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American Lung Association Family Guide to Asthma and Allergies: How You and Your Children Can Breathe Easier—Norman H. Edelman. The number of asthmatics in the United States has increased 84 percent in the past 12 years; allergy sufferers number 40 million. However, asthma attacks may be prevented by avoiding conditions that trigger them and through proper medication, both outlined here. Many new allergy treatments are also quite promising. This book examines the various aspects of these chronic ailments, from the who, what, and why to how to educate the baby-sitter of an asthmatic child. Little, 1997, 238 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$19.95.

Blue Genes and Polyester Plants: 365 More Surprising Scientific Facts, Breakthroughs, and Discoveries—Sharon Bertsch McGrayne. Like a calendar without the days of the week, this book asks 365 questions and offers detailed responses to them, thereby imparting more information than the reader might have bargained for. Find out where all the carbon goes, why dancing cockroaches are so fascinating to mathematicians, when an enzyme is like Alexander the Great, and what type of grass can support more weight per square inch than concrete. Wiley, 1997, 238 p., b&w photos/illus., \$14.95.

Bombardier Beetles and Fever Trees: A Close-Up Look at Chemical Warfare and Signals in Animals and Plants—William Agosta. Plants and animals generate and react to an enormous variety of chemical substances. For example, bees sting when agitated, and some salamanders court by rubbing the male's cheek—which excretes pheromones—against the female's snout. Agosta explains how the various chemicals work and describes a wide selection of organisms and the natural substances associated with them. He goes on to discuss how humans harness the power of these chemicals to fight disease. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Addison-Wesley, 1997, 224 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$13.00.

Galileo's Commandment: An Anthology of Great Science Writing—Edmund Blair Bolles, ed. This carefully selected collection of writings by scientists and science writers ranges from a piece written by Herodotus on the creation of Egypt in 444 B.C. to an article by George Smoot in 1994 detailing the Big Bang. While each essay is unique, together they show the progression from the earliest ideas to concrete concepts, thus providing an interesting perspective on a variety of sciences. For example, Richard Feynman explains why time is reversible, Primo Levi describes carbon, and Alfred Wallace presents his theory of variation. WH Freeman, 1997, 485 p., hardcover, \$26.95.

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The Heat Is On: The High Stakes Battle Over Earth's Threatened Climate—Ross Gelbspan. With recent global floods, snow storms, wildfires, and record temperatures, the Weather Channel has had enough news to make it a contender in the ratings race. A reporter knowledgeable about environmental issues contends that these are signs that global warming is upon us, in spite of a valiant effort by oil and coal conglomerates to squelch the concept. While Gelbspan's tone is alarming, he clearly explains global warming and its effects and offers ideas for curbing this trend—perhaps spawned by money-losing insurance companies. Addison-Wesley, 1997, 278 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

The New View of Self: How Genes and Neurotransmitters Shape Your Mind, Your Personality, and Your Mental Health—Larry J. Siever with William Frucht. According to Siever, the nature vs. nurture dispute has been rendered obsolete as modern psychiatry shifts its focus to the role of neurobiology in understanding and treating psychiatric diseases. The biology of personality disorders and their treatment by management of environmental factors and new pharmacological approaches are outlined here, as are the effects of trauma and abuse on the "physical" brain. Macmillan, 1997, 257 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

Statistics: A Self-Teaching Guide—Donald J. Koosis. Appropriate as either an introduction or a refresher course, this interactive guide presents basic statistical concepts—populations, samples, mean, multiple variables—and guides the reader through applicable problems. Procedures for implementing computer spreadsheets are included. Wiley, 1997, 278 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$17.95.



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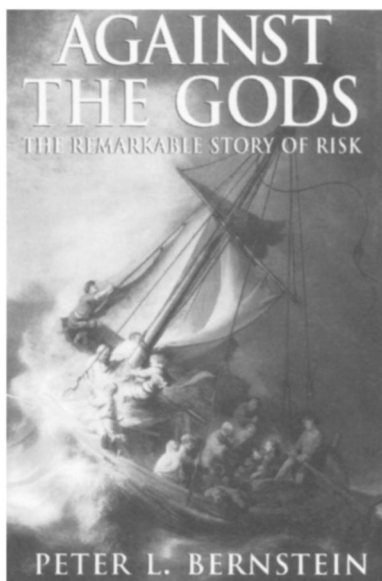


John Wiley & Sons, 1996, 383 pages
6" x 9 1/4", hardcover \$27.95



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In this unique exploration of the role of risk in our society, Peter Bernstein argues that the notion of bringing risk under control is one of the central ideas that distinguishes modern times from the more distant past.



When investors buy stocks, surgeons perform operations, engineers design bridges, entrepreneurs launch new businesses, astronauts explore the heavens, and politicians run for office, risk is their inescapable partner. Yet their actions reveal that risk today need not be feared: Managing risk has become synonymous with challenge and opportunity.

Bernstein presents fascinating vignettes of such towering intellects as Omar Khayyam, Pascal and Bernoulli, Bayes and Keynes, Markowitz and Arrow, and Gauss, Galton, and von Neumann. With his engaging literary style, he clarifies the concepts of probability, sampling, regression to the mean, game theory, and rational versus irrational decision making. The final sections of the book raise important questions about the role of the computer, the relationship between facts and subjective beliefs, the impact of chaos theory, the role of the burgeoning market for derivatives, and the looming dominance of numbers.

— John Wiley & Sons

