

Arthur Koestler



**THE CASE OF THE
MIDWIFE TOAD**

A Scientific Mystery Revisited

RANDOM HOUSE

1972

**Around this
small creature
raged one of the most
sensational scientific
controversies of all time**



Could Darwin be wrong after all these years? One of the most intriguing, still-unsolved mysteries in evolution centers about the bitter controversy that raged in the 1920's, when Austrian biologist Paul Kammerer claimed that his laboratory experiments with the midwife toad proved the creature could pass on characteristics acquired during its lifetime. The scientific establishment was appalled. A venomous smear campaign, with vicious insinuations and charges of fakery, was launched against Kammerer — who, in 1926, was driven to suicide.

Now Arthur Koestler — who has long been interested in this tragic story — brilliantly weaves together all the pieces of the puzzle, in a book that raises questions of enormous importance to our lives. He ends with an appeal to scientists to repeat Kammerer's experiments with an open mind. If Kammerer's findings are corroborated, our outlook on evolution may be significantly changed.

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