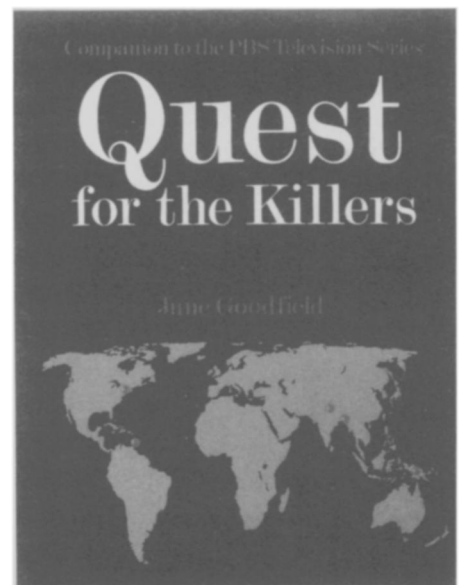


“...[I]n another camp of 120,000 Biharis, there were five cases. We found them, vaccinated their contacts, and put them in our little isolation hospital. Returning a couple of days later we found the hospital empty. They had run away in the middle of the night because they did not want to be separated from their families. Single acts like these put you back two or more weeks. From those five people alone the next generation of cases totaled 198 people. This time we called in both the Red Cross and all the WHO people and again we vaccinated 120,000 people in one weekend.”

—Dr. Nick Ward, on the smallpox eradication effort in Bangladesh

Some of the most important and exciting stories of our time lie in the field of public health, in efforts to control and eradicate disease on a global scale. June Goodfield, author of *The Siege of Cancer*, reports on five such cases in *Quest for the Killers*, to be published as a companion to a PBS series. In Papua New Guinea, an isolated Stone Age tribe was dying of an unknown cause. Medical researchers, anthropologists and veterinarians would ultimately identify “kuru” disease and trace it to cannibalism, and their solution uncovered a group of rare disorders caused by slow, chronic virus infections. At a New York blood center, physicians ran a clinical trial on a vaccine for Hepatitis B; their subjects were more than 1,000 gay men, and the trial is reputed to be the most complex in the history of medicine. Other cases chart the control of schistosomiasis on the island of St. Lucia, leprosy in Nepal and eradication of smallpox in Bangladesh. Science knows the cause of many diseases and has developed effective strategies that can reduce infections, but politics, costs and delivery systems remain barriers.

—Publisher’s Weekly



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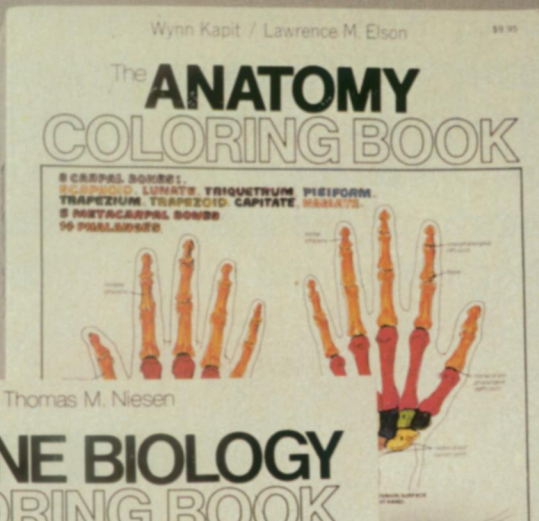
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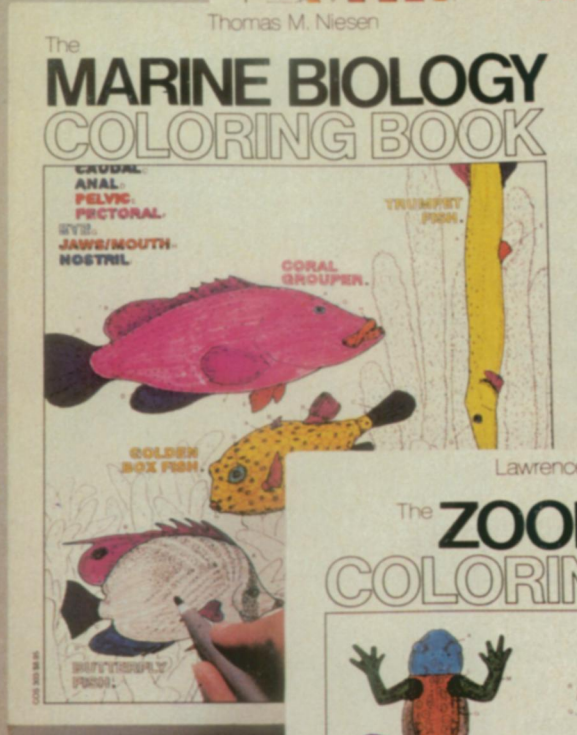
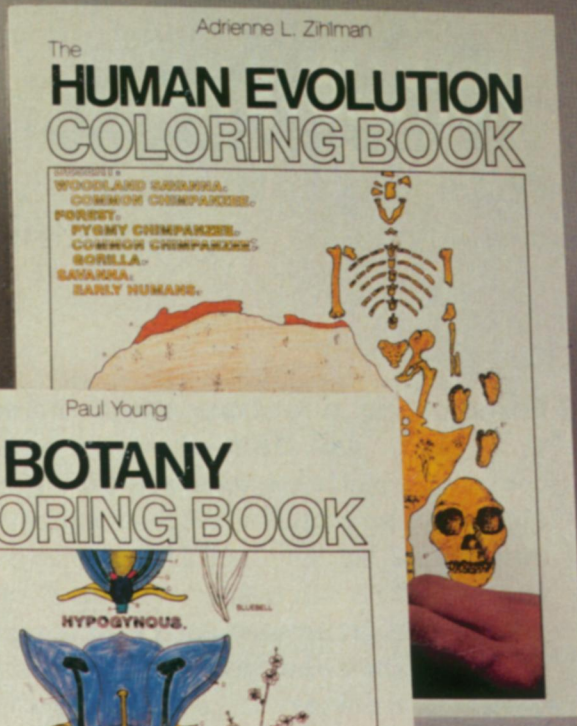
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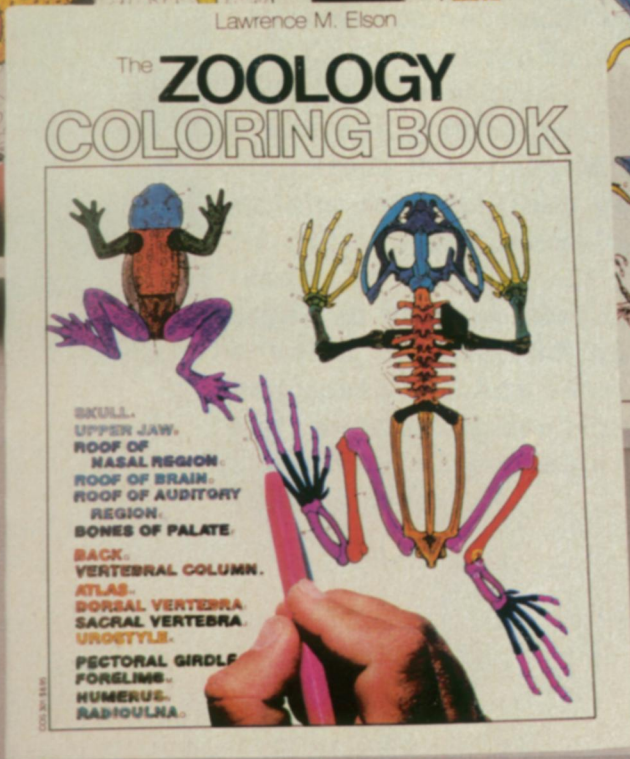


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