

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

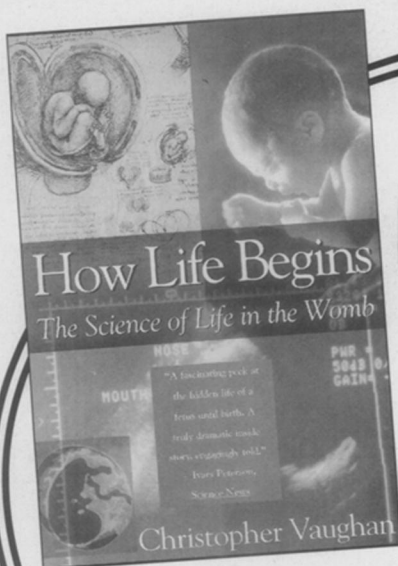
# SCIENCE NEWS

October 4, 1997  
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Pages 209-224

**A Rare Breed, Indeed**



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Do babies dream in the womb, and if so, what about? Why do people have that little groove between their upper lip and their nose? Does it do any good to pipe in Bach or Berlioz to the genius-in-training? Why does a fetus open its eyes in the womb when there's nothing to see? What starts labor: baby, mother, or placenta?

Until fairly recently, life inside the womb was a mystery to those of us outside it. With the advent of ultrasound technology and other imaging techniques, a window into that hidden world has been opened.

In *How Life Begins*, science journalist Christopher Vaughan provides a fascinating glimpse of fetal development through the advancement of medical technology and interviews with leading researchers. He goes beyond the usual information in books for expectant parents. For those of you who want to know more than how fast the fetus is growing, when it will start to move, and how much more weight Mommy is going to gain, here is a month-by-month guide to what your new baby is seeing, hearing, and dreaming about and how it's accomplishing the miracle of preparing to be human.

*How Life Begins* focuses on the experience of the embryo and fetus and provides an entertaining and informative guide to the long and fascinating journey from single cell to plump and bright-eyed baby.

—from Times Books

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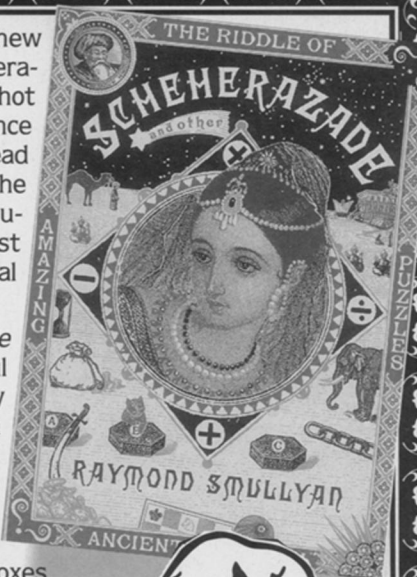
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In Raymond Smullyan's new book we find that Scheherazade has gotten back into hot water with the king, and is once more in danger of losing her head at dawn. But, thinking quickly, she tempts the king to stay her execution by posing him the most delightfully devious mathematical and logic puzzles ever invented.

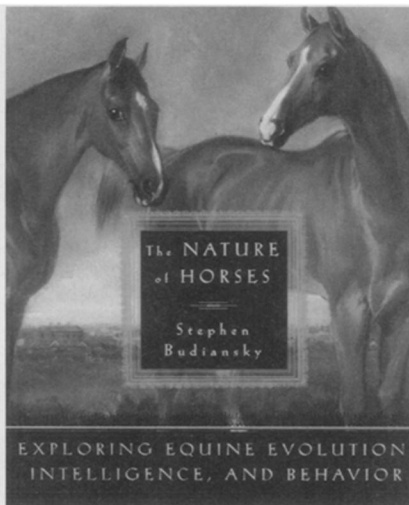
The *Riddle of Scheherazade* includes several wonderful old chestnuts and many fiendishly original puzzles, 225 in all. There are logic tricks and number games, metapuzzles (puzzles about puzzles), liar vs. truth-teller exercises, Gödelian brain twisters, baffling paradoxes, and an excursion, under Scheherazade's expert guidance, into an amusing new field invented by Smullyan. Called "coercive" logic, it allows the answer to a problem to actually change the fate of the puzzler!

— from Knopf





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Humans and horses have a shared history going back to the horse's domestication around 4000 B.C. Yet only in very recent years have scientists begun to use science to illuminate this remarkable animal, long a staple of human dreams and legends. Now, modern scientific research is beginning to explain long-standing mysteries about the true nature of the horse.

How well can horses see? What causes breakdowns in racehorses? How intelligent are these magnificent creatures, compared to other animals, and are some breeds smarter than others? Does nature or nurture matter more in creating a great sport horse? What causes cribbing and other vices? In this beautifully illustrated, compelling narrative, Stephen Budiansky tells the story of the origins, behavior, intelligence, and language of the horse.

Introducing the latest archaeological findings, Budiansky presents a fascinating discussion of how the horse evolved. He debunks the commonly held belief that horses are not intelligent. And, finally, he draws together the latest research on horse physiology, genetics, and biomechanics to pose the million dollar question in all its complexity—what makes for a winning racehorse? —The Free Press

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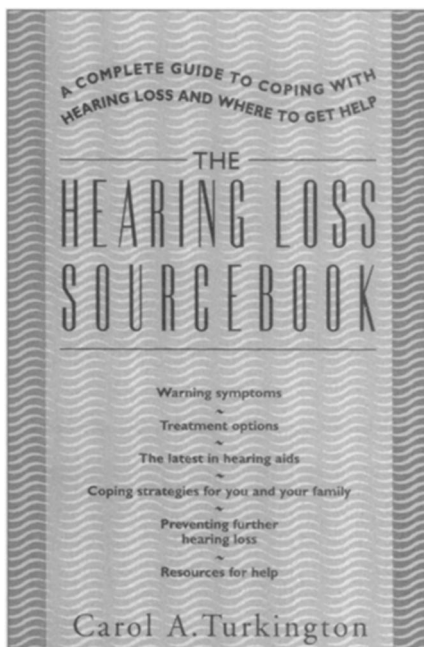
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More than 1 in 10 Americans suffers some form of hearing loss, and as the population ages that number will increase dramatically. This up-to-date guide offers the latest research on the causes, treatment, and prevention of hearing loss. Families and friends, confused about how to deal with the everyday consequences of hearing loss, can also look to this authoritative guide for help. A truly practical book, it includes:



- ▶ Early symptoms and warning signs of deafness
- ▶ What to expect during a hearing test and what the results mean
- ▶ Information about the latest, nearly invisible hearing aids
- ▶ What insurance usually covers and what costs to expect
- ▶ How to make your home safe and comfortable with telephone adapters, closed-captioned television, doorbells, and smoke alarms
- ▶ Resources for information, equipment, and support

Accessible and concise, *The Hearing Loss Sourcebook* focuses on personal experience so that you can adapt as easily and completely as possible to a loss of hearing. —from Plume