

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction Catalogue November 2023

Pulp Fiction Booksellers • Shop 4, Level 1 (first floor) • Blocksidge & Ferguson Building Arcade • 144 Adelaide Street • Brisbane • Queensland • 4000 • Australia  
Postal: GPO Box 297 • Brisbane • Queensland • 4001 • Australia • Tel: 07 3236-2750 • e-mail: [pulpfictionbooks@bigpond.com](mailto:pulpfictionbooks@bigpond.com) • [www.pulpfictionbooks.com.au](http://www.pulpfictionbooks.com.au)

Osprey military history

### **Early Pacific Raids 1942: the American Carriers Strike Back**

Campaign 392

**Herder, Brian Lane & Tooby, Adam (illustrator)**

A fascinating exploration of how between February 1 and March 10, 1942, three small US task forces launched several unexpected raids across the Japanese defensive perimeter in the Central and South Pacific. After the devastating Japanese blows of December 1941, the Allies found themselves reeling with defeat everywhere in the Pacific. Although stripped of his battleships and outnumbered 10:3 in carriers, the US Navy commander-in-chief Admiral Ernest J King decided to hit back at Japan's rapidly expanding Pacific empire immediately, in an effort to keep the Japanese off balance. On February 1, 1942, Vice Admiral Bill Halsey led the US Pacific Fleet carriers on their first raid, using high-speed, hit-and-run tactics to strike at the Japanese, at a time when most of the Japanese carrier fleet was in the Indian Ocean. Halsey's aggressive commitment inspired its American participants to invent the mythical 'Haul Ass with Halsey' club. The last of the 1942 US carrier raids in March 1942 would form a defining moment in the Pacific War, prior to a new phase of high-seas battles between the opposing fleets. This superbly-illustrated book documents for the first time in a single volume this little-known but important World War II naval campaign. The fabulous illustrations, including maps and colour artworks, bring to life the US air and naval raids on the Japanese bases in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Rabaul, Wake Island, Marcus Island, and Lae and Salamaua in northern New Guinea.

Naval history PBK \$32.99

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

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

**Please reserve copies of anything you want so you don't miss out – ASAP!**

If a book has sold out by the time we receive your order, we will back-order and supply, when available.

Pulp Fiction has access to thousands of books not shown in our monthly catalogues. We are only too happy to order anything if we don't have it on the shelves.

If you can't make it into the shop, you can post, phone, or e-mail your order. We accept Mastercard, Visa, AMEX, cheques and Australia Post Money Orders.

Approximate current postage (base rate), within Australia, is:

up to 500g: \$10.60

500g to 1kg: \$14.50

1kg to 3kg: \$18.25

3kg to 5kg: \$21.95

anything above 5kg charged at Australia Post rates.

If your order is over \$100, we recommend adding Australia Post insurance, which is charged at \$2.50 per \$100 of value.

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

General nonfiction

### **The Science Museum 100 Maths Ideas in 100 Words**

A Whistlestop Tour

of Science's Key Concepts

Get to grips with the essential topics in maths today, through 100 key ideas, each one explained clearly in 100 words. *Maths: 100 Ideas in 100 Words* offers the essential facts at your fingertips, satisfying your mathematical curiosity and helping you to understand the biggest concepts in math in concise, 100-word summaries. One of the first titles in a cutting-edge new series created in partnership with the Science Museum, this book introduces 100 key areas of math such as geometry, algebra, probability and pure math, and explains each topic in just 100 words. Perfect for getting your head around big ideas clearly and quickly, or refreshing your memory of the fundamentals of math, this book covers the most up-to-date terms and theories and inspires a heightened level of understanding and enjoyment to the core areas of math.

Science HC \$27.99

### **The Science Museum 100 Physics Ideas in 100 Words**

A Whistle-stop Tour

of Science's Key Concepts

Get to grips with the essential topics in physics today, through 100 key ideas, each one explained clearly in 100 words. *Physics: 100 Ideas in 100 Words* offers the essential facts at your fingertips, satisfying your scientific curiosity and helping you to understand the biggest concepts in physics in concise, 100-word summaries. One of the first titles in a cutting-edge new series created in partnership with the Science Museum, this book introduces 100 key areas of physics such as gravity, motion, magnetism and quantum physics, and explains each topic in just 100 words. Perfect for getting your head around big ideas clearly and quickly, or refreshing your memory of the fundamentals of physics, this book covers the most up-to-date terms and theories and inspires a heightened level of understanding and enjoyment to the core areas of physics.

Science HC \$27.99

### **The Notebook**

A History of Thinking on Paper

**Allen, Roland**  
Diaries, sketchbooks, common-places, notebooks, ledgers and ships' logs: how the blank book changed the way we think, and helped us change the world. The notebook has shaped the world for 800 years. In medieval Italy, the blank ledger transformed international trade, and enabled the intellectual artistic advances of the Renaissance. At sea, the invention

of the logbook expanded horizons on the journeys of Magellan and fellow discoverers. Artists from Leonardo da Vinci to Pablo Picasso, thinkers from Isaac Newton to Albert Einstein, writers from Chaucer to Henry James: all created work forged in their notebooks. In *The Notebook: A History of Thinking on Paper*, Roland Allen follows a trail of ideas, revealing how the notebook came to be our most durable tool for thinking. He tells the stories of its development through table-books and diaries, common-placing and journaling, and the lives of those who relied upon it: from Darwin hatching the idea of evolution to Clara Nguyen creating a restaurant business from family recipe books. Along the way, we meet sailors and fishermen, musicians and engineers, travellers and politicians. We hear how Bruce Chatwin inspired Maria Segrebondi to create the Moleskine, how Agatha Christie plotted 100 murders and Bob Dylan drafted *Blood on the Tracks*, how bullet-journaling can combat ADHD and patient diaries ease the traumas of reawakening from a coma. There is a bigger issue, too. In this age of AI and digital overload, a blank notebook and the act of moving a pen across paper can change the way we think.

History HC \$55.00

### **A History of Treason**

The bloody history of Britain through the stories of its most notorious traitors **Archives, the National**  
The only complete study of treason in Britain from the introduction of the *Treason Act* in 1352, to the last execution for treason in this country after the Second World War. *A History of Treason* details British history from 1351 to 1945, covering major historical moments in a fascinating and innovative way, using the history of high treason and deception as its theme. Appealing to a range of audiences, it covers over 750 years of momentous history through the use of both famous and lesser known events which shaped Britain. Using original documents and detailed research undertaken by the National Archive's (TNA) record specialists, it will cover moments in history which led to fundamental changes in eras. It will also include unique discoveries from TNA's archives, uncovering mysteries and stories of how dealing with treason have brought about the changes which have influenced and shaped Britain throughout the centuries. Among these are: the trial and execution of Anne Boleyn on the orders of her husband, Henry VIII; several major acts of sedition, including the Popish Gunpowder Plot and the revolution plotted in the Cato Street conspiracy; the evidence brought against the Irish patriot Sir Roger Casement, executed at Pentonville and his remains later exhumed and given a state funeral in Ireland; the trial and execution of the William Joyce who, as

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction November 2023 (continued)

'Lord Haw-Haw', broadcast Nazi propaganda from Berlin during the Second World War. The book covers many stories that explore the nature of treason and how the crown and state reacted to it – from the introduction of the *Treason Act* in 1352 right through to the 20th century. Written by experts from among the historians at the National Archives, the book is copiously illustrated with images from TNA's unrivalled collections.

History PBK \$26.99

### Misbelief

What Makes Rational People Believe Irrational Things

#### Ariely, Dan

Misinformation affects us daily, from social media to politics and even personal relationships. Policing social media, alone, cannot solve the complex problem shaped by partisan politics and subjective interpretations of truth. In *Misbelief*, social scientist Dan Ariely explores the behaviour of 'misbelief' that leads people to distrust accepted truths and embrace conspiracy theories. Misinformation taps into something innate in all of us, regardless of political affiliation. By understanding this psychology, we can mitigate its effects. Grounded in research and Ariely's personal experience as a target of disinformation, the book analyses the psychological drivers behind adopting irrational beliefs. Ariely reveals the emotional, cognitive, personality, and social elements that drive people towards false information and mistrust. Despite advanced AI generating convincing fake news, Ariely offers hope. Awareness of the forces fuelling misbelief makes individuals and society more resilient. Combating misbelief requires empathy, not conflict. Recognising misbelief as a human problem allows us to be part of the solution.

Psychology TP \$36.99

### A Brief History of Intelligence

Why the Evolution of the Brain Holds the Key to the Future of AI

#### Bennett, Max

*A Brief History of Intelligence* bridges the gap between AI and neuroscience by telling the evolutionary story of how the brain came to be. The entirety of the human brain's four-billion-year story can be summarised as the culmination of five evolutionary breakthroughs, starting from the very first brains, all the way to the modern human brains. Each breakthrough emerged from new sets of brain modifications, and equipped animals with a new suite of intellectual faculties. These five breakthroughs are the organising map to this book, and they make up our itinerary for our adventure back in time. Each breakthrough also has fascinating corollaries to breakthroughs in AI. Indeed, there will be plenty of such surprises along the way. For instance: the innovation that enabled AI to beat humans in the game of Go – temporal difference reinforcement learning – was an innovation discovered by our fish ancestors over 500 million years ago. The solutions to many of the current mysteries in AI – such as 'common sense' – can be found in the tiny brain of a mouse. Where do emotions come from? Research suggests that

they may have arisen simply as a solution to navigation in ancient worm brains. Unravelling this evolutionary story will reveal the hidden features of human intelligence and with them, just how your mind came to be.

Science TP \$34.99

### Thinking in Pictures

Adventures in Trying to be Smart

#### Blastland, Michael

An original and witty guide to the world of smart-thinking that uses pictures to show where it goes right and wrong. Why thinking in pictures? Short answer: because the words seem to need help. If you sample the many big ideas books to hit the shelves recently, they all promise a smarter, more rational you. But if the books are that good, why are there so many? Using illustrations and photographs, Michael Blastland shows how pictures can help put ideas to the test, making them vivid, showing them in action. Part guide, part gallery, *Thinking in Pictures* is a brilliant introduction to smart-thinking – how to use it and when to question it – for anyone trying to make sense of a puzzling world.

Science TP \$34.99

### Fungi

Discover the Science and Secrets Behind the World of Mushrooms

#### Boddy, Lynne & Ashby, Ali

A stunning, authoritative book on the fungal kingdom, uncovering the hidden world of more than 300 global species. Did you know that fungi put the fizz in champagne and the flavour in chocolate? Fungi is everywhere we look: in a forest, under the sea, and in the kitchen. In this beautiful book, leading fungal biologists Lynne Boddy and Ali Ashby bring you closer to 300 species of mushrooms and lichens through fascinating facts, mushroom datasets, and detailed illustrations. Discover some of the fastest speeds in nature, specimens that glow in the dark, and fungi that clean up oil spills. Humans have had a close relationship with mushrooms for thousands of years – from using the shiitake for healing, to telling stories of enchanted fairy rings, and cooking gourmet dishes with rare specimens. Bringing together technology, medicine, food, culture, and nature, this fascinating book will open your eyes to the wonders of the hidden kingdom all around us.

Science HC \$55.00

### Schopenhauer's Porcupine

Pocket Philosophy

#### Briere-Haquet, Alice

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860) was a German philosopher and a proponent of pessimistic philosophy. Deeply cynical of love and the want for children, he believed humans are all mere animals – just far more unhappy, because of our self-awareness. The porcupine dilemma is a metaphor about the challenges of human intimacy. Schopenhauer believed that, despite our good intentions, human intimacy cannot occur without substantial harm. By adapting famous animal parables, the Pocket Philosophy series seeks to introduce inquisitive readers of all ages – from one to 100! – to the biggest names in philosophy.

Philosophy HC \$16.99

### Epictetus' Raven

Pocket Philosophy

#### Briere-Haquet, Alice

Epictetus (c 50–c 135 AD) was a Greek Stoic philosopher. He believed that philosophy should be a way of life and not just a theoretical study. In this story, Epictetus is reminding us to focus only on what we can control – our own actions – and not spend time worrying about what we can't control. Happiness can only be achieved when we accept what we can't control and adopt the most positive outlook we can. By adapting famous animal parables, the Pocket Philosophy series seeks to introduce inquisitive readers of all ages – from one to 100! – to the biggest names in philosophy.

Philosophy HC \$16.99

### Heidegger's Lizard

Pocket Philosophy

#### Briere-Haquet, Alice

Martin Heidegger (1889–1976) is one of the most influential – and controversial – philosophers of the 20th century. He is mostly associated with existentialism (the study of human experience) and phenomenology (the study of consciousness), and his work was enormously influential. In this story, Heidegger is exploring the relationship between 'beings' and their environments. How much does each – the rock, the lizard and the human – understand of the world around them? By adapting famous animal parables, the Pocket Philosophy series seeks to introduce inquisitive readers of all ages – from one to 100! – to the biggest names in philosophy.

Philosophy HC \$16.99

### Zhuangzi's Butterfly

Pocket Philosophy

#### Briere-Haquet, Alice

Zhuangzi (late fourth century BC) was one of China's most significant proponents of Daoism. Daoism is an ancient philosophy that strives for harmony with nature, virtuousness and self-development. Zhuangzi's story of the dreaming philosopher and the butterfly is meant to challenge us to think about one big question: how do we really know what's real? By adapting famous animal parables, the Pocket Philosophy series seeks to introduce inquisitive readers of all ages – from one to 100! – to the biggest names in philosophy.

Philosophy HC \$16.99

### The Genetic Age

Our Perilous Quest to Edit Life

#### Cobb, Matthew

How 50 years of genetic engineering have brought us to the brink of a profound and disturbing future, from Baillie Gifford-shortlisted scientist Matthew Cobb. A new gene-editing technology, invented just seven years ago, has turned humanity into gods. Enabling us to manipulate the genes in virtually any organism with exquisite precision, CRISPR has given scientists a degree of control that was undreamt of even in science fiction. But CRISPR is just the latest, giant leap in a long journey to master genetics. *The Genetic Age* shows the astonishing, world-changing potential of the new genetics and the possible threats it poses, sifting between fantasy and the reality when it comes to both benefits and dangers. By placing each phase of discovery, anticipation

and fear in the context of over 50 years of attempts to master the natural world, Matthew Cobb, the Baillie Gifford-shortlisted author of *The Idea of the Brain* (PBK, \$24.99), weaves the stories of science, history and culture to shed new light on our future. With the powers now at our disposal, it is a future that is almost impossible to imagine – but it is one we will create ourselves.

Science PBK \$26.99

### The End of Solitude

Selected Essays on Culture and Society

#### Deresiewicz, William

A passionate, probing collection gathering nearly 30 years of ground-breaking reflection on culture and society alongside four new essays, by one of our most respected essayists and critics – former Yale English professor and National Book Critics Circle Award-winner William Deresiewicz. *What is the internet doing to us? What is college for? What are the myths and metaphors we live by?* These are the questions that William Deresiewicz has been pursuing over the course of his award-winning career. *The End of Solitude* brings together more than 40 of his finest essays, including four that are published here for the first time. Ranging widely across the culture, they take up subjects as diverse as *Mad Men* and Harold Bloom, the significance of the hipster, and the purpose of art. Drawing on the past, they ask how we got where we are. Scrutinising the present, they seek to understand how we can live more mindfully and freely, and they pose two fundamental questions: What does it mean to be an individual, and how can we sustain our individuality in an age of networks and groups?

Society and culture TP \$34.99

### Vital Organs

A History of the World's Most Famous Body Parts

#### Edge, Suzie

The remarkable stories of the world's most famous body parts. *Louis XIV's rear end inspired the British national anthem. Queen Victoria's armpit led the development of antiseptics. Robert Jenkin's ear started a war.* All too often, historical figures feel distant and abstract; more myth and legend than real flesh and blood. These stories of bodies, and its parts, remind us that history's most loved, and most hated, were real breathing creatures who inhabited organs and limbs just like us – until they're cut off, that is. Medical historian Dr Suzie Edge investigates over 40 cases of how we've used, abused, dug up, displayed, experimented on, and worshipped body parts, including why Percy Shelley's heart refused to burn; how Yao Niang's toes started a 1,000-year-long ritual; why a giant's bones are making us rethink medical ethics; and the strange case of Hitler's right testicle.

History/Science TP \$34.99

### On This Day in History

Sh!t Went Down

#### Fell, James

The hilarious, irreverent guide to world history you never knew you needed, featuring 366 profanity-filled tales of triumph and terror, science and stupidity, courage, and cowardice. Those who cannot remember the past... need a history teacher, who says

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction November 2023 (continued)

*f\*ck*, a lot. Nazis are bad. The worst kind of bad. There are no very fine people among them. If you disagree, you won't like this book. Still here? Cool. You are about to receive an education unlike any you've previously experienced. In this uproarious and informative tour from ancient times to the modern day and everything in between, James Fell, the self-proclaimed 'sweariest historian', reveals a past replete with deeds both noble and despicable. Throughout the book, he provides insightful analysis of all the *sh/t* that went down.

History TP \$47.99

### Question 7

**Flanagan, Richard**

Beginning at a love hotel by Japan's Inland Sea and ending by a river in Tasmania, *Question 7* is about the choices we make about love and the chain reaction that follows. By way of H G Wells and Rebecca West's affair, through 1930s' nuclear physics, to Flanagan's father working as a slave labourer near Hiroshima when the atom bomb is dropped, this daisy chain of events reaches fission, when Flanagan as a young man finds himself trapped in a rapid on a wild river – not knowing if he is to live or to die. At once, a love song to his island home and to his parents, this hypnotic melding of dream, history, place and memory is about how our lives so often arise out of the stories of others and the stories we invent about ourselves.

Memoir HC \$35.00

### Modern Warfare:

**Lessons from Ukraine**

a Lowy Institute Paper

**Freedman, Lawrence**

The foremost authority on modern war in the English-speaking world examines Europe's most important conflict since World War II. More than any other modern war, the fight between Russia and Ukraine has been a tough testing ground for modern weapons and operational concepts. Drawing on extensive research into the conduct of the war during its first year, Sir Lawrence Freedman assesses the contrasting strategies of the two sides. Ukraine has fought along classical lines, seeking victory through battle. Russia has adopted a more total approach, combining conventional battles with attacks on Ukraine's socio-economic structure. Freedman explains why the apparently superior Russian force has been unable to defeat and subjugate Ukraine.

Military history PBK \$12.99

### Mythos

The Illustrated Story

**Fry, Stephen**

The myths we all love, from Stephen Fry's bestselling *Mythos*, now return in a brand-new and achingly-beautiful, illustrated edition. The Greek myths are amongst the greatest stories ever told, passed down through millennia and inspiring writers and artists from Shakespeare to Walt Disney. They are embedded deeply in the traditions, tales, and cultural DNA of the West. These beautiful illustrations will mesmerise and enthrall you: you'll fall in love with Zeus, marvel at the birth of Athena, wince at Cronus and Gaia's revenge on Ouranos, weep with King Midas and hunt with the ferocious Artemis. Spellbinding, informative, and moving, Stephen Fry's *Mythos: The Illustrated Story*

perfectly captures these stories for the modern age – in all their rich and deeply-human relevance.

Myth HC \$80.00

### What You Need to be Warm

illustrated poetry

**Gaiman, Neil (editor)**

*Sometimes it only takes a stranger in a dark place... to say we have the right to be here, to make us warm in the coldest season.*

In 2019, Neil Gaiman asked his Twitter followers: *What reminds you of warmth?* Over 1,000 responses later, Neil began to weave replies from across the world into a poem in aid of the UNHCR's winter appeal. It revealed our shared desire to feel safe, welcome and warm in a world that can often feel frightening and lonely. Now, in a hardback edition, illustrated by a group of artists from around the world, *What You Need to Be Warm* is an exploration of displacement and flight from conflict through the objects and memories that represent warmth. It is about our right to feel safe, whoever we are, and wherever we are from. It is about holding out a hand to welcome those who find themselves far from home. Featuring new, original illustrations from Chris Riddell, Benji Davies, Yuliya Gwilym, Nadine Kaadan, Daniel Egnéus, Pam Smy, Petr Horáček, Beth Suzanna, Bagram Ibatoulline, Marie-Alice Harel, Majid Adin and Richard Jones, with a thought-provoking cover from Oliver Jeffers. Sales of every copy of this book will help support the work of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, which helps forcibly displaced communities and stateless people across the world.

Refugees HC \$19.99

### Comic Sans

The Biography of a Typeface

**Garfield, Simon**

Simon Garfield presents a new series of beautifully designed pocket biographies of iconic typefaces. Comic Sans is one of the most used and most reviled typefaces of the digital age. How was it made? How could it spawn a movement to ban it and, yet, still be so widely promoted by educators? What does its accidental creator make of its contentious and singular history? This quirky and unique book considers how the computer transformed type into something that anyone could use and have an opinion on. It examines how a typeface, correctly used, may sell us almost anything, and how new types with names such as Crash Soul, Lovely Scream Queens, and Ampersandist (to name but three recent examples of the hundreds issued, each year) each attempt to keep the alphabet exciting and new. And it concludes with an alluring question: could Comic Sans, now, be the coolest typeface ever made?

Design history HC \$34.99

### Practical Witch's

**Almanac 2024**

Growing Your Craft

**Gladheart, Friday**

Enrich your spiritual and magical journey with *The Practical Witch's Almanac*. This almanac provides more than Moon phases, Sabbats, and astronomical and astrological information. Every week you'll explore lessons in herbalism, magic, divination, and more. This practical guide

gives you recipes, DIY projects, tips, and advice to keep you motivated and engaged as you grow your craft. You'll explore reading tarot cards, runes, tea leaves, and other forms of divination. The herbal studies mentor you through basic teas, tinctures, foods, ointments, incense, and lotions while emphasising the synergistic union of science and magic. The magic lessons help you hone your spell casting, and the spiritual studies assist you in exploring your beliefs.

Witchcraft TP \$29.99

### Impossible, Possible, and Improbable

Science Stranger than Fiction

**Gribbin, John**

A scintillating collection of short essays that really does cover 'life, the Universe, and everything'. From the mysteries of the subatomic world to the curious property of water that makes our planet inhabitable, master of popular science John Gribbin delves into the astonishing facts that underlie our existence. Some aspects of the quantum world really do seem impossible to 'common sense', but have been proved correct by experiments. Other features of the Universe appear obvious, such as the fact that atoms are mostly empty space. But this familiarity hides the truly amazing truths underpinning these observations. And some things merely seem improbable but are also hiding a Deep Truth, such as the fact that the Moon and Sun look the same size as viewed from Earth. This book will change, forever, the way you view the world. This volume brings together three of John Gribbin's successful science books: *Six Impossible Things* (which was Shortlisted for the Royal Society Insight Investment Science Books Prize in 2019), *Seven Pillars of Science*, and *Eight Improbable Possibilities*.

Science PBK \$24.99

### The Rest is History

The official book of the hit podcast

**Holland, Tom**

**& Sandbrook, Dominic**

Make room Herodotus, stand down Bede, pipe down Pepsy – there's a new history book in town. From the chart-topping podcast *The Rest is History*, a whistle-stop tour through the past – from Alexander the Great to Tolkien, the Wars of the Roses to Watergate. The nation's favourite historians Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook take on the most curious moments in history, answering the questions we didn't even think to ask:

*Did the Trojan War actually happen? What was the most disastrous party in history? Was Richard Nixon more like Caligula or Claudius? How did a hair appointment almost blow Churchill's cover? Why did the Nazis believe they were descended from Atlantis?*

Whether it is sending historical figures to Casa Amor in a series of *Love Island*, ranking history's most famous eunuchs and pigeons (including Winkie, the unsung hero of the Second World War), or debating the meaning of greatness, there is nothing too big or too small for Tom and Dominic to unpick. So, run your Egyptian milk bath, strap up your best Spartan sandals, and prepare for a journey down the highways and byways of the human past...

History TP \$34.99

### The Loom of Time

Between Empire and Anarchy, from the Mediterranean to China

**Kaplan, Robert D**

A stunning exploration of the Greater Middle East, where lasting stability has often seemed just out of reach but may hold the key to the shifting world order of the 21st century. The Greater Middle East, which Robert D Kaplan defines as the vast region between the Mediterranean and China, encompassing much of the Arab world, parts of northern Africa, and Asia, existed for millennia as the crossroads of empire: Macedonian, Roman, Persian, Mongol, Ottoman, British, Soviet, American. But with the dissolution of empires in the 20th century, postcolonial states have endeavoured to maintain stability in the face of power struggles between factions, leadership vacuums, and the arbitrary borders drawn by exiting imperial rulers with little regard for geography or political groups on the ground. In *The Loom of Time*, Kaplan explores this broad, fraught space through reporting and travel writing to reveal deeper truths about the impacts of history on the present and how the requirements of stability over anarchy are often in conflict with the ideals of democratic governance. In *The Loom of Time*, Kaplan makes the case for realism as an approach to the Greater Middle East. Just as Western attempts at democracy promotion across the Middle East have failed, a new form of economic imperialism is emerging today as China's ambitions fall squarely within the region as the key link between Europe and East Asia. As in the past, the Greater Middle East will be a register of future great power struggles across the globe. And like in the past, thousands of years of imperial rule will continue to cast a long shadow on politics as it is practiced today. To piece together the history of this remarkable place and what it suggests for the future, Kaplan weaves together classic texts, immersive travel writing, and a great variety of voices from every country that all compel the reader to look closely at the realities on the ground and to prioritise these facts over ideals on paper. *The Loom of Time* is a challenging, clear-eyed book that promises to reframe our vision of the global 21st century.

History HC \$54.99

### The Best Australian

**Science Writing 2023**

**Lu, Donna**

Should we alter animals' DNA to save them from extinction? What secrets will old ice reveal to us about the Earth's deep past? How is the world's most expensive – and explosive – substance made? Great science writing offers fascinating insights into our surrounding environments, inspires awe at the wonders of the natural world, and also seeks to understand and address some of the biggest problems of our time. Science writing encompasses the vastness of the universe and all the diverse life forms within it. Stories abound in both the microscopic and the astronomical, from the scientists trying to reverse engineer brain circuitry to the largest radio telescope of its kind on Earth, which could help us detect alien life. This much-loved anthology – now, in its 13th year – selects the most fascinating, thought-provoking, poignant, and dazzling science stories and essays from Australian

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction November 2023 (continued)

writers, poets, and scientists. With a foreword by scientist and engineer Professor Mary O'Kane AC, this anthology covers another remarkable year filled with watershed moments in science. It includes the shortlisted entries for the 2023 UNSW Press Bragg Prize for Science Writing, and the 2022 Bragg Student Prize-winning essay.

Science TP \$32.99

### The Fortune-Teller's Deck

The Ancient Art of Cartomancy

Lyle, Jane

& Munden, Ollie (illustrator)

*The Fortune-Teller's Deck* offers you a fresh, entertaining, and contemporary approach to the art of reading playing cards. It includes a unique, beautifully illustrated deck of 54 cards, and the accompanying book reveals detailed interpretations of all the 'pip' and 'court' cards, plus the joker. A range of techniques for laying out and reading the cards in spreads are fully explained. Whatever your personal beliefs, and whatever your reason for consulting the cards, *The Fortune-Teller's Deck* provides you with a fascinating glimpse of destiny's secrets. Includes: easy-to-use layouts for every question; a 160-page book with full-colour illustrations; and a unique deck of 54 specially-designed playing cards.

Cartomancy KIT \$39.99

### Metropolitain

An Ode to the Paris Metro

Martin, Andrew

A unique look at Paris through the history of the Metro from award-winning author, Andrew Martin. Andrew Martin has been described as 'the laureate of railways', having written many books with railway themes. But Andrew has always been obsessed with the Paris Metro, hence *Metropolitain: An Ode to the Paris Metro*, the first English history of the Metro for the general reader. *Metropolitain* is as stylish as the Metro, itself, and laced with cultural references. Andrew explains why *Last Tango in Paris* is a great Metro film, and what the Metro chase scene in the classic thriller, *Le Samourai*, says about Parisian culture. He describes how he came to appreciate the beauty of Guimard's sinuous green Metro entrances when he bought a lily of the valley and observed it flowering on his desk. We meet Andrew's half-English, half-French friend, Julian, who runs a society dedicated to Metro history. He tells Andrew, 'A Metro station is like the wine cellar of chateau, which is a very nice thing to be reminded of'. The book takes the reader on a constant tour of Paris, both underground and over. But Paris, and the Metro, is changing, undergoing a huge expansion. This, and the imminence of the Paris Olympics, make this a timely title.

History HC \$39.99

### The Forgers

The Forgotten Story of the Holocaust's Most Audacious Rescue Operation

Moorhouse, Roger

This is the untold story of the Lados Group, a group of Polish diplomats and Jewish activists based in Switzerland during the Second World War who conceived an extraordinary operation to produce false identity documents

and passports, often to Latin American countries. These were smuggled into occupied Europe and would end up saving the lives of an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Jews – more, as he points out, than the famous efforts of Oskar Schindler. The Holocaust was made possible by the creation of lawless spaces and stateless individuals, so a passport to a non-European country was for many the difference between being sent to the camps and retained as a potential bargaining counter.

History TP \$36.99

### Ultrawild

An Audacious Plan for Rewilding Every City on Earth

Mushin, Steve

Join maverick inventor Steve Mushin as he tackles climate change with an avalanche of mind-bending, scientifically plausible inventions to rewild cities and save the planet. Jump into his brain as he designs habitat-printing robot birds and water-filtering sewer submarines, calculates how far compost cannons can blast seed bombs (over a kilometre), brainstorm biomaterials with scientists and engineers, studies ecosystems and develops a deadly serious plan to transform cities into jungles, rewilding them into carbon-sucking mega-habitats for all species, and as fast as possible. Through marvellously-designed and hilarious engineering ideas, Mushin shares his vision for super-high-tech urban rewilding, covering the science of climate change, futuristic materials and foods, bio reactors, soil, forest ecosystems, mechanical flight, solar thermal power and working out just how fast we could actually turn roads into jungles, absorb carbon and reverse climate change. Developed over seven years, *Ultrawild* is an optimistic book about creative thinking, science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and the potential for massive change. Filled with laugh-out-loud design-ridiculousness, it aims to empower and excite a new generation of designers, scientists, engineers, and ultra-wild thinkers.

Climate change PBK \$34.99

### To the Ends of the Earth

How the greatest maps were made

Parker, Philip

Britain's leading cartographic author takes us on a historical journey through how the greatest maps were created. Exploring key cartographers and mapmaking methods, as well as fascinating interludes on subjects such as the very first maps, deliberate mistakes, and superlative maps, this comprehensive guide explores how the techniques and technology have developed throughout human history: evolving methods of surveying: from the Roman *groma*, through the naval instruments of the magnetic compass, astrolabes and sextants, to the 20th century revolution of aerial photography; drawing tools and materials: from Babylonian maps carved in clay, to digital maps created via touchscreen; the introduction of various mapping conventions and key components of a map: from Ptolemy's introduction of longitude and latitude, through the 13th century origins of having north at the top, to the various projections used to represent the Earth.

Cartography HC \$49.99

### Speaking Volumes

Books with Histories

Pearson, David

A fascinating selection of books in both public and private collections, whose individual histories tell surprising and illuminating stories. Includes books damaged by bullets or graffiti, recovered from fire or water, or even disguised as completely different texts for protection in dangerous times – histories that help us to understand what difference a book may have made in the world. Generously illustrated with examples from the early Middle Ages to the present day, *Speaking Volumes* presents a fascinating selection of books in both public and private collections whose individual histories tell surprising and illuminating stories, encouraging us to look at and appreciate books in new and non-traditional ways.

Books HC \$79.99

### At the Edge of Mysteries

The Discovery of the Immune System

Perera, Shantha

The journey of the pioneers of immunology from smallpox to COVID-19. In December 2019, a new virus emerged – one that caused a global pandemic. Millions were infected. In the recesses of their fragile bodies a battle raged: between the immune system and the virus. But what is the immune system? What are its components? How do they work? One way to understand this system, arguably the most complicated in human physiology, is by walking in the footsteps of history, one observation and experiment at a time – beginning with the first written record of the concept of immunity in 430 BCE and travelling through the ensuing centuries, which gave the world vaccines, organ transplantation, novel therapies for cancer and, now, the understanding and tools to tackle the pandemic virus. An entertaining and accessible work of popular science, *At the Edge of Mysteries* introduces the reader to a compelling cast of characters, from Edward Jenner and Louis Pasteur to the Nobel laureates of the modern day. This book glimpses into their lives and times – seeking clues to their genius and celebrating their yearning for discovery – and asks the question of what can be learned from the past in the age of global pandemics.

Science TP \$32.99

### White Holes

Inside the Horizon

Rovelli, Carlo

A mesmerising trip to the strange new world of white holes, from Carlo Rovelli, the bestselling author of *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*. Let us journey, with beloved physicist Carlo Rovelli, into the heart of a black hole. Let us slip beyond its boundary, the horizon, and tumble – on and on – down this crack in the universe. As we plunge, we'll see geometry fold, we'll feel the equations draw tight around us. Eventually, we'll pass it: the remains of a star, deep and dense and falling further far. And, then – the bottom. Where time and space end, and the white hole is born... With lightness and magic, here Rovelli traces the ongoing adventure of his own cutting-edge research, of the uncertainty

and joy of going where we've not yet been. Guiding us to the edge of theory and experiment, he invites us to go beyond, to experience the fever and the disquiet of science. Here is the extraordinary life of a white hole.

Science HC \$35.00

### Invisible Lines

Boundaries and Belts

that Define the World

Samson, Maxim

A geographer's exploration of the world's unseen boundaries – the divisions we make, find or feel. Our world has innumerable boundaries, ranging from the obvious – like an ocean – to subtle differences in language or climate. Most of us cross invisible lines all the time, but don't stop to consider them. In *Invisible Lines*, geographer Maxim Samson presents 30 such unseen boundaries, intriguing and unexpected examples of the myriad ways in which we collectively engage with and experience the world. From football hooligans in Buenos Aires to air quality in China, Paris' *banlieues* to sub-Saharan Africa's Malaria Belt, the existence – or perceived existence – of dividing lines has manifold implications for people, wildlife, and places. Fully illustrated with maps of each location, *Invisible Lines* reveals the extraordinary ways in which we try to render the planet more liveable and legible; a compelling guide to seeing and understanding our world in all its consistency – and all its messiness, too.

Geography HC \$45.00

### The Bill Gates Problem

Reckoning with the Myth

of the Good Billionaire

Schwab, Tim

A critical look at how Bill Gates uses his wealth and power, through the Gates Foundation, to advance his own agenda and erode democratic institutions in the process. From greedy to generous, from cold to kind-hearted, from rogue to hero, Bill Gates is an extraordinarily complex public figure. Yet, over the last decade, we've reduced him to a flat caricature – a sweater-wearing, avuncular, well-meaning billionaire, who is adamantly giving away all of his money through the Gates Foundation, in order to improve the lives of others. This simplistic portrait perilously ignores the political influence that Gates has acquired through his charitable work, and the controversial ways through which he utilises it. The charity internally sets a policy agenda for how to fix the world – based on one man's worldview – then imposes this vision onto the developing world, by funding groups that align with it. Combining rich storytelling and ground-breaking reporting, *The Bill Gates Problem* offers readers a provocative and timely counter-narrative about one of the world's most famous figures. But more than that, this book speaks to a vital political question around economic inequality and the erosion of democratic institutions – why should the super-rich be able to transform their wealth into political power, and just how far can they go?

Biography TP \$36.99

# Pulp Fiction

## Nonfiction November 2023 (continued)

### **The Milky Way Smells of Rum and Raspberries...**

And Other Amazing Cosmic Facts

**Scudder, Jillian**

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

Science PBK \$24.99

### **Entangled Life**

How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds and Shape Our Futures, illustrated edition

**Sheldrake, Merlin**

The smash-hit bestseller, now illustrated with over 100 spectacular full-colour images, showcasing this wondrous and wildly various lifeform as never before. The more we learn about fungi, the less makes sense without them. They can change our minds, heal our bodies and even help us avoid environmental disaster; they are metabolic masters, earth-makers, and key players in most of nature's processes. In *Entangled Life*, Merlin Sheldrake takes us on a mind-altering journey into their spectacular world, and reveals how these extraordinary organisms transform our understanding of our planet and life, itself.

Science HC \$65.00

### **No Free Parking**

The Curious History of London's Monopoly Streets

**Smith, Nicholas Boys**

From the medieval cobbles, through Dickensian iron and fog, to the neon lights

and bustle of the 21st century, the ever-changing streets of London map out the vibrant stories, triumphs and struggles of everyone who ever called London home. From the Roman and Celts marching along the ancient Old Kent Road, to the rattling newspaper presses of Fleet Street, the game of *Monopoly* has painted London's story across cheerful coloured tiles. But those *Monopoly* streets live and breathe – they don't just illuminate our history. They open up whole new ways of thinking about it. The mobs have taken to our streets. The overlords have taken them back. Wars have spilled out into them. Lovers have snuck around them, and fires have raged through them. In a city of rags and riches, where folk hero Dick Whittington believed the streets were paved with gold, anything could happen – and everything has. You may think you know the history of London. You don't. Or at least, not entirely. This is the story of the capital as you've never, quite, heard it before.

History PBK \$24.99

### **A Rome of One's Own**

The Forgotten Women of the Roman Empire

**Southon, Emma**

The history of Rome has long been narrow and one sided, essentially a history of 'The Doing of Important Things', and as far as Roman historians have been concerned, women don't make that history. From Romulus through 'the political stab-fest of the late Republic', and then on to all the emperors, Roman historians may deign to give you a wife or a mother to show how bad things become when women get out of control, but history is more than that. Emma Southon's *A Rome of One's Own* is the best kind of correction. This is a retelling of the history of Rome with all the things Roman history writers relegate to the background, or designate as domestic, feminine, or worthless. This is a history of women who caused outrage, led armies in rebellion, wrote poetry; who lived independently or under the thumb of emperors. Told with humour and verve as well as a deep scholarly background, *A Rome of One's Own* highlights women overlooked

and misunderstood, and through them offers a fascinating and ground-breaking chronicle of the ancient world.

History HC \$57.95

### **The History of the Universe in 21 Stars**

(That You Can Spot in the Night Sky)

**Sparrow, Giles**

Look up on a clear evening, and you'll see thousands of stars shining in the night sky, each telling a story of their own. With star maps to help easily identify key celestial bodies, astronomer Giles Sparrow takes 21 stars (and three imposters) to look at what each pinprick of light can tell us about the birth, life and death of our universe. From red giants to supernovae and from stellar cities to our own Sun, *The History of Our Universe in 21 Stars* shows how the lights we see in the sky can help us unravel the mysteries of the cosmos.

Science PBK \$22.99

### **What's Cooking in the Kremlin**

From Rasputin to Putin, How Russia Built an Empire with a Knife and Fork

**Szabłowski, Witold**

A high-spirited, eye-opening, appetite-whetting culinary travel adventure that tells the story of the last 100 years of Russian power through food. In the gonzo spirit of Anthony Bourdain and Hunter S Thompson, Witold Szabłowski has tracked down – and broken bread with – people whose stories of working in Kremlin kitchens impart a surprising flavour to our understanding of one of the world's superpowers. In revealing what Tsar Nicholas II's and Lenin's favourite meals were, why Stalin's cook taught Gorbachev's cook to sing to his dough, how Stalin had a food tester while he was starving the Ukrainians during the Great Famine, what the recipe was for the first soup flown into outer space, why Brezhnev hated caviar, what was served to the Soviet Union's leaders at the very moment they decided the USSR should cease to exist, and whether Putin's grandfather really did cook for Lenin and Stalin, Szabłowski has written a fascinating

oral history – complete with recipes and photos – of Russia's evolution from culinary indifference to decadence, famine to feasts, and of the Kremlin's Olympics-style preoccupation with food as an expression of the country's global standing. Travelling across Stalin's Georgia, the war fronts of Afghanistan, the nuclear wastelands of Chernobyl, and even to a besieged steelworks plant in Mariupol – often with one-of-a-kind access to locales forbidden to foreign eyes, and with a rousing sense of adventure and an inimitable ability to get people to spill the tea – he shows that a century after the revolution, Russia still uses food as an instrument of war and feeds its people on propaganda.

History TP \$44.95

### **Fevered Planet**

How Diseases Emerge When We Harm Nature

**Vidal, John**

A timely and urgent investigation from John Vidal, Environment Editor of the *Guardian* for nearly 30 years, into how the destruction of nature is releasing disease into our societies. COVID-19, mpox, bird flu, SARS, HIV, AIDS, Ebola; we are living in the Age of Pandemics – one that we have created. As the climate crisis reaches a fever pitch and ecological destruction continues unabated, we are just beginning to reckon with the effects of environmental collapse on our global health. *Fevered Planet* exposes how the way we farm, what we eat, the places we travel to and the scientific experiments we conduct create the perfect conditions for deadly new diseases to emerge and spread faster and further than ever. Drawing on the latest scientific research and decades of reporting from more than 100 countries, former *Guardian* environment editor John Vidal takes us into deep, disappearing forests in Gabon and the Congo, valleys scorched by wildfire near Lake Tahoe and our densest, polluted cities to show how closely human, animal and plant diseases are now intertwined with planetary destruction. He calls for an urgent transformation in our relationship with the natural world, and expertly outlines how to make that change possible.

Science TP \$34.99