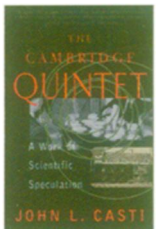


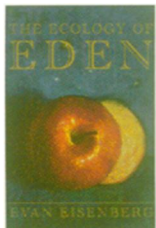
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The Cambridge Quintet: A Work of Scientific Speculation—John L. Casti. Imagine C.P. Snow hosting a salon to discuss the possible cognitive capacity of machines and inviting physicist Erwin Schrödinger, philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, geneticist J.B.S. Haldane, and mathematician Alan Turing.

That is exactly what Casti has done here complete with the quirks of the characters and their ideas of these luminaries. Peppered with rhetoric reflecting the views of the guests at a time when the idea of artificial intelligence was fresh and somewhat fantastic, Casti revitalizes some old arguments and reviews progress since those days. Addison-Wesley, 1998, 181 p., illus., hardcover, \$23.00.



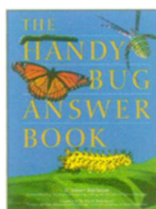
The Ecology of Eden—Evan Eisenberg. According to Eisenberg, humans have longed for the lost paradise of Eden since our mythical expulsion, but we have been unable to find the appropriate level of interaction with nature to regain it. In this wide-ranging tome, the author tracks the

paths of civilizations from the forests to the grasslands and assesses their impact along the way. Arguing that neither the "Planet Fetishers" (zealot environmentalists) or the "Planet Managers" (dreamers of a man-made paradise) have valid ways to redress the imbalance between nature and humans, he swings through the ages in a quest to assign meaning to our place in the natural world. In the book's four sections, he shows how virtually every ancient myth portrays the sought-after harmony and how these ideals have affected Western Civilization. Knopf, 1998, 612 p., hardcover, \$30.00.



Graduate Research: A Guide for Students in the Sciences—Robert V. Smith. Expanded and revised, this third edition is intended to aid students in honing their research and writing skills. A discussion of the initial choices faced by students and lessons in time management and commitment

preface the aspects of research work, including issues relevant to ethics, human and animal experimentation, funding, and getting published. U Wash Pr, 1998, 193 p., paperback, \$16.95.



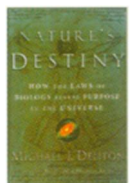
The Handy Bug Answer Book—Gilbert Waldbauer. By focusing on the most peculiar aspects of these often reviled creatures, Waldbauer's contagious fascination with the food chain (including those insects who feed on humans) and habits of these species impels him to

discuss what social wasps feed their young, whether ants keep slaves, and how fast insects can run. Visible Ink, 1998, 308 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., paperback, \$19.95.



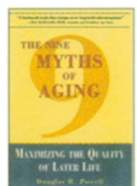
The Lazy Gardener—Mara Grey. As she does on her weekly radio show of the same title, Grey offers a bevy of shortcuts for those too busy to tend to themselves, let alone their yard and plants. She helps readers assess what they want from their garden and how much effort they want to

spend maintaining it. Then she details the hardest species and elaborates on how best to build a garden with time constraints in mind. Macmillan, 1998, 149 p., illus., paperback, \$12.95.

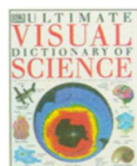


Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology Reveal Purpose in the Universe—Michael J. Denton. Picking up where physicists such as Freeman Dyson and Fred Hoyle left off, Denton assails the idea, inspired by Darwin, that life is accidental. Humans are the central product of the universe, not a random occurrence, according to Denton. He threads the laws of chemistry and physics into his argument, but focuses on biology, maintaining that life in our biosphere is constrained by laws of nature that govern the thermal properties of water, the constitution of cells, and the characteristics of a carbon atom, for example. Therefore, if life flourishes elsewhere in the universe, it can only do so in a like environment and must be carbon-based, as we are. With this idea in place, he discusses other forms of life and "life's becoming," showing how the "evolutionary development of the same set of life forms was also written into the cosmic script... from the beginning." Free Pr, 1998, 454 p., illus., hardcover, \$27.50.

At age 60, Powell realized his own forgetfulness was not the onset of dementia, but a lifelong affliction brought on by preoccupation with matters other than those at hand. As he spells out nine such myths, he counters with ideas for "optimal aging" that will help readers maintain their mental strength. He cites fear as the main deterrent to mastering new technology and notes that overcoming this form of ageism is one way to maintain peak mental performance. WH Freeman, 1998, 246 p., hardcover, \$23.95.



The Nine Myths of Aging: Maximizing the Quality of Later Life—Douglas H. Powell. Despite many years at Harvard University researching cognitive aging, Powell nevertheless accepted the widespread view that the aged are forgetful, depressed, and isolated. At age 60, Powell realized his own forgetfulness was not the onset of dementia, but a lifelong affliction brought on by preoccupation with matters other than those at hand. As he spells out nine such myths, he counters with ideas for "optimal aging" that will help readers maintain their mental strength. He cites fear as the main deterrent to mastering new technology and notes that overcoming this form of ageism is one way to maintain peak mental performance. WH Freeman, 1998, 246 p., hardcover, \$23.95.



Ultimate Visual Dictionary of Science—Lara Maiklem, ed. Built on the theory that a picture is worth a thousand words, this dictionary surveys the primary fields of the sciences, defining more than 15,000 terms in 170 major entries with copious color images. This compendium focuses on ideas and functions. For example, there are lucid descriptions of energy transfer in a car and of the innards of bony fish and humans. DK, 1998, 448 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

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