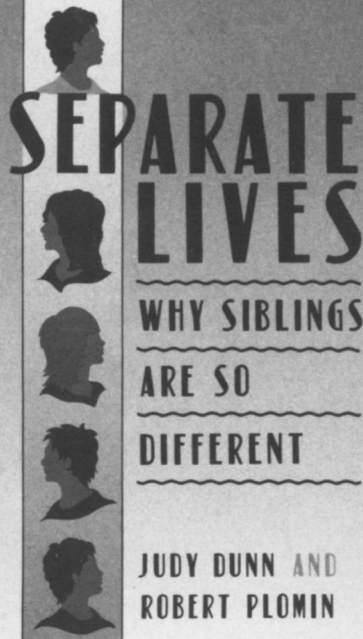


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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Pages 161-176

Slicing Through Greenland



Everyone knows that the family is a critical influence on a person's development. So why do two children reared in the same family turn out to be so different? The authors of this important book maintain that finding an answer to this question would be a key to unlocking the secrets of environmental influence on the development of all children, not just siblings.

Through lively research examples, interwoven with fascinating accounts of famous authors and their siblings, Judy Dunn and Robert Plomin examine the cause of sibling differences and, in the process, overturn much of the prevailing wisdom on the roles of nature and nurture in development. They show, for example, why heredity can explain many of the similarities but not the vast differences between siblings. They also take issue with the common assumption that siblings experience their environment similarly. They show how interactions with parents, siblings and friends, along with chance events, all combine in subtle and intricate ways to create a different environment for each child within the same family. These subtle differences, far more than the shared similarities, they argue, make us who we are.

— from the publisher

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The Dutch artist M.C. Escher (1898-1972) was an ingenious planner of many surprises. This collection of 17 cardboard models that you assemble helps to discover the hidden surprises of Escher's work. The kaleidoscopically designed geometric forms in this collection are a continuation and extension of Escher's own work. Covered with adaptations of Escher's designs, they embody many of the themes dominant in his prints and are related to his own explorations of three-dimensional expression. Before assembling the models, you are invited to explore their various aspects: form, design, color and the relationship to Escher's own work. The journey will touch on many of the paths explored by Escher, as well as some newly discovered.

—Doris Schattschneider

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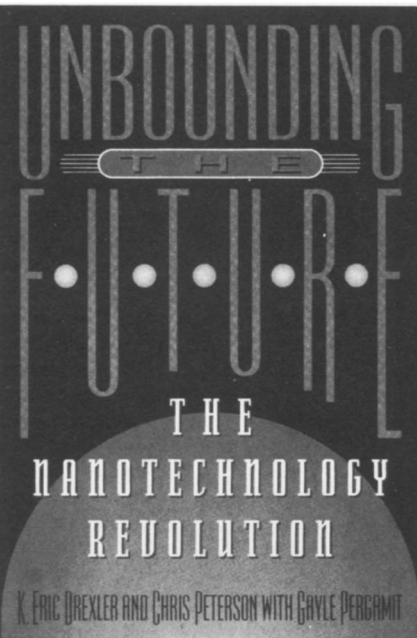
Nanotechnology is one of the hottest scientific concepts around, and *Unbounding the Future* is a comprehensive, easy-to-understand handbook that explains what it is and how it will revolutionize life in the future.

K. Eric Drexler, the world's leading expert on nanotechnology, explains that if advances occur on schedule, we will be able to create machines so small that they will have to be measured in nanometers (billionths of a meter). Drexler explains that these machines could be specially programmed to carry out specific tasks and give us the ability to manipulate matter with atom by atom precision. The consequences of this technology will be staggering.

Unbounding the Future provides a guided tour of a future where the principles of nanotechnology have been applied. In this world, Drexler envisions the ability to cure diseases such as cancer and AIDS with medical treatments using millions of molecular machines specially programmed to repair diseased cells. Nanotechnology would enable us to clean up toxic waste using molecular machines that would render harmless an array of harmful pollutants. What is the timetable for these astonishing capabilities? Drexler is confident they can be attained within our lifetime.

Whether we are ready for it or not, scientists are at the edge of an era that will make nanotechnology a reality and revolutionize life as we know it today. *Unbounding the Future* is the only book that offers this glimpse into the future—a glimpse so compelling and exciting that it will change not only the way you think about the future but also the way you view the present.

— from the publisher



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By Carol Ann Rinzler

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