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Altered Fates: Gene Therapy and the Retooling of Human Life — Jeff Lyon and Peter Gorner. Two Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters examine the epic history of gene therapy — a biomedical procedure they envision as revolutionizing medicine — and assess its potential in the diagnosis and treatment of such killers and cripples as cancer, heart disease, cystic fibrosis, schizophrenia, and manic depression. Their narrative brings alive the patients, their parents, and the pioneering giants of gene therapy, including William French Anderson and Steven Rosenberg. Norton, 1995, 636 p., hardcover, \$27.50.

Cancer Wars: How Politics Shapes What We Know & Don't Know About Cancer — Robert N. Proctor. The author, a historian of science at Pennsylvania State University, poses an intriguing question. After nearly a quarter century and \$25 billion spent on research, why has the war on cancer, one of the largest medical efforts in history, been so futile? The answer, he argues, lies in politics and in how government regulatory agencies, scientists, trade associations, and environmentalists have obscured the issues and prevented concerted action. As he details the contentious history of the quest for cancer's causes and cures, he raises serious questions about federal policies and priorities. Basic, 1995, 356 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Complexification: Explaining a Paradoxical World Through the Science of Surprise — John L. Casti. The intricacies and fundamental principles of complex systems are demonstrated here as Casti applies them to predictions in such varied areas as the stock market and unexpected occurrences of traffic jams on enlarged highways. Clearly, time-tested rules of common sense tend to differ, as Casti explains by delineating five reasons for counterintuitive behavior: catastrophes, chaos, computability, irreducibility, and emergence. However, he thinks that the possibility of creating a science approximating surprise looms in the future. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. HarperPerennial, 1995, 320 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$13.00.

In a House of Dreams and Glass: Becoming a Psychiatrist — Robert Klitzman. Through his personal saga as a psychiatric resident at a large urban hospital, Klitzman gives the reader an insider's look at teaching practices, hospital politics, personal challenges faced by residents, and some of the current treatments and methodologies of psychiatry. Accounts of some of the patients Klitzman treated during this time and their response to treatment provide a human dimension to this institutional setting. S&S, 1995, 366 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

The Kitchen Garden: A Passionate Gardener's Comprehensive Guide to Growing Good Things to Eat — Sylvia Thompson. Practical advice and detailed instructions on growing vegetables, herbs, fruits, and edible flowers include best bets for each climate, a list of newly popular garden goodies (such as celtuce and adzuki beans), and advice on landscaping, composting, and crop rotation. Bantam, 1995, 389 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$27.95.

A Primer of Drug Action: A Concise, Nontechnical Guide to the Actions, Uses, and Side Effects of Psychoactive Drugs — Robert M. Julien. Mechanisms of drug action, coverage of the receptors upon which many psychoactive drugs act, non-pharmacological alternatives in treating psychiatric illness, and in-depth discussion of all psychoactive drugs from nicotine to LSD make up this revised edition. WH Freeman, 1995, 511 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$19.95.

The Search for Infinity: Solving the Mysteries of the Universe — Gordon Fraser, Egil Lillestøl, and Inge Sellevåg. The authors, two physicists and a journalist, explain the great discoveries of cosmology and fundamental particles and how the findings of scientists exploring the infinitely large and the infinitely small have come dramatically together: The conditions needed to explore quarks replicate the immediate aftermath of the Big Bang. This lavishly illustrated book aims at nothing less than answering — as best one can today — the question, What is the universe made of and where did it come from? Facts on File, 1995, 144 p., b&w and color photos and illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

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Why is it commonly so difficult to learn a second language when learning a first is virtually effortless for most of us? Unraveling the mysteries of learning a second language, two top researchers in the field explain how language acquisition can be an odyssey of self-discovery.

Ellen Bialystok and Kenji Hakuta view second-language acquisition as one way of coming to grips with the fundamental nature of language, mind, and brain. Using an array of vivid illustrations, lively anecdotes, and fascinating research examples, they show how five elements — brain, language, mind, self, and culture — make up the complex ecology of language learning.

The book considers vital questions: Is the brain "hard-wired" for language learning? Why are the mental operations that allow us to learn language different from those we use to solve math problems or play a musical instrument? How do differences between languages affect language learning? What are various cultures doing to encourage bilingualism?

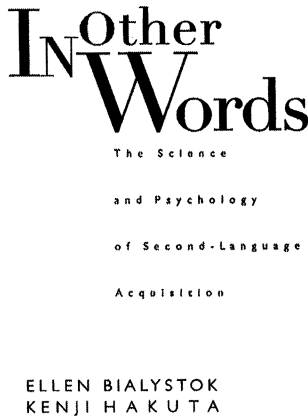
Among the many myths the authors challenge is the notion that children can learn a second language perfectly and effortlessly while adults encounter much difficulty. But in today's global village, the effort is more worthwhile than ever.

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