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Ablaze: The Story of the Heroes and Victims of Chernobyl—Piers Paul Read. The author of *Alive* recounts the events surrounding the explosion of the fourth unit of the V.I. Lenin power station at Chernobyl. Read spent months in the former Soviet Union sifting through recently declassified information, touring the reopened city of Obninsk, and interviewing Ukrainian survivors, including workers who were at the plant on the day of the accident. He provides an objective and compelling examination of the reasons for and the aftermath of the accident. Random, 1993, 362 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

The Complete T. Rex: How Stunning New Discoveries Are Changing Our Understanding of the World's Most Famous Dinosaur—John R. Horner and Don Lessem. In 1990, Horner helped excavate the most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton ever found. The discovery dispelled many commonly held beliefs about *T. rex* and brought to light a wealth of new information. Horner and Lessem present a thorough look at the life, death, and physical composition of the most famous dinosaur, based on extensive research and the fruits of Horner's 1990 findings. S&S, 1993, 239 p., b&w photos and color plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

The Culture of Pain—David B. Morris. In this thought-provoking exploration of the meaning of pain, Morris contends that pain is more than a neurological sensation; it is an experience involving the mind and is therefore shaped by personal and cultural factors. He traces the expression and description of pain through history to illustrate different cultural interpretations of pain and maintains that Western culture's willingness to define pain solely as a medical condition has crippled our ability to deal with it, fostering a society where chronic pain is epidemic. Only by altering our understanding of pain, he asserts, can we recover the power to alleviate it. Originally published in hardcover in 1991. U of Cal Pr, 1993, 342 p., illus., paperback, \$14.00.

The Invisible Epidemic: The Story of Women and AIDS—Gena Corea. An investigative reporter chronicles the disturbing plight of HIV-infected women in the United States since the early 1980s. When transmitted sexually, HIV is 10 times more likely to pass from a man to a woman than from a woman to a man, Corea argues. Yet many medical benefits available to men are denied to women, and the federal government routinely turns down research proposals involving women with AIDS, she says. HarperCollins, 1992, 356 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

Natural Affairs: A Botanist Looks at the Attachments Between Plants and People—Peter Bernhardt. These essays from the author of *Wily Violets and Underground Orchids* not only explore the physiological intricacies of plants and flowers but also present fascinating bits of botanical folklore. Bernhardt outlines the work of botanists in entertaining and enlightening prose, sharing such insights as the relationship between botanical sexuality and a dinner salad. Other chapters emphasize the affinity for flowers among artists such as Rousseau and Mapplethorpe and the renewed appreciation of daffodils, once shunned by the English. Villard Bks, 1993, 225 p., b&w illus. & color plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

Quarks, Critters, and Chaos: What Science Terms Really Mean—Jo Ann Shroyer. For anyone who is occasionally baffled by words such as maglev, nanotechnology, genetic engineering, and cold fusion, here are clear explanations of the terms most commonly used in scientific media reports. More than 100 listings are grouped by scientific field, providing virtually everything you need to be scientifically literate. P-H, 1993, 245 p., illus., paperback, \$15.00.

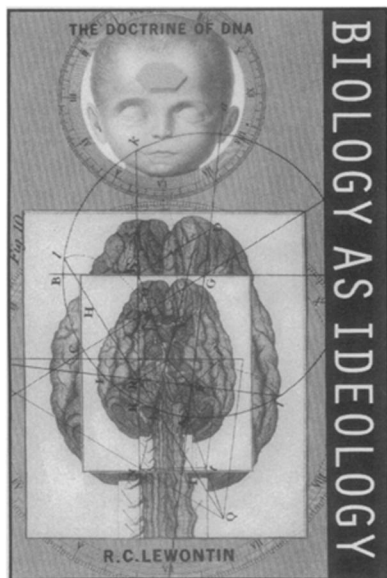
Why Doesn't My Funny Bone Make Me Laugh? Sneezes, Hiccups, Butterflies, and Other Funny Feelings Explained—Alan P. Xenakis. Why does your face turn red when you are embarrassed? Why do sponges and paper towels expand when soaked in water, whereas our skin shrivels after a long bath? Xenakis answers these and many other questions regarding bodily oddities in an entertaining reference. Villard Bks, 1993, 183 p., illus., hardcover, \$18.00.

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Many people now believe that science is the religion of the twentieth century — that the authority of its clergy (scientists) is beyond question or challenge and that its rules and findings can indisputably explain the past and predict the future of human existence and of our individual behaviors. In this brief and extraordinarily eloquent work, R. C. Lewontin — one of the world's most prominent geneticists — takes a close and informed

look at this tidy and showmanlike packaging of science as the panacea to global problems, persuasively demonstrating how science (and scientists) is molded by society and how the dominant social and economic forces in society determine to a large extent what scientists do and how they do it. Science and society in fact exist symbiotically (hence the title of this book), and by admitting the shadings and limitations within science, he helps us rediscover both the richness of human nature and the real value of science.

— from *Harper Perennial*



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