



home while they made halting, bloody progress across such islands as Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Doing for the war against Japan what "Band of Brothers" did for the war against Germany, Ambrose's history effectively immerses readers in the Good War's second front.

**Washington Rules: America's Path to  
Permanent War**

**July**

**Bacevich, Andrew**

U.S. Army colonel turned academic, Bacevich offers an unsparing, cogent, and important critique of assumptions guiding American military policy. These central tenets, the "Washington rules", such as the belief that the world order depends on America maintaining a massive military capable of rapid and forceful interventions anywhere in the world, have dominated national security policy since the start of the cold war and have condemned the U.S. to "insolvency and perpetual war." Despite such disasters as America's defeat in Vietnam and the Cuban missile crisis, the self-perpetuating policy is so entrenched that no president or influential critic has been able to alter it. Bacevich argues that while the Washington rules found their most pernicious expression in the Bush doctrine of preventive war, Barack Obama's expansion of the Afghan War is also cause for pessimism: "We should be grateful to him for making at least one thing unmistakably clear: to imagine that Washington will ever tolerate second thoughts about the Washington rules is to engage in willful self-deception. Washington itself has too much to lose."

**Lost Girls: Three Friends, Four  
Continents, One Unconventional Detour  
Around the World**

**Baggett, Jennifer**

Friends Pressner, Baggett, and Corbett were all busy climbing the corporate ladder of Manhattan media when they realized that, in their late twenties, they weren't sure they wanted the golden handcuffs of New York success. Reprioritizing, they decide on a rebellious, extreme course of action: quit their jobs, abandon their boyfriends, and take a year-long trip around the world. In this group memoir, the three take turns chronicling a journey from Peru to Kenya to Vietnam to Australia, and everywhere in between. Though they don't always get along, the three learn to rely on each other, keep their minds open and throw themselves enthusiastically after every adventure that comes their way. The three authors, all gifted writers (each has worked as a journalist), provide passionate, vivid descriptions of their far-flung travels, bolstered by thoughtful insights and genuine intentions, making this an intensely enjoyable read for fans of travel writing; their semi-improvisatory experience provides a broader look at travel than either a luxury tour or a backpacking trip would, proving especially resonant. This memoir should also be immediately relatable for any twenty-something unsure of his or her future.

**Bailey, Blake**

**Cheever: A Life**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

Bailey, author of a biography of Richard Yates and editor of the Library of America's "John Cheever: Complete Novels" and "John Cheever: Collected Stories and Other Writings", presents a massively detailed biography of the man. Bailey had access to letters, journals, and other writings by the author as well as cooperation from Cheever's wife, children, and close friends and colleagues, which makes this biography more complete than Scott Donaldson's 1988 "John Cheever". Bailey's portrait of Cheever as author, family man, lover, and public figure contains everything readers would want to know about this important figure in American literature. The biographer is sympathetic toward his subject but presents all sides of Cheever's complex character, including his alcoholism, bisexuality, fears, struggles, and often turbulent relationships with fellow writers and family. Bailey also provides close readings of all of Cheever's novels and many of his short stories. Highly recommended.

**In Praise of Science: Curiosity,  
Understanding, and Progress**

**Bais, Sander**

In this engaging, lyrical book, physicist Sander Bais shows how science can liberate us from our cultural straitjacket of prejudice and intolerance. We're living in a time in which technology is taken for granted, yet belief in such standard scientific facts as evolution is actually decreasing. How is it possible for cell phones and Creationism to coexist? Science, fundamental, fact-based knowledge, not the latest technological gadget, can give us the global and local perspectives we need to make the world a better place. Bais argues that turning points in the history of science have been accompanied by similar milestones in social change, deeply affecting our view of nature, our perception of the human condition, and our understanding of the universe and our place in it. He describes what he calls the "circle of science", the microcosm and the macrocosm as mirror images and demonstrates unity in a dazzling sequence of topics, including the hierarchy of structures, the forces of nature, cosmological evolution, and the challenge of complexity. Finally, Bais takes on the obstacles science encounters in a world dominated by short-term political and economic interests. Science, he says, needs to get its message out. Drawing on sources that range from Charles Darwin and Karl Popper to Herbert Marcuse and Richard Feynman, with "In Praise of Science", Bais does just that.

**Lunch in Paris: A Love Story, with Recipes**

**Bard, Elizabeth**

The dream of falling in love with a Frenchman and diving into the expat life in Paris is always surrounded by stories of food and intercultural fumbles. Bard, an American journalist, takes us along on her romantic adventure, delighting us with humor, poignant insights, and the occasional personal struggle. She learns her way around French food and culture and shares recipes and etiquette tips. Go with Bard as she explores the open-air markets, bonds with her butcher, and introduces American comfort food to her French family. Filled with vignettes of faux pas, lessons learned, and delicious desserts, this memoir is a great, light read that lovers of food and romance will tear through.

**Barry, Dave**

**I'll Mature When I'm Dead**

A brilliantly funny exploration of the treacherous state of adulthood by the Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist. Some people may wonder what this subject has to do with Dave Barry, since Dave's struggled hard against growing up his entire life-but the result is one of the funniest, warmest, most pitch-perfect books ever on that mystifying territory we call "adulthood". In hilarious, brand-new pieces, Dave tackles everything from fatherhood, new fatherhood ("Over the next five years, you will spend roughly 45 minutes, total, listening to songs you like, and roughly 127,000 hours to songs exploring topics such as how the horn on the bus goes\* [\*It goes: 'Beep! Beep! Beep!']"), self-image, the battle of the sexes, celebrityhood, technology, parenting styles, certain unmentionable medical procedures ("There is absolutely no reason to be afraid of a vasectomy, except that: THEY CUT A HOLE IN YOUR SCROTUM."), and much more. It is a book of pure delight from the man one newspaper claimed "could become the most important American humorist since Mark Twain" (South Florida Sun-Sentinel)...though, frankly, we think they were indulging in some adult beverages at the time.

**The Icarus Syndrome: A History of American Hubris**

**Beinart, Peter**

A century of unwise American military adventures is probed in this perceptive study of foreign policy over-reach. Beinart highlights three examples of Washington's overconfidence: Woodrow Wilson's "hubris of reason": the belief that reason, not force, could govern the world; the Kennedy-Johnson administrations' "hubris of toughness" during the Vietnam War; and George W. Bush's "hubris of dominance" in launching the Iraq War. In each case, Beinart finds a dangerous confluence of misleading experience and untethered ideology; the Iraq War, he contends, was fostered both by a 12-year string of easy military triumphs from Panama to Afghanistan, and a belief that America can impose democracy by force. Beinart's analyses are consistently lucid and provocative-e.g., he calls Ronald Reagan "a dove in hawk's feathers," and his final conclusion is that "Obama will need to... decouple American optimism from the project of American global mastery." The book amounts to a brief for moderation, good sense, humility, and looking before leaping-virtues that merit Beinart's spirited, cogent defense.

**Here's Looking at Euclid: A Surprising Excursion Through the Astonishing World of Math**

**Bellos, Alex**

Bellos, a journalist with an undergraduate degree in mathematics, offers a lively romp through many different fields of mathematics as he incorporates ancient discoveries and modern developments alike. Topics include geometry, number theory, the development of sudoku, numerous aspects of pi and its calculation, statistics, probability and its application to gambling, and many other historical tidbits. In general, Bellos is cheerful, informative, and entertaining. All of the material will be within the reach of nearly all readers, including those whose formal math education ended in secondary school. The illustrations are clear and helpful.

**Bird, Kai**

**Crossing Mandelbaum Gate**

Bird, Pulitzer Prize-winning coauthor of "American Prometheus", offers a compelling hybrid of memoir and history, weaving together recollections of his childhood in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt; the stories of his wife's Holocaust survivor parents; and rigorous scholarship on the region. The book's title-Mandelbaum Gate once separated Israeli-controlled Western Jerusalem from the Jordanian-controlled East-indicates a view on the conflict, and it's certainly that, but it's also much more: readers are given ringside seats to Cairo under Nasser, the author's American family's friends (including Osama bin Laden's elder brother), and Bird's years in India and the U.S. during the heyday of the antiwar movement of the '60s. Notable events and figures are given detailed treatment and their continuing resonance is made clear. Bird's brushes with history-his first girlfriend was held hostage on an airplane hijacked to win Khaled's release, for instance-brings home the deeply messy humanity of the stories he binds together in this kaleidoscopic and captivating book.

**Bourdain, Anthony****Medium Raw**

In the ten years since his classic "Kitchen Confidential" first alerted us to the idiosyncrasies and lurking perils of eating out, from Monday fish to the breadbasket conspiracy, much has changed for the subculture of chefs and cooks, for the restaurant business—and for Anthony Bourdain. *Medium Raw* explores these changes, moving back and forth from the author's bad old days to the present. Tracking his own strange and unexpected voyage from journeyman cook to globe-traveling professional eater and drinker, and even to fatherhood, Bourdain takes no prisoners as he dissects what he's seen, pausing along the way for a series of confessions, rants, investigations, and interrogations of some of the most controversial figures in food. And always he returns to the question "Why cook?" Or the more difficult "Why cook well?" *Medium Raw* is the deliciously funny and shockingly delectable journey to those answers, sure to delight philistines and gourmards alike.

**Oil: Money, Politics, Power in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century****Bower, Tom**

In this penetrating study of the modern petroleum industry, journalist and historian Bower portrays the last 30 years as a time of both obscene profits and white-knuckle perils for the major oil companies. Having lost market share and pricing power to OPEC, government oil monopolies, and all-powerful commodities markets, Bowers contends, oil companies are locked in a desperate scramble for reserves, most of them located in unstable countries ruled by hostile potentates. He follows executives and engineers as they drill ever deeper under the sea for elusive deposits, brave Machiavellian negotiations with Vladimir Putin and the Russian oligarchs, and kowtow to Hugo Chavez for access to Venezuela's fields. They weather oil spills, refinery explosions, antitrust regulators, and global warming activists. Bower's analysis of the industry and its shocking price swings is a persuasive one that eschews conspiracy theories and peak oil alarmism to focus on rising demand for reserves that are plentiful but hard to get at. The result is an illuminating look at a business whose real workings are more interesting than the mythology surrounding them.

**Bowley, Graham****No Way Down: Life and Death on K2**

In this riveting work of narrative nonfiction, journalist Graham Bowley re-creates one of the most dramatic tales of death and survival in mountaineering history, vividly taking readers through the tragic 2008 K2 ascent that claimed the lives of eleven climbers, severely injured two others, and made headlines around the world. With its near-perfect pyramid shape, the 28,251-foot K2—the world's second-highest mountain, some 800 feet shorter than the legendary Everest hundreds of miles to the south—has lured serious climbers for decades. In 2008, near the end of a brief climbing season cut even shorter by bad weather, no fewer than ten international teams—some experienced, others less prepared—crowded the mountain's dangerous slopes with their Sherpas and porters, waiting to ascend. Finally, on August 1, they were able to set off. But hindered by poor judgment, lack of equipment, and overcrowded conditions, the last group did not summit until nearly 8 p.m., hours later than planned. Then disaster struck when a huge ice chunk from above the Bottleneck, a deadly 300-foot avalanche-prone gulley just below the summit, came loose and destroyed the fixed guide ropes. More than a dozen climbers and porters still above the Bottleneck—many without oxygen and some with no headlamps—faced the near impossibility of descending in the blackness with no guideline and no protection. Over the course of the chaotic night, some would miraculously make it back. Others would not. Based on in-depth interviews with surviving climbers and many Sherpas, porters, and family and friends of the deceased, "No Way Down" reveals for the first time the full dimensions of this harrowing drama.

**Brox, Jane****Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light**

NBCC Award finalist Brox examines our relationship with light, our attempts to harness it to brighten places we cannot see, and its impact on American psychology and culture. Her book dovetails beautifully with the social history of technology, as our relationship with light has encompassed the development of candles, lamps, light bulbs, and even far-reaching sociotechnical systems. Brox seems at her best exploring electrification's impact on early 20th-century rural America. Particularly engaging are her discussion of Franklin Roosevelt's establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority, its designers' hopes of engineering a better society, and the realities of its implementation. This well-written, well-researched, and thought-provoking book has much to offer. The general reader with an interest in the (social) history of technology will find it both a source of inspiration for considering technology's impact on our lives and a springboard to more scholarly works such as David Nye's *Electrifying America*.

**Burnett, Carol****This Time Together**

After detailing her difficult early childhood in the best-selling "One More Time", legendary performer Burnett now writes of her amazing journey from being fired from a movie theater usher job to her Broadway success and her amazing TV career on shows such as *The Carol Burnett Show* and specials with Julie Andrews. Burnett relates

behind-the-scenes stories from her show, like Bob Mackie coming up with the concept of her parodic "Went with the Wind" dress, which is now in the Smithsonian. Burnett's easygoing writing style makes the reader feel like a special friend, as she shares stories about Andrews, Jimmy Stewart, Lucille Ball, and Marlon Brando. Burnett ends the book with the tragic death of her beloved daughter Carrie Hamilton in 2002. Burnett's very funny second memoir is sure to appeal to a variety of readers, including fans of celebrity memoirs, biographies, and classic TV shows.

**Bush, Laura**

**Spoken from the Heart**

When Laura Welch first left West Texas in 1964, she never imagined that her journey would lead her to the world stage and the White House. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1968, in the thick of student rebellions across the country and at the dawn of the women's movement, she became an elementary school teacher, working in inner-city schools, then trained to be a librarian. At age thirty, she met George W. Bush, whom she had last passed in the hallway in seventh grade. Three months later, "the old maid of Midland married Midland's most eligible bachelor." With rare intimacy and candor, Laura Bush writes about her early married life as she was thrust into one of America's most prominent political families, as well as her deep longing for children and her husband's decision to give up drinking.

**Butler, Robert N., MD**

**The Longevity Prescription: The 8 Proven Keys to a Long, Healthy Life**

In recent years, there has been much research on how to live longer with fewer health problems. Now Butler, president of the International Longevity Center USA and Pulitzer Prize winner for "Why Survive?: Being Old in America", enters the fold with a book that, like its predecessors, emphasizes a diet rich in whole grains, fruits, and leafy green vegetables, as well as a lifestyle featuring regular exercise, sufficient sleep, reduced stress, and regular social interaction, preferably charitable. There's nothing here that can't be found elsewhere, but Butler's name will carry weight with many readers.

**Carr, Nicholas**

**The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains**

Expanding on his provocative Atlantic Monthly article, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?," technology writer Carr provides a deep, enlightening examination of how the Internet influences the brain and its neural pathways. Computers have altered the way we work; how we organize information, share news and stories, and communicate; and how we search for, read, and absorb information. Carr's analysis incorporates a wealth of neuroscience and other research, as well as philosophy, science, history, and cultural developments. He investigates how the media and tools we use (including libraries) shape the development of our thinking and considers how we relate to and think about our brains. Carr also examines the impact of online searching on memory and explores the overall impact that the tools and media we use have on memory formation. His fantastic investigation of the effect of the Internet on our neurological selves concludes with a very humanistic petition for balancing our human and computer interactions. Neuroscience and technology buffs, librarians, and Internet users will find this truly compelling.

**Carter, Miranda**

**George, Nicholas, and Wilhelm: The Royal Cousins and the Road to World War I**

Carter offers a multiple biography of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Tsar Nicholas II, and King George V--not to mention George's father, Edward VII--in a heavily researched effort to prove that the relationship among the German, Russian, and British cousins was largely responsible for the advent of World War I. Carter is insightful about the different personalities of her protagonists, with Wilhelm in particular coming across as an utter lunatic and boor with a tendency toward Anglophilia that ebbed and flowed. Nicholas's aversion to being tsar and willful disinterest in Russia's socioeconomic problems clearly led to distrust, dislike, and eventually the murder of his entire family. Nicholas's mother was the aunt of George V, and Queen Victoria was the grandmother of both George and Wilhelm. Her influence on these men is felt throughout this book. Carter's book is good for research assignments and general readers alike.

**Cassidy, John**

**How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

John Cassidy describes the rising influence of what he calls utopian economics--thinking that is blind to how real people act and that denies the many ways an unregulated free market can produce disastrous unintended consequences. He then looks to the leading edge of economic theory, including behavioral economics, to offer a new understanding of the economy--one that casts aside the old assumption that people and firms make decisions purely on the basis of rational self-interest.

**Finders Keepers: A Tale of Archeological  
Plunder and Obsession**

**Childs, Craig**

Childs intermingles personal experiences as a desert ecologist and adventurer with a journalistic look at scientists, collectors, museum officials, and pot hunters to explore what should happen to ancient artifacts. Questioning whether artifacts should be left in place, Childs argues that although surface surveys and electronic imaging permit study of buried objects without digging, that reliance on technology risks the loss of the "physical connection to the memory of ancient people." Yet he mourns the loss of context that comes from removing, say, the Temple of Dendur from its natural environment. On the other hand, he scrutinizes the "stewardship" of past archeologists who removed sacred objects when "[n]o one thought indigenous cultures would survive to start demanding their things back," returns now required by U.S. law. Childs is critical of museum facilities inadequate to protect items that archeologists removed from their sites precisely to preserve them from destruction. He is also unhappy with the legal sale of relics to collectors, which he believes led to "more digging and smuggling." His own "collection" consists of finds he has left in place across the Southwest. But, he says, artifacts that cannot safely be left in place should go to museums. This is an engaging and thought-provoking look at one of the art and artifacts' world's most heated debates.

**The Fourth Star: Four Generals and the  
Epic Struggle for the Future of the United  
States Army**

**Cloud, David and Jaffe, Greg**

The fall of Saigon in 1975 left the U.S. Army defeated, demoralized, and divided. It was an army torn apart internally, rife with drug and alcohol use and soldiers who didn't want to serve in it. This work is about four young officers just beginning their respective careers in the late 1960s and early 1970s: Generals George Casey, Peter Chiarelli, John Abizaid, and David Petraeus. They all helped not only to rebuild the army but also to rethink its role in modern warfare. In doing so, they became the army's most influential general officers in the war in Iraq.

**Cora, Cat with Ann Krueger  
Spivack**

**Cat Cora's Classics with a Twist: Fresh  
Takes on Favorite Dishes**

In her third cookbook, Cora reimagines classics with nods to her Greek and Southern heritage, making them perfect for quick week-night dinners and special occasions. Grilled cheese sandwiches become croutons floating on tomato soup and nachos get an addition of pita chips, feta, and sliced olives. Heavier recipes are selectively lightened with light sour cream, buttermilk, or nonfat yogurt. Cora caters primarily to home cooks looking to add variety and spice to old favorites. This will appeal to Food Network fans and time-pressed cooks of all skill levels.

**Something Incredibly Wonderful  
Happens: Frank Oppenheimer and the  
World He Made Up**

**Cole, K.C.**

Physicist Frank Oppenheimer has long been overshadowed by his controversial older brother, Robert, the "father of the atomic bomb," although his scientific career was also destroyed by the Red Scare of the 1950s. Cole was a close friend of Oppenheimer's and draws upon his papers, numerous interviews, and her personal experience to paint a picture of his life. Oppenheimer was deeply affected by working on the Manhattan Project. After being blacklisted during the McCarthy era, he ran a cattle ranch and taught high school physics before reemerging into public life in 1969 to create the Exploratorium, a revolutionary hands-on museum in San Francisco that combined art and science. Cole devotes the largest portion of her book to discussing this period of Oppenheimer's life, as it embodies his passion for teaching and fostering creativity. Indeed, it would be impossible to present the story of Oppenheimer's life without discussing the Exploratorium, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. In a thought-provoking and pleasant manner, Cole's much-welcomed book shines a new light on a remarkable man and scientist. Readers interested in good popular science biographies will enjoy this.

**Cooper, John Milton**

**Woodrow Wilson: A Biography**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

Cooper, arguably our leading Wilson authority, offers a comprehensive, felicitously written biography aimed at scholars but accessible to general readers, too. As Cooper notes, this "schoolmaster in politics" transmitted his thoughts on paper—a habit helpful to historians. Cooper mines Wilson's letters as well as the archival materials of Wilson colleagues. He admires Wilson for his faith, learning, eloquence, and executive skill while conceding that he had to learn foreign policy on the job—yet established America as an international player. Cooper considers Wilson hard-headed, with limited goals (World War I concluded not with total victory but with an armistice to save as many lives as possible). Unlike other scholars, Cooper claims that the Virginia-born Wilson was not an "obsessed white supremacist" but that his collegial governing style allowed cabinet members to introduce segregation throughout the federal government. And while his attorneys general violated civil liberties both during and after wartime, Cooper

claims that FDR's abuses were even worse. Highly recommended; readers are invited to wrestle with Cooper's favorable interpretation of Wilson's legacy and arrive at their own conclusions.

**Crosley, Sloane**

**How Did You Get This Number: Essays**

Sometimes you read a book that rings so true to your own life that you can hardly put it down. This is the case with Crosley's second collection, after her best-selling "I Was Told There'd Be Cake". With wit, humor, and a sophistication that more experienced authors would envy, this compilation focuses on Crosley's late twenties. As Crosley writes about an impromptu trip to Lisbon that may (or may not) have been a freak-out response to turning 30 and explores the various trappings of being a grownup, readers will recognize their own life experiences, with Crosley's insights and excellent storytelling skills to guide them. Reading like the diary entries of a thirtysomething, Crosley's essays are brutally honest about her flaws as well as the flaws of others and, as a result, paint a realistic and hilarious portrait of what it's like to be an adult in today's world.

**Crystal, David**

**A Little Book of Language**

In the mode of Yale's successful publication of E.H. Gombrich's "A Little History of the World", one of the world's leading linguists introduces us to our most critical mode of communication. Crystal fills this exhilarating romp through the mysteries and vagaries of language, from how infants acquire language to how many words the average adult knows (40,000) and slang ("Linguists love collecting slang. It's a bit like collecting stamps"). In a concluding minimanifesto, he hopes, among other things, that everyone who has a real interest in language will try to preserve the world's languages in all their rich variety, whether remote, dying languages or the variations of dialect and accent in their own language. This is especially important today, he says, to note how we shape language and how language shapes us. Crystal smoothly boils down his vast knowledge about the peculiarities of spelling, grammar, and diction, and the influence of new kinds of linguistic style (computer language, texting) on language development. This is the perfect primer for anyone interested in the subject.

**Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in  
Modern India**

**Dalrymple, William**

For the last 20 years, Scotsman Dalrymple has made the Indian subcontinent his bailiwick. In his introduction here, he describes "Nine Lives" as "a collection of non-fiction short stories," and he does portray the "pluralist religious and philosophic folk traditions" found in India in a way that is compelling and accessible to all readers. His subjects here are all people living on the margins: we meet a wandering Jain nun, a Tantric housewife whose abode is the cremation ground, a Sufi holy woman, a refugee from two countries, a blind Baul minstrel, and a Rajasthani bard who can recite from memory an epic of 626 pages, to name only a few. Dalrymple shows us the "lived experience" of the practitioners of these different religious paths and how their worlds have been impacted in a rapidly changing India. Dalrymple's book is highly recommended for all collections. Readers will sense the power of faith underlying the divergent religious paths, with stories that are enthralling and will keep them up late reading.

**You Never Give Me Your Money: The  
Beatles After the Breakup**

**Doggett, Peter**

The Beatles story has been told and retold, but British journalist Doggett shines welcome light on some of the seedier aspects of the saga of the world's most popular and influential pop band, focusing on what caused the group to splinter and why the Fab Four failed to reconcile. He details the musicians' poor business decisions, ego-driven mistakes, and missed opportunities, as well as the malignant influence of outsiders. All but the most well-informed Beatles fans will learn a great deal about the band's disintegration and decades long personal, legal, and financial squabbles. Doggett, an admitted Beatles fanatic, writes with mostly journalistic objectivity about these fallible superstars. Relying on documented evidence and a variety of contemporary accounts, Doggett has crafted an authentic and enlightening book full of myth-busting surprises and insight.

**Fur, Fortune, and Empire: The Epic  
History of the Fur Trade in America**

**Doran, Eric Jay**

Dolan presents an inclusive overview of the American fur trade from Colonial times until the beginnings of the conservation movement of the late 19th century. Beaver, sea otter, and buffalo provided major economic motivation for extensive exploration and colonization of the East and West Coasts and interior waterways, plains, and mountains. Unlike most fur trade histories that focus on limited times or particular places, Dolan's narrative shows how the economic importance of furs and hides played a large role in determining Euro-American relations with American Indians and in shaping the course of empire for three centuries over what is now the United States and Canada. Celebrated participants covered here include Miles Standish, Peter Stuyvesant, John Jacob Astor, and Kit Carson, to mention a few. From the Iroquoian "Beaver Wars" of the mid-1600s to the brutal Russian domination of

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Alaskan native hunters, Dolin successfully shows how America's natural history is a vital part of our collective national history. Highly recommended for readers and researchers of American history and natural resources.

**War at the *Wall Street Journal*: Inside the Struggle to Control an American Business Empire**

**Ellison, Sarah**

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), published by Dow Jones, had been family owned for over a century when Rupert Murdoch's bid split the Bancrofts. Although the family had not been actively managing Dow Jones, instead relying on advisers, many were convinced that Murdoch would sensationalize the paper. Others worried about the paper's right-wing editorial slant encroaching on its journalistic bent. Ellison, a former reporter for the WSJ, delves into extraordinary detail on the business and personal disputes that peppered the 2007 acquisition. Keeping track of all the players can be tricky, but a Cast of Characters list at the book's beginning helps. Ellison makes clear that a large reason Murdoch wanted to purchase the WSJ was a rivalry with New York Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr. This is an ideal read for those heavily interested in media business and tactics, but it might be too detailed for others looking for an overview

**High Financier: The Lives and Time of Siegmund Warburg**

**Ferguson, Niall**

In this pathbreaking new biography, based on more than ten thousand hitherto unavailable letters and diary entries, Ferguson returns to his roots as a financial historian to tell the story of Siegmund Warburg, an extraordinary man whose austere philosophy of finance offers much insight today. A refugee from Hitler's Germany, Warburg rose to become the dominant figure in postwar City of London and one of the architects of European financial integration. Seared by the nearcollapse and then "Aryanization" of his family's long-established bank in the 1930s and then frustrated by the stagnation of its Wall Street sister, Kuhn Loeb, in the 1950s, Warburg resolved that his own firm of S. G. Warburg (founded in 1946) would be different. Like a character from a Thomas Mann novel, Warburg was a complex and ambivalent man, as much a psychologist, politician, and actor-manager as he was a banker. Niall Ferguson shares the first book-length examination of a man whose life and work suggest an alternative to the troubled business principles that helped shape our current financial landscape.

**The Man Who Left too Soon: Steig Larsson**

**Forshaw, Barry**

His three novels are violent, terrifying, brilliantly written, and have sold millions of copies around the world, but Stieg Larsson was not able to witness their international success. Since he died in 2004 the author of the Millennium trilogy has received international fame with dizzying speed. But when one looks a little deeper at the man behind these phenomenal novels, it is clear that his life would be remembered as truly extraordinary even had his trilogy never been published. Larsson was a workaholic: a political activist, photographer, graphic designer, a respected journalist, and the editor of numerous science fiction magazines. At night, to relax, he wrote crime novels. By the time of his death at the age of 50 he had completed "The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest", the third book featuring the hypnotic Lisbeth Salander. His relentless personality and political convictions did not make life easy. He famously took on some dangerous neo-Nazi opponents, making for much speculation that his enemies, who often told him that his days were numbered, may have a hand in his premature demise. This difficult man, brilliant and multifaceted, is the subject of a penetrating biography and a celebration of his remarkable life and books.

**Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage**

**Gilbert, Elizabeth**

After her Brazilian boyfriend is denied re-entry at a border crossing, Gilbert must marry him if they want to continue living together in the United States. Despite her insistence in "Eat, Pray, Love" never to remarry, Gilbert comes to terms with the institution after several months of enforced exile abroad with her boyfriend. This well-researched, thought-provoking investigation into marriage in the Western world, interspersed with her own personal journey to the altar.

**Gingrich, Newt**

**To Save America**

In his new book, "To Save America", former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich issues a dire warning for America. By spending more than we can afford, sacrificing conservative values for the sake of easy answers, and electing the most liberal president ever, America is at risk for its very survival. Thanks to President Obama and his cohorts in Congress, we have become a country defined by massive government takeovers, rising debt, and failing national security systems. "This is not the nation our Founding Fathers envisioned," Gingrich says, "America needs saving, and it's up to us to do it." Gingrich lays out a bold plan to put the United States back on track. Gingrich shows how

Republicans can make a comeback in the 2010 mid-term elections, win the 2012 presidential election, and reveals how readers can help restore our nation to its fundamental values. Gingrich's most powerful book yet.

**Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry  
Ford's Forgotten Jungle City**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

**Grandin, Greg**

Innovative automobile manufacturer Henry Ford had a unique vision that led to the large-scale application of assembly-line production processes, industry-leading wage rates, and sourcing of raw materials from the absolute base. Thus, once his production lines were churning out over a million cars per year, Ford sought to cut costs for tires by acquiring land in Brazil to grow rubber trees. In doing so, he set in motion a series of events chronicled in detail for the first time in this book. Though visionary, Ford did not really understand politics or diversity of human culture. This led to a series of missteps where time clocks, midday work hours, and other aspects of exported culture failed to resonate with the indigenous Brazilian workers. Instead of an efficient rubber farm, Fordlandia wreaked havoc in a space twice the size of Delaware; it was a spectacular failure. Workers eventually revolted, and the Brazilian army was brought in to restore order. Ford is iconic in American history and biography, the subject of over 100 biographies, but this particular misadventure has never been well documented until now.

**Greenberg, Alan C. with Mark  
Singer**

**The Rise and Fall of Bear Stearns**

Greenberg, former CEO and chairman of the board of Bear Stearns and vice chairman emeritus of J.P. Morgan Chase, and Singer, staff writer for the New Yorker, chronicle the rise and monumental fall of financial behemoth Bear Stearns in this highly anticipated insider account. From his joining the firm in 1949 through the sharp decline of its stock in 2008 to the potential bankruptcy, Greenberg shares not only a company history but the personal story of his journey up the corporate ladder. He takes us from his early days in Oklahoma to his frequent battles with the legendary head of the firm, Cy Lewis, and his disdain for recent CEO Jimmy Cayne. He tells of unusual company practices including reviewing partners' tax returns to enforce the company policy mandating charitable donations and encouraging whistle-blowers, even if claims later prove false.

**Seaworthy: A Swordboat Captain Returns  
to the Sea**

**Greenlaw, Linda**

After a 10-year hiatus from blue-water fishing, Greenlaw went cautiously to sea, seeking a payday and perspective on her life. Thanks to "The Perfect Storm" phenomenon (both book and film), she was celebrated as America's only female swordfish boat captain. She was now also a mother and an author who relished a new challenge, traveling 1,000 miles from her Maine home with an eager crew of four guys-three of them experienced sailing buddies-looking for swordfish on the 63-foot, six-and-a-half-knot steel boat Seahawk on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. It was a 52-day trip-and a sensational misadventure. Nearly everything that could go wrong, did, including her arrest for illegally fishing in Canadian waters. Greenlaw chronicles it all-a busted engine, a malfunctioning ice machine, squirrely technology-with an absorbing mix of nautical expertise and self-deprecation. After inspecting the Seahawk, Greenlaw calls it rough, but stable and capable. Then she writes, "Although I was referring to the boat, I couldn't help thinking the same could be said of her captain." From mishaps to fish tales, Greenlaw keeps her narrative suspenseful. Between bad luck and self-doubt, she moves from experience to wisdom, guiding both crew and readers on a voyage of self-affirmation.

**An Eagle Named Freedom: My True Story  
of a Remarkable Friendship**

**Guidry, Jeff**

Guidry, a former guitarist with the Beach Boys, was volunteering with the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center in Washington State when a malnourished eaglet with two broken wings was brought in for treatment. Knowing that it would never be able to fly but hopeful that it would participate in their raptor educational programs, the staff nursed the eagle, dubbed Freedom, back to health. Guidry played a significant part in its rehabilitation and formed a special bond with this majestic bird. In 2000, Guidry was diagnosed with stage three non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. During the grueling months of chemotherapy, it was the time spent with Freedom that brought him comfort and gave him a will to fight. Guidry is a gifted wordsmith who, like the Native American storytellers from whom he draws inspiration, vividly describes the breathtaking beauty of the landscape and the dedicated staff who expend their time, energies, and, in some cases, their fortunes rescuing wildlife. This heartwarming, engrossing story will attract those who enjoy personal narratives about the human-animal bond.

**The Price of Altruism: George Price and  
the Search for the Origins of Kindness**

**Harman, Oren**

Rarely can a work of popular science be read at so many levels-even the title contains a double entendre. The

problem of why altruism exists among self-interested individuals competing against each other according to natural selection is among the most complex of Darwinian theory. Harman reveals George Price as a scientific outsider who nonetheless discovered the mathematical formula that described both individual and group covariance. Although he worked on some of the major scientific undertakings of his day, his youthful ego and bravado kept him on the fringes. Later in life, after a profound religious conversion, he dedicated his life to altruism in a different way-by tending to the homeless and downtrodden. His tragic suicide was, perhaps, the price of his pursuit. A masterfully told story that edifies while it engages, this book is in the same class as Sylvia Nasar's *A Beautiful Mind* and could be as popular.

**Hastings, Max**

**Winston's War: Churchill, 1940 - 1945**

Military historian Hastings adds to his illustrious reputation with this magnificent analysis of Winston Churchill's years of greatness. In 1938 Churchill seemed a man bypassed by history. By 1945 he had become the greatest war leader Britain ever knew and has since achieved mythic status, "standing higher than any other single human being at the head of the forces of light." During WWII Churchill wielded more power than any British prime minister in history but remained a democrat. He raised his nation far higher in the Grand Alliance than its material contributions justified. Hastings recognizes Churchill's strategic errors, his misplaced enthusiasms. Britain's military leaders and military systems often disappointed his soaring hopes. His understanding of the empire and its peoples was limited and unenlightened. His indifference to building a new society resulted in his being turned out of office as the guns fell silent. But "the outcome justified all," in his eyes. Churchill's strength of will, rhetoric, and personality enabled the British to understand the reasons for their sacrifices and made Britain's end as a great power a heroic one.

**Game Change: Obama and the Clintons,  
McCain and Palin, and the Race of a  
Lifetime**

**Heilemann, John and Halperin**

Even before the book was out, its juiciest bits were everywhere: Sarah Palin was serene when chosen for V.P. because it was "God's plan." Hillary didn't know if she could control Bill (duh). Elizabeth Edwards was a shrew, not a saint. Overall, the men from the campaign garner less attention in these anecdote wars than the women and tend to come off better—but only just: Obama, the authors note, can be conceited and windy; McCain was disengaged to the point of recklessness; and John Edwards is a cheating, egotistical blowhard. Some will have trouble with the book's use of quotes (or lack thereof). The interviews, according to the authors, were conducted "on deep background," and dialogue was "reconstructed extensively" and with "extreme care." Sometimes the source of a quote is clear, as when the book gets inside someone's head, but not always. Many of the book's events were covered heavily at the time (Hillary's presumed juggernaut; Michelle Obama's initial hostility to her husband's candidacy), but some of what this volume delivers is totally behind-the-scenes and genuinely jaw-dropping, including the revelation that senators ostensibly for Clinton (New York's Chuck Schumer) pushed hard for Obama. Another? The McCain camp found Sarah Palin by doing computer searches of female Republican officeholders. A sometimes superficial but intensely readable account of a landmark campaign

**Grand Strategies: Literature, Statecraft,  
and World Order**

**Hill, Charles**

"The international world of states and their modern system is a literary realm," writes Charles Hill in this powerful work on the practice of international relations. "It is where the greatest issues of the human condition are played out." A distinguished lifelong diplomat and educator, Hill aims to revive the ancient tradition of statecraft as practiced by humane and broadly educated men and women. This fascinating and engaging introduction to the basic concepts of the international order not only defines what it is to build a civil society through diplomacy, justice, and lawful governance but also describes how these ideas emerge from and reflect human nature.

**Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of  
the American Century**

**Hiltzik, Michael**

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hiltzik details the creation of one of the largest public works projects in American history, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of its completion in 2011. He argues that some American attributes—such as a sense of community overtaking rugged individualism (considered a postwar American phenomenon)—in fact owe their origins to the dam, not to the war; likewise, for the Southwest becoming the fastest-growing part of the country. Hoover Dam was built during the Great Depression to make the flood-prone Colorado River an irrigation and water source for the Southwest, and those who built it wrote a dark labor history. Engineering science has both advanced and struggled with expensive dam repairs ever since. In the end, perhaps, there is remorse for the dam's impact, the new growing communities utterly dependent on its finite resource, and the seismic and environmental havoc it has caused. Hiltzik wonders if the dam could be built today, given what a Pandora's box it proved to be.

**Hitch-22: Some Confessions and Contradictions; A Memoir**

**Hitchens, Christopher**

Born on April 13, 1949, in Portsmouth, England, best-selling author Hitchens was past 40 when he learned of his Jewish blood through his matrilineal line; his mother's secret, unknown to his father. After university, Hitchens started to write articles, leading to a four-decade career at well-known magazines. Add to that books, essays, and pamphlets all written with an unerring eye for issues that raised his ire or his support. Hitchens casts a cold eye on such notables as Henry Kissinger, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush; puts under fire the Roman Catholic Church and the Vietnam War; and writes with affection about fellow literary peers. His coverage of Salman Rushdie's situation is an exercise in logic and idealism, while his views of British public education enlightens, as well as dismays. Of particular interest are his chapters on his mother and father, which are modestly deprecating and loving. Not only is the writing original and flowing, but this memoir is brimming with political and cultural insights. A reader may disagree with Hitchens's take on the world, but his writing wins the day.

**The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race And its Dangerous Legacy**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction**

**Hoffman, David E.**

This riveting narrative history of the end of the arms race sheds new light on the frightening last chapters of the Cold War and the legacy of the nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons that remain a threat today. During the Cold War, world superpowers amassed nuclear arsenals containing the explosive power of one million Hiroshimas. The Soviet Union secretly plotted to create the Dead Hand, a system designed to launch an automatic retaliatory nuclear strike on the United States, and developed a fearsome biological warfare machine. President Ronald Reagan, hoping to awe the Soviets into submission, pushed hard for the creation of space-based missile defenses. In the first full account of how the arms race finally ended, "The Dead Hand" provides an unprecedented look at the inner motives and secret decisions of each side. Drawing on top-secret documents from deep inside the Kremlin, memoirs, and interviews in both Russia and the United States, David Hoffman introduces the scientists, soldiers, diplomats, and spies who saw the world sliding toward disaster and tells the gripping story of how Reagan, Gorbachev, and many others struggled to bring the madness to an end. When the Soviet Union dissolved, the danger continued, and the United States began a race against time to keep nuclear and biological weapons out of the hands of terrorists and and rogue states.

**The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science**

**Holmes, Richard**

The Romantic imagination was inspired, not alienated, by scientific advances, argues this captivating history. Holmes, author of a much-admired biography of Coleridge, focuses on prominent British scientists of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including the astronomer William Herschel and his accomplished assistant and sister, Caroline; Humphrey Davy, a leading chemist and amateur poet; and Joseph Banks, whose journal of a youthful voyage to Tahiti was a study in sexual libertinism. Holmes's biographical approach makes his obsessive protagonists (Davy's self-experimenting with laughing gas is an epic in itself) the prototypes of the Romantic genius absorbed in a Promethean quest for knowledge. Their discoveries, he argues, helped establish a new paradigm of Romantic science that saw the universe as vast, dynamic and full of marvels and celebrated mankind's power to not just describe but transform Nature. Holmes's treatment is sketchy on the actual science and heavy on the cultural impact, with wide-ranging discussions of the 1780s ballooning craze, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and scientific metaphors in Romantic poetry. It's an engrossing portrait of scientists as passionate adventurers, boldly laying claim to the intellectual leadership of society.

**13 Bankers: The Wall Street Takeover and the Next Financial Meltdown**

**Johnson, Simon and Kwak, James**

Though this blistering book identifies many causes of the recent financial crisis, from housing policy to minimum capital requirements for banks, the authors lay ultimate blame on a dominant deregulatory ideology and Wall Street's corresponding political influence. Johnson, professor at the MIT Sloan School of Management, and Kwak, a former consultant for McKinsey, follow American finance's rocky road from the debate between Jefferson and Hamilton over the first Bank of the United States through frequent friction between Big Finance and democracy to the Obama administration's responses to the crises. The authors take a highly critical stance toward recent palliative measures, arguing that nationalization of the banks would have been preferable to the bailouts, which have allowed the banks to further consolidate power and resources. Given the swelling size of the six megabanks, the authors make a persuasive case that the financial system cannot be secure until those banks that are too big to fail are somehow broken up. This intelligent, nuanced book might be too technical for general-interest readers, but it

synthesizes a significant amount of research while advancing a coherent and compelling point of view.

**In the Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan**

**Jones, Seth G.**

Since 2001, RAND Corporation political scientist Jones has been observing the reinvigorated insurgency in Afghanistan and weighing the potency of its threat to the country's future and American interests in the region. Jones finds the roots of the re-emergence in the expected areas: the deterioration of security after the ousting of the Taliban regime in 2002, the U.S.'s focus on Iraq as its foreign policy priority and Pakistan's role as a haven for insurgents. He revisits Afghan history, specifically the invasions by the British in the mid- and late-19th century and the Russians in the late-20th to rue how little the U.S. has learned from these two previous wars. He sheds light on why Pakistan—a consistent supporter of the Taliban—continues to be a key player in the region's future. Jones makes important arguments for the inclusion of local leaders, particularly in rural regions, but his diligent panorama of the situation fails to consider whether the war in Afghanistan is already lost.

**Junger, Sebastian**

**War**

Embedded as a journalist in an infantry platoon of the U.S. 2d Battalion, Junger here tracks the unit's 15-month deployment at a desolate mountain outpost in eastern Afghanistan in 2007-08. Fighting is on foot, over rugged terrain, in a series of patrols and chaotic firefights interspersed with interminable periods of boredom. In a change from his earlier books, Junger here is an observer of the now, not simply a reporter of the past. Trying to capture in words the elements of combat, fear, and ennui through the eyes of the soldiers, he communicates with a level of objectivity that the soldiers cannot. Junger is there, in the moment, with them, but he can also of course pull back and give distance and perspective. Although ostensibly about combat in Afghanistan, "War" examines the raw, brutal reality of combat-period-and why men fight. More than anything else, soldiers fight for one another, and Junger paints them as humans, as heroes, as brothers. Highly recommended—not simply for those interested in military history but for all readers concerned with the human condition.

**Furious Love: Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, and the Marriage of the Century**

**Kashner, Sam**

When Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton starred together in Cleopatra in the early Sixties, they began a romance that shocked the world, and the public could not get enough of "le scandale" (as Burton coined it). Because they were married to other people and flaunted their relationship, they were denounced by the Vatican and some in the U.S. House of Representatives. They eventually wed, and for a quarter of a century their tempestuous on-again, off-again love affair continued to make headlines. Despite their occasionally over-the-top prose, biographers Kashner and Schoenberger have written a fascinating book that includes new research and interviews (Taylor shared Burton's love letters) and captures the glamour of a bygone era. This well-researched dual biography is juicy enough for any celebrity bio maven.

**The Disappearing Spoon: And Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World From the Periodic Table of the Elements**

**Kean, Sam**

Kean, an award-winning freelance news and science writer, intertwines fascinating stories with biographical sketches about the scientists who contributed to the discovery of the 118 elements found in the current periodic table. From hydrogen to ununoctium, the filling out of Mendeleev's original 19th-century periodic table is a curious story of history, politics, etymology, alchemy, and mythology. Kean primarily concentrates on discoveries since the dawn of the nuclear age and postulates on elements yet to be discovered. Aiming at a general audience with a cursory knowledge of science and chemistry, Kean writes in a whimsical yet easy-to-read style. Although he includes copious notes, his book complements rather than replaces Eric Scerri's excellent *The Periodic Table: Its Story and Its Significance*.

**Kelley, Kitty**

**Oprah**

For the past twenty-five years, no one has been better at revealing secrets than Oprah Winfrey. On what is arguably the most influential show in television history, she has gotten her guests—often the biggest celebrities in the world—to bare their love lives, explore their painful pasts, admit their transgressions, reveal their pleasures, and explore their demons. In turn, Oprah has repeatedly allowed her audience to share in her own life story, opening up about the sexual abuse in her past and discussing her romantic relationships, her weight problems, her spiritual beliefs, her charitable donations, and her strongly held views on the state of the world. After a quarter of a century of the Oprah-ization of America, can there be any more secrets left to reveal? Yes. Because Oprah has met her match. Turning

her reportorial sights on Oprah, Kelley has now given us an unvarnished look at the stories Oprah's told and the life she's led. Kelley has talked to Oprah's closest family members and business associates. She has obtained court records, birth certificates, financial and tax records, and even copies of Oprah's legendary (and punishing) confidentiality agreements. There is a case to be made, and it is certainly made in this book, that Oprah Winfrey is an important, and even great, figure of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. She has written a psychologically perceptive and meticulously researched book that will surprise and thrill everyone who reads it.

**Kilcullen, David**

**Counterinsurgency**

David Kilcullen is one of the world's most influential experts on counterinsurgency and modern warfare. A Senior Counterinsurgency Advisor to General David Petraeus in Iraq, his vision of war powerfully influenced America's decision to rethink its military strategy in Iraq and implement "the Surge," now recognized as a dramatic success. In "Counterinsurgency", Kilcullen brings together his most salient writings on this key topic. At the heart of the book is his legendary "Twenty-Eight Articles." Reading this piece is like reading a modern-day Sun Tzu--an essential read for officers in the field, and not infrequently an excellent source of wisdom for readers of all stripes, military or civilian. In such pithy adages as "Rank is nothing: talent is everything" or "Train the squad leaders--then trust them," Kilcullen offers advice that any leader would be wise to consider. The other pieces in the book include Kilcullen's pioneering study of counterinsurgency in Indonesia, his ten-point plan for "the Surge" in Iraq, and his frank look at the problems in Afghanistan. He concludes with a new strategic approach to the War on Terrorism, arguing that counterinsurgency rather than traditional counterterrorism may offer the best approach to defeating global *jihad*. Filled with down-to-earth, common-sense insights, this book is indispensable for all those interested in making sense of our world in an age of terror.

**The Bucolic Plague: How Two  
Manhattanites Became Gentlemen**

**Kilmer-Purcell, Josh**

**Farmers: An UnConventional Memoir**

Raised in rural Wisconsin, Kilmer-Purcell moved to Manhattan to work in advertising in the 1990s. He recalls how he and his partner, Dr. Brent Ridge, a Martha Stewart Omni Media v-p, became weekend farmers after purchasing the 19th-century Beekman Mansion on 60 acres near the "hauntingly beautiful" town of Sharon Springs, N.Y. Kilmer-Purcell writes with dramatic flair and trenchant wit, uncovering mirthful metaphors as he plows through their daily experiences, meeting neighbors, signing on caretaker Farmer John, herding goats, canning tomatoes, and digging a garden, as they fix up the 205-year-old house. Cleverly contrasting ad agency life with rustic barn mucking, he must choose: "I just can't face spending the rest of my life behind a desk selling dish soap to Middle America. Hell, I want to be Middle America." This entertaining book gets an extra big boost from the forthcoming Beekman Farm, a Planet Green documentary TV series about the dynamic duo's eco-adventures scheduled to air this spring.

**The Reluctant Spy: My Secret Life in the  
CIA's War on Terror**

**Kiriakou, John**

Retired CIA agent Kiriakou tells an engrossing story and delivers some strong opinions. Kiriakou earned a degree in Middle Eastern studies, but jobs in this field were scarce in 1988, so he listened when a favorite professor suggested applying to the CIA. As an analyst at the Iraqi-Kuwaiti desk, he oversaw intelligence during Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. By the late '90s, yearning for action, Kiriakou transferred from analysis to operations. There followed a stormy tour in terrorist-ridden Greece and the peak of his career after 9/11 as chief of counterterrorism in Pakistan, where he led a raid that captured an al-Qaeda chief. Except for a hair-raising account of the Bush administration's enthusiasm for torture, the account winds down in its final third when the author returns to the U.S., resigning in 2004. While readers may skim details of his unhappy first marriage, they will enjoy a mostly admiring portrait of the CIA but with telling critiques of its bureaucracy and of Congress's meddling in CIA affairs.

**Lancaster, Jen**

**My Fair Lazy**

It's a JENaissance! Readers have followed Jen Lancaster through job loss, sucky city living, weight loss attempts, and 1980s nostalgia. Now Jen chronicles her efforts to achieve cultural enlightenment, with some hilarious missteps and genuine moments of inspiration along the way. And she does so by any means necessary: reading canonical literature, viewing classic films, attending the opera, researching artisan cheeses, and even enrolling in etiquette classes to improve her social graces. In Jen's corner is a crack team of experts, including Page Six socialites, gourmet chefs, an opera aficionado, and a master sommelier. She may discover that well-regarded, high-priced stinky cheese tastes exactly as bad as it smells, and that her love for Kraft American Singles is forever. But one thing's for certain: Eliza Doolittle's got nothing on Jen Lancaster--and failure is an option.

**Le Breton, Binka**

**Where the Road Ends: A Home in the**

### **Brazilian Rainforest**

This book reveals all the enchantment of the rainforest, as well as its mysteries and dangers. The author and her agricultural economist husband moved to Brazil twenty years ago to take over an abandoned farm in a beautiful but remote locale. Le Breton's story the challenges and joys they faced adapting to the community and working to realize their dream of bringing environmental awakening to the region through the establishment of the Iracambi Rainforest Research Center. Her tale has everything, from bandits to insane elections to horribly delayed projects to the artificial insemination of the cows. The cast of characters, colorful in the extreme, includes a squatter cowboy who can fix almost anything, neighbors involved in vendettas, homeless bridegrooms, and women who take sewing seminars in the farmhouse kitchen hoping to make money from the new skills, in spite of the prevailing attitude that a woman's place was in the home. In spite of myriad setbacks, there is tremendous goodwill. "Most Brazilians spent their salary the day they received it, and most shopkeepers put up their prices accordingly. If you were quick off the mark you might find an item in the supermarket going at last week's price, but the supermarket staff tended to be quicker than you were." Le Breton's can-do attitude and successful gerry-rigging makes her an entertaining MacGyver of the jungle.

### **The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine**

**Lewis, Michael**

Versatile best-selling author Lewis gives a different take on the 2007-08 credit crisis as he chronicles how a handful of investment managers detected early on the growing bubble in the mortgage bond market and made fortunes betting against it. Lewis is a storyteller, and he weaves the personal stories of these renegades against the inner workings of Wall Street's mortgage-backed securities money machine. He explains in plain language how the industry obscured credit risk by packaging and repackaging low-quality subprime mortgages into complicated securities that could receive high credit ratings in a process he calls the financial alchemy equivalent of turning lead into gold. He says investors then looked at little more than the ratings as they bought billions of dollars' worth of these supposedly safe bonds. Lewis turns the crisis into a true financial thriller that screams of Wall Street's greed, recklessness, deceit, incompetence, and hubris. Readers from generalists through specialists will find this fast-paced, engaging account both illuminating and disturbing.

### **Somewhere Inside: One Sister's Captivity in North Korea and the Other's Fight to Bring Her Home**

**Ling, Laura and Ling, Lisa**

In 2009, Laura Ling, a reporter with Current TV, traveled with a film crew to the region of China that bordered on North Korea to report on defections, particularly of women who were later forced into arranged marriages or sex slavery. The crew momentarily crossed into North Korea, and Ling and Euna Lee, her editor and translator, were captured. Given the hostilities between North Korea and China and a recent critical documentary on North Korea by Laura's sister, journalist Lisa Ling, the women knew they were in for an ordeal. Laura was beaten during the capture, and the women were held in isolation and faced meager meals, cold, and little medical treatment. In the U.S., Lisa and her family prayed and called on powerful contacts, including Al Gore and Bill Richardson, to win the women's release. During the time of their captivity, North Korea conducted a nuclear test and fired off missiles, increasing tensions with the U.S. and UN. The women were eventually tried for attempting to overthrow the government and sentenced to 12 years in a labor camp, but through behind-the-scenes maneuvering and negotiations with prickly North Korea, they were finally released after five months in captivity. This memoir alternates between the sisters, with Laura recalling the escalating peril of her capture and imprisonment and Lisa recalling heightened worries as weeks dragged into months. A riveting story of captivity and the enduring faith, determination, and love of two sisters.

### **Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory**

**Macintyre, Ben**

In Macintyre's new book, Operation Mincemeat, he tells an extraordinary story that will delight his legions of fans. In 1943, from a windowless basement office in London, two brilliant intelligence officers conceived a plan that was both simple and complicated- Operation Mincemeat. The purpose? To deceive the Nazis into thinking that Allied forces were planning to attack southern Europe by way of Greece or Sardinia, rather than Sicily, as the Nazis had assumed, and the Allies ultimately chose. Charles Cholmondeley of MI5 and the British naval intelligence officer Ewen Montagu could not have been more different. Cholmondeley was a dreamer seeking adventure. Montagu was an aristocratic, detail-oriented barrister. But together they were the perfect team and created an ingenious plan: Get a corpse, equip it with secret (but false and misleading) papers concerning the invasion, then drop it off the coast of Spain where German spies would, they hoped, take the bait. Winston Churchill believed it might ring true to the Axis

and help bring victory to the Allies. Filled with spies, double agents, rogues, fearless heroes, and one very important corpse, the story of Operation Mincemeat reads like an international thriller. Unveiling never-before-released material, Macintyre brings the reader right into the minds of intelligence officers, their moles and spies, and the German agents who suffered the "twin frailties of wishfulness and yesmanship." He weaves together the eccentric personalities of Cholmondeley and Montagu and their near-impossible feats into a riveting adventure that not only saved thousands of lives but paved the way for a pivotal battle in Sicily and, ultimately, Allied success in the war.

**Madden, Bill**

**Steinbrenner: The Last Lion of Baseball**

No owner has changed the landscape of sports more than New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner. From the moment he bought the team in 1973 for \$10 million, Steinbrenner's monomaniacal pursuit was to restore the most fabled franchise in baseball history to its former glory. Today the New York Yankees are worth more than \$1 billion and are once again world champions. Award-winning sportswriter Bill Madden traces Steinbrenner from his early days in Cleveland through his years as a shipping magnate, a Nixon fund-raiser, and a champion horse breeder to the fateful moment when he bought the Yankees, even though his father disparaged George's desire to own a professional sports team as a "hobby." Over the next four decades, Steinbrenner's tumultuous reign included his epic battles with Billy Martin, Reggie Jackson, Dave Winfield, even beloved Yankee captain Derek Jeter. His ruthless and free-spending tactics made him a lightning rod for controversy but they also paid off: Steinbrenner's Yankees have won seven championships and remain the gold standard in all sports. In the last few years, with his health declining, the Boss ceded control of the team to his sons, but not before lordling over the team's historic transition from the House That Ruth Built to the House That George Built. Throughout his three decades of covering the Yankees, Bill Madden has cultivated hundreds of sources at every level in the organization, from the many managers and front-office personnel Steinbrenner has fired to the bat boys who are ever present in the locker room. All of them have colorful stories about the man with whom they have enjoyed a love-hate relationship, but it is the Boss himself whose voice rises above the rest. And when Steinbrenner decided to give his final print interview, he spoke to Madden to set the record straight on his extraordinary life and career.

**Mailer, Norris Church**

**A Ticket to the Circus**

Probably no one thought it would last, but the author's relationship with writer Norman Mailer endured and continued over 30 years despite a 26-year age difference, mutual infidelities, and illness. A writer in her own right, Mailer in this autobiography recounts her Arkansas childhood, previous marriage, meeting Norman, the subsequent move to New York to join him, their marriage, and later years together. The self-deprecating humor she employs throughout probably contributed to the success of her marriage to the famous author, which was the longest of his six unions. Her writing style is witty but also insightful as she describes the remarkable years she spent with Norman. She traveled the world, met celebrities and other literati, but also maintained a large family with strong bonds. Private letters and family photographs help complete this memoir.

**Marcus, Greil and Sollors, Werner A New Literary History of America**

Marcus and Sollors trace through literature the dynamism of American society and culture spanning 500 years, from the first time the name America appears on a map (1507) to the election of Barack Obama as president. The editors include over 200 chronologically arranged essays, original to this volume and including Camille Paglia on Tennessee Williams, Paula Rabinowitz on FDR's first fireside chat, David Treuer on Longfellow's Song of Hiawatha, Michael Tolkin on Alcoholics Anonymous, and Paul Muldoon on Carl Sandburg. The editors selected the entries from a pool of over 400 essays, requiring that each deal with a turning point, a new question, or a time when "what before seemed impossible came to seem necessary or inevitable." No single volume can fully capture the range of a nation's literary history, but this book succeeds in highlighting new ideas and providing a starting point for further investigation. Above all, it is a pleasure to read.

**The Fishes and Dishes Cookbook:  
Seafood Recipes and Salty Stories from  
Alaska's Commercial Fisherwoman**

**Marsh, Kiyo**

In this beautiful book, Kiyo Marsh, Tomi Marsh, and Laura Cooper, who have all worked on fish boats, combine fish information (cooking, gutting, and nutrition), stunning photographs, and stories of falling in love and fishing life. Seafood lovers are bound to discover new ways to prepare their favorite foods, with recipes like Hot Garlic Shrimp, Crab and Cucumber Salad, and Sweet Corn Cakes with Shrimp. In addition to inspired dishes, this book shows independent women thriving in a male field.

**Mayes, Frances**

**Everyday in Tuscany**

Mayes adds yet another book to the growing body of expatriate travel memoir, a genre she helped launch with "Under the Tuscan Sun". This time her prose feels more like a pastiche of journal entries than a coherent narrative. Mayes has lived a life of privilege; few of us can afford a second home anywhere, let alone in Italy, and few of us enjoy frequent restaurant meals, abundant leisure time, and opportunity for lavish entertaining. That Mayes can, and does, doesn't diminish the quality of her writing. Her passion for the Renaissance painter Luca Signorelli results in a chapter devoted to seeking out his works, thus providing an excellent traveler's micro-guide. She frequently ends chapters with recipes, many of which are easily duplicated, and there's an abundance of introspection to balance accounts of feasts with friends. This book is most easily read in bits and pieces, and Tuscan life comes off well. So it may surprise some that the place Mayes considers home isn't Italy but North Carolina.

**McDougall, Christopher                      Born to Run**

Full of incredible characters, amazing athletic achievements, cutting-edge science, and, most of all, pure inspiration, "Born to Run" is an epic adventure that began with one simple question: Why does my foot hurt? In search of an answer, Christopher McDougall sets off to find a tribe of the world's greatest distance runners and learn their secrets, and in the process shows us that everything we thought we knew about running is wrong. Isolated by the most savage terrain in North America, the reclusive Tarahumara Indians of Mexico's deadly Copper Canyons are custodians of a lost art. For centuries they have practiced techniques that allow them to run hundreds of miles without rest and chase down anything from a deer to an Olympic marathoner while enjoying every mile of it. Their superhuman talent is matched by uncanny health and serenity, leaving the Tarahumara immune to the diseases and strife that plague modern existence. With the help of Caballo Blanco, a mysterious loner who lives among the tribe, the author was able not only to uncover the secrets of the Tarahumara but also to find his own inner ultra-athlete, as he trained for the challenge of a lifetime: a fifty-mile race through the heart of Tarahumara country pitting the tribe against an odd band of Americans, including a star ultramarathoner, a beautiful young surfer, and a barefoot wonder. With a sharp wit and wild exuberance, McDougall takes us from the high-tech science labs at Harvard to the sun-baked valleys and freezing peaks across North America, where ever-growing numbers of ultrarunners are pushing their bodies to the limit, and, finally, to the climactic race in the Copper Canyons. Born to Run is that rare book that will not only engage your mind but inspire your body when you realize that the secret to happiness is right at your feet, and that you, indeed all of us, were born to run.

**McPhee, John                                      Silk Parachute**

McPhee's first book on Sen. Bill Bradley was published in 1965; since then he has written 28 books that include essays and writings on Alaska, the Jersey Pine Barrens, the bark canoe, boats, trains, the Army Corp of Engineers, and, most important, geology. His individual and distinguished style, his subjects, knowledge, curiosity, humor, and interests have made him one of America's most enjoyable and intellectually wide-ranging writers. The ten essays here first appeared in The New Yorker, where McPhee has been a staff writer since 1965. He addresses his mother, his prep school headmaster, his photographer daughter Laura McPhee, canoes, lacrosse, strange foods, fact-checking, golf, and New Jersey. Especially fine is "Season on the Chalk," McPhee's description of the English downs and France's Champagne country. Ideal for McPhee fans as well as those interested in good writing and fascinating subjects.

**The Year That Changed the World: The Untold Story Behind the Fall of the Berlin Wall**

**Meyer, Michael**

Meyer (director of communications, UN Secretary General; The Alexander Complex) offers a first-hand account of the break-up of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s. While acknowledging the import of President Reagan's "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" speech, Meyer provides compelling evidence that the destruction of the Berlin Wall was a culmination of complex events that had little to do with President Reagan or the United States. Using interviews with key players, he chronicles the popular uprisings in Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Romania that preceded and prompted the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union. With an informal and accessible style, Meyer provides an excellent account of major historical events.

**Moore, Wes    The Other Wes Moore**

In this memoir, Moore tells the story of his life as a child of Baltimore and the Bronx, an army officer in Afghanistan, a Rhodes Scholar, and a former White House Fellow. In detailing his journey from troubled adolescence to successful business career, he focuses on the intriguing concept of chronicling not only his life but that of another young man with the same name, from the same city, and roughly about the same age—the other Wes Moore. Drugs, violence, and prison marked the life of the other Wes Moore, now serving a life sentence for the murder of a police

officer. The author, after meeting the man who shares his name, gives us a book that details the parallel lives of these two boys, coming of age the hard way in the 1980s and 1990s. With its unique spin on the memoir genre, this engaging and insightful book ultimately asks the reader to consider the ways in which we as a nation alternately support and fail American children.

**Mortenson, Greg**

**Stones into School**

Mortenson's best-seller, "Three Cups of Tea", introduced his commitment to peace through education and became a book-club phenomenon. He now continues the story of how the Central Asia Institute (CAI) built schools in northern Afghanistan. Descriptions of the harsh geography and more than one near-death experience impress readers as new faces join Mortenson's loyal "Dirty Dozen" as they carefully plot a course of school-building through the Badakshan province and Wakhan corridor. Mortenson also shares his friendships with U.S. military personnel, including Admiral Mike Mullen, and the warm reception his work has found among the officer corps. The careful line CAI threads between former mujahideen commanders, ex-Taliban and village elders, and the American soldiers stationed in their midst is poetic in its political complexity and compassionate consideration. Using schools not bombs to promote peace is a goal that even the most hard-hearted can admire, but to blandly call this book inspiring would be dismissive of all the hard work that has gone into the mission in Afghanistan as well as the efforts to fund it. Mortenson writes of nothing less than saving the future, and his adventure is light years beyond most attempts. Mortenson did not reach the summit of K2, but oh, the heights he has achieved.

**Morton, Andrew**

**Angelina: An Unauthorized Biography**

**August**

At first glance, she might seem to be someone without any secrets, talking openly about her love life, sexual preferences, drug use, cutting, and tattoos--and why she kissed her brother on the lips in public. And yet mysteries remain: What was really going on in her brief, impulsive marriages to Jonny Lee Miller and Billy Bob Thornton, and what is going on in her partnership with Brad Pitt? What's behind the oft-reported feud with her father, the Oscar-winning actor Jon Voight? What drove her to become a mother of six children in six years? And—perhaps most puzzling of all—what about the other side of Angelina: How did this talented but troubled young actress, barely 35 years old, become a respected Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations as well as the "most powerful celebrity in the world" (unseating Oprah Winfrey) on *Forbes'* 2009 Celebrity 100 list? The answers that Andrew Morton has uncovered are astonishing, taking us deep inside Angelina's world to show us what shaped her as a child, as an actress, and as a woman struggling to overcome personal demons that have never before been revealed. In this spellbinding biography, Andrew Morton draws upon far-reaching original interviews and research, accompanied by exclusive private photographs, to show us the true story behind both the wild excesses of Angelina's youth and her remarkable work with children and victims of poverty and disaster today.

**Forces of Fortune: The Rise of the New  
Muslim Middle Class and What it Will  
Mean for Our World**

**Nasr, Vali**

In recent years, much of the discussion about the Muslim world has focused on the role of Islam in politics, especially the rise of extremist groups that invoke religious doctrine to justify their actions. In this informative book, Middle East expert Nasr challenges our commonly held assumptions about the dynamics of the contemporary Middle East. Using a language accessible to nonspecialists and relying on examples from countries ranging from Iran to Turkey and Pakistan, he demonstrates that there is a commercial revolution in the Muslim world fueled by the emergence of dynamic and upwardly mobile middle-class entrepreneurs and reformers who wish to develop their countries and enjoy the amenities of modern life. It is this "critical mass," that will define the contours of Middle Eastern politics and the broader Muslim world and not the marginal extremists that have dominated foreign news coverage of the region. This book should be read by all concerned citizens and policymakers in the West.

**Mrs. Adams in Winter: A Journey in the  
Last Days of Napoleon**

**O'Brian, Michael**

In early 1815, Louisa Adams left St Petersburg, Russia, with her young son to travel 2000 miles by horse and carriage to meet husband John Quincy Adams in Paris. As had been all too common in her marriage, she had been living alone for almost a year after her ambitious husband temporarily (it was thought) vacated his position as American minister to the tsar to participate in treaty negotiations ending the War of 1812. At about the same time, Napoleon escaped from Elba and also headed to Paris, which added drama to an adventure already daring for a lone woman (Bonaparte beat her to Paris by a day or two). Starting with Mrs. Adams's memoir of the journey, written later in life, historian O'Brien has indefatigably researched early 19th-century travel to re-create the 40-day journey through the bad inns and worse roads of Russia, Prussia, and France. Along the way, the reader gradually learns (almost as in a whodunit) the story of Mrs. Adams, the only First Lady born outside the United States. This

innovative and creatively told personal history of a forgotten figure bound by marriage to an ambitious American statesman bristles with insight into the era. Witty, informed, sophisticated, and moving; essential reading.

**The Fall of the House of Walworth: A Tale of Murder and Madness in Saratoga's**

**O'Brien, Geoffrey**

**Gilded Age**

**(July)**

The prestigious Walworth family of Saratoga, N.Y., built a fortune on Judge Walworth's 1830s legal success, only to lose everything after his grandson's nationally sensational 1873 parricide trial, the first test case of New York's new definition of first-degree murder. O'Brien uses diaries, newspaper accounts, and court records to create a lively multigenerational family history of ambition, hereditary insanity, and loyalty through the antebellum, Civil War, and Gilded Age eras. Judge Walworth's foppish son, Mansfield, married his stepsister Ellen in 1852 only to systematically abuse her and then periodically discard her for years at a time, including a long separation during the Civil War when Ellen lived in her battered native Kentucky. When Judge Walworth left Mansfield with little inheritance, the moderately successful writer penned explicit death threats to Ellen (now his exwife) and their children, resulting in his unstable 19-year-old son murdering him in 1873. O'Brien effortlessly stitches together the story of two families who intermarry with great potential, only to realize complete disintegration--including the great Walworth Mansion, which has been replaced by a gas station.

**Osborne, Frances**

**The Bolter**

Osborne's lively narrative brings Lady Idina Sackville (an inspiration for Nancy Mitford's character the Bolter) boldly to life, with a black lapdog named Satan at her side and a cigarette in her hand. Osborne portrays a desperately lonely woman who shocked Edwardian high society with relentless affairs and drug-fueled orgies. Idina's story unfolds in an intimate tone thanks to the author, her great-granddaughter, who only accidentally discovered the kinship in her youth with the media serialization of James Fox's *White Mischief*. Osborne makes generous use of sources and private family photos to add immediacy and depth to the portrait of a woman most often remembered as an amoral five-time divorcee. Still, Osborne unflinchingly exposes Idina's flaws--along with those of everyone else in the politely adulterous high society--while ably couching them in the context of the tumultuous times in which Idina resolved to find happiness in all the wrong places. The text, most lyrical when describing the landscapes around Idina's African residences, proves that an adventurous spirit continues to run in this fascinating family.

**The Quants: How a New Breed of Math Whizzes Conquered Wall Street and Nearly Destroyed It**

**Patterson, Scott**

The 'quants' are a new breed of Wall Street investor, elite math whizzes who use complicated algorithms and high-speed computers to profit from the system as a giant casino. In this a tale of greed, hubris, and the search for a secret that may not exist, Patterson tells the story of the rise and fall of the quants and their role in destroying the world's financial markets, focusing on four charismatic figures. The book includes a list of players and a glossary of market terms.

**The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of Little Bighorn**

**Philbrick, Nathaniel**

After 2006's eye-opening account of the fanatical Pilgrims in *Mayflower*, Philbrick tackles another American legend. Neither the golden-haired general nor the Indian chief here is the bloodthirsty warmonger often portrayed in other accounts. Both are top soldiers and natural leaders zealously looking out for their respective peoples' interests. There have been so many contrasting accounts from both sides over the years that it's difficult to get a truthful picture of what transpired on June 25, 1876, along the banks of the Little Bighorn River. Philbrick therefore incorporates multiple perspectives for a very round portrait of events. Custer's fatal errors were in divvying up his already meager lot of mostly inexperienced troops into smaller units for a multiangled attack and launching an assault without first appraising the behemoth enemy force. More than a detailed chronology of events--at which it excels--this book is an in-depth portrait of the two combatants--it's Sitting Bull's story as much as Custer's. Both shared tragic and triumphant lives indelibly woven into the fabric of American lore. Philbrick humanizes history, not only putting a recognizable face on the players in one of our nation's most notorious events but also providing insight into their hearts and minds.

**Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us**

**Pink, Daniel H.**

Management guru Pink, who first made a name for himself with the best seller "A Whole New Mind", elaborates on some decades-old motivational studies indicating that subjects will work more persistently to master an interesting

task rather than to gain a reward. On the basis of these well-known research results, he builds a theory of the ideal organization, one based on autonomy, mastery, and purpose, to which end he offers a "tool kit" of self-tests, suggestions, further readings, discussion questions, aphorisms, and various summaries of the book itself (including a Tweetable version). Readers also get accounts of businesses that are taking findings on motivation to heart.

**Poole, Eric**

### **Where's my Wand**

A quirky, irreverent story of growing up odd in the 1970's, when people still wrote letters, loved shag carpeting and used carbon paper. Fox Television radio-marketing executive Poole grew up in the Midwest in a family, and among an assortment of characters, destined to end up in a coming-of-age memoir. Some of the more entertaining stories include the chaos of his parents' fighting in 1969; the author's befriending of the sarcastic, armless Stacy (who "exhibit[ed] her stumps to the amazement and awe of the gathered fourth-graders"); his magical obsessions with Bewitched, which included an unhealthy attachment to Endora; and his failed exorcism of another bow in Bible school. From his early childhood, when he escaped into his family's basement to chant magical charms to ward off alienation and chaos, through his teenage years, when the normal teenage panic was amplified by the added bewilderment of his awakening homosexuality, Poole shares an intimate, self-effacing chronicle of a unique young boy and the forces that molded him into the grounded, articulate, charming oddball he is today. The real charm of the book lies in the authenticity of the humor. There is not one forced moment in the book, now is there a stitch of disingenuous manipulation to get a cheap laugh or manufacture a setup to a joke. Each entertaining tidbit grows from the characters, their lives, their struggles and their unforgivably shameless honesty. This is the story of growing up as the exception but learning to understand that if you're lucky and have the right mix of crazy people in your life, being the exception can morph into being exceptional.

### **Dining with Al-Qaeda: Three Decades Exploring the Many Worlds of the Middle East**

**Pope, Hugh**

Pope is an Oxford-educated scholar who has worked and lived in the Middle East. Using a storytelling style and avoiding theoretical cliches and confusing jargon, he presents everyday life in the Middle East to general readers, introducing the nuances of Middle East culture, politics, and society in the first few chapters of the book. He then delves into a detailed description of his own travels and explorations in key parts of the Middle East. He also discusses the process of state formation and the rise and persistence of authoritarian dictatorships in parts of the region as well as the broader issues of effective governance there. The final five chapters cover Iraq, both during Saddam Hussein's regime and after the U.S. invasion and occupation. Ultimately, the choice of title is perplexing: with the exception of a brief talk Pope had with an al Qaeda operative in Afghanistan, this book has nothing explicitly to do with al Qaeda. A highly readable and informative book.

### **The Death and Life of the Great American School System**

**Ravitch, Diane**

Ravitch (a professor of education at New York U. and a former Assistant Secretary of Education and member of the National Assessment Board) reverses her previous support of educational policies of testing, accountability, choice, charter schools, and markets as panaceas for the failures of the American educational system. Addressing a general audience, she reviews the recent experience with these policies at various levels, from the national on down, and details their failures, often echoing the arguments of longstanding critics of such policies. In her conclusion, she argues that the most important area of schooling that requires attention is the improvement of curricula, pointing to Japan and Finland as examples of excellence in this area (she remains critical of what she sees as left-wing and right-wing attempts to limit curricula for political reasons).

### **The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Healthcare**

**Reid, T.R.**

Even though the United States spends more on health care than any other nation, 20,000 Americans die each year as a result of having little or no health insurance. Reid surveys European and Asian systems that range from single payer to pay-as-you-go, describing how the systems evolved and enumerating their pros and cons. Refuting standard myths about European health care, he demonstrates that there is no monolithic "socialized medicine": most countries provide a basic health package paid for through nonprofit insurance, with supplemental private coverage also available. Reid makes a forceful case that if the United States makes a commitment to universal health care, these countries offer invaluable blueprints. Reid's concise-and surprisingly humorous-study is recommended to anyone following the ongoing debate over health-care reform.

**Remnick, David**

### **The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack**

## **Obama**

Pulitzer Prize winner Remnick unveils how Barack Obama bridged America's racial chasm to become the first African American President. The book focuses on portraying the evolution of Obama's character and intellectual and emotional development and then goes on to demonstrate how the makeup of the man develops an analytical strategy that he applies to the formulation of his politics and policies. The enigma of Obama is demystified. The evolution of Obama is also viewed against the backdrop of his family and the social history of the time. Obama refers to himself as a member of the "Joshua generation," one who owes his successes to the heroes of the Civil Rights Movement and to other African American leaders. The book discusses his early years; his time in college, graduate school, and as a community organizer; his emergence as an official in Illinois politics; and his election as President. Among the best features are Remnick's illuminating appraisal of Obama's "Dreams of My Father", descriptions of Obama's bitter election fights for the state senate, Congress, and the U.S. Senate, and stories of the significant roles that family and political mentors played. No other book to date is better at revealing the roots and personality of Barack Obama. Remnick has set a lofty bar for future biographers.

### **The Only Game in Town: Sports Writing from the New Yorker**

**Remnick, David**

David Remnick never explains in his introduction what prompted him to pull together this dazzling collection of 32 sports pieces from the magazine, nor in the end does he need to. They justify themselves, dating from Ring Lardner's 1930 take on juiced-up baseballs to 2008 pieces by Anthony Lane and Haruki Murakami on the Beijing Olympics and running, respectively. There's a fine, multidimensional quality to these pieces, from Malcolm Gladwell's thoughtful reflection on the phenomenon of choking in sport (2000) to Henry Lewis Gates' shrewd study of Michael Jordan, athlete and marketing powerhouse (1998). Other articles include John Updike's iconic piece on Ted Williams' final home game (1960), Bill Barich's paean to horse racing (1980), and Susan Orlean's neat profile on Iditarod champion Susan Butcher (1987). Bonus: a liberal sprinkling of sports-related cartoons from the magazine.

### **The Twilight of the Bombs: Recent Challenges, New Dangers, and the Prospects for a World without Nuclear Weapons**

**Rhodes, Richard**

The culminating volume in Richard Rhodes's monumental and prizewinning history of nuclear weapons, offering the first comprehensive narrative of the challenges faced in a post-Cold War age. The past twenty years have transformed our relationship with nuclear weapons drastically. With extraordinary depth of knowledge and understanding, Rhodes makes clear how the five original nuclear powers—Russia, Great Britain, France, China, and especially the United States—have struggled with new realities. He shows us how the stage was set for a second tragic war when Iraq secretly destroyed its nuclear infrastructure and reveals the real reasons George W. Bush chose to fight a second war in Iraq. We see how the efforts of U.S. weapons labs laid the groundwork for nuclear consolidation in the former Soviet Union, how and why South Africa secretly built and then destroyed a small nuclear arsenal, and how Jimmy Carter's private diplomacy prevented another Korean War. We also see how the present day represents a nuclear turning point and what hope exists for our future. Rhodes assesses the emerging threat of nuclear terrorism and offers advice on how our complicated relationships with North Korea and South Asia should evolve. Finally, he imagines what a post-nuclear world might look like, suggesting what might make it possible. Powerful and persuasive, "The Twilight of the Bombs" is an essential work of contemporary history.

### **The House at Royal Oak: Starting Over and Rebuilding a Life One Room at a Time**

**Rizzoli, Carol Eron**

Organized in an order that follows its own meandering logic (in much the same way one would restore an old house), Rizzoli's tale is full of insights and quiet humor. Along the way she finds time to talk recipes, local resources, habitats, wildlife, small town life, learning a new business, family, friends, and of course, her guests. "A bed-and-breakfast done right is an idealized kind of home, more homey somehow than a real one." Rizzoli frankly examines her life and her new role in the service industry, questioning how she'll be able to care for her guests when her own life is falling apart. As with any major project (construction or otherwise) things fall apart; after two years and plenty of experience under her belt, they're hit with hurricane, reminding author and reader alike of the unpredictable mysteries to be found in the pursuit of dreams.

**Roach, Mary**

### **Packing for Mars**

**(Aug)**

Space is a world devoid of the things we need to live and thrive: air, gravity, hot showers, fresh produce, privacy, beer. Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human. How much can a person give

up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to you when you can't walk for a year? have sex? smell flowers? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk? Is it possible for the human body to survive a bailout at 17,000 miles per hour? To answer these questions, space agencies set up all manner of quizzical and startlingly bizarre space simulations. As Mary Roach discovers, it's possible to preview space without ever leaving Earth. From the space shuttle training toilet to a crash test of NASA's new space capsule (cadaver filling in for astronaut), Roach takes us on a surreally entertaining trip into the science of life in space and space on Earth.

**The Most Powerful Idea in the World: A  
Story of Steam, Industry, and Invention**

**Rosen, William**

Rosen tackles the history of the Industrial Revolution by tracing the development of steam power. He says innovations in steam technology such as Thomas Newcomen's 1712 atmospheric engine and George Stephenson's 1829 locomotive built one upon another to create a prosperous, enduring industrial economy like none before it. He explains that though an understanding of steam had existed for some 2000 years, it was the English patent system with its inherent incentive of potential wealth that drove inventors to invest the requisite time to make and perfect technological breakthroughs. Rosen's narrative meanders between diverse subject threads from patent law through mining to physics and economics. His writing style is generally clear, with humorous asides, and with an overall approach reminiscent of the science historian and broadcaster James Burke. Readers will find thought-provoking this serious history of technological innovation and the veritable invention of our modern world.

**Rosenblatt, Roger**

**Making Toast: A Family Story**

When Roger and Ginny Rosenblatt's daughter, Amy, dies suddenly from a rare heart condition, the grandparents move in with their son-in-law to help take care of Jessica, Sammy, and James. Rosenblatt records the everyday details of this newly formed family and starts a new tradition called "Word of the Morning." Indeed, words in this world of "after" are a key theme: those that are spoken and unspoken, those that shouldn't have been uttered, and those that need to be all help the family through their grief. Without it ever needing to be mentioned, readers understand how fiercely Rosenblatt loved Amy. A moving tribute and an original, important contribution to grief literature.

**Roubini, Nouriel and Mihm,  
Stephen**

**Crisis Economics: A Crash Course in the  
Future of Finance**

Roubini, a professor of economics at NYU, was greeted with skepticism when he warned a 2006 meeting of the IMF that a deep recession was imminent. Along with economics historian Mihm, Roubini provides an in-depth analysis of the role of crises in capitalist economies from a historical perspective. With thumbnail sketches of nineteenth and twentieth century economic thought from Smith, Keynes, and others, they provide a context for understanding financial markets and the ways in which bankers and politicians relate to them. The authors also offer a theoretical context for understanding the current economic crisis and for using it as "an object lesson. [in how to foresee them], prevent them, weather them, and clean up after them." Dismissing the "quaint beliefs" that markets are "self-regulating," they take issue with the simplistic populist assumption that the present crisis was caused by greed or something "as inconsequential as subprime mortgages." They blame Alan Greenspan's refusal to use the power of the Fed to dampen unbridled speculation, choosing instead to pump "vast quantities of easy money into the economy and [keep] it there for too long." This will be a useful guide for readers attempting to get a handle on the present crisis.

**Rove, Karl**

**Courage and Consequence**

Known as 'the Architect' of George W Bush's presidency, Karl Rove's access to Bush and view of his presidency is unparalleled. In this memoir, Rove takes the reader into the heart of Bush's rise to the Texas governorship and behind closed doors in the White House. Rove describes what it takes to win elections - from his first race in a high school gymnasium to those on the national stage - and what you need to do once you've won. Rove learned about the cost of his Republican affiliation at a young age, when a JFK supporter down the street pushed him off his bicycle and beat him up for supporting Nixon. Since then, Rove has devoted his life to conservative politics - and he has been accused of everything from campaign chicanery to being a war criminal. Here, he sets the record straight, responds frankly to his critics, and passionately articulates the reasoning behind the choices he made during campaigns and in the White House. With never-before-told details about his own controversial career, the legacy of the Bush presidency, and America during its most trying moments, Rove intimately relates the joys and pains of a life in service of conservative conviction.

**Sachs, Harvey**

**The Ninth: Beethoven and the World in  
1824**

By concentrating on the year Beethoven debuted his most famous work, Sachs sets the symphony in its historical context, as the composer, along with fellow revolutionaries elsewhere in Europe (e.g., Lord Byron, Alexander Pushkin, Eugene Delacroix, Stendhal, Heinrich Heine), championed equality in the face of widespread political oppression. Sachs draws together the major influences in the political and artistic worlds of the early 19th century as a way of highlighting the importance of Beethoven's monumental work. His discussion ranges from large historical concepts to detailed analyses of specific works of art, politics, and musical compositions, which serves to paint a vivid picture of the intense artistic life of the period. The narrative is eminently readable, insightful, and often very personal. A thought-provoking, broadly based, well-informed discussion.

**Salisbury, Laney, and Sujo, Ali**      **Provenance: How a Con Man and a Forger Rewrote the History of Modern Art**

A decade-long art scam that sullied the integrity of museum archives and experts alike is elegantly recounted by husband-and-wife journalists Salisbury and Sujo. In 1986, when struggling painter and single father John Myatt advertised copies of famous paintings, he never imagined he'd become a key player in one of Britain's biggest art frauds. Myatt soon met John Drewe, who claimed to be a physicist and avid art collector. Soon Drewe, a silver-tongued con man, was passing off Myatt's work as genuine, including paintings in the style of artists like Giacometti and Ben Nicholson. When buyers expressed concern about the works' provenance, Drewe began the painstaking process of falsifying records of ownership. Posing as a benefactor, Drewe even planted false documents in the archives of London's Tate Gallery, but suspicious historians and archivists eventually assisted Scotland Yard in bringing him to justice. Salisbury and Sujo (who died in 2008) evoke with flair the plush art world and its penetration by the seductive Drewe as well as the other players in this fascinating art drama.

**Sandel, Michael**      **Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?**

Harvard government professor Sandel dazzles in this sweeping survey of hot topics-the recent government bailouts, the draft, surrogate pregnancies, same-sex marriage, immigration reform and reparations for slavery-that situates various sides in the debates in the context of timeless philosophical questions and movements. Sandel takes utilitarianism, Kant's categorical imperative and Rawls's theory of justice out of the classroom, dusts them off and reveals how crucial these theories have been in the construction of Western societies-and how they inform almost every issue at the center of our modern-day polis. The content is dense but elegantly presented, and Sandel has a rare gift for making complex issues comprehensible, even entertaining, without compromising their gravity. With exegeses of Winnie the Pooh, transcripts of Bill Clinton's impeachment hearing and the works of almost every major political philosopher, Sandel reveals how even our most knee-jerk responses bespeak our personal conceptions of the rights and obligations of the individual and society at large. Erudite, conversational and deeply humane, this is truly transformative reading.

**Skloot, Rebecca**      **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**

This distinctive work skillfully puts a human face on the bioethical questions surrounding the HeLa cell line. Henrietta Lacks, an African American mother of five, was undergoing treatment for cancer at Johns Hopkins University in 1951 when tissue samples were removed without her knowledge or permission and used to create HeLa, the first "immortal" cell line. HeLa has been sold around the world and used in countless medical research applications, including the development of the polio vaccine. Science writer Skloot, who worked on this book for ten years, entwines Lacks's biography, the development of the HeLa cell line, and her own story of building a relationship with Lacks's children. Full of dialog and vivid detail, this reads like a novel, but the science behind the story is also deftly handled. While there are other titles on this controversy, this is the most compelling account for general readers, especially those interested in questions of medical research ethics.

**Sorkin, Andrew Ross**      **Too Big to Fail: The Inside Story of How Wall Street and Washington Fought to Save the Financial System---and Themselves**

A real-life thriller about the most tumultuous period in America's financial history by Andrew Ross Sorkin delivers the first true behind-the-scenes, moment-by-moment account of how the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression developed into a global tsunami. From inside the corner office at Lehman Brothers to secret meetings in South Korea, and the corridors of Washington, "Too Big to Fail" is the definitive story of the most powerful men and women in finance and politics grappling with success and failure, ego and greed, and, ultimately, the fate of the world's economy. Through unprecedented access to the players involved, "Too Big to Fail" re-creates all the drama and turmoil, revealing never disclosed details and elucidating how decisions made on Wall Street over the past decade sowed the seeds of the debacle. This true story is not just a look at banks that were "too big to fail," it is a

real-life thriller with a cast of bold-faced names who themselves thought they were too big to fail.

**Stiles, T.J.**  
**The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt**      **2010 Pulitzer Prize for Biography**

Stiles presents a thoroughly researched, annotated, and illustrated account of the rise of the visionary Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877) from boatman to railroad entrepreneur, revealing his difficult personal and family life, struggle to attain a place in New York society, and role in establishing the arguably individualistic, lightly regulated financial system that America has today. Stiles shows that as America moved from a communal, rural society to a competitive, industrial one, framed by the antebellum conflicts between laissez-faire Jacksonian and controlled-market Whig ideas, Vanderbilt came to exemplify the contradictions of the masters of competition who stifled rivals by later enacting monopolies similar to the kind they had first opposed. Stiles meticulously separates myths from facts in a book that compares favorably with David Nasaw's *Andrew Carnegie*. By unearthing and carefully cross-checking information and dispassionately revising our portrait of Vanderbilt, Stiles has produced a work highly recommended for readers interested in biography, popular business, New York State history, and transportation.

**Syman, Stefanie**  
**The Subtle Body: The Story of Yoga in America**

Yoga conquers America—and is conquered in its turn—in this labyrinthine cultural history. Journalist Syman traces American enthusiasm for yoga back to Thoreau and follows it through cycles of waxing and waning popularity: it was decried by Victorians for its association with madness and tantric sex rituals, celebrated in the 1960s for its association with altered states of consciousness (and tantric sex rituals), and ubiquitously embraced in the 21st century as a wholesome, anodyne exercise program. The author argues that, even as the om-chanting adept became the embodiment of spirituality, yoga's mainstreaming risked the discipline losing its rich spiritual content, along with the more extreme contortions, regular enemas, and whatever else Americans considered off-putting. When she reviews the culture mashup yoga has become—a cure for back pain, a beauty regime, and a route to God—she gives a cogent, engrossing analysis of this Asian-born spiritual practice turned all-American panacea.

**Tabor, James M.**  
**Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth**

Journalist Tabor presents a gripping and well-written account of the treacherous world of deep cave exploration. Focusing on a lengthy and all-consuming competition among teams of cave explorers and cave divers seeking to claim the prize of reaching the deepest point in any cave in the world, Tabor chronicles the sometimes deadly expeditions of the hard-charging American team leader William "Bill" Stone in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the more teamwork-oriented Ukrainian Alexander Klimchouk in the Abkhazia region of the Republic of Georgia. Tabor brings to gritty and frightening life a little-known and fascinating niche of extreme exploration by examining the lives, motivations, and vastly differing personalities of Stone and Klimchouk; his smoothly paced narrative builds suspense as it adroitly describes the many trials of their almost unimaginably arduous expeditions.

**Thompson, Kalee**  
**Deadliest Sea: The Untold Story Behind the Greatest Rescue in Coast Guard History**

Soon after 2:00 A.M. on Easter morning, March 23, 2008, the fishing trawler *Alaska Ranger* began taking on water in the middle of the frigid Bering Sea. While the first mate broadcast Mayday calls to a remote Coast Guard station more than eight hundred miles away, the men on the ship's icy deck scrambled to inflate life rafts and activate the beacon lights, which would guide rescuers to them in the water. By 4:30 A.M., the wheelhouse of the *Ranger* was just barely visible above the sea's surface, and most of the forty-seven crew members were in the water, wearing the red survival suits—a number of them torn or inadequately sized—that were supposed to keep them from freezing to death. Every minute in the twenty-foot swells was a fight for survival. Many knew that if they weren't rescued soon, they would drown or freeze to death. With deft writing and technical knowledge, veteran journalist Kalee Thompson recounts the harrowing stories of both the rescuers and the rescued who survived the deadly ordeal in the Bering Sea. Along the way, she pays tribute to the courage, tenacity, and skill of dedicated service people who risk their own lives for the lives of others.

**Thompson, Nicholas**  
**The Hawk and the Dove: Paul Nitze, George Kennan, and the History of the Cold War**

Thompson has crafted an impressive dual biography of two of the most prominent participants in the 50-year-long Cold War. The author is the grandson of Paul Nitze; he became aware of a great deal of primary material that Nitze

had filed away in storage cabinets unknown to other historians. George Kennan, the Dove of the title, a longtime State Department official famous as the author of containment as an approach to dealing with the Soviets, was often opposed intellectually by Nitze, who favored a more aggressive approach. Thompson weaves an impressive narrative that alternatively discusses what each man was doing and thinking over the decades between 1945 and about 1990; the two maintained a personal friendship in spite of their different personalities and politics. Thompson writes exceedingly well, and his book not only provides new information on Nitze and his friendship with Kennan, but will introduce a new generation of readers to these two significant architects of American Cold War policy.

**Urrea, Luis Alberto**

**The Devil's Highway**

This is a book about death and dying along the Mexico-Arizona border-the Devil's Highway. It is not a simple book but instead a powerful account of 26 men from Veracruz, Mexico, who tried to enter the United States illegally in May 2001; 14 died in the Southwest desert as a consequence. Urrea tells the story in the vernacular, adding to the impact of a tragedy that could have been averted. All of the men fell victim to the scalding sun and to dehydration, but the real culprits were the "coyotes" (or middle men) who recruited the Mexicans, taking their money with a promise of jobs in Los Estados Unidos, and the runners who led the crossing. Twelve of the men survived, providing Urrea with testimony of what has been a serious problem in Mexican-U.S. relations-exacerbated by the events of 9/11.

**Vaillant, John**

**Tiger Hunting: A True Story of Vengeance  
and Survival**

**August**

The grisly rampage of a man-eating Amur, or Siberian, tiger and the effort to trap it frame this suspenseful and majestically narrated introduction to a world that few people, even Russians, are familiar with. Northeast of China lies Russia's Primorye province, "the meeting place of four distinct bioregions"—taiga, Mongolian steppes, boreal forests, and Korean tropics--and where the last Amur tigers live in an uneasy truce with an equally diminished human population scarred by decades of brutal Soviet politics and postperestroika poverty. Over millennia of shared history, the indigenous inhabitants had worked out a tenuous peace with the Amur, a formidable hunter that can grow to over 500 pounds and up to nine feet long, but the arrival of European settlers, followed by decades of Soviet disregard for the wilds, disrupted that balance and led to the overhunting of tigers for trophies and for their alleged medicinal qualities. Vaillant has written a mighty elegy that leads readers into the lair of the tiger and into the heart of the Kremlin to explain how the Amur went from being worshipped to being poached.

**Vanderhoof, Ann**

**The Spice Necklace: My Adventurs in  
Caribbean Cooking, Eating, and Island  
Life**

While sailing around the Caribbean, Ann Vanderhoof and her husband Steve track wild oregano-eating goats in the cactus-covered hills of the Dominican Republic, gather nutmegs on an old estate in Grenada, make searing-hot pepper sauce in a Trinidadian kitchen, cram for a chocolate-tasting test at the University of the West Indies, and sip moonshine straight out of hidden back-country stills. Back in her galley, Ann practices making curry like a Trini, dog sauce like a Martiniquais, and coo-coo like a Carriacouan. And for those who want to take these adventures into their own kitchens, she pulls 71 delicious recipes from the stories she tells, which she places at the end of the relevant chapters.

**Wasson, Sam**

**Fifth Avenue, 5 A.M.: Audrey Hepburn,  
Breakfast at Tiffany's, and the Dawn of the  
Modern Woman**

Wasson, who wrote on the career of writer-director Blake Edwards in "A Splurch in the Kisser", tightens his focus for a closeup of Edwards's memorable *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, which received five Oscar nominations (with two wins). Interviewing Edwards and others, he skillfully interweaves key events during the making of this cinema classic. He begins (and ends) with Truman Capote, whose novel was initially regarded as unadaptable by the producers, since they hadn't the faintest idea how the hell they were going to take a novel with no second act, a nameless gay protagonist, a motiveless drama, and an unhappy ending and turn it into a Hollywood movie. The flow of Wasson's words carries the reader from pre-production to on-set feuds and conflicts, while also noting Hepburn's impact on fashion, Hollywood glamour, sexual politics, and the new morality. Always stingy with praise, Capote dismissed the finished film as a mawkish valentine to New York City, but one feels he would have been entranced by Wasson's prismatic approach as he walks a perilous path between the analytic interpretation and the imaginative one. The result deserves Capote's nonfiction novel label. Recapturing an era, this evocative factual re-creation reads like carefully crafted fiction.

**Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early  
Republic 1789-1815**

**2010 Pulitzer Prize Finalist**

**Wood, Gordon S.**

In tackling the turbulent years of America's early republic, Wood brings his considerable talents to a series that has already produced three Pulitzer Prize winners. Wood's outstandingly eloquent and cerebral analysis commences in the aftermath of the contentious ratification of the U.S. Constitution, a time when republican ideals, from classical virtue to "disinterestedness," remained the principal animating force in the political life of the fledgling republic. Skillfully traversing seminal topics such as slavery, westward expansion, social leveling, diplomacy, evangelicalism, the arts and sciences, and the transformation of the American legal system, Wood's authoritative and compelling narrative presents a picture of early Americans engaged in pursuit of cultural, social, and economic self-discovery. Most distinctively, Wood avoids the mere celebratory retelling of big events such as the Louisiana Purchase, instead conveying the currents and contours of the era as a whole. Wood has provided academics and general readers alike with a brilliant, definitive, and thought-provoking historical synthesis; sure to become indispensable to any study of the era.

**Wright, Robert**

**The Evolution of God**

While the diatribes of the "new atheists"-Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and company-have made headlines in recent years, Wright takes a decidedly more friendly approach to human religiousness. Although he shares their materialist, naturalist assumptions, he argues that over time human notions of God have "gotten closer to moral and spiritual truth. Religion hasn't just evolved, it has matured." Making the best recent scholarship accessible to the general reader, Wright follows the historical trajectory from polytheism through monolatry (worship of one god among many) to monotheism, focusing primarily on the evolving vision of God in the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur'an, and ending with a discussion of religion's place in human evolution. Wright's approach will appeal to a broad range of readers turned off by the "either/or" choice between dogmatic atheism and religious traditionalism.