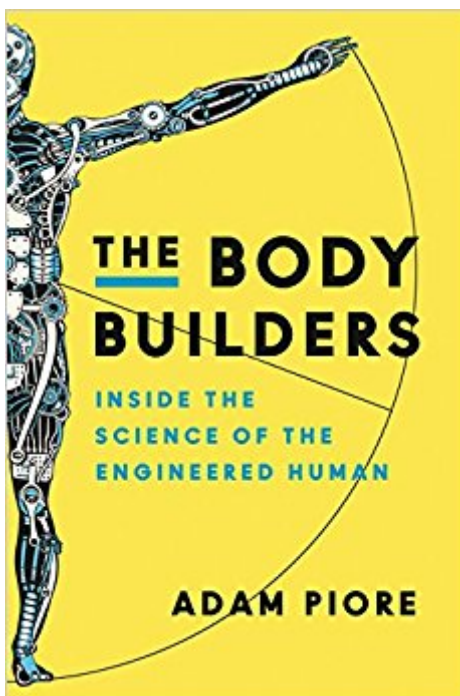


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# The Body Builders: Inside The Science Of The Engineered Human



## Synopsis

Fareed Zakaria GPS Book of the Week Weaving together vivid storytelling and groundbreaking science, *The Body Builders* explores the current revolution in human augmentation, which is helping us to triumph over the limitations and constraints we have long accepted as an inevitable part of being human. For millennia, humans have tried—and often failed—to master nature and transcend our limits. But this has started to change. The new scientific frontier is the human body: the greatest engineers of our generation have turned their sights inward, and their work is beginning to revolutionize mankind. In *The Body Builders*, Adam Piore takes us on a fascinating journey into the field of bioengineering—which can be used to reverse engineer, rebuild, and augment human beings—and paints a vivid portrait of the people at its center. Chronicling the ways new technology has retooled our physical expectations and mental processes, Piore visits people who have regrown parts of their fingers and legs in the wake of terrible traumas, tries on a muscle suit that allows him to lift ninety pounds with his fingertips, dips into the race to create “Viagra for the brain,” and shadows the doctors trying to give mute patients the ability to communicate telepathically. As science continues to lay bare the mysteries of human performance, it is helping us to see—and exist—above our expectations. *The Body Builders* will take readers beyond the headlines and the hype to introduce them to the inner workings and the outer reaches of our bodies and minds, and explore how new developments are changing, and will forever change, what is possible for humankind.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Engaging . . . [and] engrossing.” (New York Times Book Review) “This is a mind-blowing book about the human body. Piore takes us inside the technological revolution that is fixing broken limbs and enhancing the human body through bioengineering. He is pointing us to a future in which we will all have the ability to be Superman or Superwoman. Fascinating.” (Fareed Zakaria GPS Book of the Week) “A fascinating dive into what’s happening right now in bioengineering research • from brain-computer interfaces to bionic limbs • that will redefine human-machine interactions in the years to come.” (Salon) “A spellbinding journey into the field of bioengineering.” (The Daily Beast) “Piore’s informative and optimistic account will fascinate popular-science fans and all readers following developments in therapeutics.” (Booklist) “An upbeat and appealing overview of cutting-edge biomedical research.” (Library Journal) “Mind-blowing. Piore tells the stories of the doctors and engineers and patients who are together part of an amazing scientific revolution. A wonderful book that will excite your intellect and emotions.” (Fareed Zakaria, author of *The Post American World*) “An exhilarating look. . . . A mind-bending read that will expand your perception of self.” (Kirkus (Starred Review)) “Piore writes gracefully, and with deep insight, about complex scientific endeavors that could ease human suffering but are fraught with myriad ethical perils.” (Publishers Weekly) “Adam Piore is a gifted and assiduous reporter. He embeds himself in frightening and complicated places and he gets the story.” (Jon Ronson, author of *So You’ve Been Publicly Shamed*) “The *Body Builders* reveals a fresh and surprisingly moving tale of people fighting against the odds to overcome their limitations and the visionary inventors with a passion to help them.” (Fred Gutier, author of *The Fate of the Species*) “Deftly captures the lives of remarkable people propelled by circumstance and their own considerable courage onto the blazing frontier of science and medicine. . . . a profound look at what the future holds not only for the disabled but for all humanity.” (Brad Stone, author of *The Everything Store*) “The *Body Builders* is revelatory. . . . After reading about the untapped powers within us, you’ll come away with a profound appreciation for the reserves of strength and creativity we all hold but, in all likelihood, never dreamed of.” (Sharon Begley, author of *Train Your Mind, Change Your Brain*) “Adam Piore has created an often-inspiring and always-enthraling portrait of a world where the blind see with sound, a boy remembers every day of his life and a man with paralyzing Lou Gehrig’s Disease can manipulate objects with nothing more than his brain. A captivating read.” (Bill Mesler, coauthor of *A Brief History of*

Creation)“The Body Builders does what all great books do: They shock us and then make us believe in the future. Piore tells us about the radical science and tech that just a few years ago was science fiction, but now is starting to make its way into mainstream society.” (Zoltan Istvan, author of *The Transhumanist Wager* and founder of the Transhumanist Party)

Weaving together vivid storytelling and groundbreaking science, *The Body Builders* dives into the current revolution in human augmentation and explores how these new technologies are helping us triumph over the boundaries of our bodies and our minds. For millennia humans have tried and often failed to master nature and transcend our limits. But this has started to change. The new scientific frontier is the human body: The greatest engineers of our generation have turned their sights inward, and their work is beginning to revolutionize mankind. In *The Body Builders*, Adam Piore takes us on a fascinating journey into the field of bioengineering which can be used to reverse engineer, rebuild, and augment human beings and paints a vivid portrait of the people at its center. Chronicling the ways new technology has retooled our physical expectations and mental processes, Piore visits people who have regrown parts of their fingers and legs in the wake of terrible traumas, tries on a muscle suit that allows him to lift ninety pounds with his fingertips, dips into the race to create “Viagra for the brain,” and shadows the doctors trying to give mute patients the ability to communicate telepathically. As science continues to lay bare the mysteries of human performance, it is helping us to see and exist beyond our expectations. *The Body Builders* will take readers past the headlines and the hype to introduce them to the inner workings and the outer reaches of our bodies and minds, and to explore how new developments are changing, and will forever change, what is possible for humankind.

This book reads like a sci fi thriller. From the 5-month-old baby who hoisted himself into an Olympic gymnast's T, to an MIT professor with bionic limbs, to people who have regrown parts of their fingers and legs in the wake of horrific accidents, "The Body Builders" profiles the scientists and patients who are ushering in the future of bioengineering. A fascinating read.

Have you ever wondered why there are certain events that you can easily recall in vivid detail even though they occurred years ago? We all remember where we were when the Twin Towers were struck on 9-11-2001, and if you are of a "certain age" you know exactly how you felt the day JFK was shot. Adam Piore explains why and how our brains retain memories that are meaningful for us.

Through his meticulous research and interviews with doctors, patients, and scientists he manages to explain complex scientific research in a way that a layman can grasp. He does this with a dry wit that makes the book entertaining as well as educational. I loved it.

A wonderful, easy to read look at fascinating advances in modern prosthetic technology. This book also poses thought provoking questions about the ethics at play when we begin to augment the human body for reasons other than basic human function. A fun, fascinating read written with a relaxed style that makes even the most complex of scientific ideas very easy to understand. Fans of Mary Roach will also enjoy Mr. Piore's writing style and genuine curiosity about the subjects of each chapter of this book.

Fascinating look at the future and one provides a positive view of the future. Personally, I am convinced a robot is going to take my job, but if there are compensations in the form increased quality of life, then it makes the future a little less scary. I was a kid in the 70's when the bionic man - Steve Austin captured the imaginations of young boys. 30 years later, those crazy ideas are now a budding reality as Piore so brilliantly documents. This book will blow your mind. Great stuff.

Amazing. As others have noted, the book reads like a sci-fi thriller. The storytelling really brings science and technology to life in a way that a textbook can never really do. The book has sparked my interest in stem cells, gene therapy, and neuroplasticity. Crossing my fingers that I will be able to find other books on these topics as entertaining and thought-provoking as this one.

The author was a little breathless at times extolling the virtues of this or that tech. Pacing was good. Lots of interviews made the piece of work more interesting. Final remarks address some of the trans-humanist ideas that are lurking behind the efforts described in the book.

A very well researched book that was written for the general public. A disabled person my self, there are not enough people like Peter Meijer in this world. Thank You sir for taking the time to come to this country to help Pat Fletcher.

This book looks at the amazing aspects of the human spirit, body and soul. It is a great read, easy to follow and super inspirational.

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