

# Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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**Accidental Brothers: The Story of Twins Exchanged at Birth and the Power of Nature and Nurture.**

Segal, Nancy L. (Author) and Montoya, Yesika S. (Author)

Apr 2018. 320 p. St. Martin's, hardcover, \$26.99. (9781250101907). 155.

Professor of psychology and self-styled “twin tracker” Segal and psychologist Montoya explore the lives of two sets of twins in Columbia, one of whom in each pair was accidentally switched with a twin from the other pair. In December 1988, Ana Delina Velasco Castillo and Luz Marina Castro Chavez each gave birth to twin boys. One in each set was born sickly, requiring additional hospitalization in Bogotá. Ana took home Wilbur, her biological son, and William, who was actually Luz’s child, while Luz brought home Jorge, her own son, and Carlos, who was Ana’s son. Ana raised her children in rural La Paz, while Luz’s twins grew up in urban Bogotá. A chance encounter with friends more than two decades later led to the uncovering of the mix-up. Segal delves into the psychological ramifications of this life-changing accident, exploring nature versus nurture in the evolution of the twins’ personalities as well as the effect the revelation of the switch had on the twins. Montoya compares their experiences to those of other switched twins. An utterly fascinating and comprehensive case study.

— *Kristine Huntley*