

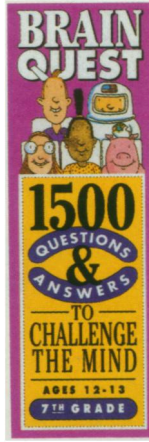
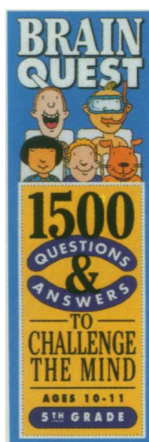
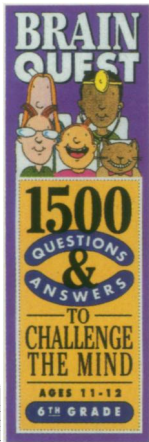
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

January 29, 1994
Vol. 145, No. 5
Pages 65-80



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in
Thought*



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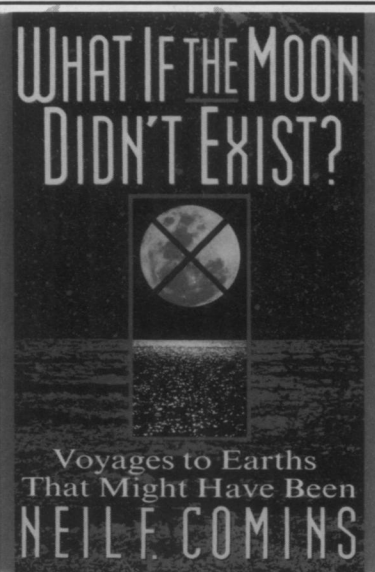
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Any discussion about finding life elsewhere in the universe always leads us to analyze the factors that make life possible on Earth. What would the earth and life on it be like if our planet had formed under different circumstances?

What if the earth were less massive, or if the sun had ended up with more mass when the solar system was formed? What would happen if a star exploded near the earth, or passed through our solar system right now? What if a black hole passed through the earth? What if our ozone layer became depleted? What would happen to life on Earth?

In this engaging and accessible exploratory work, accomplished astronomer Neil F. Comins shows how these and other hypothetical situations would affect our planet and the life it sustains, by extrapolating from our present condition and applying plausible astronomical and geological theories.

What if the moon didn't exist, for example? Well, Comins explains, the earth would rotate more than three times faster than it currently does, and our tides would be much lower. There would be recurrent gale-force winds like those on Jupiter, making it a challenge for "tall" beings (like humans) to evolve.

By following up its initial imaginative leaps with careful analysis, *What If the Moon Didn't Exist?* offers the reader a fresh understanding of our place in the solar system, and a deep appreciation of how fragile a habitat the earth is. — from HarperCollins

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MoonDidntExH

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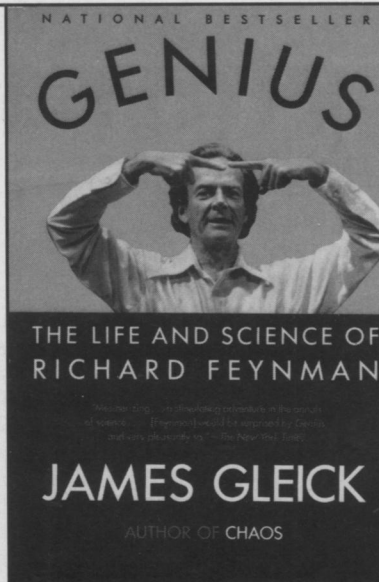
RB2002

HarperCollins, 1993, 315 pages, 5 3/4" x 8 1/2", hardcover, \$20.00

*"A monumental work, a lasting biography."
— The New York Review of Books*

To his colleagues, Richard Feynman was not so much a genius as he was a full-blown magician: someone who "does things that nobody else could do and that seem completely unexpected." The path he cleared for twentieth-century physics led from the making of the atomic bomb to a Nobel Prize-winning theory of quantum electrodynamics to his devastating exposé of the Challenger space shuttle disaster. At the same time, the ebullient Feynman established a reputation as an eccentric showman, a master safe cracker and bongo player, and a wizard of seduction.

Now James Gleick, author of the bestselling *Chaos*, unravels the dense skein of Feynman's thought as well as the paradoxes of his character in a biography — which was nominated for a National Book Award — of outstanding lucidity and compassion. — *from Vintage Books*



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*Vintage Books, 1993, 531 pages,
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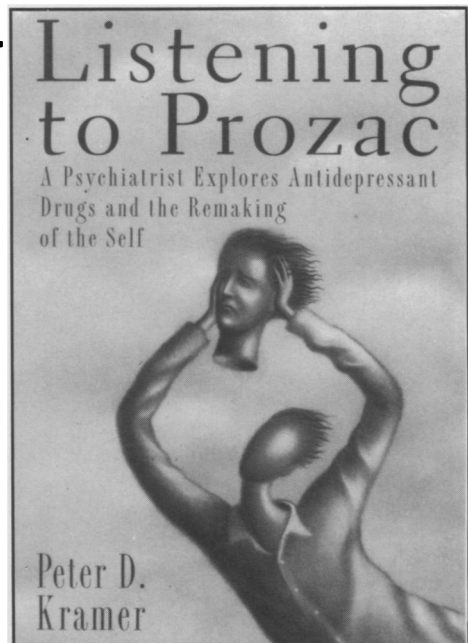
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RB2003

Peter Kramer's *Listening to Prozac* announces a revolution in the science of the self. Julia takes Prozac because she doesn't know who she is; when Sam takes the drug, it makes him feel "better than well." Four and a half million Americans have taken this antidepressant since it was first introduced, and many have become more confident, popular, mentally nimble, and emotionally resilient.

What does it mean when a capsule with breakfast makes a shy person outgoing? When a pill alters what we think of as personality, not illness? Does transforming medication interfere with necessary self-examination? Is it a coincidence that when American society wanted women at home, the drug of choice was Valium, and now that we value assertiveness, it's Prozac? Are we entering an era of "cosmetic pharmacology" when we can take a drug to enhance our personality? What *is* the self?

In this absolutely fascinating work, Kramer looks at evidence from a variety of disciplines — cellular biology, animal ethology, medical ethics, literature, and, most empathically, at the stories of his own patients — to explore the implication of drugs that reshape temperament. *Listening to Prozac* is a major contribution to late-twentieth-century psychiatry and an extraordinarily eloquent, provocative, and moving tale about ourselves. — *from Viking Books*



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ListenProzH

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RB2004

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Viking Books, 1993, 409 pages,
6¼" x 9¼", hardcover, \$23.00