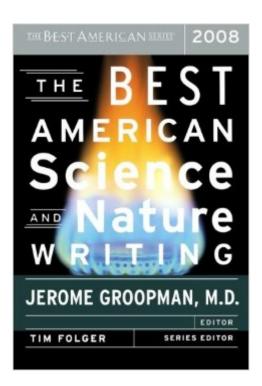# The Best American Science And Nature Writing 2008

Synopsis

â œThe articles . . . draw the reader more tightly into the web of the world. They forge links in unexpected ways. They connect us to nature and to each other, and those connections nourish the intellect and uplift the spirit.â •â ”Jerome Groopman, M.D., editorThis yearâ ™s Best American Science and Nature Writing offers another rich assortment of â œfascinating science and impressive journalismâ • (New Scientist) culled from an array of periodicals, such as The New Yorker, Scientific American, and National Geographic. The twenty-four provocative and often visionary stories chosen by guest editor Jerome Groopman form an outstanding sampling of the very best in a field of writing that stays ahead of the curve, bringing important topics to the forefront of American discussion. In â œThe Universeâ ™s Invisible Hand,â • Christopher Conselice takes us into the recent spectacular discovery of the crucial role of dark energy, which is making our universe expand faster and faster. Florence Williams tells the story of a more down-to-earth form of energy in â œA Mighty Wind,â • which describes how a small Danish island community is making great leaps in energy conservation by using innovative wind farms. John Cohen explores the marvelous world of ligers, zorses, wholphins, and other hybridized creatures in â œZonkeys Are Pretty Much My Favorite Animal.â • And Robin Marantz Henig delves into the possibly hazardous ramifications of the rapidly expanding science of nanotechnology. The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2008 packs a wallop of intriguing, informative, and wondrous stories, each one bringing with it, as Jerome Groopman writes, â œa sense of excitement [to be] shared with others.â •

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Customer Reviews

Not much hard science, but every essay is compelling reading - a good way to bring your scientific side up to date yearly. I have not missed one in the entire series and every year I end up thinking the new edition is the best ever. This year's editor, Jerome Groopman, made the final selections.John Cohen - You won't find hybrids in American zoos where purebreds are the rule but in alternate sites it's a different story. Whether by the natural method, artificial insemination, or by techniques that allow scientists to manipulate DNA, more are turning up more every year - zorses, wholphins, tigons, beefaloes, lepjags, zonkeys, camas, bonanzees, and pizzly bears. Some of them breed and appear more fit than either parent. I won't even mention the humanzees.John Colapinto - *among my favorites - The Piraha tribe of Brazil has a tonal and melodic language unrelated to any other. According to linguist Dan Everett, who has lived with them on and off for 25 years, the language also doesn't exhibit "recursion," a requirement of modern linguistic theory. Recursion is an "idea within an idea" - example: John's hat, which was red, one of several possible colors...and so on. Chomsky's dominant theory of linguistics says Everett just isn't looking hard enough but Chomsky's fellow linguists can't find the recursion either. The Piraha have no religion, live in the here and now, and are not the least bit interested in anything outside their culture.Christopher Conselice - A thorough discussion of dark energy, the substance that makes up the bulk of the universe. Get ready for some major tweaking in your understanding of cosmology. This is one of the hard science articles.Gareth Cook - Yes, the Incas did too know how to write.

This anthology, edited by Jerome Groopman, is exactly what one would hope for - a wide-ranging collection of well-written, fascinating articles which will expand the reader's horizons and are fun to read. Groopman's anthology benefits from his having cast a very broad net, as well as from the depth of his intellectual curiosity. In his introduction, he outlines his criteria for inclusion:"the articles ... have novel and surprising arguments, protagonists who articulate their themes in clear, cogent voices, and vivid cinema. They are not verbose or tangential. They are filled with simple declarative sentences. ... I suspect none of the articles was easy to write. Each shows a depth of thought and reporting that takes time and considerable effort."These target criteria show that we are in good hands - the only remaining question is whether they are actually achieved for the pieces included in the anthology. The answer is a resounding yes - with very few exceptions (only Freeman Dyson's piece on biotechnology and Michael Specter's article on retroviruses seemed fuzzy to me) the writing is crisp and clear, and the subject material is interesting and thought-provoking. That is, in my estimation, Dr Groopman's batting average is 22 excellent pieces of 24 (and your view on the

Dyson and Specter pieces may differ). Which far exceeds the norm for this kind of anthology.

The Semantic Web - ISWC 2008: 7th International Semantic Web Conference, ISWC 2008, Karlsruhe, Germany, October 26-30, 2008, Proceedings (Lecture Notes in Computer Science) The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2008 Writing : Novel Writing Mastery, Proven And Simple Techniques To Outline-, Structure- And Write A Successful Novel ! - novel writing, writing fiction, writing skills - The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2011 The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2007 The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2013 Youdunit Whodunit!: How To Write Mystery, Thriller and Suspense Books (Writing Skills, Writing Fiction, Writing Instruction, Writing a Book) Windows® Group Policy Resource Kit: Windows Server® 2008 and Windows Vista®: Windows Server® 2008 and Windows Vista® The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover] Arthur Agatston MD (Author) Joseph Signorile PhD (Author)The South Beach Diet Supercharged Faster Weight Loss and Better Health for Life [2008 Hardcover] Professional Conduct 2008-2009: 2008 Edition (Blackstone Bar Manual) BEST BOOKS: Recommended Reading-Best American Literature (Fiction & Nonfiction), Must Read Titles in English, Best Young Adult Books, the Best Kindle Books, ... Novels & Book Club Picks (Good Reads 1) Best of the Best from Hawaii Cookbook: Selected Recipes from Hawaii's Favorite Cookbooks (Best of the Best State Cookbooks) Best of the Best from New Mexico Cookbook: Selected Recipes from New Mexico's Favorite Cookbooks (Best of the Best Cookbook) Best Man Best Speech: How to Be the Best Best Man Jokes : Best Jokes 2016: (Funny books, Joke books, Funny jokes, Best jokes 2016, Best jokes 2015) (Best Jokes 2016 Bundle) Non Fiction Writing Templates: 44 Tips to Create Your Own Non Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Writing Non Fiction, Kindle Publishing) Fiction Writing Templates: 30 Tips to Create Your Own Fiction Book (Writing Templates, Fiction Writing, Kindle Publishing) Love Writing - How to Make Money Writing Romantic or Erotic Fiction (Secrets to Success Writing Series Book 5) The Science Explorer: The Best Family Activities and Experiments from the World's Favorite Hands-On Science Museum (Exploratorium Science-At-Home Book) Comedy Writing Secrets: The Best-Selling Guide to Writing Funny and Getting Paid for It