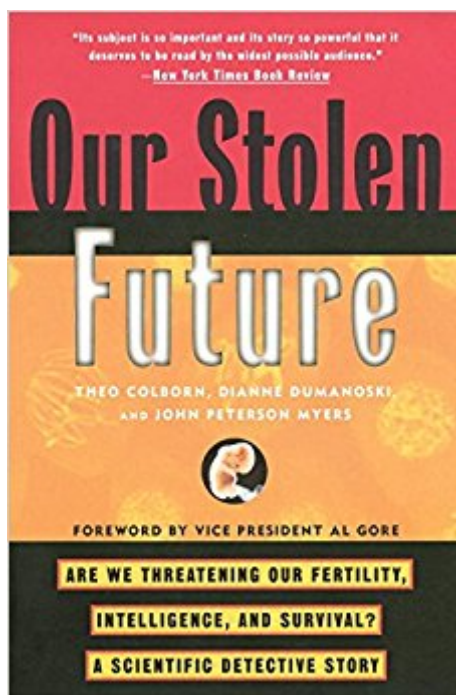




The book was found

Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence, And Survival?--A Scientific Detective Story



Synopsis

"A critically important book that forces us to ask new questions about the synthetic chemicals that we have spread across this earth." — Al Gore, author of *An Inconvenient Truth*

Our Stolen Future examines the ways that certain synthetic chemicals interfere with hormonal messages involved in the control of growth and development, especially in the fetus. The developing fetus uses these natural hormonal messages, which come from both from its own hormone system and from its mother, to guide development. They influence virtually all of the growing individual's characteristics, from determining its sex to controlling the numbers of toes and fingers to shaping intricate details of brain structure. Scientific research over the last 50 years has revealed that this hormonal control of development is vulnerable to disruption by synthetic chemicals. Through a variety of mechanisms, hormone-disrupting chemicals (also known as endocrine disrupting chemicals or endocrine disruptors) interfere with the natural messages and alter the course of development, with potential effects on virtually all aspects of bodily function. *Our Stolen Future* explores the scientific discovery of endocrine disruption. The investigation begins with wildlife, as it was in animals that the first hints of widespread endocrine disruption appeared. The book then examines a series of experiments examining endocrine disruption of animals in the laboratory which show conclusively that fetal exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals can wreak life-long damage. These experiments also reveal some of the biological processes by which these chemicals have their effects, and that endocrine disruption effects can be caused by exposure to infinitesimally small amounts of contaminant. Moving from animals to people, *Our Stolen Future* summarizes a series of well-studied examples where people have been affected by endocrine disrupting chemicals, most notably the synthetic hormone diethylstilbestrol (DES), to which several million women were exposed through misguided medical attempts to manage difficult pregnancies in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. *Our Stolen Future* then asks a broader, more difficult and more controversial set of questions. Given what is known from wildlife and laboratory studies, and from examples of well-studied human exposure, and given that exposure to endocrine disrupting chemicals in the real world is widespread at levels comparable to those sufficient to cause animal harm, what effects should health scientists be looking for in people in general? Effects to be expected include declines in fertility and other impacts on the reproductive system of both men and women, impairments in disease resistance, and erosions in intelligence.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A critically important book that forces us to ask new questions about the synthetic chemicals that we have spread across this earth."—[former vice president](#) [Al Gore](#), author of [An Inconvenient Truth](#)

Dr. Theo Colborn was Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville and President of [TEDX](#) (The Endocrine Disruption Exchange). She was the author of numerous scientific publications about compounds that alter the development of human, wildlife, and laboratory animal offspring before they are born. Dr. Colborn was awarded the Blue Planet Prize, the Rachel Carson Prize, the Society of Toxicology and Environmental Chemistry's Rachel Carson Award and Time Magazine's Environmental Heroes Award. She died in 2014. Dianne Dumanoski [is an award-winning journalist who writes on environmental issues and is the coauthor of](#) [Our Stolen Future](#). She lives in Massachusetts. Reporter, editor and publisher of [OurStolenFuture.org](#), Dr. John Peterson Myers is founder, CEO and Chief Scientist at Environmental Health Sciences, publisher of [EnvironmentalHealthNews.org](#) [and](#) [DailyClimate.org](#). From 1990-2002, he was director of the W. Alton Jones Foundation, a private foundation supporting efforts to protect the global environment and to prevent nuclear war. He received his Ph.D. in zoology from the University of California, Berkeley, and lives near Charlottesville, Virginia.

Fantastic book. I was researching about autism and the possibility that the "pollutants" from the last

50 years may be part of the problem. I thought it extremely interesting that Vice President Al Gore says in his forward on the first page that "Even worse, in the womb and through breast milk, mothers pass this chemical legacy on to the next generation." January 22, 1996. This was the spark I needed to realize that yes indeed, the pollutants that are in our society and we ignore may already be causing our society major problems. I am "cleaning up my life" of as many pollutants as I can. Throughout the book the three scientists who wrote it help us understand how we have gotten where we are today. This is something we should not ignore. 1 in 47 autistic children born per year=about 84,000 per year! This book was first printed March, 1996. The rates have gradually increased to epidemic proportions. No, the book is not about autism....but how can we ignore the correlation? Glad I read it. A real eye opener.

I first became acquainted with Dianne Dumanoski in about 1997 when I heard her address the problem of persistent chemicals in the environment in a radio broadcast on our local public radio station KUOW. I recorded part of the broadcast. I recently came upon that old recording and listened to it again. I was amazed that there had not been more coverage in the media in the interim. This led me to search for more information online, leading me to find this book. I find that the book is still an excellent source of information on the problems related to persistent chemicals in the environment. We continue to experience problems that can be directly related to these chemicals. In this book one can find an excellent historical discussion about how previously unexplained reproductive problems and behavioral deviations in the wild were related to these persistent chemicals that accumulate in the environment. It is my opinion that similar problems are now being observed in the general human population, not an unexpected result. We should have been working to reduce the introduction of these harmful chemicals a long time ago. Instead the problem has been ignored. This book should have been a wake-up call to action. It is still relevant today, because it appears that we have yet to wake up. This is a must-read for any person concerned with the health of the environment and the health of their own families. The sense of the book is that these harmful chemicals would be affecting future generation for many years to come. We did not listen to the warning when the book first came out. Maybe it is not too late to get educated. It remains an open question whether it is too late to save the environment and our future generations. The book treats this complicated problem in a way that anyone can understand. The detective work involved in investigating the problem is no less fascinating than that found in a Sherlock Holmes mystery. A fascinating read.

Love this book! Read it many years ago and have let so many people borrow it, but couldn't find it when I wanted to re-read it. Great info!

Must read.

This book is an incredible read. I highly recommend it for anyone who is concerned about the environment and their own health. This book contains a lot of research, which contributes to its credibility, however it is far from your typical scientific book. It's a fascinating read for anyone, whether they have a background in biology or environmental science or not. I actually read it as part of an extra credit assignment for one of my college classes. My original intention was to skim the book and write a summary. I became so wrapped up in the book that I literally read it cover to cover - including the forward and the afterward. I later purchased my own copy. This book is both challenging and fascinating. Read it!

this book is a narrative of science, outlining cases that aim to prove that humans are introducing harmful chemicals into the environment. what is scary about these chemicals are that the effects are subtle and have gradually emerged over time to cause damage to species ability to reproduce. endocrine disruptors come from all kinds of different sources and many have yet to be identified, let alone their exact function. this book promotes awareness and hopes to spur people into action. what is postulated in this book is quite scary indeed. recommended reading for all concerned citizens of the earth

Eye-opening book. Easy to read, but I found it to be bit redundant.

This is an incredibly important and frightening topic. The flow can be a bit dense, but you will leave the book worried about the hormone mimicking chemicals you're exposed to, and the authors have an excellent web site with updates.

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