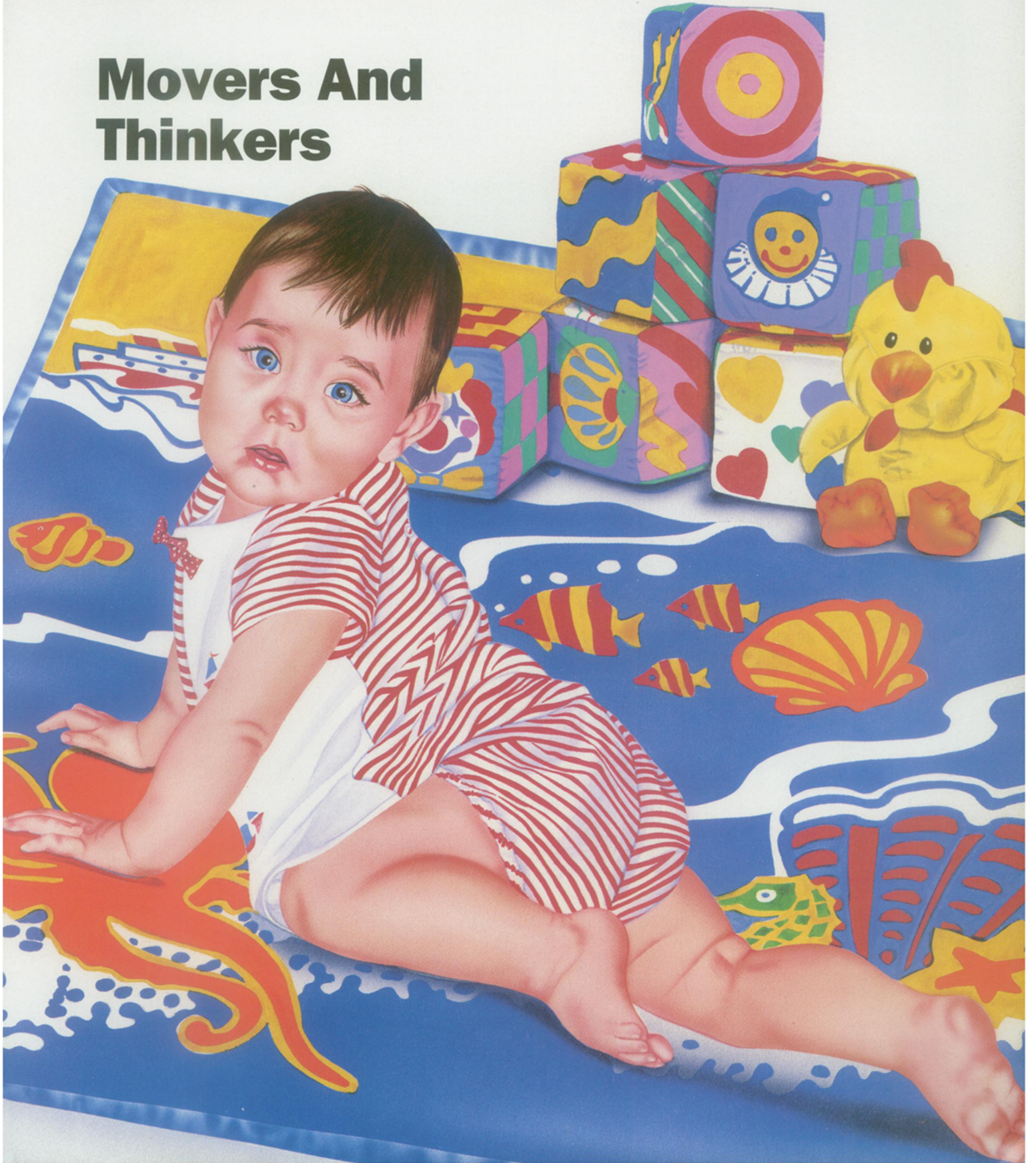


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

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## Movers And Thinkers



JOHN WILEY AND SONS, 1997, 202 PAGES, 5" X 8 1/4", PAPERBACK, \$14.95

How much are character, intelligence, and lifestyle a result of genes? In this compelling book, award-winning journalist Lawrence Wright reveals how twins are helping to unravel these and other mysteries of human identity.

Recent studies of twins have shaken the field of psychology to its foundation. Because identical twins separated at birth share all the same genes, they offer a unique opportunity to test theories about the roles played by nature and nurture in shaping who we are.

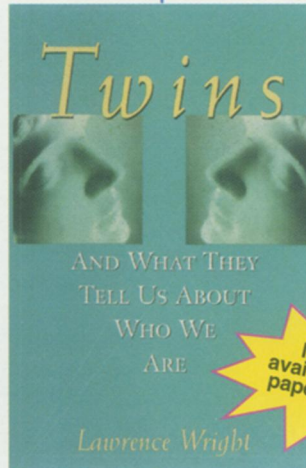
With its genesis in the author's acclaimed *NEW YORKER* magazine article, *Twins* directly challenges many long-held beliefs. For instance, a series of groundbreaking studies of twins has shown that genes play a much stronger role in shaping identity than was previously thought. Today,

inherited tendencies. Even political orientation and religious commitment, it turns out, are largely governed by our genes.

*Twins* is filled with astounding stories of identical twins who have lived entirely separate lives but who have an incredible amount in common, including their hobbies; mannerisms; taste in music, food, and clothes; experiences in marriage and divorce; careers; and sexuality.

Perhaps even more surprising is the discovery that family life has a startlingly little effect on the type of person one becomes. The nongenetic factors that have the greatest impact on shaping our lives are *not* the way our parents raise us or the kind of family in which we grow up, but our experiences *outside* the family.

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