

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction Catalogue December 2023

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Osprey military history

Operation Black Buck 198

The Vulcans' extraordinary Falklands War raids, Air Campaign 37

Bird, Andrew D & Tooby, Adam (illustrator)

A newly-researched, fully-illustrated account of how RAF Vulcan bombers flew a series of the world's longest air raids in 1982 against Port Stanley airfield, in a daring, hastily improvised strike against the Argentinian invaders. The RAF's opening shots of the Falklands War were among the most remarkable airstrikes in history. The idea was simple: to destroy the runway at Port Stanley, and prevent Argentinian fast jets using it against the Royal Navy task force. But the nearest British-owned airfield was Ascension Island – 3,900 miles away from the Falklands. Researcher and historian Andrew D Bird has uncovered new detail of what really made these extraordinary raids possible, including never-before-published information and photos demonstrating the discreet support provided by the United States. Packed with spectacular original artwork and rare photos, this book explains how these hugely-complex, yet completely-improvised raids were launched. This is also the story of how the last of the Vulcans, only a few months away from the scrapyard, had to be hastily re-equipped to carry conventional bombs, with bombsights, electronics and navigation systems 'borrowed' from other aircraft. Yet, they managed to fly what were the longest-range air attacks in history, and struck a severe blow to the occupying Argentinians.

Aviation history PBK \$34.99

Spitfire Photo-Rece Units of World War 2

Combat Aircraft 150

Fletcher, Andrew & Laurier, Jim; Hector, Gareth (illustrators)

A fascinating exploration of the feats of the RAF's photographic reconnaissance aircraft. The photographic reconnaissance (PR) versions of the Supermarine Spitfire saw service against the Axis Tripartite throughout World War 2. Its superior performance even led to the USAAF adopting the type for the Eighth Air Force's reconnaissance needs in Europe. PR Spitfires were responsible for some of the most significant intelligence finds of the war – from low-level oblique photographs of new German radars in France

to locating the battleship *Bismarck* off the Norwegian coast before it attempted to sortie into the Atlantic. It has been estimated that as much as 80% of Allied intelligence was gathered from aerial photographs, many of which were taken by cameras installed in PR Spitfires. In this volume, RAF PR specialist Andrew Fletcher details the important part played by the small number of 'photo-rece' Spitfires in the key theatres of World War 2. His detailed text, which includes numerous first-hand accounts, chronicles operations from the first months of the conflict through to VJ Day.

Aviation history PBK \$34.99

The Blitz 1940–41

The Luftwaffe's biggest strategic bombing campaign, Air Campaign 38

Hale, Julian & Bangsø, Mads (illustrator)

An illustrated history of how the Luftwaffe intended 'the Blitz' to knock Britain out of the war, emphasising the German point of view and detailing how Britain's defences and civilians responded. The Blitz – the German '*blitzkrieg*' of Britain's industrial and port cities – was one of the most intensive bombing campaigns of World War II. Cities from London to Glasgow, Belfast to Hull, and Liverpool to Cardiff were targeted in an attempt to destroy Britain's military-industrial facilities and force it out of the war. Most histories of the Blitz concentrate on the civilian experience of 'life under the bombs', or the fighter pilots of the RAF; but, in military terms, the Blitz was also the Luftwaffe's biggest and most ambitious strategic bombing campaign. Focusing on both sides, this book places particular emphasis on the hitherto under-represented Luftwaffe view of the campaign and looks at the new technology and tactics at its heart. From the innovative development of specialist night-fighters to the 'Battle of the Beams' that pitted German electronic navigation systems against British countermeasures, the Blitz demonstrated the effects of developing technology on aerial warfare. Describing and analysing the strategy, tactics and operations of both the Luftwaffe and the UK's air defences during the period between September 1940 and May 1941, author Julian Hale demonstrates that, for a variety of reasons, there was little chance of the Luftwaffe achieving any of its aims.

Using primary sources, spectacular original artwork, 3D diagrams and maps, this study shines a fresh light on how and why the world's first true strategic air offensive failed.

Aviation history PBK \$34.99

MiG-21 'FISHBED'

Opposing Rolling Thunder 1966–68, Dogfight 08

Toperczer, István & Hector, Gareth; Laurier, Jim (illustrators)

Using archival photographs sourced directly from Vietnam, specially commissioned diagrams and combat accounts from veterans, István Toperczer reveals how the MiG-21 defended Vietnam between 1966 and 1968. One of the most successful communist jet fighters ever built, the MiG-21 'Fishbed' was involved in a series of deadly duels with American fighters over North Vietnam as the USAF and US Navy ramped up strike missions during Operation *Rolling Thunder*, culminating in the destruction of over 70 US aircraft for the loss of 35 'Fishbeds'. Having honed their skills on the subsonic MiG-17, pilots of the Vietnam People's Air Force received their first examples of the legendary MiG-21 supersonic fighter in 1966. Soon, thrown into combat over North Vietnam, the guided-missile-equipped MiG-21 proved a deadly opponent for the American crews striking at targets deep into communist territory. Although the communist pilots initially struggled to come to terms with the fighter's air search radar and weapons systems, the ceaseless cycle of combat operations quickly honed their skills. The best fighter then available to the VPAF, more than 200 MiG-21s (of various sub-types) were supplied to the North Vietnamese. In this study, leading VPAF authority István Toperczer analyses the tactics used by the MiG-21 pilots over the bitter fighting in North Vietnam during *Rolling Thunder*. The high-speed 'hit and run' attacks employed by the communist pilots proved to be very successful, with both R-3S air-to-air missiles and heavy-calibre cannon inflicting a rising toll on American jets. Using first-hand accounts from MiG-21 pilots, battle-scene artwork, combat ribbon diagrams, and armament views, the author details the important role played by the 'Fishbed' in the defence of North Vietnam.

Aviation history PBK \$32.99

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

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

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

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

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Nonfiction December 2023 (continued)

General nonfiction

Wise Words from

David Attenborough

A Book of Quotes

With his unmistakable voice and childlike wonder, Sir David Attenborough has graced our television screens, since 1954. This unauthorised collection celebrates the world's favourite naturalist and his perspective on plants, animals, sustainability, community, and beyond. From vegetarianism to climate change, each of these quotes demonstrates the power of words and positive thinking in our everyday lives.

Philosophy HC \$16.99

Who Are You?

The science-based personality game

Balsari-Palsule, Sanna

Discover your unique personality type and learn more about yourself and those around you with this fun, insightful personality game.

Would you say thank you for a bad haircut?

How do you feel about surprise parties?

Have you ever cheated in an exam?

Based in the fascinating science of personality, these 100 multiple-choice cards provide playful insights into how (and why) our day-to-day decisions define who we are. Play alone – or with your partner, friends, or colleagues – to discover the unique make-up of your personality and how it can help you thrive.

Psychology Game \$35.00

The Price of Time

The Real Story of Interest

Chancellor, Edward

A history of interest rates and their many unexpected ramifications from a leading financial historian and investment strategist. All economic and financial activities take place across time. Interest coordinates these activities. The story of capitalism is thus the story of interest: the price that individuals, companies and nations pay to borrow money. In *The Price of Time*, Edward Chancellor traces the history of interest from its origins in ancient Mesopotamia, through debates about usury in Restoration Britain and John Law's ill-fated Mississippi scheme, to the global credit booms of the 21st century. We generally assume that high interest rates are harmful, but Chancellor argues that, whenever money is too easy, financial markets become unstable. He takes the story to the present day, when interest rates have sunk lower than at any time in the five millennia since they were first recorded – including the extraordinary appearance of negative rates in Europe and Japan – and highlights how this has contributed to profound economic insecurity and financial fragility. Chancellor reveals how extremely low interest rates not only create asset price inflation but are also largely responsible for weak economic growth, rising inequality, zombie companies, elevated debt levels and the pensions crises that have afflicted the West in recent years – conditions under which economies cannot possibly thrive. At the same time, easy money in China has inflated an epic real estate bubble, accompanied by the greatest credit and investment boom in history. As the global financial system edges closer to yet

another crisis, Chancellor shows that, only by understanding interest, can we hope to face the challenges ahead.

Economics PBK \$26.99

Edible Economics

A Hungry Economist Explains

Chang, Ha-Joon

Economic thinking – about climate change, immigration, austerity, automation and much more – in its most digestible form.

For decades, a single free-market philosophy has dominated global economics. But this is bland and unhealthy – like British food in the 1980s, when bestselling author and Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang first arrived in the UK, from South Korea. Just as eating a wide range of cuisines contributes to a balanced diet, so too is it essential we listen to a variety of economic perspectives. In *Edible Economics*, Chang makes challenging economic ideas more palatable by plating them alongside anecdotes about food from around the world. Beginning each chapter with a menu, Chang uses the stories behind key ingredients – where they come from, how they are cooked and consumed, what they mean to different cultures – to explore economic theory. For Chang, strawberries are delicious with cream, but they also prophesise a jobless future; chocolate is a wonderful pudding, but more exciting are the insights it offers into post-industrial knowledge economies. Explaining everything from the hidden cost of care work to the misleading language of the free market as he cooks dishes like anchovy and egg toast, *Gambas al Ajillo* and Korean *dotori mook*, Ha-Joon Chang serves up an easy-to-digest feast of bold ideas. Myth-busting, witty and thought-provoking, *Edible Economics* shows that getting to grips with the economy is like learning a recipe: if we understand it, we can change it – and, with it, the world.

Economics PBK \$24.99

Atlas of the Invisible

Maps and Graphics that Will

Change How You See the World

Cheshire, James & Uberti, Oliver

An unprecedented portrait of the hidden patterns in human society – visualised through the world of data. Humans create data with nearly everything we do. This world of information is invisible, but it shapes society in profound ways. In *Atlas of the Invisible*, award-winning geographer-designer team James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti redefine what an atlas can be. Transforming enormous data sets into rich maps and cutting-edge visualisations, they uncover truths about our past, reflect who we are today, and highlight what we face in the years ahead. With their joyfully inquisitive approach, Cheshire and Uberti explore happiness and anxiety levels around the globe; they trace the undersea cables and cell towers that connect us; they examine hidden scars of geopolitics; and illustrate how a warming planet affects everything from hurricanes to the hajj. Years in the making, *Atlas of the Invisible* invites readers to marvel at the promise and peril of data, and to revel in the secrets and contours of a newly-visible world.

Geography PBK \$32.99

Once Upon a Tome

The misadventures of a rare bookseller

Darkshire, Oliver

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

Books PBK \$24.99

Interesting Stories

About Curious Words

From Stealing Thunder to Red Herrings

Dent, Susie

A literary treasure-trove packed with amazing words, jaw-dropping stories and unforgettable etymologies, from Susie Dent, lexicographer extraordinaire and Queen of Dictionary Corner. Join Susie on a curious and exceedingly interesting adventure through all the very best *red herrings*, *cock and bull stories*, and *nine-day wonders* in the English language. Who was *sweet Fanny Adams*? What's the dramatic true story behind *stealing thunder*? Why is it *chancing your arm*, when you take a risk? What do bears have to do with *licking into shape*? Or robbers with pulling someone's leg? Why are circles vicious? And, what's so bad about a *white elephant*?

Etymology HC \$34.99

From Above

Seeing the World from a Different Perspective

Do, Henry

Pay homage to the wonders of the world from above. Professional photographer Henry Do redefines how we view the world – in a fearless perspective on aerial photography, from lush tropical paradises to the stark patterns of urban landscapes... Henry Do's

first experience with the power of aerial perspective was flying from Vietnam to the United States as a child while immigrating with his aunt. He still remembers the fear, exhilaration, and perspective he felt when looking at the world from the sky, and he has made it his life's work to share the power of such images with hundreds of thousands of viewers across the world. *From Above* is the first book dedicated to Do's stunning work, showing people the majesty of desolate landscapes and the arresting patterns of urban planning. This sweeping visual exploration circles the globe and finds beauty in concrete jungles, iconic landmarks, breathtaking landscapes, and perplexing architecture. With each image, Do aims to give his audience the same experience he had as a boy seeing the earth from above for the very first time, so that each one of these images evokes those same feelings for viewers, and reminds us that we are all part of something greater than ourselves.

Aerial photography HC \$69.99

The Internet Con

How to Seize the Means of Computation

Doctorow, Cory

When the tech platforms promised a future of 'connection', they were lying. They said their 'walled gardens' would keep us safe, but those were prison walls. The platforms locked us into their systems and made us easy pickings, ripe for extraction. Twitter, Facebook, and other Big Tech platforms hard to leave by design. They hold hostage the people we love, the communities that matter to us, the audiences and customers we rely on. The impossibility of staying connected to these people after you delete your account has nothing to do with technological limitations: it's a business strategy in service to commodifying your personal life and relationships. We can – we must – dismantle the tech platforms. In *The Internet Con*, Cory Doctorow explains how to seize the means of computation, by forcing Silicon Valley to do the thing it fears most: interoperate. Interoperability will tear down the walls between technologies, allowing users leave platforms, remix their media, and reconfigure their devices without corporate permission. Interoperability is the only route to the rapid and enduring annihilation of the platforms. *The Internet Con* is the disassembly manual we need, to take back our internet.

Impact of technology HC \$34.99

The Lost Princess

Women Writers and the History of Classic Fairy Tales

Duggan, Anne E

People often associate fairy tales with Disney films, and with the male authors, from whom Disney often drew inspiration – notably Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and Hans Christian Andersen. In these portrayals, the princess is a passive, compliant figure. By contrast, *The Lost Princess* shows that classic fairy tales – such as *Cinderella*, *Rapunzel*, and *Beauty and the Beast* – have a much richer, more complex history than Disney's saccharine depictions. Anne E Duggan recovers the voices of women writers such as Marie-Catherine d'Aulnoy,

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Marie-Jeanne L'Heritier and Charlotte-Rose de La Force, who penned popular tales about ogre-killing, pregnant, cross-dressing, dynamic heroines who saved the day. This new history will appeal to anyone who wants to know more about the lost, plucky heroines of historic fairy tales.
Literary history HC \$37.99

Science of Spin

How Rotational Forces Affect Everything from Your Body to Jet Engines to the Weather
Ennos, Roland
Why exactly is the Earth round? How is it that boomerangs can turn in mid-air? And why do cats always land on their feet? From the solar system to spinning tops; hurricanes to hula hoops; power plants to pendulums, one mysterious force shapes almost every aspect of our lives. A force which, despite its ubiquity, continues to confound, baffle, and surprise. Artfully moving between astrophysics and anthropology, *The Science of Spin* provides a sweeping journey through space and time, from the creation of the Earth to the advent of the 'fidget spinner'. Charting the development of engineering and technology from the earliest prehistoric drills to the turbine engine, critically-acclaimed author and scientist Roland Ennos presents a riveting account of human ingenuity and the seemingly infinite ways spin affects our daily lives.
Science HC \$39.99

Basilisks and Beowulf

Monsters in the Anglo-Saxon World
Flight, Tim
This book addresses a simple question: why were the Anglo-Saxons obsessed with monsters, many of which did not exist? Drawing on literature and art, theology and a wealth of first-hand evidence, *Basilisks and Beowulf* reveals a people huddled at the edge of the known map, using the fantastic and the grotesque as a way of understanding the world around them and their place within it. For the Anglo-Saxons, monsters helped to distinguish the sacred and the profane; they carried God's message to mankind, exposing His divine hand in creation itself. At the same time, monsters were agents of disorder, seeking to kill people, conquer their lands and challenge what it meant to be human even. Learning about where monsters lived and how they behaved allowed the Anglo-Saxons to situate themselves in the world, as well as to apprehend something of the divine plan.
Folklore PBK \$24.99

The Eloquence of the Sardine

The Secret Life of Fish and Other Underwater Mysteries
François, Bill
Humans have identified just a fraction of the 2.2 million species living in the sea. Roughly 91% of all marine species remain unknown: myths still to be written, discoveries still to be made, blank pages with room to dream... As a small boy, Bill François was frightened of deep water. Until a chance encounter with the elusive sardine set him on course for a life in marine science: a mission to better understand, and preserve, the underwater world, to find his place in that ecosystem and learn how

to converse harmoniously with the ocean. In a series of exquisitely-rendered vignettes of marine life, François invites us on a whistle-stop global tour to reveal the mysteries of the sea, beginning with the simple eloquence of the sardine. He unpicks the sound of the sea – an underwater symphony orchestra voiced by a choir of fish – and deciphers the latest scientific discoveries on the immunity of coral and the changing gender of wrasses. We visit the depths of underwater Paris, as François delves into the mysterious world of the eel and explore an extraordinary three-generational friendship between humans and killer whales, and the role a shoal of herrings played in Cold War tensions. Throughout, François effortlessly brings the inner workings of fish to life – their language, their emotions, their societal rituals. He also makes a case for why we should look to the sea for inspiration for improving society and investigates the shocking journey from sea to plate. Drawing on history, myth and legend, but always grounded in science, *The Eloquence of the Sardine* will change the way you think about the sea in the most poetic of ways.
Natural history PBK \$24.99

Surviving the First 36 Hours

What to Do to Ensure Rescue
Furneaux, Ky
Surviving the First 36 Hours gives you all the tools you need to stay alive in extreme conditions and secure rescue. Picture this: the worst has happened, and you've suddenly been put into a survival scenario. In some cases, it might be best to find shelter, water, food, and fire. In others, you might need to get out as soon as possible. How do you determine which route to take? Survival expert Ky Furneaux tells you what to do right when things go wrong. These real-life scenarios are ones that every outdoor enthusiast should be prepared for. From situations where it's best to stay put to ones where your life is in immediate danger if you don't evacuate immediately, there is no better way to keep yourself safe than by being prepared. This book will teach you how to navigate various scenarios, including: injuries; hypothermia; snakebites; altitude sickness; poor weather conditions; becoming lost; wild animals; dehydration and starvation; burns and bushfire; drowning; and more. Detailed chapters provide expert descriptions of how to prepare and respond to a wide range of situations. Learn how to survive those critical first days when disaster strikes with *Surviving the First 36 Hours*.
Survival TP \$32.99

All the Knowledge in the World

The Extraordinary History of the Encyclopaedia
Garfield, Simon
A gloriously-illuminating history of the encyclopaedia (and how and why we have captured knowledge over the years). The encyclopaedia once shaped our understanding of the world. Now, these huge books sell for almost nothing on eBay, while we derive information from our phones. What have we lost in this transition? *All the Knowledge in the World* tracks the story from Ancient Greece to Wikipedia, from modest single-

volumes to the 11,000-volume Chinese manuscript that was too big to print. It exposes how encyclopaedias reflect our changing attitudes towards sexuality, race, and technology, uncovers a fascinating part of our shared past and wonders whether the promise of complete knowledge – that most human of ambitions – will forever be beyond our grasp.
Knowledge management PBK \$24.99

The Six

The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts
Grush, Loren
A fascinating and moving history of the first six women astronauts at NASA. The Six was an extraordinary cohort of women recruited by NASA in the 1970s. Ride was just one member of the Six. Greeted in Houston by makeup bags designed for use in space, no designated locker rooms, and flight suits that didn't fit, they went on to break barriers on earth and in space. In 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman to go into space. Anna Fisher was assigned to her first space flight while pregnant. Judy Resnik was killed in the *Challenger* explosion in 1986. But her legacy – and that of all the Six – lives on. This sparkling history reveals their journey through NASA's outreach program, rigorous tests and training, sexism, press attention, and the solidarity with which they overcame obstacles and launched into space.
History/Science HC \$55.00

A Book of Noises

Notes on the Auraculous
Henderson, Caspar
A compendium of sounds from this world and beyond. Sound shapes our world in invisible but significant ways, and here Caspar Henderson brings his characteristic curiosity, knowledge, and sense of wonder to the subject to take us on an exhilarating journey through the heard universe. *A Book of Noises* gathers together sounds from the cosmos, the natural world, the human world, and the invented world, as well as containing quiet pockets of silence. From the vast sound of sand in the desert to the tuneful warble of a songbird, to the meditative resonance of a temple bell and the improvisational melodies of jazz, this is a celebration of all things auricular.
Sound HC \$36.99

Love and Let Die

Bond, the Beatles and the British Psyche
Higgs, John
A singular work of narrative nonfiction that explores the unexpected connections between two titans of the British cultural psyche and what they can tell us about class, male identity, and our aspirations over 60 dramatic years. *Dr No*, the first Bond film, and 'Love Me Do', the first Beatles record, were released on the same day. Most countries can only dream of creating a phenomenon on this scale; Britain produced two on one windy October afternoon. Told over 60 dramatic years, *Love and Let Die* is the story of two culture touchstones that continue to define our aspirations and fantasies; of opposing values, visions of Britain and ideas about male identity; and of how a clash between working-class liberation and establishment control exploded on the global stage.
History PBK \$27.99

The Gore of an Onion

Peeling the Rarest Common Food
Kurlansky, Mark
A delectable look at the cultural, historical, and gastronomic layers of one of the world's most beloved culinary staples, featuring original illustrations and more than 100 recipes from around the world. As Julia Child once said, 'It is hard to imagine a civilisation without onions.' Historically, she's been right and not just in the kitchen. Flourishing in just about every climate and culture around the world, onions have provided the essential basis not only for sautés, stews, and sauces, but for medicines, metaphors, and folklore. Now, they're Kurlansky's most flavourful infatuation, yet; as he sets out to explore how and why the crop reigns from Italy to India and everywhere in between. Featuring historical images and his own pen-and-ink drawings, Kurlansky begins with the science and history of the only sulfuric acid spewing plant, then digs through its 20 varieties and the cultures built around them. Entering the kitchen, Kurlansky celebrates the raw, roasted, creamed, marinated, and pickled. Including a recipe section featuring more than one hundred dishes from around the world, *The Core of an Onion* shares the secrets to celebrated Parisian chef Alain Senderens' onion soup eaten to cure late-night drunkenness; Hemingway's raw onion and peanut butter sandwich; and the Gibson, a debonair gin martini garnished with a pickled onion. Just as the scent of sautéed onions will lure anyone to the kitchen, *The Core of an Onion* is sure to draw readers into their savoury stories at first taste.
History/Food HC \$34.99

Secrets of the Witch

An initiation into our history and our wisdom
Légère, Julie & Whyte, Elsa
Explore the mystical history of witches, throughout time and all over the world. Discover the symbols of witchcraft, reveal the magic of crystals, and become familiar with the spellbinding lore of the witch. Since ancient times, magic and witchcraft have inspired both fear and fascination. More recently, witchcraft has become a popular symbol for feminist empowerment. Everything a young witch needs to know is contained in *Secrets of the Witch*. Uncover the meaning and history behind magical tools and symbols such as cauldrons and pentagrams, find out the truths of the Salem Witch Trials, and learn about witches in popular culture, from the ancient figure of Circe to Hermione Granger.
Witchcraft HC \$26.99

The Song of the Cell

An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human
Mukherjee, Siddhartha
Rich with Mukherjee's revelatory and exhilarating stories of scientists, doctors, and the patients whose lives may be saved by their work, *The Song of the Cell* is the third book in this extraordinary writer's exploration of what it means to be human. Mukherjee begins this magnificent story in the late 1600s, when a distinguished English polymath, Robert Hooke, and an eccentric Dutch cloth-merchant, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek

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looked down their handmade microscopes. What they saw introduced a radical concept that swept through biology and medicine, touching virtually every aspect of the two sciences, and altering both forever. It was the fact that complex living organisms are assemblages of tiny, self-contained, self-regulating units. Our organs, our physiology, our selves – hearts, blood, brains – are built from these compartments. Hooke christened them ‘cells’. The discovery of cells – and the reframing of the human body as a cellular ecosystem – announced the birth of a new kind of medicine based on the therapeutic manipulations of cells. A hip fracture, a cardiac arrest, Alzheimer’s dementia, AIDS, pneumonia, lung cancer, kidney failure, arthritis, COVID pneumonia – all could be reconceived as the results of cells, or systems of cells, functioning abnormally. And all could be perceived as loci of cellular therapies. In *The Song of the Cell*, Mukherjee tells the story of how scientists discovered cells, began to understand them, and are now using that knowledge to create new humans. He seduces you with writing so vivid, lucid, and suspenseful that complex science becomes thrilling. Told in six parts, laced with Mukherjee’s own experience as a researcher, a doctor, and a prolific reader, *The Song of the Cell* is both panoramic and intimate – a masterpiece.

Science PBK \$27.99

Tasmanian Devil

A deadly tale of survival

Owen, David & Pemberton, David
The remarkable story of the world’s largest marsupial carnivore, including its rescue from near extinction through an innovative breeding program. This second edition has been fully updated. At night, their shrieks and growls echo through the Tasmanian bush, and they are famous for their ferocious bite and scavenging habits. In fact, the Tasmanian devil is quite shy and solitary, and one of Australia’s most treasured native animals. This is the story of the world’s largest living marsupial carnivore, packed with information that has either never been published or is found only in scientific publications. Until 3,000 years ago, the devil lived in the great eastern forests on mainland Australia. Now, confined to Tasmania, it was ravaged by a facial tumour disease that threatened its existence. *Tasmanian Devil* recounts the fascinating story of its rescue from the brink.

Natural history PBK \$29.99

Tasmanian Tiger

The tragic story of the thylacine

Owen, David & Pemberton, David
The tragic story of how ignorance, fear and lack of care led to the disappearance of the famous Tasmanian tiger. This updated edition includes the latest research on whether it could ever be cloned and returned to the wild. *Is it still out there?* People claim to keep seeing it, still. Once the world’s largest marsupial predator, the Tasmanian tiger roamed the Australian mainland. Then, confined to Tasmania for thousands of years, it was deliberately hunted down by settlers through fear, ignorance, and greed. But was it a savage sheep killer, or a shy and fussy nocturnal feeder? Did the last tiger die in a Hobart zoo in 1936, or did a few survive in the wild? And did it really drink

its victims’ blood? A number of Australian species have miraculously reappeared after being labelled as extinct. Perhaps the tiger is still with us. And if it’s not, can it really be brought back by cloning and returned to the wild?

Natural history PBK \$29.99

Earth

Over Four Billion Years in the Making

Packham, Chris

A beautiful, full-colour book to accompany the five-part BBC TV series telling the most important story of all, the deep history of our own planet. With the trademark dramatic storytelling techniques of *The Planets* and *The Universe*, Andrew Cohen and Chris Packham narrate the biography of the Earth, revealing the most epic moments from its history, from the first seconds of its existence to the arrival of its most incredible inhabitants, us. But humans take a back seat for this story as the Earth takes centre stage. We’ll witness those moments where our planet’s future hung in the balance in the face of massive bombardments from space, extreme changes in climate, the collision of whole continents and more, and we’ll tell the story of how Earth’s most incredible creations – life and intelligence – are set to have the same lasting impact on Earth’s story as any meteorite or earthquake. This is the epic four-billion-year story of the place we call home.

Science HC \$55.00

Atoms and Ashes

From Bikini Atoll to Fukushima

Plokhly, Serhii

An illuminating exploration of the atomic age through the history of six nuclear disasters. In 2011, a 43-foot-high tsunami crashed into a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, Japan. In the following days, explosions would rip buildings apart, three reactors would go into nuclear meltdown, and the surrounding area would be swamped in radioactive water. It is, now, considered one of the costliest nuclear disasters ever. But Fukushima was not the first, and it was not the worst... In *Atoms and Ashes*, acclaimed historian Serhii Plokhly tells the tale of the six nuclear disasters that shook the world: Bikini Atoll, Kyshtym, Windscale, Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima. Based on wide-ranging research and witness testimony, Plokhly traces the arc of each crisis, exploring in depth the confused decision-making on the ground and the panicked responses of governments to contain the crises and often cover up the scale of the catastrophe. As the world increasingly looks to renewable and alternative sources of energy, Plokhly lucidly argues that the atomic risk must be understood in explicit terms, but also that these calamities reveal a fundamental truth about our relationship with nuclear technology: that the thirst for power and energy has always trumped safety and the cost for future generations.

History/Science PBK \$26.99

Elemental

How Five Elements Changed Earth’s Past and Will Shape Our Future

Porder, Stephen

An ecologist explores how life itself shapes Earth using the elemental constituents we all share. It is rare for life to change Earth, yet three organisms have profoundly transformed

our planet over the long course of its history.

Elemental reveals how microbes, plants, and people used the fundamental building blocks of life to alter the climate; and, with it, the trajectory of life on Earth in the past, present, and future. Taking readers from the deep geologic past to our current era of human dominance, Stephen Porder focuses on five of life’s essential elements – hydrogen, oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus. He describes how single-celled cyanobacteria and plants harnessed them to wildly proliferate across the oceans and the land, only to eventually precipitate environmental catastrophes. He then brings us to the present, and shows how these elements underpin the success of human civilisation, and how their mismanagement threatens similarly catastrophic unintended consequences. But, Porder argues, if we can learn from our world-changing predecessors, we can construct a more sustainable future.

Science HC \$49.99

Fen, Bog and Swamp

A Short History of Peatland Destruction and its Role in the Climate Crisis

Proulx, Annie

Fens, bogs, swamps, and marine estuaries are the earth’s most desirable and dependable resources. Here, Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Proulx brings her witness and research to the vitally important role they play in preserving the environment, and their systemic destruction in the pursuit of profit. Travelling from the fens of 16th-century England to America’s Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, *Fen, Bog and Swamp* is both a revelatory history and an urgent plea for wetland reclamation, from one of our greatest prose stylists.

Environmentalism PBK \$24.99

Literary Cats

Robinson, Judith & Pack, Scott

Cats have provided the inspiration for an incredible range of fiction, memoir, and poetry, from ancient myths and fables to much-loved children’s books, and from classic tales to contemporary novels. This light-hearted book is a whirlwind journey through the history of literary cats, including their domestication, early cultural beginnings, and religious associations; as well as their roles in different literary genres, world literature, and some real-life authors’ cats.

Cats/Literature HC \$34.99

The Dawn of Modern Cosmology

From Copernicus to Newton

Rothman, Aviva (editor)

The astonishing story of the Copernican Revolution, told through the words of the ground-breaking scientists who brought it about. *‘How great, then, must be the incomprehensible space all the way to the furthest fixed stars? How wide and immense must be the depth of that fantastical sphere?’* In the late 15th century, it was believed that the earth stood motionless at the centre of a small, ordered cosmos. Just over two centuries later, everything had changed. Not only was the sun the centre of creation, but the entire practice of science had been revolutionised. This is the story of that astonishing transformation, told through the words of the astronomers and mathematicians

at its heart. Bringing together excerpts from the works and letters of Copernicus, Galileo, Kepler, Descartes, Newton, and others for the first time, *The Dawn of Modern Cosmology* is the definitive record of one of the great turning points in human history.

Science TP \$29.99

Mini Big Ideas

A Little Book of Big Innovations

Thomson, Jonny

Every so often, a new idea comes along that changes everything. *Vaccinations. Relativity. Fascism.* Can we imagine a world before the invention of writing? What would Christianity have looked like without with a concept of hell? Sometimes these ideas come along suddenly: Copernicus suggesting the earth revolves around the sun; Gutenberg’s printing press, Darwin’s theory of evolution. Sometimes they evolve over generations: the institution of marriage; the development of animal husbandry; the understanding of genetics. Either way, once the idea gains a foothold, nothing is the same again. This fascinating little book tells the stories behind 150 revolutionary concepts and explains why they are important. Taken from the realms of science, politics, society, religion and technology, these are the big ideas that have changed the world – in a nutshell.

Innovation HC \$34.99

Nomad Century

How to Survive the Climate Upheaval

Vince, Gaia

An urgent investigation of the most underreported, seismic consequence of climate change: how it will force us to change where – and how – we live. We are facing a species emergency. With every degree of temperature rise, a billion people will be displaced from the zone in which humans have lived for thousands of years. While we must do everything we can, to mitigate the impact of climate change, the brutal truth is that huge swathes of the world are becoming uninhabitable. From Bangladesh to Sudan to the western United States, and in cities from Cardiff to New Orleans to Shanghai, the quadruple threat of drought, heat, wildfires and flooding will utterly reshape Earth’s human geography in the coming decades. In this rousing call to arms, Royal Society Science Book Prize-winning author Gaia Vince describes how we can plan for and manage this unavoidable climate migration while we restore the planet to a fully habitable state. The vital message of this book is that migration is not the problem – it’s the solution. Drawing on a wealth of eye-opening data and original reporting, Vince shows how migration brings benefits not only to migrants themselves, but to host countries, many of which face demographic crises and labour shortages. As Vince describes, we will need to move northwards as a species, into the habitable fringes of Europe, Asia and Canada and the greening Arctic Circle. While the climate catastrophe is finally getting the attention it deserves, the inevitability of mass migration has been largely ignored. In *Nomad Century*, Vince provides, for the first time, an examination of the most pressing question facing humanity.

Climate change PBK \$24.99

Pulp Fiction

Nonfiction December 2023 (continued)

A History of Water

Being an Account of a Murder, an Epic and Two Visions of Global History

Wilson-Lee, Edward

From award-winning writer Edward Wilson-Lee, this is a thrilling true historical detective story set in 16th-century Portugal. *A History of Water* follows the interconnected lives of two men across the Renaissance globe. One of them – an aficionado of mermen and Ethiopian culture, an art collector, historian, and expert on water-music – returns home from witnessing the birth of the modern age to die in a mysterious incident, apparently the victim of a grisly

and curious murder. The other – a ruffian, vagabond, and braggart, chased across the globe from Mozambique to Japan – ends up as the national poet of Portugal. The stories of Damião de Góis and Luís de Camões capture the extraordinary wonders that awaited Europeans on their arrival in India and China, the challenges these marvels presented to longstanding beliefs, and the vast conspiracy to silence the questions these posed about the nature of history and of human life. Like all good mysteries, everyone has their own version of events.

History/True crime

PBK

\$24.99

Agatha Christie

An Elusive Woman

Worsley, Lucy

'Nobody in the world was more inadequate to act the heroine than I was.'

Why did Agatha Christie spend her career pretending that she was 'just' an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn't? As Lucy Worsley says, 'She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern'. She went surfing in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through devastating mental illness. So, why – despite all the evidence to the contrary – did Agatha present herself as a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure? She was born in 1890 into a world which had its own

rules about what women could and couldn't do. Lucy Worsley's biography is not just of an internationally-renowned bestselling writer. It's also the story of a person who, despite the obstacles of class and gender, became an astonishingly successful working woman. With access to personal letters and papers that have rarely been seen, Lucy Worsley's biography is both authoritative and entertaining and makes us realise what an extraordinary pioneer Agatha Christie was – truly a woman who wrote the 20th century. 'Worsley's book excels in bringing a broader historical perspective to Christie's life and work, and her enthusiasm is infectious.' – *Observer*.

Christie

PBK

\$24.99