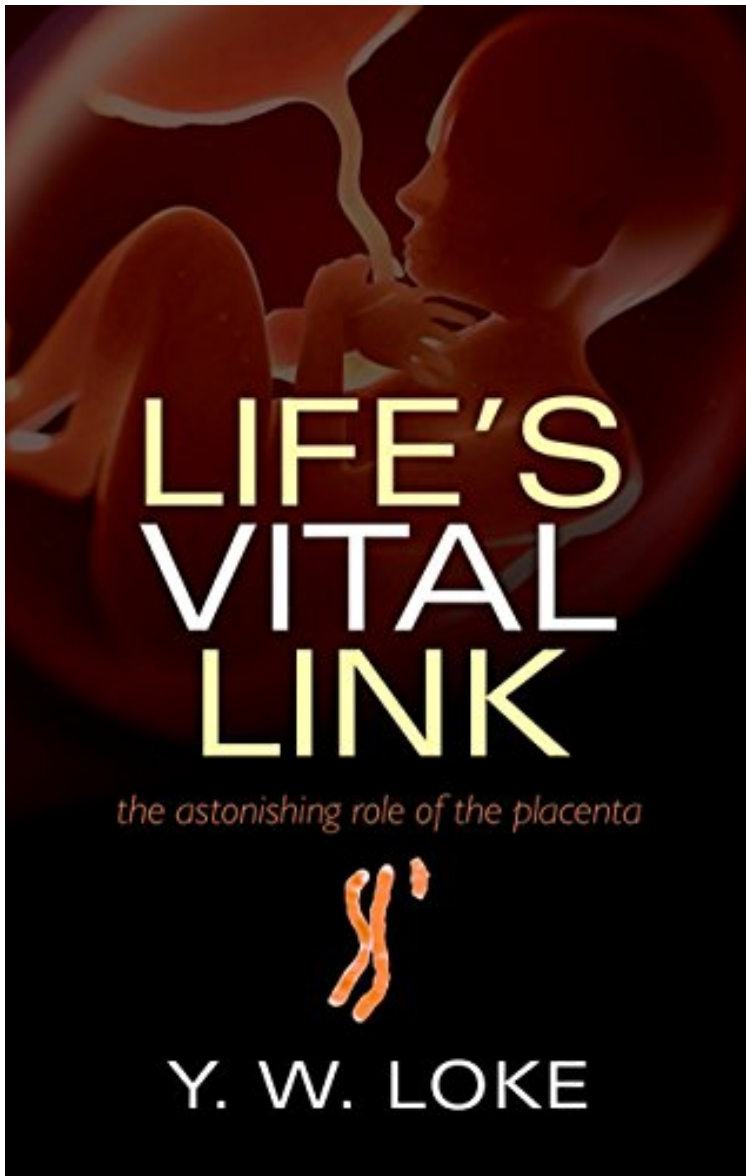


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# Life's Vital Link: The astonishing role of the placenta



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tolerated by the mother? Y.W. Loke explores the nature of the placenta and what it can tell us about evolution, development, and genetics. *Revue de presse* A surprisingly delightful book. Accessible enough for a general readership, Loke's work provides the key to a truly unique world. (Publishers Weekly) *Life's Vital Link* is charged with Loke's dedication to the placenta through years of research. His powerful conviction and authority persuades us that this neglected organ deserves more attention. (New Scientist) With his rich knowledge and experience, what Loke offers is tough-minded and valuable in understanding and unlocking many puzzles. (New Scientist) *Présentation de l'auteur* The development of the placenta was a pivotal event in evolution. Without it, we would still be laying eggs instead of giving birth to live offspring. It represents the critical link between the foetus and the mother, but its character is extraordinary it is, in effect, a foreign tissue that invades the mother's body. Compared to many other animals, the human placenta represents a particularly aggressive body. But how is it managed and controlled? How did such an organ evolve in the first place? And why is it tolerated by the mother? Y.W. Loke explores the nature of the placenta and what it can tell us about evolution, development, and genetics.