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Imagine a time when Type 1 diabetes can be cured by implanted cells that perform the job of a healthy pancreas, or a world in which there is a noninvasive procedure to completely reverse the effects of a stroke. Imagine a day when patients paralyzed from spinal-column injuries can write their names and pick up a coffee cup--oh, wait, in that case, that day is today. We only have to wait for the first two. But that shouldn't be very long. Featuring some of the most recognized names in bioengineering as well as up-and-comers in whose hands lies the potential for cures now unimaginable, this is the fascinating story of a discipline only dreamed of by Mary Shelley. Born of a young PhD's desire to marry space-age engineering techniques to medicine, biomedical engineering has created marvels now commonplace--think pacemakers and joint replacements--and promises the simply fantastic, such as cancer as a chronic illness and medical nanosystems that can target damaged individual brain cells.