# The Coiled Spring: How Life Begins

*Ethan Bier*
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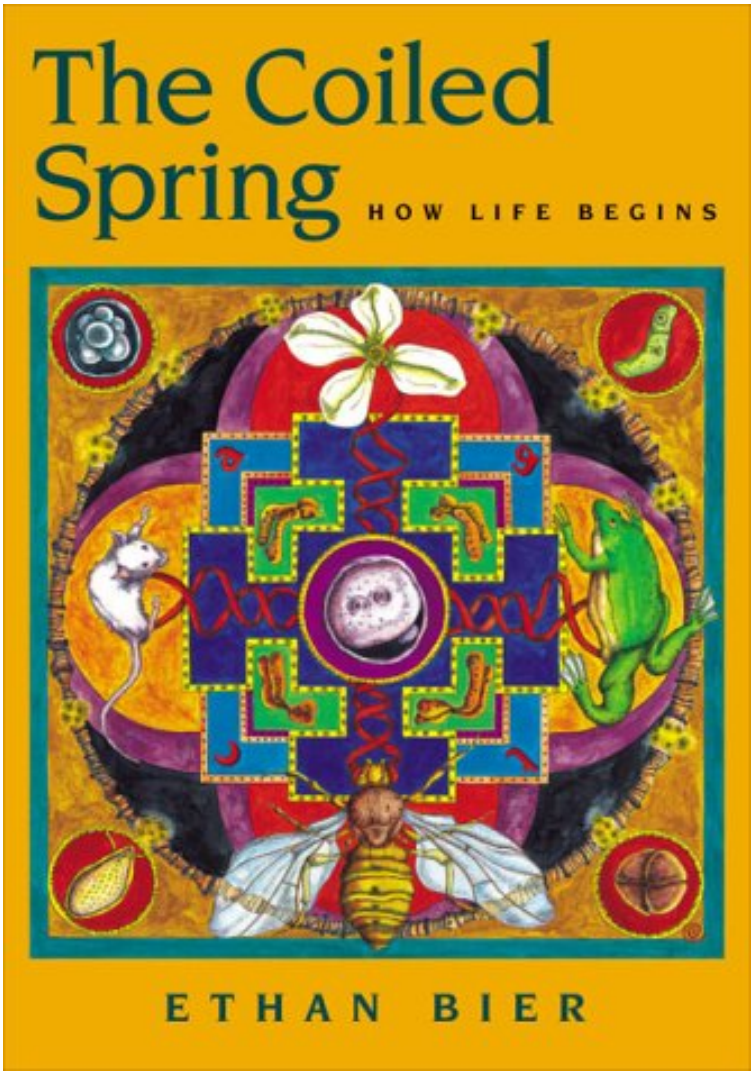




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**Ethan Bier : The Coiled Spring: How Life Begins** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Coiled Spring: How Life Begins:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Introduction Plus to Evolutionary DevelopmentBy RyaNot quite thorough enough to be a textbook, but more than an introduction. It was more of a challenge than I had anticipated. And that is one of the reasons for the 5 stars. This book is more thorough than 'Endless Forms Most Beautiful' (which was brilliant) and it is written more like a textbook. Highly recommended if you are interested in (evolutionary) development.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pleasure to read, excellent

explanationsBy IGNACIO SANCHEZ CABALLEROBeautifully written, with detailed and clear explanations. Every chapter starts with a "Cast of Characters" that defines the terms that will be used (instead of relegating them to the glossary at the back of the book). It uses great metaphors to drive the most important points home (e.g. "...Dpp suppresses neuroectodermal gene expression in dorsal cells. The idea is reminiscent of political strategy. To succeed, you both promote yourself and attack your competition." "A metamorphosing insect puts even the most sophisticated children's transformer toy to shame." Really helpful.

A concise, readable account of the principles underlying embryonic and appendage development in animals and plants, illustrated with colorful artwork and interviews with prominent investigators. Highly recommended for use in undergraduate and graduate courses.

A well-illustrated and accessible account of our current understanding of how fertilized eggs are transformed into complex organisms. -- Science Magazine, November 3, 2000From the PublisherRichard Behringer, Univ of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, had the following to say about The Coiled Spring: Ethan Bier has written a wonderful book that distills the essence and current highlights of modern developmental biology and genetics. It is broadly written for a general audience but detailed enough to provide a useful review for specialists. The initial chapters of the book prepare the nave reader to understand the central dogma and the modern methods of molecular genetics and embryology. The author then presents two chapters each on Drosophila, vertebrate, and plant embryo axis formation and appendage patterning, creating a well balanced view of life. The final chapter is on the Future of Biology and Man , discussing the relevance of embryological studies to biomedical research and human health. The author should be praised for being particularly speculative in this last chapter yet alerting the nave reader when discussions spill over into science fiction. This chapter is refreshingly current and should result in The Coiled Spring being a very current text for yea! rs to come. Bier writes in a very clear style that not only conveys knowledge but also great excitement for the subject. There are very helpful glossaries throughout the book and beautiful illustrations that are very clearly presented. In addition, Bier has added Bioboxes, vignettes on the lives and careers of some of our leading scientists in this field who provide opinions on the most important aspects of scientific discovery. These Bioboxes provide the human element to this exciting field of biology and may inspire current students. Finally, this book sets the stage for subsequent books, including one that would highlight the achievements in developmental biology that have led to knowledge of human disease and one that would go beyond the standard animal and plant model systems to show how an understanding of the core developmental mechanisms are altered to create the amazing diversity of life on earth.