

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction Catalogue May 2023

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

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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

### How to Think Like a Philosopher

Essential Principles for Clearer Thinking  
**Baggini, Julian**

The key principles for a more humane and balanced approach to thinking, to politics and to life... *Pay attention*. As politics slides toward impulsivity, and outrage bests rationality, how can philosophy help us critically engage with real world problems? *Question everything*. Drawing on decades of work in philosophy including a huge range of interviews with contemporary philosophers, Julian Baggini sets out how philosophical thought can promote incisive thinking. Introducing everyday examples and contemporary political concerns – from climate change to implicit bias – *How to Think Like a Philosopher* is a revelatory exploration of the techniques, methods and principles that guide philosophy, and how they can be applied to our own lives. *Seek clarity, not certainty*. Covering canonical philosophers and focal movements, as well as introducing new voices in contemporary philosophy, this is both a short history of philosophy and an accessible, practical guide to good thinking. Through 12 key principles, Julian Baggini outlines a pathway to a more humane, balanced and rational approach to thinking, to politics, and to life.

Philosophy TP \$29.99

### Revealing Secrets

An Unofficial History of Australian Signals Intelligence and the Advent of Cyber  
**Birgin, Clare & Blaxland, John**

This unofficial account of Australian Signals intelligence reveals the organisation's efforts to reveal the secrets of others. What is Australian signals intelligence? Why do we have a national signals intelligence agency and why are our three armed services involved? What do they all do and why is it controversial? And how significant are our ties with the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, the formidable Five Eyes partnership? For a long time, much of the Australian Signals intelligence (or Sigint) story has been kept secret. *Revealing Secrets* unearths the fascinating story of the organisation that collects intelligence about foreign adversaries, and keeps our own national secrets safe, not forgetting the vital signals intelligence contribution of our three armed services. This book provides historical context, including how techniques used today for breaking codes draw on methods devised centuries earlier. It explains clearly what Sigint is, how it works and its connection with cyber. Security experts John Blaxland and Clare Birgin shine a light on the Australians whose efforts were for so long unknown and why they were so important to the country.

They discuss the essential, and largely unheralded, contribution of women from before the Second World War to today. By lifting the veil on this hidden, frequently misunderstood, but absolutely integral part of Australian statecraft, *Revealing Secrets* deepens our understanding of the past, the present and what may lie ahead.

Intelligence TP \$49.99

### Why Is This Lying Bastard Lying to Me?

25 Years of Searching for the Truth on Political TV  
**Burley, Rob**

*Why Is This Lying Bastard Lying to Me?* – a question famously asked by master TV inquisitor Jeremy Paxman – is a history of 30 years in British politics viewed through the prism of political television, from Thatcher's fall to the crash and burn of Liz Truss, via the Iraq War, austerity, Brexit, and Partygate. Rob Burley's deliciously irreverent insider's account of a career spent trying to get straight answers from politicians offers a unique insight into the British political class and their complicated relationship with the truth. Rob Burley has prepared, practised and helped prosecute political interviews with eight prime ministers over more than 25 years, working alongside the biggest names in television. This book is his love letter to the political interview and, with the help of exclusive conversations with TV giants from Jeremy Paxman and Andrew Neil to Andrew Marr and Emily Maitlis, will take you inside the process, like never before.

Politics HC \$39.99

### Vegemite

The true story of the man who invented an Australian icon  
**Callister, Jamie**  
Today, Vegemite is recognised around the world, but when the salty black paste was first produced in 1923, the public wasn't interested. In fact, it took another 15 years and a world war before we embraced it. *Vegemite* shares the fascinating tale of Cyril Callister, the man who invented what would become Australia's most beloved consumer product, along with the story of its rocky road to acceptance. Spanning the Gold Rush, the Depression and two world wars, it opens a window on the evolution of modern Australia. Published to coincide with Vegemite's 100th anniversary, this revised edition features a collection of photographs, a new introduction and an epilogue that shares the little-known story of how Vegemite returned to Australian hands in 2017. *Vegemite* is a great Australian story of overcoming the odds, and of how extraordinary things can happen to (almost) ordinary people.

History TP \$32.99

### The Universe

the book of the BBC TV series  
**Cohen, Andrew & Cox, Brian**  
Every night, above our heads, a drama of epic proportions is playing out. Diamond planets, zombie stars, black holes heavier than a billion Suns. The cast of characters is extraordinary, and each one has its own incredible story to tell. We once thought of our Earth as unique, but we have now discovered thousands of alien planets, and that's barely a fraction of the worlds that are out there. And there are more stars in the Universe than grains of sand on every planet in the Solar System. But amid all this vastness, the Milky Way Galaxy, our Sun and the Earth are home to the only known life in the Universe – at least for now. With a foreword from Professor Brian Cox, and access to all the latest stunning NASA photography, Andrew Cohen takes readers on a voyage of discovery, via the probes and telescopes exploring the outer reaches of our galaxy, revealing how it was formed and how it will inevitably be destroyed by the enigmatic black hole at its heart. And, beyond our galaxy, the expanding Universe, which holds clues to the biggest mystery of all – how did it all begin? We now know more about those first moments of existence than we ever thought possible, and hidden in this story of how it all began are the clues to the fate of the Universe itself and everything in it.

Science PBK \$24.99

### Monsters: a Fan's Dilemma

**Dederer, Claire**  
A spiky and insightful consideration of how we – the fan – should respond to good art made by bad people. A passionate, provocative and blisteringly smart interrogation of how we experience art in the age of *#MeToo*, and whether we can separate an artist's work from their biography. *What do we do with the art of monstrous men?* Can we love the work of Roman Polanski and Michael Jackson, Hemingway and Picasso? *Should we love it?* Does genius deserve special dispensation? Is history an excuse? What makes women artists monstrous? And what should we do with beauty, and with our unruly feelings about it? Claire Dederer explores these questions and our relationships with the artists whose behaviour disrupts our ability to apprehend the work on its own terms. She interrogates her own responses and her own behaviour, and she pushes the fan, and the reader, to do the same. Morally wise, deeply considered and sharply written, *Monsters* gets to the heart of one of our most pressing conversations.

Ethics/Art TP \$32.99

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## Nonfiction May 2023 (continued)

### **This Way to the Universe**

A Journey into Physics

**Dine, Michael**

Everything you need to know about physics, written in language anyone can follow by one of the greatest living physicists. *This Way to the Universe* is a celebration of the astounding, ongoing scientific investigations that have revealed the nature of reality at its smallest, at its largest, and at the scale of our daily lives. The enigmas Professor Michael Dine discusses are like landmarks on a fantastic journey to the edge of the universe. Dine is widely recognised as one of the greatest living physicists, having made profound contributions to our understanding of matter, time, the Big Bang and even what might have come before it. Asked where to find out about the Big Bang, Dark Matter and Energy, the Higgs Boson – the cutting edge of physics, now – Dine had no single book he could recommend. This is his accessible, authoritative and up-to-date answer. Written in language anyone can follow, if you are looking for one book to help you understand physics, this is it.

Science PBK \$24.99

### **The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures**

A True-Life Murder Mystery from the Birth of the Movies

**Fischer, Paul**

The thrilling true story of the mysterious disappearance of Louis Le Prince. In 1888, Louis Le Prince shot the world's first motion picture in Leeds, England. In 1890, weeks before the planned public unveiling of his camera and projector, Le Prince boarded a train in France – and disappeared without a trace. His body was never found. In 1891, Thomas Edison – inventor of the lightbulb and the phonograph – announced that he had developed a motion-picture camera. Le Prince's family, convinced that Edison had stolen Louis' work, proceeded to sue the most famous inventor in the world. *The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures* excavates one of the great unsolved mysteries of the Victorian age and offers a revelatory rewriting of the birth of modern pictures.

History PBK \$24.99

### **Liberalism and Its Discontents**

**Fukuyama, Francis**

An acclaimed defence of liberalism by the renowned political philosopher. Liberalism – the comparatively mild-mannered sibling to the more ardent camps of nationalism and socialism – has never been so divisive as today. From Putin's populism, the Trump administration and autocratic rulers in democracies the world over, it has both thrived and failed under identity politics, authoritarianism, social media and a weakened free press the world over. Since its inception following the post-Reformation wars, liberalism has come under attack from conservatives and progressives alike, and today is dismissed by many as an 'obsolete doctrine'. In this brilliant and concise exposition, Francis Fukuyama sets out the cases for and against its classical premises: observing the rule of law, independence

of judges, means over ends, and most of all, tolerance. Pithy, to the point, and ever pertinent, this is political dissection at its very best.

Politics PBK \$22.99

### **The Plant Thieves**

Secrets of the Herbarium

**Gibson, Prudence**

*The Plant Thieves* reveals remarkable stories from the National Herbarium of New South Wales – its people, its archives and its most guarded specimens. Who gets to collect plants, name them, propagate them, extract their chemicals, sell them and use them? Whose knowledge is it? And what can the people that work with plants, just outside the law, teach us about plant care? In *The Plant Thieves*, Prudence Gibson explores the secrets of the National Herbarium of New South Wales and unearths remarkable stories of plant-naming wars, rediscovered lost species, First Nations agriculture, illegal drug labs and psychoactive plant knowledge. Gibson reveals the tale of the anti-inflammatory plant that saved a herbarium manager when she was collecting in the highlands of Papua New Guinea, stories about the secret Wollemi pine plantation (from one of its botanical guardians) and the truth about a beach daisy that has changed so much in 100 years that it needs to be completely reclassified. She also follows the story of the black bean Songline, a recent collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, to find the route of this important agriculture plant. *The Plant Thieves* is both a lament for lost and disappearing species and a celebration of being human, of wanting to collect things and of learning more about plant life and ourselves.

Science/History TP \$39.99

### **His Majesty's Airship**

The Life and Tragic Death of the World's Largest Flying Machine

**Gwynne, S C**

The tragic story of the British airship R101 – which went down in a spectacular hydrogen-fuelled fireball in 1930, killing more people than died in the Hindenburg disaster, seven years later – has been largely forgotten. In *His Majesty's Airship*, historian S C Gwynne resurrects it in vivid detail, telling the epic story of great ambition gone terribly wrong. Airships, those airborne leviathans that occupied centre stage in the world in the first half of the 20th century, were a symbol of the future. R101 was not just the largest aircraft ever to have flown and the product of the world's most advanced engineering – she was also the lynchpin of an imperial British scheme to link by air the far-flung areas of its empire from Australia to India, South Africa, Canada, Egypt, and Singapore. No one had ever conceived of anything like this. R101 captivated the world. There was just one problem: beyond the hype and technological wonders, these big, steel-framed, hydrogen-filled airships were a dangerously bad idea. Gwynne's chronicle features a cast of remarkable – and often tragically flawed – characters, including Lord Christopher Thomson, the man who

dreamed up the Imperial Airship Scheme and then relentlessly pushed R101 to her destruction; Princess Marthe Bibesco, the celebrated writer and glamorous socialite with whom he had a long affair; and Herbert Scott, a national hero who had made the first double crossing of the Atlantic in any aircraft in 1919 – eight years before Lindbergh's famous flight – but who devolved into drink and ruin. These historical figures – and the ship they built, flew, and crashed – come together in a grand tale that details the rocky road to commercial aviation written by one of the best popular historians writing today.

Aviation history HC \$65.95

### **Impossible Histories**

The Soviet Republic of Alaska, the United States of Hudsonia, President Charlemagne, and Other Pivotal Moments of History That Never Happened

**Johnson, Hal**

What does women's suffrage have to do with the telephone? How could elephants have brought 1000 years of peace to the Middle East? Which Roman emperor might have saved the life of Louis XVI? Could Sophocles' least popular play have rescued the 20th century? How might Freemasons control the Capitol? Across 1400 years and six continents (sorry, Australia), *Impossible Histories* examines pivotal moments in history from both sides – what happened and what would have happened had things gone differently. The results are by turns strange, hilarious, tragic... and always fascinating.

Historical counterfactuals HC \$36.99

### **Quantum Supremacy**

How quantum computers will unlock the mysteries of science – and address humanity's biggest challenges

**Kaku, Michio**

The runaway success of the microchip processor may be nearing its end, with profound implications for our economy, society and way of life, even leaving Silicon Valley as a new Rust Belt, its technology obsolete. Step forward the quantum computer, which harnesses the power and complexity of the atomic realm, and may be useful in solving humanity's greatest challenges from climate change, to global starvation, to incurable diseases. Humanity's next great technological achievement already promises to be every bit as revolutionary as the transistor and microchip once were. Its unprecedented gains in computing power and unique ability to simulate the physical universe herald advances that could change every aspect of our lives. Corporations and whole nations are betting on quantum computing, hoping to exploit its power to design more efficient vehicles, create life-saving new drugs and streamline industries to revolutionise the economy. But this is only the beginning. Quantum computers could allow us to finally create nuclear fusion reactors that produce clean, renewable energy without radioactive waste or threats of meltdown. They could help us crack the biological processes that generate natural, cheap fertiliser and enable us to feed the world's growing populations. And they could

unravel the fiendishly difficult protein folding that lies at the heart of previously incurable diseases such as Alzheimer's, motor neuron disease and Parkinson's, helping us to live longer, healthier lives. Told with Kaku's signature clarity and enthusiasm, *Quantum Supremacy* is the story of this exciting frontier and the race to claim humanity's future.

Science TP \$35.00

### **Here Be Monsters**

Technoscience, Capitalism and Human Nature

**King, Richard**

Technology is developing fast – so fast that it threatens to overwhelm the very species whose genius lies in its technological cunning: *us*. From the metaverse to genetic engineering and mood-altering pharmaceuticals, to cybersex and cyberwar and the widespread automation of work, new technologies are rewriting the terms of our existence, not in a neutral spirit of 'progress' but in line with the priorities of power and profit, and in ways that often work against the grain of our fundamental being. In this timely, provocative book, Richard King argues that we need to evolve a more critical attitude to new technologies if we are to avoid a world in which humans are no different in kind from algorithmic machines. The stakes could not be higher. As science, technology and capitalism fuse into a single system, and activists and entrepreneurs talk of a 'post-human' future in which individuals will transform themselves using powerful computers and biotechnologies, we are entering uncharted territory – a territory marked with the mapmaker's warning, Here Be Dragons... *Here Be Monsters*.

Impact of Technology TP \$32.99

### **The Nineties: a book**

**Klosterman, Chuck**

From the bestselling author of *But What if We're Wrong*, a wise and funny reckoning with the decade that gave us slacker/grunge irony about the sin of trying too hard, during the greatest shift in human consciousness of any decade in American history. It was long ago, but not as long as it seems: The Berlin Wall fell, and the Twin Towers collapsed. In between, one presidential election was allegedly decided by Ross Perot, while another was plausibly decided by Ralph Nader. In the beginning, almost every name and address was listed in a phone book, and everyone answered their landlines because you didn't know who it was. By the end, exposing someone's address was an act of emotional violence, and nobody picked up their new cell phone if they didn't know who it was. The '90s brought about a revolution in the human condition we're still groping to understand. Happily, Chuck Klosterman is more than up to the job. Beyond epiphenomena like 'Cop Killer' and *Titanic* and Zima, there were wholesale shifts in how society was perceived: the rise of the internet, pre-9/11 politics, and the paradoxical belief that nothing was more humiliating than trying too hard. Pop culture accelerated without the aid of a machine that remembered everything, generating an odd comfort in never being certain about anything. On a Thursday

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night in the '90s, more people watched any random episode of *Seinfeld*, than the finale of *Game of Thrones*. But nobody thought that was important; if you missed it, you simply missed it. It was the last era that held to the idea of a true, hegemonic mainstream before it all began to fracture, whether you found a home in it or defined yourself against it. In *The Nineties*, Chuck Klosterman makes a home in *all of it*: the film, the music, the sports, the TV, the politics, the changes regarding race, class, and sexuality, the yin/yang of Oprah and Alan Greenspan. In, perhaps, no other book ever written would a sentence like, 'The video for "Smells Like Teen Spirit" was not more consequential than the reunification of Germany' make complete sense. Chuck Klosterman has written a multi-dimensional masterpiece, a work of synthesis so smart and delightful that future historians might well refer to this entire period as *Klostermanian*.

History TP \$29.99

### **Australia's Dogs** **Kovacik, Katherine**

Australians love dogs – big dogs, little dogs, fluffy couch potatoes and hardy working dogs. In fact, we have one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. *Australia's Dogs* is a celebration of the dog in Australian life, exploring the human-canine bond, and reflecting on the crucial role played by dogs in our life and work. Embark on an outback adventure with Francis Birtles and his various faithful canine companions. Discover the incredible endurance of Mawson's huskies in frozen Antarctica. Learn more about Australia's home-grown dog breeds that played a central role in the development of pastoral industries, as well as the iconic dingo and its place in Indigenous life, as well as the Australian ecosystem, today. *Australia's Dogs* is generously illustrated with images drawn from the rich collections of the National Library of Australia. Some simply capture a photographer's love for their own dog, while others tell epic tales of survival in harsh conditions, comment on an element of social history or record a significant moment. As the incredible variety of images shows, the story of dogs in Australia is a subject that is historically significant, with a broad and enduring appeal.

Dogs HC \$39.99

### **Elixir**

A Story of Perfume, Science, and the Search for the Secret of Life

#### **Levitt, Theresa**

Outcast by the scientific establishment, two friends in a Paris perfume shop make a discovery that will transform our understanding of the world and the origins of life on Earth forever. Set amidst the unforgettable sights and smells of 18th and 19th century Paris, *Elixir* tells the story of Edouard Laugier and Auguste Laurent, the son of a perfumer and a fellow aspiring chemist, who met on the Left Bank while pursuing their passion for science. Spurned by the scientific establishment of the time, the

pair ended up working out of Edouard's family perfume shop, *Laugier pere et fils*. By day they prepared the revitalising elixirs and rejuvenating *eaux* it was famous for, but by night using the ingredients and techniques of the perfumery and the principles of alchemy, they pursued the secret of life itself. Beautifully written, *Elixir* reads like a novel, brimming with eccentric characters, experimental daring, and the romance of the Bohemian salon. It is also the story of a long-standing scientific puzzle, and the struggle to gain acceptance and recognition for a new way of thinking about the building blocks of living matter which went on long after those who discovered it were both dead. Yet, it is also a story of hope and determination. For, while the scientific establishment ignored, and even ridiculed their work at the time, teenaged lab assistant Louis Pasteur took it seriously and, over the course of an exceptionally successful career, was able to show that not only were they correct, but that their work pointed to a deep, inexplicable asymmetry in the molecular arrangement of living things. This unexplained asymmetry remains one of science's great mysteries and an important avenue for examining the origins of life on Earth.

History/Science PBK \$24.99

### **Along Came Google**

A History of Library Digitisation

#### **Marcum, Deanna & Schonfeld, Roger G**

An incisive history of the controversial Google Books project and the ongoing quest for a universal digital library. Libraries have long talked about providing comprehensive access to information for everyone. But when Google announced in 2004 that it planned to digitise books to make the world's knowledge accessible to all, questions were raised about the roles and responsibilities of libraries, the rights of authors and publishers, and whether a powerful corporation should be the conveyor of such a fundamental public good. *Along Came Google* traces the history of Google's book digitisation project and its implications for us today. Deanna Marcum and Roger Schonfeld draw on in-depth interviews with those who both embraced and resisted Google's plans, from librarians and technologists to university leaders, tech executives, and the heads of leading publishing houses. They look at earlier digital initiatives to provide open access to knowledge, and describe how Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page made the case for a universal digital library and drew on their company's considerable financial resources to make it a reality. Marcum and Schonfeld examine how librarians and scholars organised a legal response to Google, and reveal the missed opportunities when a settlement with the tech giant failed. *Along Came Google* sheds light on the transformational effects of the Google Books project on scholarship and discusses how we can continue to think imaginatively and collaboratively about expanding the digital availability of knowledge.

Publishing TP \$39.99

### **How Did We Get into This Mess?**

Politics, Equality, Nature

#### **Monbiot, George**

Where have we gone wrong, and what can we do about it? George Monbiot is one of the most vocal, and eloquent, critics of the current consensus. *How Did We Get into this Mess?* – based on Monbiot's powerful journalism – assesses the state we are now in: the devastation of the natural world, the crisis of inequality, the corporate takeover of nature, our obsessions with growth and profit and the decline of the political debate over what to do. While his diagnosis of the problems in front of us is clear sighted and reasonable, he also develops solutions to challenge the politics of fear. How do we stand up to the powerful when they seem to have all the weapons? What can we do to prepare our children for an uncertain future? Controversial, clear but always rigorously argued, *How Did We Get into this Mess?* makes a persuasive case for change in our everyday lives, our politics and economics, the ways we treat each other and the natural world.

Essays PBK \$19.99

### **The Labyrinth of Curiosities** **Moss-Rider, Fay**

Journey through hundreds of wild facts and fascinating trivia – and their surprising connections! What do sign language puns have to do with Shakespearean cats? And how do secret languages involve infamous twins? Enter the Labyrinth of Curiosities and begin a voyage of discovery through a maze of peculiar trivia where each factoid and tidbit leads unexpectedly to the next. Start at the beginning or open anywhere in the book, pick a fact that catches your eye, and see where it leads you! You'll never know what peculiar trivia is waiting on the next page!

Trivia HC \$36.99

### **Undelivered**

The Never-Held Speeches that Would Have Rewritten History

#### **Nussbaum, Jeff**

A fascinating insight into notable political speeches that were never delivered, showing what could have been if history had gone down a different path. For almost every delivered speech, there exists an undelivered opposite. These 'second speeches' provide alternative histories of what could have been if not for schedule changes, changes of heart, or momentous turns of events. In *Undelivered*, political speechwriter Jeff Nussbaum presents the most notable speeches the public never heard, from Dwight Eisenhower's apology for a D-Day failure to Richard Nixon's refusal to resign the presidency, and even Hillary Clinton's acceptance for a 2016 victory – the latter never seen, until now. Examining the content of these speeches and the context of the historic moments that almost came to be, Nussbaum considers not only what they tell us about the past but also what they can inform us about our present.

History TP \$44.95

### **Conspiracy**

A History of Bull\*cks Theories, and How Not to Fall for Them

#### **Phillips, Tom & Elledge, Jonn**

Tom Phillips (*Humans; Truth* (PBK, \$22.99 each)) and Jonn Elledge (*The Compendium of Not Quite Everything* (HC, \$34.99)) team up to debunk the greatest conspiracy theories humans have ever espoused – to teach us how not to fall for them. From the Satanic Panic to the anti-vaxx movement, it's always been human nature to believe we're being lied to by the powers that be (and, sometimes, to be fair, we absolutely are). But while it can be fun to indulge in a bit of Deep State banter on the family Whatsapp group, recent times have shown us that some of these theories have taken on a life of their own – and in our dogged quest for the truth, it appears we might actually be doing it some damage. In *Conspiracy*, Tom Phillips and Jonn Elledge take us on a fascinating, insightful and often hilarious journey through conspiracy theories old and new, to try and answer an important question: how can we learn to log off the QAnon message boards, and start trusting hard evidence again?

Misinformation PBK \$24.99

### **The Red Hotel**

The Untold Story of Stalin's Disinformation War

#### **Philips, Alan**

In *The Red Hotel: The Untold Story of Stalin's Disinformation War*, former *Daily Telegraph* Foreign Editor and Russian expert Alan Philips sets out the way Stalin created his own reality by constraining and muzzling the British and American reporters covering the Eastern front during the war and forcing them to reproduce Kremlin propaganda. War correspondents were both bullied and pampered in a gilded cage of the Metropolitan Hotel. They enjoyed lavish supplies of caviar and had their choice of young women to employ as translators and to share their beds. While some of these translators turned journalists into robotic conveyors of Kremlin propaganda, others were brave secret dissenters who whispered to reporters the reality of Soviet life and were punished with sentences in the Gulag. Through the use of British archives and Russian sources, the story of the role of the women of the Metropolitan Hotel and the foreign reporters they worked with is told for the first time. With a riveting narrative very much in the same wheelhouse as Ben McIntyre's *Agent Sonya* this revelatory story will finally lift the lid on Stalin's operation to muzzle and control what the western allies' writers and foreign correspondents knew of his regime's policies to prosecute the war against Hitler's rampaging armies from June 1941 onwards.

History TP \$34.99

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## Nonfiction May 2023 (continued)

### Code Name Blue Wren

#### Popkin, Jim

The incredible true story of Ana Montes, the most damaging female spy in US history, drawing upon never-before-seen material and to be published upon her release from prison. Just days after the 9/11 attacks, a senior Pentagon analyst eased her red Toyota Echo into traffic and headed to work. She never saw the undercover cars tracking her every turn. As she settled into her cubicle on the 6th floor of the Defence Intelligence Agency in Washington, FBI Agents and twitchy DIA officers were hiding in nearby offices. For this was the day that Ana Montes – the US Intelligence Community superstar, who had just won a prestigious fellowship at the CIA – was to be arrested and publicly exposed as a secret agent for Cuba. Like spies Aldrich Ames and Robert Hanssen, before her, Ana Montes blindsided her colleagues with brazen acts of treason. For nearly 17 years, Montes succeeded in two high-stress jobs. By day, she was one of the government's top Cuba experts, a buttoned-down GS-14 with shockingly easy access to classified documents. By night, she was on the clock for Fidel Castro, listening to coded messages over shortwave radio, passing US secrets to handlers in local restaurants, and slipping into Havana wearing a wig. Montes didn't just deceive her country. Her betrayal was intensely personal. Her mercurial father was a former US Army Colonel. Her brother and sister-in-law were FBI Special Agents. And her only sister, Lucy, also worked her entire career for the Bureau. The highlight of her distinguished 31 years as a Miami-based language specialist: Helping the FBI flush Cuban spies out of the United States. Little did Lucy, or her family, know that the greatest Cuban spy, of all time, was sitting right next to them – at Thanksgivings, baptisms, and weddings. In *Code Name Blue Wren*, investigative journalist Jim Popkin weaves the tale of two sisters who chose two very different paths, plus the unsung heroes who had to fight to bring Ana to justice. With exclusive access to a 'Secret' CIA behavioural profile of Ana, family memoirs, and Ana's incriminating letters from prison, Popkin reveals the making of a traitor – a woman labelled 'one of the most damaging spies in US history' by America's top counter-intelligence official. After more than two decades in federal prison, Montes will be freed in January 2023. *Code Name Blue Wren* is a thrilling detective tale, an insider's look at the clandestine world of espionage, and an intimate exploration of the dark side of betrayal.

History TP \$34.99

### Size

How It Explains the World

#### Smil, Vaclav

A mind-expanding exploration size, the measure of all things, from the bestselling author. Explaining the key processes shaping size in nature, society and technology, Smil busts myths around proportions –

from bodies to paintings and the so-called golden ratio – tells us what Jonathan Swift got wrong in *Gulliver's Travels* – the giant Brobdingnagian's legs would buckle under their enormous weight – and dives headfirst into the most contentious issue in ergonomics: the size of aeroplane seats. It is no exaggeration to say this fascinating and wide-ranging *tour de force* will change the way you look at absolutely everything.

Science TP \$35.00

### Hands of Time

A Watchmaker's History of Time

#### Struthers, Rebecca

An intricate and personal history of watches and time from an extraordinary watchmaker and historian. Timepieces are one of humanity's most ingenious innovations. Their invention was more significant for human culture than the printing press, or even the wheel. They have travelled the world with us, from the depths of the oceans to the summit of Everest, and even to the Moon. They regulate our daily lives and have sculpted the social and economic development of society in surprising and dramatic ways. In *Hands of Time*, watchmaker and historian Rebecca Struthers welcomes us into the hidden world of watchmaking, offering a personal history of watches that spans centuries and continents. From her workshop bench, Rebecca explores the ways in which timekeeping has indelibly shaped our attitudes to work, leisure, trade, politics, exploration, and mortality, and introduces us to some extraordinary and treasured devices, each with their own story to tell. *Hands of Time* is an intricate and uniquely personal exploration of the history, science, philosophy, and craft of timekeeping.

History TP \$34.99

### General Relativity

The Theoretical Minimum

#### Susskind, Leonard

#### & Cabannes, André

Einstein's masterpiece: the general theory of relativity... He taught us classical mechanics, quantum mechanics and special relativity. Now, physicist Leonard Susskind, assisted by a new collaborator, André Cabannes, returns to tackle Einstein's general theory of relativity. Starting from the equivalence principle and covering the necessary mathematics of Riemannian spaces and tensor calculus, Susskind and Cabannes explain the link between gravity and geometry. They delve into black holes, establish Einstein field equations and solve them to describe gravity waves. The authors provide vivid explanations that, to borrow a phrase from Einstein, himself, are as simple as possible (but no simpler). An approachable yet rigorous introduction to one of the most important topics in physics, *General Relativity* is a must-read for anyone who wants a deeper knowledge of the universe's real structure.

Science HC \$55.00

### Worn

A People's History of Clothing

#### Thanhauser, Sofi

A finely-spun history of clothes and where they come from. Linen, Cotton, Silk, Synthetics, Wool: through the stories of these five fabrics, Sofi Thanhauser illuminates the world we inhabit in a startling new way, travelling from China to Cumbria to reveal the craft, labour, and industry that create the clothes we wear. From the women who transformed stalks of flax into linen to clothe their families in 19th century New England to those who earn their dowries in the cotton-spinning factories of South India today, this book traces the origins of garment making through time and around the world. Exploring the social, economic and environmental impact of our most personal possessions, *Worn* looks beyond care labels to show how clothes reveal the truth about what we really care about.

History PBK \$24.99

### When the Heavens

Went on Sale

The Misfits and Geniuses

Racing to Put Space Within Reach

#### Vance, Ashlee

A momentous look at the private companies driving the revolutionary new space race. In 2008, Elon Musk's SpaceX became the first private company to build a low-cost rocket that could reach orbit. Suddenly, Silicon Valley, not NASA, was the epicentre of the new Space Age. Start-ups and investors began to realise that the heavens – ungoverned and unregulated – were open for business. *When the Heavens Went on Sale* tells the remarkable, unfolding story of this frenzied race to control access to outer space. Ashlee Vance follows four pioneering companies – Astra, Firefly, Planet Labs, and Rocket Lab – as they attempt to launch thousands of low-cost rockets and satellites into orbit. While the space tourism ambitions of billionaires such as Bezos and Branson make headlines, these under-the-radar companies are striving to monetise Earth's lower orbit; to connect, analyse and monitor everything on Earth. With unprecedented access to private company headquarters, labs and top-secret launch locations – from the US to New Zealand, Ukraine to India – Vance presents a gripping account of private jets, communes, gun-toting bodyguards, drugs, espionage investigations and multimillionaires guzzling booze as their fortunes disappear. This is the most pressing and controversial technology story of our time, a tale of fascinating characters chasing unimaginable stakes. Welcome to the new Wild West, above the clouds.

Space TP \$35.00

### The Battle of the Beams

The secret science of radar that turned the tide of WW2

#### Whipple, Tom

Winning the war of the air and airwaves turned the tide of World War II. This is the story of the brilliant, maverick engineer Reginald Jones who made that possible. *Summer, 1939*. War is coming. The British believe that, through ingenuity and scientific prowess, they alone have a war-winning weapon: radar. They are wrong. The Germans have it too. They believe that their unique maritime history means their pilots have no need of navigational aids. Flying above the clouds they, like the seafarers of old, had the stars to guide them, and that is all that is required. They are wrong. Most of the bombs the RAF will drop in the first years of the war land miles from their target. They also believe that the Germans, without the same naval tradition, will never be able to find targets at night. They are, again, wrong. In 1939, the Germans don't just have radar to spot planes entering their airspace, they have radio beams to guide their own planes into enemy airspace. War is coming, and it is to be a different kind of war. It will be fought, as expected, on land and sea and in the air. It will also be fought on the airwaves. It will be fought between scientists on both sides at the forefront of knowledge, and the agents and commandos they relied on to bolster that knowledge. Luckily, there was one young engineer, Reginald Jones, helping the British government with their own scientific developments. In June 1940, when Jones quietly explained the beams the Germans had devised to a room full of disbelieving sceptics, Churchill later described the moment as like sitting in the parlour, while Sherlock Holmes finally reveals the killer. Churchill immediately supported Jones' efforts to develop radar technology that went on to help the Allies win the war. Relying on first-hand accounts from Reginald Jones, as well as papers recently released by the Admiralty, *The Battle of the Beams* fills a huge missing piece in the canon of WW2 literature. It is a tale that combines history, science, derring-do, and dogged determination and will appeal as much to fans of WW2 history as to those fascinated by the science behind the beams that changed our lives. The radio war of 1939–45 is one of the great scientific battles in history. This is the story of that war.

Science/History TP \$35.00

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction May 2023 (continued)

### **The Greatest Raid**

St Nazaire, 1942 – the Heroic Story of Operation Chariot

#### **Whittell, Giles**

For the 80th anniversary, the first popular account of the most daring British raid of WW2. In the darkest months of the WW2, Churchill approved what seemed, to many, like a suicide mission. Under orders to attack the St Nazaire U-boat base on the Atlantic seaboard, British commandos undertook 'the greatest raid of all', turning an old destroyer into a live bomb and using it to ram the gates of a Nazi stronghold. Five Victoria Crosses were awarded – more than in any similar operation. Drawing on official documents, interviews, unknown accounts, and the astonished reactions of French civilians and German forces, *Operation Chariot* recreates in cinematic detail the hours in which the 'Charioteers' fought and died, from Lt Gerard Brett, the

curator at the V&A, to 'Bertie' Burtinshaw, who went into battle humming 'There'll Always be an England', and from Lt Stuart Chant, who set the fuses with 90 seconds to escape, to the epic solo reconnaissance of the legendary *Times* journalist Capt Micky Burn. Unearthing the untold human stories of Operation Chariot, Giles Whittell reveals it to be a fundamentally misconceived raid whose impact and legacy was secured by astonishing bravery.

Military history PBK \$24.99

### **Knowing What We Know**

The Transmission of Knowledge from Ancient Wisdom to Modern Magic

#### **Winchester, Simon**

From the creation of the first encyclopaedia to Wikipedia, from ancient museums to modern kindergarten classes – here is award-winning writer Simon Winchester's brilliant and all-encompassing look at how humans acquire,

retain, and pass on information and data, and how technology continues to change our lives and our minds. With the advent of the internet, any topic we want to know about is instantly available with the touch of a smartphone button. With so much knowledge at our fingertips, what is there left for our brains to do? At a time when we seem to be stripping all value from the idea of knowing things – no need for math, no need for map reading, no need for memorisation – are we risking our ability to think? As we empty our minds, will we one day be incapable of thoughtfulness? Addressing these questions, Simon Winchester explores how humans have attained, stored, and disseminated knowledge. Examining such disciplines as education, journalism, encyclopaedia creation, museum curation, photography, and broadcasting, he looks at a whole range of knowledge diffusion – from the cuneiform writings

of Babylon to the machine-made genius of artificial intelligence, by way of Gutenberg, Google, and Wikipedia to the huge Victorian assemblage of the Mundaneum, the collection of everything ever known, currently stored in a damp basement in northern Belgium. Studded with strange and fascinating details, *Knowing What We Know* is a deep dive into learning and the human mind. Throughout this fascinating tour, Winchester forces us to ponder what rational humans are becoming. What good is all this knowledge if it leads to lack of thought? What is information without wisdom? Does René Descartes' '*Cogito, ergo sum*' – 'I think, therefore I am', the foundation for human knowledge, widely accepted since the Enlightenment – still hold? And what will the world be like, if no one in it is wise?

History TP \$34.99