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**Suicide Behind Bars**

# METAMAGICAL THEMAS

## *Questing for the Essence of Mind and Pattern*

*Douglas R. Hofstadter*

In this entertaining and provocative book named after his recent column in *Scientific American*, Douglas Hofstadter presents a dazzling array of observations and ideas about how we perceive and think. With profound insight and an irrepressible sense of fun, he explores such subjects as artificial intelligence; sexist language in Chinese; experiments with the Prisoner's Dilemma; genetic evolution and its software counterpart; beautiful mathematical shapes known as "strange attractors"; nuclear war and even *National Enquirer* hoaxes. Balanced between art and science, magic and logic, humor and rigor, *Metamagical Themias* (a rearrangement of the letters in "mathematical games") probes the deepest paradoxes and mysteries of the human mind and heart.

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*Bantam, 1985, 852 pages,  
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