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# SCIENCE NEWS

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**FROZEN  
in Time**



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**The Man Who Tasted Shapes**  
Richard E. Cytowic, M.D.

**In 1980, while Richard Cytowic was having dinner at a friend's house, his host exclaimed, "Oh, dear, there aren't enough points on the chicken." That casual comment began Cytowic's journey into the condition known as synesthesia.**

The 10 people in a million who are synethetes are born into a world where one sensation (such as sound) conjures up one or more others (such as taste or color). Although scientists have known about synesthesia for 200 years, until now the condition has remained a mystery. Extensive experiments with more than 40 synethetes led Cytowic to an explanation of synesthesia—and to a new conception of the organization of the mind, one that emphasized the primacy of emotion over reason.

Because there were not enough points on the chicken served at a dinner almost 2 decades ago, Cytowic came to explore a deeper reality that he believes exists in all individuals, but usually lies below the surface of awareness. In this medical detective adventure, he reveals the brain to be an active explorer, not just a passive receiver, and offers a new view of what it means to be human—a view that turns upside down conventional ideas about reason, emotion, and who we are.

—from MIT Press

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MIT Press, 1998, 254 pages  
6" x 9", paperback, \$16.00

This book was first published by Tarcher Putnam publishers in 1993.



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**T**he nature-nurture controversy has never been more hotly debated. Scientists send shock waves through the culture whenever their new theories of what is biologically inherited—as opposed to socially learned—confront our old ideas about the self. Nowhere are these ideas more arduously tested than in the labs of world-renowned molecular geneticist Dean Hamer, whose cutting-edge discoveries of specific genes linked to behavioral traits such as anxiety, thrill seeking, and homosexuality prove without a doubt that we are in large part hardwired to behave the way we do. Hamer is one of a small group of researchers mapping the human personality. His findings help to explain why one brother becomes a Wall Street trader while the other remains content as a librarian why some people like to bungee-jump while others play Scrabble and why some are born Don Juans and others wallflowers.

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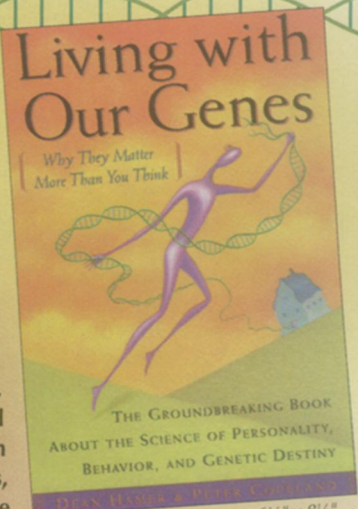
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Hamer shows how much of our behavior is heavily influenced by genes, including how much we eat and how much we weigh, how we think, and how much we drink, use drugs, and have sex. He also sheds light on some compelling and vexing aspects of personality, such as shyness, aggression, depression, and intelligence. Each chapter provides the reader with a blueprint for understanding himself and his family.

The emerging science of molecular biology shows that genes are the single most important factor that distinguishes one person from another. We come in large part ready-made from the factory. Yet genes are not fixed instructions. Indeed, as Hamer is quick to point out, it is our nature to respond to nurture. This is a user's manual for understanding why we do the things we do.

—from Doubleday



**Living with Our Genes**  
Why They Matter More Than You Think  
THE GROUNDBREAKING BOOK ABOUT THE SCIENCE OF PERSONALITY, BEHAVIOR, AND GENETIC DESTINY  
DEAN HAMER & PETER COPELAND

Doubleday, 1998, 355 p., 6 1/4" x 8 1/2" hardcover, \$24.95.

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