



Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives

By Frank J. Sulloway

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A New York Times Notable Book of the Year

"An important and valuable study that will define research agendas for years to come. It is also hugely fun to read."

--Boston Globe

Why do people raised in the same families often differ more dramatically in personality than those from different families? What made Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin, and Voltaire uniquely suited to challenge the conventional wisdom of their times? This pioneering inquiry into the significance of birth order answers both these questions with a conceptual boldness that has made critics compare it with the work of Freud and of Darwin himself.

Frank J. Sulloway envisions families as ecosystems in which siblings compete for parental favor by occupying specialized niches. Combing through thousands of biographies in politics, science, and religion, he demonstrates that firstborn children are more likely to identify with authority whereas their younger siblings are predisposed to rise against it. Family dynamics, Sulloway concludes, is a primary engine of historical change. Elegantly written, masterfully researched, *Born to Rebel* is a grand achievement that has galvanized historians and social scientists and will fascinate anyone who has ever pondered the enigma of human character.

"Daring . . . a stunning achievement. "

--The New York Times Book Review

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

This groundbreaking book takes on the influence of birth order in personalities and offers some surprising conclusions. Frank J. Sulloway, a researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has undertaken the first comprehensive study of birth order in determining personality and social outlook. He produces overwhelming evidence that, because of the evolutionary hierarchy in families, first-born children are more likely to be conformists while the later-borns tend to be more creative and more likely to reject the status quo. He documents just how different siblings are from each another--a person tends to have more in common with any randomly chosen person of their own age than with a sibling--and explains why sibling differences occur. The book offers new insights into the determining factors of who we are and who our children will be, and it is unlike any research yet published.

From Publishers Weekly

The thesis advanced by M.I.T. research scholar Sulloway (Freud: Biologist of the Mind) in this provocative, sure-to-be-controversial study is that firstborn children identify more strongly with power and authority and are more conforming, conventional and defensive, whereas younger siblings are more adventurous, rebellious and inclined to question the status quo. He bases this conclusion on birth-order research and on his theory that siblings jockey for niches within the family in Darwinian fashion: while firstborns defend their special status, later-borns are more open to experience because accessibility helps them maximize attention and love from their parents. Providing a detailed statistical analysis of thousands of individuals' responses to 28 scientific innovations?Darwinism, the Copernican revolution, Einstein's relativity, etc.?Sulloway concludes that most have been initiated and championed by later-borns, whereas firstborns tend to reject new ideas. He overstates his case when he interprets the French Revolution's Reign of Terror as fundamentally a battle between firstborn conservatives and later-born liberals, and his analysis of the Protestant Reformation in similar terms is debatable. And although Darwin, Voltaire, Ralph Nader and abolitionist Harriet Tubman were later-born siblings, Einstein, Freud, Galileo, Newton, Kepler, Lavoisier and many other radical innovators were firstborns, casting doubt on birth-order influence. Photos. First serial to the New Yorker. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

... this book represents a stunning achievement. -- *The New York Times Book Review*, Derek Bickerton

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Marie Griffin:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice by surrounding. One thing that oftentimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand up than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

Rose Nguyen:

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Julie Bell:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you will have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives, you are able to enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still desire to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its called reading friends.

Michael Turner:

The book untitled Born to Rebel: Birth Order, Family Dynamics, and Creative Lives contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new era of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book with anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

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