

The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher Hardcover - May 21, 1979

Lewis Thomas



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The Medusa and the Snail: More Notes of a Biology Watcher Hardcover - May 21, 1979 Lewis Thomas The medusa is a tiny jellyfish that lives on the ventral surface of a sea slug found in the Bay of Naples. These two organisms depend on each other for their survival. What a mix-up of selfness! "The Thought of these creatures gives me an odd feeling. They do not remind me of anything, really. They are bizarre, that's it, unique. And at the same time, like a vaguely remembered dream, they remind me of the whole earth at once." Readers and admirers of Lewis Thomas will not be surprised to find themselves bound up in the fate of the medusa and the snail; it is one of Dr. Thomas's genial qualities that he brings the most unlikely yet completely apposite observations to bear upon the eternal issues of life and death. These further "Notes of a Biology Watcher" extend the explorations of man and his world that readers of 'The Lives of a Cell' will remember with gratitude. Among other treasures in Dr. Thomas's magnificent new book are essays on the human genius for making mistakes, on disease and natural death, on cloning, on warts, and on Montaigne. "On Transcendental Metaworry" and "Notes on Punctuation" should win special awards for subversive and unexpected humor, and it is no surprise that one of America's most distinguished doctors also assesses the current state of medical science in essays on the premedical curriculum, the modern American health-care system, and, in a concluding chapter that should be required reading, "Medical Lessons from History."

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