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—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

With his passionate humanism and rational clarity, Stephen Jay Gould demonstrates that, contrary to popular opinion, progress and increasing complexity are *not* characteristic of the evolution of life on Earth.

In *Full House*, Gould corrects the prevalent, anthropocentric view of the world with an eloquent argument for a new paradigm of progress in which variety and diversity—not complexity—are the true measures of excellence. In the process, *Full House* teaches us how to read trends as changes in variation within full systems, rather than as "things moving somewhere." To illustrate this theme, Gould discusses seemingly disparate topics such as a drunkard's walk along a sidewalk, the disappearance of 0.400 hitting in baseball, the absence of modern Mozarts, the evolution of the horse, and the continuing dominance of bacterial life on the planet. *Full House* shapes a unified, reasonable picture of nature, history, and life that is often at odds with what we intuitively "know" to be true.

A major scientific statement from a leading evolutionary scientist, *Full House* asks us to reconceptualize our view of natural reality in a fundamental way.

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