

# Books

**Books** is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print, please remit retail price, plus \$2.00 postage and handling for each book, to **Science News Books**, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. To place Visa or MasterCard orders, call 1-800-544-4565. Domestic orders only.

**Altering Fate: Why the Past Does Not Predict the Future**—Michael Lewis. Much of Lewis' career has been spent researching the development of children from infancy through early childhood. He argues that chance events, even those marked by tragedy, are not defining characteristics of our identity. His findings veer from the "organismic model" perpetuated by Sigmund Freud and Jean Piaget, who believed that later events can be predicted by earlier ones. Social policy in the United States is founded on this model. While removing children from detrimental situations is commendable, says Lewis, it's foolish to think such actions alone will solve a child's behavioral problems. Rather than dwell on the past, children must learn to adapt to the future, Lewis believes. Guilford, 1997, 238 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

**The American Horticultural Society Complete Guide to Water Gardening**—Peter Robinson. If you fantasize about having a koi pond, reflecting pool, or bog garden in your yard, then this profusely illustrated guide will help you understand options, render designs, master planting techniques, and maintain your creation once it is complete. More than 700 color photos illustrate each step and element of the design. A dictionary of water-loving plants concludes the volume. Doring Kindersley, 1997, 216 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$34.95.

**Dinosaur in a Haystack: Reflections in Natural History**—Stephen Jay Gould. In 35 essays originally published in *NATURAL HISTORY*, Gould sets forth his definition of when a new millennium begins, Hollywood's misrepresentation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and the connection between Linnaeus and Erasmus Darwin, Charles Darwin's grandfather. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Crown, 1997, 480 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$15.00.

**Kinship to Mastery: Biophilia and Human Evolution and Development**—Stephen R. Kellert. Kellert provides a fascinating introduction to Edward O. Wilson's concept of biophilia. Biophilia assumes an "inherent human affinity for life and lifelike processes." Because we, in tandem with the rest of creation, are products of the natural process of evolution, we are forever linked "physically, emotionally, and intellectually with them." Creativity and emotional bonding, for instance, can be linked directly to the diversity of life, as shown here in a series of vignettes. Island Pr, 1997, 256 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

**Richard Feynman: A Life in Science**—John Gribbin and Mary Gribbin. Even the authors question the need for another Feynman biography, but they allege that no book in existence combines Feynman's scientific accomplishments and verve for physics with his unique personality and intriguing background. The Gribbins ably achieve this goal as they reveal how Feynman was able to hold his students riveted by exuding the joy he had for physics. They also illustrate the aptitude for quantum electrodynamics that won him a Noble prize. Blend these achievements with bongo-playing, safecracking, practical joking, and you have a story. Dutton, 1997, 301 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

**The Science Class You Wish You Had: The Seven Greatest Scientific Discoveries in History and the People Who Made Them**—David Eliot Brody and Arnold R. Brody. This overview of the pivotal findings of Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, Niels Bohr, Edwin Hubble, Charles Darwin, James Watson and Francis Crick, Walther Flemming, and Gregor Mendel will be useful to anyone not familiar with their lives and work. Biographies of these men and explanations of their achievements are provided in an almost narrative format, thus imparting the basics of the Big Bang, relativity, evolution, and other major scientific theories. Perigree, 1997, 376 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.00.

**21st Century Miracle Medicine: Robosurgery, Wonder Cures, and the Quest for Immortality**—Alexandra Wyke. The medicine writer at *THE ECONOMIST* reports on recent progress within the medical community and associated pharmaceutical and technology industries as well as on expectations for the next 50 years. A new multimedia system for parents of children with leukemia can respond to medical inquiries; physicians monitor these exchanges and the computer alerts them when there is cause for concern. Robots will provide surgeons with bionic vision, especially useful in neurosurgery. The Tracy watch will monitor the chemical content of blood and stress levels. Plenum, 1997, 352 p., hardcover, \$26.95.

To order by Visa or MasterCard, call  
**1-800-544-4565**  
 In DC: 202-331-9653  
 Or, E-mail: [snbooks@sciserv.org](mailto:snbooks@sciserv.org)

Order by phone for  
 faster service!  
**1-800-544-4565**  
 (Visa or MasterCard Only)

In DC area: 202-331-9653  
 Fax: 202-785-1242  
 E-mail: [snbooks@sciserv.org](mailto:snbooks@sciserv.org)

John Wiley & Sons, 1997, 257 pages  
 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$22.95

Science News Books WhyFlipCoinH  
 1719 N Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20036

Please send me \_\_\_ copy(ies) of  
*Why Flip a Coin?* I include a check  
 payable to Science News Books for  
 \$22.95 plus \$2.00 postage and  
 handling for each book (total  
 \$24.95). Domestic orders only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

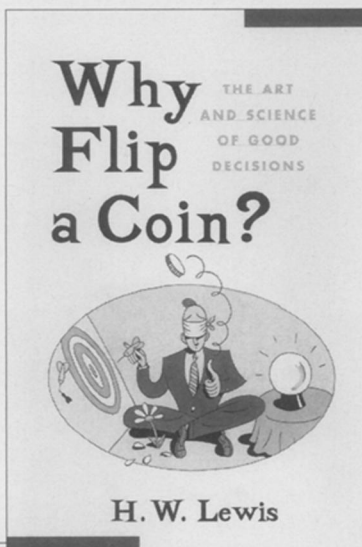
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 (used only for problems with order) RB2762

## How would you decide?

- *You're at the casino—you've doubled your money and you're still on a roll. Is it time to quit?*
- *You meet someone close to perfect. Should you stop searching or hold out for someone even better?*
- *Your well-diversified mutual fund is performing nicely, but suddenly your broker calls about a hot stock offering. Should you invest?*



Drawing on scores of research findings and examples, H.W. Lewis presents brain-teasing problems and amusing scenarios that reveal clever ways to avoid the anxiety associated with making decisions.

Inviting readers to play "The Dating Game," he shows how to make a fateful decision when you don't yet know all your options. He shows how to weigh the intentions of hostile competitors and effectively anticipate their next moves.

Lewis points out the mistakes people so often make when facing a wide variety of decision-making pressures and shows how to organize your thinking to achieve a clear state of mind when confronting any particular decision.

You'll be amazed as Lewis examines how electoral systems can be manipulated to skew the results; how the concept of the *random walk* applies to the stock market; and how understanding *standard deviation* and *regression* can lead to better predictions in both personal and professional life.

—from John Wiley & Sons