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The Encyclopedia of Earthquakes and Volcanoes — David Ritchie. In an A to Z format, the author lists seismological and volcanic terms and their definitions, locations and names of quakes and volcanoes throughout the world, and profiles of persons influential in these fields. In addition, the book contains a summary of every U.S. state's active volcanoes and previous earthquakes, plus their susceptibility to future events. A complete chronology is followed by detailed accounts of specific events. Facts on File, 1994, 232 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$40.00.

Family Myths: Living Our Roles, Betraying Ourselves — Joyce Block. The author, a psychologist, presents case studies of patients whose parents cast their identities for them, often because of something they lacked or yearned for in their own lives. Typical examples include Laurel the "Pandora," whose mother is self-loathing and needs her daughter to be a faithful disciple, and Howard the Bastard Son, who tried throughout his life to overcome his weak will, which was encoded by his father. Block investigates why a parent may see a distorted image of his or her child and how this image can consume some people for life. She also analyzes why we often mythologize our lives. By exposing and explaining this phenomenon, Block hopes that we can recognize it and look for our true self. S&S, 1994, 288 p., hardcover, \$22.50.

Patterns in the Mind: Language and Human Nature — Ray Jackendoff. The author looks at Noam Chomsky's idea of "generative linguistics," which states that language is not merely learned but is contingent on certain mechanisms in the mind, and discusses how this concept influenced the study of the mind and revolutionized modern linguistics. Jackendoff contends that language and, in turn, musical and visionary experiences are a result of a careful balance of nurture and nature but that the most crucial element is in fact the predetermined genetic patterns in the mind that are predisposed to language. He points to various ways in which children acquire speech, in addition to different kinds of language, such as Creole and sign language, to reinforce his idea. Basic, 1994, 246 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

The Power of Place: How Our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, and Actions — Winifred Gallagher. Within these pages, Gallagher defies Freud's concept of looking inward to heal the mind and body. Instead, she advocates returning to the older concept that a change of atmosphere may truly be a healing power and an important factor in a person's physical and mental well-being. Science has forgotten and humans now ignore this concept, she believes, as people move increasingly toward an artificial world and away from the innate biological one of their ancestors. Gallagher explores many aspects of environment, such as the change of seasons, light, waking at dawn, sleeping at sunset, and temperature. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. HarperPerennial, 1994, 240 p., paperback, \$12.00.

A Starter Garden: The Guide for the Horticulturally Hapless — Cheryl Merser. For those born without a green thumb or who lack lots of free time but desperately want to enjoy the feeling of the earth between their fingers, Merser offers fool-proof strategies for easily and inexpensively growing an admirable garden. Taking nothing for granted, from one's knowledge of tools to Latin, she guides the reader through the basic steps and pitfalls of growing herbs, shrubs, and flowers throughout the seasons. Tips for decorating and bordering the garden are also plentiful. Harper-Perennial, 1994, 254 p., paperback, \$13.00.

The Triumph of the Embryo — Lewis Wolpert. This introduction to the beginnings of life focuses on the astonishing processes by which a single cell — a fertilized egg — gives rise to the various adult forms of humans and animals, with millions of cells performing different functions. Wolpert explores how cells coordinate embryonic development and share patterns of development among different species, as well as related topics such as regeneration, growth, aging, and cancer. He sprinkles his discussion with many pertinent and intriguing examples, namely, why calico cats are always female and why humans experience an age barrier at 110. Many illustrations and nontechnical drawings illustrate the book. Originally published in hardcover, 1992. OUP, 1993, 211 p., b&w illus. and photos, paperback, \$12.95.

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