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**EVOLUTION**  
Human  
Predator

**EXPLORATION**  
Journey to the  
Bottom of the Sea

**NEUROSCIENCE**  
The Brain's Genetic  
Geography

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# Cosmic Dawn

How the first stars  
ended the dark ages  
of the universe

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**SPECIAL REPORT**  
Medicine's RNA  
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# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

April 2014 Volume 310, Number 4

ON THE COVER



Shortly after the big bang, all was black. Primordial gas cooled and coalesced for hundreds of millions of years, enshrouding the universe in darkness. When the giant first stars eventually did appear, their light was quickly snuffed out by this fog of gas. Astronomers are only now piecing together the 13-billion-year-old mystery of how the fog lifted. Image by Kenn Brown, Mondolithic Studios.



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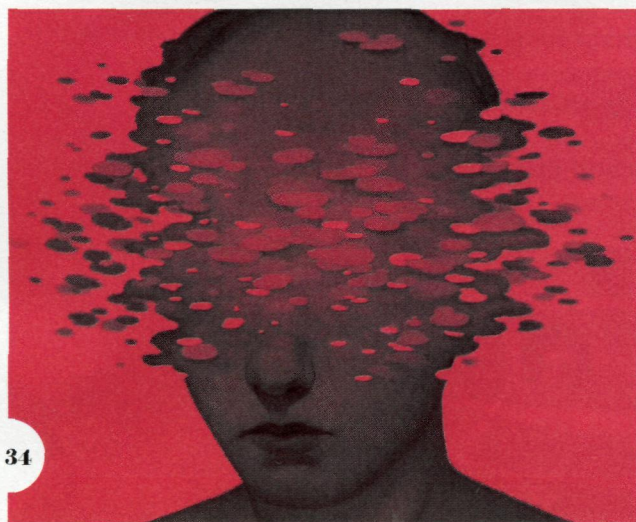
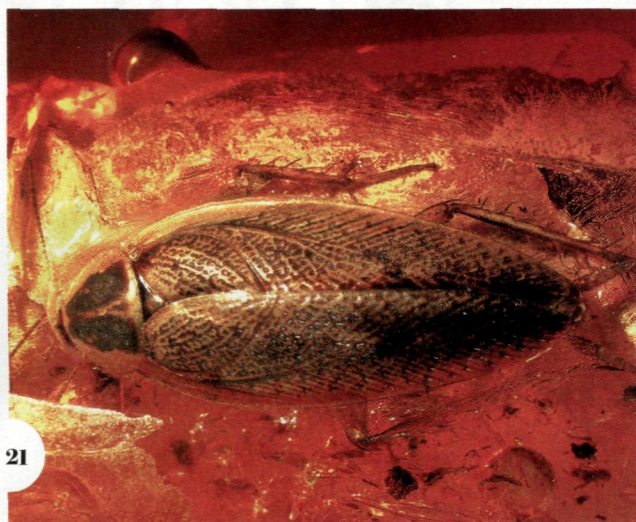
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Scientific American (ISSN 0036-8733), Volume 310, Number 4, April 2014, published monthly by Scientific American, a division of Nature America, Inc., 75 Varick Street, 9th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10013-1917. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 40012504. Canadian BN No. 127387652RT; TVQ1218059275 TQ0001. Publication Mail Agreement #40012504. Return undeliverable mail to Scientific American, P.O. Box 819, Stn Main, Markham, ON L3P 8A2. Individual Subscription rates: 1 year \$39.97 (USD), Canada \$49.97 (USD), International \$61 (USD). Institutional Subscription rates: Schools and Public Libraries: 1 year \$72 (USD), Canada \$77 (USD), International \$84 (USD). Businesses and Colleges/Universities: 1 year \$330 (USD), Canada \$335 (USD), International \$342 (USD). Postmaster: Send address changes to Scientific American, Box 3187, Harlan, Iowa 51537. Reprints available: write Reprint Department, Scientific American, 75 Varick Street, 9th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10013-1917; fax: 646-563-7138; reprints@SciAm.com. Subscription inquiries: U.S. and Canada (800) 333-1199; other (515) 248-7684. Send e-mail to [scacustserv@cdsfulfillment.com](mailto:scacustserv@cdsfulfillment.com). Printed in U.S.A.

