

The Phenomenon Of Life Christopher W Alexander

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an amazing journey into the hidden realm of nature s sounds the natural world teems with remarkable conversations many beyond human hearing range scientists are using groundbreaking digital technologies to uncover these astonishing sounds revealing vibrant communication among our fellow creatures across the tree of life at once meditative and scientific the sounds of life

shares fascinating and surprising stories of nonhuman sound interweaving insights from technological innovation and traditional knowledge we meet scientists using sound to protect and regenerate endangered species from the great barrier reef to the arctic and the amazon we discover the shocking impacts of noise pollution on both animals and plants we learn how artificial intelligence can decode nonhuman sounds and meet the researchers building dictionaries in east african elephant and sperm whalish at the frontiers of innovation we explore digitally mediated dialogues with bats and honeybees technology often distracts us from nature but what if it could reconnect us instead the sounds of life offers hope for environmental conservation and affirms humanity s relationship with nature in the digital age after learning about the unsuspected wonders of nature s sounds we will never see walks outdoors in the same way again

finalist for the pen e o wilson literary science writing award a new york times notable book of 2021 a science news favorite book of 2021 a smithsonian top ten science book of 2021 stories that both dazzle and edify this book is not just about life but about discovery itself siddhartha mukherjee new york times book review we all assume we know what life is but the more scientists learn about the living world from protocells to brains from zygotes to pandemic viruses the harder they find it is to locate life s edge carl zimmer investigates one of the biggest questions of all what is life the answer seems obvious until you try to seriously answer it is the apple sitting on your kitchen counter alive or is only the apple tree it came from deserving of the word if we can t answer that question here on earth how will we know when and if we discover alien life on other worlds the question hangs over some of society s most charged conflicts whether a fertilized egg is a living person for example and when we ought to declare a person legally dead life s edge is an utterly fascinating investigation that no one but one of the most celebrated science writers of our generation could craft zimmer journeys through the strange experiments that have attempted to re create life literally hundreds of definitions of what that should look like now exist but none has yet emerged as an obvious winner lists of what living things have in common do not add up to a theory of life it s never clear why some items on the list are essential and others not coronaviruses have altered the course of history and yet many scientists maintain they are not alive chemists are creating droplets that can swarm sense their environment and multiply have they made life in the lab whether he is handling pythons in alabama or searching for hibernating bats in the adirondacks zimmer revels in astounding examples of life at its most bizarre he tries his own hand at evolving life in a test tube with unnerving results charting the obsession with dr frankenstein s monster and how the world briefly believed radium was the source of all life zimmer leads us all the way into the labs and minds of researchers engineering life from scratch

winner of the 2011 w w howells book award of the american anthropological association how has bipedalism impacted human childbirth do pms and postpartum depression have specific maybe even beneficial functions these are only two of the many questions that specialists in evolutionary medicine seek to answer and that anthropologist wenda trevathan addresses in ancient

bodies modern lives exploring a range of women s health issues that may be viewed through an evolutionary lens specifically focusing on reproduction trevathan delves into issues such as the medical consequences of early puberty in girls the impact of migration culture change and poverty on reproductive health and how fetal growth retardation affects health in later life hypothesizing that many of the health challenges faced by women today result from a mismatch between how their bodies have evolved and the contemporary environments in which modern humans live trevathan sheds light on the power and potential of examining the human life cycle from an evolutionary perspective and how this could improve our understanding of women s health and our ability to confront health challenges in more creative effective ways

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