

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction Catalogue February 2023

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Osprey military history

Meat Grinder:

the Battles for the Rzhev Salient, 1942–43

Buttar, Prit

An engrossing history of the desperate battles for the Rzhev Salient, a forgotten story brought to life by the harrowing memoirs of German and Russian soldiers. The fighting between the German and Russian armies in the Rzhev Salient during World War II was so grisly, so murderous, and saw such vast losses that the troops called the campaign 'The Meat Grinder'. Though millions of men would fight and die there, the Rzhev Salient does not have the name recognition of Leningrad or Moscow. It was simply a vast tract of forests and swamps in the heart of Mother Russia that has been largely ignored by Western historians... until now. Prit Buttar, a world expert on the Eastern Front during World War II, reveals the depth and depravity of the bitter fighting for the Rzhev Salient in this astonishing new history. He details how the long-ignored region held the promise of a renewed drive on the Soviet capital for the German Army – a chance to turn the tide of war. Using both German and Russian first-hand accounts, Buttar examines the four major offensives launched by the Red Army against the salient, all of which were defeated with heavy losses, exceeding two million killed, wounded or missing, until eventually, the Germans were forced to evacuate the salient in March 1943. Drawing on the latest research, *Meat Grinder* provides a new study of these horrific battles but also examines how the Red Army did ultimately learn from its colossal failures and how its analysis of these failures at the time helped pave the way for the eventual Soviet victory against Army Group Centre in the summer of 1944, leaving the road to Berlin clear.

Military history HC \$59.99

General nonfiction

Toil and Trouble:

a Women's History of the Occult

**Anderson, Melanie R
& Kröger, Lisa**

A celebration of magical women and nonbinary people in American history, from Salem to WitchTok. Meet the mystical women and nonbinary people from US history who found strength through the supernatural – and those who are still forging the way today. From the celebrity spirit mediums of the 19th century to contemporary activist witches hexing the patriarchy, these icons have long used magic and mysticism to seize the power they're so often denied. Organised around different approaches women in particular have taken to the occult over the decades – using the supernatural for political gain, seeking fame and fortune as spiritual practitioners, embracing their witchy identities, and more – this book shines a light on underappreciated magical pioneers,

US Navy Armored Cruisers

1890–1933

New Vanguard 311

**Herder, Brian Lane
& Wright Paul (illustrator)**

A new history of the large, fast, and long-ranged armoured cruisers of the US Navy, and the roles that these warships played in the fleet as America developed into a great naval power. At the dawn of the 'Steel Navy' era, the rapidly expanding US Navy's fleet of capital ships consisted not only of battleships but also armoured cruisers, the forerunner of the battlecruiser. Armoured cruisers sacrificed the battleship's superlative firepower and protection for superior speed and range but, as this study shows, their role was not always easy to define. Controversial because they were as large and expensive as battleships but not able to withstand a battleship in battle, contemporary strategists pointed out that, 'naval wars are not won by running away from stronger ships'. Despite being produced at great expense, tactically they never really had a legitimate mission – traditional deployments were commerce raiding and protection, but despite this, author Brian Lane Herder illustrates how successful the use of armoured cruisers was for the US Navy. After 1906, some replaced US battleships in the Pacific, functioning as oversized gunboats, most notably, the modified armoured cruiser *Pennsylvania* which witnessed the first landing of an airplane on a ship. On November 5, 1915, *North Carolina* became the first cruiser to launch an aircraft from a catapult while underway. After the war, surviving US armoured cruisers represented the US Navy on their Asiatic station until the final cruiser was scuttled in 1946. Using detailed, colour artwork and photos, this fascinating

book describes the development and deployment of these controversial but intriguing ships, providing examples of the key service they played in the US Navy in a variety of defensive and escorting roles.

Naval history PBK \$22.99

Royal Navy torpedo-bombers vs Axis warships 1939–45

Duel 124

**Willis, Matthew
& Laurier, Jim (illustrator)**

Drawing on rare, historical photography and specially commissioned artwork, Matthew Willis explores the heroic feats of the few Royal Navy's obsolescent biplanes that stood between the state-of-the-art Axis warships and their objectives. Focusing on the technical specifications of both opponents, using original records, and detailed armament and cockpit views, this book explores the key attributes and drawbacks of the disadvantaged Royal Navy torpedo-bombers against the mighty *Regia Marina* and *Kriegsmarine* destroyers and raiders, covering a wide range of sea battles, from the more famous attacks such as the strike on the Bismarck, the tragic events of the Channel Dash or the clash with the Italian battle fleet at Taranto, to less covered sea battles such as the Battle of Matapan. Despite their powerful weaponry and heavy armour protection, the Axis warships proved vulnerable to a skilfully and audaciously flown torpedo-bomber, thanks to innovative commanders exploiting every possible advantage. Including rare personal recollections from the airmen who flew the torpedo-bombers and historical accounts from the Axis warship crews, this book describes each and every facet of this dramatic duel.

Naval history PBK \$29.99

All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **February 2023**.

Because they are new books, we are at the whim of the publishers and, to some extent, the shipping companies – books can sometimes arrive later (or earlier) than, or occasionally be a different retail price than originally quoted. Because space is a luxury, we bring in limited quantities of books. Prices are subject to change without notice.

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

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

including: Dion Fortune, who tried to marshal a magical army against Adolf Hitler; Bri Luna, the Hoodwitch, social media star and serious magical practitioner; Joan Quigley, personal psychic to Nancy Reagan; Marie Laveau, voodoo queen of New Orleans; Elvira, queer goth sex symbol who defied the Satanic Panic; and many more!
History/Occult HC \$34.99

Stars and Spies:

the story of Intelligence Operations...

Andrew, Chris & Green, Julius

An original history about spying and showbiz from Shakespeare to the Cold War to present day stardom. A vastly entertaining and unique history of the interaction between spying and showbiz, from the Elizabethan age to the Cold War and beyond. Throughout history, there has been a consistent crossover between show business and espionage, often producing some of the most extraordinary undercover agents,

and occasionally leading to disastrous and dangerous failures. The fact that one relies on publicity and the other on secrecy might seem to rule out a successful symbiosis; but as both require high levels of creative thinking, improvisation, disguise and roleplay, they inevitably attract some remarkably similar personalities. *Stars and Spies* is the first history of the interplay between the two worlds. We travel back to the golden age of theatre and intelligence in the reign of Elizabeth I, where we meet the playwright and spy Christopher Marlowe. In the Restoration, we encounter in Aphra Behn – the first professional female playwright and the first female spy to work for the British government. We visit Civil War America, Tsarist Russia and *fin de siècle* Paris where some writers, actors and entertainers become efficient and vital agents, while others are put under surveillance by the burgeoning intelligence services. And, as the story moves

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through the 20th century and beyond, and the role of spying in word affairs becomes more central, showbiz provides essential cover for agents to gather information while hiding in plain sight. The astonishing array of those who were drafted into the intelligence services includes Somerset Maugham, Graham Greene, Noel Coward and Alexander Korda. At the same time, spying enters mainstream popular culture, from the adventures of James Bond to the thrillers of John le Carré and long-running TV series, such as *The Americans*. Written by two experts in their fields – Christopher Andrew, arguably the world's leading intelligence historian, and theatre producer and entertainment historian Julius Green – *Stars and Spies* is a unique and highly entertaining examination of the fascinating links between the intelligence services and show business.

Espionage PBK \$24.99

A History of Treason:

the bloody history of Britain through the stories of its most notorious traitors **Archives, National** The only complete study of treason in Britain from the introduction of the *Treason Act* in 1352, to the last execution for treason in this country after the Second World War. *A History of Treason* details British history from 1352 to 1946, covering major historical moments in a fascinating and innovative way, using the history of high treason and deception as its theme. Appealing to a range of audiences, it covers nearly 600 years of momentous history through the use of both famous and lesser-known events which shaped Britain. Using original documents and detailed research undertaken by the National Archives (TNA)'s record specialists, it will cover moments in history which led to fundamental changes in eras. It will also include unique discoveries from TNA's archives, uncovering mysteries and stories of how dealing with treason have brought about the changes which have influenced and shaped Britain throughout the centuries. Among these are: the trial and execution of Anne Boleyn on the orders of her husband, Henry VIII; several major acts of sedition, including the Popish Gunpowder Plot and the revolution plotted in the Cato Street conspiracy; the evidence brought against the Irish patriot Sir Roger Casement, executed at Pentonville and his remains later exhumed and given a state funeral in Ireland; and the trial and execution of the William Joyce who, as 'Lord Haw-Haw', broadcast Nazi propaganda from Berlin during the Second World War. The book covers many stories that explore the nature of treason and how the crown and state reacted to it – from the introduction of the *Treason Act* in 1352 right through to the 20th century. Written by experts from among the historians at the National Archives, the book is copiously illustrated with images from TNA's unrivalled collections.

History HC \$49.99

Surgeon at War:
a Frontline Surgeon's Compelling Account of the Second World War
Aylett, Stanley
A first-hand account of the Second World War from the operating tables behind the frontline. Stanley Aylett's remarkable account

of six years' service as a frontline surgeon with the British Army is that rare thing: a complete narrative from the first week of the Second World War until months after the final capitulation of Nazi Germany. That war was the last Western conflict in which military surgeons performed operations immediately behind the front line, often in makeshift theatres set up in tents or abandoned, battle-scarred buildings. *Surgeon at War* records the resilience and resourcefulness of the medical teams, drawing on the author's extensive diaries to describe the first advance into France at the start of the war in 1939; the chaos of the retreat to Dunkirk and subsequent evacuation of British and French forces; the sea voyage round the Cape to join the Eighth Army in Egypt; leading a Field Service Medical Unit in the Western Desert; the Allied invasion of France following the D-Day landings; crossing the Rhine into Germany; and VE Day, which Lieutenant-Colonel Aylett spent amid the horror of the Sandbostel concentration camp in northern Germany. Stanley Aylett signed up in the week war was declared, and survived to tell his story, edited here by his daughter with extensive use of his own photographs and letters home. It is a narrative of courage, duty and endurance amid the fog of war, but above all a tribute to the skill and humanity of those whose daily lives revealed mankind at both its best, and its worst.

History PBK \$22.99

The New Guys:

the Historic Class of Astronauts that Broke Barriers and Changed the Face of Space Travel
Bagby, Meredith
The never-before-told story of NASA's 1978 astronaut class, which included the first American women, the first African Americans, the first Asian American, and the first gay person to fly to space. With the exclusive participation of the astronauts who were there, this is the thrilling, behind-the-scenes saga of a new generation that transformed space exploration. The story of NASA's Astronaut Class 8, or 'The F*cking New Guys', as their military predecessors nicknamed them, is an unprecedented look at these extraordinary explorers who broke barriers and blasted through glass ceilings. Egos clashed, ambitions flared, and romances bloomed as the New Guys competed with one another and navigated the cutthroat internal politics at NASA for a chance to rocket to the stars. Marking a departure from the iconic military test pilots who had dominated the space program since its inception, the New Guys arrived at the dawn of a new era of space flight. Teardrop-shaped space capsules from Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo gave way to the space shuttle, a revolutionary space plane capable of launching like a rocket, hauling cargo like a truck, and landing back on Earth like an airliner. They mastered this new machine from its dangerous first test flights to its greatest achievements: launching hundreds of satellites, building the International Space Station, and deploying the Hubble Space Telescope. *The New Guys* depicts these charismatic young astronauts and the exuberant social and scientific progress of the space shuttle program against the efforts of NASA officials who struggled to meet America's military demands and

commercial aspirations. When NASA was pressured to fly more often and at greater risk, lives were lost in the program's two biggest disasters: *Challenger* (1986) and *Columbia* (2003). Caught in the crosshairs of this battle are the shuttle astronauts who gave their lives in those catastrophes, and who gave their lives' work; pursuing a more equitable future in space for all humankind. Through it all, they became friends, rivals, lovers, and ultimately, family.

Science/History HC \$79.95

Women in White Coats:

How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine
Campbell, Olivia
The remarkable story of three Victorian women who broke down barriers in the medical field to become the first women doctors, revolutionising the way women receive health care. In the early 1800s, women were dying in large numbers from treatable diseases because they avoided receiving medical care. Examinations performed by male doctors were often demeaning and even painful. In addition, women faced stigma from illness – a diagnosis could greatly limit their ability to find husbands, jobs or be received in polite society. Motivated by personal loss and frustration over inadequate medical care, Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and Sophia Jex-Blake fought for a woman's place in the male-dominated medical field. For the first time ever, *Women in White Coats* tells the complete history of these three pioneering women who, despite countless obstacles, earned medical degrees and paved the way for other women to do the same. Though very different in personality and circumstance, together these women built women-run hospitals and teaching colleges – creating for the first time medical care for women by women. With gripping storytelling based on extensive research and access to archival documents, *Women in White Coats* tells the courageous history these women made by becoming doctors, detailing the boundaries they broke of gender and science to reshape how we receive medical care today.

History/Science HC \$34.99

Taking to the Field:

a History of Australian Women in Science
Carey, Jane
If asked to name an Australian woman scientist from the past, very few could. Let's change that.
Histories of Australian science largely overlook women. Their absence gives the impression that, until recently, there were no Australian women scientists. But this is far from true: women formed a much larger proportion of the scientific community from the 1900s to the 1940s in Australia, than in Britain or the United States, and numbers have only grown since. Why don't women scientists make it into history books? Because women's work is less cited than men's, and more likely to be forgotten. *Taking to the Field* is the first comprehensive history of Australian women in science from the colonial period to contemporary times. This untold story shows that women have played a greater role than is commonly recognised. From the first years of colonisation, women engaged in myriad

scientific endeavours, ranging from botany to genetics to organic chemistry. There was a vibrant culture of women in science in the years up to 1945 – as academics, researchers, lab workers, teachers, writers and activists for science-based social reform. They outnumbered men in some fields. This is not a straightforward tale of progress or a simple celebration of unsung heroines. Some women were involved in darker episodes of colonial science and eugenics. Few women of colour were given opportunities for scientific exploration. But within these limitations, many remarkable individuals illuminated our understanding of the world. From the first female science graduate, Edith Dornwell, to Nobel laureate molecular biologist Elizabeth Blackburn, Australian women have had an outsized influence. The botanical collection of Western Australian Georgina Molloy, the discoveries of Tasmanian-born molecular biologist Elizabeth Blackburn and the research of Melbourne zoologist Georgina Sweet all tell a story: how Australian women in science have transformed the world.

History/Science TP \$34.99

The Curious History of Weights and Measures

Cock-Starkey, Claire
How long is an ell? What is the largest size of champagne bottle? How do you measure the heat of a chilli pepper? Why is the depth of water measured in fathoms? And what is a cubit? *The Curious History of Weights and Measures* tells the story of how we have come to quantify the world around us. Looking at everything from carats, pecks and pennyweights to firkins and baker's dozens through to modern science-based standards such as kilograms and kilometres, this book considers both what sparked the creation of myriad measures and why there were so many efforts to usher in standardisation. Full of handy conversion charts and beautiful illustrations, *The Curious History of Weights and Measures* is a treasure trove of fun facts and intriguing stories about the calculations we use every day.

History/Science HC \$29.99

Fowl Play:

a History of the Chicken from Dinosaur to Dinner Plate
Coulthard, Sally
From dinosaur to dinner plate, Sally Coulthard tells the fascinating – and sometimes shocking – story of the domestic chicken. The chicken can fly only a few metres but – somehow – this unlikely evolutionary descendant of *Tyrannosaurus Rex* has conquered the world. Earth is now home to more than 20 billion chickens, at least 10 times more, than any other bird. For every human on the planet, there are three chickens. In *Fowl Play*, Sally Coulthard charts the chicken's fascinating journey from dinosaur to domestication to exploitation, exploring every aspect of the history of *Gallus gallus domesticus*: its importance to the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans as food source and fighting bird; its symbolic roles in religion and folklore and metaphorical function in the language we use; its homely place as egg-providing companion on farms, smallholdings and in suburban back gardens; and its darker modern-day fate as battery bird raised to satisfy society's unquenchable

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addiction to wings and nuggets. Of all animals, chickens perhaps best represent the contradictory way we humans treat other species; both beloved pet and cheap commodity, symbol of a sustainable good life and brutalised object of factory farming. The chicken is also a bird we feel deeply familiar with and yet know very little about. As informative as it is entertaining, *Fowl Play* tells a remarkable tale of evolutionary change, epic global travel and ruthless exploitation – as well as of companionship, ingenuity and the folly of human nature.

Natural history HC \$42.99

Once Upon a Tome:

the misadventures of a rare bookseller

Darkshire, Oliver

Welcome to Sotheran's, the oldest, most bonkers bookshop in the country, with its bizarre clientele, suspicious cupboards, unlabelled keys, poisoned books, some things that aren't even books, and deeply eccentric staff. Think *Diary of a Bookseller*, but with quite a lot more Bernard Black. Some years ago, Oliver Darkshire stepped into the hushed interior of Henry Sotheran Ltd on Sackville Street (est 1761) to interview for their bookselling apprenticeship, a decision which has bedevilled him, ever since. He'd intended to stay for a year before launching into some less dusty, better remunerated career. Unfortunately for him, the alluring smell of old books and the temptation of a management-approved afternoon nap proved irresistible. Soon, he was balancing teetering stacks of first editions, fending off nonagenarian widows with a 10-foot pole, and trying not to upset the store's resident ghost (the late Mr Sotheran had unfinished business when he was hit by that tram). For, while Sotheran's might be a treasure trove of literary delights, it sings a siren song to eccentrics. There are not only colleagues whose tastes in rare items range from the inspired to the mildly dangerous, but also zealous collectors seeking knowledge, curious, or simply someone with whom to hold a four-hour conversation about books bound in human skin. By turns unhinged and earnestly dog-eared, *Once Upon a Tome* is the rather colourful story of life in one of the world's oldest bookshops and a love letter to the benign, unruly world of antiquarian bookselling, where to be uncommon or strange is the best possible compliment.

Books HC \$35.00

A Mystery of Mysteries:

the Death and Life of Edgar Allan Poe

Dawidziak, Mark

It is a moment shrouded in horror and mystery. Edgar Allan Poe died on October 7, 1849 – at just 40 – in a painful, utterly bizarre manner that would not have been out of place in one of his own tales of terror. What was the cause of his untimely death, and what happened to him, during the three missing days before he was found – delirious and 'in great distress', on the streets of Baltimore, wearing ill-fitting clothes that were not his own? Poe, who remains one of the most iconic of American writers, died under haunting circumstances that reflect the two literary genres he took to new heights. Over the years, there has been a staggering amount of speculation about the cause of death, from rabies and syphilis to suicide, alcoholism, and

even murder. But many of these theories are formed on the basis of the caricature we have come to associate with Poe: the gloomy-eyed grandfather of Goth, hunched over a writing desk with a raven perched on one shoulder, drunkenly scribbling his chilling masterpieces. By debunking the myths of how he lived, we come closer to understanding the real Poe – and uncovering the truth behind his mysterious death, as a new theory emerges that could prove the cause of Poe's death was haunting him all his life. In a compelling dual-timeline narrative alternating between Poe's increasingly desperate last months and his brief but impactful life, Mark Dawidziak sheds new light on the enigmatic master of macabre. *A Mystery of Mysteries* is a brilliant biography of Edgar Allan Poe that examines the renowned author's life through the prism of his mysterious death and its many possible causes.

Biography HC \$62.95

An Emotional Dictionary:

Real Words for How You Feel, from Angst to Zwodder

Dent, Susie

There is a word for how you feel, however you feel and Susie Dent, lexicographer extraordinaire is going to help you find it. Whether it's the distress of a bad haircut (*age-otoni*) or longing for the food someone else is eating (*groaking*), the pleasure found in other people's happiness (*confelicity*) or the shock of jumping into icy water (*curglaff*), there are real words to pinpoint exactly how you feel. Here are 1001 terms everyone needs, whether it's the best kind of hug (*cwtch*), the relief found in swearing (*lalochezia*), or the ability to endure 'til the end (*pertolerance*). It's time to rediscover the lost positives of language (and be more *gorm*); find out how a stork gave us the word for the love between parent and child, and who the first *maverick* was. Packed with unexpected stories and unforgettable words, on a mission to describe the indescribable, this life-enhancing book will deepen your vocabulary as much as it extends it. Welcome to the first truly human dictionary, as idiosyncratic and unusual as you are.

Language HC \$39.99

Index, a History of the Duncan, Dennis

A story of ambition, obsession and alphabetical order. Most of us give little thought to the back of the book – it's just where you go to look things up. But, here, hiding in plain sight, is an unlikely realm of ambition and obsession, sparring and politicking, pleasure and play. Here, we might find *Butchers, to be avoided*, or *Cows that sh-te Fire*, or even catch *Calvin in his chamber with a Nonne*. This is the secret world of the index: an unsung but extraordinary everyday tool, with an illustrious but little-known past. Here, for the first time, its story is told. Charting its curious path from the monasteries and universities of 13th-century Europe to Silicon Valley in the 21st, Dennis Duncan reveals how the index has saved heretics from the stake, kept politicians from high office and made us all into the readers we are today. We follow it through German print shops and Enlightenment coffee houses, novelists' living rooms and university laboratories, encountering emperors and

popes, philosophers and prime ministers, poets, librarians and – of course – indexers along the way. Revealing its vast role in our evolving literary and intellectual culture, Duncan shows that, for all our anxieties about the Age of Search, we are all index-rakers at heart, and we have been for 800 years.

History/Books PBK \$24.99

Assholes:

the Dead People You Should Be Made At

Felton, James

The worst people who've walked the earth – the dickheads you've heard of (Christopher Columbus, take a bow), the ones you haven't (enter Queen Ranavalona I), and the ones you'll wish you hadn't (all the rest), complete with illustrations. In this, er, 'unique', illustrated potted history of the human race, Twitter icon James Felton uses his inimitable brand of banter to unveil the slyest, creepiest and/or nastiest specimens who've ever lived. Enter the 16th century Chinese Emperor Zhegde, whose harem was so big some of the women within it died of starvation; King Charles II's executioner, who would only give you a clean beheading, if you paid properly for it, beforehand; and Ilya Ivanovich Ivanov, the 19th century scientist who was a mega asshole... and, if you buy the book, you'll find out why. Darkly funny, highly informative and always unbelievable, these are the dead people you should be mad at.

History HC \$32.99

The Magick of Matter:

Crystals, Chaos and the Wizardry of Physics

Flicker, Felix

A theoretical physics manual for modern wizards – an irreverent take on serious physics for popular science fans and sf enthusiasts, alike. Condensed matter physics is what happens when atoms cluster together to make something of a size we can understand – something like a car, say, rather than a galaxy. It's what makes things hover in midair (magnetic levitation) or crystals glow (thermoluminescence). It's also what we mean by magick. Join Felix Flicker on an empirical adventure in condensed matter physics, the scientific mechanism behind the mysteries of alchemy, transmutation, and much more. This is the one-stop guide on how to harness the enigmatic workings of the natural world to become a thoroughly modern wizard. From the laws of thermodynamics to the seven bridges of Königsberg, *The Magick of Matter* is a journey of discovery which will upend everything you think you know about witchcraft, wizardry, and condensed matter physics.

Science HC \$39.99

The Book of Vanishing Species: Illustrated Lives

Forshall, Beatrice

Our Earth is more beautiful and more diverse than we can possibly conceive. *The Book of Vanishing Species* is a stunning homage to the planet's most mysterious, bizarre and wondrous creatures and plants. Their stories are captivating, from the eyeless and tiny dragon-like olm to the hawkbill turtle, whose gender will be determined by the temperature of the sand it is born in. These species may have survived for hundreds of thousands of years by cleverly adapting to their

environments, but their future remains far from certain. The book brings to life red cranes as they dance and bow for the sheer joy of movement, trees that breathe out a haze of misty atmosphere for insects that only feast on one kind of flower, a deep-ocean snail quietly building its shell from iron... and each one of them is illuminated with an exquisite illustration. As you turn the pages, there emerges a network of life that stretches across and around the planet in a dazzling web of existence. This is both a love letter to life on Earth, and an urgent summons to protect what is precious and lovely in this world.

Natural history HC \$39.99

The Ruin of All Witches:

Life and Death in the New World

Gaskill, Malcolm

In Springfield, Massachusetts in 1651, peculiar things begin to happen. Precious food spoils, livestock ails, property vanishes, and people suffer convulsions as if possessed by demons. A woman is seen wading through the swamp like a lost soul. Disturbing dreams and visions proliferate. Children sicken and die. As tensions rise, rumours spread of witches and heretics and the community becomes tangled in a web of distrust, resentment and denunciation. The finger of suspicion soon falls on a young couple with two small children: the prickly brick-maker, Hugh Parsons, and his troubled wife, Mary. Drawing on rich, previously unexplored source material, Malcolm Gaskill vividly evokes a strange past, one where lives were steeped in the divine and the diabolic, in omens, curses and enchantments. *The Ruin of All Witches* captures an entire society caught in agonised transition between superstition and enlightenment, tradition, and innovation.

Witch hunts TP \$35.00

Viking Women:

Life and Lore

Hannett, Lisa

Let's travel in time together, 1000 or so years back, and meet Viking women in their heartlit world. How did these medieval viragoes live, love and die? How can we encounter them as flesh-and-blood beings with fears and feelings – not just as names in sagas or runes carved into stone? In this ground-breaking work, Lisa Hannett lifts the veil on the untold stories of wives and mothers, girls and slaves, widows and witches who sailed, settled, suffered, survived – and thrived – in a society that largely catered to and memorialised men. Hannett presents the everyday experiences of a compelling cast of women, all of whom are resourceful and petty, hopeful and jealous, and as fabulous and flawed as we are today. Lisa Hannett is an award-winning Canadian–Australian writer and academic.

Folklore/History TP \$42.99

An Admirable Point:

a Brief History of the Exclamation Mark!

Hazrat, Florence

Love it or hate it, the exclamation mark has been with us from *Beowulf* to the spam email – an enthusiastic history for language lovers! Few punctuation marks elicit quite as much love or hate as the exclamation mark. It's bubbly and exuberant, an emotional amplifier whose flamboyantly dramatic gesture lets the reader know: here, be feelings! Scott Fitzgerald famously

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stated exclamation marks are like laughing at your own joke; Terry Pratchett had a character say that multiple !!! are a 'sure sign of a diseased mind'. So, what's the deal with ! ? *An Admirable Point* recuperates the exclamation mark from its much-maligned place at the bottom of the punctuation hierarchy. It explores how ! came about in the first place some 600 years ago, and uncovers the many ways in which ! has left its mark on art, literature, (pop) culture, and just about any sphere of human activity – from *Beowulf* to spam emails, e e cummings to neuroscience. Whether you think it's over used, or enthusiastically sprinkle your writing with it, ! is inescapable.

Language HC \$24.99

The Milky Way:

an Autobiography of Our Galaxy

McTier, Moiya & Salai, AnnaMarie

Astrophysicist and folklorist Dr Moiya McTier channels the Milky Way in this approachable and utterly fascinating autobiography of the titular galaxy, detailing what humans have discovered about everything from its formation to its eventual death, and what more there is to learn about this galaxy we call home. After a few billion years of bearing witness to life on Earth, of watching 100 billion humans go about their day-to-day lives, of feeling unbelievably lonely, and of hearing its own story told by others, the Milky Way would like a chance to speak for itself. All 100 billion stars and 50 undecillion tons of gas of it. It all began some 13 billion years ago, when clouds of gas scattered through the universe's primordial plasma just could not keep their metaphorical hands off each other. They succumbed to their gravitational attraction, and the galaxy we know as the Milky Way was born. Since then, the galaxy has watched as dark energy pushed away its first friends, as humans mythologised its name and purpose, and as galactic archaeologists have worked to determine its true age (rude). The Milky Way has absorbed supermassive (an actual technical term) black holes, made enemies of a few galactic neighbours, and mourned the deaths of countless stars. Our home galaxy has even fallen in love. After all this time, the Milky Way finally feels that it's amassed enough experience for the juicy tell-all we've all been waiting for. Its fascinating autobiography recounts the history and future of the universe in accessible but scientific detail, presenting a summary of human astronomical knowledge thus far that is unquestionably out of this world.

Science HC \$42.99

The Nation of Plants Mancuso, Stefano

This playful manifesto – presented for the plant nation by a leading neurobiologist – is an international bestseller. As plants see it, humans are not the masters of the Earth, but only one of its most unpleasant and irksome residents. They have been on the planet for only about 300,000 years ago (nothing, compared to the three billion years of plant evolution), yet have changed the conditions of the planet so drastically as to make it a dangerous place for their own survival. It's time for the plants to offer advice. In this

playful, philosophical manifesto, Stefano Mancuso, expert on plant intelligence, presents a new constitution on which to build our future as beings respectful of the Earth and its inhabitants. These eight articles – the fundamental pillars on which plant life is based – must, henceforth, regulate all living beings.

Science PBK \$19.99

Train Teasers:

a Quiz Book for the Cultured Trainspotter
Martin, Andrew

A quiz, and an eye-opening journey through British railway history. *When was smoking banned on trains? Which actor restored kippers to the menu of the Brighton Belle? What regular lineside event did Dickens describe as 'a shave in the air'?* Perfect for a trivia night or a long trip, *Train Teasers* will both test your knowledge of this country's rail system and enlighten you on the most colourful aspects of its long history. Meet trunk murderers, trainspotters, haters of railways, railway writers, Ministers for Transport good and bad, railway cats, dogs and a railway penguin. This is *not* a book for number-crunching nerds. Many of the answers are guessable by the intelligent reader. It is a quiz, yes, but also a cavalcade of historical incident and colour relating to a system that was the making of modern Britain.

History quiz HC \$29.99

Dictionary of Norse Myth and Legend

Orchard, Andrew

From Loki to Thor, Ragnarok to Beowulf...

A gripping and truly mesmerising delve into the Norse legends. From bestselling books to blockbusting Hollywood movies, the myths of the Scandinavian gods and heroes are part of the modern-day landscape. For over a millennium before the arrival of Christianity, the legends permeated everyday life in Iceland and the northern reaches of Europe. Since that time, they have been perpetuated in literature and the arts in forms as diverse as Tolkien and Wagner, graphic novels to the world of Marvel. This book covers the entire cast of supernatural beings, from gods to trolls, heroes to monsters, and deals with the social and historical background to the myths, topics such as burial rites, sacrificial practices, and runes.

Myth & legend HC \$45.00

Nuclear Folly:

a New History of the Cuban Missile Crisis
Plokhly, Serhii

The definitive history of the Cuban Missile Crisis from the bestselling author of *Chernobyl: History of a Tragedy*. For more than four weeks in the autumn of 1962 the world teetered. The consequences of a misplaced step during the Cuban Missile Crisis could not have been graver. Ash and cinder, famine and fallout; nuclear war between the two most-powerful nations on Earth. In *Nuclear Folly*, award-winning historian Serhii Plokhly tells the riveting story of those weeks, tracing the tortuous decision making and calculated brinkmanship of John F Kennedy, Nikita Khrushchev, and Fidel Castro, and of their advisors and commanders on the ground. More often

than not, Plokhly argues, the Americans and Soviets simply misread each other, operating under mutual distrust, second guesses and false information. Despite all of this, nuclear disaster was avoided thanks to one very human reason: fear. Drawing on the impressive array of primary sources, including the recently declassified KGB files, Plokhly masterfully illustrates the drama of those tense days. Authoritative, fast paced and unforgettable, this is the definitive new account of the Cold War's most perilous moment.

History TP \$32.99

Mosquito Men:

the Elite Pathfinders of 627 Squadron

Price, David

In November 1940, a remarkable prototype aircraft made its maiden flight from an airstrip north of London. Novel in construction and exceptionally fast, the new plane was soon outpacing the Spitfire, and went on to contribute to the RAF's offensive against Nazi Germany as bomber, pathfinder and night fighter. The men who flew it nicknamed this most flexible of aircraft 'the wooden wonder' for its composite wooden frame and superb performance. Its more familiar name was the de Havilland Mosquito, and it used lightning speed and agility to inflict mayhem on the German war machine. From the summer of 1943, as Bomber Command intensified its saturation bombing of German cities, Mosquitos were used by the Pathfinder Force, which marked targets for night-time bombing, to devastating effect. *Mosquito Men* traces the contrasting careers of the young men of 627 Squadron, including that of Ken Outley – last living member of an illustrious group – who flew 22 operations in Mosquitos as a navigator. David Price's atmospheric narrative interweaves the human stories of the crews of 627 Squadron with events in the wider war as the Allies closed in on Germany from the summer of 1944. *Mosquito Men* is rich in evocative and technically authoritative accounts of individual missions flown by an aircraft that ranks alongside the Spitfire, the Hurricane, and the Lancaster as one of the RAF's greatest ever flying machines – and, perhaps, the most versatile warplane ever built.

Aviation history HC \$50.00

Flying Blind:

the 737 Max Tragedy and
the Fall of Boeing

Robison, Peter

An authoritative, gripping and finely detailed narrative that charts the decline of one of the great American companies (*New York Times Book Review*), from the award-winning reporter for Bloomberg. Boeing is a century-old titan of industry. It played a major role in the early days of commercial flight, World War II bombing missions, and moon landings. The plane-maker remains a cornerstone of the US economy, as well as a linchpin in the awesome routine of modern air travel. But in 2018 and 2019, two crashes of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 killed 346 people. The crashes exposed a shocking pattern of malfeasance, leading to the biggest crisis in the company's history – and one of the costliest corporate scandals ever. How did

things go so horribly wrong at Boeing? *Flying Blind* is the definitive exposé of the disasters that transfixed the world. Drawing from exclusive interviews with current and former employees of Boeing and the FAA; industry executives and analysts; and family members of the victims, it reveals how a broken corporate culture paved the way for catastrophe. It shows how in the race to beat the competition and reward top executives, Boeing skimped on testing, pressured employees to meet unrealistic deadlines, and convinced regulators to put planes into service without properly equipping them or their pilots for flight. It examines how the company, once a treasured American innovator, became obsessed with the bottom line, putting shareholders over customers, employees, and communities. By Bloomberg investigative journalist Peter Robison, who covered Boeing as a beat reporter, during the company's fateful merger with McDonnell Douglas in the late '90s, this is the story of a business gone wildly off course. At once riveting and disturbing, it shows how an iconic company fell prey to a win-at-all-costs mentality, threatening an industry and endangering countless lives.

Air safety PBK \$24.99

The Milky Way Smells of Rum and Raspberries...

and Other Amazing Cosmic Facts!

Scudder, Jillian

An offbeat guided tour of the Universe, focusing on weird and wonderful facts. Astrophysicist Dr Jillian Scudder knows more than most of us what a surreal place the Universe can be. In this light-hearted book she delves into some of the more arcane facts that her work has revealed, and tells us how we have actually managed to discover these amazing truths. Did you know: the galaxy is flatter than a credit card; supermassive black holes can sing a super-low B flat; it rains iron on a brown dwarf, and diamonds on Neptune; you could grow turnips on Mars if its soil weren't full of rocket fuel; the Universe is beige, on average; Jupiter's magnetic field will short circuit your spacecraft – and, of course, the Milky Way smells of rum and raspberries.

Science HC \$22.99

The Wolf Age:

the Vikings, the Anglo-Saxons and
the Battle for the North Sea Empire

Skeie, Tore

In the 11th century, the rulers of the lands surrounding the North Sea are all hungry for power. To get power they need soldiers, to get soldiers they need silver, and to get silver there is no better way than war and plunder. This vicious cycle draws all the lands of the north into a brutal struggle for supremacy and survival that will shatter kingdoms and forge an empire. *The Wolf Age* takes the reader on a thrilling journey through the bloody shared history of England and Scandinavia, and on across early medieval Europe, from the wild Norwegian fjords to the wealthy cities of Muslim Andalusia. Warfare, plotting, backstabbing and bribery abound as Tore Skeie weaves sagas and skaldic poetry with breathless dramatisation to bring the world of the Vikings and Anglo-Saxons to vivid life.

History PBK \$24.99

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction February 2023 (continued)

Drunk:

How We Sipped, Danced, and Stumbled Our Way to Civilisation

Slingerland, Edward

While plenty of entertaining books have been written about the history of alcohol and other intoxicants, none have offered a comprehensive, convincing answer to the basic question of why humans want to get high in the first place. *Drunk* elegantly cuts through the tangle of urban legends and anecdotal impressions that surround our notions of intoxication to provide the first rigorous, scientifically-grounded explanation for our love of alcohol. Drawing on evidence from archaeology, history, cognitive neuroscience, psychopharmacology, social psychology, literature, and genetics, *Drunk* shows that our taste for chemical intoxicants is not an evolutionary mistake, as we are so often told. In fact, intoxication helps solve a number of distinctively human challenges: enhancing creativity, alleviating stress, building trust, and pulling off the miracle of getting fiercely-tribal primates to cooperate with strangers. Our desire to get drunk, along with the individual and social benefits provided by drunkenness, played a crucial role in sparking the rise of the first large-scale societies. We would not have civilisation without intoxication. From marauding Vikings and bacchanalian orgies to sex-starved fruit flies, blind cave fish, and problem-solving crows, *Drunk* is packed with fascinating case studies and engaging science, as well as practical takeaways for individuals and communities. The result is a captivating and long overdue investigation into humanity's oldest indulgence – one that explains not only why we want to get drunk, but also how it might actually be good for us to tie one on, now and then.

History TP \$29.99

How the World Really Works:

a Scientist's Guide to Our Past, Present, and Future

Smil, Vaclav

Delightfully contrarian, this is the one book you need to read to understand our modern world. We have never had so much information at our fingertips and, yet, most of us don't know how the world really works. This book explains seven of the most fundamental realities governing our survival and prosperity. From energy and food production, through our material world and its globalisation, to risks, our environment and its future, *How the World Really Works* offers a much-needed reality check – because before we can tackle problems effectively, we must understand the facts. In this ambitious and thought-provoking book we see, for example, that globalisation isn't inevitable and that

our societies have been steadily *increasing* their dependence on fossil fuels, making their complete and rapid elimination unlikely. Vaclav Smil is neither a pessimist nor an optimist, he is a scientist; he is the world-leading expert on energy and an astonishing polymath. This is his *magnum opus* and is a continuation of his quest to make facts matter. Drawing on the latest science, including his own fascinating research, and tackling sources of misinformation head on – from Yuval Noah Harari to Noam Chomsky – ultimately, Smil answers the most profound question of our age: are we irrevocably doomed or is a brighter utopia ahead?

Science PBK \$24.99

The Private Life of Spies

collection

Smith, Alexander McCall

From Alexander McCall Smith, one of the world's most beloved and bestselling authors, comes a marvellous collection of stories about intrigue and espionage, told in his inimitable style. During WW2 there was a rumour that German spies were landing by parachute in Britain, dressed as nuns... *Conradin Muller was an unusual spy. He was recruited in Hamburg in June 1943, much against his will, and sent on his first, and only, mission in late September that year. He failed to send a single report back to Germany, and when the War came to an end in May 1945, he fell to his knees and wept with relief.*

From a highly-reluctant German spy, who is drawn to an East Anglian nunnery as his only means of escape, to the strange tale of one of the Cambridge spy ring's adventures with a Russian dwarf, these are Alexander McCall Smith's intriguing and typically-inventive stories from the world of espionage.

History/Espionage TP \$34.99

Botany: The Virtual

Plant Museum

Soria, Carmen

Explore the treasures of botany and learn about the many amazing species of the world: from plants with medicinal properties, toxic ones, flowering beauties or ones thriving at the bottom of the sea. This is an anthology of illustrations from the 17th and 18th centuries, when scientific illustrations were a necessity to the development of science, prior to the invention of photography. The high-quality vintage images are accompanied by informative text from biologist Carmen Soria and has been created in partnership with the National Museum of Natural History in Madrid, Spain. Discover the botanical world from your armchair, and pull out your favourite posters to frame and display.

Science HC \$39.99

The Language of the Universe:

a Visual Exploration of Mathematics

Stuart, Colin

Designed to present mathematics in a new, approachable way, this book explores the history and application of math in the natural world. With incredible artwork from Ximo Abadía, the reader can visualise atoms, explore the geometric complexity of beehives, and wonder at the movement of the planets. With engaging, easy-to-understand text by acclaimed science writer Colin Stuart, the reader will truly be captivated and inspired.

Mathematics PBK \$19.99

The Big Bang of Numbers:

How to Build the Universe

Using Only Maths

Suri, Manil

Picture yourself at a starting point before anything exists – no matter, no cosmos, not even empty space. Your task is to create the universe, but all you have to work with is, quite literally, 'nothing'. How do you proceed? This is the thought experiment *The Big Bang of Numbers* invites you into, as an original and completely accessible way to appreciate mathematics. An experiment in which you'll build all the numbers out of nothing, then construct space using these numbers, and then, through a natural progression of mathematical creations, be able to design everything else your universe needs! Whether you're a novice at math or an expert, the journey will reveal to you secret lives of numbers you may never have imagined, unexpected geometries that might actually describe the space you physically live in, underlying patterns that tie together humble lifeforms and enormous galaxies. You'll experience the playful, game-like nature of the subject mathematicians adore, while also seeing how such abstract games manifest themselves in concrete examples from nature and real life. How math not only gives rise to such essential qualities as randomness and beauty, but also informs the Big Questions humans grapple with – the nature of knowledge, the origin of life. Above all, how mathematics, more than God or physics, is the life force of the universe, the exuberant, irrepressible power that guides every facet of existence. Distilled from almost four decades of teaching experience, and written in a lively, irreverent style that is consistently engaging and lucid, *The Big Bang of Numbers* will appeal to both math-savvy audiences and beginners – to anyone, in fact, who wants to learn more about math or who wants new ways to motivate math learning in others.

Science TP \$34.99

Figuring Out the Past:

a History of the World in

3,495 Vital Statistics

Turchin, Peter & Hoyer, Daniel

The numbers that tell the story of humanity... What was history's biggest empire? Or the tallest building of the ancient world? What was the average life expectancy in medieval Byzantium? The average wage in Old Kingdom Egypt? Where did scientific writing first emerge? What was the bloodiest ritual human sacrifice ever? We are used to thinking about history in terms of stories. Yet we understand our own world through data: vast arrays of statistics that reveal the workings of our societies. So, join the radical historians Peter Turchin and Dan Hoyer for a dive into the numbers that reveal the true shape of the past. Drawing on their own Seshat project, a staggeringly ambitious attempt to log each piece of demographic and econometric information that can be reliably estimated for every society that has ever existed, *Figuring Out the Past* does more than tell the story of the past: it shows you the large-scale patterns.

History PBK \$22.99

Cloud Land:

the dramatic story of Australia's

extraordinary rainforest people

and country

van Oosterzee, Penny

A sweeping account of Australia's wet tropical rainforest country, from deep time to the legendary time of Australia's first peoples; from the killing times and maniacal destruction of the forests by European settlers, to the present time of growing awareness of forests, as the life force of the planet. Wreathed in morning mist, the rainforest is a place where evolution and legend rule. Where the thunderbird once roamed, now kangaroos climb trees, which reach into the clouds to strip them of water. On their property on the Atherton Tablelands, Penny van Oosterzee and her husband are regenerating rainforest from paddocks, reconnecting fragments into a living corridor that will run to the Daintree and beyond. Penny weaves this personal experience into a sweeping account of Australia's rainforests, from their swampy birth millions of years ago to the present. Creation stories and science bleed together for rainforest people who remember through legend the volcanic creation of the Atherton Tablelands. They managed country for thousands of years, stitched into the patterns of the forest. Then came the European settlers and the killing times. The giant cedars were pillaged in a frenzy, and the richest rainforests in the world were cleared to make way for small unsustainable cattle farms for the settlers. After bitterly fought battles against logging, much of Australia's remaining wet tropical rainforest is now World Heritage listed, and is once again being managed by Traditional Owners. Will the unique capacity of these rainforests to counteract climate change be their salvation, or will they continue to be vulnerable to exploitation for short-term gain?

Natural history TP \$34.99