

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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Pages 129-144



T Ray Imaging

**Touchstone, 1995, 317 pages,
6" x 9 1/2", \$14.00**

Science News Books AstonHypoth
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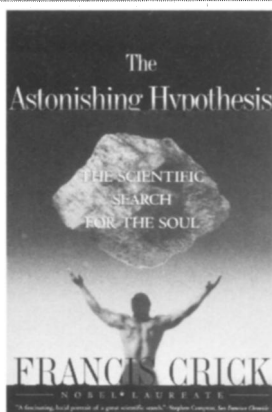
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OF ALL THE MOLECULES IN A CELL, WHICH ONES are the source of life? Of all the cells in a brain, which ones are the source of our soul? Few would challenge the existence of the human soul—those who do are often referred to as atheists or agnostics—yet recent scientific studies suggest the idea of a soul may be just a myth. In *The Astonishing Hypothesis*, Nobel Laureate Francis Crick challenges the line between science and spirituality by examining the presence of soul, consciousness, and free will on the molecular level.

A partner in the team that discovered the double helix structure of DNA, Crick explains his belief that the human mind and the behavior of the brain can be explained by the interactions of nerve cells and the molecules associated with them, thus leaving us to question the existence of a soul or consciousness.

That which is perceived to be free will or personality may simply be the detailed behavior of a set of nerve cells reacting to visuals perceived from the external world.

Exploring the link between vision and the brain's perception may unlock the mysteries of the soul and consciousness. Focusing on the complexities of the brain and outside stimuli, Crick maps out the neurobiology of vision.

And, through simple experiments, *The Astonishing Hypothesis* proves: that humans are easily deceived by their vision; that visual information provided by your eyes is usually ambiguous; and that seeing is a constructive process. The result is a cogent, lucid, and richly detailed analysis of how the brain "sees," and a daring exploration into the realm of consciousness.

A search of the soul through a journey into the human brain, *The Astonishing Hypothesis* offers Crick's groundbreaking and provocative theories that challenge the very foundations of current scientific, philosophical, and religious thought.

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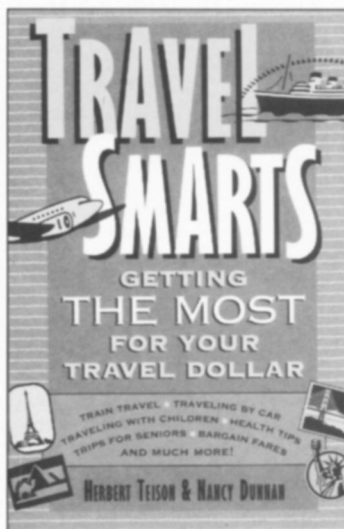
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*Globe Pequot, 1995, 273 pages,
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In the past few years, a new line of scientific inquiry called "chaos theory" has caught the popular imagination. Young people, in particular, have taken to the complex, computer-generated patterns that seem to teeter precariously between order and randomness.

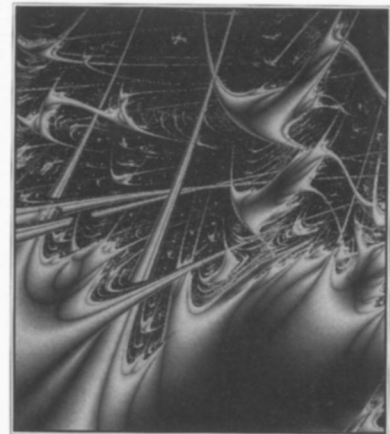
Chaos theory, it turns out, has a deeper meaning for our understanding of nature. All sorts of phenomena — from swinging pendulums to heart rhythms to gold futures — are best perceived through the prism of chaos theory.

In this collection of incisive, frontline reports, edited by Nina Hall for *New Scientist* magazine, internationally recognized experts such as Ian Stewart, Robert May, and Benoit Mandelbrot draw on the latest research to explain the roots of chaos in modern science and mathematics.

— from W.W. Norton & Company

EXPLORING CHAOS

A Guide to the New Science of Disorder



Edited by Nina Hall

To order by Visa or MasterCard,
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W.W. Norton & Company, 1994, 223 pages,
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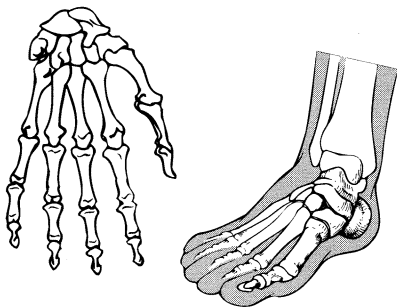
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