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The Earth Dwellers: Adventures in the Land of Ants—Erich Hoyt. One of the most advanced societies thrives among one of the most physically minute creatures on the planet: ants. Through interviews and journeys with two of the world's most renowned myrmecologists—Edward O. Wilson and William Brown Jr.—Hoyt shares the intricacies of the ant world and the lives of those who study them. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Touchstone, 1997. 319 p., paperback, \$13.00.

The Fabric of Reality: The Science of Parallel Universes—and Its Implications—David Deutsch. A proponent of the multiverse theory, which holds that our universe is embedded in an infinitely larger and more complex structure, Deutsch believes that it may someday be possible to build computers that draw on their counterparts in parallel universes, making artificial intelligence possible. He outlines his controversial view of the multiverse, which he also believes may be the first real Theory of Everything, because it draws on ideas from quantum physics, epistemology, the theory of computation, and evolutionary theory. Deutsch argues that the multiplicity of universes—detectable through the astonishing phenomenon of quantum interference—is the key to a new way of looking at everything from knowledge to weather to time travel. A Lane, 1997, 390 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

The Hearing Loss Sourcebook: A Complete Guide to Coping with Hearing Loss and Where to Get Help—Carol A. Turkington. Although the first half of this book deals with the hows and whys of hearing loss in adults and children, it focuses primarily on contending with the condition. Of greatest value is information on different types of hearing aids, treatment options, and manufacturers of related products, as well as the names and addresses of support and informational organizations. Plume, 1997, 176 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$11.95.

Math Smart II: Getting a Grip on Algebra, Geometry, and Trigonometry—Marcia Lerner. If hyperbolas make you hyper or logarithms form a log jam in your mind, this review will help sort out the basics of advanced mathematics. By breaking down difficult equations and concepts into their constituent parts, Lerner makes it easier to grasp the ideas, which are applied in a series of exercises. Princeton Review, 1997, 246 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

One River: Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest—Wade Davis. Davis regales readers by intertwining tales of his and Timothy Plowman's search through the most remote regions of South America for the origin of coca with those of Harvard ethnobiologist Richard Evans Schultes' ventures earlier this century. Schultes, who was highly knowledgeable about medicinal and toxic plants, amassed some 20,000 specimens and discovered natural LSD. Davis reports on the efforts of all three men to learn the ways of native shaman and Indian tribes and assesses the impact of outsiders. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Touchstone, 1997, 537 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$16.00.

Slanted Truths: Essays on Gaia, Symbiosis, and Evolution—Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan. The Gaia theory holds that the whole of Earth is a living organism composed of the sum of the energy- and material-exchanging activities of the living system at our planet's surface. Margulis has long been a proponent of this theory, and this collection of essays spans her extensive career as a biologist. With the aid of writer Sagan, Margulis explains Gaia and the critical role it plays in the evolution of all plant and animals. Of equal importance is the symbiosis that exists between organisms of different species. The authors illustrate how Gaia "is simply symbiosis as seen from space." Copernicus, 1997, 368 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$27.00.

Stuff: The Secret Lives of Everyday Things—John C. Ryan and Alan Thein Durning. People spend their days consuming stuff: coffee, newspapers, shoes, sodas, computers, hamburgers. Who makes these products, and what impact does our use of them have on the environment? For example, two cups of coffee a day requires the beans of 12 trees, which need 11 pounds of fertilizer to grow, which produce 43 pounds of coffee pulp waste that is deposited into Colombia's rivers. The founders of a Pacific Northwest environment sustainability organization briefly trace nine such products in this fashion. Northwest Environmental Watch, 1997, 86 p., paperback, \$9.95.

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