

# Books

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**Art of the Electronic Age** — Frank Popper. A comprehensive overview of the applications of technological advances in art. The author addresses the role of lasers and holography, video, computers, and communication in art and looks at installation, demonstration, and performance art. Numerous artists and their works are featured, as are insights into the evolution and future of these media and the implications of technology for the creative mind. Abrams, 1993, 192 p., b&w and color photos, hardcover, \$45.00.

**The Beastly Book: 100 of the World's Most Dangerous Creatures** — Jeanne K. Hanson. For anyone who ever wondered how a scorpion devours its prey or how a fulmar bird can "skunk" you, this fascinating book is a must. It answers these and other questions about all sorts of animals and their behaviors, defense mechanisms, and habits of life. It does much to allay fears about so-called dangerous animals founded in folklore and confirms legitimate facts about truly hazardous creatures. Wolves, for example, do not choose to prey on livestock unless their supply of wild victims (deer and elk) is depleted, and they avoid people altogether if they can. PH, 1993, 232 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

**Cats: Ancient and Modern** — Juliet Clutton-Brock. A brief historical survey of the domestic cat from ancient times to the present day. Clutton-Brock examines the cat's place in nature, its role in superstition and legend, and the development of various breeds. Special emphasis is placed on the evolution of the cat from its wild forebears to the domestic breeds of today and the role these animals play in the lives of humans. Harvard U Pr, 1993, 96 p., b&w and color illus. and photos, hardcover, \$16.95.

**Deadly Choices: Coping with Health Risks in Everyday Life** — Jeffrey E. Harris. The author, a physician and professor at MIT, offers sound guidelines for deciphering the barrage of health warnings continuously being publicized. The key, he contends, is to determine how these facts pertain to certain circumstances that are relevant to particular individuals. He exemplifies this method by following six fictional, yet typical, patients faced with health decisions regarding weight loss, HIV, smoking, breast cancer, exercise, and eating habits. Basic, 1993, 269 p., hardcover, \$21.00.

**From So Simple a Beginning: The Book of Evolution** — Philip Whitfield. This comprehensive and elaborately illustrated narrative provides a historical backdrop for how ideas about evolution were formulated and how and why they have transformed since Darwin, especially in the wake of advances in DNA and cell life research. Many current ideas about and controversies in evolution are detailed, as are theories about how the evolutionary process may change further. Macmillan, 1993, 220 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$40.00.

**The Human Nature of Birds** — Theodore Xenophon Barber. That animals, in this case birds, might display human behavioral characteristics is a widely disputed notion. However, Barber, a behavioral scientist intrigued with this idea, spent six years studying birds and concluded that they do indeed possess many attributes believed to be exclusively human. These include the ability to compose songs; make and use tools; show grief, joy, and compassion; love erotically; and interact intelligently with one another and with humans. Specific cases are cited to support these views. Especially compelling are experiments with an African gray parrot that can verbalize demands, commentary, and thoughtful inquiries. St. Martin's, 1993, 226 p., color plates, hardcover, \$19.95.

**Science Explained: The World of Science in Everyday Life** — Colin A. Ronan, ed. A concise, heavily illustrated answer book for questions about the basic principles of science. Typical questions are, What bonds atoms together to make molecules? Why is carbon so important? What is genetic engineering? How does the human brain work? An especially valuable resource for satisfying the curiosity of young people interested in understanding science. H Holt & Co, 1993, 240 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$35.00.

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Houghton Mifflin Co., 1993,  
148 pages, 5 1/4" x 8 1/4",  
hardcover, \$18.95

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Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of  
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In this beautiful account of thirty years of living with dogs, wolves, and dingoes and of the ways their lives intertwined with her own, the novelist and anthropologist Elizabeth Marshall Thomas brings us a completely new understanding of dogs by writing a sort of deeply truthful ethological poem, a loving yet absolutely unsentimental chronicle of the lives of a dozen dogs based on hundreds of thousands of hours of observation.

Watch the Thomas dogs forming themselves surreptitiously into the domestic equivalent of a wolf pack. Read this book, and you will learn more about how dogs think, and what dogs want, than you have ever suspected.

*The Hidden Life of Dogs* is a poignant, entertaining, sometimes heartbreaking book, vividly illustrated with drawings of the ways dogs behave. This is no training manual (Thomas doesn't train her dogs, but lets them train themselves), nor an abstract disquisition on canines. But whether or not a dog is part of your life, and no matter how much you think you know already, you will learn something new about dogs here — something no other book will tell you.  
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