

Into the Cool: Energy Flow, Thermodynamics, and Life, 2005, 362 pages, Eric D. Schneider, Dorion Sagan, 0226739368, 9780226739366, University of Chicago Press, 2005

Scientists, theologians, and philosophers have all sought to answer the questions of why we are here and where we are going. Finding this natural basis of life has proved elusive, but in the eloquent and creative *Into the Cool*, Eric D. Schneider and Dorion Sagan look for answers in a surprising place: the second law of thermodynamics. This second law refers to energy's inevitable tendency to change from being concentrated in one place to becoming spread out over time. In this scientific tour de force, Schneider and Sagan show how the second law is behind evolution, ecology, economics, and even life's origin. Working from the precept that "nature abhors a gradient," *Into the Cool* details how complex systems emerge, enlarge, and reproduce in a world tending toward disorder. From hurricanes here to life on other worlds, from human evolution to the systems humans have created, this pervasive pull toward equilibrium governs life at its molecular base and at its peak in the elaborate structures of living complex systems. Schneider and Sagan organize their argument in a highly accessible manner, moving from descriptions of the basic physics behind energy flow to the organization of complex systems to the role of energy in life to the final section, which applies their concept of energy flow to politics, economics, and even human health. A book that needs to be grappled with by all those who wonder at the organizing principles of existence, *Into the Cool* will appeal to both humanists and scientists. If Charles Darwin shook the world by showing the common ancestry of all life, so *Into the Cool* has a similar power to disturb and delight by showing the common roots in energy flow of all complex, organized, and naturally functioning systems. Whether one is considering the difference between heat and cold or between inflated prices and market values, Schneider and Sagan argue, we can apply insights from thermodynamics and entropy to understand how systems tend toward equilibrium. The result is an impressive work that ranges across disciplinary boundaries and draws from disparate literatures without blinking. Publishers Weekly

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Biospheres from Earth to Space, Dorion Sagan, Lynn Margulis, Jan 1, 1989, Juvenile Nonfiction, 96 pages. Describes the earth biosphere as a closed ecological system and tells how humans are developing small-scale biospheres to allow them to live in space..

Non-equilibrium Thermodynamics and the Production of Entropy Life, Earth, and Beyond, Axel Kleidon, Ralph Lorenz, Ralph D. Lorenz, Jan 1, 2005, Body, Mind & Spirit, 260 pages. Title is included in the Springer Complexity programme..

Evolutionary and Molecular Biology Scientific Perspectives on Divine Action, Robert J. Russell, William R. Stoeger, Francisco Jos  Ayala, 1998, Religion, 551 pages. This collection of twenty-two research papers explores the creative interaction between evolutionary and molecular biology, philosophy, and theology. It is the result of the.

A Case Against Accident and Self-organization, Dean L. Overman, Jan 1, 1997, Science, 244 pages. Could accidental processes have caused the formation of a universe compatible with life? The author reviews the influence of metaphysical assumptions and examines issues.

Into the Cool The Collected Poems of David Saxton, 1992 Through 2007, David Saxton, Mar 1, 2008, Poetry, 140 pages. Saxton's bittersweet reflections immerse the reader in the natural drama of Hindu, Buddhist, and Taoist thought, human loneliness, and deep ecology..

Death & Sex , Tyler Volk, Dorion Sagan, Oct 13, 2009, Science, 224 pages. On DEATH . . . What is shared by spawning Pacific salmon, towering trees, and suicidal bacteria? In his lucid and concise exploration of how and why things die, Tyler Volk.

Information Evolution and Economics A New Evolutionary Paradigm, Robert U. Ayres, Jan 1, 1994, Business & Economics, 301 pages. Market: Those in economics, especially thermodynamics, statistical mechanics, cybernetics, information theory, resource use, and evolutionary economic behavior. This book.

Notes from the Holocene a brief history of the future, Dorion Sagan, Sep 7, 2007, Science, 226 pages. In a thought-provoking, humorous, and engaging style, Dorion Sagan combines philosophy, science, and an understanding of illusion to probe the deep questions of existence.

Lynn Margulis The Life and Legacy of a Scientific Rebel, Dorion Sagan, Oct 19, 2012, Biography & Autobiography, 224 pages. Tireless, controversial, and hugely inspirational to those who knew her or encountered her work, Lynn Margulis was a scientist whose intellectual energy and interests knew no.

Social Science and Complexity The Scientific Foundations, Ian Trevor King, 2000, Social Science, 246 pages. The various tasks of this book are handled in four parts. In Part One, The Natural Sciences and the Social Sciences, two related questions will be addressed in order to.

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