



The Egg and Sperm Race - The Seventeenth-Century Scientists Who Unlocked the Secrets of Sex and Growth

By Cobb, Matthew

Simon & Schuster, London, 2006. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Edition. Multiple copies of this title available. Where do we come from? Where do animals come from? For thousands of years we really had no clue how living things were created - great thinkers like Aristotle and Plato had attempted to explain what became known as the problem of 'generation', but neither really had the tools or the insight to solve the mystery. The result was a wealth of weird and wonderful ideas about the components necessary to create new life - blood, "vapours", strange pulses in the air. Nor did people make intuitive leaps that now seem self-evident: it was widely accepted that animals could breed different species, for example; the notion that two sheep can only make another sheep is a surprisingly modern idea. But all this confusion changed in a flurry of discovery in the mid-seventeenth century. In just a decade, a group of young scientists in Europe, all known to each other and in competition with each other, established the existence first of the human egg and then of the human sperm. At last, the building blocks were in place - although,...



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