

# Books

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**The Avalanche Book** — Betsy R. Armstrong and Knox Williams. Among those answering the call of the mountains — on foot, skis, and snowmobiles — some will find themselves in harm's way. In this revised edition of their 1986 book, two avalanche experts update what's known about the snowy cascades that haunt the winter High Country — their causes, behavior, control, and social impact. From a history of avalanches to advice on how to survive if caught in one, the book contains a number of first-person accounts. Black-and-white photographs and drawings. Fulcrum Pub, 1992, 240 p., paperback, \$16.95.

**The Encyclopedia of Herbs, Spices, & Flavorings: A Cook's Compendium** — Elisabeth Lambert Ortiz. For chefs, amateur or professional, this handsomely produced volume provides a comprehensive source of information on and suggested uses for more than 200 herbs, spices, essences, edible flowers and leaves, aromatics, vinegars, oils, teas, and coffees. Ortiz also offers more than 185 recipes — from such classics as paprika chicken to more exotic dishes, including cold sesame noodles, anise fritters, and Moroccan preserved lemons. Illustrated with 750 color photographs. Dorling Kindersley, 1992, 288 p., hardcover, \$34.95.

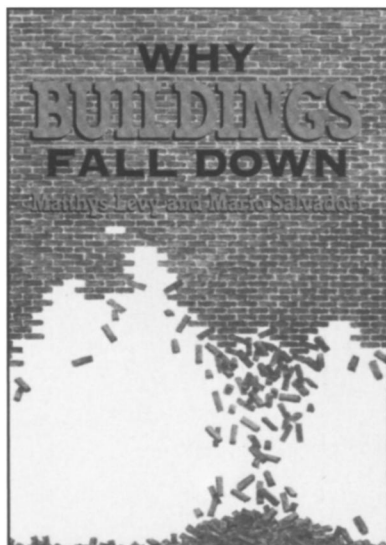
**Masters of Disguise: A Natural History of Chameleons** — James Martin, photographs by Art Wolfe. Legend has it that the devil created chameleons from the spare parts of other animals and sent them to spy on the world. Martin explores and explodes this tale and others as he introduces readers to the true chameleon, a dragon-like creature not to be confused with the slim green lizards often called chameleons. True chameleons sport prehensile tails, which they use to wrap themselves around tree limbs like monkeys; eyes that rotate independently of each other; and snake-like tongues as long as their bodies. He describes these colorful creatures' classification, peculiar anatomy, and how they live, eat, mate, and survive against natural and unnatural enemies. Illustrated with more than 60 color photographs. Facts On File, 1992, 176 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

**Murder, Magic, and Medicine** — John Mann. An organic chemist traces the evolution of modern medicine from its roots in folk medicine, emphasizing the link between the folk use of plant and animal extracts and the modern use of these substances in drugs. Today's poisons, stimulants, antibacterials, antiparasitics, anti-inflammatory agents, and mind-altering drugs all have their antecedents in the potions of antiquity. Mann describes the uses and abuse of natural products throughout the ages, explains the chemical basis of modern pharmacology, and ponders what potentially beneficial drugs will be lost through the continued destruction of the world's wild places. Oxford U Pr, 1992, 232 p., hardcover, \$32.50.

**Peterson Field Guides: Stars and Planets** — Jay M. Pasachoff and Donald H. Menzel. This third edition of a popular tour guide to the heavens, originated by the late Donald Menzel and continued by astronomer Jay Pasachoff, provides brief introductory tours of the night sky; 72 monthly sky charts for use in both hemispheres; 52 newly revised atlas charts of the entire sky; maps of the moon's surface (near side and far); times when the brightest stars, nebulae, galaxies, and planets are visible; advice on choosing a home telescope; and hundreds of photographs, including 96 pages in color. HM, 1992, 502 p., paperback, \$15.95.

**The Third Chimpanzee: The Evolution and Future of the Human Animal** — Jared Diamond. Chimpanzees and humans share about 98 percent of the same genes. Diamond, a physiologist and frequent writer on things scientific, addresses the other 2 percent. He speculates on how these genes enabled humans to evolve to create civilizations and religions, develop intricate languages, create art, learn science, and create the capacity to destroy all of these achievements overnight. The author links human behaviors to their animal antecedents and offers some intriguing speculations about the future of humans. First published in hardcover earlier this year. Harper-Perennial, 1992, 407 p., paperback, \$12.00.

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