

4. Excerpt from a book, *ABC's of the Human Body*  
a. Copyright Page

# ABC's OF THE HUMAN BODY

**Editor:** Alma E. Guinness  
**Art Editor:** Robert M. Grant  
**Associate Editor:** Suzanne E. Weiss  
**Research Editor:** Shirley A. Miller  
**Art Associates:** Perri DeFino,  
Larissa Lawrynenko

**Picture Editor:** Robert J. Woodward

**Contributors**

**Writers:** Virginia Adams, Hal Bowser, Walter Fox,  
Nancy Gross, Mary MacEwen, Jean McKeon,  
Wendy Murphy, Sara Stein

**Picture Researchers:** Natalie Goldstein,  
Leora Kahn Kravitz

**Proofreaders:** May Dikeman,  
Katherine R. O'Hare

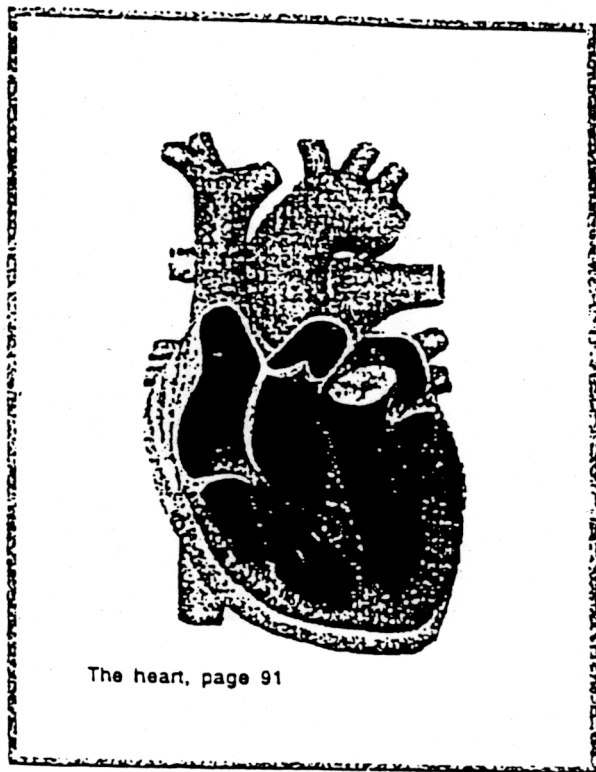
**Researcher:** Timothy Guzley

**Indexer:** James M. Beran

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**READER'S DIGEST GENERAL BOOKS**

**Editorial Director:** John A. Pope, Jr.  
**Managing Editor:** Jane Polley  
**Art Director:** Richard J. Berenson  
**Group Editors:** Norman B. Mack, John Spelcher,  
David Trooper (Art), Susan J. Wernert



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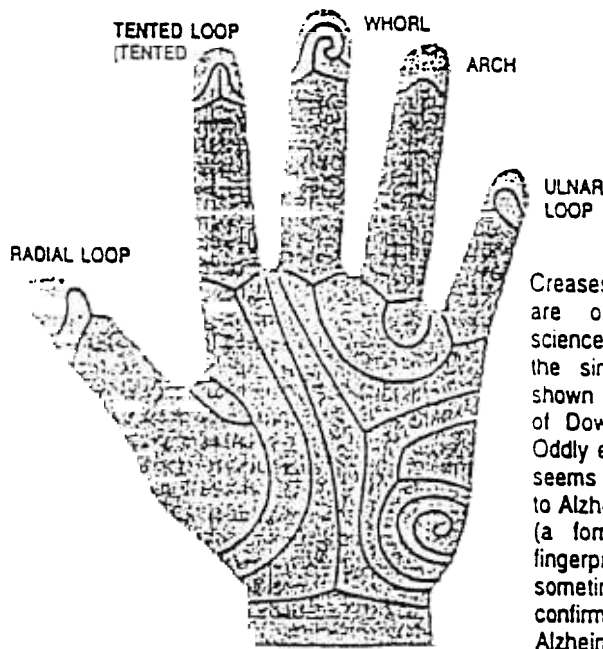
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4. Excerpt from a book, *ABC's of the Human Body*  
**b. Fingerprints**

**Fingerprints: No Two Alike**

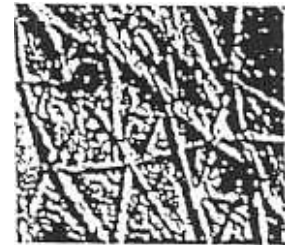
The patterns of ridges and grooves on the fingertips of identical twins are similar—but never the same. Indeed, everyone's fingerprints are different from everyone else's. Your prints remain the same all your life; unless the bottom layer of the epidermis is destroyed, the skin that grows back after

even a serious injury shows the same pattern it did when you were born. Thus fingerprints provide a foolproof way to identify everyone: amnesiacs who have forgotten their own names, accident victims whose faces have become unrecognizable, and, of course, criminals.

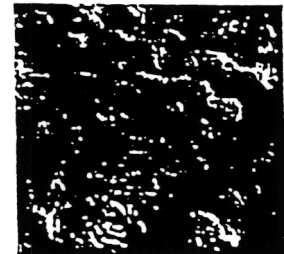


Creases in the palm are of interest to science; specifically, the simian fold (not shown here) is a sign of Down's syndrome. Oddly enough, Down's seems to be related to Alzheimer's disease (a form of senility); fingerprint patterns are sometimes used to confirm a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease.

Micrographs of skin from other parts of the body show patterns very different from the ridges found on the hands and the feet.



Skin pattern on an earlobe.



Surface of skin on lower lip.

