The Rational Optimist: How Prosperity Evolves

Ridley starts at the very beginning going all the way to start of the Paleolithic and then traces human development forward. Reading this book is an awesome experience. It will dispel any doom and gloom one might have about where we are heading and how fast we have gone from a world where everyone was living in abject poverty to the near future when poverty as we know it will be remembered only in museums. A thoroughly enjoyable and enormously entertaining and informative work. Highly recommended.