

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

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A Taxonomy of  
Images**

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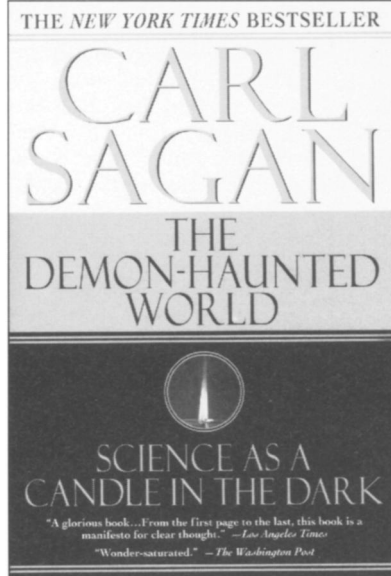
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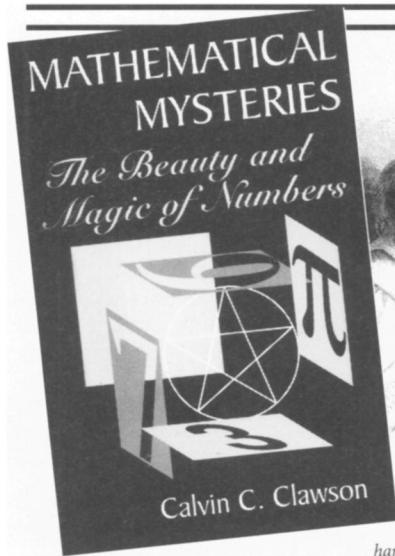
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**A**re we on the brink of a new Dark Age of irrationality and superstition? In this stirring, brilliantly argued book, internationally respected scientist Carl Sagan shows how scientific thinking is necessary to safeguard our democratic institutions and our technical civilization.

*The Demon-Haunted World* is more personal and moving than anything Sagan has previously written. With illustrations from his own childhood experience as well as engrossing tales of discovery, Sagan shows how the method of scientific thought can cut through prejudice and hysteria to uncover the often surprising truth. He convincingly debunks "alien abduction," "channelers," faith-healer fraud, the "face" on Mars, and much else. Along the way, he refutes the arguments that science destroys spirituality or is just another arbitrary belief system, asks why scientific study is often stigmatized, discusses the dangers of the misuse of science, and provides a "baloney detection kit" for thinking through political, social, religious, and other issues.

Controversial, provocative, and uplifting, this is sure to be one of the year's most talked-about books. — from Random House



Plenum Press, 1996  
313 pages  
5½" x 8½"  
hardcover, \$27.95

Calvin Clawson asserts that, in the same way we are struck by the beauty of a great work of art, our brains are singularly attuned to comprehending and finding pleasure in deep mathematical truths. Clawson lets numbers sing their siren song by conferring on us the ability to grasp their meaning. Any of us, recalling only the basics of high school algebra, can follow Clawson into the heart of mathematics.

The mystery of numbers lies in a bewildering paradox: If numbers are purely objects of human thought, then why do they correspond so strikingly to the physical universe? Indeed, as Clawson explains, the story of mathematics is composed of near-mystical expressions that elegantly connect the most important mathematical truths. Further mysteries abound: How can a simple, familiar equation, when graphed, be transformed into a stunningly complex and beautiful fractal? Why have questions posed by the Greeks remained beyond proof by even the best and brightest of our century? How can we humans, as limited and finite beings, play with and discover the infinite? This book cuts to the soul of what drives mathematicians on lifelong pilgrimages of discovery—and stays in touch with the wonder at the core of that pursuit.

Prepare to be swept away. Clawson's irresistible enthusiasm truly transforms mathematics into a celebration of discovery and delight. — from Plenum Press

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— from Rodale Press

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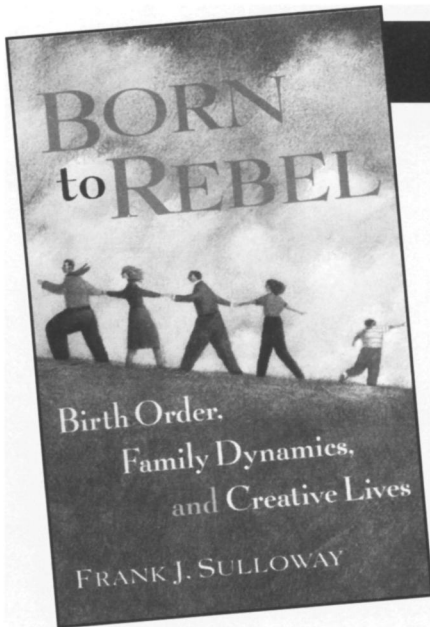
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Why are individuals from the same family often no more similar in personality than those from different families? Why, within the same family, do some children conform to authority while others rebel? The family, it turns out, is not a "shared environment" but rather a set of niches that provide siblings with different outlooks.

At the heart of *Born to Rebel*, a pioneering inquiry into human development, is a fundamental insight: that the personalities of siblings vary because they adopt different strategies in the universal quest for parental favor. Frank J. Sulloway's most important finding is that the eldest children identify with parents and authority and support the status quo, whereas younger children rebel against it. Drawing on the work of Darwin and the new science of evolutionary psychology, he transforms our understanding of personality development and its origins in family dynamics.

Most persuasively, Sulloway's findings offer conclusive evidence that the family, with its powerful interpersonal dynamics, is a cauldron for the great revolutionary advances that drive historical change. Through his analysis of revolutions in social and scientific thought, from the Reformation to Darwin's theory of natural selection, Sulloway demonstrates that the primary engine of history is located *within* families, not *between* them, as Marx believed.

—from Pantheon

Pantheon, 1996, 651 pages, 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$30.00



"Mom always liked you and Pinkie and Spike and Custard and Fluffy best."

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BornRebelH

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