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The Story of China: The Epic History of a World Power from the Middle Kingdom to Mao and the China Dream
Wood’s sweeping narrative of China tells the stories of its people, the history of its landscape, and commentary from his travels. He covers the early dynasties, the origins of the Chinese state, and the teachings of Confucius; the Renaissance of the Song Dynasty and scientific discoveries; the Qing Empire in the 18th century; and the Opium Wars, clashes with the British, 19th century debates about the move forward into modernity, and a clear account of China post-1949 with a more balanced view of Mao based on newly-opened archives. In the final chapter, Wood considers the provocative question of when, if ever, China will rule the world. Orig. $32 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

The Origins of Creativity
Scientist and two time Pulitzer winner Wilson demonstrates how creativity began over 100,000 years ago in the Paleolithic age and explores what we can learn about human nature from a surprising range of creative endeavors: the instinct to create gardens, the use of metaphors and irony in speech, and the power of music and song. While our technological achievements are obvious, they also give us the potential to be supremely dangerous. Wilson optimistically shows how researchers will have to address our destructiveness by pushing further into science, especially evolutionary biology, neuroscience, and anthropology. Orig. $24.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
In July 1881, Lt. A.W. Greely and his crew of 24 scientists and explorers were bound for the last region unmarked on global maps: Farthest North. Greely and his men confronted vicious wolves, sub-zero temperatures, and months of total darkness as they set about exploring. In May 1882, they completed their successful explorations and returned to camp to eagerly await the resupply ship. But it never arrived; 250 miles south, a wall of ice prevented any rescue from reaching them. Provisions thinned and a second winter descended. Greely made a drastic choice: he and his men loaded the remaining provisions and tools onto their five small boats, and pushed off into the treacherous waters.

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In this unique study, the author explores the traces of humanity we will leave behind. Modern civilization created objects and landscapes with the potential to endure through deep time: plastic polluting the oceans, nuclear waste sealed within the earth, 30 million miles of roads. Our carbon could linger in the atmosphere for 100,000 years. Remains of our cities will still exist millions of years from now as a layer in the rock. These future fossils have the potential to reveal how we will be remembered in the myths and stories of our distant descendants. Traveling from the Baltic Sea to the Great Barrier Reef, and from an ice-core laboratory in Tasmania to Shanghai, Farrier describes a world that is changing rapidly, with consequences beyond the scope of human understanding. Orig. $24.99 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

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As a teenager, Kate Harris realized that the career she craved—to be an explorer—had gone extinct, with nothing to be discovered. She decided to become a scientist and go to Mars. In between studying at Oxford and MIT, Harris set off by bicycle down the fabled Silk Road with her childhood friend Mel. Pedaling mile upon mile in some of the remotest places on earth, she realized that an explorer, in any day and age, is the kind of person who refuses to live between the lines. Forget charting maps, naming peaks: what she yearned for was the feeling of soaring completely out of bounds. The farther she traveled, the closer she came to a world as wild as she felt within. Orig. $29.95 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

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This well-illustrated history takes a global perspective and traces the development of the genre from ancient stories, such as Aesop’s Fables and the Indian Panchatantra, through the Puritan primers of the 17th century to the Harry Potter series and books as technology. Taking the approach of its precursor survey of adult books, The History of the Book in 100 Books, this book is about children’s books as artifacts, as well as the texts they contain, and the industry and society that produced them. It covers aspects of selection, design, production and marketing of books for children. For the most part, illustrations are key components of children’s stories, visualizing fantastic scenes and making them instantly recognizable. Beautifully reproduced throughout. Orig. $29.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.
Andrew Jackson—war hero, populist, and exemplar of the expanding South—instigated the massive expulsion of Native Americans known as the Trail of Tears. John Ross—a mixed-race Cherokee politician and diplomat—used the United States’ own legal system and democratic ideals to oppose Jackson. Ross championed the tribes’ cause all the way to the Supreme Court, gaining allies like Senator Henry Clay, Chief Justice John Marshall, and even Davy Crockett. Ross and his allies made their case in the media, committed civil disobedience, and benefited from the first mass political action by American women. Their struggle contained ominous overtures of later events like the Civil War and defined the political culture for much strife that followed. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Anthropologist and Ojibwe tribal member David Treuer melds history with reportage and memoir as he traces Native tribes’ distinctive cultures from first contact and explores how the depredations of each era spawned new modes of survival. The devastating seizures of land gave rise to increasingly sophisticated legal and political maneuvering. The forced assimilation of their children at government-run boarding schools incubated a unifying Native identity. Conscription in the US military and the pull of urban life brought Indians into the mainstream and modern times, even as it steered the emerging shape of self-rule and spawned a new generation of resistance. This National Book Award Finalist is the essential, intimate story of a resilient people in a transformative era. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

La Serenissima. Its breathtaking architecture, art, and opera ensure that Venice remains a perennially popular destination for tourists and armchair travelers alike. Yet most of the available books about this magical city are either facile travel guides or fusty academic tomes. With this book, renowned historian Thomas F. Madden draws on new research to explore the city’s many astonishing achievements and to set 1,500 years of Venetian history and the endless Venetian-led Crusades in the context of the ever-shifting Eurasian world. Filled with compelling insights and famous figures, Venice is a monumental work of popular history that’s as opulent and entertaining as the great city itself. Orig. $21 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

This is a history of four spirited sisters and their glamorous mother, Elizabeth Stuart, granddaughter of Mary, Queen of Scots. Upon her father’s ascension to the throne of England, Elizabeth Stuart was suddenly thrust from the poverty of unruly Scotland into the fairytale existence of a princess. When she was married to a German count far below her rank, it was with the understanding that her father would help her husband achieve the kingship of Bohemia. The terrible betrayal of this commitment would ruin “the Winter Queen,” as Elizabeth would forever be known, imperil the lives of those she loved, and launch a war that would last for 30 years. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.
Montmartre: Paris’s Village of Art and Sin

High on the northern edge of Paris, Montmartre has always attracted bohemians, political radicals, the searchers for artistic inspiration as well as those hungry for pleasure. In its winding, windmill-shadowed streets, which, only fifty years before, saw the anarchist rising of the Commune, Renoir, Picasso and van Gogh seized a similar freedom to remake painting, while, in the tenderloin of Pigalle, Toulouse-Lautrec drew the cancan dancers of the Moulin Rouge, celebrating a hedonism that titillated the world.

Baxter lifts the curtain on a district that visitors to Paris seldom see: tumbledown workshops of the Bateau Lavoir in which Picasso and Braque created Cubism, to Clichy’s Cabaret of Nothingness where guests dined at coffins under lamps of human bones.

Orig. $15.99 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Saint-Germain-des-Prés: Paris’s Rebel Quarter

Occupying less than a square mile along Paris’s Left Bank, Saint-Germain-des-Prés, originally an independent village centered around the medieval abbey that lends the quarter its name, has for centuries been home to rebels of all stripes. Here the French Revolution was plotted, the guillotine invented, and in 1968 students revolted and clashed with police. Philosopher Descartes is buried here (sans skull), while Sartre, Camus, de Beauvoir birthed existentialism around the tables of the legendary Café de Flore. Saint-Germain sheltered and inspired such artistic rebels as Picasso, Rimbaud, Hemingway, and scores of jazz musicians. Today, the neighborhood, with its cobblestone streets, iconic cafes, and shopping destinations, is one of Paris’s premier tourist attractions, yet it retains its rebel soul.

Orig. $15.99 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

The Fall of the Ancient Maya: Solving the Mystery of the Maya Collapse

Ancient Maya civilization thrived in the tropics of Central America for more than a thousand years and produced some of the world’s finest architecture and art. Then it mysteriously vanished, leaving a landscape of ruins smothered by forests. The Classic Maya collapse is one of the great puzzles of history that has intrigued scholars for generations. Archaeologist David Webster paints a picture of a brittle Late Classic world of ambitious kings, scheming nobles, and courtly extravagance set against a backdrop of increasingly destructive wars and explosive population growth. Includes in-depth looks at such sites as Copan, Tikal, Dos Pilas, and Piedras Negras.

Orig. $34.95 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

The Trojan War: A New History

Cornell classicist Barry Strauss explores the myth and the reality behind the Trojan War from Homer’s accounts in The Iliad and The Odyssey to Heinrich Schliemann’s discovery of ancient Troy in the late 19th century to more recent excavations that have yielded intriguing clues to the story behind the fabled city. The Trojans were not ethnic Greeks but an Anatolian people closely allied with the Hittite Empire to the east. Greeks were great seafarers while Troy was a more settled civilization. And while the cause of the war may well have been the kidnapping of a queen—and, more significantly, the seizure of her royal dowry—the underlying cause was a conflict between the Trojans and the Greeks for control of the eastern Aegean Sea.

Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.
Vampyres: Genesis and Resurrection: From Count Dracula to Vampirella

Vampyres is a comprehensive and generously illustrated history and anthology of vampires in literature, from the folklore of eastern Europe to the Romantics, from Bram Stoker’s research notes for Dracula to penny dreadfuls, to Angela Carter’s The Bloody Chamber. This revised, expanded edition of the 1978 classic includes twenty-first-century vampire literature, new text extracts, commentary, and a revised introduction. For the first time, Christopher Frayling also explores the development of the vampire in visual arts in four color-plate sections, with illustrations ranging from eighteenth-century prints to twenty-first-century film stills. Orig. $29.95 hardcover, sale priced at $12.98.

Wild Nights: How Taming Sleep Created Our Restless World

Reiss 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. In lyrical prose, 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 sleep researchers, slaves who led nighttime uprisings, rebellious workers, spectacularly frazzled parents, and utopian dreamers. We are hardly the first people, Reiss makes clear, to chafe against our modern rules for sleeping. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Tasting the Past: One Man’s Quest to Discover (and Drink!) the World’s Original Wines

In search of a mysterious wine he once tasted in a hotel room minibar, journalist Kevin Begos travels along the original wine routes—from the Caucasus Mountains, where wine grapes were first domesticated eight thousand years ago, crossing the Mediterranean to Europe, and then America—and unearths a whole world of forgotten grapes, each with distinctive tastes and aromas. We meet the scientists who are decoding the DNA of wine grapes, and the historians who are searching for ancient vineyards and the flavors cultivated there. Begos discovers wines that go far beyond the bottles of Chardonnay and Merlot found in most stores and restaurants, and he offers suggestions for wines that are at once ancient and new. Orig. $16.95 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

A Short History of Drunkenness: How, Why, Where, and When Humankind Has Gotten Merry from the Stone Age to the Present

Almost every culture on earth has drink, and where there’s drink there’s drunkenness. But in every age and in every place drunkenness is a little bit different. It can be religious, it can be sexual, it can be the duty of kings or the relief of peasants. It can be an offering to the ancestors, it can send you to sleep, or send you into battle. This short survey traces humankind’s love affair with booze from our primate ancestors through to the twentieth century. On the way, learn about the Neolithic shamans who drank to communicate with the spirit world, marvel at how Greeks got giddy and Sumerians got sauced, and find out how bars in the Wild West were never quite like in the movies. Orig. $19 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Palestinian Walks: Forays Into a Vanishing Landscape

Raja Shehadeh is a passionate hill walker. He enjoys nothing more than heading out into the countryside that surrounds his home. But in recent years, his hikes have become less than bucolic and sometimes downright dangerous. That is because his home is Ramallah, on the Palestinian West Bank. Here are six walks taken between 1978 and 2006: earlier, peaceful affairs, a torrent of olive trees on terraced hillsides, valleys carved by sacred springs, carpets of wild iris and hyacinth and ancient monasteries. But latterly, as concrete is poured to build settlements and surrounding walls, he finds old trails impassable. Countryside he once traversed freely has become contested ground. Orig. $15.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

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.

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. Working for the Statesman, its leading English newspaper, Kushanava Choudhury found the streets of his childhood unchanged by time. Sifting through chaos for stories that never make the papers, Choudhury paints a soulful, compelling portrait of the everyday lives that make Calcutta. An unforgettable depiction of an era, and of a city which is a world unto itself. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Pagan Light: Dreams of Freedom and Beauty in Capri

Isolated and arresting beautiful, the island of Capri has been a refuge for renegade artists and writers fleeing the strictures of conventional society from the time of Augustus, who bought the island in 29 BC after defeating Antony and Cleopatra, to the early twentieth century, when the poet and novelist Jacques d’Adelsward-Fersen was in exile there after being charged with corrupting minors, to the 1960s, when Truman Capote spent time on the island. We also meet the Marquis de Sade, Goethe, Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Compton Mackenzie, Rilke, Lenin, and Gorky, among other astonishingly vivid characters--queer, criminal, sick, marginalized, and simply crazy--who had nowhere else to go. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
When Montezuma Met Cortés: The True Story of the Meeting That Changed History

On November 8, 1519, the Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortés first met Montezuma, the Aztec emperor, at the entrance to the city of Tenochtitlan. This introduction—the prelude to the Spanish seizure of Mexico City and to European colonization of the Americas—has long been the symbol of Cortés’s bold and brilliant military genius, while Montezuma is remembered as a coward who gave away a vast empire. In a departure from traditional tellings, the author focuses on their first encounter as the entry point into a comprehensive reevaluation of both Cortés and Montezuma. Drawing on rare primary sources and accounts, this revisionist account explores Cortés’s and Montezuma’s posthumous reputations, their achievements and failures. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

L.E.L.: The Lost Life and Scandalous Death of Letitia Elizabeth Landon, the Celebrated Female Byron

A lost nineteenth-century literary life, brilliantly rediscovered. Letitia Elizabeth Landon’s poetry, novels, short stories, and criticism, evocative of Byron though in a woman’s voice, explored the dark side of sexuality. Under the pen name L.E.L., hers was a life lived in a blaze of scandal and worship, one of the most famous women of her time, the Romantic Age in London’s 1820s. Lucasta Miller tells the full story and re-creates the literary London of her time. She began publishing poetry in her teens and came to be known as a daring poet of thwarted romantic love. We see L.E.L. as an emblematic figure who embodied a seismic cultural shift, the missing link between the age of Byron and the creation of Victorianism. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

A Man of Misconceptions: The Life of an Eccentric in an Age of Change

The fascinating story of Athanasius Kircher, the eccentric scholar-inventor who was either a great genius or a crackpot, or both. His interests knew no bounds. From optics to music to magnetism to medicine, he offered up inventions and theories for everything, and they made him famous across Europe. His celebrated museum in Rome featured magic lanterns, speaking statues, the tail of a mermaid, and a brick from the Tower of Babel. Holy Roman Emperors were his patrons, popes were his friends. This biography/history traces the rise, success, and eventual fall of this fascinating character as he attempted to come to terms with a changing world. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $5.98.

At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew’s Search for God with Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land

While religion has fueled the often violent conflict plaguing the Holy Land, Yossi Klein Halevi wondered whether it could be a source of unity as well. To find the answer, this religious Israeli Jew began a two-year exploration to discover a common language with his Christian and Muslim neighbors. He followed their holiday cycles, befriended Christian monastics and Islamic mystics, and joined them in prayer in monasteries and mosques in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. His book traces that remarkable spiritual journey, revealing how he fought to reconcile his own fears and anger as a Jew to relate to Christians and Muslims as fellow spiritual seekers. Orig. $16.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.
Author Herbert Bangs, a designer for Buckminster Fuller’s architectural firm Geodesics, provides the key to freeing architecture from the crude functionality of the 20th century: the architects of the modern human landscape must find the deep-felt connection to the cosmos that guided the inner lives of those who built the temples of the past. The form of their buildings will then reflect the sacred patterns of geometry and proportion and bring forth greater harmony in the world. Paperback, originally $24.95, sale priced at $7.98.

Like one of those cabinets of curiosities, this fascinating book (originally published in 1930) is filled with wonder and whimsy. A reviewer at the time wrote “One begins to fall under the spell, by way of Mr. De la Mare’s fine sinuous prose and fanciful comments, of those distant places, those buccaneers’ islands and remote wave-washed ocean rocks, by which he himself is so strongly fascinated.” Join Walter de la Mare as he surveys the world of islands—both fictional and real, romantic and not—along with shipwrecks, castaways, and solitude; pirates, explorers, and treasure; Shakespeare, Swift, Columbus, Darwin, Utopia, England; and particularly (of course), Daniel Defoe and Robinson Crusoe. Orig. $14.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Novelist and historian Matthew Kneale, a longtime resident of Rome, tells the story of the Eternal City—from the early Roman Republic through the Renaissance and the Reformation 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. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Bestselling historian Ian Mortimer leads a journey from a time when there was a fair chance of your village being burned to the ground by invaders—and dried human dung was a recommended cure for cancer—to a world in which explorers sailed into the unknown and civilizations came into conflict with each other on an epic scale. Here is a story of godly scientists, fearless adventurers, cold-hearted entrepreneurs, and strong-minded women, a story of discovery, invention, revolution, and cataclysmic shifts in perspective. Orig. $28.95 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
Cities: The First 6,000 Years

Weaving together archaeology, history, and contemporary observations, the author explains the rise of the first urban developments and their connection to our own. She journeys through the ancient world of Tell Brak in modern-day Syria; Teotihuacan and Tenochtitlan in Mexico; her own digs in India; as well as Pompeii, Rome, and Athens. Along the way, she presents the unique properties that made cities singularly responsible for the flowering of humankind: the development of networked infrastructure, the rise of an entrepreneurial middle class, and the culture of consumption that results in everything from take-out food to the tell-tale secrets of trash. Orig. $30 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 over 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. Originally $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $9.98.

Picasso and the Painting that Shocked the World

In 1900, a young Pablo Picasso journeyed from Barcelona to Paris and endured poverty and neglect for several years before emerging as the leader of a bohemian band of painters, sculptors, and poets. Decades later Picasso would look back on these years as the happiest of his long life. During this early period, Picasso produced the masterpiece known as Les Demoiselles d’Avignon. Inspired by Cézanne and the inventions of African and tribal sculpture, Picasso created a work that captured the disorienting experience of modernity itself. The painting proved so shocking that even his friends assumed he’d gone mad, but over the months and years its signal importance became undeniable, ultimately laying the foundation for the most innovative century in the history of art. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

The Lost Gutenberg: The Astounding Story of One Book’s Five-Hundred-Year Odyssey

For rare-book collectors, an original copy of the Gutenberg Bible—of which there are fewer than 50 in existence—represents the ultimate prize. Here, Margaret Leslie Davis recounts five centuries in the life of one copy, from its creation by Johannes Gutenberg, through the hands of monks, an earl, the Worcestershire sauce king, and a nuclear physicist to its ultimate resting place in a steel vault in Tokyo. Exploring books as objects of obsession across centuries, this is a must-read for history buffs, book collectors, seekers of hidden treasures, and anyone who has ever craved a remarkable book. Orig. $27 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Genghis Khan and the Quest for God: How the World’s Greatest Conqueror Gave Us Religious Freedom

Celebrated anthropologist Jack Weatherford has spent eighteen years exploring areas of Mongolia closed until the fall of the Soviet Union and researching The Secret History of the Mongols, an astonishing document written in code that was only recently discovered. Here, he shows that Genghis Khan conquered by arms and bravery, but he ruled by commerce and religion. He created the world’s greatest trading network and drastically lowered taxes for merchants, but he knew that if his empire was going to last, he would need something stronger and more binding than trade. He needed religion. And so, unlike the Christian, Taoist and Muslim conquerors who came before him, he gave his subjects freedom of religion. Orig. $19 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Last Wild Men of Borneo: A True Story of Death and Treasure

Two modern adventurers sought a treasure possessed by the legendary “Wild Men of Borneo.” One found riches. The other vanished forever into an endless jungle. Lured by these mysteries, New York Times bestselling author Carl Hoffman journeyed to find the truth, discovering that nothing is as it seems in the world’s last Eden, where the lines between sinner and saint blur into one. Orig. $17.99 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

The Inkblots: Hermann Rorschach, His Iconic Test, and the Power of Seeing

In 1917, working alone in a remote Swiss asylum, psychiatrist Hermann Rorschach devised an experiment to probe the human mind: a set of ten carefully designed inkblots. For years he had grappled with the theories of Freud and Jung while also absorbing the aesthetic movements of the day, from Futurism to Dadaism. A visual artist himself, Rorschach had come to believe that who we are is less a matter of what we say, as Freud thought, than what we see. After Rorschach’s early death, his test quickly made its way to America, where it took on a life of its own. Co-opted by the military after Pearl Harbor, it was a fixture at the Nuremberg trials and in the jungles of Vietnam. It became an advertising staple, a cliché in Hollywood and journalism, and an inspiration to everyone from Andy Warhol to Jay Z. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Losing Earth: A Recent History

By 1979, we knew nearly everything we understand today about climate change, including how to stop it. Over the next decade, a handful of scientists, politicians, and strategists risked their careers in a desperate, escalating campaign to convince the world to act before it was too late. This groundbreaking history reveals the birth of climate denialism and the genesis of the fossil fuel industry’s coordinated effort to thwart climate policy through misinformation propaganda and political influence. Like John Hersey’s Hiroshima and Jonathan Schell’s The Fate of the Earth, Losing Earth is the rarest of achievements: a riveting work of dramatic history that articulates a moral framework for understanding how we got here, and how we must go forward. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $4.98.

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.

The First North Americans: An Archaeological Journey

This broad history of native North American peoples is based mainly on archaeology, but also on cutting-edge research in biology, climatology, ethnography, and high-tech chemistry and physics. Noted anthropologist Brian Fagan recounts the increasingly sophisticated acclimation by Native Americans to arctic, arid and semiarid lands. He traces the origins of the Moundbuilder societies of the Eastern Woodlands, which reached their apogee in the flamboyant Mississippian culture of the South and Southeast and the mounds of the ancient city of Cahokia. The book ends with a description of the Algonquian and Iroquoian peoples of the Northeast and St. Lawrence Valley, and an epilogue that enumerates the devastating consequences of European contact for Native Americans. Orig. $26.95 softcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Hypnerotomachia Poliphili: The Strife of Love in a Dream

One of the most famous books in the world, the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, read by every Renaissance intellectual and referred to in studies of art and culture ever since, was first published in English in this edition. It is a strange, pagan, pedantic, erotic, allegorical, mythological romance, relating in highly stylized Italian the quest of Poliphilo for his beloved Polia. The author (a friar of dubious reputation) was obsessed by architecture, landscape, and costume—and sexually obsessed—and its 174 woodcuts are a primary source for Renaissance ideas on both buildings and gardens. Translator Joscelyn Godwin succeeds in reproducing all its wayward charm and arcane learning in language accessible to the modern reader. Orig. $19.95 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.
Paul Bowles wrote that a tourist travels quickly home, while a traveler moves slowly from one destination to the next. Author Jamie James describes “a third species, those who roam the world in search of the home they never had” and writes here of artists who left their homes for the unknown. Among others, he writes about Raden Saleh, the Javanese painter who found fame in Europe; Isabelle Eberhardt, a Russian-Swiss writer who roamed the Sahara dressed as an Arab man; the American experimental filmmaker Maya Deren, who went to Haiti and became a committed follower of voodoo. James creates a penetrating investigation of the powerful connection between art and the exotic. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

The Glamour of Strangeness: Artists and the Last Age of the Exotic

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 twentieth 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 $12.98.

Harem: The World Behind the Veil

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 seventh century to the aftermath of the Mongol conquests in the thirteenth - 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 $9.98.

The World of Islam: Faith, People, Culture

Dorothy Parker, Rebecca West, Hannah Arendt, Mary McCarthy, Susan Sontag, Pauline Kael, Joan Didion, Nora Ephron, Renata Adler, and Janet Malcolm—their lives intertwine in this sparkling book, arguing as fervently with each other as they did with the sexist attitudes of men. These women are united by what Dean terms “sharpness,” the ability to cut to the quick with the precision of thought and wit, a claim of power through writing rather than position. This is a vibrant and rich depiction of the intellectual beau monde of 20th-century New York, mixing biography, literary criticism, and cultural history, a testament to how anyone not in a position of power can claim the mantle of writer and, perhaps, help change the world. Orig. $26 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Sharp: The Women Who Made an Art of Having an Opinion

The Glamour of Strangeness: Artists and the Last Age of the Exotic
Harvard literature professor Puchner reveals how stories have created the world of today. We meet Murasaki, a lady from 11th-century Japan who wrote the first novel, The Tale of Genji, and follow Miguel de Cervantes as he battles pirates, both seafaring and literary. We watch Goethe discover world literature in Sicily and follow the influence of The Communist Manifesto. He covers Troy, Pergamum, and China, speaks with Nobel laureates Derek Walcott in the Caribbean and Orhan Pamuk in Istanbul, and sings of the oral epic Sunjata in West Africa, while also discussing writing technologies, the printing press, and the import and functions of the book itself. Orig. $32 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

Mütter was an audacious medical innovator, the “Barnum of the surgery room,” who pioneered the use of ether as anesthesia, the sterilization of surgical tools, and a compassion-based vision for helping the severely deformed, which clashed spectacularly with the sentiments of his time. Brilliant and outspoken, Mütter was flamboyant in every aspect of his life, wearing pink silk suits to perform surgery, attaching an umlaut to his last name for added flair, and amassing an immense collection of medical oddities that would later become Philadelphia’s renowned Mütter Museum. Orig. $20 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.

A moving, unforgettable tribute to a Tutsi woman who did everything to protect her children from the Rwandan genocide, by the daughter who refuses to let her family’s story be forgotten. This is the story of the author’s mother, a fierce, loving woman who for years protected her family from the violence encroaching upon them in pre-genocide Rwanda. Recording her memories of their life together in spare, wrenching prose, Mukasonga preserves her mother’s voice in a haunting work of art. Orig. $16 paperback, sale priced at $4.98.

In 2012, facing the death of his father and impending fatherhood, Toby Ferris set off on a seemingly quixotic mission to track down and look at—in situ—every painting still in existence by Pieter Bruegel the Elder. As Ferris takes a keen analytical eye to the paintings, each piece brings new revelations about Bruegel’s art, and gives way to meditations on mortality, fatherhood, and life. Ferris conjures a whole world to which most of us have probably lost the key, and in the process teaches us how to look, patiently and curiously, at the world. Short Life in a Strange World is a strange and bewitching hybrid of art criticism, philosophical reflection, and poignant memoir, illustrated with sixty-six color images. Orig. $32.50 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
The Unruly City: Paris, London and New York in the Age of Revolution

Mike Rapport

Rapport explores the relationship between city and revolution. Why did Paris experience a devastating revolution while London avoided one? And how did American independence ignite activism in cities across the Atlantic? The Unruly City takes readers from the politically charged taverns and coffee-houses 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 $6.98.

She Has Her Mother’s Laugh: The Powers, Perversion, and Potential of Heredity

Carl Zimmer

Charles Darwin played a part in turning heredity into a scientific question, and yet he failed to answer it. Heredity continues within our own bodies, as a single cell gives rise to trillions of cells that make them up. We say we inherit genes, but we inherit things that matter as much or more to our lives, from microbes to technologies to make life more comfortable. We need a new definition of what heredity is and bestselling author Carl Zimmer delivers it, weaving historical and current scientific research, his own experience with his two daughters, and original reporting. Hardcover, originally $30, sale priced at $8.98.

The Way of the Orisa: Empowering Your Life Through the Ancient African Religion of Ifa

Philip John Neimark

The 8,000-year-old philosophy of Ifa originated with the Yoruba peoples of West Africa. Ifa’s enduring message of strength and inner peace, one that offers a way to harmonize our spiritual and worldly aims, is enjoying a resurgence of popularity in the West. Written by an avid student and accomplished practitioner, The Way of the Orisa provides an exhilarating introduction to the orisa, the powerful messenger spirits who act as our personal guardians. Through fables, rituals, prayers and simple guidelines, Philip Neimark shows how we can further our personal and professional goals by cultivating the loving support of orisa energy. NOTE: this book has a misprinted cover, top of cover art is blank but contents of book are complete. Orig. $15.99 paperback, sale priced at $4.98.

Rendez-vous with Art

The former director of the Metropolitan Museum de Montebello and art critic Gayford talked 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.
This National Book Award winner journeys through the lives of hard-hit Americans including: Dean Price, the son of tobacco farmers, who becomes an evangelist for a new economy in the rural South; Tammy Thomas, a factory worker in the Rust Belt trying to survive the collapse of her city; and Peter Thiel, a Silicon Valley billionaire who questions the Internet’s significance and arrives at a radical vision of the future. Pack er interweaves these intimate stories with biographical sketches of the era’s leading public figures and collages made from newspaper headlines, advertising slogans, and song lyrics that capture the flow of events and their undercurrents. Orig. $27 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.

Paul hededly maintained that he lived and worked in history’s closing hours. His letters propel his readers into two ancient worlds: one Jewish, one pagan. The first was incandescent with apocalyptic hopes, expecting God through his messiah to fulfill ancient promises of redemption to Israel. The second teemed with ancient actors, human and divine: angry superhuman forces, jealous demons, and hostile cosmic gods. Both worlds are Paul’s, and his convictions about the first shaped his actions in the second. Only by situating Paul within this charged social context of gods and humans, pagans and Jews, cities, synagogues, and competing Christ-following assemblies can we begin to understand his mission and message. Orig. $35 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.
The Most Important Point: Zen Teachings of Edward Espe Brown

Edward Espe Brown was one of the first Westerners to be ordained a priest by Shunryu Suzuki Roshi, who had hoped that Zen might be transformed into a vibrant new form in the West. In *The Most Important Point*, Brown fulfills Suzuki’s wish with 60 essays that are distinctly American yet preserve the roots of traditional Japanese Zen, on Zen, food, and life itself.

Drawing from his time in the kitchen as master baker and cook, and on the cushion as Zen priest, Brown explores topics from basic sitting practice to making the “perfect” biscuit and more. “In the words of my teacher,” reflects Brown, “the most important point is to find out what is the most important point.” Orig. $17.95 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Masterpieces Up Close: Western Painting from the 14th to 20th Centuries

A fun, interactive journey through some of the world’s most famous artwork! Young readers can explore great works of art from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century in exquisite large-format detail. Captioned, full-color reproductions of more than twenty paintings provide informative and challenging treasure hunts involving more than one-hundred close-up details. Don’t worry, if you can’t find one of them, lift-the-flap copies of each painting can be found in the back of the book highlighting each detail. Brief biographical sketches offer information about the artists. For ages 6-8. Orig. $29.95 hardcover, sale priced at $12.98.

Art Up Close: From Ancient to Modern

Schama’s great project continues with Volume 2 of his sweeping history of the Jewish people; their search for a home where a distinctive religion and culture could be nourished without being marginalized echoes contemporary crises of homelessness, wanderings, persecutions, and anxious arrivals. He tells the stories of not just the rabbis and the philosophers but a poetess in the ghetto of Venice; a general in Ming China; a boxer in Georgian England; an opera composer in nineteenth-century Germany. The story unfolds in Kerala and Mantua and Galilee, along the rivers of Colombia, in the kitchens of Istanbul and the mining camps of California. It sails in caravels, rides the stagecoaches and the railways, trudges the dawn streets of London, hobbes along with the remnant of Napoleon’s ruined army. It is the story of everyone, of humanity packed with detail. Orig. $39.95 hardcover, sale priced at $12.98.

The Story of the Jews, Volume Two: Belonging: 1492-1900

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Cornell classicist Barry Strauss explores the myth and the reality behind the Trojan War from Homer’s accounts in The Iliad and The Odyssey to Heinrich Schliemann’s discovery of ancient Troy in the late 19th century to more recent excavations that have yielded intriguing clues to the story behind the fabled city. The Trojans were not ethnic Greeks but an Anatolian people closely allied with the Hittite Empire to the east. Greeks were great seafarers while Troy was a more settled civilization. And while the cause of the war may well have been the kidnapping of a queen—and, more significantly, the seizure of her royal dowry—the underlying cause was a conflict between the Trojans and the Greeks for control of the eastern Aegean Sea. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

Sifting through family lore as well as public and private records, bestelling author Ball reconstructs the story of his great-great grandfather, Constant Lecorgne. A white French Creole, father of five, and working class ship carpenter, Lecorgne had a career in white terror of notable and bloody completeness: massacres, night riding, masked marches, street rampages—all part of a tireless effort to restore white power when it was threatened by the emancipation of four million enslaved African Americans. To offer a non-white view of the Ku-klux, Ball seeks out descendants of African Americans who were once victimized by “our Klansman” and his comrades, and shares their stories. Orig. $28 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

A few million years ago, our ancestors came down from the trees and began to stand upright, freeing our hands to create tools and our minds to grapple with the world around us. Leonard Mlodinow takes us on a passionate and inspiring tour through the exciting history of human progress, presenting a fascinating new look at the unique characteristics of our species and our society that helped propel us from stone tools to written language and through the birth of chemistry, biology, and modern physics to today’s technological world. Along the way he reflects upon great thinkers like Galileo, who preferred painting and poetry to medical school; Isaac Newton, who stuck needlelike bodkins into his eyes to better understand changes in light and color; and Antoine Lavoisier, who drank nothing but milk for two weeks to examine its effects on his body. Orig. $27.95 hardcover, sale priced at $6.98.

Why does writing exist? What does it mean to those who write? Born from the interplay of natural and cultural history, the seemingly magical act of writing has continually expanded our consciousness. Portrayed in mythology as either a gift from heroes or a curse from the gods, it has been used as both an instrument of power and a channel of the divine; a means of social bonding and of individual self-definition. Now, as the revolution once wrought by the printed word gives way to the digital age, many fear that the art of writing, and the nuanced thinking nurtured by writing, are under threat. This book reenchants the written word for all those susceptible to the power and beauty of writing in all of its forms. Orig. $26.95 hardcover, sale priced at $7.98.
Summer of Blood: England’s First Revolution

From the author of The Plantagenets, this is a vivid, blood-soaked account of one of the most famous rebellions in history, the first mass uprising by the people of England against their feudal masters. In 1381, ravaged by poverty and oppressed by taxes, England’s villagers rose up and demanded that their voices be heard. A ragtag army, led by the mysterious Wat Tyler and the visionary preacher John Ball, was pitted against the 14-year-old Richard II and the most powerful lords and knights in his realm, who risked their property and their lives in a desperate battle to save the English crown. Dan Jones brings this incendiary moment vividly to life and captures the idealism and brutality of that fateful summer. Orig. $17 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Under the Knife: A History of Surgery in 28 Remarkable Operations

Surgeon Arnold Van de Laar uses his own experience and expertise to tell the witty history of the past, present, and future of surgery. From the story of the desperate man from seventeenth-century Amsterdam who grimly cut a stone out of his own bladder to Bob Marley’s deadly toe, this history offers fascinating and unforgettable insights into medicine and history via the operating theatre. How does the human body respond to being attacked by a knife, a bacterium, a cancer cell, or a bullet? And, as medical advances continuously push the boundaries of what medicine can cure, what are the limits of surgery? Orig. $26.99 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

A Troublesome Inheritance: Genes, Race and Human History

The author, a longtime journalist covering genetic advances for The New York Times, draws widely on the work of scientists who have made crucial breakthroughs in establishing the reality of recent human evolution. The most provocative claims in this book involve the genetic basis of human social habits. What we might call middle-class social traits—thrift, docility, nonviolence—have been slowly but surely inculcated genetically within agrarian societies, Wade argues. While believing deeply in the fundamental equality of all peoples, he also believes that science is best served by pursuing the truth without fear, and here he arrives at a coherent summa of what the new genetic science does and does not tell us about race and human history. Orig. $18 paperback, sale priced at $6.98.

Passwords to Paradise: How Languages Have Re-Invented World Religions

All religions—if they have global aspirations—have to change in order to spread their influence, and often language has been the most powerful agent thereof. The author, chairman of the Foundation for Endangered Languages in the UK, explores the effects that language difference and language conversion have wrought on the world’s great faiths, spanning more than two thousand years. It is an original and intriguing perspective on the history of religion by a master linguistic historian. Orig. $30 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

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In the summer of 1883, Moses Wilhelm Shapira—archaeological treasure hunter and inveterate social climber—showed up unannounced in London, claiming to have discovered the oldest copy of the Bible in the world. French archaeologist Charles Clermont-Ganneau denounced the manuscripts. Distraught over this humiliating public rebuke, Shapira fled to the Netherlands and committed suicide. Then, in 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. Noting the similarities, scholars made efforts to re-examine Shapira’s case, but too late: the parchment scrolls themselves had mysteriously vanished. This absorbing account explores the 19th-century disappearance of Shapira’s scrolls and the world-wide hunt for the ancient manuscript. Orig. $27.99 hardcover, sale priced at $8.98.

French historian Fontaine argues that peddling, particularly as a means of distributing new commodities such as books, watches, and tobacco, played a crucial role in the formation of the modern European economy. Focusing primarily on the 15th through 18th centuries, Fontaine traces the origins and development of peddling and the establishment of trading networks, analyzing the changing social construction of the practice and the effect of encounters between traders of different regions. Following trade routes across Europe from Spain to Sweden and Scotland to the upper Rhine, she examines their importance as channels of communication as well as of goods. She assesses the impact of peddlers on communities, and the ways being merchants changed the lives of these migrants. Orig. $26.95 paperback, sale priced at $5.98.

The Egypt that so enticed and enchanted intrepid (fictional) archaeologist-sleuth Amelia Peabody in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was a place of wonder, mystery, danger, and the lure of antiquity. With this monumental volume (prepared by bestselling mystery writer Elizabeth Peters) of Egyptian culture, history, and esoterica, readers will be able to immerse themselves in the great lady’s world more completely than ever before. Containing nearly 600 black-and-white photographs and illustrations, and articles by numerous experts, this innovative book is a treasure trove that overflows with Egyptological riches along with insights into the culture and mores of the Victorian era, including prevalent attitudes on empire, fashion, feminism, and more. Orig. $29.95 hardcover, sale priced at $9.98.

The influence of ancient Greece and Rome can be seen in every aspect of contemporary Western lives, from calendars to democracy to the very languages we speak. Yet the Greeks and Romans did not emerge fully formed; their culture grew from an active engagement with a deeper past, drawing on ancient myths and figures to shape vibrant civilizations. In this impeccably researched and immensely readable history we see the ancient world unfold before us, with its grand cast of characters stretching from the great Greeks of myth to the world-shaping Caesars, and gain insight into an epoch that is both incredibly foreign and surprisingly familiar. Orig. $21 paperback, sale priced at $7.98.