a "natural" life filled with frustration, disappointment, and partial success for a world in which all of your needs are met, but through artificial and mechanical means? Ogien doesn't seek to show how difficult it is to determine right from wrong or how easy it is for humans to become monsters or react like saints. Helping us tap into the wisdom and feeling we already possess in our ethical "toolboxes," Ogien instead encourages readers to question moral presuppositions and rules; embrace an intuitive sense of dignity, virtue, and justice; and pursue a pluralist ethics suited to the principles of human kindness.

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Customer Reviews

Human Kindness and the Smell of Warm Croissants is Ruwen Ogien at his very best. The book's richness lies in Ogien's endeavor to do philosophy from the reality of lived experience rather than

the kind of imaginary reflection that is characteristic of so much of philosophy. (Laurence Thomas, Syracuse University) A lucid translation of a wide-ranging intellectual foray. (Booklist (starred review))

Ruwen Ogien holds doctorates in both philosophy and social anthropology. He is a director of research in moral philosophy at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique and sits on the editorial board of the review *Raison Publique*. His most recent works include *Le corps et l'argent* and *La vie, la mort, l'État: Le débat bioéthique*. Martin Thom was trained in social anthropology and is a professional translator, editor, and writer.

Clear and potential critical analysis

Dry in parts, read almost like a textbook, and yet some parts had me glued to the pages and not sleeping on my desk, like in college. I was drawn into the process, I was lost with contrasting viewpoints, the book made me think beyond my little circle. I had moments of frustration because there just wasn't an acceptable answer, all outcomes cost too much. It worked, I thought, I considered and I looked inside myself but I didn't enjoy the process, some parts were hard to get through. They were boring with facts and studies, or featured uncomfortable choices. I had hoped, when I picked it up that it would be a light hearted book, it's wasn't. I did get more from it than my college textbooks and lectures. I would recommend it to student of Ethics.

Human Kindness and the Smell of Warm Croissants by Ruwen Ogien is a free NetGalley eBook that I began reading in early March. Something about this book (most likely because this title has a similar sound to 'The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake') had me misremembering that it had to do with cooking....but it had to do with philosophy and the theory/ethics behind moral, psychological questions. It's very intense and brings to mind some very self-searching questions.

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