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**Believing in Magic: The Psychology of Superstition**—Stuart A. Vyse. Good luck rituals pervade society. Athletes wear the same article of clothing each game day or swear by a particular pre-race meal, even though these activities don't always result in a win. Few buildings list a 13th floor. Vyse, a psychologist, examines the cognitive attributes that predispose some of us to superstitious thoughts. While he thinks that many beliefs and rituals rooted in superstition are harmless, he does not encourage "tacit endorsement" of such thinking and proposes ways to "buck the trend." OUP, 1997. 257 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

**Beneath the Sea in 3-D**—Mark Blum. Stereoscopic photographs of sea life are transformed into amazing three-dimensional visions when viewed through the glasses conveniently bound into the flap of the book. Facing pages identify and describe the creatures portrayed. Giant clams, sailfin blennies, and panamic green moray eels are among the enchanting denizens of the ocean depths that swim out from this unique book. Chronicle Bks, 1997. 98 p., hardcover, \$18.95.

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**Perils of a Restless Planet: Scientific Perspectives on Natural Disasters**—Ernest Zebrowski Jr. On All Saints' Day in 1775, most residents of Lisbon, Portugal, were in church; little did they know they were being read their last rites. The first of three tsunamis hit at 9:40 a.m. Fire then engulfed the city, sparing survivors the pestilence sure to accompany the resulting 40,000 or so dead bodies. Zebrowski revisits some of the greatest horrors engendered by Mother Nature over the last thousand years and explains how they can be predicted and how they work. Cambridge U Pr, 1997. 306 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

**Sex on the Brain: The Biological Differences Between Men and Women**—Deborah Blum. Science writer Blum covers territory stretching from Venus to Mars as she surveys a wealth of information marking the differences between male and female brains, emotions, and hormones. Blum reports on strides being made in understanding sexual orientation and its relationship to testosterone and estrogen as she dissects aspects of both. Viking, 1997. 329 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

**The Wisdom of the Bones: In Search of Human Origins**—Alan Walker and Pat Shipman. Walker provides a first-hand account of his part in the discovery of the Kenyan Nariokotome boy, one of the most complete specimens of *Homo erectus* ever discovered. With the help of anthropologist Shipman, Walker recounts the significance of Nariokotome boy, a hominid that can truly be called a "missing link" between apes and humans. Controversially, the authors contend that while this boy was adept at adapting to climate change, he could not speak. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Vin, 1997. 338 p., paperback, \$14.00.

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