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# SCIENCE NEWS

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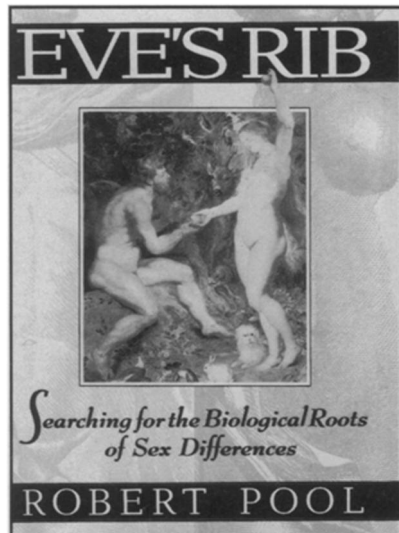
## Filaments of a Crab

For a quarter of a century, the dominant view has been that if males and females were treated the same from the time they were born, most sex differences would disappear.

In *Eve's Rib*, Robert Pool describes a new understanding of the sexes. When little boys play with trucks and little girls with dolls, the reasons are deeper than the sexes being taught to behave differently by society. The roots of these differences lie in the womb.

Scientists know that a person's physical sex is determined in the womb by sex hormones. As *Eve's Rib* describes, bodies are not the only things shaped by these hormones in the womb. From before birth, the brains of males and

females are different in distinct, predictable ways, and these differences underlie much of the mental, emotional, and psychological variation between the sexes.



The research described in *Eve's Rib* ranges from rats confused about their sex to humans taking tests of math and verbal ability, and from women exposed to high levels of testosterone in the womb to men who looked like girls until they reached puberty. What emerges from these disparate images is an unfinished but recognizable

portrait of the real differences between men and women, a portrait that may ultimately reveal the true nature of our humanity.

—from *Crown*

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*Crown Publishers, 1994, 308 pages,  
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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of ***Eve's Rib***. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$22.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$24.00) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

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## WHY BUILDINGS FALL DOWN

"The reader is sure to find the disaster that suits his or her taste."  
—New York Times Book Review



**MATTHYS LEVY AND MARIO SALVADORI**

In *Why Buildings Fall Down*, Matthys Levy and Mario Salvadori, both world-renowned structural engineers, take us on a guided tour of enlightening structural failures—buildings of all kinds, from ancient domes like Istanbul's Hagia Sophia to the state of the art Hartford Civic Arena, from the man-caused destruction of the Parthenon to the earthquake damage of 1989 in Armenia and San Francisco, and one of the most fatal structure disasters in American history: the fall of the Hyatt Regency ballroom walkways in Kansas City.

Buildings have fallen throughout history whether made of wood, steel, reinforced concrete, or stone. But these failures do respect the laws of physics. All are the result of static load or dynamic forces, earthquakes or temperature changes, uneven settlements of soil, or other unforeseen forces. A few are even due to natural phenomena that engineers and scientists are still unable to explain or predict.

The stories that make up *Why Buildings Fall Down* are, finally, very human ones, tales of the interaction of people and nature, of architects, engineers, builders, materials, and natural forces, all coming together in sometimes dramatic and always instructive ways in the places where we live and work and have our lives.

—from W.W. Norton

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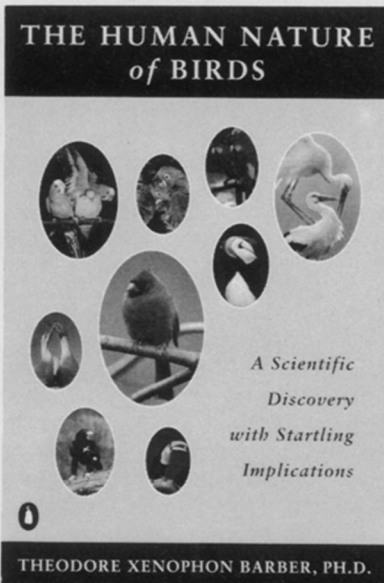
*Why Buildings Stand Up*, by Mario Salvadori. A clear and enthusiastic introduction to building methods from ancient times to the present day, illustrated throughout.

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An African gray parrot that not only talks but also composes meaningful and highly creative sentences. Woodpeckers that construct miniature tools in order to forage for insects. A male robin that feeds and nurtures an injured rival. These and dozens of other carefully documented cases suggest that birds are far from instinct-driven automatons but are possessed of powers of thought, judgment, emotion, and expression that traditional science insists are exclusively human.

Drawing on six years of independent research, behavioral scientist Theodore Xenophon Barber offers an eloquent and dramatic reassessment of avian behavior with a revolutionary conclusion: Birds have been clearly, consistently, and scientifically shown to possess intelligence comparable to — and in some cases superior to — that of human beings. With an overview of astonishing research showing that intelligence may be common throughout the whole animal kingdom, Barber beckons us to reconsider humanity's privileged place on the evolutionary ladder. — from Penguin Books

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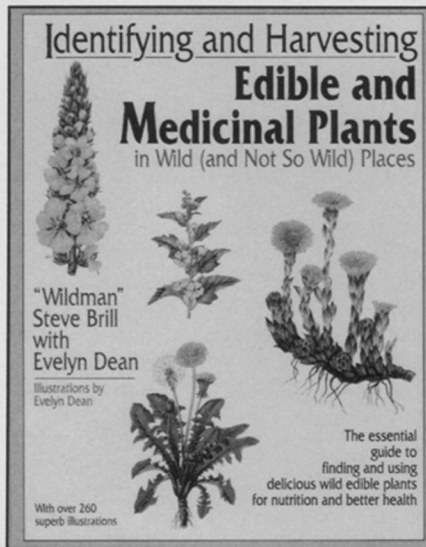
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**Identifying and Harvesting Edible and Medicinal Plants in Wild (and Not So Wild) Places** shows readers how to find and prepare more than 500 different plants for nutrition and better health, including such common plants as mullein (a tea made from the leaves and flowers suppresses a cough), stinging nettle (steam the leaves and you have a tasty dish rich in iron), cattail (cooked stalks taste similar to corn and are rich in protein), and wild apricots (an infusion made with the leaves is good for stomachaches and digestive disorders).

More than 260 detailed line drawings help readers identify a wide range of plants — many of which are suited for cooking by following the more than thirty recipes included in this book. There are literally hundreds of plants readily available underfoot waiting to be harvested and used either as food or as a potential therapeutic. This book is both a field guide to nature's bounty and a source of intriguing information about the plants that surround us.

— from Hearst Books

