

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780643803321
Autore	Wagner Andreas <1967 Jan. 26->
Titolo	Paradoxical life [[electronic resource]] : meaning, matter, and the power of human choice / / Andreas Wagner
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2009
ISBN	1-282-35160-5 9786612351600 0-300-15637-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (288 p.)
Disciplina	570.1
Soggetti	Biology - Philosophy Paradox
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- Chapter 1. The Inner Dialogue of Creation -- Chapter 2. The Other Side of Self -- Chapter 3. Wholely Parts and Partly Wholes -- Chapter 4. Risky Refuges -- Chapter 5. Destructive Creation -- Chapter 6. Choice in the Fabric of Chance and Necessity -- Chapter 7. Purposeful Openness -- Chapter 8. Choice and the Natural Sciences -- Chapter 9. The Limits to Knowledge -- Chapter 10. The Power and Burden of Freedom -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	What can a fingernail tell us about the mysteries of creation? In one sense, a nail is merely a hunk of mute matter, yet in another, it's an information superhighway quite literally at our fingertips. Every moment, streams of molecular signals direct our cells to move, flatten, swell, shrink, divide, or die. Andreas Wagner's ambitious new book explores this hidden web of unimaginably complex interactions in every living being. In the process, he unveils a host of paradoxes underpinning our understanding of modern biology, contradictions he considers gatekeepers at the frontiers of knowledge. Though we tend to think of concepts in such mutually exclusive pairs as mind-matter, self-other, and nature-nurture, Wagner argues that these opposing ideas are not actually separate. Indeed, they are as inextricably connected as the two sides of a coin. Through a tour of modern

biological marvels, Wagner illustrates how this paradoxical tension has a profound effect on the way we define the world around us. Paradoxical Life is thus not only a unique account of modern biology. It ultimately serves a radical-and optimistic-outlook for humans and the world we help create.
