



## I Was Always Going to Write This

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From the moment of the big bang, to the typing of these keys, I was always going to write this.

In an interview with scientist Brian Greene, he was all but certain that reality is predetermined. Since that day, I wondered if I believed that to be true. Do we have free will or not? I never chose to be born. I never chose who my parents were, or if I would have siblings. I never chose my schools, where I first lived or any other part of growing up. Even when the time came for me to make my own decisions, just how did I choose? Every choice I ever made was based on what built my brain leading to that moment.

There is that inner voice we all have that speaks to us, guides us, and seems to be choosing, but is it really? How many times does your inner voice say never to do something that you go ahead and do 10 minutes later? I realize that all my actions have been based on every moment leading up to them, and often seemingly unconscious. My inner voice is often just a bystander watching my life play out.

Could it be that free will is just an illusion? It made me remember when Einstein said, "People like us who believe in physics know that the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion." He meant that all times past, present and future already exist statically as we move through them. If he is right, all we will ever do has already been done. We are just puppets on autopilot.

In many ways it makes perfect sense, but others I respect contend that at the smallest scales, randomness prevails. At this point in time I still question, but if true one can only hope it's meant to play out well. I hope that we were always meant to care about each other. I hope that the moral universe was always meant to bend toward justice, that colonizer mentality was always meant to go away, and that people were always meant to understand that nothing makes them superior. I hope we were always meant to stop thinking us and them, and start thinking we.