



# We Are All Stardust: Scientists Who Shaped Our World Talk about Their Work, Their Lives, and What They Still Want to Know

By Stefan Klein

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“What distinguishes scientists, in your eyes?”—Stefan Klein

“First and foremost, curiosity.”—Roald Hoffmann, Nobel Prize-winning chemist

When Stefan Klein, an acclaimed journalist, sits down to talk with 18 of the world’s leading scientists, he finds they’re driven by, above all, curiosity. When they talk about their work, they turn to what’s next, to what they still hope to discover. And they see inspiration everywhere: From the sports car that physicist Steven Weinberg says helped him on his quest for “the theory of everything” to the jazz musicians who gave psychologist Alison Gopnik new insight into raising children, they reveal how their paradigm-changing work entwines with their lives outside the lab. We hear from extraordinary natural and social scientists, including:

- Evolutionary biologist **Richard Dawkins** on ego and selflessness
- Primatologist **Jane Goodall** on chimpanzee behavior
- Neuroscientist **V. S. Ramachandran** on consciousness
- Geographer **Jared Diamond** on chance in history
- Anthropologist **Sarah Hrdy** on motherhood
- And cosmologist **Martin Rees** on how “ultimately we ourselves are stardust.”

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“The dazzling clutch of scientific minds caught in mid-thought here makes for a read that provokes thought. . . Delights abound.”—*Nature*

“[Klein’s] interview subjects explain their science clearly and display their passions vividly, making this an engaging introduction to a great breadth of scientific topics.”—*American Scientist*

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“This work will enthrall popular science lovers and STEM enthusiasts.”—*Library Journal*

“Strongly recommended for biography readers and science enthusiasts who want to take a look at what events have shaped the lives of influential scientists, and how their scientific discoveries have changed the way they see the world.”—**Universe Today**

### About the Author

**Stefan Klein, PhD**, recipient of the prestigious Georg von Holtzbrink Prize for Scientific Journalism, is one of Europe’s premier science writers, as well as a trained physicist himself. His many books include the #1 international bestseller *The Science of Happiness* and have been translated into 25 languages. Ross Benjamin is a translator and a writer. He has received the prestigious Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator’s Prize as well as a National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship.

**Ross Benjamin** is a translator of German literature and a writer. He has received the prestigious Helen and Kurt Wolff Translator’s Prize (2010) as well as a National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship (2012).

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