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Breaking the Maya Code — Michael D. Coe. An anthropologist describes the decipherment of an ancient script, revealing a history lost to humanity for a millennium. Coe portrays a Maya culture obsessed with warfare, dynastic rivalries, and ritual bloodletting, yet rich with masterpieces in art and architecture. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Thames Hudson, 1993, 304 p., b&w plates and illus., paperback, \$14.95.

The Coral Reef at Night — Joseph S. Levine and Jeffrey L. Rotman. More than 100 glorious photographs, most taken in the Red Sea, illuminate the nighttime coral reef and the remarkable transformation that occurs after sundown. The accompanying text describes the nighttime behavior of reef inhabitants and provides information on night diving. Abrams, 1993, 192 p., color photos, hardcover, \$39.95.

The Diversity of Life — Edward O. Wilson. A scientist traces the processes that create new species and highlights the cataclysms that have disrupted evolution and diminished global diversity over the past 600 million years. He pleads for specific actions that will enhance diversity and the quality of life on Earth. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Norton, 1993, 424 p., b&w illus. and color plates, paperback, \$14.95.

"Nice Guys Finish Seventh": False Phrases, Spurious Sayings, and Familiar Misquotations — Ralph Keyes. Misquotations abound in history, politics, show business, sports, literature, and academia. In this book — the title of which comes from a misquotation — Keyes shows that sayings, phrases, and quotations such as "war is hell," "blood, sweat, and tears," and "say it ain't so, Joe" are inaccurate, misattributed, or both. Includes bibliography, notes, and key-word index. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Harper-Perennial, 1993, 273 p., paperback, \$10.00.

Seized: Temporal Lobe Epilepsy as a Medical, Historical, and Artistic Phenomenon — Eve LaPlante. A journalist narrates the history of temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE) and examines the lives of three people who suffer from it. This disease, the most prevalent form of epilepsy among adults, is believed to afflict more than 1 million Americans. Accompanied by seizures that invoke hallucinations, flashbacks, and involuntary actions, TLE crosses the traditional boundaries between psychiatry and neurology, LaPlante maintains. Her book provides a compelling overview of this fascinating disease, describing its effects and treatments and exploring its link with creative genius (according to LaPlante, van Gogh and Dostoevsky were sufferers). Harper-Collins, 1993, 254 p., hardcover, \$20.00.

Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors: A Search for Who We Are — Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan. The authors integrate various insights of science in an effort to describe where we came from, who we are, and what our fate might be. They begin with the birth of the sun and its planets and continue to the origins of traits central to problems of today, such as sex and violence, love and altruism, consciousness, technology, and morality. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Ballantine, 1993, 505 p., paperback, \$14.00.

Snakes: Ecology and Behavior — Richard A. Seigel and Joseph T. Collins. For serious snake enthusiasts, this is a comprehensive look at the biological makeup and existence of snakes in the wild. Chapters focus on such topics as sexual dimorphism, foraging theory, the ecology and evolution of mating, thermal ecology, and the quantitative genetics of snake populations. Includes extensive bibliographies at each chapter's end. McGraw, 1993, 414 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$27.95.

Toxic Nation: The Fight to Save Our Communities from Chemical Contamination — Fred Setterberg and Lonny Shavelson. Focuses on the grassroots efforts of U.S. citizens who are fighting the burial and incineration of chemical waste and the use of dangerous pesticides and other environmentally destructive chemicals in their communities. The authors interviewed members of more than 30 communities whose populations have disproportionately high numbers of disease victims and who have faced great difficulties trying to prove their cases. Wiley, 1993, 301 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$22.95.

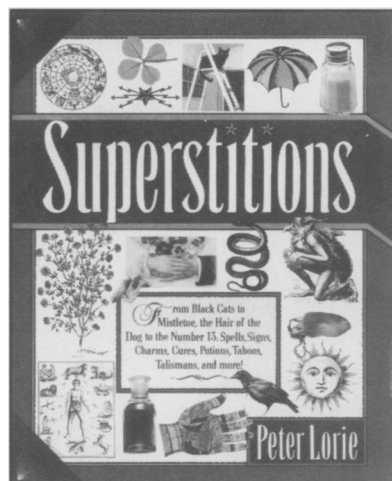
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Superstitions that we learned from our parents and grandparents are still very much alive. But do we know why we still believe in them? Would it ever occur to us that we avoid walking under ladders because originally the ladder was propped against the gallows and the dead body was lifted down that way? Would we imagine that throwing spilled salt over the left shoulder blinds the devil, who stands waiting behind us on the unlucky left side?

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Exploring more than two hundred superstitions, this lavishly illustrated, full-color book gives us a wonderful insight into the heritage of humankind's beliefs.

— from *Simon and Schuster*



Simon and Schuster, 1992, 255 pages, 7 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$22.50



Swan

A swan's feather, sewed into the husband's pillow, was thought to ensure fidelity. Perhaps this custom arose from the fact that swans mate for life. There is also the widespread belief that the "swan song" of the otherwise mute swan only happens just before it dies. Wood engraving by Thomas Bewick.

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