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The World of Islam: Faith, People, Culture

The thirteen contributors to this volume, all eminent specialists, approach Islamic history through the peoples who make up the faith. The central area and period of Islamic greatness—the Middle East and North Africa from the advent of Islam in the 7th century to the aftermath of the Mongol conquests in the 13th—produced a culture of extraordinary depth, variety and richness. Art, social life, trade, mysticism, literature, music, science, and warfare all developed uniquely Islamic forms; all are fully considered and lavishly illustrated. Orig. $29.95 paperback, sale priced at $12.98.

Devices and Desires: Bess of Hardwick and the Building of Elizabethan England

Bess of Hardwick rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most respected and feared Countesses in Elizabethan England—an entrepreneur who built a family fortune, created glorious houses, and was deeply involved in matters of the court, including the custody of Mary Queen of Scots. Hubbard draws on more than 230 of Bess’s letters, including correspondence with the Queen and her counselors, fond (and furious) missives between her husbands and children, and notes sharing titillating court gossip, creating a rich, compelling portrait of a true feminist icon centuries ahead of her time. Orig. $29.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.
For Dr. Guy Leschziner’s patients, there is no rest for the weary in mind and body. Insomnia, narcolepsy, night terrors, sleep apnea, and sleepwalking are just a sampling of conditions afflicting sufferers who cannot sleep, and their experiences in trying to get to sleep are the stuff of nightmares. Dr. Leschziner illustrates the neuroscience behind our sleeping minds, revealing the many biological and psychological factors necessary in getting the rest that will not only maintain our physical and mental health but also improve our cognitive abilities and overall happiness. Orig. $28.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Carolyn Purnell persuasively shows that, while our bodies may not change dramatically, the way we think about the senses and put them to use has been rather different over the ages. The Sensational Past focuses on the ways in which small, peculiar, and seemingly unimportant facts open up new ways of thinking about the past. You will explore the sensory worlds of the Enlightenment, learning how people in the past used their senses, understood their bodies, and experienced the rapidly shifting world around them. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Do “the Classics” still have relevance in the 21st century, or are they just an outdated repository of class vanity, racial prejudice, and pedantic obscurantism, rooted in abstruse texts and concerned almost entirely with the activities of dead white males in strange costumes? An erudite, wide-ranging, fluent, and original piece of writing, Some Talk of Alexander leads us from the personal experiences of the author in modern Greece into the rich store of Greek civilization: its art, politics, philosophy, mores, warfare, ethics, personal relationships, government, and literature. Orig. $40.00, sale priced at $8.98.

The ravens at the Tower of London are of mighty importance: rumor has it that if a raven from the Tower should ever leave, the city will fall. The title of Ravenmaster, therefore, is a serious title indeed, and after decades of serving the Queen, Yeoman Warder Christopher Skaife took on the added responsibility of caring for the infamous ravens. In this memoir, he lets us in on his life as he feeds his birds raw meat and biscuits soaked in blood, buys their food at Smithfield Market, and ensures that these unusual, misunderstood, and utterly brilliant corvids are healthy, happy, and ready to captivate the four million tourists who flock to the Tower every year. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
The Self Portrait: A Cultural History

For thousands of years the human heart remained the deepest of mysteries; both home to the soul and an organ too complex to touch, let alone operate on. Then, in the late 19th century, medics began going where no one had dared go before. In 11 landmark operations, Thomas Morris tells us stories of triumph, reckless bravery, swaggering arrogance, jealousy and rivalry, and incredible ingenuity: the trail-blazing “blue baby” procedure that transformed wheezing infants into pink, healthy children; and the first human heart transplant, which made headline news around the globe. Orig. $26.99 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Wild Nights: How Taming Sleep Created Our Restless World

Tracing sleep’s transformation since the dawn of the industrial age, the author weaves together insights from literature, social, and medical history, and cutting-edge science to show how and why we have tried and failed to tame sleep. He leads readers from bedrooms and laboratories to factories and battlefields to Henry David Thoreau’s famous cabin at Walden Pond, telling the stories of troubled sleepers, hibernating peasants, sleepwalking preachers, cave-dwelling researchers, slaves who led nighttime uprisings, spectacularly frazzled parents, and utopian dreamers. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

This extravagantly illustrated small edition examines a wide range of significant objects, beginning in around 4,000 BC from all spheres of Ancient Egyptian life. The compelling and informative text discusses some of the best-known masterpieces of Egyptian art and contextualizes them in relation to lesser-known works, providing a captivating overview of 5,000 years of civilization on the banks of the Nile. But it is also a fascinating history of collecting and methods of interpretation. How have the fashions of certain periods and collectors affected the ways in which Ancient Egypt is represented in museums and presented to the public, and what can these objects tell us about the people who made and commissioned them? Orig. $17.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

The Matters of the Heart: A History of the Heart in Eleven Operations

For thousands of years the human heart remained the deepest of mysteries; both home to the soul and an organ too complex to touch, let alone operate on. Then, in the late 19th century, medics began going where no one had dared go before. In 11 landmark operations, Thomas Morris tells us stories of triumph, reckless bravery, swaggering arrogance, jealousy and rivalry, and incredible ingenuity: the trail-blazing “blue baby” procedure that transformed wheezing infants into pink, healthy children; and the first human heart transplant, which made headline news around the globe. Orig. $26.99 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Pocket Museum: Ancient Egypt

This extravagantly illustrated small edition examines a wide range of significant objects, beginning in around 4,000 BC from all spheres of Ancient Egyptian life. The compelling and informative text discusses some of the best-known masterpieces of Egyptian art and contextualizes them in relation to lesser-known works, providing a captivating overview of 5,000 years of civilization on the banks of the Nile. But it is also a fascinating history of collecting and methods of interpretation. How have the fashions of certain periods and collectors affected the ways in which Ancient Egypt is represented in museums and presented to the public, and what can these objects tell us about the people who made and commissioned them? Orig. $17.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.
Young Ovid: A Life Recreated

After writing two extremely well received biographies—the first about Anne Sexton and the second about poets Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath—scholar Diane Middlebrook’s final project was a study of Ovid’s work. Though he has been dead more than 2,000 years and had left no personal records, Middlebrook was convinced that her intimate knowledge of Ovid’s poetry and a few letters he wrote while in exile, combined with a deep immersion into the Rome of Ovid’s time, would enable her to write what could be called an Ovidian biography. A unique work of analysis as well as biography. Orig. $25 hardcover, sale priced at $5.98.

The Painted World: from Illumination to Abstraction

The history of Western painting is often reduced to the story of a tiny elite bunch of easel pictures, composed exclusively of old masters and avant-garde works. Three-dimensional objects, watercolors, miniatures, icons, and non-Western works, as well as modern paintings that are no longer perceived as “cutting edge,” relate uneasily to this twin canon of old and modern masters. This new, richly illustrated account seeks to redress the balance by exploring the wider history of painting and including a broad range of painted works (often excluded as belonging to the realm of applied or decorative art) from stained glass to painted ceramics, furniture, textiles, and items of costume. Orig. $50 hardcover, sale priced at $12.98.

The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South

This is a people’s history of the modern South, told through its food. Beginning with the pivotal role cooks and waiters played in the civil rights movement, noted authority John T. Edge of the Southern Foodways Alliance narrates the South’s fitful journey from a hive of racism to a hotbed of American immigration. He shows why working-class Southern food has become a vital driver of contemporary American cuisine and tells how Southern food has become a shared culinary language for the nation. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

To Do: A Book of Alphabets and Birthdays

Yes, Gertrude Stein published children’s books! To Do is a fanciful journey through the alphabet, with each letter represented by four names and featuring a short story told in verse. Publishers rejected the manuscript as too complex for children, and it remained unpublished during Stein’s lifetime. Now, more than 70 years after Stein penned the story, it has been published with illustrations, realizing the author’s original concept for the book. Giselle Potter’s witty and stylish illustrations provide a perfect complement to Stein’s uniquely whimsical world of words, creating a truly delightful, often hilarious book that adults and children alike can appreciate and love. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $14.98.
The Wood for the Trees: One Man’s Long View of Nature

A few years ago, award-winning scientist Richard Fortey purchased four acres of woodland in the Chiltern Hills of Oxfordshire, England. This book is the joyful, lyrical portrait of what he found there.

With one chapter for each month, we move through the seasons: tree felling in January, moth hunting in June, finding golden mushrooms in September. Fortey investigates the forest top to bottom, discovering a new species and explaining the myriad connections that tie us to nature and nature to itself, and using the forest as a springboard back through time, full of rich and unexpected tales of the people, plants, and animals that once called the land home. Orig. $28.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Dictionary of Hindu Lore and Legend

Each region of India is a land in its own right, with diverse languages, customs, and cultural traditions. Yet shared social systems, firmly grounded in Hindu religious beliefs, provide the cohesive force that unites more than a billion people of different backgrounds. This dictionary provides an unrivaled insight to all aspects of Hindu life with illustrated entries that elucidate the history of Hinduism, its mythology, art, architecture, religion, laws, and folklore. Maps and entries on the major cities and places of pilgrimage in India, as well as a concise chronology and a list of principal dynasties, provide a clear overview of the geography, history, languages, and vibrant religious and cultural traditions of Hinduism. Orig. $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.

The Epic City: The World on the Streets of Calcutta

Once the capital of the British Raj, and then India’s industrial and cultural hub, by 2001 Calcutta was clearly past its prime. Surely, the author’s American parents cried, he could have moved to Delhi, Bombay or Bangalore, where a new Golden Age of consumption was being born. Yet 15 million people still lived in Calcutta. Working for the leading English newspaper, he found the streets of his childhood unchanged by time. Shouting hawkers still overran the footpaths, fish-sellers squatted on bazaar floors; politics still meant barricades and bus burnings. Sifting through the chaos for the stories that never make the papers, Kushanava Choudhury paints a soulful, compelling portrait of the everyday lives that make Calcutta. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

What Would Cleopatra Do?: Life Lessons from 50 of History’s Most Extraordinary Women

This handy volume tackles issues by reminding us of inspiring feminists from the past, telling their stories with warmth, humor, and verve. Here are Cleopatra’s thoughts on sibling rivalry, Mae West on positive body image, Frida Kahlo on finding your style, Catherine the Great on dealing with gossip, Agatha Christie on getting dumped, Hedy Lamarr on being underestimated, and women leaders who address dilemmas including career-planning, female friendship, loneliness, financial management, and political engagement. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.
The Human Instinct: How We Evolved to Have Reason, Consciousness, and Free Will

Kenneth Miller

Best selling historian Anthony Everitt celebrates the city-state that transformed the world, from the democratic revolution that marked its beginning, through the city's political and cultural golden age, to its decline into the ancient equivalent of a modern-day university town. Everitt portrays the talented, tricky, ambitious, and unscrupulous Athenians who fueled the city's rise: Themistocles, the brilliant naval strategist; Pericles, arguably the greatest Athenian statesman of them all; and the wily Alcibiades, who died in a hail of assassins’ arrows. A riveting you-are-there history. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $10.98.

The Rise of Athens: The Story of the World’s Greatest Civilization

Anthony Everitt

A bold new synthesis of paleontology, archaeology, genetics, and anthropology overturns misconceptions about race, war, and peace, and human nature itself, answering an age-old question: what made humans so exceptional among all the species on Earth? Weaving fascinating stories of our ancient ancestors’ creativity, the author finds the patterns that match modern behavior in humans and animals, and suggests we need to understand the nature of our collaboration with others, what imagination can and can’t accomplish, and how completely our creativity is responsible for the world we live in. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Creative Spark: How Imagination Made Humans Exceptional

Barry Strauss

Starting with only 74 men, a gladiator named Spartacus incited a rebellion that threatened Rome itself. With his fellow gladiators, Spartacus built an army of 60,000 soldiers and controlled the southern Italian countryside. A charismatic leader, he used religion to win support. An ex-soldier in the Roman army, Spartacus excelled in combat. He defeated nine Roman armies and kept Rome at bay for two years before he was defeated. After his final battle, 6,000 of his followers were captured and crucified along Rome’s main southern highway. The Spartacus War is the dramatic and factual account of one of history’s great rebellions. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.
Lives in Ruins: Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble

Pompeii, the Valley of the Kings, the Parthenon—the names of these legendary archaeological sites conjure up romance and mystery. Archaeological research tantalizes us with possibilities. (Are modern humans really part Neandertal?) This absorbing and entertaining look at the lives of contemporary archaeologists digs and drinks alongside them, chases them through the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and even Machu Picchu, and excavates their lives, sharing stories about slaves and Ice Age hunters, ordinary soldiers of the American Revolution, Chinese woman warriors, sunken fleets, and mummies. Orig. $25.99 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

God: A Human History

This history of religion is a remarkably cohesive attempt to understand the divine by giving it human traits and emotions, hard-wired in our brains, making it a central feature of nearly every religious tradition. “Whether we are aware of it or not, and regardless of whether we’re believers or not, what the vast majority of us think about when we think about God is a divine version of ourselves.” Aslan suggests we bestow upon God not just all that is good in human nature—our compassion, our thirst for justice—but all that is bad in it: our greed, our bigotry, our penchant for violence. All these qualities inform our religions, cultures, and governments. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606

This is the story of how in 1606, at age 42, Shakespeare found his footing again after several fallow years. He finished a play he had begun the previous autumn—King Lear—before then writing two other great tragedies, Macbeth and Antony and Cleopatra. The aborted Gunpowder Plot of that same year renewed anti-Catholic sentiment and laid bare divisions in the kingdom. It was against this background that Shakespeare finished Lear, a play about a divided kingdom, then wrote a tragedy that turned on the murder of a Scottish king, Macbeth. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Gladiator: The Roman Fighter’s (Unofficial) Manual

Find out how to get thousands to idolize you as the strongest, meanest fighter in the Roman Empire. Win fame and fortune in one of Rome’s most glamorous locations, in the presence of the emperor himself. Who wouldn’t kill for a job like that? This book includes the latest research with modern reconstructions addressing: why you should become a gladiator; how to join the most gloriously lethal profession on earth; who will try to kill you and with what; which arena of the empire is the right one for you; when and how often you will fight; and what happens before, during, and after a duel. Orig. $24.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.
Alternative cartoonist/screenwriter Daniel Clowes has always been ahead of artistic and cultural movements, depicting culture with wit, venom, and even a little sympathy. With each successive graphic novel (Ghost World, David Boring, Wilson, and Mister Wonderful), Clowes has been praised for his emotionally compelling narratives that reimage the ways that stories can be told in comics. This is the first monograph on this creator compiled with his cooperation. It includes all of his best-known illustrations as well as rare and previously unpublished work, all reproduced from the original art, and essays by noted contributors such as designer Chip Kidd and cartoonist Chris Ware. NOT appropriate for kids! Orig. $40 hardcover, sale priced at $14.98.

Drawing on a host of firsthand accounts and memoirs, as well as her own family history, the author explores life in the world’s harems, from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century, focusing on the fabled Seraglio of Topkapi Palace as a paradigm for them all. This book shows how the Eastern institution of the harem invaded the European imagination—in the form of decoration, costume, and art—and how Western ideas, in turn, finally eroded a system that had seemed eternal. This revised and updated anniversary edition of *Harem* includes a new introduction by the author, revisiting her subject in light of recent events in Turkey and the world. Orig. $29.95 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.

Catullus spent most of his young adulthood in Rome, mingling with the likes of Caesar and Cicero and chronicling his life through his poetry. Famed for his lyrical and subversive voice, his poems about his friends were jocular, often obscenely funny, while those who crossed him found themselves skewered in raunchy verse. In his later life, as tumult overtook the Empire, Catullus increasingly turned to darker subject matter, and he finally composed his greatest work of all, a poem about the decoration on a bedspread, which forms the heart of this biography. Orig. $25.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

This is a visual tour through some of the most bizarre inventions registered with the British authorities in the 19th century, an era when Britain was the workshop of the world and where design protection or patenting was all the rage. The apparently lenient approval process meant that all manner of bizarre curiosities were painstakingly recorded, in beautiful color illustrations and well-penned explanatory text. Featuring such gems as a ventilating top hat; an artificial leech; a design for an aerial machine adapted for the arctic regions; an anti-explosive alarm whistle; a tennis racket with ball-picker; and a current-cleaning machine. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
**Who Discovered America? The Untold History of the Peopling of the Americas**

Take this one with many, many grains of salt, because the theory expounded here is certainly controversial, to put it mildly! This amateur historian’s widely ranging research “and an adventurer’s spirit” as the publisher describes it, leads him to suggest an ancient Asian seagoing tradition that dates as far back as 100,000 years ago. Menzies offers a revolutionary new alternative to the “Beringia” theory of how humans crossed a land bridge connecting Asia and North America during the last Ice Age, and provides a wealth of staggering claims, that hold fascinating and astonishing implications for the history of mankind. Orig. $16.99 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

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**Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes**

Edith Hamilton’s classic collection not only retells these stories with brilliant clarity but also shows us how the ancients saw their own place in the world and how their themes echo in our consciousness today. This is the definitive volume for anyone who wants to know the key dramas, the primary characters, the triumphs, failures, fears, and hopes first narrated thousands of years ago—still spellbinding to this day. Hamilton, the author of *The Greek Way* and *The Roman Way*, was made an honorary citizen of Athens, Greece, in 1957. Orig. $10 paperback, sale priced at $4.98.

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**Rendez-vous with Art**

The former director of the Metropolitan Museum de Montebello and art critic Gayford spoke in art galleries or churches or their own homes, and this book is structured around their journeys. De Montebello shares the sense of excitement recorded by Goethe in his autobiography—“akin to the emotion experienced on entering a House of God”—but also reflects on why these secular temples might nevertheless be the “worst possible places to look at art.” Both of them convey the delights and significance of some of the most intense creations of human beings throughout our long history. Color illustrations throughout. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

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**Living With a Dead Language: My Romance with Latin**

After years as a book editor in New York, author Ann Patty retired and moved to the country. Bored and a little aimless, she hoped to challenge her restless, word-loving brain by beginning a serious study of Latin at local colleges. The louche poetry of Catullus calls up her early days in 1970s New York, Lucretius elucidates her intractable drivenness and her attraction to Buddhism, while Ovid’s verse conjures a delightful dimension to the flora and fauna that surround her. Along the way, she meets an impassioned cast of characters: professors, students, and classicists outside of academia who keep Latin very much alive. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.
Is vocabulary destiny? Why do clocks “talk” to the Nahua people of Mexico? Will A.I. researchers ever produce true human-machine dialogue? In this mesmerizing collection of essays, bestselling author Daniel Tammet answers these and many other questions about the intricacy and profound power of language. In London, he explores the numeric language of his autistic childhood; in Iceland he learns why the name Blær became a court case; in Canada, he meets one of the world’s most accomplished lip readers. He chats with chatbots; contrives an “e”-less essay on lipograms; and contemplates the significance of disappearing dialects. Orig. $27 hardcover, sale priced at $5.98.

Travel through time to witness some of the most extraordinary events in world history with this unusual and entertaining guide that includes fascinating cultural details from each period, including what and where to eat, what to wear, how to act like a local, and how to stay alive. Filled with engaging details, this handbook gives you unprecedented access to a wide range of milestones, including celebrations and exhibitions; cultural and sporting spectacles; epic journeys and voyages; and extreme events. Illustrated with color and black-and-white paintings and photographs, as well as detailed maps and illustrations. Orig. $21.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

John Kaag is a dispirited young philosopher at sea in his marriage and his career when he stumbles upon West Wind, a ruin of an estate in the hinterlands of New Hampshire that belonged to the eminent Harvard philosopher William Ernest Hocking. The books Kaag discovers in the Hocking library are crawling with insects and full of mold; however, he resolves to restore them, as he immediately recognizes their importance. As Kaag begins to catalog and read through these priceless volumes, he embarks on a thrilling journey that leads him to the life-affirming tenets of American philosophy—self-reliance, pragmatism, and transcendence—and to a brilliant young Kantian who joins him in the restoration of the Hocking books. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

Neuro-anthropologist John S. Allen believes that the human habitat is one of the most important products of human cognitive, technological, and cultural evolution over the past two million years. With this book, Allen argues that the thing that may have been most critical in our evolution is not the physical aspect of a home, but developing a feeling of defining, creating, and being in a home, whatever its physical form, an environment, relatively secure against whatever horrors lurked outside, that enabled the expensive but creative human mind to reach its full flowering. Orig. $28.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Time Among the Maya: Travels in Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico

The Maya created one of the world’s most brilliant civilizations, and despite collapse in the 9th century, Spanish invasion in the 16th, and civil war in the 20th, eight million people in Guatemala, Belize, and southern Mexico speak Mayan languages and maintain their resilient culture to this day. Traveling through Central America’s jungles and mountains, the author explores the ancient roots of the Maya, their recent troubles, and prospects for survival. Embracing history, anthropology, politics, and literature, this is a riveting journey through past magnificence and the study of an enduring civilization. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Mumbling Beauty
Louise Bourgeois

Bourgeois was one of the last surviving artists of the high modernist era, and her early work anticipated what would come in the late modern and postmodern eras, including minimalism, installation art, and body art. However, she did not achieve fame until after her 70th year with an array of major international exhibitions and a burst of creativity. From 2008 to 2010 Louise Bourgeois allowed the author into her studio and home and indulged his lens. Despite the frailty and decrepitude of her near 100 years, she defies her vulnerability. Orig. $50 hardcover, sale priced at $15.98.

The Spirit of Tibetan Buddhism

In this Yale Sacred Literature Series title, a leading writer and researcher on Tibet offers an accessible and authoritative introduction to Tibetan Buddhism by examining its key texts, from its origins in the 8th century to teachings practiced across the world today. In addition to demonstrating its richness and historical importance, van Schaik’s fresh translations of and introductions to each text provide a comprehensive overview of Tibetan Buddhism’s most popular teachings and concepts, including rebirth, compassion, mindfulness, tantric deities, and the graduated path, and discusses how each is put into practice. The book unfolds chronologically, conveying a sense of this 1,000-year-old tradition’s progress and evolution. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

The Wooden Horse: The Liberation of the Western Mind, from Odysseus to Socrates

This is a provocative and engaging new work that looks for the earliest foundations of the Western world’s conceptions of society, philosophy, and poetry. Looking at Homer’s epic poems, the author highlights the fact that the Trojan War stalemate was resolved through strategic thinking, via Odysseus’s invention of the wooden horse, rather than brute physical superiority. Keld Zeruneith explores this fundamental paradigm shift, which constituted nothing less than the liberation of the modern mind. Orig. $23.95 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.
Famed science writer David Quammen explains how recent discoveries in molecular biology can change our understanding of evolution and life’s history, with powerful implications for human health and even our own human nature. He chronicles these discoveries through the lives of the researchers who made them, including Carl Woese, the most important little-known biologist of the 20th century; Lynn Margulis, the notorious maverick whose wild ideas about “mosaic” creatures proved to be true; and Tsutomu Watanabe, who discovered that the scourge of antibiotic-resistant bacteria is a direct result of horizontal gene transfer, bringing the deep study of genome histories to bear on a global crisis in public health. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

The Tangled Tree: A Radical New History of Life

More than half of the world’s citizens now live in cities, and the number is growing. At the heart of these municipalities is the city square, the defining urban public space since the dawn of democracy in ancient Greece. Divided into three sections, focusing on culture, geopolitics, and history, and each introduced by incisive cultural observers—New York Times architecture critic Michael Kimmelman, David Remnick, and National Book Award winner George Packer, authors Adam Gopnik and Zadie Smith—these essays visit very different landmarks on four continents, showcasing the authors’ prodigious research, local knowledge, and distinctive voice. Orig. $32 hardback, sale priced at $9.98.

City Squares: Eighteen Writers on the Spirit and Significance of Squares Around the World

This book brilliantly chronicles the first fateful collision between American missionaries and the diverse religious cultures of the Levant. Three young New Englanders commanded attention across the United States 200 years ago: poor boys steeped in the biblical prophecies of evangelical Protestantism, they became the founding members of the Palestine mission and ventured to Ottoman Turkey, Egypt, and Syria, where they sought to restore these bastions of Islam to true Christianity. The missionaries thrilled their American readers with tales of crossing the Sinai on camel, sailing a canal boat up the Nile, and exploring the ancient city of Jerusalem. But their private journals and letters often tell a story far removed from the tales they spun for home consumption, revealing that their missions did not go according to plan. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

American Apostles: When Evangelicals Entered the World of Islam

In this book, archaeologist and Bible scholar Robert Cargill tours 14 cities: the Phoenician cities of Tyre, Sidon and Byblos, Ugarit, Nineveh, Babylon, Megiddo, Athens, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Qumran, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and Rome. With photos of artifacts, dig sites, ruins and relics, he takes readers on a far-reaching journey from the Grotto of the Nativity to the Megiddo battlegrounds, from the Acropolis of Athens to the Qumran caves where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Going behind-the-scenes of the Bible, he blends archeology, biblical history and personal journey as Cargill explores these cities and their role in the Bible’s creation. Orig. $29.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Cities That Built the Bible
Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga

In 1904, Ota Benga, a young Congolese "pygmy"—a person of petite stature—arrived from central Africa and was featured in an anthropology exhibit at the St. Louis World’s Fair. Two years later, the New York Zoological Gardens displayed him in its Monkey House, caging the slight 103-pound, 4-foot, 11-inch tall man with an orangutan. Pamela Newkirk traces Ota’s biography and the social issues he raised from Africa to St. Louis to New York, and finally to Lynchburg, Virginia, where he lived out the remainder of his short life. Orig. $25.99 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

The Sultan and the Queen: The Untold Story of Elizabeth and Islam

This is the riveting and largely unknown story of the traders and adventurers who first went East to seek their fortunes, revealing how Elizabeth’s fruitful alignment with the Islamic world, financed by England’s first joint stock companies, paved the way for its transformation into a global commercial empire. When Elizabeth Tudor was crowned Queen, England was just a tiny and rebellious Protestant island on the fringes of Europe, broke and under siege. The young queen sought to build new alliances with the great powers of the Muslim world: she sent an emissary to the Shah of Iran, wooed the king of Morocco, and entered into an unprecedented alliance with the Ottoman Sultan Murad III. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Elizabeth: The Later Years

John Guy introduces us to a woman who is refreshingly unfamiliar: at once powerful and vulnerable, willful and afraid. We see her confronting challenges at home and abroad: war against France and Spain, revolt in Ireland, an economic crisis that triggers riots in the streets of London, and a conspiracy to place her cousin Mary Queen of Scots on her throne. For a while she is smitten by a much younger man, but can she allow herself to act on that passion and still keep her throne? Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

The Battle of Salamis: The Naval Encounter That Saved Greece And Western Civilization

On a late September day in 480 BC, Greek warships faced an invading Persian armada in the narrow Salamis Straits in the most important naval battle of the ancient world. Overwhelmingly outnumbered by the enemy, the Greeks triumphed through a combination of strategy and deception. More than two millennia after it occurred, the clash between the Greeks and Persians at Salamis remains one of the most tactically brilliant battles ever fought. The Greek victory changed the course of Western history, halting the advance of the Persian Empire and setting the stage for the Golden Age of Athens. In this dramatic new narrative account, historian and classicist Barry Strauss brings this landmark battle to life. Orig. $19.99 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.
The Unruly City: Paris, London and New York in the Age of Revolution

The author explores the relationship between city and revolution in this lively history. Why did Paris experience a devastating revolution while London avoided one? And how did American independence ignite activism in cities across the Atlantic? This book takes readers from the politically charged taverns and coffeehouses on Fleet Street, through a sea battle between the British and French in the New York Harbor, to the scaffold during the Terror in Paris. Orig. $32 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Protestants: The Faith That Made the Modern World

Five hundred years ago a stubborn German monk challenged the Pope with a radical vision of what Christianity could be. The revolution he set in motion toppled governments, upended social norms and transformed millions of people’s understanding of their relationship with God. In this dazzling history, Alec Ryrie makes the case that we owe many of the rights and freedoms we have cause to take for granted - from free speech to limited government - to our Protestant roots, and suggesting that whether or not you are yourself a Protestant, you live in a world shaped by Protestants. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

The Challenge of Things: Thinking Through Troubled Times

A. C. Grayling’s lucid and stimulating books, based on the idea that philosophy should engage with the world and make itself useful, are immensely popular. This is a new collection of Grayling’s recent writings on the world in a time of war and conflict. In describing and exposing the dark side of things, he also explores ways out of the habits and prejudices of mind that would otherwise trap us forever in deadly impasses. Whether he is writing about World War I and its legacy, free speech, the advantages of an atheist prime minister, or the role of science in the arts, his essays are always enlightening, enlivening and hopeful. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Searching for Sappho: The Lost Songs and World of the First Woman Poet

The poems of Sappho reveal a remarkable woman who lived on the Greek island of Lesbos during the vibrant age of the birth of Western science, art, and philosophy. Sappho was the daughter of an aristocratic family, a wife, a devoted mother, a lover of women, and one of the greatest writers of her own or any age. New pieces of her poetry have been found written on crumbling papyrus or carved on broken pottery buried in the sands of Egypt. As recently as 2014, yet another discovery of a missing poem created a media stir around the world. None-theless, although most people have heard of Sappho, the story of her lost poems and the lives of the ancient women they celebrate has never been told for a general audience. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Novelist and historian Matthew Kneale, a longtime resident of Rome, tells the story of the Eternal City, from the early Roman Republic to Mussolini and the German occupation in World War II, through pivotal moments that defined its history. He paints portraits of the city before seven assaults, describing what it looked like, felt like, smelled like and how Romans, both rich and poor, lived their everyday lives. With drama and humor he brings to life the city of Augustus, of Michelangelo and Bernini, of Garibaldi and Mussolini, and of popes both saintly and very worldly. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

Biologist Bill Schutt answers questions such as why some amphibians consume their mother’s skin; why certain insects bite the heads off their partners after sex; why, up until the end of the 20th century, Europeans regularly ate human body parts as medical curatives; and how cannibalism might be linked to the extinction of the Neanderthals. He takes us into the future as well, investigating whether, as climate change causes famine, disease, and overcrowding, we may see more outbreaks of cannibalism in many more species, including our own. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.