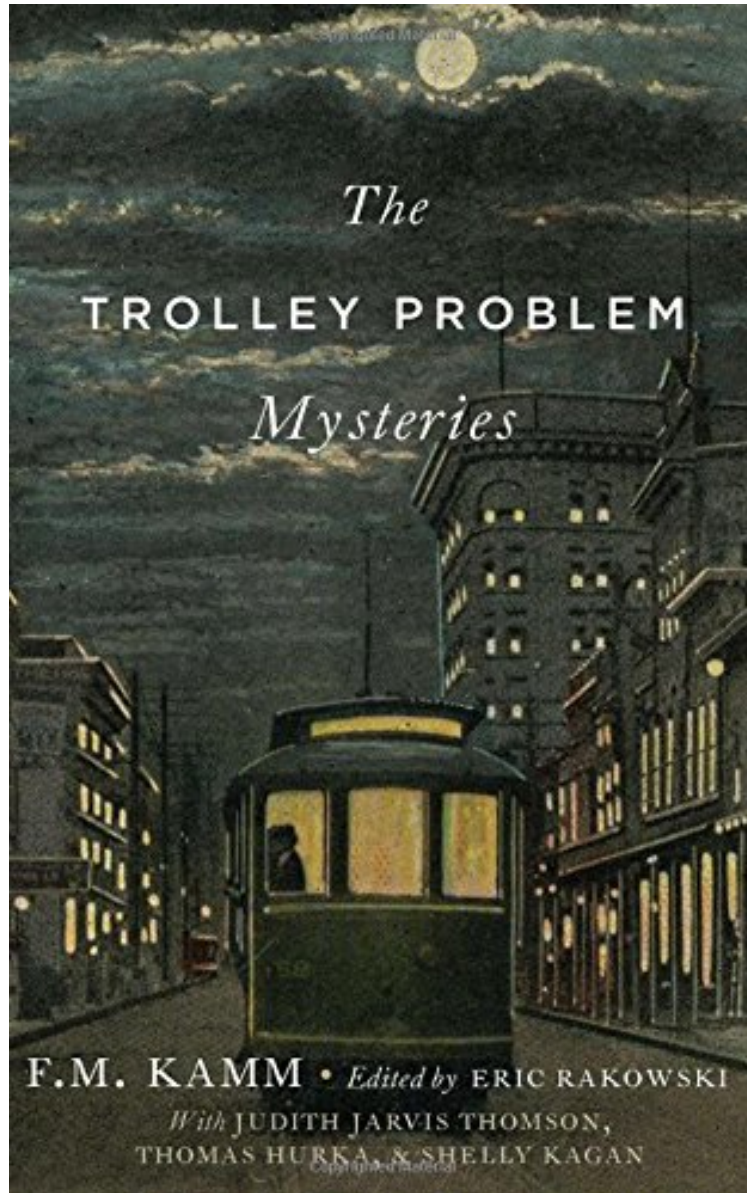


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F.M. Kamm

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F.M. Kamm : The Trolley Problem Mysteries (The Berkeley Tanner Lectures) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Trolley Problem Mysteries (The Berkeley Tanner Lectures):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Trenchant but inaccessibleBy HHThis collection of lectures and

commentaries is less friendly to lay readers than is suggested by Kamms ("Bioethical Prescriptions") assertion that the books questions are analogous to those asked by detectives in mystery cases, This volume begins with two lectures Kamm, a Harvard philosophy professor, gave at Berkeley in 2013, exploring the dilemma posed by the so-called trolley problem, in which an onlooker is faced with the possibility of a trolley striking and killing five people unless it is diverted to another track, where it will only kill one person. The questions it raises, which have broad relevance for the contemporary world, including the ethics of collateral damage from drone strikes, are complex and fascinatingis there a real difference between killing someone and letting that person die? How does the trolley problem differ from the situation of a doctor who could save five lives by taking anothers life and harvesting that persons organs? But few non-academics will find this accessibleeven the diagrams that illuminate the variations on the trolley problem are overly complex and relegated to an appendix.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A moral problem with a multitude of possibilitiesBy EarlThe Trolley Problem Mysteries by F.M. Kamm is a debate on various "solutions" to the classic problem from moral philosophy, the trolley problem. The basic problem, from the publisher's blurb: "Suppose you can stop a trolley from killing five people, but only by turning it onto a side track where it will kill one. May you turn the trolley? What if the only way to rescue the five is to topple a bystander in front of the trolley so that his body stops it but he dies? May you use a device to stop the trolley that will kill a bystander as a side effect?"The beauty of this problem is that whatever choice you make there are moral and ethical decisions you make which, if converted to a basic rule for action in general quickly becomes something you no longer recognize. If it is okay to sacrifice one innocent person to save five innocent people, then it should be okay to sacrifice one healthy patient for organ harvesting to save five innocent patients. But most of us would never agree with that. The corollaries and theories can be frustrating at times but at the very least demonstrates that there are no simple moral or ethical decisions.This is the type of problem which requires precise language and explanation, which all of these philosophers exercise. Yet the information for these relatively simple problems can become dense very quickly. While this book is, I think, fairly accessible to most readers, it should be noted that this is not a quick read. Even as familiar as I am with the problem and many of the approaches to it I would not even consider breezing through the book. There is so much to ponder and apply to everyday life that a slow contemplative read will enrich the reader's life.Reviewed from a copy made available by the publisher via NetGalley.

A rigorous treatment of a thought experiment that has become notorious within and outside of philosophy - The Trolley Problem - by one of the most influential moral philosophers alive todaySuppose you can stop a trolley from killing five people, but only by turning it onto a side track where it will kill one. May you turn the trolley? What if the only way to rescue the five is to topple a bystander in front of the trolley so that his body stops it but he dies? May you use a device to stop the trolley that will kill a bystander as a side effect? The "Trolley Problem" challenges us to explain and justify our different intuitive judgments about these and related cases and has spawned a huge literature. F.M. Kamm's 2013 Tanner Lectures present some of her views on this notorious moral conundrum. After providing a brief history of changing views of what the problem is about and attempts to solve it, she focuses on two prominent issues: Does who turns the trolley and how the harm is shifted affect the moral permissibility of acting? The answers to these questions lead to general proposals about when we may and may not harm some to help others. Three distinguished philosophers - Judith Jarvis Thomson (one of the originators of the trolley problem), Thomas Hurka, and Shelly Kagan - then comment on Kamm's proposals. She responds to each comment at length, providing an exceptionally rich elaboration and defense of her views. The Trolley Problem Mysteries is an invaluable resource not only to philosophers concerned about the Trolley Problem, but to anyone worried about how we ought to act when we can lessen harm to some by harming others and how we can reach a decision about the question.

"In response to her commentators Kamm tries to answer these objections and many other objections. And these remarkable exchanges between some leading contributors make this book really invaluable. I suggest reading this book to every graduate student or moral philosopher who wishes to know lots of hypothetical cases in which the trolley problem happens." -- Metapsychology Online s "...the book is best seen as an overview of the important contributions that Kamm and her interlocutors have made to the literature. It is also a rich source of cases for testing new hypotheses- cases ranging from ingenious classics like Transplant, Driver, and Bystander, to some newer developments like Driver Topple and Thomson's Loop Case, to some particularly perplexing cases involving tractors and bombs...the trolley problem is still as real, pressing, and fascinating as ever, and it is helpful to have as one's guide through the problem a philosopher who does not shy away from complexities." -- Ethics "Professor Frances Myrna Kamm, a moral philosopher who for decades has been a leading analyst of this thought experiment, has now published her richly stimulating Tanner Lectures. Joining her lectures as chapters in the book are a trio of rigorous and unrelenting responses from a panel of philosophers--Professors Judith Jarvis Thomson, Thomas Hurka, and Shelly Kagan-as well as an introduction by legal scholar Professor Eric Rakowski...The beating heart of this book is a fresh, often raw, analytical quarrel between Kamm and Thomson...The book's timing is impeccable...due in part to its uncanny resemblance to emergent questions about how to program autonomous vehicles--such as military drones or

driverless cars--to act ethically." -- Harvard Law About the AuthorF. M. Kamm is Littauer Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Kamm is a Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Sciences within the Philosophy Department at Harvard University. Kamm is also author of *Intricate Ethics* (OUP 2010) and *Bioethical Prescriptions* (OUP 2013), and others.Eric Rakowski is Edward C. Halbach Jr. Professor of Law at University of California Berkeley.