

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction Catalogue April 2021

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Osprey military history

### Panzer IV

general military

**Anderson, Thomas**

The Panzer IV programme was started in 1934, forming, alongside the Panzer IIs and IIIs, the *schnellen Truppen*, the force that was to become the *Panzerwaffe*. At first, German planners envisioned the tank in a secondary role, but during the invasions of The Low Countries and France, it took on a more central role. When the *Panzerwaffe* turned east to attack the Soviet Union, the Panzer IV initially fared poorly against the better-armed T-34. However, upgrades to its gun and armour protection saw it perform far better, not only against Soviet armour but also against British and American tanks in North Africa and Italy. In 1944, it was slowly replaced by the Panzer V Panther, but the dire strategic situation meant that it bore the brunt of the Allied D-Day invasion and its aftermath, and it remained in service until the end of the war. Fully illustrated throughout with contemporary photographs, this fascinating study from German armour expert Thomas Anderson tells the complete story of Germany's most widely produced tank of World War II, from its design and development to its many upgrades and variants.

Military history HC \$59.99

### Stalingrad 1942-43 (1): The German Advance to the Volga

Campaign 359

**Forczyk, Robert & Noon, Steve (illustrator)**

After failing to defeat the Soviet Union with Operation *Barbarossa* in 1941, Adolf Hitler planned a new campaign for the summer of 1942 that was intended to achieve a decisive victory: Operation *Blue* (Case *Blau*). In this new campaign, Hitler directed that one army group (*Heeresgruppe A*) would advance to seize the Soviet oilfields in the Caucasus, while the other (*Heeresgruppe B*) pushed on to the Volga River. The expectation was for a rapid victory – instead, German forces had to fight hard just to reach the outskirts of Stalingrad, and then found themselves embroiled in a protracted urban battle amid the ruins of a devastated city on the Volga. The Soviet Red Army was hit hard by the initial German offensive but held onto the city and then launched Operation *Uranus*, a winter counteroffensive that encircled the German 6. Armee at Stalingrad. Despite a desperate German relief operation, the Red Army eventually crushed the German forces and hurled the remnants of the German southern front back in disorder. This first volume in the Stalingrad trilogy covers the period from 28 June to 11 September 1942, including operations around Voronezh. The fighting in the Don Bend, which lasted weeks, comprised some of the largest tank battles of

World War II – involving more armour than the tanks employed at Prokhorovka in 1943.  
Military history PBK \$34.99

### Sinking Force Z 1941: The day the Imperial Japanese Navy killed the battleship

Air Campaign 20

**Konstam, Angus & Tooby, Adam (illustrator)**

In late 1941, war was looming with Japan, and Britain's empire in southeast Asia was at risk. The British government decided to send Force Z, which included the state-of-the-art battleship *Prince of Wales* and the battlecruiser *Repulse*, to bolster the naval defences of Singapore, and provide a mighty naval deterrent to Japanese aggression. These two powerful ships arrived in Singapore on 2 December – five days before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. But crucially, they lacked air cover. On 9 December Japanese scout planes detected Force Z's approach in the Gulf of Thailand. Unlike at Pearl Harbor, battleships at sea could manoeuvre, and their anti-aircraft defences were ready. But it did no good. The Japanese dive-bombers and torpedo-bombers were the most advanced in the world, and the battle was one sided. Strategically, the loss of Force Z was a colossal disaster for the British, and one that effectively marked the end of its empire in the East. But even more importantly, the sinking marked the last time that battleships were considered to be the masters of the ocean. From that day on, air power rather than big guns would be the deciding factor in naval warfare.

Aviation history PBK \$32.99

### British Battleships 1890-1905: Victoria's steel battlefleet and the road to Dreadnought

New Vanguard 290

**Konstam, Angus & Wright, Paul (illustrator)**

The term 'pre-dreadnought' was applied in retrospect, to describe the capital ships built during the decade and a half before the launch of HMS *Dreadnought*, in 1906. At that moment these once great warships were rendered obsolete. However, until then, they were simply called 'battleships' and were unquestionably the most powerful warships of their day. These mighty warships represented the cutting edge of naval technology. The ugly ducklings of the ironclad era had been transformed into beautiful swans, albeit deadly ones. In Britain, this period was dominated by Sir William White, the Navy's Chief Constructor. Under his guidance the mast-less battleships of the 1880s gave way to an altogether more elegant type of capital ship. The period of trial and error which marked the ironclad era ushered in a more scientific style of naval architecture. As a

result, these battleships were among the most powerful warships in the world during the late-Victorian era; and set a benchmark for the new battle fleets produced by navies such as Japan, Russia, and the United States. Illustrated throughout with full-colour artwork, this fascinating study offers a detailed and definitive guide to the design, development, and legacy of the Royal Navy's battleships at the turn of the 20th century, as they paved the way for the coming of the Dreadnought.

Naval history PBK \$24.99

### Wade McClusky and the Battle of Midway

general military

**Rigby, David**

During the Battle of Midway in June 1942, US Navy dive bomber pilot Wade McClusky proved himself to be one of the greatest pilots and combat leaders in American history, but his story has never been told – until now. It was Wade McClusky who remained calm when the Japanese fleet was not where it was expected to be. It was he who made the counterintuitive choice to then search to the north instead of to the south. It was also McClusky who took the calculated risk of continuing to search even though his bombers were low on fuel and may not have enough to make it back to the *Enterprise*. His ability to remain calm under enormous pressure played a huge role in the US Navy winning this decisive victory that turned the tide of war in the Pacific. This book is the story of exactly the right man, being in exactly the right place, at exactly the right time. Wade McClusky was that man, and this is his story.

Military history TP \$32.99

### World War II US Gunships: YB-40 Flying Fortress and XB-41 Liberator Bomber Escorts

X-Planes 14

**Wolf, William & Tooby, Adam (illustrator)**

The XB-40 and XB-41 were secret, little-known experimental modifications of the B-17F and B-24D, respectively, into heavily-armed bomber gunships sometimes referred to as 'bomber escorts'. They were developed during early World War II in response to the lack of a USAAF long-range fighter aircraft able to escort and protect regular B-17 formations making the round trip from Britain deep into Germany. Using many formerly-classified documents from his large microfilm collection, William Wolf presents their previously-unpublished history. It describes in depth for the first time the politics and development and associated problems of both escorter types. Unfortunately, these 'protectors' were found wanting in several ways – after the addition of guns and ammunition they became overweight and tail-heavy causing centre of gravity problems

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Until next time, good reading!  
Ron and Leanne

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PBK = 'A' & 'B' format (standard size) paperback  
TP = 'B+' & 'C' format (oversize) paperback  
HC = Hardcover or cloth binding

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and each encountered numerous delays in the development and delivery of their various armament additions and improvements, particularly the Bendix chin turret. In the end, the YB-40 participated in only 14 lacklustre operational service test missions during mid-1943, before being withdrawn from service. The XB-41 Liberator never saw operational testing before also being cancelled for its poor performance. The failure of the gunship concept left a huge hole in the capabilities of the Eighth Air Force. Their failure, however, spurred the adoption of the Merlin-powered P-51 Mustang, the outstanding escort fighter that was key to Allied victory in the air war over Europe.

Aviation history PBK \$32.99

General nonfiction

### Internet Password Book

Keep track of usernames, passwords, and web addresses, in one easy and organised location... Just say 'no' to piles of sticky notes and scraps of paper with your passwords and logins! Keep track of them in this elegant, yet inconspicuous, alphabetically tabbed black soft-touch notebook. In this portable hardcover notebook with removable cover band, record the necessarily complex passwords and user login names required to thwart hackers. You'll find: internet password safety and naming tips; A to Z tabbed pages with space to list website, username, and password for each; dedicated pages to record software license information, with spaces for license number, purchase date, renewal date, and monthly fee; dedicated pages to record network settings and passwords, including for modem, router, WAN, LAN, and wireless; and a notes section with blank, lined pages. This internet password logbook provides an easy way to keep track of website addresses, usernames, and passwords in one discreet and convenient location. Beautifully designed and full of mindful prompts, channel your inspiration as you put pen (or pencil, or marker, or crayon!) to paper to learn more about yourself, your talents, and the people you love.

Organisation HC \$12.99

### Math Without Numbers Beckman, Milo

The only numbers in this book are the page numbers. *Math Without Numbers* is a vivid, conversational, and wholly original guide to the three main branches of abstract math – topology, analysis, and algebra – which turn out to be surprisingly easy to grasp. This book upends the conventional approach to math, inviting you to think creatively about shape and dimension, the infinite and infinitesimal, symmetries, proofs, and how these concepts all fit together. What awaits readers is a freewheeling tour of the inimitable joys and unsolved mysteries of this curiously powerful subject. Like the classic math allegory *Flatland*, first published over a century ago, or Douglas Hofstadter's *Godel, Escher, Bach* – 40 years ago – there has never been a math book, quite like *Math Without Numbers*. So many popularisations of math have dwelt on numbers like pi or zero or infinity. This book goes well beyond to questions such as: How many shapes are there? Is anything

bigger than infinity? And is math even true? Milo Beckman shows why math is mostly just pattern recognition and how it keeps on surprising us with unexpected, useful connections to the real world. The ambitions of this book take a special kind of author. An inventive, original thinker pursuing his calling with jubilant passion. A prodigy. Milo Beckman completed the graduate-level course sequence in mathematics at age 16, when he was a sophomore at Harvard; while writing this book, he was studying the philosophical foundations of physics at Columbia under Brian Greene, among others.

Science HC \$39.99

### The Number Bias: How Numbers Lead and Mislead Us Blauw, Sanne

A playful, sharp-eyed myth-busting reassessment of the part numbers and statistics play in our lives. Even if you don't consider yourself a numbers person, you are a numbers person. The time has come to put numbers in their place. Not high up on a pedestal, or out on the curb, but right where they belong: beside words. It is not an overstatement to say that numbers dictate the way we live our lives. They tell us how we're doing at school, how much we weigh, who might win an election and whether the economy is booming. But numbers aren't as objective as they may seem; behind every number is a story. Yet politicians, businesses and the media often forget this – or use it for their own gain. Sanne Blauw travels the world to unpick our relationship with numbers and demystify our misguided allegiance, from Florence Nightingale using statistics to petition for better conditions during the Crimean War to the manipulation of numbers by the American tobacco industry and the ambiguous figures peddled during the EU referendum. Taking us from the everyday numbers that govern our health and wellbeing to the statistics used to wield enormous power and influence, *The Number Bias* counsels us to think more wisely.

Science PBK \$19.99

### Devils, Lusts and Strange Desires: The Life of Patricia Highsmith Bradford, Richard

Made famous by the great success of her psychological thrillers, *The Talented Mr Ripley* and *Strangers on a Train*, Patricia Highsmith is lauded as one of the most influential and celebrated modern writers. However, there has never been a clear picture of the woman behind the books. The relationship between Highsmith's lesbianism, her fraught personality – by parts, self-destructive and malicious – and her fiction, has been largely avoided by biographers. She was openly homosexual and wrote the seminal lesbian love story, *Carol*. In modern times, she would be venerated as a radical exponent of the LGBT community. However, her status as an LGBT icon is undermined by the fact that she was excessively cruel and exploitative of her friends and lovers. In this new biography, Richard Bradford brings his sharp, incisive style to one of the great and most controversial writers of the

20th century. He considers Highsmith's bestsellers in the context of her troubled personal life; her alcoholism, licentious sex life, racism, anti-Semitism, misogyny, and abundant self-loathing.

Biography HC \$39.99

### What Do You Think You Are? The Science of What Makes You You Glegg, Brian

Popular science master Brian Glegg's new book is an entertaining tour through the science of what makes you, you. From the atomic level, through life and energy to genetics and personality, it explores how the billions of particles which make up you – your DNA, your skin, your memories – have come to be. It starts with the present-day reader and follows a number of trails to discover their origins: how the atoms in your body were created and how they got to you in space and time, the sources of things you consume, how the living cells of your body developed, where your massive brain and consciousness originated, how human beings evolved and, ultimately, what your personal genetic history reveals.

Science PBK \$22.99

### The Idea of the Brain: A History Cobb, Matthew

For thousands of years, thinkers and scientists have tried to understand what the brain does. Yet, despite the astonishing discoveries of science, we still have only the vaguest idea of how the brain works. In *The Idea of the Brain*, scientist and historian Matthew Cobb traces how our conception of the brain has evolved over the centuries. Although it might seem to be a story of ever-increasing knowledge of biology, Cobb shows how our ideas about the brain have been shaped by each era's most significant technologies. Today we might think the brain is like a supercomputer. In the past, it has been compared to a telegraph, a telephone exchange, or some kind of hydraulic system. What will we think the brain is like tomorrow, when new technology arises? The result is an essential read for anyone interested in the complex processes that drive science and the forces that have shaped our marvellous brains.

Science/History PBK \$24.99

### More: The 10,000-Year Rise of the World Economy Coggan, Philip

A sweeping history that tracks the development of trade and industry across the world, from Ancient Rome to today. From the development of international trade fairs in the 12th century to the innovations made in China, India, and the Arab world, it turns out that historical economies were much more sophisticated than we might imagine, tied together by webs of credit and financial instruments much like our modern economy. Here, Philip Coggan takes us from the ancient mountains of North Wales through Grand Central station and the great civilisations of Mesopotamia to the factories of Malaysia, showing how changes in agriculture, finance, technology, work, and demographics have driven the progress of human civilisation. It's the story of how trade became broader and deeper over thousands

of years; how governments have influenced economies, for good or ill; and how societies have repeatedly tried to tame, and harness, finance. More shows how, at every step of our long journey, it was the connection between people that resulted in more trade, more specialisation, more freedom, and ultimately, more prosperity.

Economics/History PBK \$24.99

### How to Be an Existentialist 10th anniversary edition Cox, Gary

The 10th anniversary edition of a witty classic about the philosophy of existentialism. It is also a genuine self-help book offering clear advice on how to live according to the principles of existentialism formulated by Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and the other great existentialist philosophers. An attack on contemporary excuse culture, the book urges us to face the hard existential truths of the human condition. By revealing that we are all inescapably free and responsible – 'condemned to be free', as Sartre says – the book aims to empower the reader with a sharp sense that we are each the master of our own destiny. Cox makes fun of the reputation existentialism has for being gloomy and pessimistic, exposing it for what it really is – an honest, uplifting, and potentially life changing philosophy! This striking 10th anniversary edition with a substantial new preface includes more pointers on how to be a true existentialist, including how to be an existentialist at a time when environmental issues are becoming ever more pressing, and our 'post-truth' world increasingly subjects us to the politically polarising power of simplistic social media.

Philosophy TP \$28.99

### Weirdest Maths: At the Frontiers of Reason Darling, David & Banerjee, Agnijo

Maths is everywhere, in everything. It's in the finest margins of modern sport. It's in the electrical pulses of our hearts and the flight of every bird. It is our key to secret messages, lost languages and perhaps even the shape of the universe of itself. David Darling and Agnijo Banerjee reveal the mathematics at the farthest reaches of our world – from its role in the plots of novels to how animals employ numerical skills to survive. Along the way they explore what makes a genius, why a seemingly simple problem can confound the best and brightest for decades, and what might be the great discovery of the 21st century. As Bertrand Russell once said, 'mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty'. Banerjee and Darling make sure we see it right, again.

Mathematics PBK \$22.99

### Light in the Darkness: Black Holes, the Universe and Us

**Falcke, Heino & Römer, Jorg**  
A fascinating and thought-provoking investigation into the nature of black holes – a blend of the spiritual, the philosophical, and the scientific – from the premier German astrophysicist who made history in 2019, capturing the first one on film. *A Light in the Darkness* is the story of one of the greatest astrological achievements of all time: the

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first photographic evidence of black holes in April 2019, and its significance for humanity, told by the scientist who accomplished it. A man of faith ordained in the Protestant tradition, Heino Falcke wrestles with the ways in which black holes force us to confront the boundary where human life ends, and the celestial begins. He also ponders why black holes are difficult for most of us to understand – comparing it to our inability to envisage our own inevitable death. Black holes develop in outer space when a massive star dies, and its matter is condensed. That extreme amount of mass contained in a small space generates a gigantic amount of gravitational force, allowing the black hole to suck up everything that comes near, including light. These astronomical wonders are the subject of our greatest scientific and philosophical theorising – the journey to a black hole would be the journey to the end of time itself. In this way, Falcke regards them as the most exquisite representations of fear, death... and, surprisingly, the divine. Empirical and profound, *A Light in the Darkness* is the first work to examine both the physical nature and spiritual meaning of black holes, those astrophysical mysteries Falcke, calls 'the epitome of merciless destruction'.

Science TP \$32.99

### **MI9: A History of the Secret Service for Escape and Evasion in World War Two** **Fry, Helen**

A thrilling history of MI9 – the WWII organisation that engineered the escape of Allied forces from behind enemy lines... When Allied fighters were trapped behind enemy lines, one branch of military intelligence helped them escape: MI9. The organisation set up clandestine routes that zigzagged across Nazi-occupied Europe, enabling soldiers and airmen to make their way home. Secret agents and resistance fighters risked their lives and those of their families to hide the men. Drawing on declassified files and eyewitness testimonies from across Europe and the United States, Helen Fry provides a significant reassessment of MI9's wartime role. Central to its success were figures such as Airey Neave, Jimmy Langle, Sam Derry, and Mary Lindell – one of only a few women parachuted into enemy territory for MI9. This astonishing account combines escape and evasion tales with the previously untold stories behind the establishment of MI9 – and reveals how the organisation saved thousands of lives. 'A fitting tribute to the hundreds of men and women who risked their lives in assisting Allied escapees.' – Giles Milton, *Sunday Times* (London).

Intelligence HC \$41.95

### **What We Need to Do Now: For a Zero Carbon Future** **Goodall, Chris**

A manifesto for groups around the world that are seeking urgent action on climate breakdown and other threats. The UK has declared a 'climate emergency' and pledged to become carbon neutral by 2050. So how do we get there? Drawing on actions, policies and technologies already emerging around the world, Chris Goodall sets out the ways to achieve this. His proposals include:

building a huge over-capacity of wind and solar energy, storing the excess as hydrogen; using hydrogen to fuel our trains, shipping, boilers and heavy industry, while electrifying buses, trucks and cars; farming – and eating – differently, encouraging plant-based alternatives to meat; paying farmers to plant and maintain woodlands; making fashion sustainable and aviation pay its way, funding synthetic fuels and genuine offsets; and using technical solutions to capture carbon dioxide from the air, and biochar to lock carbon in the soil. *What We Need to Do Now* is an urgent, practical and inspiring book that signals a green new deal for Britain.

Climate change PBK \$19.99

### **The Year 1000: When Explorers Connected the World – and Globalisation Began** **Hansen, Valerie**

When did globalisation begin? Most observers have settled on 1492, the year Columbus discovered America. But as celebrated Yale professor Valerie Hansen shows, it was the year 1000, when – for the first time – new trade routes linked the entire globe, so an object could in theory circumnavigate the world. This was the 'big bang' of globalisation, which ushered in a new era of exploration and trade, and which paved the way for Europeans to dominate after Columbus reached America. Drawing on a wide range of new historical sources and cutting-edge archaeology, this compelling revisionist argument shows how these encounters set the stage for the globalisation that would dominate the world, for centuries to come. An authoritative rethinking of global history, by a leading Yale professor.

History PBK \$22.99

### **The God Equation: The Quest for a Theory of Everything** **Kaku, Michio**

This is the story of a quest – to find a Theory of Everything. Einstein dedicated his life to seeking this elusive Holy Grail, a single, revolutionary 'god equation' which would tie all the forces in the universe together, yet never found it. Some of the greatest minds in physics took up the search, from Stephen Hawking to Brian Greene. None have yet succeeded. In *The God Equation*, renowned theoretical physicist Michio Kaku takes the reader on a mind-bending ride through the twists and turns of this epic journey – a mystery that has fascinated him for most of his life. He guides us through the key debates in modern physics, from Newton's law of gravity via relativity and quantum mechanics to the latest developments in string theory. It is a tale of dazzling breakthroughs and crushing dead ends, illuminated by Kaku's clarity, storytelling flair and infectious enthusiasm. The object of the quest is now within sight – we are closer than ever to achieving the most ambitious undertaking in the history of science. If successful, the Theory of Everything could simultaneously unlock the deepest mysteries of space and time, and fulfil that most ancient and basic of human desires – to understand the meaning of our lives.

Science HC \$35.00

### **The Bookseller of Florence: The Story of the Manuscripts That Illuminated the Renaissance** **King, Ross**

The Renaissance in Florence conjures images of beautiful frescoes and elegant buildings – the dazzling handiwork of the city's skilled artists and architects. But equally important for the centuries to follow were geniuses of a different sort: Florence's manuscript hunters, scribes, scholars, and booksellers, who blew the dust off a thousand years of history and, through the discovery and diffusion of ancient knowledge, imagined a new and enlightened world. At the heart of this activity, which bestselling author Ross King relates in his exhilarating new book, was a remarkable man: Vespasiano da Bisticci. Born in 1422, he became what a friend called 'the king of the world's booksellers'. At a time when all books were made by hand, over four decades Vespasiano produced and sold many hundreds of volumes from his bookshop, which also became a gathering spot for debate and discussion. Besides repositories of ancient wisdom by the likes of Plato, Aristotle, and Quintilian, his books were works of art, in their own right; copied by talented scribes and illuminated by the finest miniaturists. His clients included a roll-call of popes, kings, and princes across Europe who wished to burnish their reputations by founding magnificent libraries. Vespasiano reached the summit of his powers as Europe's most prolific merchant of knowledge; when a new invention appeared: the printed book. By 1480, the king of the world's booksellers was swept away by this epic technological disruption, whereby cheaply produced books reached readers who never could have afforded one of Vespasiano's elegant manuscripts. A thrilling chronicle of intellectual ferment set against the dramatic political and religious turmoil of the era, Ross King's brilliant *The Bookseller of Florence* is also an ode to books and bookmaking that charts the world-changing shift from script to print through the life of an extraordinary man long lost to history – one of the true titans of the Renaissance.

History TP \$35.00

### **The Rules of Contagion: Why Things Spread – and Why They Stop** **Kucharski, Adam**

From ideas and infections to financial crises and fake news, an 'utterly timely' look at why the science of outbreaks is the science of modern life. These days, whenever anything spreads, whether it's a YouTube fad or a political rumour, we say it went viral. But how does virality actually work? In *The Rules of Contagion*, epidemiologist Adam Kucharski explores topics including gun violence, online manipulation, and, of course, outbreaks of disease to show how much we get wrong about contagion, and how astonishing the real science is. Why did the president retweet a Mussolini quote as his own? Why do financial bubbles take off so quickly? Why are disinformation campaigns so effective? And what makes the emergence of new illnesses – such as MERS, SARS, or the coronavirus disease COVID-19 – so challenging? By uncovering

the crucial factors driving outbreaks, we can see how things really spread – and what we can do about it. Whether you are an author seeking an audience, a defender of truth, or simply someone interested in human social behaviour, *The Rules of Contagion* is an essential guide to modern life.

Science PBK \$22.99

### **NASA Space Shuttle: 40th Anniversary** **Launius, Roger D & Bizony, Piers (photographer)**

Written and curated by recognised historians of space exploration, *NASA Space Shuttle: 40th Anniversary* is the authoritative photo history of the iconic space program. Officially known as the Space Transportation System (STS), the Space Shuttle program operated from 1981 to 2011. During that time, five Shuttle systems took part in 135 missions under the operation of NASA. This approach – namely reusable spacecraft – revolutionised space exploration. *NASA Space Shuttle: 40th Anniversary* traces the STS' 30-year operational history. Essays by former NASA chief historian Roger Launius are accompanied by a collection of incredible Shuttle photography and imagery mined from the depths of NASA's archives by aerospace historian Piers Bizony – all of it presented in large-format colour. Readers will witness the pre-1981 evolution, the missions, astronauts, ground personnel and infrastructure, and amazing accomplishments of the Shuttle program and its spacecraft: *Columbia*, *Challenger*, *Discovery*, *Atlantis*, and *Endeavour*. From the launch site at Cape Kennedy, Florida, to mission control in Houston, Texas, to the landing site at Edwards Air Force Base, all aspects of Shuttle operation are covered, including key roles in efforts such as the Hubble Telescope and International Space Station, as well as the tragedies of *Challenger* and *Columbia* disasters. Every carefully chosen image in *NASA Space Shuttle: 40th Anniversary* tells an aspect of the Shuttle story. The resulting book is not only a unique view of a key chapter of NASA history – it's a compelling collection of stunning NASA photography and illustrations.

Science HC \$69.99

### **Apocalypse How? Technology and the Threat of Disaster** **Letwin, Oliver**

As the world becomes better connected and we grow ever more dependent on technology, the risks to our infrastructure are multiplying. Whether it's a hostile state striking the national grid (like Russia did with Ukraine, in 2016) or a freak solar storm, our systems have become so interlinked that if one part goes down the rest topple like dominoes. In this ground-breaking book, former government minister Oliver Letwin looks ten years into the future and imagines a UK in which the national grid has collapsed. Reliant on the internet, automated electric cars, voice over IP, GPS, and the internet of things, law and order would disintegrate. Taking us from high-level government meetings to elderly citizens waiting in vain for their careers, this book is a wakeup call for why we should question our unshakeable faith in technology. But it's much more than that: Letwin uses his

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vast experience in government to outline how businesses and government should respond to catastrophic black swan events that seem distant and implausible – until they occur.  
Impact of technology PBK \$22.99

### **Extraterrestrial: The First Sign of Intelligent Life Beyond Earth**

**Loeb, Avi**  
Harvard's top astronomer lays out his controversial theory that our solar system was recently visited by advanced alien technology from a distant star. In late 2017, scientists at a Hawaiian observatory glimpsed an object soaring through our inner solar system, moving so quickly that it could only have come from another star. Avi Loeb, Harvard's top astronomer, showed it was not an asteroid; it was moving too fast along a strange orbit, and left no trail of gas or debris in its wake. There was only one conceivable explanation: the object was a piece of advanced technology created by a distant alien civilisation. In *Extraterrestrial*, Loeb takes readers inside the thrilling story of the first interstellar visitor to be spotted in our solar system. He outlines his controversial theory and its profound implications: for science, for religion, and for the future of our species and our planet. A mind-bending journey through the furthest reaches of science, space-time, and the human imagination, *Extraterrestrial* challenges readers to aim for the stars – and to think critically about what's out there, no matter how strange it seems.  
Science HC \$49.99

### **The Ministry of Truth: A Biography of George Orwell's 1984**

**Lynskey, Dorian**  
*1984* isn't just a novel; it's a key to understanding the modern world. George Orwell's final work is a treasure chest of ideas and memes – Big Brother, the Thought Police, Doublethink, Newspeak, two plus two equals five – that gain potency with every year. Its vast influence resonates throughout world culture at every level, from high to pop. *The Ministry of Truth* is the first book to fully examine the origin and legacy of *1984* its roots in the utopian and dystopian literature that preceded it; the personal experiences in the Spanish Civil War and wartime London that Orwell drew on, as he struggled to finish his masterpiece in his final years; and the political and cultural shockwaves that the novel triggered at once upon publication and which, far from subsiding, have only grown over the decades. It explores how history informs fiction and fiction explains history.  
Literary studies PBK \$19.99

### **Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, and the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth**

**Maddow, Rachel**  
In 2010, the words 'earthquake swarm' entered the lexicon in Oklahoma. That same year, a trove of Michael Jackson memorabilia – including his iconic crystal-encrusted white glove – was sold at auction for over one million dollars, to a guy who was, officially, just the lowly forestry minister of

the tiny nation of Equatorial Guinea. And in 2014, Ukrainian revolutionaries raided the palace of their ousted president and found a zoo of peacocks, gilded toilets, and a floating restaurant modelled after a Spanish galleon. Unlikely as it might seem, there is a thread connecting these events, and Rachel Maddow follows it to its crooked source: the unimaginably lucrative and equally corrupting oil and gas industry. With her trademark black humour, Maddow takes us on a switchback journey around the globe, revealing the greed and incompetence of Big Oil and Gas along the way, and drawing a surprising conclusion about why the Russian government hacked the 2016 US election. She deftly shows how Russia's rich reserves of crude have, paradoxically, stunted its growth, forcing Putin to maintain his power by spreading Russia's rot into its rivals, its neighbours, the West's most important alliances, and the United States. Chevron, BP, and a host of other industry players get their star turn, most notably ExxonMobil and the deceptively well-behaved Rex Tillerson. The oil and gas industry has weakened democracies in developed and developing countries, fouled oceans and rivers, and propped up authoritarian thieves and killers. But being outraged at it is, according to Maddow, 'like being indignant when a lion takes down and eats a gazelle. You can't really blame the lion. It's in her nature'. *Blowout* is a call to contain the lion: to stop subsidising the wealthiest businesses on earth, to fight for transparency, and to check the influence of the world's most destructive industry and its enablers. The stakes have never been higher. As Maddow writes, 'Democracy either wins this one or disappears'.  
Politics/Economics PBK \$22.99

### **Treasures New York Public Library**

A lavishly illustrated book to accompany the New York Public Library's exhibition of the priceless treasures in its archives. Inside the walls of its three research library buildings, the New York Public Library is a palace of wonders containing diverse collections of over 46 million objects including rare books, maps, paintings, prints, sculpture, photographs, films, recorded sound, furniture, ephemera, rare and important historical documents, and more. In honour of the NYPL's 125th anniversary, the library is opening its first ever permanent exhibition in the exquisite Gottesman Hall on the first floor of its iconic 42nd Street Building: *The Polonsky Exhibition of the New York Public Library's Treasures*. *Treasures* is the official book to accompany the exhibition: a sumptuous four-colour volume that showcases the depth and breadth of the library's holdings. Filled with the creations of history-makers and influencers who changed the world, *Treasures* includes such diverse items from NYPL's collections as the Declaration of Independence written in Thomas Jefferson's hand; the original Bill of Rights; Charles Dickens' desk; George Washington's handwritten farewell address; manuscript material from authors such as Maya Angelou, Charles Dickens, T S Eliot, Jack Kerouac, Vladimir Nabokov, Mary Shelley, Virginia Woolf, and many others; a Gutenberg Bible; Malcolm X's briefcase; the original Winnie-the-Pooh dolls; the only existing letter from Christopher Columbus to King Ferdinand

regarding his discovery, and a Sumerian cuneiform tablet ca 2300 BC. *Treasures* is the New York Public Library's gift to the world.  
Books HC \$99.99

### **Strange Bedfellows: Adventures in the Science, History, and Surprising Secrets of STDs**

**Park, Ina**  
With curiosity and wit, *Strange Bedfellows* rips back the bed sheets to expose what really happens when STDs enter the sack. Sexually transmitted diseases have been hidden players in our lives for the whole of human history, with roles in everything from World War II to the growth of the internet to *The Bachelor*. But despite their prominence, STDs have been shrouded in mystery and taboo for centuries, which begs the question: why do we know so little about them? Enter Ina Park, MD, who has been pushing boundaries to empower and inform others about sexual health for decades. With *Strange Bedfellows*, she ventures far beyond the bedroom to examine the hidden role and influence of these widely misunderstood infections and share their untold stories. Covering everything from AIDS to Zika, Park explores STDs on the cellular, individual, and population levels. She blends science and storytelling with historical tales, real life sexual escapades, and interviews with leading scientists – weaving in a healthy dose of hilarity along the way. The truth is, most of us are sexually active; yet, we're often unaware of the universe of microscopic bedfellows inside our pants. Park aims to change this by bringing knowledge to the masses in an accessible, no-nonsense, humorous way – helping readers understand the broad impact STDs have on our lives, while at the same time erasing the unfair stigmas attached to them. A departure from the cone of awkward silence and shame that so often surrounds sexual health, *Strange Bedfellows* is the straight-shooting book about the consequences of sex that all curious readers have been looking for.  
Science HC \$54.99

### **The Crew: The Story of a Lancaster Bomber Crew**

**Price, David**  
A moving tribute to the sacrifice and bravery of the fliers of RAF Bomber Command. The Crew, based on interviews with Ken Cook, the crew's sole surviving member, recounts the wartime exploits of the members of an Avro Lancaster crew between 1942 and the war's end. Gloucestershire-born bomb aimer Ken Cook, hard-bitten Australian pilot Jim Comans, Navigator Don Bowes, Upper Gunner George Widdis, Tail Gunner 'Jock' Bolland, Flight Engineer Ken Randle and Radio Operator Roy Woolford were seven ordinary young men living in extraordinary times, risking their lives in freedom's cause in the dark skies above Hitler's Reich. From their earliest beginnings – in places as far apart as a Cotswold village and the suburbs of Sydney – through the adventure of training in North America and the dread and danger of the 45 bombing raids they flew with 97 Squadron, David Price describes the crew's wartime experiences with human sympathy allied to a secure technical understanding of one of the RAF's

most iconic aircraft. The drama and anxiety of individual missions – to Kassel, Munich and Augsburg as well as Berlin – is evoked with thrilling immediacy; while the military events and strategic decisions that drove the RAF's area bombing campaign against Nazi Germany are interwoven deftly with the narrative of the crew's operational careers.  
Aviation history PBK \$22.99

### **Einstein's Fridge: The Science of Fire, Ice and the Universe**

**Sen, Paul**  
*Einstein's Fridge* tells the incredible epic story of the scientists who, over two centuries, harnessed the power of heat and ice and formulated a theory essential to comprehending our universe. Thermodynamics – the branch of physics that deals with energy and entropy – is the least known and yet most consequential of all the sciences. It governs everything from the behaviour of living cells to the black hole at the centre of our galaxy. Not only that, but thermodynamics explains why we must eat and breathe, how lights turn on, the limits of computing, and how the universe will end. The brilliant people who decoded its laws came from every branch of the sciences; they were engineers, physicists, chemists, biologists, cosmologists, and mathematicians. From French military engineer and physicist Sadi Carnot to Lord Kelvin, James Joule, Albert Einstein, Emmy Noether, Alan Turing, and Stephen Hawking, author Paul Sen introduces us to all of the players who passed the baton of scientific progress through time and across nations. Incredibly driven and idealistic, these brave pioneers performed ground-breaking work often in the face of torment and tragedy. Their discoveries helped create the modern world and transformed every branch of science, from biology to cosmology. *Einstein's Fridge* brings to life one of the most important scientific revolutions of all time and captures the thrill of discovery and the power of scientific progress to shape the course of history.  
Science TP \$32.99

### **The Sociopath Next Door: The Ruthless versus the Rest of Us**

**Stout, Martha**  
Who is the devil you know? Is it your lying, cheating ex-husband? Your sadistic high school gym teacher? Your boss who loves to humiliate people in meetings? The colleague who stole your idea and passed it off as her own? In the pages of *The Sociopath Next Door*, you will realise that your ex was not just misunderstood. He's a sociopath. And your boss, teacher, and colleague? They may be sociopaths too. We are accustomed to think of sociopaths as violent criminals, but in *The Sociopath Next Door*, Harvard psychologist Martha Stout reveals that a shocking four percent of ordinary people – one in 25 – has an often-undetected mental disorder, the chief symptom of which is that that person possesses no conscience. He or she has no ability whatsoever to feel shame, guilt, or remorse. One in 25 everyday Americans, therefore, is secretly a sociopath. They could be your colleague, your neighbour, even family. And they can do literally anything at all and feel absolutely no

# Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction April 2021 (continued)

guilt. How do we recognise the remorseless? One of their chief characteristics is a kind of glow or charisma that makes sociopaths more charming or interesting than the other people around them. They're more spontaneous, more intense, more complex, or even sexier than everyone else, making them tricky to identify and leaving us easily seduced. Fundamentally, sociopaths are different because they cannot love. Sociopaths learn early on to show sham emotion, but underneath they are indifferent to others' suffering. They live to dominate and thrill to win. The fact is, we all almost certainly know at least one or more sociopaths already. Part of the urgency in reading *The Sociopath Next Door* is the moment when we suddenly recognise that someone we know – someone we worked for, or were involved with, or voted for – is a sociopath. But what do we do with that knowledge? To arm us against the sociopath, Dr Stout teaches us to question authority, suspect flattery, and beware the pity play. Above all, she writes, when a sociopath is beckoning, do not join the game. It is the ruthless versus the rest of us, and *The Sociopath Next Door* will show you how to recognise and defeat the devil you know.

Psychology PBK \$22.99

**Is Capitalism Broken?**  
**Varoufakis, Yanis; Brooks, Arthur; vanden Heuvel, Katrina; Brooks, David**  
'We need to organise politically to defend the weak, empower the many and prepare the ground for reversing the absurdities of capitalism.' – *Yanis Varoufakis*.  
'Capitalism over the past 25 years has been an incredible moral good.' – *David Brooks*.  
The Munk debate on capitalism: There is a growing belief that the capitalist system no longer works. Inequality is rampant. The environment is being destroyed for profits. In some western nations, life expectancy is even falling. Political power is wielded by wealthy elites and big business, not the people. But for proponents of capitalism, it is the engine of progress, not just making all of us materially better off, but helping to address everything from women's rights to political freedoms. We seem to stand at a crossroads: do we need to fix the system as a matter of urgency, or would it be better to hold our nerve?

Economics PBK \$16.99

**Beyond: The Astonishing Story of the First Human to Leave Our Planet and Journey into Space**  
**Walker, Stephen**  
09:07 am. 12 April 1961. A top-secret rocket site in the USSR. A young Russian sits inside a tiny capsule on top of the Soviet Union's most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile – originally designed to carry a nuclear warhead – and blasts into the skies. His name is Yuri Gagarin. And he is about to make history. Travelling at almost 18,000 miles per hour – ten times faster than a rifle bullet – Gagarin circles the globe in just 106 minutes. From his windows he sees the earth as nobody has before, crossing a sunset and a sunrise, crossing oceans and continents, witnessing its beauty and its fragility. While his launch begins in total secrecy, within hours of his landing he has become a world celebrity – the first human to leave the planet. *Beyond* tells the thrilling story behind that epic flight on its 60th anniversary. It happened at the height of the Cold War, as the US and USSR confronted each other across an Iron Curtain. Both superpowers took enormous risks to get a man into space first, the Americans in the full glare of the media, the Soviets under deep cover. Both trained their teams of astronauts to the edges of the endurable. In the end the race between them would come down to the wire. Drawing on extensive original research and the vivid testimony of eyewitnesses, many of whom have never spoken before, Stephen Walker unpacks secrets that were hidden for decades and takes the reader into the drama of one of humanity's greatest adventures – to the scientists, engineers and political leaders on both sides, and above all to the American astronauts and their Soviet rivals, battling for supremacy in the heavens.

Science/Memoir TP \$34.99

**Fundamentals: Ten Keys to Reality**  
**Wilczek, Frank**  
In *Fundamentals*, Nobel laureate Frank Wilczek offers the reader a simple, yet profound, exploration of reality based on the deep revelations of modern science. With clarity and an infectious sense of joy, he guides us through the essential concepts that form our understanding of what the world is, and how it works. Through these pages, we come to see our reality in a new way – bigger, fuller, and stranger than it looked before. Synthesising basic questions, facts, and dazzling speculations, Wilczek investigates the ideas that form our understanding of the universe – time, space, matter, energy, complexity, and complementarity. He excavates the history of fundamental science, exploring what we know and how we know it, while journeying to the horizons of the scientific world to give us a glimpse of what we may soon discover. Brilliant, lucid, and accessible, this celebration of human ingenuity and imagination will expand your world and your mind.

Science HC \$39.99