

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction Catalogue July 2023

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Osprey military history

Assault on the Gothic Line 1944

the Allied Attempted Breakthrough into Northern Italy, Campaign 387

Battistelli, Pier Paolo & Bujeiro, Ramiro (illustrator)

Enjoy a detailed examination of Operation *Olive* as US, British, Commonwealth and Allied forces seek to smash through the last German defensive line in Italy. The Italian theatre of operations post-summer 1944 was often (and incorrectly) surmised at the time as a quiet sector of World War II, populated with troops who were relieved not to find themselves fighting in North-West Europe. Yet, the true nature of the hard fighting that took place here was soon revealed when the Allies began their assault on the Axis Gothic Line defences, known as Operation *Olive*. In this book, Italian military historian Pier Paolo Battistelli documents the dual Allied offensive spearheaded by American and British units to smash through what was supposed to be the final Axis defensive line in Italy before the Alps. The overall strategic aims of both the Axis and Allied leaders are explored, together with the organisation of the forces committed. The expertly-researched maps and 3D diagrams guide the reader through the progress of the phased battles in challenging terrain. Photographs and specially commissioned artworks show the soldiers that fought on both sides, including American, Canadian, Indian, Brazilian, Polish, New Zealander, British, German, and Italian troops, as well as the materiel they employed. The result is an essential illustrated guide to a fascinating and complex late-war campaign.

Military history PBK \$32.99

Dark Waters, Starry Skies

the Guadalcanal-Solomons Campaign, March–October 1943

Cox, Jeffrey

Esteemed Pacific War historian Jeffrey Cox has produced a fast-paced and absorbing read of the crucial New Georgia phase of the Guadalcanal-Solomons Campaign during the Pacific War. Thousands of miles from friendly ports, the US Navy had finally managed to complete the capture of Guadalcanal from the Japanese in early 1943. Now, the Allies sought to keep the offensive momentum won at such a high cost. This is the central plotline running through this page-turning history beginning with the Japanese Operation *I-Go* and the American ambush of Admiral Yamamoto and continuing on to the Allied invasion of New Georgia, northwest of Guadalcanal in the middle of

the Solomon Islands and the location of a major Japanese base. Determined not to repeat their mistakes at Guadalcanal, the Allies nonetheless faltered in their continuing efforts to roll back the Japanese land, air, and naval forces. Using first-hand accounts from both sides, this book vividly recreates all the terror and drama of the night-time naval battles during this phase of the Solomons campaign and the ferocious firestorm many Marines faced as they disembarked from their landing craft. The reader is transported to the bridge to stand alongside Admiral Walden Ainsworth as he sails to stop another Japanese reinforcement convoy for New Georgia, and vividly feels the fear of an 18-year-old Marine as he fights for survival against a weakened but still determined enemy. *Dark Waters, Starry Skies* is an engrossing history which weaves together strategy and tactics with a blow-by-blow account of every battle at a vital point in the Pacific War that has not been analysed in this level of detail before.

Naval history HC \$60.00

Naval Battle of Crete 1941

the Royal Navy at Breaking Point, Campaign 388

Konstam, Angus

& Tooby, Adam (illustrator)

A fascinating account of an often-overlooked naval action of World War II, and one of the bloodiest chapters in the history of the Royal Navy. In April 1941, following the Axis invasion of Greece, the British Mediterranean Fleet was ordered to evacuate Allied survivors, many of which were taken to Crete. The Luftwaffe established itself in airfields on the Greek mainland, and formed plans to invade Crete by air and sea, under the cover of 500 fighters and bombers of the Luftwaffe's *Fliegerkorps VIII*. Facing them were a small and scattered garrison on the island, a handful of under-strength RAF squadrons and the hard-pressed warships of the Mediterranean Fleet. What happened next was a costly, but ultimately inspiring, naval battle, in which Royal Navy crews were placed under intense strain. Using period photographs, stunning battle-scene artworks, detailed maps and an authoritative narrative, world-leading maritime historian Angus Konstam tells the fascinating story of how Allied ships failed to repulse the Axis invasion convoys bound for Crete, before successfully evacuating troops from the island, all the while under relentless Luftwaffe attack. Offering a fresh insight into this strategically important battle, this work shows how it marked a turning point in the naval war for the Mediterranean, and also witnessed the first use of new elements

in naval warfare: the mass use of aircraft to contest control of the sea, and the use of Ultra intelligence to forestall the Axis invasion of Crete. Despite a heavy butcher's bill of dozens of Royal Navy ships lost and damaged, and hundreds of Luftwaffe aircraft destroyed, the Royal Navy Mediterranean Fleet would live to fight another day.

Naval history PBK \$32.99

South China Sea 1945

Task Force 38's bold carrier rampage in Formosa, Luzon, and Indochina, Air Campaign 36

Lardas, Mark & Rodríguez, Irene Gano (illustrator)

A history of the US Navy's remarkable 1945 South China Sea raid against the Japanese, the first time in history that a carrier fleet dared to rampage through coastal waters. As 1945 opened, Japan was fighting defensively everywhere. As the Allies drew closer to the Home Islands, risks of Japanese air and sea attack on the US Navy carrier force increased. US forces wanted to take the island of Luzon which provided a base for Japanese aircraft from Formosa (Taiwan) and Indochina, and from where attacks could easily be devastating for the invasion fleet. US Naval Intelligence also believed Japanese battleships *Ise* and *Hyuga* were operating out of Cam Ranh Bay. A fast carrier sweep through the South China Sea was a potential answer with the bonus that it would strike the main nautical highway for cargo from Japan's conquests in Southeast Asia. Task Force 38 would spend the better part of two weeks marauding through the South China Sea during Operation *Gratitude*, a month-long sweep of the area, which launched air strikes into harbors in Indochina, the Chinese coast and Formosa, while targeting shipping in the high-traffic nautical highway. By the time the Task Force exited the South China Sea, over 300,000 tons of enemy shipping and dozens of Japanese warships had been sunk. With follow-up air strikes against Japanese harbors and airfields in Formosa and the Ryukyu Islands, the success of the sweep was unprecedented. Using detailed battle scenes, maps, bird's eye views, and diagrams of air strikes at Luzon, this intriguing account of Task Force 38's reign in the South China Sea proved that aircraft carriers could dominate the land-based air power of the fading Japanese. From the Korean War through to Vietnam, to the campaigns in Iraq, aircraft carriers could sail safely offshore, knowing their aircraft would prevail on both sea and land.

Naval history PBK \$32.99

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

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

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General nonfiction

Dominoes

A 28-tile set – complete game set for hours of fun! Also includes: instruction book, game wheel, and velvet bag. Enjoy hours of fun... Dominoes is one of the world's oldest and most versatile games. This dominoes kit is the perfect way to become familiar with this age-old, yet ever-evolving game. Inside you will find: double-six, 28-tile set of dominoes; a 16-page instruction book, with a brief history of dominoes, as well as instructions on how to play 'Chicken Foot', one of the most fun and popular dominoes games; a game wheel to assist in setting up the tiles; and a velvet pouch to store the tiles in, when you are finished playing. Create a new game-night tradition with dominoes!

Dominoes GAME \$45.00

What an Owl Knows

the new science of the world's most enigmatic birds

Ackerman, Jennifer

From the bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way*, a brilliant scientific exploration of owls, the most elusive group of birds, and an investigation into why these remarkable and yet mysterious animals exert such a hold on human imagination. For centuries, owls have captivated and intrigued us. Our fascination with these mysterious birds was first documented over 30,000 years ago, in the Chauvet cave paintings in southern France, and our enduring awareness and curiosity of their forward gaze and nearly silent flight has cemented the owl as a symbol of wisdom and knowledge, foresight and intuition. But what, really, does an owl know? Though our infatuation goes back centuries, scientists have only recently begun to study these birds in great detail. While more than 270 species exist today, and reside on every continent except Antarctica, owls are far more difficult to find and study than other birds – because while not only cryptic and perfectly camouflaged, owls are most active in the dark of night. Joining scientists on this maddening and elusive treasure hunt, Jennifer Ackerman brings alive the rich biological history of these animals and reveals the remarkable scientific discoveries into their brains and behaviour. She explores how, with modern technology and tools, researchers now know that owls talk, all night long – without opening their bills. That their hoots follow a series of complex rules, allowing them to express needs and desires. That owls duet. They migrate. They use tools. They hoard their prey. Some live in underground burrows, some dine on scorpions. Ackerman brings this research alive with her own personal field observations about owls, and dives deep too into why this bird endlessly inspires and beguiles us. *What an Owl Knows* is an awe-inspiring and spellbinding journey across the globe and through human history, and a dazzling account of the astonishing health, hunting skills, communication, and sensory prowess that distinguishes the owl from nearly all other birds. An extraordinary glimpse into the mind of these brilliant animals, *What an Owl Knows* pulls back the curtain on the hidden and still undiscovered realities of our shared world.

Science TP \$35.00

The English Actor

From Medieval to Modern

Ackroyd, Peter

The English Actor charts the uniquely English approach to stagecraft. In 30 chapters, Peter Ackroyd describes, with superb narrative skill, the genesis of acting – deriving from the Church tradition of Mystery Plays – through the flourishing of the craft in the Renaissance to modern methods that followed the advent of film and television. The biographies of the most notable and celebrated actors are also explored, right up to the present day. In this book, Ackroyd gives us an original and superbly entertaining appraisal of how actors have acted – and how audiences have responded – since the medieval period, and what we mean by the 'magic of the stage'.

History HC \$39.99

The Bomb

the Weapon that Changed the World graphic novel

Alcante, Didier & Bollée, Laurent-Frédéric & Rodier, Denis (illustrator)

On August 6, 1945, at 8:15 in the morning, an explosive charge of more than 15 kilotons fell on the city of Hiroshima. Tens of thousands of people were pulverised, and everything within four square miles was instantly destroyed. A deluge of flames and ash had just caused Japan's greatest trauma and changed the course of modern warfare and life on Earth forever. The world was horrified by the existence of the bomb – the first weapon of mass destruction. But, how could such an appalling tool be invented? To answer this question, Alcante, Laurent-Frédéric Bollée, and Denis Rodier return to the origins of its main component, uranium, and shed light on the scientific discoveries around this element and its uses both civilian and military. Sifting through the history, from Katanga to Japan, through Germany, Norway, the USSR, and New Mexico, *The Bomb* is a succession of incredible but true stories. Alcante, Bollée, and Rodier have created an exhaustive and definitive work of nonfiction that details the stories of the unsung players, as well as the remarkable men and women who are at the crux of its history and the events that followed.

History HC \$45.00

Why Politics Fails

the Five Traps of the Modern World and How to Escape Them

Ansell, Ben

An award-winning Oxford professor explains why the revolving doors of power always leave us disappointed – and how to fix it. Why do the revolving doors of power always leave us disappointed? In *Why Politics Fails*, award-winning Oxford professor Ben Ansell shows that it's not the politicians that are the problem, it's that our collective goals result in five political 'traps'. Democracy: we all want a say in how we're governed, but it's impossible to have any true 'will of the people'.

Equality: we want to be treated equally, but equal rights and equal outcomes undermine each other.

Solidarity: we want a safety net when times are tough, but often we care about solidarity only when we need it ourselves.

Security: we want protecting from harm, but not if it undermines our freedoms.

Prosperity: we want to be richer tomorrow, but what makes us richer in the short run makes us poorer over the long haul.

You've probably noticed a pattern here, which is that our self-interest undermines our ability to deliver on our collective goals. And these traps reinforce one another, so a polarised democracy can worsen inequality; a threadbare social safety net can worsen crime; runaway climate change will threaten global peace. Drawing on examples from Ancient Greece through Brexit and using his own counterintuitive and path-breaking research – on why democracy thrives under high inequality, and how increased political and social equality can lead to greater class inequality – Ansell vividly illustrates how we can escape the political traps of our imperfect world. He shows that politics won't end, but that it doesn't have to fail.

Politics TP \$35.00

Life on the Rocks

Building a Future for Coral Reefs

Berwald, Juli

The story of the urgent fight to save coral reefs, and why it matters to us, all. Coral reefs are a microcosm of our planet: extraordinarily diverse, deeply interconnected, and full of wonders. When they're thriving, these fairy gardens hidden beneath the ocean's surface burst with colour and life. They sustain bountiful ecosystems and protect vulnerable coasts. Corals themselves are evolutionary marvels that build elaborate limestone formations from their collective skeletons, broker symbiotic relationships with algae, and manufacture their own fluorescent sunblock. But corals across the planet are in the middle of an unprecedented die-off, beset by warming oceans, pollution, damage by humans, and a devastating pandemic. Juli Berwald fell in love with coral reefs as a marine biology student, entranced by their beauty and complexity. Alarmed by their peril, she travelled the world to discover how to prevent their loss. She met scientists and activists operating in emergency mode, doing everything they can think of to prevent coral reefs from disappearing forever. She was so amazed by the ingenuity of these last-ditch efforts that she joined in rescue missions, unexpected partnerships, and risky experiments, and helped rebuild reefs with rebar and zip ties. *Life on the Rocks* is an inspiring, lucid, meditative ode to the reefs and the undaunted scientists working to save them against almost impossible odds. As she also attempts to help her daughter in her struggle with mental illness, Berwald explores what it means to keep fighting a battle whose outcome is uncertain. She contemplates the inevitable grief of climate change and the beauty of small victories.

Science TP \$27.99

American Prometheus

the Triumph and Tragedy

of J Robert Oppenheimer

Bird, Kai & Sherwin, Martin J

The definitive biography of J Robert Oppenheimer, one of the iconic figures of the 20th century, a brilliant physicist who led the effort to build the atomic bomb

for his country in a time of war, and who later found himself confronting the moral consequences of scientific progress. In this magisterial, acclaimed biography 25 years in the making, Kai Bird and Martin Sherwin capture Oppenheimer's life and times, from his early career to his central role in the Cold War. This is biography and history at its finest, riveting and deeply informative. Winner of Pulitzer Prize and the inspiration for the upcoming major motion picture *Oppenheimer*.

Biography PBK \$24.99

Ways of Being:

Animals, Plants, Machines

the Search for a Planetary Intelligence

Bridle, James

A mind-bending exploration of non-human intelligence, and how it holds the keys to our continuing life on earth. What does it mean to be intelligent? Is it something unique to humans – or do we share it with other beings? Recent years have seen rapid advances in 'artificial' intelligence, which increasingly appears to be something stranger than we ever imagined. At the same time, we are becoming more aware of the other intelligences which have been with us all along, unrecognised. These other beings are the animals, plants, and natural systems that surround us, and are slowly revealing their complexity and knowledge – just as the new technologies we've built are threatening to cause their extinction, and ours. In *Ways of Being*, writer and artist James Bridle considers the fascinating, uncanny and multiple ways of existing on earth. What can we learn from these other forms of intelligence and personhood, and how can we change our societies to live more equitably with one another and the non-human world? From Greek oracles to octopuses, forests to satellites, Bridle tells a radical new story about ecology, technology, and intelligence. We must, they argue, expand our definition of these terms to build a meaningful and free relationship with the non-human, one based on solidarity and cognitive diversity. We have so much to learn, and many worlds to gain.

Science PBK \$26.99

Finding Endurance

Shackleton, My Father and a World Without End

Bristow-Bovey, Darrel

Since the discovery of the wreck of Ernest Shackleton's ship *Endurance* on the bed of the Antarctic Ocean, the world has been enthralled anew by one of the greatest stories of all time. Acclaimed South African writer Darrel Bristow-Bovey, himself a Shackleton aficionado, revisits this dramatic event, which managed to sweep the tide of anger and rancour off the timelines and front pages of the world. He asks how so many ordinary people, who don't know a nunatak from a barquentine, were so moved at the finding of a small wooden ship once sailed by a half-forgotten Irishman? In re-examining the story and its players, he presents new details and a new understanding of the courage and hardship of the *Endurance* voyage, and reminds us of how extraordinary humans can be. Not all is lost, and what has been lost can be regained: the ocean has given

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us something back. What's more, we are reminded that miracles still happen: human miracles, performed by flawed people in helpless situations.
History TP \$34.99

The Madam and the Spymaster

the Secret History of the Most Famous Brothel in Wartime Berlin
Brunner, Urs; Jones, Nigel; Schrammel, Julia
This extraordinary story of a high-class Berlin brothel – taken over by the Nazi secret service – is one of the last untold tales of World War II. There is no book in English about the wartime Berlin 'salon' run by Kitty Schmidt under the secret control of Reinhard Heydrich, one of the architects of the Final Solution. 'Salon Kitty' was the most notorious brothel in the decadent Berlin of the Weimar Republic – the city of *Cabaret*. But after the Nazis took power, it became something more dangerous: a spying centre with every room wired for sound, staffed by female agents specially selected by the SS to coax secrets from their VIP clients. Masterminded by Reinhard Heydrich, the spymaster whom Hitler himself called 'the man with the iron heart', the exclusive establishment turned listening post was patronised by the Nazi leaders themselves, not knowing that hidden ears were listening. *The Madam and the Spymaster* reveals the sensational true story of this forgotten part of espionage history. The deep research undertaken by Nigel Jones, Urs Brunner, and Dr Julia Schrammel sheds new light on Nazi methods of control and coercion, and the way sex was abused for their own perverse purposes.
History HC \$64.95

Dog Hearted

Essays on Our Fierce and Familiar Companions
Buchanan, Rowan Hisayo & Lee, Jessica J (editors)
From Carl Phillips asking how wildness is tamed, to Esmé Weijun Wang finding moments of stillness in the simple act of observing her dog, to Cal Flynn befriending a sled dog called Suka in Finland, here we see dogs at every stage of their life. This anthology promises to bring – much as our four-legged furry friends do – joy and delight, and surprising depth and poignancy. It goes beyond the wet snouts and wagging tails and gets to the heart of what makes dogs our true lifelong companions. These essays are also sometimes toothy, sometimes bloody, sometimes gentle; much like dogs. Contributors: Ned Beaman; Rowan Hisayo Buchanan; Cal Flynn; Alice Hiller; Jessica J Lee; Carl Phillips; Chris Pearson; Jessica L Pan; Nina Mingya Powles; Nell Stevens; Sharlene Teo; Esmé Weijun Wang; Eley Williams; and Evie Wyld.
Dogs PBK \$22.99

Butler to the World

How Britain became the servant of tycoons, tax dodgers, kleptocrats and criminals
Bullough, Oliver
Revealing the scandalous reality of Britain's new position in the world... How did Britain become the servant of the world's most

powerful and corrupt men? From accepting multimillion-pound tips from Russian oligarchs, to the offshore tax havens, meet Butler Britain... In his bestselling exposé, Oliver Bullough reveals how the UK took up its position at the elbow of the worst people on Earth: the oligarchs, kleptocrats and gangsters. Though the UK prides itself on values of fair play and the rule of law, few countries do more to frustrate global anti-corruption efforts. From the murky origins of tax havens and gambling centres in the British Virgin Islands and Gibraltar to the influence of oligarchs in the British establishment, *Butler to the World* is the story of how we became a nation of Jeeveses – and how it doesn't have to be this way. Including a new introduction on the British response to the Ukraine crisis.
Economics PBK \$22.99

Moneyland

Why Thieves and Crooks Now Rule the World and How to Take It Back
Bullough, Oliver
From ruined towns on the edge of Siberia, to Bond-villain lairs in Knightsbridge and Manhattan, something has gone wrong with the workings of the world. Once upon a time, if an official stole money, there wasn't much he could do with it. He could buy himself a new car, or build himself a nice house, or give it to his friends and family, but that was about it. If he kept stealing, the money would just pile up in his house – until he had no rooms left to put it in, or it was eaten by mice. And then some bankers in London had a bright idea. Join the investigative journalist Oliver Bullough on a journey into *Moneyland* – the secret country of the lawless, stateless superrich. Learn how the institutions of Europe and the United States have become money-laundering operations, undermining the foundations of Western stability. Discover the true cost of being open for business no matter how corrupt and dangerous the customer. Meet the kleptocrats. Meet their awful children. And find out how heroic activists around the world are fighting back. This is the story of wealth and power in the 21st century. It isn't too late to change it.
Politics/Economics PBK \$24.99

Can Fish Count?

What Animals Reveal about our Uniquely Mathematical Mind
Butterworth, Brian
Every pet owner thinks their own dog, cat, fish or hamster is a genius. *Can Fish Count?* unveils just how widespread that intelligence is in nature. Pioneering psychologist Brian Butterworth describes the extraordinary numerical feats of all manner of species ranging from primates and mammals to birds, reptiles, fish, and insects. Whether it's lions deciding to fight or flee, frogs competing for mates, bees navigating their way to food sources, fish assessing which shoal to join, or jackdaws counting friends when joining a mob – every species shares an ability to count. *Homo sapiens* may think maths is our exclusive domain, but this book shows that every creature shares a deep-seated Darwinian ability to understand the intrinsic language of our universe: mathematics. *Can Fish Count?* is that special sort of science book – a global authority in his field

writing an anecdotally-rich and revelatory narrative which changes the way you perceive something we take for granted.
Science PBK \$24.99

Ants: A Visual Guide **Campbell, Heather & Blanchard, Benjamin**

A richly-illustrated natural history of ants, covering their diversity, ecology, anatomy, behaviour, and more. Plentiful and familiar, ants make up an estimated one-third of the world's insect biomass and can be found in virtually every part of the globe, from rain forest canopies to city sidewalks. But their importance is about more than numbers: ants are fundamental species in a range of habitats and their interactions with plants, fungi, and other animals ensure the survival of many fragile and complex ecosystems. This beautifully illustrated book explores the extraordinary diversity of ants and offers insights into their elaborate social systems, investigating the key collective and competitive behaviours that operate within their varied colony structures. Featuring exceptional close-up photographs and clearly organised thematic chapters, the book covers anatomy, evolution, life cycle, ecology, and other important topics. Each chapter also features profiles of standout genera, chosen for their fascinating characteristics, including Leafcutter Ants, who build nests containing up to 7,000 chambers; Pugnacious Ants whose colonies can destroy populations of crabs within hours; and Honeypot Ants whose worker caste store food in their stomachs for other colony members to consume. Drawing on current research, *Ants* offers an inviting and accessible introduction to these remarkable insects. Includes more than 200 stunning colour photographs, plus infographics and diagrams. Presents full profiles of 42 iconic genera from across the world. Features clearly-structured, thematic chapters.
Natural history HC \$54.99

A River with a City Problem

a History of Brisbane Floods, updated edition
Cook, Margaret
When floods devastated southeast Queensland in 2011, who was to blame? Despite the inherent risk of living on a floodplain, most residents had pinned their hopes on Wivenhoe Dam to protect them, and when it failed to do so, dam operators were blamed for the scale of the catastrophic events that followed. *A River with a City Problem* is a compelling history of floods in the Brisbane River catchment, especially those in 1893, 1974, 2011, and 2022. Extensively researched, it highlights the force of nature, the vagaries of politics and the power of community. With many river cities facing urban development challenges, historian Margaret Cook makes a convincing argument for what must change to prevent further tragedy. In this updated edition, Cook investigates the 2022 floods to illustrate how no two floods are the same.
History TP \$32.99

Nazi Billionaires

the Dark History of Germany's Wealthiest Dynasties
de Jong, David
A ground-breaking investigation of how the Nazis helped German tycoons make billions off the horrors of the Third Reich and World War II – and how America allowed them to get away with it. In 1946, Günther Quandt – patriarch of Germany's most iconic industrial empire, a dynasty that today controls BMW – was arrested for suspected Nazi collaboration. Quandt claimed that he had been forced to join the party by his archrival, propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, and the courts acquitted him. But Quandt lied. And his heirs, and those of other Nazi billionaires, have only grown wealthier in the generations since, while their reckoning with this dark past remains incomplete at best. Many of them continue to control swaths of the world economy, owning iconic brands whose products blanket the globe. The brutal legacy of the dynasties that dominated Daimler-Benz, cofounded Allianz, and still control Porsche, Volkswagen, and BMW has remained hidden in plain sight – until now. In this landmark work of investigative journalism, David de Jong reveals the true story of how Germany's wealthiest business dynasties amassed untold money and power by abetting the atrocities of the Third Reich. Using a wealth of untapped sources, de Jong shows how these tycoons seized Jewish businesses, procured slave laborers, and ramped up weapons production to equip Hitler's army as Europe burned around them. Most shocking of all, de Jong exposes how America's political expediency enabled these billionaires to get away with their crimes, covering up a bloodstain that defiles the German and global economy to this day.
History PBK \$24.99

Fake Heroes

Ten False Icons and How They Altered the Course of History
English, Otto
Otto English dives into the hidden lives of some of history's biggest names. Separating the myth-builders from the fraudsters and celebrating some of the genuine unsung heroes from our history, *Fake Heroes* exposes the truth of the past and helps us understand why that matters today.
History TP \$32.99

Wifedom

Mrs Orwell's Invisible Life
Funder, Anna
A blazing, genre-bending masterpiece from one of the most inventive writers of our time. Looking for wonder and some reprieve from the everyday, Anna Funder slips into the pages of her hero George Orwell. As she watches him create his writing self, she tries to remember her own... When she uncovers his forgotten wife, it's a revelation. Eileen O'Shaughnessy's literary brilliance shaped Orwell's work and her practical nous saved his life. But why – and how – was she written out of the story? Using newly-discovered letters from Eileen to her best

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friend, Funder recreates the Orwells' marriage, through the Spanish Civil War and WWII in London. As she rolls up the screen concealing Orwell's private life, she is led to question what it takes to be a writer – and what it is to be a wife. Compelling and utterly original, *Wifedom* speaks to the unsung work of women everywhere today, while offering a breathtakingly intimate view of one of the most important literary marriages of the 20th century. It is a book that speaks to our present moment as much as it illuminates the past.

Biography TP \$36.99

Age of the City

Why our Future will be Won or Lost Together

Goldin, Ian & Lee-Devlin, Tom
Visionary Oxford professor Ian Goldin and *The Economist's* Tom Lee-Devlin show why the city is where the battles of inequality, social division, pandemics and climate change must be faced. From centres of antiquity like Athens or Rome to modern metropolises like New York or Shanghai, cities throughout history have been the engines of human progress and the epicentres of our greatest achievements. Now, for the first time, more than half of humanity lives in cities, a share that continues to rise. In the developing world, cities are growing at a rate never seen before. In this book, Professor Goldin and Tom Lee-Devlin show why making our societies fairer, more cohesive and sustainable must start with our cities. Globalisation and technological change have concentrated wealth into a small number of booming metropolises, leaving many smaller cities and towns behind, and feeding populist resentment. Yet, even within seemingly thriving cities like London or San Francisco, the gap between the haves and have-nots continues to widen and our retreat into online worlds tears away at our social fabric. Meanwhile, pandemics and climate change pose existential threats to our increasingly urban world. Professor Goldin and Tom Lee-Devlin combine the lessons of history with a deep understanding of the challenges confronting our world today to show why cities are at a crossroads – and hold our destinies in the balance.

Economics/Society & culture TP \$32.99

Heat

Life and Death on a Scorched Planet

Goodell, Jeff

A searing examination of the impact that temperature rise will have on our lives and what we can do to stop it. *When heat comes, it's invisible. It doesn't bend tree branches or blow hair across your face to let you know it's arrived... The sun feels like the barrel of a gun pointed at you.* The world is waking up to a new reality: once-in-a-century floods are now happening three times a year; bushfires are the new norm. The surface area of the Arctic's polar ice caps is rapidly decreasing, while Antarctica's largest ice shelf is crumbling. These are effects of the planet's increased temperature. Extreme heat is the most direct and deadly consequence of our hellbent consumption of fossil fuels. It is a first order threat that drives all other impacts of the climate crisis. And as the temperature rises, it will reveal fault lines in our governments, our politics, our economy, and

our values. This book is about the extreme ways in which our planet is already changing. It is about why spring is coming a few weeks earlier and fall is coming a few weeks later and the impact that will have on everything from our food supply to disease outbreaks. It is about what will happen to our lives and our communities when typical summer days go from 30° C to 43° C. A heatwave, Goodell explains, is a predatory event – one that culls out the most vulnerable people. But that is changing. As heatwaves become more intense and more common, they will become more democratic. Jeff Goodell an award-winning journalist who has been at the forefront of environmental journalism for three decades. This may be his most provocative book yet. Masterfully reported, mixing the latest scientific insight with on-the-ground storytelling, Goodell tackles the big questions and uncovers how extreme heat is a force beyond anything we have reckoned with before.

Climate change TP \$37.99

How to Read a Tree

Gooley, Tristan

Do two trees ever appear identical? No, but why? Every small difference is a clue. Each tree we meet is filled with signs that reveal secrets about the life of that tree and the landscape we stand in. The clues are easy to spot when you know what to look for, but remain invisible to most people. In *How to Read a Tree*, you'll discover the simple principles that explain the shapes and patterns you can see in trees and what they mean. And you'll learn rare skills that can be applied every time you pass a tree, whether you are in a town or a wilder spot. As the author of the international bestsellers *The Walker's Guide* and *How to Read Water*, Tristan Gooley knows how to uncover the phenomena worth looking for. He has been instructing people in the art of reading trees for two decades and this book includes signs that will not be found in any other book in the world. Once you have learned to see these things it is impossible to unsee them. We will never look at a tree the same way again.

Natural history HC \$49.99

Once Upon a Prime

the Wondrous Connections Between Mathematics and Literature

Hart, Sarah

We often think of mathematics and literature as polar opposites. But what if, instead, they were fundamentally linked? In this insightful, laugh-out-loud funny book, *Once Upon a Prime*, Professor Sarah Hart shows us the myriad connections between maths and literature, and how understanding those connections can enhance our enjoyment of both. Did you know, for instance, that *Moby-Dick* is full of sophisticated geometry? That James Joyce's stream-of-consciousness novels are deliberately chequered with mathematical references? That George Eliot was obsessed with statistics? That *Jurassic Park* is undergirded by fractal patterns? That Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie wrote mathematician characters? From sonnets to fairy tales to experimental French literature, *Once Upon a Prime* takes us on an unforgettable journey through the books

we thought we knew, revealing new layers of beauty and wonder. Professor Hart shows how maths and literature are complementary parts of the same quest, to understand human life and our place in the universe.

Science/Literature HC \$37.99

Time's Witness

History in the Age of Romanticism

Hill, Rosemary

A brilliant exploration of how our understanding of the past was transformed, between the French Revolution and the Great Exhibition, by a band of long-forgotten antiquaries. Between the fall of the Bastille in 1789, and the opening of the Great Exhibition in 1851, history changed. The grand narratives of the Enlightenment, concerned with kings and statesmen, gave way to a new interest in the lives of ordinary people. Oral history, costume history, the history of food and furniture, of Gothic architecture, theatre and much else were explored as never before. Antiquarianism, the study of the material remains of the past, was not new, but now hundreds of men – and some women – became antiquaries and set about rediscovering their national history, in Britain, France, and Germany. The Romantic age valued facts, but it also valued imagination and it brought both to the study of history. Among its achievements were the preservation of the Bayeux Tapestry, the analysis and dating of Gothic architecture, and the first publication of *Beowulf*. It dispelled old myths, and gave us new ones: Shakespeare's birthplace, clan tartans, and the arrow in Harold's eye are among their legacies. From scholars to imposters, the dozen or so antiquaries at the heart of this book show us history in the making.

History PBK \$26.99

Military Intelligence

Blunders

Hughes-Wilson, John

A frightening study of intelligence failings – 'blunders' – in warfare from the Second World War to the invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and their impact on events. Here, is the insider's view from a former professional intelligence officer... This book is a professional military-intelligence officer's – and controversial insider's – view of some of the greatest intelligence blunders of recent history. It includes the serious developments in government misuse of intelligence in the US-led coalition's 2003 war with Iraq, as well as failures of intelligence in Ukraine following Russia's invasion in February 2022. Colonel John Hughes-Wilson analyses not just the events that conspire to cause disaster, but why crucial intelligence is so often ignored, misunderstood, or spun by politicians and seasoned generals alike. This book analyses: how Hitler's intelligence staff misled him in a bid to outfox their Nazi Party rivals; the bureaucratic bungling behind Pearl Harbor; how in-fighting within American intelligence ensured they were taken off guard by the Viet Cong's 1968 Tet Offensive; how overconfidence, political interference and deception facilitated Egypt and Syria's 1973 surprise attack on Israel; why a handful of marines and a London taxicab were all Britain had to defend the Falklands; the mistaken intelligence that allowed Saddam

Hussein to remain in power until the second Iraq War of 2003; the truth behind the US failure to run a terrorist warning system before the 9/11 WTC bombing; and how governments are increasingly pressurising intelligence agencies to 'spin' a party-political line.

Military history PBK \$24.99

The Good Virus

the Untold Story of Phages

– the Most Abundant Life Forms on Earth and What They Can Do for Us

Ireland, Tom

The untold story of the most abundant form of life on Earth, bacteriophages, and how they play a crucial role in our lives, our health and the health of our planet. Not all viruses are out to get us – in fact, the viruses that do us harm are vastly outnumbered by viruses that can actually save lives. At every moment, within your body and all around you, trillions of microscopic combatants are fighting an invisible war. Countless times per second, 'good' viruses known as phages are infecting and destroying bacteria. These phages are the most abundant life form on the planet and have an incredible power to heal rather than harm. So, why have most of us never even heard of them? *The Good Virus* reveals how personalities, power and politics have repeatedly crashed together to hinder our understanding of these weird and wonderful life forms. Faced with the threat of antibiotic resistance, we need phages now more than ever. *The Good Virus* celebrates what phages could do for us and our planet if they are at last given the attention they deserve.

Science TP \$34.99

The Premonitions Bureau

Knight, Sam

The story of a strange experiment – a journey into the oddest corners of '60s Britain and the outer edges of science and reason. What if you had a vision that something terrible was going to happen? A train crash, a department store fire, an assassination. What if you could share your vision, and prevent a disaster? In 1966, John Barker, a British psychiatrist working in an outdated British mental hospital, established the Premonitions Bureau to investigate this very idea. He would find a network of curious correspondents, and among them two highly-gifted 'percipients'. Together, they predicted calamities and international incidents with uncanny accuracy. And then, they gave Barker their most disturbing warning: that he was about to die.

History PBK \$22.99

A Brief History of Earth

Four Billion Years in Eight Chapters

Knoll, Andrew H

How well do you know the ground beneath your feet? Odds are, where you're standing was once cooking under a roiling sea of lava, crushed by a towering sheet of ice, rocked by a nearby meteor strike, or perhaps choked by poison gases, drowned beneath ocean, perched atop a mountain range, or roamed by fearsome monsters. Probably most, or even all, of the above. The story of our home planet and the organisms spread across its surface is far more spectacular than any Hollywood blockbuster, filled with enough plot twists

Pulp Fiction

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to rival a bestselling thriller. But only recently have we begun to piece together the whole mystery into a coherent narrative. Drawing on his decades of field research and up-to-the-minute understanding of the latest science, renowned geologist Andrew H Knoll delivers a rigorous yet accessible biography of Earth, charting our home planet's epic 4.6 billion-year story. Placing 21st-century climate change in deep context, *A Brief History of Earth* is an indispensable look at where we've been and where we're going. Features original illustrations depicting Earth history and nearly 50 figures (maps, tables, photographs, graphs).

Science TP \$32.99

Transformer

The Deep Chemistry of Life and Death
Lane, Nick
What brings the Earth to life, and our own lives to an end? For decades, biology has been dominated by the study of genetic information. Information is important, but it is only part of what makes us alive. Our inheritance also includes our living metabolic network, a flame passed from generation to generation, right back to the origin of life. In *Transformer*, biochemist Nick Lane reveals a scientific renaissance that is hiding in plain sight – how the same simple chemistry gives rise to life and causes our demise. Lane is among the vanguard of researchers asking why the Krebs cycle, the 'perfect circle' at the heart of metabolism, remains so elusive more than 80 years after its discovery. *Transformer* is Lane's voyage, as a biochemist, to find the inner meaning of the Krebs cycle – and its reverse – why it is still spinning at the heart of life and death today. Lane reveals the beautiful, violent world within our cells, where hydrogen atoms are stripped from the carbon skeletons of food and fed to the ravenous beast of oxygen. Yet, this same cycle, spinning in reverse, also created the chemical building blocks that enabled the emergence of life on our planet. Now, it does both. How can the same pathway create and destroy? What might our study of the Krebs cycle teach us about the mysteries of aging and the hardest problem of all, consciousness? *Transformer* unites the story of our planet with the story of our cells – what makes us the way we are, and how it connects us to the origin of life. Enlivened by Lane's talent for distilling and humanising complex research, *Transformer* offers an essential read for anyone fascinated by biology's great mysteries. Life is at root a chemical phenomenon: this is its deep logic.

Science PBK \$24.99

Fire and Flood

A People's History of Climate Change, from 1979 to the Present
Linden, Eugene
The definitive history of the modern climate change era, from an award-winning writer who has been at the centre of the fight for more than 30 years. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter was presented with the findings of scientists who had been investigating whether human activities might change the climate in harmful ways. 'A wait-and-see policy may mean waiting until it is too late,' their report said. They were right – but no one was

listening. Four decades later, we are haunted by the consequences of this inattention, and the years of complacency, obfuscation, and denialism that followed. Today, the staggering scale and scope of what we have done to the planet is impossible to ignore: the seasons of fire and flood have crossed into plain view. *Fire and Flood* is a comprehensive, compulsively readable history of climate change from veteran environmental journalist Eugene Linden. Linden retells the story of the modern climate change era decade by decade, tracking the progress of four ticking clocks: first, the reality of climate change itself; second, advances in scientific understanding; third, the spread of public awareness; and fourth, the business and finance response. Like no previous writer, Linden has drawn together the elements of the biggest story in the world, in a book that is gripping as history, as economic investigation, and as scientific thriller.

Climate change PBK \$24.99

The Power of Language

Multilingualism, Self and Society
Marian, Viorica
Why should we learn more than one language? Can it change the way we think? Does it have the power to transform how we see the world? You may think you speak only one language. In fact, your mind is interpreting multiple codes of communication. Some people speak Spanish, some Mandarin. Some speak poetry, some are fluent in maths. Humans are built for multilingualism. Drawing on cutting-edge research and theory, delivered with wit and lucid insight, psycholinguist Viorica Marian explores the ways in which the mind uses multiple languages and how, in doing so, we can open the doors to unique forms of creativity, brain health and cognitive control. Every new language we speak – whether it is coding or musical notes, Hindi, or Arabic – shapes how we extract and interpret information. It alters what we remember, how we perceive ourselves and those around us, how we feel, the insights we have, the decisions we make and the actions we take. *The Power of Language* lays bare how we use different linguistic codes to think about the world – and change our place within it. Empowering and practical, this is the perfect guide for anyone interested in how language really works.

Language HC \$45.00

Walking with the Anzacs

An updated guide to Australian battlefields of the Western Front
McLachlan, Mat
Now, fully revised for 2023, this is the essential and comprehensive guide to the Australian battlefields of the Western Front for anyone who wants to walk in the footsteps of the Anzacs. From one of Australia's leading battlefield historians, Mat McLachlan, *Walking with the Anzacs* covers the 14 most important Anzac battlefields, including Passchendaele, Pozieres, and Bullecourt. With illustrated walking tours and comprehensive descriptions of battles, this is the definitive guide for anyone who wants to walk in the footsteps of the first Anzacs, see where they fought, and marvel at their spirit

and bravery. Each tour is designed around easily accessible walking routes and features a detailed description of the battle and moving quotes from the men who witnessed the battle, first hand. Areas of interest that you can expect to see on your walk including battlefield landmarks, memorials to the men who fought there and the cemeteries where many of them still lie. *Walking with the Anzacs* is fully revised and updated for 2023, and it is the ultimate guide for anyone interested in learning about the history of our Anzacs and retracing their footsteps on the Western Front.

Military history TP \$34.99

You are Not So Smart

Why Your Memory is Mostly Fiction, Why You Have Too Many Friends on Facebook and 46 Other Ways You're Deluding Yourself
McRaney, David
How many of your Facebook friends do you think you know? Would you help a stranger in need? Do you know why you're so in love with your new smartphone? The truth is: you're probably wrong. You are not so smart. In this international bestseller, award-winning journalist David McRaney examines the assorted ways we mislead ourselves every single day. A psychology course with all the boring bits taken out, prepare for a whirlwind tour of the latest research in the subject, fused with a healthy dose of humour and wit. You'll discover just how irrational you really are, which delusions keep you sane, how to boost your productivity, and why you've never kept a New Year's resolution.

Science PBK \$22.99

The Ship Asunder

a Maritime History of Britain in Eleven Vessels
Nancollas, Tom
A sharply poignant history of British seafaring, from the Bronze Age to the present day. If Britain's maritime history were embodied in a single ship, she would have a prehistoric prow, a mast plucked from a Victorian steamship, the hull of a modest fishing vessel, the propeller of an ocean liner and an anchor made of stone. We might call her *Asunder*, and, fantastical though she is, we could in fact find her today, scattered in fragments across the country's creeks and coastlines. This extraordinary book collects those fragments for a profound and haunting exploration of our seafaring past. In his moving and original new history, Tom Nancollas goes in search of 11 relics that together tell the story of Britain at sea. From the swallowtail prow of a Bronze Age vessel to a stone ship moored at a Baroque quayside, each one illuminates a distinct phase of our adventures upon the waves; each brings us close to the people, places and vessels that made a maritime nation. Weaving together stories of great naval architects and unsung shipwrights, fishermen and merchants, shipwrecks and superstition, pilgrimage, trade, and war, *The Ship Asunder* celebrates the richness of Britain's seafaring tradition in all its glory and tragedy, triumph, and disaster, and asks how we might best memorialise it, as it vanishes from our shores.

History PBK \$24.99

The Shame Machine

Who Profits in the New Age of Humiliation
O'Neil, Cathy
Shame is being weaponised by governments and corporations to attack the most vulnerable. It's time to fight back. Shame is a powerful and sometimes useful tool. When we publicly shame corrupt politicians, abusive celebrities, or predatory corporations, we reinforce values of fairness and justice. But as Cathy O'Neil argues, in this revelatory book, shaming has taken a new and dangerous turn. It is increasingly being weaponised – used as a way to shift responsibility for social problems from institutions to individuals. Shaming children for not being able to afford school lunches, or adults for not being able to find work, lets us off the hook as a society. After all, why pay higher taxes to fund programs for people who are fundamentally unworthy? O'Neil explores the machinery behind all this shame, showing how governments, corporations, and the healthcare system capitalise on it. There are damning stories of rehab clinics, re-entry programs, drug and diet companies, and social media platforms – all of which profit from 'punching down' on the vulnerable. Woven throughout *The Shame Machine* is the story of O'Neil's own struggle with body image and her recent weight-loss surgery, which awakened her to the systematic shaming of fat people seeking medical care. With clarity and nuance, O'Neil dissects the relationship between shame and power. Whom does the system serve? How do current incentive structures perpetuate the shaming cycle? And, most important, how can we all fight back?

Science PBK \$26.99

Chaos Kings

how Wall Street traders make billions in the new age of crisis
Patterson, Scott
A fascinating deep dive into the world of billion-dollar traders and high-stakes crisis predictors who strive to turn extreme events into financial windfalls. There's no doubt that our world has gotten more extreme. Pandemics, climate change, superpower rivalries, technological disruption, political radicalisation, religious fundamentalism – all threaten chaos that put trillions in assets at risk. But around the world, across a wide variety of disciplines, would-be super-forecasters are trying to take the guesswork out of what formerly seemed like random chance. Some put their faith in 'black swans' – unpredictable, catastrophic events that can't be foreseen, but send exotic financial instruments screaming in high-profit directions – while others cling to the hope that paying close attention to the data will foreclose any true surprises from happening. Most famous among the former group of big-bet traders are those who run the Universa fund, helmed by manager Mark Spitznagel and built on the strategy of one of its chief investors, *Black Swan* author Nassim Nicholas Taleb. On days of extreme upheaval, Universa has made as much as \$1 billion. In researching *Chaos Kings*, author Scott Patterson not only gained exclusive access to Universa strategists, but also combed Wall Street to find market players with similar models. Additionally, he met with savvy

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seers in a variety of fields, from earthquake prediction to counterterrorism to climatology, to see if it's actually possible to bet on disaster – and win. Riveting, relevant, and revelatory, this is a must-read for anyone curious about how some of today's investors alchemise catastrophe into profit.

Economics TP \$35.00

Gifts and Books: From Early Myth to the Present

essay collection

Perkins, Nicholas (editor)

We all know about giving and receiving gifts: they can be touching or puzzling, either strengthening bonds of friendship or becoming a burden. Gifts are an integral part of human societies; this volume explores how, over the centuries, books and writing describe gifts in all their complexity, but also become precious gifts themselves. In a series of thought-provoking essays, richly illustrated from the Bodleian Library's collections and beyond, the contributors illuminate some of the striking ways in which writing interacts with those fundamental impulses to give, receive, and reciprocate. Each chapter draws on a particular perspective, including archaeology and religion, history, literature, and anthropology. From an ancient Sumerian tablet recording the founding of a temple to contemporary children's literature that highlights the pleasures and troubling histories of exchange and inheritance, the dynamics of the gift are at work across space and time. This book features gorgeous medieval manuscripts, gifts made by and for Queen Elizabeth I, Victorian Christmas tales and a mysterious Scottish book sculpture. Stories of sacrifice, love, loyalty, and friendship are woven into these books and objects, showing the ongoing power of the gift to shape the stories we tell about ourselves.

Books HC \$59.99

The Basis of Everything

Rutherford, Oliphant and the Coming of the Atomic Bomb

Ramsey, Andrew

Before the Manhattan Project, before nuclear warfare and the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was the 20th century's great scientific quest to fathom the secrets of the atom. The unlikely story of an Antipodean friendship that changed the world forever. Before the Manhattan Project, before nuclear warfare and the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was the 20th century's great scientific quest to fathom the secrets of the atom. It was through that search for the inner workings of matter that a unique friendship was forged, a partnership that defied academic orthodoxy and altered the course of history. Centred on the interwar years – within the ivy clad walls of Cambridge University's famed Cavendish Laboratory, amid the windswept valleys of north Wales, and in the industrial heartland of Birmingham – *The Basis of Everything* is the story of the coming of the atomic bomb, and how the unlikely union of two scientists – Ernest Rutherford, the son of a New Zealand farmer, and Mark Oliphant, a peace-loving vegetarian from a tiny Australian hills village – would change the world. The story that bonds Ernest Rutherford and Mark Oliphant is as

extraordinary as it is unlikely. They were kindred souls, schooled and steeped in the furthest frontiers of Britain's empire, whose restless intellect and tireless conviction fused in the crucible of discovery at Cambridge University's celebrated Cavendish Laboratory, at a time when nature's deepest secrets were being revealed. Their brilliance illuminated the sub-atomic recesses of the natural world and, as a direct result, set loose the power of nuclear fusion. It was a heartfelt, enduring partnership, born at the University of Adelaide's modest physics department and then flourishing further in the confines of the Cavendish, before ultimately driving the famed Manhattan Project, which produced the world's first nuclear weapons, unleashed to such devastating effect on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Rutherford and Oliphant were men with a shared devotion to pure science, who, through circumstance and necessity, found themselves betrayed as instruments of wars they detested but were duty-bound to prosecute. Consequently, their influence was pivotal in the last great global conflict the world witnessed and in engendering the thermonuclear threat that has held the planet hostage ever since. Yet, their pioneering work also lives on in a vast array of innovations seeded by nuclear physics, from radiocarbon dating and TV screens to life-saving diagnostic-imaging devices.

History/Science TP \$34.99

The Fragile Earth

Writing from the New Yorker on Climate Change

Remnick, David & Finder, Henry (editors)

A classic collection of the *New Yorker's* most urgent and ground-breaking reporting from the front lines of the climate emergency. In 1989, just one year after climatologist James Hansen first came before a Senate committee and testified that the earth was now warmer than it had ever been in recorded history, thanks to humankind's heedless consumption of fossil fuels, *New Yorker* writer Bill McKibben published a deeply-reported and considered piece on climate change and what it could mean for the planet. At the time, the piece was, to some, speculative to the point of alarmist; read now, McKibben's work is heroically prescient. Since then, the *New Yorker* has devoted enormous attention to climate change, describing the causes of the crisis, the political and ecological conditions we now find ourselves in, and the scenarios and solutions we face. *The Fragile Earth* tells the story of climate change – its past, present, and future – taking readers from Greenland to the Great Plains, and into both laboratories and rain forests. It features some of the best writing on global warming from the last three decades, including Bill McKibben's seminal essay 'The End of Nature', the first piece to popularise both the science and politics of climate change for a general audience, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning work of Elizabeth Kolbert, as well as Kathryn Schulz, Dexter Filkins, Jonathan Franzen, Ian Frazier, Eric Klinenberg, and others. The result, in its range, depth, and passion, promises to bring light, and sometimes heat, to the great emergency of our age.

Climate change PBK \$22.99

George III

the Life and Reign of Britain's Most Misunderstood Monarch

Roberts, Andrew

Andrew Roberts, one of Britain's premier historians, overturns the received wisdom on George III. George III, Britain's longest-reigning king, has gone down in history as 'the cruellest tyrant of this age' (Thomas Paine, 18th century), 'a sovereign who inflicted more profound and enduring injuries upon this country than any other modern English king' (W E H Lecky, 19th century), 'one of England's most disastrous kings' (J H Plumb, 20th century) and as the pompous monarch of the musical *Hamilton* (21st century). Andrew Roberts' magnificent new biography takes entirely the opposite view. It portrays George as intelligent, benevolent, scrupulously devoted to the constitution of his country and (as head of government as well as head of state) navigating the turbulence of 18th-century politics with a strong sense of honour and duty. He was a devoted husband and family man, a great patron of the arts and sciences, keen to advance Britain's agricultural capacity ('Farmer George'), and determined that her horizons should be global. He could be stubborn and self-righteous, but he was also brave, brushing aside numerous assassination attempts, galvanising his ministers and generals at moments of crisis and stoical in the face of his descent – five times during his life – into a horrifying loss of mind. The book gives a detailed, revisionist account of the American Revolutionary War, persuasively taking apart a significant proportion of the Declaration of Independence, which Roberts shows to be largely Jeffersonian propaganda. In a later war, he describes how George's support for William Pitt was crucial in the battle against Napoleon. And he makes a convincing, modern diagnosis of George's terrible malady, very different to the widely accepted medical view and to popular portrayals. Roberts writes, 'the people who knew George III best loved him the most', and that far from being a tyrant or incompetent, George III was one of our most admirable monarchs. The diarist Fanny Burney, who spent four years at his court and saw him often, wrote 'A noble sovereign this is, and when justice is done to him, he will be as such acknowledged'. In presenting this fresh view of Britain's most misunderstood monarch, *George III* shows one of Britain's premier historians at his sparkling best.

Biography PBK \$36.99

Many Things Under a Rock

the Mysteries of Octopuses

Scheel, David

A riveting new exploration of the octopus from a world-leading expert, marine biologist David Scheel. *What is it like to be an octopus?* The octopus is a highly intelligent and deeply mysterious creature. It can change colour as quickly as it can move, 'think' with its tentacles, and communicate in sophisticated ways. Marine biologist David Scheel's lifelong preoccupation with these animals has led to a career of ground-breaking research, from finding previously unknown species to the discovery of signalling communication. In *Many Things Under a Rock*, Scheel shares

his deep scientific understanding of octopuses and recounts his intrepid adventures with these mysterious, charismatic creatures. He investigates four major mysteries about octopuses: what can we know about such elusive and camouflaged creatures? Why are they so extraordinarily resilient? How do their bodies work? And what kind of relationships do they have? In unravelling these mysteries, Dr Scheel shows octopuses to be complex emotional beings and reveals what they can teach us about ourselves.

Natural history TP \$34.99

The Soviet Century

Archaeology of a Lost World

Schlögel, Karl

An encyclopaedic and richly detailed history of everyday life in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is gone, but its ghostly traces remain, not least in the material vestiges left behind in its turbulent wake. What was it really like to live in the USSR? What did it look, feel, smell, and sound like? In *The Soviet Century*, Karl Schlögel, one of the world's leading historians of the Soviet Union, presents a spellbinding epic that brings to life the everyday world of a unique lost civilisation. A museum of – and travel guide to – the Soviet past, *The Soviet Century* explores in evocative detail both the largest and smallest aspects of life in the USSR, from the Gulag, the planned economy, the railway system, and the steel city of Magnitogorsk to cookbooks, military medals, prison camp tattoos, and the ubiquitous perfume Red Moscow. The book examines iconic aspects of Soviet life, including long queues outside shops, cramped communal apartments, parades, and the Lenin mausoleum, as well as less famous but important parts of the USSR, including the *Great Soviet Encyclopedia*, the voice of Radio Moscow, graffiti, and even the typical toilet, which became a pervasive social and cultural topic. Throughout, the book shows how Soviet life simultaneously combined utopian fantasies, humdrum routine, and a pervasive terror symbolised by the Lubyanka, then as now, the headquarters of the secret police. Drawing on Schlögel's decades of travel in the Soviet and post-Soviet world, and featuring more than 80 illustrations, *The Soviet Century* is vivid, immediate, and grounded in firsthand encounters with the places and objects it describes. The result is an unforgettable account of the Soviet Century.

History HC \$69.99

The Theory of Everything Else

A Voyage into the World of the Weird

Schreiber, Dan

This is not a book of facts; it's a book of 'facts'. Should you finish it, believing we became the planet's dominant species because predators found us too smelly to eat; or that the living bloodline of Christ is a family of Japanese garlic farmers – well, that's on you. Why are we here? Do ghosts exist? Did life on Earth begin after a badly tidied-up picnic? Was it just an iceberg that sank the *Titanic*? Are authors stealing their plotlines from the future? Will we ever talk to animals? And why, when you're in the shower, does the shower curtain always billow in towards you?

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We don't know the answers to any of these questions. But don't worry, no matter what questions you have, you can bet on the fact that there is someone (or something) out there, investigating it on your behalf. From the sports stars who use cosmic energy to office plants investigating murders, *The Theory of Everything Else* will act as a handbook for those who want to think differently.

Philosophy PBK \$24.99

Desperate Remedies

Psychiatry and the
Mysteries of Mental Illness

Scull, Andrew

In this masterful work, Andrew Scull, one of the most provocative thinkers writing about psychiatry, sheds light on its troubled history. For more than 200 years, disturbances of reason, cognition and emotion – the sort of things that were once called 'madness' – have been described and treated by the medical profession. Mental illness, it is said, is an illness like any other – a disorder that can be treated by doctors, whose suffering can be eased, and from which patients can return. And, yet, serious mental illness remains a profound mystery that is in some ways no closer to being solved, than it was at the start of the 20th century. In this clear-sighted and provocative exploration of psychiatry, acclaimed sociologist Andrew Scull traces the history of its attempts to understand and mitigate mental illness: from the age of the asylum and unimaginable surgical and chemical interventions, through the rise and fall of Freud and the talking cure, and on to our own time of drug companies and antidepressants. Through it all, Scull argues, the often vain and rash attempts to come to terms with the enigma of mental disorder have frequently resulted in dire consequences for the patient. Deeply researched and lucidly conveyed, *Desperate Remedies* masterfully illustrates the assumptions and theory behind the therapy, providing a definitive new account of psychiatry's and society's battle with mental illness.

Science/History PBK \$26.99

Jupiter

Sheehan, William
& Hockey, Thomas

Jupiter is the grandest of all planets. It is by far the largest planet in the solar system and among the brightest objects in the night sky, and its calming presence has inspired humans for centuries. Jupiter was the 'beloved star' of the ancient Sumerians and Babylonians, the first serious observers of the planets, and the *Pioneer* and *Voyager* spacecraft visited it in the 1970s. Now, it is being scrutinised as never before by NASA's *Juno* spacecraft, as experts begin to have a comprehensive view of the origin, composition, and structure of this giant gas world. This beautifully-illustrated volume ranges across the entire history of Jupiter studies, from the naked-eye observations of the Babylonians and the Greeks, through the telescopic discoveries of Galileo and T E R Phillips, to the explosion of information received from space probes. It brings our understanding of Jupiter right up to date, and includes preliminary findings from the *Juno* space probe, while also providing valuable practical information for those who wish to make their own observations of the planet. Introducing planetary science in an

accessible and engaging way, *Jupiter* will appeal to those who wish to have a better understanding of this magnificent planet and its unique place in the solar system.

Science PBK \$45.00

The Matter of Everything

Twelve Experiments that
Changed Our World

Sheehy, Suzie

How did a piece of gold foil completely change our understanding of atoms? What part did a hot air balloon play in the discovery of cosmic rays? How did the experiments in the run-up to the Large Hadron Collider lead to the invention of the World Wide Web? Asking questions has always been at the heart of physics, our unending quest to understand the Universe and how everything in it behaves. How do we know all that we know about the world today? It's not simply because we have the maths – it's because we have done the experiments. Accelerator physicist Suzie Sheehy introduces us to the creative and curious people who, through a combination of genius, persistence and luck, staged the ground-breaking experiments of the 20th century. From the serendipitous discovery of x-rays, in a German laboratory, to the scientists trying to prove Einstein wrong (and inadvertently proving him right), *The Matter of Everything* takes us on a journey through the history of experiments that transformed our world.

Science PBK \$22.99

Magisteria

the Entangled Histories
of Science and Religion

Spencer, Nicholas

Most things you 'know' about science and religion are myths or half-truths that grew up in the last years of the 19th century and remain widespread today. The true history of science and religion is a human one. It's about the role of religion in inspiring, and strangling, science before the scientific revolution. It's about the sincere but eccentric faith and the quiet, creeping doubts of the most brilliant scientists in history – Galileo, Newton, Faraday, Darwin, Maxwell, Einstein. Above all it's about the question of what it means to be human and who gets to say – a question that is more urgent in the 21st century than ever before. From eighth-century Baghdad to the frontiers of AI today, via Song-dynasty China, medieval Europe and Soviet Russia, *Magisteria* sheds new light on this complex historical landscape. Rejecting the thesis that science and religion are inevitably at war, Nicholas Spencer illuminates a compelling and troubled relationship that has definitively shaped human history.

History HC \$49.99

Preventable

How a Pandemic Changed the World
and How to Stop the Next One

Sridhar, Devi

The story of COVID-19 and how global politics shape our health – from a world-leading expert and the pandemic's go-to science communicator. Professor Devi Sridhar has risen to prominence for her vital roles in communicating science to the public and speaking truth to power. In *Preventable*, she highlights lessons learned from outbreaks

past and present in a narrative that traces the COVID-19 pandemic – including her personal experience as a scientist – and sets out a vision for how we can better protect ourselves from the inevitable health crises to come. In gripping and heartfelt prose, Sridhar exposes the varied realities of those affected and puts you in the room with key decision makers at crucial moments. She vibrantly conveys the twists and turns of a plot that saw: deadlier variants emerge (contrary to the predictions of social media pundits who argued it would mutate to a milder form); countries with weak health systems like Senegal and Vietnam fare better than countries like the US and UK (which were consistently ranked as the most prepared); and the quickest development of game-changing vaccines in history (and their unfair distribution). Combining science, politics, ethics, and economics, this definitive book dissects the global structures that determine our fate, and reveals the deep-seated economic and social inequalities at their heart – it will challenge, outrage and inspire.

Science TP \$29.99

The Blue Commons

Rescuing the Economy of the Sea

Standing, Guy

An exposé of the plunder of the world's oceans, and the devastating environmental and economic impact that is having across the globe. The sea provides more than half the oxygen we breathe, food for billions of people and livelihoods for hundreds of millions. But giant corporations are plundering the world's oceans, aided by global finance and complicit states, following the neoliberal maxim of Blue Growth. The situation is dire: rampant exploitation and corruption now drive all aspects of the ocean economy, destroying communities, intensifying inequalities, and driving fish populations and other ocean life towards extinction. *The Blue Commons* is an urgent call for change, from a campaigning economist responsible for some of the most innovative solutions to inequality of recent times. From large nations bullying smaller nations into giving up eco-friendly fishing policies to the profiteering by the Crown Estate in commandeering much of the British seabed, the scale of the global problem is synthesised here for the first time, as well as a toolkit for all of us to rise up and tackle it. The oceans have been left out of calls for a Green New Deal, but must be at the centre of the fight against climate change. How do we do it? By building a Blue Commons alternative: a transformative worldview and new set of proposals that prioritise the historic rights of local communities, the wellbeing of all people and, with it, the health of our oceans.

Economics/Science PBK \$26.99

Shutdown

How Covid Shook the World's Economy

Tooze, Adam

From the author of *Crashed* comes a short, high-speed history of how COVID-19 ravaged the global economy, and where it leaves us now. When the news first began to trickle out of China about a new virus in December 2019, risk-averse financial markets were alert to its potential for disruption. Yet, they could never have predicted the total economic collapse that would follow in COVID-19's

wake, as stock markets fell faster and harder than at any time since 1929, currencies across the world plunged, investors panicked, and even gold was sold. In a matter of weeks, the world's economy was brought to an abrupt halt by governments trying to contain a spiralling public health catastrophe. Flights were grounded; supply chains broken; industries from tourism to oil to hospitality collapsed overnight, leaving hundreds of millions of people unemployed. Central banks responded with unprecedented interventions, just to keep their economies on life-support. For the first time since the second world war, the entire global economic system contracted. This book tells the story of that shutdown. We do not, yet, know how this story ends, or what new world we will find on the other side. In this fast-paced, compelling and at times shocking analysis, Adam Tooze surveys the wreckage, and looks at where we might be headed next.

Economics PBK \$24.99

Alice's Book

How the Nazis Stole

My Grandmother's Cookbook

Urbach, Karina

A bestselling 1930s' cookbook by the author's Jewish grandmother was published for decades under a false name, after the Nazi takeover of Austria. What happened to the books that were too valuable to burn? The story of a Jewish chef whose bestselling cookbook was expropriated under the Nazi regime. Alice Urbach had her own cooking school in Vienna; but, in 1938, she was forced to flee to England – like so many others. Her younger son was imprisoned in Dachau. Her older son, having emigrated to the United States, became an intelligence officer in the struggle against the Nazis. Returning to the ruins of Vienna in the late 1940s, she discovers that her bestselling cookbook has been published under someone else's name. Now, 80 years later, the historian Karina Urbach – Alice's granddaughter – sets out to uncover the truth behind the stolen cookbook; and tells the story of a family torn apart by the Nazi regime, of a woman who – with her unwavering passion for cooking – survived the horror and losses of the Holocaust, to begin a new life in America. Impeccably researched and incredibly moving, *Alice's Book* sheds light on an untold chapter in the history of Nazi crimes against Jewish authors.

History PBK \$24.99

Spies

the epic intelligence war
between East and West

Walton, Calder

A gripping history of spies – a nonfiction narrative that could be straight from the pages of a John le Carré novel. The riveting story of the 100-year intelligence war between Russia and the West, with lessons for our new superpower conflict with China. Espionage, election meddling, disinformation, assassinations, subversion, and sabotage – all attract headlines today about Putin's dictatorship. But they are far from new. The West has a long-term Russia problem, not a Putin problem. Spies mines hitherto secret archives and exclusive interviews with former agents to tell the history of the war that Russia and the West have been waging

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction July 2023 (continued)

for a century. Espionage dark arts were the Kremlin's means to equalise the imbalance of arms between the East and West before, during and after the Cold War. There was nothing 'unprecedented' about Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election. It was business as usual, new means for old ends. The Cold War started long before 1945. Western powers gradually fought back after the Second World War, mounting their own shadow war, deploying propaganda, recruiting intelligence networks, and pioneering new spy technologies against the Soviet Union. *Spies* is an inspiring, engrossing story of the best and worst of mankind: bravery and honour, treachery, and betrayal. The narrative shifts across continents and decades, from the freezing streets of St Petersburg in 1917 to the bloody beaches of Normandy; from coups in faraway lands to present-day Moscow, where troll farms weaponise social media against Western democracies. This fresh reading of history makes *Spies* a unique and essential addition to the story of the unrolling conflict between Russia, China and the West that will dominate the 21st century.

Espionage TP \$34.99

System Error

Where Big Tech Went Wrong and How We Can Reboot

Weinstein, Jeremy; Reich, Rob; Sahami, Mehran

A ground-breaking book looking at how big tech is obsessed with optimisation – and how we can take back control. A forward-thinking manifesto from three Stanford professors which reveals how big tech's obsession with optimisation and efficiency has sacrificed fundamental human values and outlines steps we can take to change course, renew our democracy, and save ourselves. In no more than the blink of an eye, a naive optimism about technology's liberating potential has given way to a dystopian obsession with biased algorithms, surveillance capitalism, and job-displacing robots. Yet, too few of us see any alternative to accepting the onward march of technology. We have simply accepted a technological future designed for us by technologists, the venture capitalists who fund them, and the politicians who give them free rein. It doesn't need to be this way. *System Error* exposes the root of our current predicament: how big tech's relentless focus on optimisation is driving a future that reinforces discrimination, erodes privacy, displaces workers, and pollutes the information we get. Armed with an understanding of how technologists think and exercise their power, three Stanford professors – a philosopher working at the intersection of tech and ethics, a political scientist who served under Obama, and the director of the undergraduate Computer Science program at Stanford (also an early Google engineer) – reveal how we can hold that power to account. As the dominance of big tech becomes an

explosive societal conundrum, they share their provocative insights and concrete solutions to help everyone understand what is happening, what is at stake, and what we can do to control technology instead of letting it control us.

Science/Business PBK \$24.99

Frequently Asked Questions About the Universe

Whiteson, Daniel & Cham, Jorge

An eminent physicist at CERN and the cartoonist behind the hugely successful PhD Comics answer the most important, most outrageous and funniest questions about everything. If the universe had an FAQ, this would be it. You've got questions: about space, time, gravity, and the odds of meeting your older self inside a wormhole. All the answers you need are right here. As a species, we may not agree on much, but one thing brings us all together: a need to know. We all wonder, and deep down we all have the same big questions. *Why can't I travel back in time? Where did the universe come from? What's inside a black hole? Can I rearrange the particles in my cat and turn it into a dog?* Physics professor Daniel Whiteson and researcher-turned-cartoonist Jorge Cham are experts at explaining science in ways we can all understand, in their books and on their popular podcast, *Daniel and Jorge Explain the Universe*. With their signature blend of humour and oh-now-I-get-it clarity, Jorge and Daniel offer short, accessible, and light-hearted answers to some of the most common, most outrageous, and most profound questions about the universe they've been asked. This witty, entertaining, and fully illustrated book is an essential troubleshooting guide for the perplexing aspects of reality, big and small, from the invisible particles that make up your body to the identical version of you currently reading this exact sentence in the corner of some other galaxy. If the universe came with an FAQ, this would be it.

Science PBK \$24.99

The Story of the Brain in 10½ Cells

Wingate, Richard

Peer into a microscopic world – and fall in love with the beauty of the brain. There are more than 100 billion brain cells in our heads, and every single one represents a fragment of thought and feeling. And, yet, each cell is a mystery of beauty, with branching, intricate patterns like shattered glass. Richard Wingate has been scrutinising them for decades, yet he is still moved when he looks at one through a microscope and traces their shape by hand. With absorbing lyricism and clarity, Wingate shows how each type of cell possesses its own personality and history, illustrating a milestone of scientific discovery and exploring the stories of pioneering scientists like Ramon y Cajal and Francis Crick, and

capturing their own fascinating shapes and patterns. Discover the ethereal world of the brain with this elegant little book – and find out how we all think and feel.

Science HC \$29.99

Sticky

the Secret Science of Surfaces

Winkless, Laurie

At the scale of atoms and molecules, things quite often like to stick together. But these tiny interactions don't just matter at the nanoscale; taken together, they produce some important larger-scale forces – friction, for example. This force keeps our cars on the road, trains on the tracks and our feet on the ground; similarly, anything moving through water or air encounters drag, a force caused by the viscous nature of fluids. In other words, there's a lot of stickiness going on, all the time. But what do we actually know about the physics of stickiness? What's really going on? How has nature evolved to make use of it, and what technological advances has it enabled the human race to create? In *Sticky*, physicist Laurie Winkless brings the amazing world of surface science to the popular science market for the first time. Using her characteristic fun and relaxed tone, she introduces readers to the glues, adhesives and textures that rule and improve stickiness to give plants and animals an advantage, as well as uncovering the physics behind our sense of touch. *Sticky* also shows how our understanding of slipperiness opened the door to high-speed flight and space travel, and asks why friction and other surface interactions can cause machinery to literally grind to a halt. This is fundamentally a materials science book, but it touches on topics as broad as medicine, robotics, and geology. And, as we'll discover, there are still many great mysteries. By exploring the tiniest of interactions, Laurie Winkless shows how civilisation owes a great deal to our knowledge of the science of stickiness.

Science PBK \$22.99

How to Expect the Unexpected

the Science of Making Predictions and the Art of Knowing When Not To

Yates, Kit

A fascinating exploration of how we can make better, accessible, mathematically-informed predictions about the world around us. *Are you more likely to become a professional footballer if your surname is Ball? How can you be 100% sure you will win a bet? Why did so many Pompeians stay put, while Mount Vesuvius was erupting? How do you prevent a nuclear war?* Ever since the dawn of human civilisation, we have been trying to make predictions about what's in store for us. We do this on a personal level, so that we can get on with our lives efficiently (*should I hang my laundry out to dry, or will it rain?*). But we also have to predict on a much larger scale,

often for the good of our broader society (*how can we spot economic downturns or prevent terrorist attacks?*). For just as long, we have been getting it wrong. From religious oracles to weather forecasters, and from politicians to economists, we are subjected to poor predictions all the time. Our job is to separate the good from the bad. Unfortunately, the foibles of our own biology – the biases that ultimately make us human – can let us down when it comes to making rational inferences about the world around us. And that can have disastrous consequences. *How to Expect the Unexpected* will teach you how and why predictions go wrong, help you to spot phony forecasts and give you a better chance of getting your own predictions correct.

Science TP \$34.99

Spies, Lies, and Algorithms

the History and Future of American Intelligence

Zegart, Amy B

A riveting account of espionage for the digital age, from one of America's leading intelligence experts. Spying has never been more ubiquitous – or less understood. The world is drowning in spy movies, TV shows, and novels, but universities offer more courses on rock and roll than on the CIA and there are more congressional experts on powdered milk than espionage. This crisis in intelligence education is distorting public opinion, fuelling conspiracy theories, and hurting intelligence policy. In *Spies, Lies, and Algorithms*, Amy Zegart separates fact from fiction as she offers an engaging and enlightening account of the past, present, and future of American espionage as it faces a revolution driven by digital technology. Drawing on decades of research and hundreds of interviews with intelligence officials, Zegart provides a history of US espionage, from George Washington's Revolutionary War spies to today's spy satellites; examines how fictional spies are influencing real officials; gives an overview of intelligence basics and life inside America's intelligence agencies; explains the deadly cognitive biases that can mislead analysts; and explores the vexed issues of traitors, covert action, and congressional oversight. Most of all, Zegart describes how technology is empowering new enemies and opportunities, and creating powerful new players, such as private citizens who are successfully tracking nuclear threats using little more than Google Earth. And she shows why cyberspace is, in many ways, the ultimate cloak-and-dagger battleground, where nefarious actors employ deception, subterfuge, and advanced technology for theft, espionage, and information warfare. A fascinating and revealing account of espionage for the digital age. *Spies, Lies, and Algorithms* is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the reality of spying today.

Espionage TP \$39.99