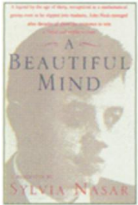
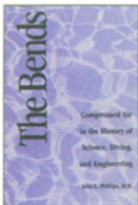


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A Beautiful Mind—Sylvia Nasar. Madness is often equated with genius. Mathematician John Forbes Nash, Jr. is an example, as this biography shows. On the fast track during his twenties, Nash's reputation as an eccentric genius flourished on the campuses of Princeton and MIT, where he hobnobbed with Albert Einstein and formulated a profound contribution to game theory. At the age of 30, he experienced a catastrophic breakdown triggered by schizophrenia. His life spiraled out of control, and his achievements became footnotes until the 1990s, when he miraculously emerged from his insanity. Subsequently, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for economics, once again bringing him to the forefront of people's minds. Nasar charts Nash's remarkable story to the present day. S&S, 1998, 458 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$25.00.



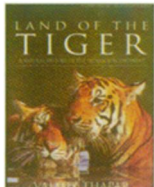
The Bends: Compressed Air in the History of Science, Diving, and Engineering—John L. Phillips. Although scuba divers are most likely to suffer decompression sickness (commonly known as the bends), deep-sea tourists were not the first to be stricken with the problem. Miners and tunnel builders, who employed new compressed-air technology on projects such as the Brooklyn Bridge in the mid-1800s, initially fell victim to this sometimes fatal illness. Phillips finds the story of compressed-air technology and the consequent bends an interesting paradigm of the evolution of scientific thought—a premise he adheres to throughout his telling of the quest to understand what causes the bends. Yale U Pr, 1998, 256 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$30.00.



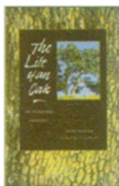
From Black Land to Fifth Sun: The Science of Sacred Sites—Brian Fagan. Fagan, a noted archaeologist, describes how accelerator mass spectrometry, geographic information systems, and computer-assisted mapping are revealing a previously hidden, spiritual side in archaeological studies. These innovations make way for a new concept Fagan calls "archaeology of the mind." This view allows archaeologists to intelligently consider why Cro-Magnons even felt the impulse to render images on the caves at Lascaux and how fossilized seeds and grasses can now afford a clearer image of hunter-gatherer tribes. Fagan's experience is vast—an attribute boldly illustrated as he travels from Stonehenge to the Chaco Canyon, recounting the latest theories and discoveries of lost worlds around the globe. Addison-Wesley, 1998, 403 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$26.00.

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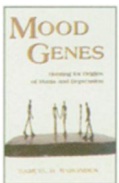
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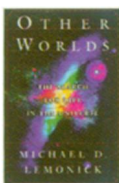
Land of the Tiger: A Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent—Valmik Thapar. With a lifetime devoted to protecting and documenting tigers, Thapar is an established expert on these felines. A companion to an upcoming PBS series, Thapar considers the extraordinarily diverse species of both plant and animal relative to the extreme conditions within the ecosystems of the Indian subcontinent. While these species are now beginning to face challenges to their existence, Thapar explains the role of eastern religion in preserving them. Glorious Sarus cranes, the golden langur, and several lions and tigers capture the reader's attention as Thapar defines this region, its folklore, and its natural history. U CA Pr, 1998, 288 p., color photos, hardcover, \$29.95.



The Life of an Oak: An Intimate Portrait—Glenn Keator. The genus *Quercus* is represented by more than 350 specimens, making it one of the most plentiful and diverse species of flowering plant. The most common aspects of oak architecture, reproduction, and evolution are detailed in this book. A perspective on the omnipresence of the oak worldwide and the habitats in which oaks proliferate round out the text. Heyday, 1998, 256 p., color photos/illus., paperback, \$17.95.



Mood Genes: Hunting for Origins of Mania and Depression—Samuel H. Barondes. Researchers have known for years that manic-depression clusters in families. Until the advent of modern genetics, it was widely believed that this kind of behavior was patterned after family members—that it was in fact a learned behavior. As Barondes shows, however, there is now no better personality disorder to study from a genetic perspective than manic-depression. He bases his discussion on case studies of manic-depressives in tandem with the most recent advances in identifying the genes that cause the disorder. Barondes also considers how this information can be used, once it is fully developed, to help people suffering from this condition. Freeman, 1998, 237 p., hardcover, \$24.95.



Other Worlds: The Search for Life in the Universe—Michael D. Lemonick. Once thought to be an idea of kooks, the discovery of extrasolar planets and of bacteria on Mars lends credence to the conjecture that life exists outside our own solar system. The senior science writer for TIME used wide access to the scientists and to the labs housing the world's most powerful radio antennas, telescopes, and transmission electron microscopes to report on the factors that have made the search for extraterrestrial life into a mainstream scientific pursuit. The Drake equation, which Lemonick clearly outlines, mathematically embodies the possibility of life elsewhere, and is a keystone for researchers in their quest. Lemonick predicts that pioneering researchers, like those at NASA where the new Origins Program was launched in an effort to find more extrasolar planets and evidence of life on them, will ultimately fulfill the promise of the Drake Equation. S&S, 1998, 272 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

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