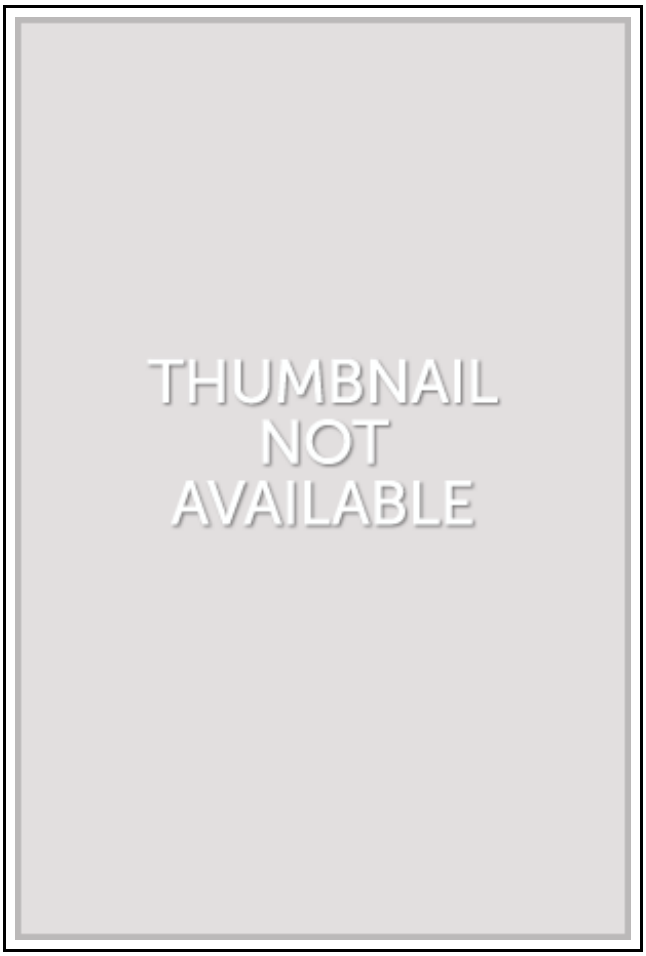
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(Ms. Heidi Rath)

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Potential Environmental Consequences of Genetic Engineering The subcommittee met, at 10:08 a.m., in room SD-406. Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Dave Durenberger (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding. Present: Senator Durenberger. Opening Statement of Hon. Dave Durenberger, U.S. Senator from The State Of Minnesota Senator Durenberger. The hearing will come to order. Good morning everyone. Today and again on Thursday morning we will consider a subject that not very long ago fell into the realm of science fiction: the subject of genetic engineering and its potential consequences on our environment. Genetic engineering is one aspect of the burgeoning biotechnology industry, an industry that uses and alters living organisms to create products. By manipulating genetic material, scientists can now deliberately redraw the fundamental blueprints of living things. That is an awesome prospect. A chance to improve the quality of life worldwide. New bacteria that will clean up oil spills, produce rare drugs, and create super crops that resist disease and make their own fertilizer. What better use of science than to protect our environment, cure the sick, and feed the hungry? We are enthusiastic and optimistic about this new technology, and we should be. But we are also a little wary and a little frightened. And I suppose we should be. Do we really understand the consequences of these powerful new tools? In our haste to gain the obvious benefits, might we cause unintended harm? Let me mention one example I have come across in my reading. Apparently scientists are working to create a bacterium that digests lignin, a component of plant cells that resists decomposition. If an organism can be engineered to break down lignin,...

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