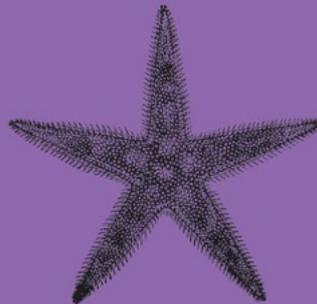
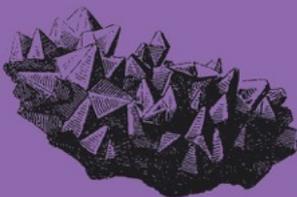
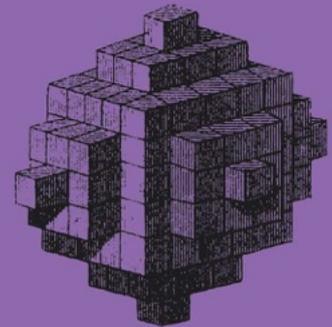


CURIOUS MINDS

A LITERARY AGENCY



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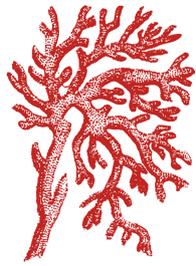
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NEW DEALS



Tidying the Abyss

A Nestmaking Handbook for Hard Times

AMANDA DODSON

Inspired in equal measure by Marie Kondo and Pema Chödrön, a guide to tidying up in a world that loves to fall apart

There's an abyss at the center of your home life. Your abyss might be different from mine – a partner who expects you to do all the housework, a chronic illness or injury, around-the-clock caregiving duties or simply the terrifying idea that life is short and doing the laundry takes forever – but it's there in some form.

As a clinical social worker, Amanda Dodson has helped people peer into abysses that threatened to swallow them whole. As a chronically ill person and caregiver, she's grappled with the abyssal beast herself. She founded her organizational coaching practice, Nesting, to help anyone who needs an ally in their homemaking struggles – and has reached over 100,000 followers on TikTok with her organizing insights. Now she's doing the same for readers everywhere: full of disability accommodations and helpful hacks, TIDYING THE ABYSS is a journey into the domestic abyss and a practical guide to building a ladder out. By the end, the reader will build what Amanda calls a 'nest' – a sanctuary that supports and empowers them, and is shaped to their circumstances and needs rather than the other way around.

Amanda Dodson is a clinical social worker, professional organizer and artist. She trained as a psychodynamic therapist and has worked as a social worker focusing on creative interventions and existential meaning-making.

In 2021, Amanda created her business, Nesting, to fill an underserved niche: functional organizing for people with mental illness, developmental disorders and chronic physical conditions. Her TikTok channel, @nestingyourlife, gained her a reputation as a compassionate fixer for a range of cleaning, organizing and administrative woes. Amanda is a sought-after organization coach, helping chronically disorganized clients across the world create order in their lives.

AGENT

Jeff Shreve

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PHOTO BY MATT KALINOWSKI

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Table Stakes

Why Food is the Radical Future of Social Justice

JENNY DORSEY

From the oyster roasts of suffragettes to the fruit fights of LGBTQ+ activists, why food is essential to the way we think about social justice

Food is inherently political. Our interactions with it – from what we eat to how we obtain, share and prepare it – have flavoured the social roles we accept, the laws we enforce and the economic systems we design. Food has a unique power over our lives that can be propulsive and liberating – if we know how to use it.

In *TABLE STAKES*, chef Jenny Dorsey offers a radical new way of thinking about food as social justice work. Dorsey understands a fundamental truth: what we eat shapes who we become. She takes readers on a journey through how we engage with food as a source of social injustice, arguing that if we want to create a new system for food and society at large, we have to start by understanding how food has become an instrument of control for those in power to surreptitiously reinforce ideals and behaviours that benefit them. By pulling back the curtain on how food constructs identity, we can reclaim it as a medium through which resistance – and not just oppression – can be uniquely effective.

Weaving together history, philosophy and social science, Dorsey makes a blistering case for food as a powerful tool for activism.

Jenny Dorsey is a professional chef, author and food activist. She is a Fulbright-National Geographic Research Fellow and holds an MEd from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. She leads a nonprofit food think tank, Studio ATA, and is a James Beard Award-nominated writer. Her work on food and culture has been published in the *Washington Post*, *Eater*, *Food & Wine*, *Serious Eats* and *Michelin Guide USA*, among other publications. She is the author of seven cookbooks, including the bestselling *AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER – The Official Cookbook*. She has over 44,000 followers across her social media platforms.



PHOTO BY DIANA RENELLI

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Molecules of Influence

Hormones and Our Lives

ALISON LI

*An intimate history in the tradition of Ed Yong's *I Contain Multitudes*, Merlin Sheldrake's *Entangled Life* and Siddhartha Mukherjee's *The Emperor of All Maladies**

Hormones are ever-present in the ways we think and talk about our bodies, moods and behaviours. 'Raging hormones' are used to excuse the urgent longings of teenagers just as testosterone is used to explain aggression in boardrooms and playing fields. Thrills are attributed to adrenaline, loving attachments to oxytocin, and post-exercise highs to endorphins. What's more, hormone products have become ubiquitous, from insulin, the Pill, and hormone therapy for menopause and transgender care, to sport and agriculture. Indeed, they are big business.

Yet the common perception of hormones can be quite narrow and simplistic. Hormones are often thought to be just about sex. In truth they are so much more. In *MOLECULES OF INFLUENCE*, the historian of science Alison Li shows how hormones play vital roles in the regulation of many aspects of life – metabolism, growth, reproduction and behaviour – and do so within a subtle and elaborate system of controls.

By taking readers on a journey along the arc of a human life, Li pulls together science, history and biography to tell the magisterial story of hormones while connecting it to modern day concerns ranging from our food supply to the pharmaceutical industry.

Alison Li is an historian of science and medicine specializing in the history of endocrine science. She is the author most recently of *WONDROUS TRANSFORMATIONS: A Maverick Physician, the Science of Hormones, and the Birth of the Transgender Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2023). She has a BSc in Biochemistry (McGill) and an MA and PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (University of Toronto).



How to Find a Fossil on Mars

Alien Rocks, a Vanished World and the Nature of Life in the Universe

SEAN MCMAHON

Why the truth about life in the Universe lies just a world away – in the deep history of Mars

Mars today is an arid frozen, inhospitable waste. But there are signs everywhere of a kinder world that vanished long ago: a place of gentle warmth and flowing water, of blue skies and bubbling pools. Did life arise there too? To find out, today's Mars rovers are not looking for living creatures. They are looking for fossils.

In HOW TO FIND A FOSSIL ON MARS, the leading astrobiologist Sean McMahon explains the profound scientific ideas behind this multi-billion-dollar endeavour. What is life, how does it begin, and what could it look like on Mars? Where on Mars are the best-preserved remains of ancient habitable environments? How could dead Martian organisms have fossilized? How can we find and recognize these fossils billions of years later, without being fooled by nature's trickery or our own wishful thinking? And if there are no fossils on Mars – or even traces of primordial soup – what are the implications for our understanding of life in the Universe? Is Earth even more special than we thought?

In vivid and engaging prose, McMahon draws on fundamental recent work by astrobiologists and palaeobiologists around the world to show how these questions are now being answered.

Sean McMahon is a senior academic and research scientist at the University of Edinburgh, where he co-directs the UK Centre for Astrobiology, leads the Planetary Palaeobiology Group and runs the UK's first MSc programme in Astrobiology and Planetary Sciences. His research combines fieldwork, experiments, computer models and sample analysis (with instruments like those on Mars rovers) to explore early life on Earth, fossilization and the search for life on Mars and beyond – work that often makes news headlines across the world. As well publishing more than 60 academic articles, he has a passion for writing for the broader public.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

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PHOTO BY HENRIETTA GARDEN

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Other

Sex, Race, and Why Putting People in Boxes Doesn't Work

ANGELA SAINI

A clarion call for a rethinking of the utility of human classification, with profound implications for data collection, social policy, healthcare and scientific research

Classification is an inescapable feature of modern life, shaping personal identity and prescribing our fates. The technologies that run our societies rely on being able to sort us into categories as defined by governments, big institutions and corporations. We're told that the more data we provide by agreeing to be sorted in this way, the better off we will be – that being classified improves our lives.

In *OTHER*, the acclaimed science writer Angela Saini reveals why this faith is misplaced. Using science, history and personal narratives, she takes readers on a journey through the act of classification, debunking common myths about how and why we are grouped the way we are. At best, categorization provides a shadowy version of reality; at worst, it perpetuates crude stereotypes. Data systems based on classification are invariably riddled with errors, some so fatal that they exacerbate inequality. The forms we are forced to fill out are often translated into lucrative datasets, traded with little concern for how ordinary people might be damaged by them.

Ranging from race and gender to neurodiversity and disability, Saini shows how resisting classification is today taking on a new meaning and changing the way in which we view ourselves.

Angela Saini is a science journalist whose work has appeared on the BBC and in the *Guardian*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, the *Economist* and *Science*. A former Knight Science Journalism Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she won the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Kavli Science Journalism gold award in 2015. She has an MSc in engineering from the University of Oxford and is the author of *INFERIOR: How Science Got Women Wrong* (2017), *SUPERIOR: The Return of Race Science* (2019) and *THE PATRIARCHS: How Men Came to Rule* (2023), all published by 4th Estate in the UK and Beacon in the US.



Dynamite Empire

How High Explosives Changed America and Conquered the World

LEAH ZANI

Astonishing stories about America's legacy of destruction and repair, drawing on science, history, politics and literature as well as investigative journalism and personal memoir

AGENT

Peter Tallack

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Patented by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel in 1867, dynamite was the first high explosive: a force that cuts up mountains for roads, pushes canals through continents, flattens farmland, levels cities and blows open buildings. The United States has dominated the sale, use and manufacture of high explosives for more than a century, shaping both its economic and its military dominance. It has the largest arms stockpile of any country while supplying 40 per cent of the world's arms sales. In the civil sector, American manufacturers supply nearly half the global explosives market.

In *DYNAMITE EMPIRE*, the prize-winning anthropologist and writer Leah Zani reveals how this new kind of power became America's signature weapon and tool of empire, and the unexpected consequences of its spread.

With a cast of unforgettable characters encapsulating the catastrophic and creative energies of high explosives – inventors, tycoons, factory workers, terrorists, soldiers, vigilantes, visionaries and utopian dreamers – this is an eye-opening account ranging from the first high-explosives factories in San Francisco and the terrorist bombings in Birmingham during the Civil Rights Movement, through the presidential portraits carved into Mount Rushmore, to today's military disposal centers, green bombs and cardiovascular medicines based on dynamite's active ingredient – nitroglycerin.

Leah Zani is an anthropologist, author and poet writing on the social impact of war. She was poetry editor for *Anthropology and Humanism* and is the author of *BOMB CHILDREN: Life in the Former Battlefields of Laos* (Duke University Press, 2019) and *STRIKE PATTERNS: Notes from Postwar Laos* (Redwood, 2022). Her writing has also appeared in *Consequence Magazine*, *Somatosphere* and *Los Angeles Review of Books*.



FORTHCOMING TITLES



Hijacked

The New Science of Neural Manipulation and What It Means for Our Health, Happiness, and Sense of Self

ATHENA AKTIPIS

The Selfish Gene meets *Parasite Rex* in this tour of the evolutionary biology of neural manipulation

Who is really in control of our bodies and minds? In *HIJACKED*, Athena Aktipis takes the reader on a whirlwind tour through new scientific findings that challenge our long-held assumptions about who we are and why we do what we do. Our bodies and minds are a constant battleground of manipulation – from microbes that shape our food preferences to foetal cells that take over maternal physiology, to information coming in from our relationships, our families and the technology we constantly interact with.

Luckily, we have evolved to decrease our vulnerability to manipulation through sophisticated immune systems, cheater-identification systems and bullshit detectors. In *HIJACKED*, we learn how to counter mind-control tactics that come from forces both inside and outside us. At the same time, however, we learn that manipulation is not always a bad thing – it for example allows us to accomplish things together we otherwise wouldn't be able to do alone. As Aktipis argues, our ability to share microbes and information – our ability to hijack and be hijacked – is part of what makes us human.

Athena Aktipis studies general principles of cooperation across diverse systems from human society to cancer and multicellular life. She is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University, director of the Interdisciplinary Cooperation Initiative and co-director of the Human Generosity Project. She is also the chair of the Zombie Apocalypse Medicine Meeting, host of the podcast 'Zombified', producer of Channel Zed, and author of *THE CHEATING CELL* (Princeton University Press, 2020) and *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE APOCALYPSE* (Workman, 2024).

AGENT

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Princeton University Press

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75,000 words

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- Japan (Kagaku-dojin)
- China (Shanghai Translation Publishing House)



More, Forever

How the Tech Elite Get the Future Wrong

ADAM BECKER

An exploration of how science shapes, and is shaped by, Silicon Valley – from AI to space exploration

Is humanity's destiny in the stars? Will AI take over the world? Can we live forever? And do we live in a simulation?

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and other titans of Silicon Valley talk about these and other dreams and nightmares of our shared technological future. Where did they get these ideas, and will they become a reality? And what would these futures mean for the rest of us outside the tech industry? Do we all risk succumbing to the ideology of technological salvation?

In this original, probing and perceptive work of investigative journalism, author and astrophysicist Adam Becker digs into the science behind Silicon Valley's visions of tomorrow.

Adam Becker is an author, journalist, astrophysicist and public speaker. He has contributed to the BBC, NPR, *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, the *New York Times* and numerous other media outlets. Born in 1984, he studied philosophy and physics at Cornell University and earned a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Michigan. His first book was *WHAT IS REAL? The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics* (Basic Books, 2018). From 2016 to 2019 he was a visiting scholar at the Office for History of Science and Technology at the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in Oakland, California.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Basic Books

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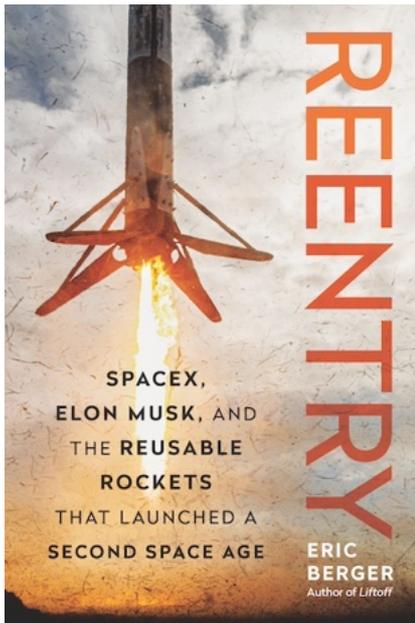
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Jeff Shreve

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BenBella

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- Japan (Kagaku-dojin)
- Korea (SangSang Square)

Reentry

SpaceX, Elon Musk, and the Reusable Rockets that Launched a Second Space Age

ERIC BERGER

The behind-the-scenes story of the most important rocket ever built – SpaceX’s reusable Falcon 9 – and the people who brought humankind one giant leap closer to Mars

SpaceX began with a simple distinct goal: to put a single-engine rocket into orbit. Achieving that goal in 2008 was ground-breaking, but not revolutionary – humanity has been putting rockets into orbit for over 60 years.

What SpaceX has done in the subsequent decade, however, is truly transformative. Since 2008 the company has launched more than 120 missions, developed 3 new rockets, flown 10 astronauts (and counting) into orbit, begun testing Starship, the craft that promises to take humans to Mars, and now operates more satellites in space than any other company – or country – in the world.

SpaceX’s massive success has been made possible by one fundamental breakthrough that will enable humans to return to the Moon and then forge ahead to Mars: the ability to launch a rocket into orbit, guide it back to Earth’s surface safely and launch it again, and again, and again. Through the eyes of engineers on test stands in Texas, the launchpads in Florida and the factory floor in California, REENTRY tells the story of this revolutionary reusable rocket, the Falcon 9, and the behind-the-scenes drama as SpaceX built the future of human space exploration.

Eric Berger has been a reporter and editor in Houston for more than two decades. After a long career at the *Houston Chronicle*, he joined *Ars Technica* in 2015 as the site’s senior space editor, covering SpaceX, NASA and everything beyond. A certified meteorologist, he also maintains a widely read weather forecasting website for the greater Houston area, Space City Weather, and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his coverage of Hurricane Ike at the *Chronicle* in 2008. His first book, *LIFTOFF* (William Morrow, 2021), has been translated into nine languages (and counting) and has sold nearly 100,000 copies.



Dead Minds

Why Thinking about Immortality Breaks Our Brains

JESSE BERING

A provocative exploration of the curious operations of our mortal minds as we try to glimpse behind the veil

Are stories of near-death experiences, apparitions and memories of previous lives tantalizing glimmers of conscious minds beyond death? Or are they reflections of our own living brains giving credence to the patently absurd?

So asks psychologist Jesse Bering in *DEAD MINDS*, a wide-ranging enquiry into the strangest – and most elusive – question that humans ask: what happens when we die? And what does the way we think about life after death – the way we’re able to think about it – say about the workings of our mind and brain?

Why are at least eight out of ten of us so unbothered by the idea of consciousness surviving death, given that it violates the most basic premises of neuroscience? Did evolution favour a cognitive system that convinces us that we are psychologically everlasting? And if you pop a breath-mint into your mouth right before you die, can you still taste it on the other side?

Drawing on some of the most baffling cases in the annals of paranormal research, Bering juxtaposes his own trailblazing work with the storied career of the late Dr Ian Stevenson – the most polarizing parapsychologist of the past century.

Jesse Bering is a research psychologist and author. His writing has appeared in *Scientific American*, *Slate*, *New York* magazine, the *Guardian*, and the *New York Times*, among others, and his work has been featured on NPR, the BBC, and more. He has appeared on ‘Conan’, ‘Chelsea Lately’ and ‘Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman’. The author of *THE BELIEF INSTINCT*, *WHY IS THE PENIS SHAPED LIKE THAT?*, *PERV* and *SUICIDAL*, he is the director of the Centre for Science Communication at the University of Otago. He lives in Dunedin, New Zealand.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

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85,000 words

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- World English (University of Chicago Press)
- Japan (Kagaku-dojin)



Lifelong Leader

How to Solve the 10 Messiest Leadership Problems, and Every Problem After, with Research-Driven Tools

KATIE BEST

The head of LSE's MBA Essentials Programme unveils her proven leadership toolbox, designed to help readers overcome every challenge during their leadership life-cycle

AGENT

Jeff Shreve

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Public Affairs

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- China (Beijing Jie Teng)

What's the most important quality in a leader? If you asked Dale Carnegie this question in 1936, his answer might have been 'influence'. In 1998, Robert Greene might have said 'authority'. In the Steve Jobs era it might have been 'vision'.

Katie Best has the answer for this generation of leaders, and for generations to come: 'adaptability'. As Head of the MBA Essentials Programme at the London School of Economics, founder of the leadership consultancy KatieBest Associates, and creator of the 'Dear Katie' leadership newsletter, she has developed a practical, adaptable, research-driven approach to leadership development that has worked brilliantly for students and clients alike.

In **LIFELONG LEADER**, Best shares this approach with readers everywhere. She focuses on the 10 messiest problems that leaders everywhere face – from engagement to strategy, gravitas, culture and more – and presents her 5E self-coaching system, developed through rigorous research, that shows readers how to solve not only those 10 problems, but to tackle any other problem they face throughout their leadership life-cycle. The result is a leadership coach in your pocket, packed with problem-solving techniques to help leaders of all sorts adapt to every real-world challenge that comes their way.

Katie Best holds a PhD in management, strategy and leadership from King's College London Business School, where she continues as a visiting research fellow. In addition to her research, she heads up the London School of Economics' MBA Essentials programme, teaching 2,000+ students per year, and runs her own leadership coaching and consultancy practice, KatieBest Associates, where her clients include KPMG, EY, Barclays, LSE, Verizon, V&A, Oxfam and NHS among many others. Alongside all of this, Best writes the popular 'Dear Katie' newsletter, in which she solves real leadership problems submitted by her readers.



The Art of Physics

Seven Ideas to Make Sense of the World

ZAHAAN BHARMAL

How thinking like a physicist can change the way we view social, political and economic challenges

Can physics make sense of the world? This is the question Zahaan Bharmal asked himself while sitting in a hotel lobby at the World Economic Forum in Davos. It was winter 2020, just two months before the Covid-19 pandemic. Other urgent topics such as climate change, war and conflict, and democratic instability also loomed large. Compared to the brilliant minds convening in Davos, Zahaan felt he had little to offer. But he did have one thing going for him: physics.

THE ART OF PHYSICS is about the hidden, surprising and sometimes beautiful ways in which concepts from physics are being applied to problems far beyond its usual realm. These include some of the biggest challenges facing us today, from irrational decision-making, through unsustainable economic growth and wealth inequality, to election volatility and even the prediction of wars before they happen.

Drawing on cutting-edge research and eye-opening insights from quantum mechanics, thermodynamics, chaos and complexity theory, materials science and more, Zahaan reveals what these ideas mean not only for the world at large but also for us all as individuals.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

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- Korea (SangSangSquare)

Zahaan Bharmal has a degree in physics from the University of Oxford. After working on policy issues for the UK government and at the World Bank, he won a Fulbright Scholarship to Stanford University where he earned a master's in business administration. Since 2008, he has worked for Google, currently as senior director of strategy. He has written about space and science for the *Guardian* and is the recipient of NASA's Exceptional Public Achievement Medal.

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

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- Greece (ROPI)

The Beauty of Falling

A Life in Pursuit of Gravity

CLAUDIA DE RHAM

A brilliant physicist traces the trajectory of her tumultuous life in science, revealing how her ground-breaking research is providing a new perspective on gravity

We all know what gravity feels like – when we throw a ball, swing in a hammock or send a stone skipping along the surface of a pond, we’re all carrying out our own personal experiments with gravity. Yet the brightest minds in history have yet to answer the simple question: what exactly is gravity?

Physicist Claudia de Rham has been playing with gravity for her entire life, as a pilot soaring through the sky, as a diver delving into the deep sea and very nearly as an astronaut with the European Space Agency. In *THE BEAUTY OF FALLING*, she builds the most intimate, vivid portrait of gravity we have so far, from Newton, through Galileo and Einstein, to modern researchers such as the Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist Andrea Ghez. De Rham closes with the theory of ‘massive gravity’ that she and her colleagues have uncovered, a theory that may finally move physics beyond general relativity and help to unravel some knotty mysteries of our Universe.

Along the way, she tells her own story, from her globe-trotting upbringing, to her rollercoaster-ride astronaut selection process, to her cutting-edge research. *THE BEAUTY OF FALLING* gives readers a window into the world of science today in a way that can inspire people from all backgrounds to fully appreciate our mysterious, playful, gravity-driven universe.

Claudia de Rham is a professor of theoretical physics at Imperial College London, a 2020 Simons Investigator in Physics, a 2020 Blavatnik Laureate in Physical Sciences and Engineering, and winner of the 2018 Adams Prize for contributions to mathematics. In 2008, she was one of the final 42 candidates for the European Space Agency’s astronaut selection campaign, before a surprise diagnosis of latent tuberculosis derailed her chances. In 2011, she and her colleagues gained worldwide attention by publishing a theory of massive gravity that has the potential to solve some of cosmology’s biggest mysteries.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

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- Japan (Tatsumi)
- Korea (Prunsoop)
- Netherlands (Business Contact)
- Russia (Mann, Ivanov and Ferber)
- Spain (Urano)

Indecision

The Benefits of Not Making Up Your Mind

OPHELIA DEROY & BAHADOR BAHRAMI

An original look at how we can enrich our lives by letting go of our urge to act

Indecision is a fact of life. Yet until recently, psychologists have largely ignored the subject. We've been sold the idea that decisions are good, whereas indecision is bad – a sign of incompetence, weakness of will, overthinking or confusion.

In *INDECISION*, two leading psychologists flip this decision mindset on its head. Drawing on their ground-breaking research, Ophelia Deroy and Bahador Bahrami reveal the hidden – often counterintuitive – benefits of deciding nothing rather than something. They show how procrastination can boost your confidence and how being undecided can give you leverage in negotiations. They explain how although having many options gives us the illusory promise of flexibility, we prefer fewer choices when we at heart desire satisfaction. And they let readers in on the ultimate mind hack: flipping a coin.

Filled with surprising takeaways and entertaining anecdotes, *INDECISION* offers insight on issues ranging from online dating, parenting and healthcare to undecided voters, the gig economy, vaccine hesitancy and human egg freezing. Challenging decades of thinking that equates being decisive with being successful, it is an essential guide for living in our complex times.

Ophelia Deroy specializes in philosophy of mind and cognitive neuroscience and is an expert on inner conflict. She holds professorships in the Munich Center for Neurosciences and the Faculty of Philosophy at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich.

Bahador Bahrami is a former medical doctor and an expert in social neuroscience. He directs the Crowd Cognition Lab in the Faculty of Psychology at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and is a professor of social neuroscience in the Department of Psychology at Royal Holloway, University of London.



The Story of Huge Numbers

Tales of Human Ambition

RICHARD ELWES

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Basic Books

PUBLICATION

Autumn 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due January 2025

LENGTH

100,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Basic Books)

A surprising, mind-expanding look at our eternal quest to deal with ever bigger numbers, from prehistoric tally sticks to the latest developments in artificial intelligence

Since humans started to count, gigantic numbers have been a source of fascination and frustration. From stars in the night sky to positions on a chess board, we are surrounded by quantities whose enormous sizes pose major challenges to the way we think about the world. Yet, as Richard Elwes shows, it is by taming numbers previously thought impossible to work with that science and technology have made giant steps forward.

The largest numbers that humans have ever contemplated arise in mathematics. Too enormous to write down in any conventional notation, they nevertheless answer some of the most fundamental questions about our numerical system, from enumerating primes – the essential numbers from which all others are built – to probing the logical foundations of mathematical truth.

Ranging widely across time and space, from early sacred texts that invoke astounding quantities to describe the mystical realms beyond the human plane, through Archimedes' calculations of the number of grains of sand needed to fill the Universe, to fleets of warehouses packed with computer processors managing data produced on previously unimaginable scales, **THE STORY OF HUGE NUMBERS** is an alternative history of humanity that provides a fresh and unique perspective on the world around us.

Richard Elwes does things with maths. He writes about it, researches it, talks about it and teaches it. A senior teaching fellow at the University of Leeds and publicity officer for the European Mathematical Society, he has written five books that between them have been published in more than 20 international editions and sold over 100,000 copies. A highly experienced public speaker, he regularly delivers accessible talks and workshops on mathematics to audiences of school students, teachers and the general public.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Scribner (US)/Oneworld (UK)

PUBLICATION

Autumn 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due February 2025

LENGTH

90,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Oneworld)
- US & Canada (Scribner)

The Powerful Primate

How Controlling the Flow of Energy Enabled Us to Dominate Our Planet

ROLAND ENNOS

A panoramic account of how control of physical power has given us unprecedented material wealth and shaped civilization – and the perils this entails

In popular histories of humankind, our ascent can appear to involve a bewildering series of unrelated innovations – walking upright, making tools, taming fire, creating art, inventing agriculture, waging war and industrializing... to name just a few. But in this book, Roland Ennos shows they all stem from a single pressure: our need to produce, transmit and control ever greater bursts of physical power.

In contrast to carnivorous mammals, our hominin ancestors made up for their relative physical weakness by devising two novel ways of powering tools, he argues: using the arm as a sling (to swing hammers and axes and throw boomerangs and spears) and as a crank to slide a tool across the surface of a material (to slice, scour, mill, grind, shave or polish it).

By combining these two basic techniques, humans could become efficient gatherers and scavengers as well as top predators. And when they settled into farming they simply repurposed these tools: they learnt to smelt metals and shape them into a wide range of equipment and machinery, and exploited animals, water, wind and fossil fuels to power them – and go on to increasingly vie for political power and cause unparalleled damage to our planet.

If we're not to perish, Ennos concludes, we have no choice but to invent wiser ways of using power or wean ourselves off our addiction to it.

Roland Ennos is a visiting professor of biological sciences at the University of Hull, UK. He has carried out wide-ranging research in the field of biomechanics, investigating topics such as how roots anchor plants in the ground, why tropical rainforest trees have huge buttresses, how insects fly and how elderly people balance and walk. In addition to over 120 scientific publications, he is the author of *THE SCIENCE OF SPIN* (Scribner/Oneworld, 2023) and *THE AGE OF WOOD* (Scribner, 2020/William Collins, 2021), as well as textbooks on plants, biomechanics and statistics.

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Profile

PUBLICATION

Summer 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due April 2024

LENGTH

90,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Profile)

Pitch

How to Captivate and Convince Any Audience on the Planet

DANNY FONTAINE

IBM's founder of experiential selling gathers the techniques he has used to land over \$1 billion in sales in this joy-filled pitching bible

Danny Fontaine is a rising star at IBM: immediately after joining their sales force in 2019 he pioneered a whole new way of selling – a way that is immersive, theatrical, creative, even whimsical at times.

This new way, dubbed 'experiential selling', was so successful that IBM created a new department of Experiential Selling and put Danny at the head of it. Since then, Danny has secured over \$1 billion in sales, and he's done so not with pushy tactics or plodding PowerPoint decks, but with an approach that is genuine and joyful for everyone involved.

Alongside this professional success, Danny's new 'Pitch Masters' podcast has been flourishing – season one featured Simon Sinek, Nancy Duarte, Rory Sutherland, and more, and future seasons will feature even bigger names. PITCH will delve deeper than Danny's podcast, with entertaining stories of pitches gone right (and wrong) and proven billion-dollar tips that are actionable for literally any reader at all, whether they are pitching bigwigs in Silicon Valley or just pitching themselves in a job interview.

Danny Fontaine is the go-to-market creative director for IBM in the UK and Ireland – over the past three years he has helped IBM sign over \$1 billion of work. He founded and now leads IBM's experiential-selling team, blending creativity, psychology, emotion and storytelling to create magical pitches and experiences.

Danny also hosts the 'Pitch Masters' podcast (ranked at number 30 in Apple's business podcast chart with so far over 1.5 million video views across all social platforms). Guests include Simon Sinek, Nancy Duarte, Rory Sutherland, Jeb Blount and many more masters of the advertising, sales and marketing industries.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Piatkus (Little, Brown)

PUBLICATION

January 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due April 2024

LENGTH

80,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Little, Brown)

The Calorie Equation

How the Inescapable Science of Energy Balance Shapes Us All

KEITH FRAYN

A leading expert on fat metabolism explains why ‘calories in versus calories out’ really is the key to living healthily and beating the obesity crisis

We all know someone who seems to eat very little yet cannot avoid weight gain or, conversely, someone who eats cakes and ice cream while remaining slim. Then there are those who argue that it’s not calories that count, but what kinds of foods we eat and how our hormones and other body signals control our energy intake. Some even claim that environmental chemicals are fuelling the obesity crisis. Many people, including specialists, are questioning whether we have the correct understanding of the forces that shape our body weight.

Enter Keith Frayn, one of the world’s leading experts on metabolism. Taking readers on a deep dive into the science of energy balance, he reveals why it is unlikely that some nutrients are intrinsically more fattening than others, how supposed differences between people in the speed of their metabolism vanish in the laboratory, how energy balance is altered in people suffering from obesity as well as those who have managed to lose significant weight, and why these responses – honed over millennia of evolution – make dieting so hard. With robust science and a clear-eyed perspective on the latest diet and nutrition fads, he argues that the only way of addressing the obesity problem is by rebalancing the ‘calorie equation’.

Keith Frayn is an emeritus professor of human metabolism at the University of Oxford. He has spent his career studying human metabolism and nutrition in different conditions, from injured patients arriving in accident-and-emergency departments, through studies of exercise and recreational hill-walking, to people with diabetes, obesity and lipid disorders. He has published more than 300 scientific articles, an influential textbook and a general primer on human metabolism.



The Hundred Years' Trial

The Scopes 'Monkey Trial' and the Continuing Battle of Science, Religion and Law

ALEXANDER GOUZOULES & HAROLD GOUZOULES

A reappraisal of the 1925 prosecution of John Scopes for teaching evolution in a Tennessee public school, and the trial's enduring – and alarming – legacy

Time magazine called the trial a cross between a circus and a holy war. The proceedings were broadcasted live on radio, and dominated headlines not just across the US but also as far afield as Europe and China. One report presciently forecast that the 'world's most famous court trial' would produce 'an interest that will hold long after the individuals involved shall have passed away.'

In this book, legal scholar Alexander Gouzoules and evolutionary biologist Harold Gouzoules provide a fresh perspective on the 1925 'Scopes Monkey Trial', revealing the perilous state of evolutionary theory at the time of the trial and its refinement over subsequent decades. Alongside this they trace the developing legal consensus on what should – and what shouldn't – be taught in public schools. They go on to warn that by overturning these venerable legal precedents, a conservative-majority Supreme Court is now undermining the role of scientific evidence in informing public policy – with disastrous implications for justice and democracy itself.

Ranging from Darwin to intelligent design, the age of the Earth to eugenics, anti-abortion law to critical race theory, climate change to vaccine scepticism, THE HUNDRED YEARS' TRIAL shows how the lessons to be learnt from the Scopes case apply to us all – and are more urgent than ever.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Johns Hopkins University Press

PUBLICATION

Spring 2025

STATUS

Draft manuscript

LENGTH

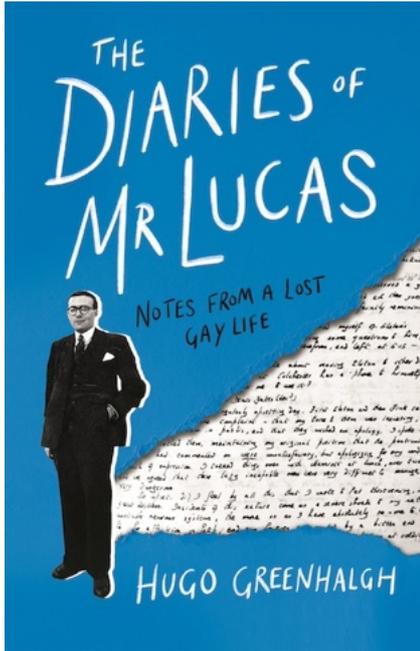
90,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Johns Hopkins University Press)

Alexander Gouzoules is an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Law. An expert on constitutional law, he has given presentations on law and religion and co-authored briefs and represented clients in several high-profile religion-law cases arising from controversies involving public schools.

Harold Gouzoules is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Emory University. An expert on animal behaviour and evolution, especially vocal communication in primates, he has published in a variety of scholarly journals, written popular pieces for *Psychology Today*, and made many media appearances, including on NPR's 'Science Friday' with Ira Flatow.



The Diaries of Mr Lucas

Notes from a Lost Gay Life

HUGO GREENHALGH

‘An affecting, vividly illuminating evocation of a lost landscape and its inhabitants’ – Francis Wheen

For 60 years Mr George Leo John Lucas led a double life. By day, he was a civil servant at the Board of Trade, but by night – unable to live openly as a gay man before the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 – he was a fixture of London’s colourful underground gay scene, a twilight world of petty crime, louche pubs and public lavatories. He was also an obsessive diary writer.

When Mr Lucas died in 2014 he left his diaries to the journalist Hugo Greenhalgh. This book combines Mr Lucas’s deliciously indiscreet entries over the course of the 1960s with Greenhalgh’s razor-sharp historical insights. Together they give a vivid, one-of-a-kind account of gay life that has been overlooked.

Hugo Greenhalgh has been a journalist for more than 25 years. He is the editor of Openly, the LGBTQ+ news website from the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Before that he worked for the *Financial Times*. He has been nominated for the European Press Prize, Amnesty International’s Media Awards and the GLAAD Media Awards. He is also a former activist. Aged 19, he took the British Government to the European Court of Human Rights over the age of consent for gay males in the UK.

AGENT

Eli Keren

PUBLISHER

Atlantic Books

PUBLICATION

2 May 2024

STATUS

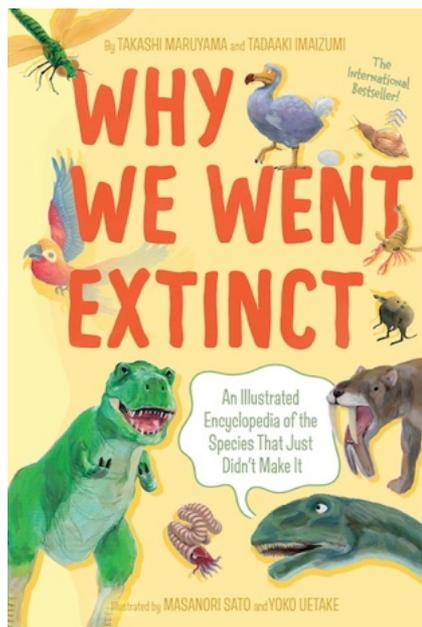
Manuscript

LENGTH

320 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Atlantic Books)

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Quill Tree (HarperCollins)

PUBLICATION

Autumn 2024

STATUS

Proofs

LENGTH

350 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (Quill Tree)
- Japan, China and rest of East Asia reserved to the Japanese publisher (Diamond)

Why We Went Extinct

An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Species that Just Didn't Make It

TADAAKI IMAIZUMI & TAKASHI MARUYAMA

Nearly one MILLION copies sold to date of this heartfelt tribute to the 99.9 per cent of species that have gone extinct

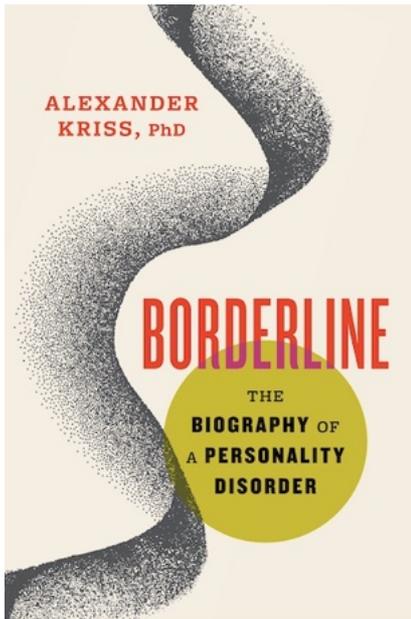
If your species happens to be alive right now – never mind just you specifically! – you are already among the very lucky. WHY WE WENT EXTINCT is an illustrated encyclopaedia of the animals that weren't as lucky, that wound up on Darwin's bad side through poor physical traits or unfortunate timing, or simply had the massive misfortune to run up against the rise of human civilization.

Readers learn about Platybelodon, an elephant ancestor whose jaw was too heavy to survive; Cameroceras, a cephalopod whose body was too straight to survive; the Laughing Owl, who went extinct because it laughed too loud; and a whole host of other mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and fish that just didn't make it. These are sad stories, but the endearing illustrations and charming voices of the animals bring them back to life, if only briefly, to teach readers about their lives and times, and to give us all a deeper appreciation of life on Earth (especially as we face human-caused climate change, a driver of extinction that the book also fully addresses).

WHY WE WENT EXTINCT has become a huge phenomenon in Japan since it was first published in 2018, so far selling nearly a million copies. And with the recent wave of interest in palaeontology, WHY WE WENT EXTINCT is poised for breakout success around the globe.

Tadaaki Imaizumi graduated from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology and studied mammal taxonomy and ecology at the National Science Museum of Japan. After working as an animal-science educator at Ueno Zoo in Tokyo, he is now councillor at the Tokyo Zoo Association. He likes cheetahs and leopards because they are independent, quiet, and are strict parents.

Takashi Maruyama is a zoology writer and creator of illustrated encyclopaedias. His favourite animal is the armadillo because it is the only remaining living species of the order Tubulidentata.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Beacon Press

PUBLICATION

30 April 2024

STATUS

Proofs

LENGTH

304 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (Beacon Press)

Borderline

The Biography of a Personality Disorder

ALEXANDER KRISS

A kaleidoscopic biography of borderline personality disorder, revealing the condition's hopeful – and treatable – future

'Difficult'. 'Impossible to treat'. 'Dropout'.

Patients diagnosed with borderline personality disorder (BPD) are nearly always defined as a problem. Not only by popular culture and its depictions of mercurial, manipulative women (and they're almost always women), but often too by mental-health workers, those professionally pledged to offer therapy to the traumatized and suffering.

Supervisors warned Alexander Kriss early in his career that BPD patients weren't worth the trouble. But after a life-changing encounter with a borderline patient named Ana, he became invested in uncovering the truth behind this stigmatized, poorly understood, yet increasingly prevalent condition.

In this deeply researched, humane investigation, Kriss uncovers the lost history of BPD. He reveals a thread of trauma deferred, from hysteria in ancient Greece to the seemingly scattered constellation of symptoms that today we recognize as a distinct disorder. He draws on his extensive work with BPD patients in his psychotherapy practice, painting an intimate portrait of what it's like to live with the condition. Ultimately Kriss tells a moving story of persistence and life: how individuals struggle and flourish, even in the face of a society that shirks collective responsibility for its individual traumas.

Alexander Kriss is a clinical psychologist and author based in New York. At his private practice Kriss provides psychoanalytic and existential psychotherapy to adolescents and adults dealing with a wide range of issues, chief among them borderline personality disorder. He serves as an adjunct professor of psychology at the City College of New York and Fordham University, and as a clinical associate at the Safran Center for Psychological Services. He is the author of *THE GAMING MIND: A New Psychology of Videogames and the Power of Play* (Robinson/The Experiment, 2020).

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Timber Press

PUBLICATION

8 April 2025

STATUS

Manuscript

LENGTH

110,000 words, plus illustrations and photos throughout

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (Timber Press)

Wild NYC

A Guide for Walkin' Here

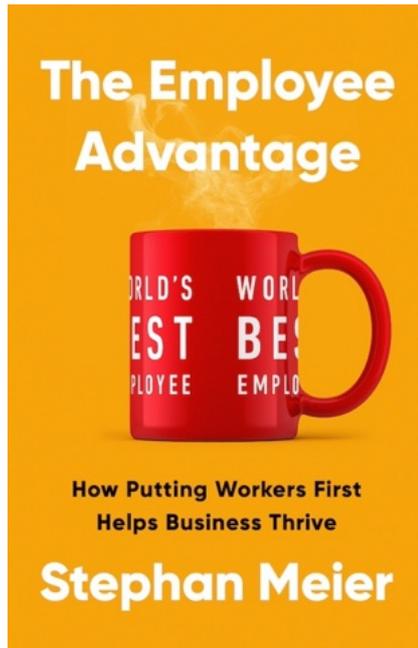
RYAN MANDELBAUM & CHELSEA BECK

An all-access ticket to the hidden habitats of the largest city in America

We all know that New York is a cultural hub, a food mecca, a collection of architectural wonders and the most diverse place in the United States. But did you know that New York City is among the most incredible natural gems in America as well? Central Park hosts more than 250 different species of birds. Raccoons sleep in the cavities of native trees such as oak, crab-apples and sweetgums. The Madison Square Park planters include a native cactus. Harbour seals congregate under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Equal parts natural history, field guide and trip planner, WILD NYC will open your eyes to the teeming urban wildlife of the Big Apple. For residents and visitors alike searching for a closer connection with nature, WILD NYC will bring the wild to your literal doorstep, in a delightfully illustrated package.

Ryan Mandelbaum is a science writer whose work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Gizmodo*, *Popular Science* and elsewhere. These days, you can find them in Brooklyn's farthest reaches looking for rare birds to photograph, in the kitchen trying to make vegetables taste like meat, or maybe even on a boat somewhere hoping to spot a Bermuda petrel. Ryan's favourite bird is the red crossbill.

Chelsea Beck is a Midwesterner working in New York City as YouTube's social media art director. Chelsea's work can be found in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, 'Atlas Obscura', NPR and her debut children's book *Instructions Not Included*. Her favourite bird is the seagull.

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Public Affairs

PUBLICATION

15 October 2024

STATUS

Manuscript

LENGTH

75,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Public Affairs)
- Japan (Hayakawa)

The Employee Advantage

How Putting Workers First Helps Business Thrive

STEPHAN MEIER

‘One of the world’s greatest applied behavioural economists’ (Dr Katy Milkman) reveals how any organization can thrive by putting their employees first

At Columbia Business School, Stephan Meier teaches hundreds of students each year about what he calls the ‘human side of strategy’. One of his core research insights is that, despite the customer-obsession wave sparked by Amazon two decades ago, employees may well be more important to a firm’s long-term success than its customers. Yet strategy textbooks, corporate board composition and media coverage have not adapted to this new reality – the focus is still overwhelming on customers.

Unsurprisingly, alongside this imbalance is growing employee dissatisfaction and disengagement: more than 67 per cent of US employees, and more than 86 per cent of employees worldwide, report being not engaged in their jobs over the past 15 years. And the Covid pandemic only accelerated this trend: people are re-assessing what they want, resigning, striking, or calling for unionization in droves.

Meier is uniquely equipped to tackle this problem: he is one of the world’s leading experts at the intersection of behavioural economics and business strategy. In *THE EMPLOYEE ADVANTAGE* he combines the research backing of *Nudge* with the firm-focused practicality of *Work Rules!* to provide a comprehensive roadmap that any organization can implement to reap the profitable benefits that come from putting their employees first.

Stephan Meier is the James P. Gorman Professor of Business Strategy and chair of the management division at Columbia Business School. Before Columbia, he was the first senior economist at the Center for Behavioral Economics and Decision-Making at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. He is an expert at the intersection of behavioural economics, business strategy and future-of-work. His research findings have been published in *Science*, *Nature*, *Harvard Business Review*, *American Economic Review* and other journals, and have been covered by news outlets such as *The Economist*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Bloomberg* and the BBC.

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Holt

PUBLICATION

Summer 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due July 2024

LENGTH

70,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Holt)

When Trees Testify

Seven Species that Bear Witness to Black Botanical Legacy

BERONDA L. MONTGOMERY

An award-winning plant biologist reclaims the history of Black botanical expertise, and of enslaved Black Americans, through the stories of seven long-lived trees

Like all plants, trees ‘inhale’ the carbon dioxide exhaled by us, and transform it into sugars through photosynthesis. These sugars do more than provide food for trees – they help to produce the actual wood that gives trees their forms. As Beronda L. Montgomery eloquently writes in *WHEN TREES TESTIFY*, ‘Trees are material evidence of the exhaled quintessence of humans past and present.’ They are truly living witnesses to the past.

The histories of long-lived trees in America, therefore, are also the histories of enslaved Black Americans. These histories are connected by more than chemistry: pecan trees were domesticated by an enslaved African named Antoine; sycamore trees were both havens and signposts for people trying to escape their lives of enslavement; poplar trees are historically associated with lynching – these trees, and others, testify not only to complex Black American history, but also to a legacy of Black botanical expertise that predates America entirely. In *WHEN TREES TESTIFY*, Montgomery tells the stories of seven trees, along with the cotton shrub, as they tell the stories of her ancestors before her.

Beronda L. Montgomery is an award-winning plant biologist, dean at Grinnell College and author of the acclaimed *LESSONS FROM PLANTS* (Harvard University Press, 2021). She has been named one of the journal *Cell*’s 100 Inspiring Black Scientists in America, and was awarded the 2021 Cynthia Westcott Science Writing Award and 2022 Adolph E. Gude, Jr Award for outstanding service to the science of plant biology. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society of Plant Biologists, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the American Academy of Microbiology.



PHOTO BY AMY QUINT

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

The Experiment

PUBLICATION

Autumn 2025

STATUS

Manuscript due January 2025

LENGTH

70,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (The Experiment)
- Netherlands (Ten Have)

How to Be Curious

A Stoic's Quest for Meaning in the Second Half of Life

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI

Updating ancient philosophy with modern cognitive and social science, a leading philosopher reveals how a sceptical approach is the perfect guide to a good life

The ancient Greeks and Romans devised an approach to life based on the notion that we don't know as much as we think we do, and that adjusting our beliefs to the evidence while keeping in mind that we could be wrong about things is the path to a happy and meaningful life and a just society.

In *HOW TO BE CURIOUS*, philosopher and scientist Massimo Pigliucci adopts as his guide the ancient Roman public advocate, orator, statesman and philosopher Marcus Tullius Cicero to reveal the benefits of cultivating curiosity and doubt in the pursuit of knowledge throughout our life.

Following Cicero's life and works, Pigliucci explores the foundations for a good life, from how to formulate our values to how to nurture friendships, from how to be a good citizen and fight for social justice to how to handle grief, pain and even death – all the while setting this ancient wisdom in the context of modern knowledge.

Massimo Pigliucci is the K. D. Irani Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York. He has written for publications such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Philosophy Now* and *The Philosopher's Magazine*, among others. He is the author or editor of 16 books, including *HOW TO BE A STOIC* (Basic Books, 2017).

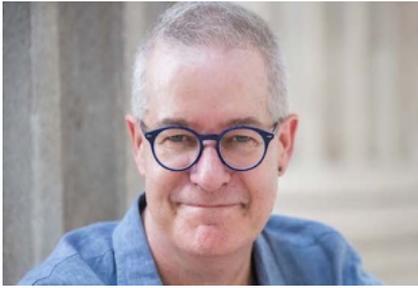


PHOTO BY AMY QUINT



PHOTO BY T. KOGAN



AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

The Experiment (US)/Headline (UK)

PUBLICATION

Autumn 2024

STATUS

Manuscript

LENGTH

60,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (The Experiment)
- UK & Commonwealth (Headline)

Beyond Stoicism

What Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophers Can Teach Us About Living the Good Life

MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI, GREGORY LOPEZ & MEREDITH ALEXANDER KUNZ

Three leading popularizers of ancient philosophy draw on the lives and insights of Greco-Roman thinkers to provide an invaluable compass for navigating the good life

What is the meaning of life? Who do we want to become? And how can we achieve this? These are big questions that are hard to think through. Fortunately, a group of philosophers from ancient Greece and Rome have already done a lot of the heavy lifting.

The ancient Greeks and Romans converged on three major themes in attempting to articulate what is good in life: pleasure, virtue and doubt. Or, to put it more straightforwardly: feeling good, being good and thinking well.

These ideas were first proposed over two millennia ago but are more pertinent than ever. Despite our remarkable advances in science and technology, we still want the same things – love, friendship, money, reputation – and still fear the same threats – poverty, sickness, pain, death. The specifics may have changed, but human nature has remained the same, and the instruments devised by these ancient philosophers constitute a powerful toolkit to help us thrive in the modern world.

Massimo Pigliucci is the K. D. Irani Professor of Philosophy at the City College of New York and author of HOW TO BE A STOIC (Basic Books, 2017).

Gregory Lopez is a practising secular Buddhist and Stoic, founder of the New York City Stoics, and co-author with Massimo Pigliucci of A HANDBOOK FOR NEW STOICS (The Experiment, 2019; Rider in the UK as LIVE LIKE A STOIC).

Meredith Alexander Kunz is a writer, editor and communications professional who has worked in journalism, higher education and the technology industry. Since 2016, she has published ‘The Stoic Mom’ blog.



How to Be an Urban Naturalist

And Save the World with Citizen Science

MENNO SCHILTHUIZEN

A post-pandemic manifesto for a new era of natural history, practised by community scientists in their own urban jungle

Today, the world's entire scientific literature is available online for everyone. You can build your own lab using video tutorials or buy cheap equipment online. Huge amounts of open-access data can be processed at home on a personal computer with open-source software. And you can learn how to do this in open online courses.

In *HOW TO BE AN URBAN NATURALIST*, science writer and evolutionary biologist Menno Schilthuis shows not only how real biological discoveries can be made by anybody in the place where they live but also how community science can rekindle the romance that professional science has lost.

Along the way, he introduces readers to the tools of the trade of the urban community scientist, from the tried and tested (the field notebook, the butterfly net and the hand lens) to the new-fangled (internet resources, low-tech gadgets and off-the-shelf gizmos); weaves in colourful details from his own personal story of scientific growth; and shows how we can all cherish, protect and improve the biodiversity on our own doorstep – and, in doing so, help to reinvent natural history.

Menno Schilthuis is a Dutch ecologist and evolutionary biologist based at Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden, Netherlands. He also holds a chair in evolution at Leiden University. As well as being the author of several popular books including *NATURE'S NETHER REGIONS* (Penguin, 2014) and *DARWIN COMES TO TOWN* (Quercus/Picador, 2018), he has written more than 100 scientific publications and 150 popular articles and news reports, given public lectures on evolution and ecology and made regular appearances on radio and TV. In his spare time, he enjoys painting and hiking in the dunes near his hometown of Leiden.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

MIT Press

PUBLICATION

Spring 2025

STATUS

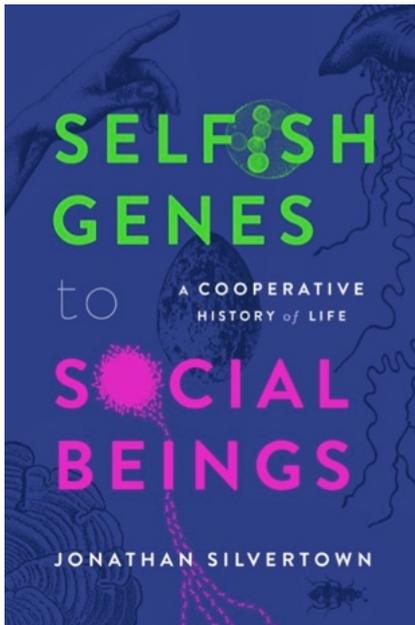
Manuscript due March 2024

LENGTH

85,000–95,000 words

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (MIT Press)
- Netherlands (Atlas Contact)

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Oxford University Press

PUBLICATION

11 April 2024

STATUS

Proofs

LENGTH

256 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Oxford University Press)
- Italy (Bollati Boringhieri)

Selfish Genes to Social Beings

A Cooperative History of Life

JONATHAN SILVERTOWN

Whether we are at peace or at each other's throats, cooperation is in our nature – and has been a ubiquitous feature of life since it arose four billion years ago

In this sweeping and concise alternative history of life, biologist and science writer Jonathan Silvertown addresses the apparent paradox that there is something biological that compels us to be selfish: our genes. Genes are inexorably driven by self-replication, yet he shows that throughout evolutionary history cooperation continually rears its head.

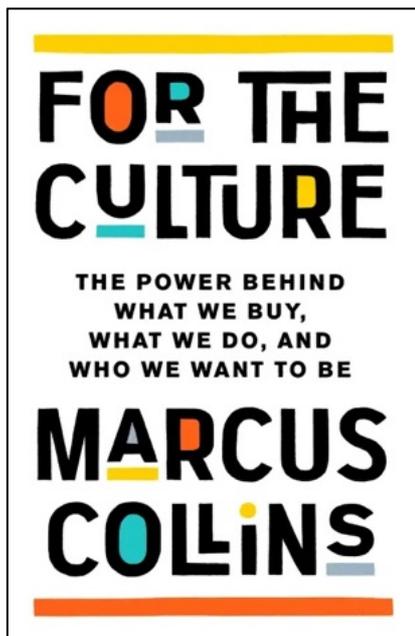
It turns out that the rules of cooperation we encounter in our daily lives are fundamentally the same as those that apply to how parts of a cell evolve to work together and how cells cooperate within a body. This explains a host of different phenomena, from how we acquired our adaptive immune system from selfish DNA to how we can produce a glass of clear beer as a result of cooperative yeast cells.

All are accomplished by making teams of rivals, argues Silvertown. Teaming up requires holding rivalries and self-interest in check. Once formed, teams may be transformed into a new kind of individual. This happens when the replication of team members becomes dependent on the replication of the team. Tracing the path of life backwards from groups to individuals, to cells and then to genes, *SELFISH GENES TO SOCIAL BEINGS* takes readers from the familiar to the obscure to reveal how these revolutionary transitions made both us and our world.

Jonathan Silvertown is a professor of evolutionary ecology at the Institute of Evolutionary Biology at the University of Edinburgh. He is the author of more than 130 academic papers, a successful textbook and five popular science books (most recently *THE COMEDY OF ERROR: Why Evolution Made Us Laugh* (Scribe, 2020)). He has given many talks for the general public as well as for professional audiences and appeared on numerous podcasts and radio programmes.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Public Affairs

PUBLICATION

2 May 2023

LENGTH

304 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Public Affairs)
- Korea (Sigma Books)
- Thailand (Bookscape)

For the Culture

The Power Behind What We Buy, What We Do, and Who We Want to Be

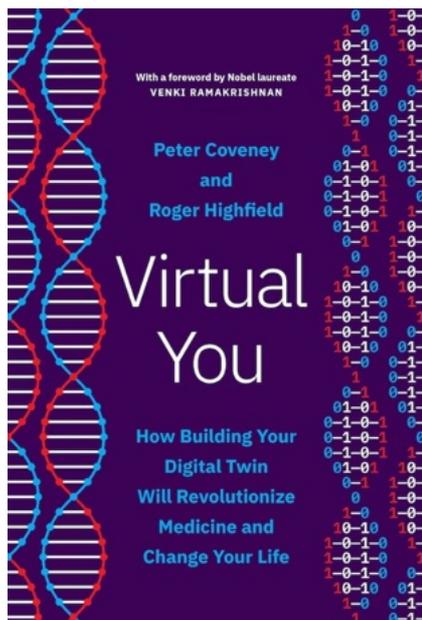
MARCUS COLLINS

An award-winning marketer for the likes of Beyoncé, Budweiser and the Brooklyn Nets argues that cultural engagement is the most powerful vehicle for influencing behaviour

We all try to influence others in our daily lives. Whether you are a manager motivating your team, an employee making a big presentation, an activist staging a protest, or an artist promoting your music, you are in the business of getting people to take action. In *FOR THE CULTURE* Marcus Collins argues true cultural engagement is the most powerful vehicle for influencing behavior. If you want to get people to move, you must first understand the underlying cultural forces that make them tick.

Collins uses stories from his own work as an award-winning marketer – from spearheading digital strategy for Beyoncé, to working on Apple and Nike collaborations, to the successful launch of the Brooklyn Nets NBA team – to break down the ways in which culture influences behavior and how readers can do the same. With a deep perspective, and built on a century's worth of data, *FOR THE CULTURE* gives readers the tools they need to inspire collective change by leveraging the cheat codes used by some of the biggest brands in the world. This is the only book you'll need if you want to influence people to take action.

Marcus Collins is a marketing professor at the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, and a recent inductee to the American Advertising Federation's Hall of Achievement. Before serving as chief consumer connections officer at Doner Advertising, Collins led social engagement at Steve Stoute's advertising agency, Translation. His strategies and creative contributions have led to the success of Budweiser's 'Made In America' music festival, and the Brooklyn Nets' 'Hello Brooklyn!' and State Farm's 'Cliff Paul' campaigns – among others. Prior to his advertising tenure, Collins worked on iTunes + Nike sport music initiatives at Apple and ran digital strategy for Beyoncé.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Princeton University Press

PUBLICATION

28 March 2023

LENGTH

336 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Princeton University Press)
- China (China Science and Technology Press)

Virtual You

How Building Your Digital Twin Will Revolutionize Medicine and Change Your Life

PETER COVENEY & ROGER HIGHFIELD

Foreword by Nobel Prize-winning biologist Venki Ramakrishnan

The visionary science behind the digital human twins that will enhance our health and our future

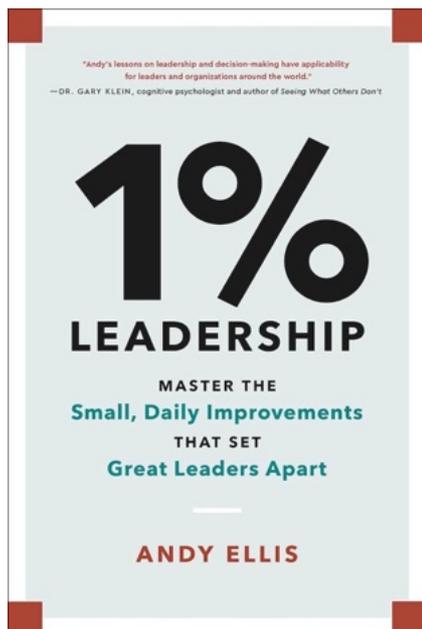
VIRTUAL YOU is a panoramic account of efforts by scientists around the world to build digital twins of human beings, from cells and tissues to organs and whole bodies. These virtual copies will usher in a new era of personalized medicine, one in which your digital twin can help predict your risk of disease, participate in virtual drug trials, shed light on the diet and lifestyle changes that are best for you, and help identify therapies to enhance your well-being and extend your lifespan – but thorny challenges also remain.

In this deeply illuminating book, Peter Coveney and Roger Highfield reveal what it will take to build a virtual, functional copy of a person in five steps. Along the way, they take us on a fantastic voyage through the complexity of the human body, describing the latest scientific and technological advances, from multiscale modelling to extraordinary new forms of computing, that will make ‘virtual you’ a reality, while also considering the ethical questions inherent in realizing truly predictive medicine.

VIRTUAL YOU is science at its most astounding, showing how our virtual twins and even whole populations of virtual humans promise to transform our health and our lives in the coming decades.

Peter Coveney holds professorships at University College London (where he is director of the Centre for Computational Science), University of Amsterdam and Yale University School of Medicine. He has a lead role in a major EU project to simulate the human body using supercomputers.

Roger Highfield is science director of the UK’s Science Museum Group. He is a member of the Medical Research Council and a visiting professor of public engagement at the Dunn School, University of Oxford, and the Department of Chemistry, University College London. Together with Peter Coveney, he has organized public events on quantum computing and virtual humans.

**AGENT**

Jeff Shreve

PUBLISHER

Hachette Go

PUBLICATION

18 April 2023

LENGTH

256 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Hachette Go)
- China (Heliopolis)

1% Leadership

Master the Small, Daily Improvements That Set Great Leaders Apart

ANDY ELLIS

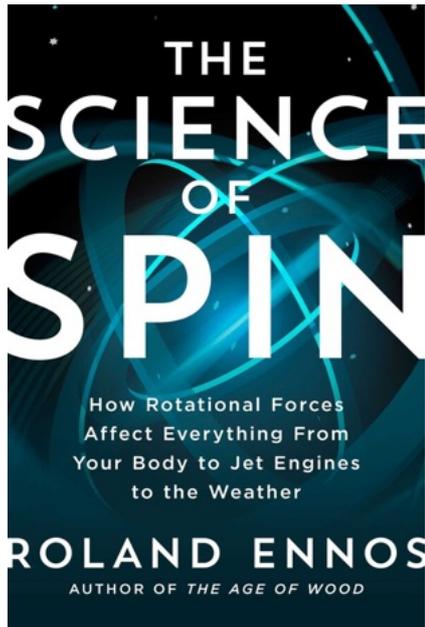
A set of proven, concrete strategies from a Hall of Fame leader that anyone can use to become a better leader every day

In May 2021, Andy Ellis was inducted into the CSO Hall of Fame. In his 20-year tenure at Akamai, a leading US internet technology company, Andy transformed its information security operation from a single individual to a team of over 90 people (more than 40 per cent women), while designing and bringing to market many of the security products that helped build Akamai's billion-dollar dedicated cybersecurity business. He now advises several start-ups, lectures in executive education programmes and delivers keynote addresses around the world.

Yet none of these accomplishments were the result of rote application of a management system or following an acronymic framework letter by letter or genuflecting at the altars of previous leadership titans. And perhaps most important, Andy's leadership skills did not kick in magically once he reached the C suite; his path to a Hall of Fame leadership track record started with the smallest of real-world lessons from his very first job onward.

1% LEADERSHIP recreates that path – building from personal, to team, to organizational leadership – for readers at any stage in their career, offering concise, practical lessons that help you improve, even if just by one per cent. This is the engine at the core of 1% LEADERSHIP: you become a great leader simply by becoming a better leader, every day.

Andy Ellis is a visionary technology and business executive with deep expertise in security, managing risk and leading an inclusive culture. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and former US Air Force officer, Andy helped build Akamai into an industry powerhouse over his 20-year tenure as its chief security officer. He is the founder of leadership development firm Duha, where he teaches his leadership philosophy to people at all career levels. He is an advisor to several start-ups and lectures regularly at the Harvard Kennedy School and the MIT Sloan School of Management.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Scribner (US)/Oneworld (UK)

PUBLICATION

18 July 2023 (US)

14 September 2023 (UK)

LENGTH

288 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- US & Canada (Scribner)
- UK & Commonwealth (Oneworld)
- China (China Science and Technology Press)

The Science of Spin

How Rotational Forces Affect Everything from Your Body to Jet Engines to the Weather

ROLAND ENNOS

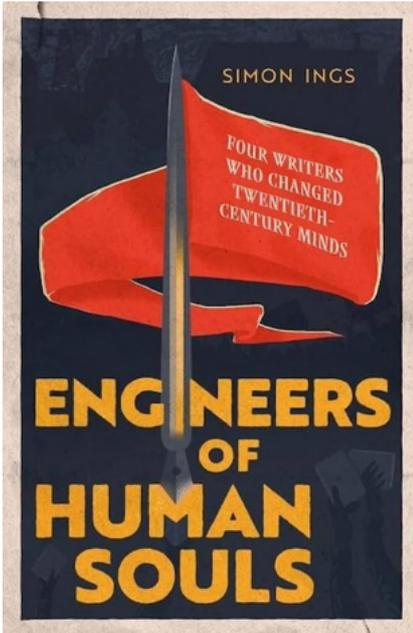
An eye-opening look at the unlikely links between tightrope walkers and tyrannosaurs, mediaeval catapults and tennis players, stunt cars and long jumpers

Spin shaped the Solar System, galaxies and black holes. It controls our climate and weather. It underpinned the progress of civilization, from the developments of the wheel – gears, pulleys, flywheels and lathes – that helped the old world gain global supremacy, to the systems that today power the industrial world – propellers, turbines, centrifugal pumps, impellers and electric motors. Even our own bodies are complex systems of rotating joints and levers.

But although we are fascinated by spin, most people remain baffled by it. As Roland Ennos shows in this rich and lively book, we lack an intuitive grasp of the concept because scientists – from Newton on – have focused on linear rather than rotational motion. By turning this old view on its head, Ennos aims to show how spin, be it natural or engineered, is what literally makes the world go around.

Along the way he reveals how spin makes our planet habitable, how it has been tamed by engineers to make our lives more comfortable, how we throw projectiles and wield tools and weapons, how we are only beginning to grasp how we balance, walk, run, swing and jump – and how we can ensure that like cats we always land on our feet.

Roland Ennos is a visiting professor of biological sciences at the University of Hull. He is the author of textbooks on plants, biomechanics and statistics, and popular books including TREES (Natural History Museum, 2001) and THE AGE OF WOOD (Scribner/William Collins in the UK as THE WOOD AGE, 2021). He lives in England.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Bridge Street Press (Little, Brown)

PUBLICATION

25 January 2024

LENGTH

400 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Bridge Street Press)

Engineers of Human Souls

Four Writers Who Changed Twentieth-Century Minds

SIMON INGS

Four writers. Four dictators. One world, changed out of all recognition...

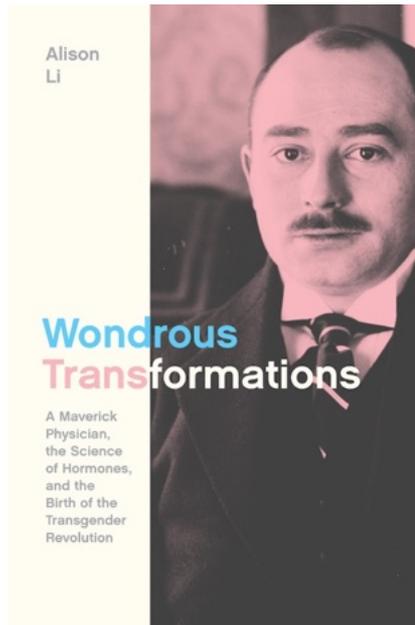
ENGINEERS OF HUMAN SOULS is an intimate and shocking shadow history of four writers whose overweening creative ambition shaped the careers of the century's most notorious dictators.

Maurice Barres, who first discovered how to marry socialism and nationalism. Gabriele D'Annunzio, whose poetry became a blueprint for fascism in Italy. Maxim Gorky, dramatist of the working class and Stalin's cheerleader. Ding Ling whose stories served the Maoist regime that kept her imprisoned for years.

Each nursed an extravagant vision of the future and believed they were vital to its realization. All four were lured to the centre of political action. There they created the blueprints and practices that sustained notorious regimes.

In a post-literary world dominated by social media, we all now wield a little of the power over crowds once wielded by Barres and Gorky, Ding Ling and D'Annunzio. These stories – of courage and compromise, vanity and malevolence – speak urgently to the uncontrollable power of words.

Simon Ings is the author of eight previous novels and two works of nonfiction, including the Baillie Gifford-longlisted *STALIN AND THE SCIENTISTS* (Faber/Atlantic Monthly Press, 2016). He is also the editor of the recent anthology *WE, ROBOTS: Artificial Intelligence in 100 Stories* (Head of Zeus, 2020). His novel *THE WEIGHT OF NUMBERS* (Atlantic, 2006) won the O2 X Prize. He is the former arts editor of *New Scientist* magazine and lives in London.

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

University of North Carolina Press

PUBLICATION

26 September 2023

LENGTH

272 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (University of North Carolina Press)

Wondrous Transformations

A Maverick Physician, the Science of Hormones and the Birth of the Transgender Revolution

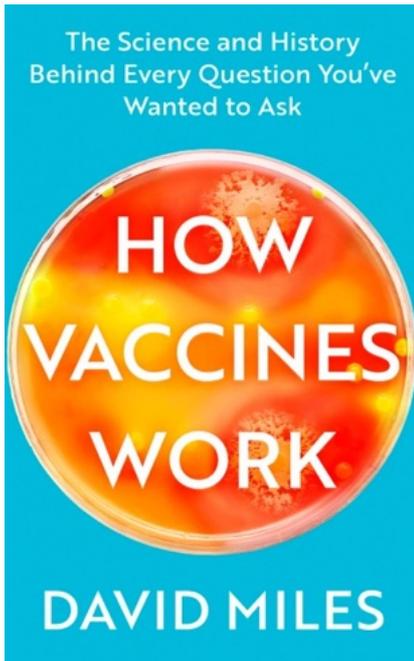
ALISON LI

The story of hormone therapy told through the fascinating life of Dr Harry Benjamin, who pioneered the use of hormones to assist in gender transitions

Harry Benjamin (1885–1986), a German-born endocrinologist, was a pivotal figure in the development of transgender medicine. He was physician to transgender pioneers such as Christine Jorgensen, the 1950s’ ‘Ex-GI’ turned ‘Blonde Beauty’ media sensation, and in turn, she and other collaborators helped to shape Benjamin’s influential 1966 book *The Transsexual Phenomenon*. Alison Li’s much-needed biography of Benjamin chronicles his passion for hormones and his lifelong interest in sexology.

Drawing from extensive research in archival documents, secondary sources and interviews, Li tells the story of Benjamin’s early ventures in gerontology and his later work with over a thousand transgender patients. Benjamin’s contributions to treatment, education, research and networking helped to create the institutional foundations of transgender medicine. What’s more, they set the stage for a radical reconsideration of gender identity, challenging us to reflect on what it is to be male or female and to consider moving beyond these long-held categories.

Alison Li is an historian of science and medicine. The author of the biography *J. B. COLLIP AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IN CANADA* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2013), she has lectured at universities as well as to the public, presented papers at numerous conferences and appeared in a television documentary about the discovery of insulin. She holds an MA and a PhD in the history and philosophy of science and technology from the University of Toronto. Previously an assistant professor of science and technology studies at York University in Toronto, she now writes full-time.

**AGENT**

Eli Keren

PUBLISHER

Piatkus (Little, Brown)

PUBLICATION

9 March 2023

LENGTH

480 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Piatkus)
- Korea (Alma Inc)
- Russia (MIF)

How Vaccines Work

The Science and History Behind Every Question You've Wanted to Ask

DAVID MILES

The complete guide to understanding all the vaccines we currently receive

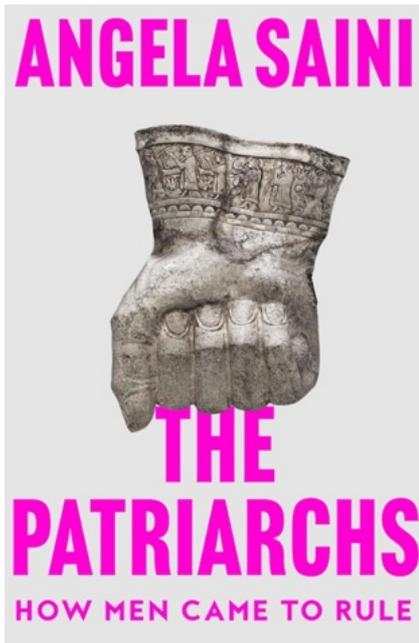
Vaccines are a debate, whether we want them to be or not. Now more than ever, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the accusations and arguments that bloom across the news and internet.

With a blend of science and history, HOW VACCINES WORK demystifies the strange and intricate world of vaccines: it explains what vaccines are, how they are discovered and developed, and what happens when they meet our bodies.

David Miles has worked in immunology – as a scientist and latterly as a communicator – for over two decades. By combining his expert understanding of the field with the questions he is asked by ordinary people, he presents a field guide to the vaccines routinely in use today, explaining what led to their development, how they keep us healthy and why many people have come to worry about possible side effects.

Through thrilling storytelling and in-depth exploration of the most common vaccination myths, HOW VACCINES WORK arms readers with the essential knowledge they need to make an informed choice about getting vaccinated – be it for themselves or for their children.

David Miles is an infectious disease immunologist who has worked mostly on diseases of childhood in Africa and the vaccinations that protect against them. He now lives in London and tutors on the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's online MSc course. HOW VACCINES WORK is his first book.



The Patriarchs

How Men Came to Rule

ANGELA SAINI

*For fans of *Sapiens* and *The Dawn of Everything*, a groundbreaking investigation into the oldest and most pervasive human hierarchical system*

For centuries, societies have treated male domination as natural to the human species. But how would our understanding of gender inequality – our imagined past and contested present – look if we didn't assume that men have always ruled over women? If we saw inequality as something more fragile that has had to be constantly remade and reasserted?

In this bold and radical book, award-winning science journalist Angela Saini explores the roots of what we call patriarchy, uncovering a complex history of how it became embedded in societies and spread across the globe from prehistory to the present.

Travelling to the world's earliest known human settlements, analysing the latest research findings in science and archaeology and tracing cultural and political histories from the Americas to Asia, she explores how male domination became so widespread, why even revolutionary efforts to overturn it have failed and what part we all play – women included – in keeping patriarchal structures alive.

THE PATRIARCHS is nevertheless a profoundly hopeful book – one that reveals a multiplicity to human arrangements that undercuts the old grand narratives and exposes male supremacy as no more (and no less) than an ever-shifting element in systems of control.

AGENT

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

4th Estate (UK)/Beacon (US)

PUBLICATION

2 March 2023

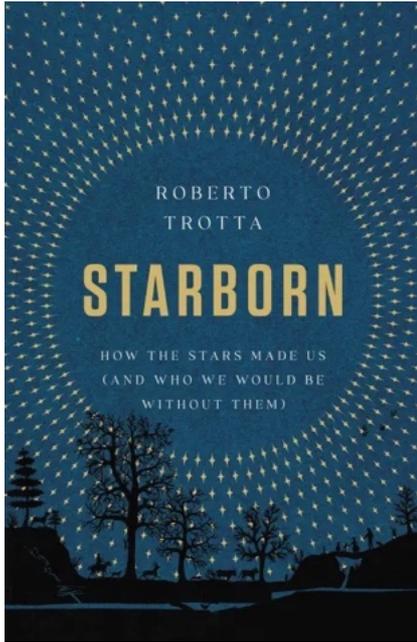
LENGTH

320 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- UK & Commonwealth (Fourth Estate)
- US & Canada (Beacon)
- China (Zhejiang People's Publishing)
- Germany (HanserBlau)
- Greece (Saltou Elissavet)
- Japan (Shueisha)
- Netherlands (Ten Have)
- Russia (AST Publishers)

Angela Saini is a science journalist whose print and broadcast work has appeared on the BBC and in the *Guardian*, *New Scientist*, *Wired*, the *Economist*, and *Science*. A former Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT, she won the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Kavli Science Journalism gold award in 2015. She has a master's degree in engineering from the University of Oxford and is the author of *GEEK NATION: How Indian Science is Taking Over the World* (Hodder, 2011), *INFERIOR: How Science Got Women Wrong* (4th Estate/Beacon, 2017) and *SUPERIOR: The Return of Race Science* (4th Estate/Beacon, 2019).

**AGENT**

Peter Tallack

PUBLISHER

Basic Books

PUBLICATION

7 November 2023

LENGTH

352 pages

RIGHTS SOLD

- World English (Basic Books)
- Italy (Il Saggiatore)

Starborn

How the Stars Made Us (and Who We Would Be Without Them)

ROBERTO TROTTA

A sweeping inquiry into how the night sky has shaped human history

For as long as humans have lived, we have lived beneath the stars. But under the glow of today's artificial lighting, we have lost the intimacy our ancestors once shared with the cosmos.

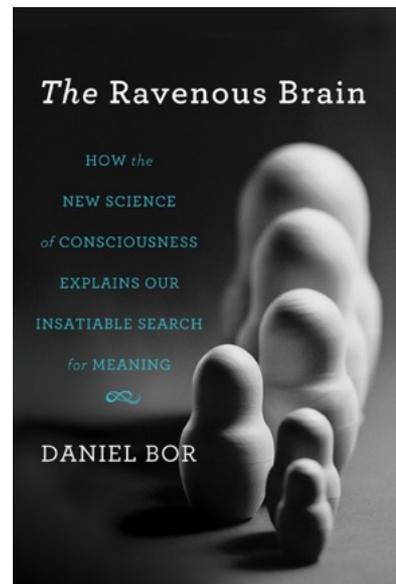
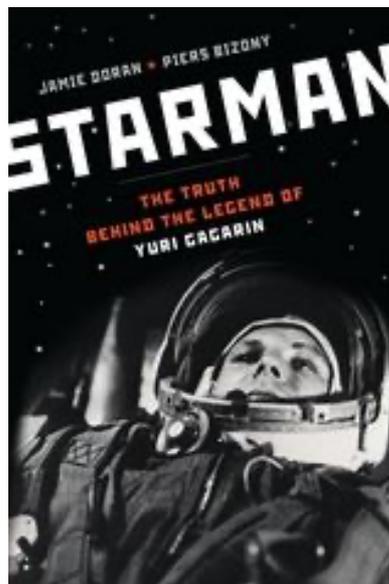
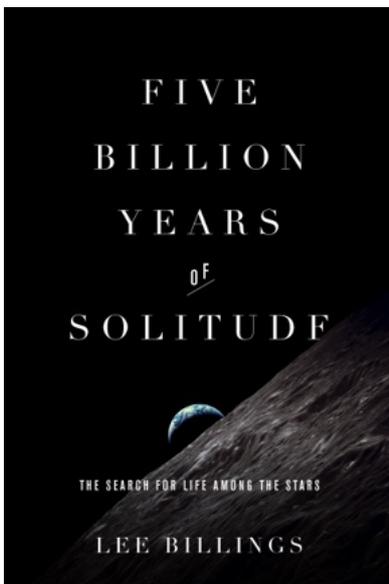
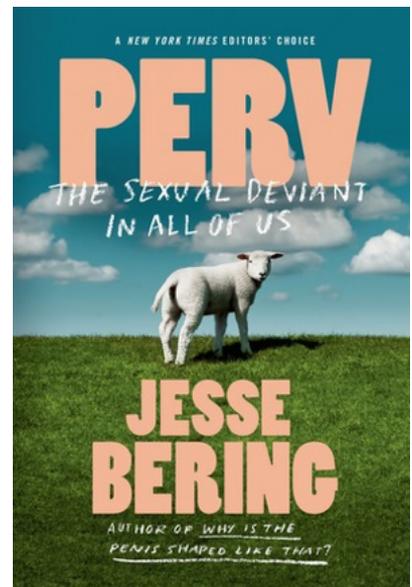
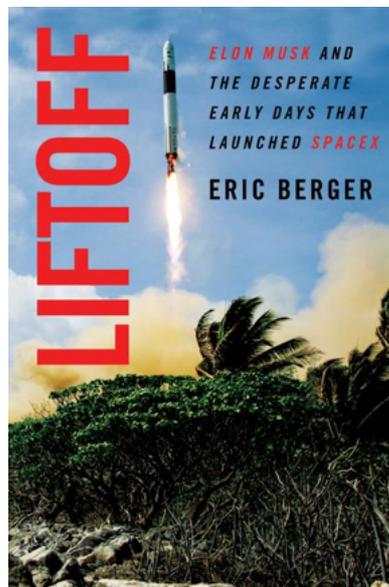
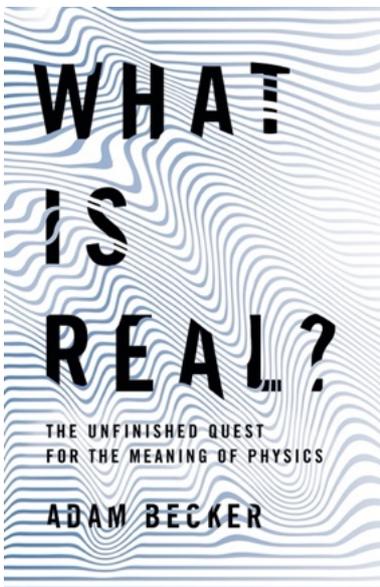
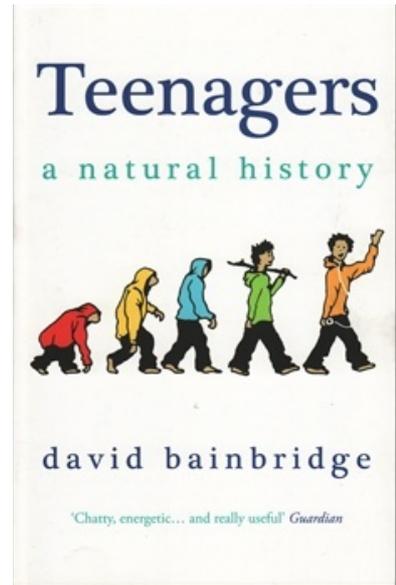
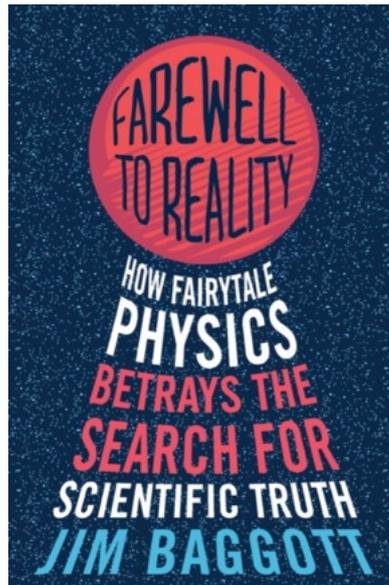
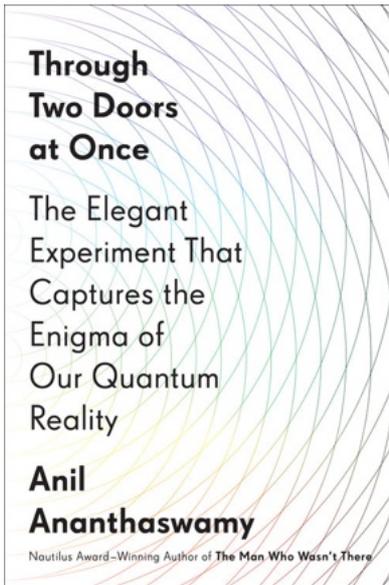
In *STARBORN*, cosmologist Roberto Trotta reveals how stargazing has shaped the course of human civilization. The stars have served as our timekeepers, our navigators, our muses – they were once even our gods. How radically different would we be, Trotta also asks, if our ancestors had looked up to the night sky and seen... nothing? He pairs the history of our starstruck species with a dramatic alternate version, a world without stars where our understanding of science, art and ourselves would have been radically altered.

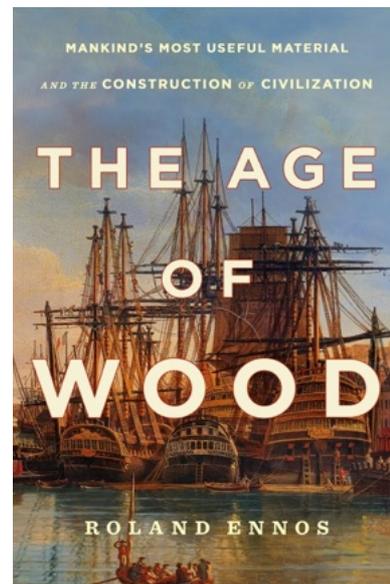
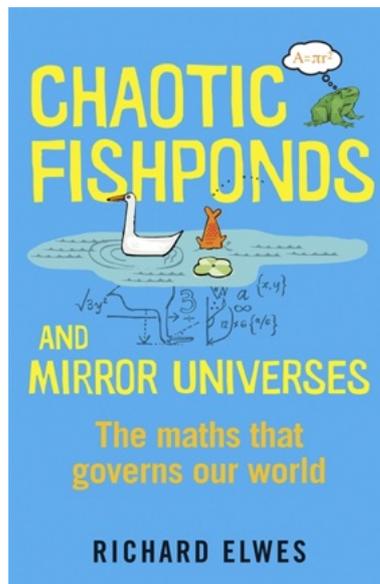
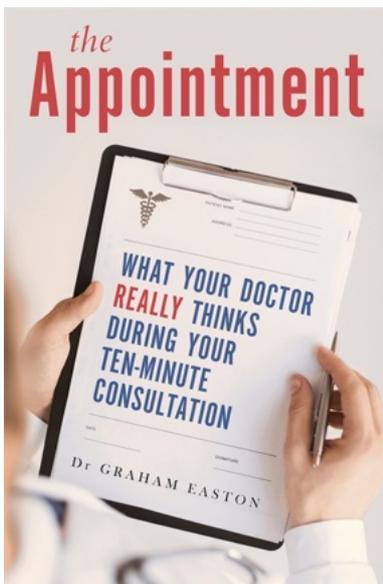
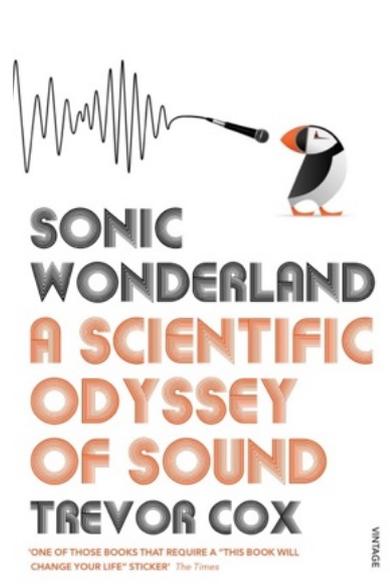
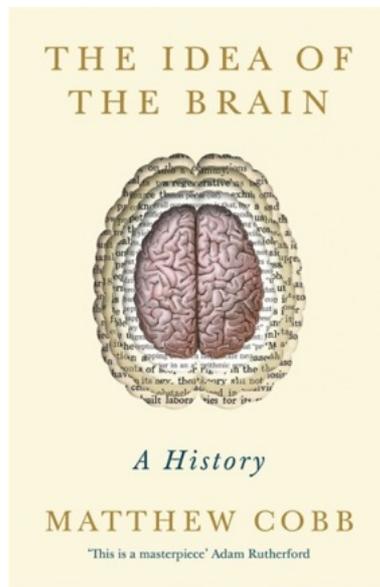
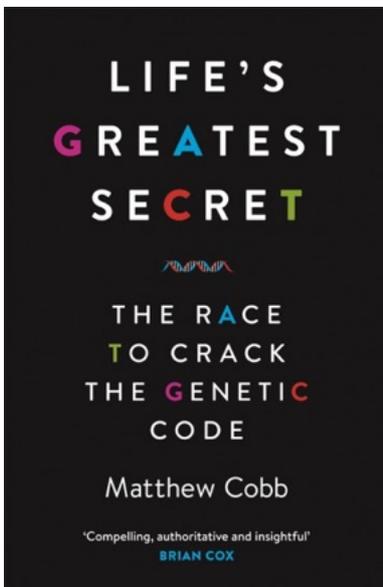
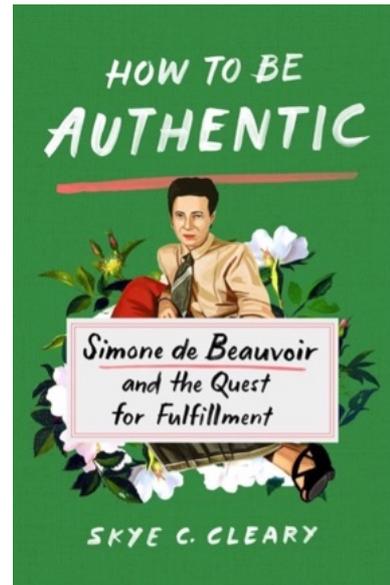
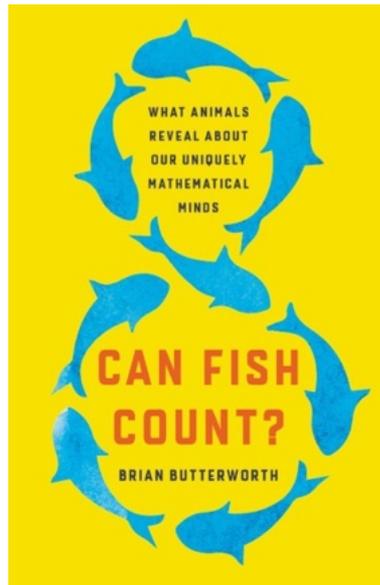
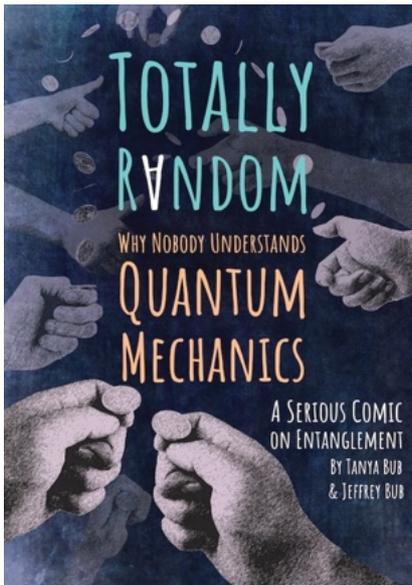
Revealing the hidden connections between astronomy and civilization, *STARBORN* summons us to the marvelous sight that awaits us on a dark, clear night – to lose ourselves in the immeasurable vastness above.

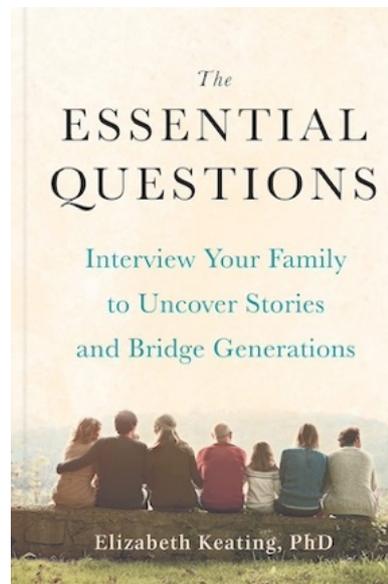
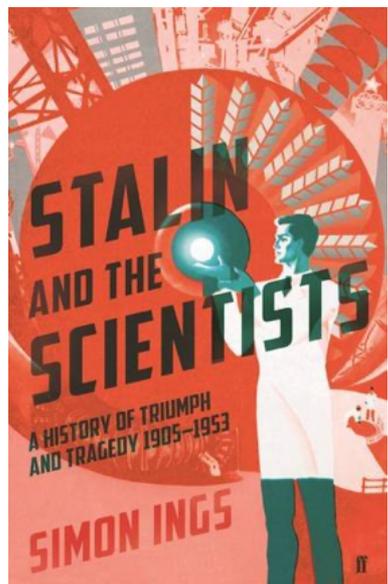
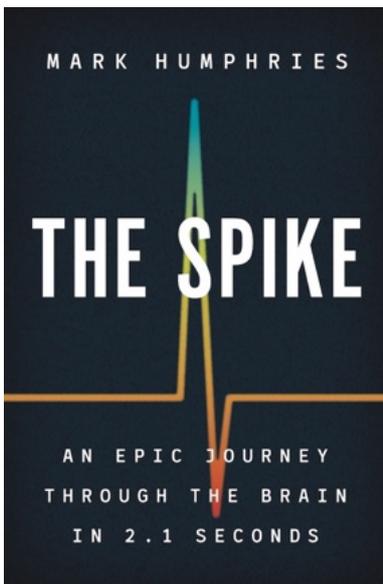
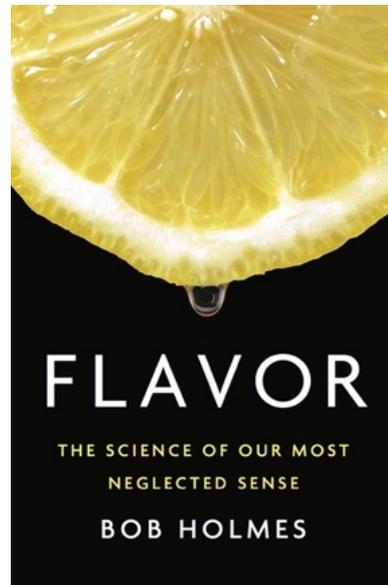
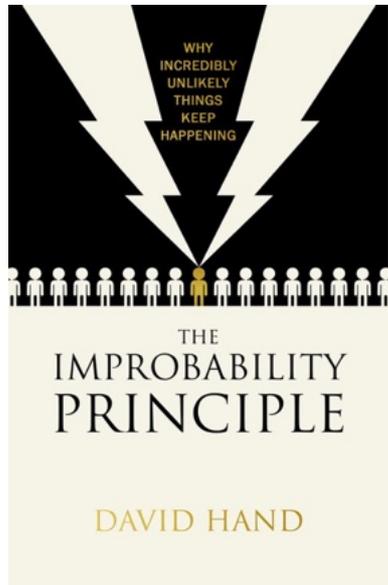
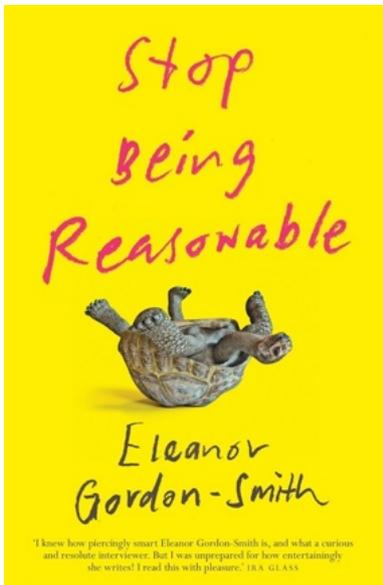
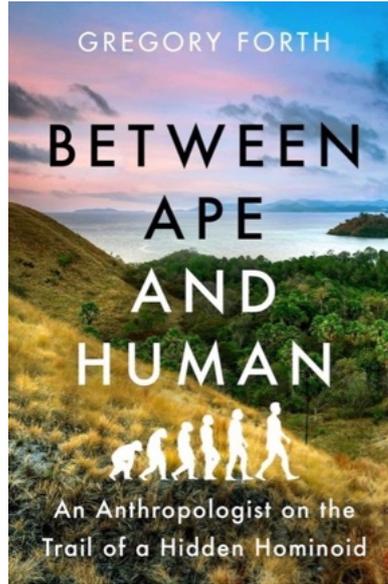
Roberto Trotta is a professor of theoretical physics at the International School for Advanced Study in Trieste, Italy, and professor of astro-statistics at Imperial College London. The award-winning author of *THE EDGE OF THE SKY* (Basic Books, 2014), he lives under dark skies near Trieste, Italy.

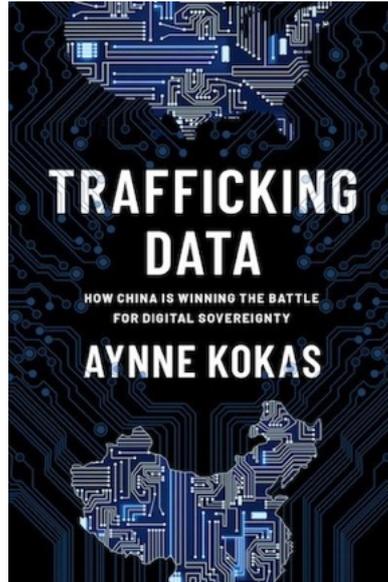
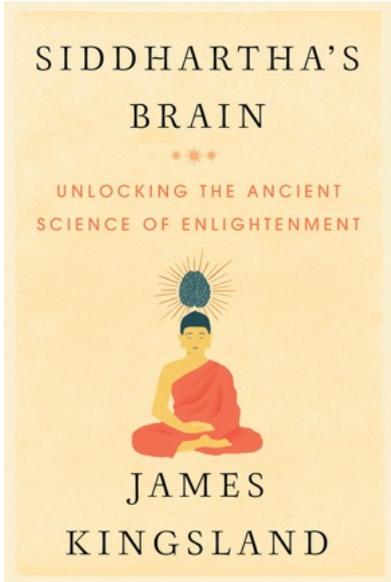


BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS







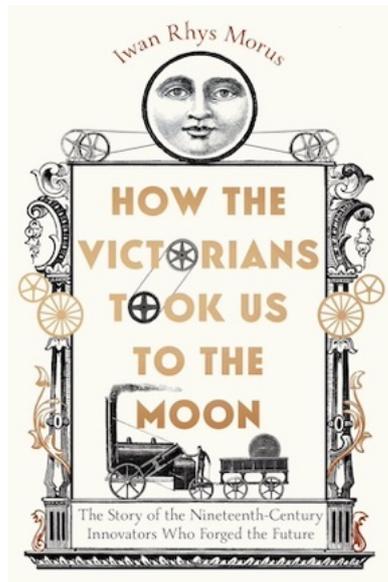
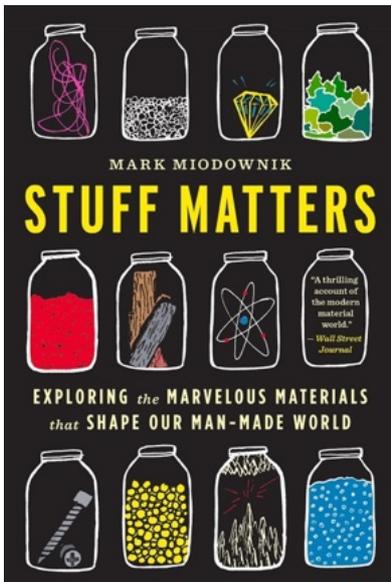
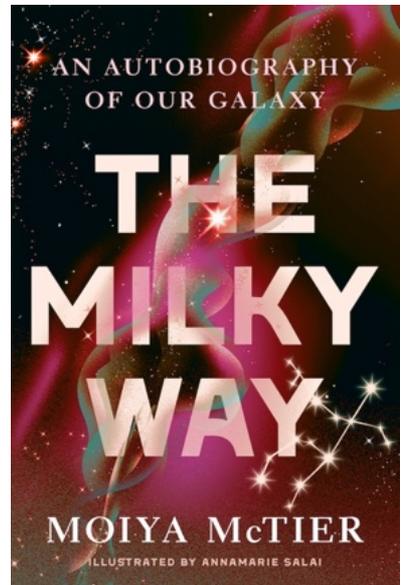
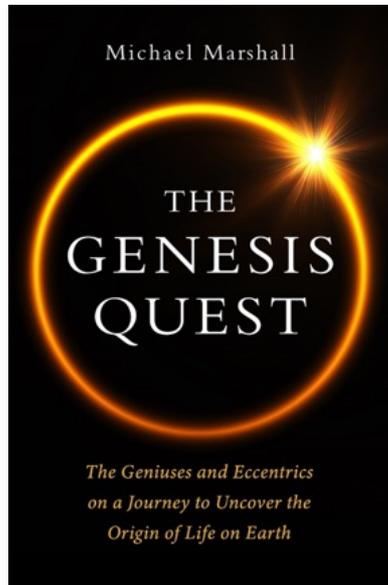
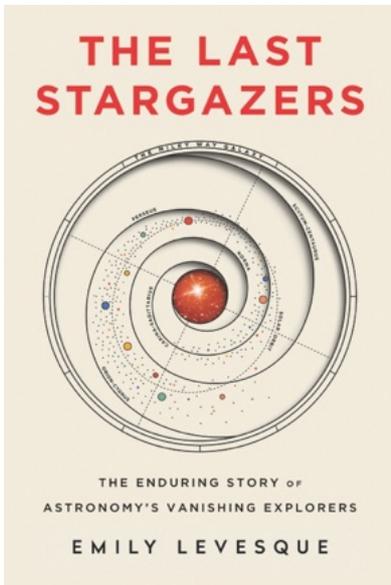


The Rules of Contagion

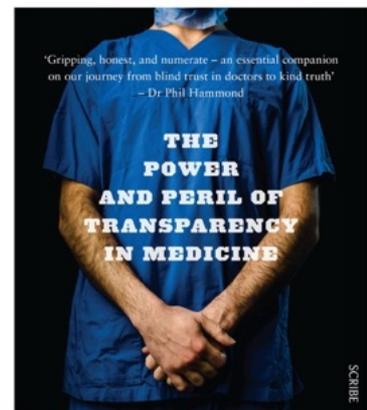


Why Things Spread – and Why They Stop

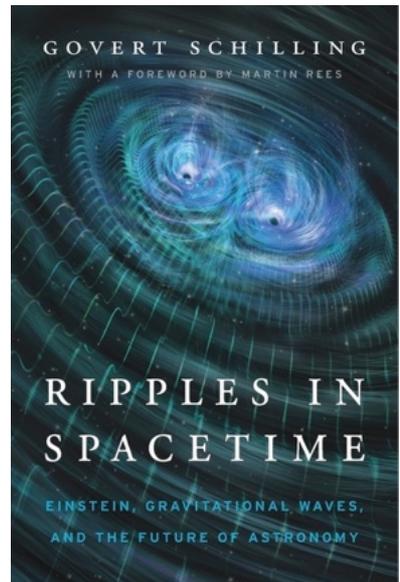
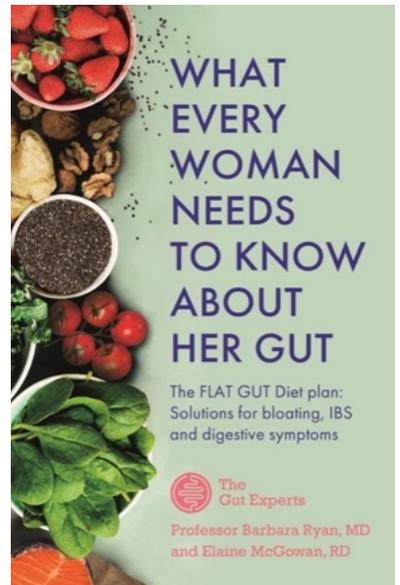
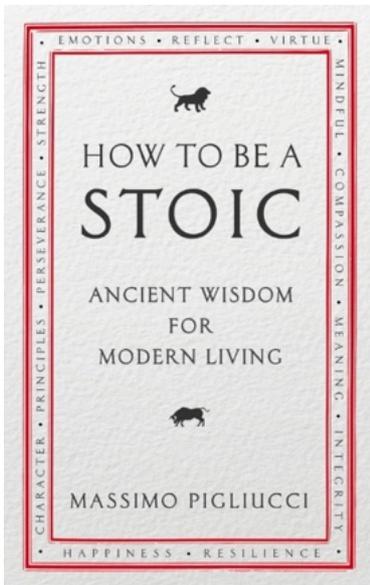
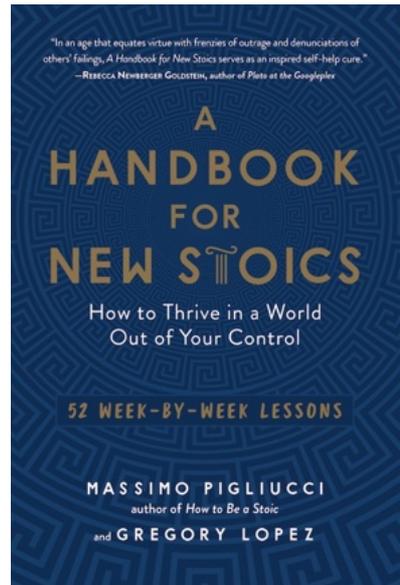
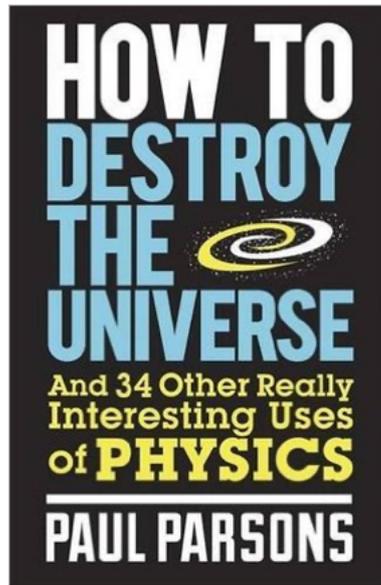
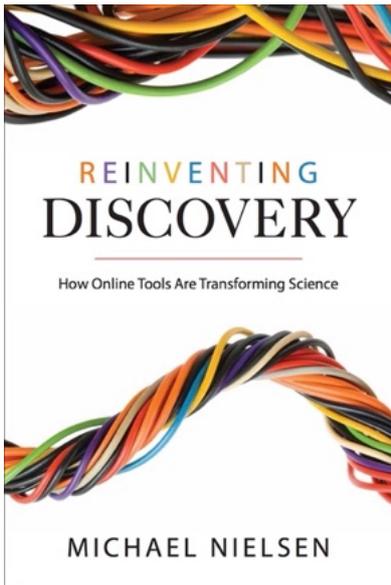
ADAM KUCHARSKI

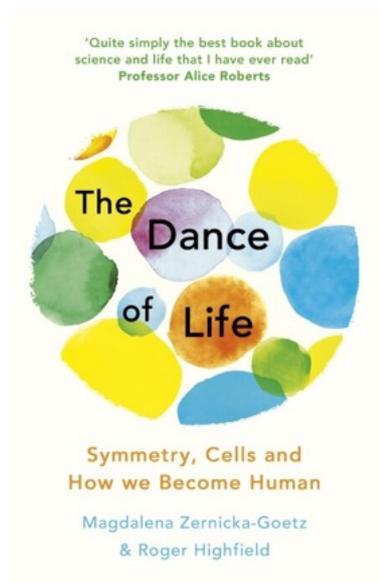
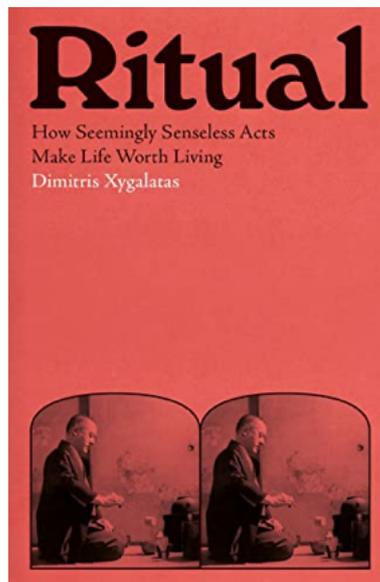
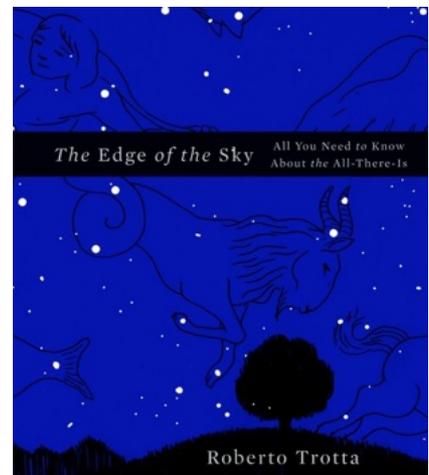
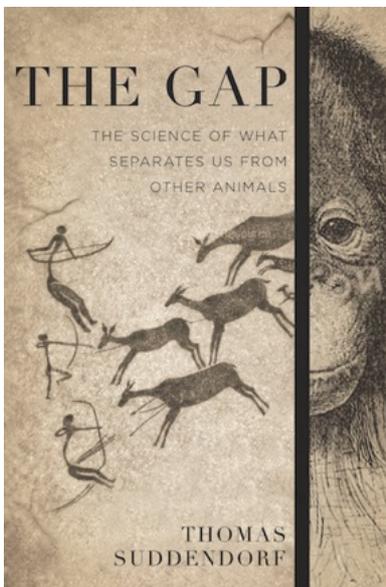
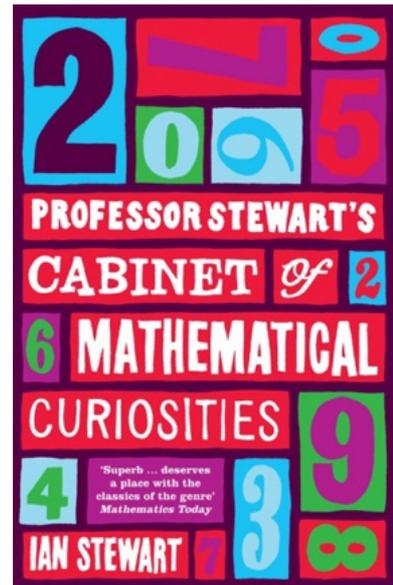
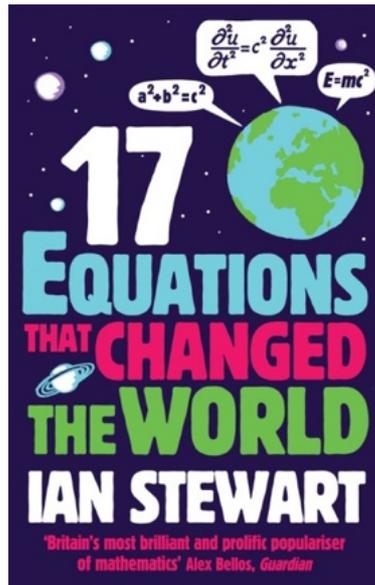
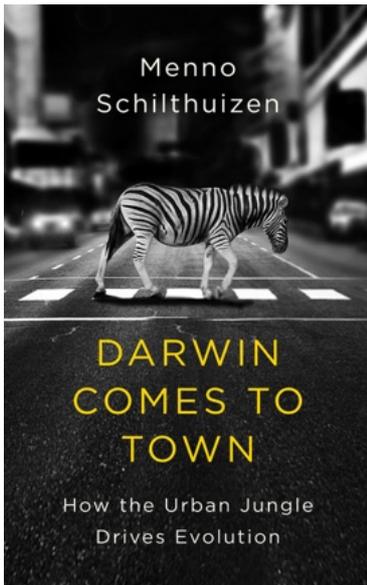


Samer Nashef



THE NAKED SURGEON





Recent World Rights Deals

In addition to the titles described in previous pages, Curious Minds has recently done world-rights deals for the following books. For further information, please contact the publishers directly.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE APOCALYPSE: A Mostly Serious Guide to Surviving Our Wild Times by Athena Aktipis (Workman, 2024)

WHY MACHINES LEARN: The Elegant Mathematics that Underpins Modern Artificial Intelligence by Anil Ananthaswamy (Dutton/Penguin US, 2024)

BECOMING A CHANGEMAKER: A Radically Inclusive Playbook for Leading Positive Change by Alex Budak (GCP Balance/Grand Central Publishing, 2022)

CAN FISH COUNT? What Animals Reveal About Our Uniquely Mathematical Minds by Brian Butterworth (Quercus/Basic Books, 2022)

CRICK: The Biography by Matthew Cobb (Profile, 2026)

THE SCIENCE OF SOUND by Trevor Cox (Big Picture Press/Bonnier Books, 2025)

SPIKE: The Virus vs. The People – the Inside Story by Jeremy Farrar & Anjana Ahuja (Profile, 2021)

THE GOOD VIRUS: The Amazing Story and Forgotten Promise of the Phage by Tom Ireland (Hodder & Stoughton, 2023) – US rights sold on to Norton

PROOF: How Truth Emerges by Adam Kucharski (Profile, 2024)

THE VC FIELD GUIDE: Fundamentals of Venture Capital by William Lin (Wiley, 2023)

LIFE by Michael Marshall (Big Picture Books / Bonnier Books, 2025)

MOTHERS OF INVENTION: Field Notes from the Greek Muses by Moiya McTier (Grand Central, 2026)

THE MILKY WAY: An Autobiography of Our Galaxy by Moiya McTier (Grand Central, 2022)

IT'S A GAS by Mark Miodownik (Viking UK, 2024) – US rights sold on to Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

THE WISDOM OF FEELING by Genny Rumancik (Tarcher Perigee, 2026)

APOLLO REMASTERED by Andy Saunders (Penguin Press UK, 2022) – US rights sold on to Black Dog & Leventhal

GEMINI REMASTERED by Andy Saunders (Penguin Press UK, 2025) – US rights sold on to Black Dog & Leventhal

QUEST FOR BEST: The Search for Mathematical Perfection by Ian Stewart (Profile, 2025)

WE WERE OUT COUNTING BIRDS by Jer Thorp (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2025)

INNER SENSE: The New Science of Interoception and How to Harness It for Health and Wellbeing by Caroline Williams (Profile, 2025)

RITUAL: How Seemingly Senseless Acts Make Life Worth Living by Dimitris Xygalatas (Profile, 2022) – US rights sold on to Little, Brown Spark

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