



## Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos

By M. Mitchell Waldrop

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A look at the rebellious thinkers who are challenging old ideas with insights into ways countless elements of complex systems interact to produce spontaneous order out of confusion discusses politics, economics, and biology. 40,000 first printing.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Waldrop presents his narrative of the "science of complexity in high screenplay style, offering a cast of five main characters. In general, he makes the emerging nature of complexity theory accessible to the general reader. He dissipates his advantage, however, in order to depict the personalities of the scientists he discusses, using at least three of them—Stuart Kauffman, Brian Arthur and Chris Langton—to act as interdisciplinary infielders of sorts, who relay the theory itself through a long subplot on structuring and funding the Santa Fe Institute in the 1970s. Complexity theory most likely will receive other, more rigorous examinations than Waldrop's, but he provides a good grounding of what may indeed be the first flowering of a new science.

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From Library Journal

The Santa Fe Institute is an interdisciplinary think tank that has attracted the services of an electric and brilliant group of scholars. Here, economists work with biologists and physical scientists to develop theories that, many hope, will reveal that while natural systems may operate "at the edge of chaos," they are in fact self-organized. Thus conceived, the so-called science of complexity could explain the mysteries of how life began and might even predict global economic trends. The picture that emerges from this book, though, is that while many separate scientific endeavors overlap, a true conceptual synthesis is still a long way away. Waldrop writes in a very readable, sometimes overly light and chatty style, but by focusing so strongly on individual efforts, he inadvertently supports the impression that what is called the unified science of complexity is conjectural and quite fragmented. While this book succeeds as a chronicle of the Santa Fe Institute, it does not fully convince the reader that complexity represents a scientific revolution. Optional for public libraries.

- *Gregg Sapp, Montana State Univ. Libs., Bozeman*

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Review

*The Washington Post* If you liked *Chaos*, you'll love *Complexity*. Waldrop creates the most exciting intellectual adventure story of the year.

Heinz Pagels physicist I am convinced that the nations and people who master the new sciences of complexity will become the economic, cultural, and political superpowers of the next century.

*The New York Times Book Review* Lucidly shows physicists, biologists, computer scientists and economists swapping metaphors and reveling in the sense that epochal discoveries are just around the corner....[Waldrop] has a special talent for relaying the exhilaration of moments of intellectual insight.

Douglas R. Hofstadter author of *Gödel, Esther, Bach* One comes away from *Complexity* both intellectually excited by ideas and emotionally involved with the people struggling to formulate them. This is a deep tale of science in the making.

### Users Review

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**Ryan Donahue:**

As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era which is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe can update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Donald Murray:**

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or maybe playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity this is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day every day to reading a guide. The book Complexity: The Emerging Science at the Edge of Order and Chaos it is very good to read. There are a lot of individuals who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more simply to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book offers high quality.

**Dianne Janelle:**

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