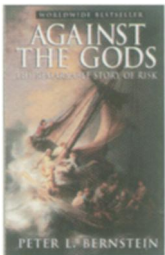
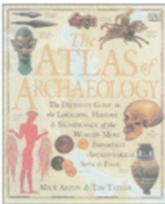


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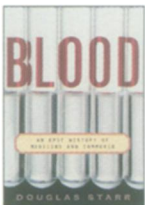
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Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk—Peter L. Bernstein. Inevitably, machines break down. Airplanes crash. People die at an early age. How is probability theory used to manage such risks successfully? Bernstein's story highlights the thinkers who developed the critical elements of modern risk management, from game theory to the challenges of chaos theory. Bernstein dissects everyday concepts such as sampling and mean and tackles an age-old argument: Are the best decisions based on the patterns of the past or on more subjective analyses about the uncertain future? Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Wiley, 1998, 383 p., paperback, \$14.95.



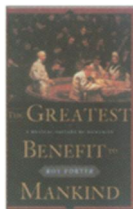
The Atlas of Archaeology—Mick Aston and Tim Taylor. The emphasis of imagery over text makes this a useful guide for youngsters or neophyte archaeologists. Each entry is one or two pages long and devoted to sites as spectacular as Thebes or as mundane as an Iron Age fort. Fundamental assumptions about each site are succinctly summarized and accompanied by marvelous photographs and drawings illustrating key elements. A gazetteer of globally important sites sums up the volume. DK, 1998, 208 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



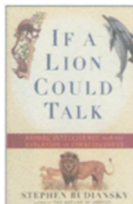
Blood: An Epic History of Medicine and Commerce—Douglas Starr. Typically, one would not figure a stomach-turning topic to make for an extraordinarily intriguing book. However, Starr's account of how the idea of transfusing blood was realized and subsequently commercialized is a stellar exposé. Crude oil costs about \$13 a barrel; "crude" blood could fetch about \$20,000 a barrel. Blood derivatives such as plasma hit the \$5 billion mark last year. Such figures allow greed and corruption to seep into an area usually regarded as a domain of charity. Starr reflects on the societal role of blood as it transformed from a mythical enigma to a scientific entity to a product of industry. He examines the past racism of blood banks, the spread of the AIDS epidemic among hemophiliacs, and the role of blood in helping the Allies win World War II. Knopf, 1998, 441 p., hardcover, \$27.50.



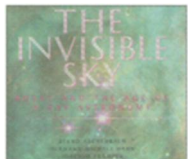
Common Birds and Their Songs—Lang Elliott and Marie Read. The accompanying compact disc provides listeners with roughly a minute's worth of song for each of the 50 North American birds profiled in this book. It makes species identification a breeze. This handy guidebook features a color photograph of each bird and data about its range, voice, habitat, physical characteristics, and background. HM, 1998, 127 p., color photos, 65-minute audio compact disc, paperback, \$20.00.



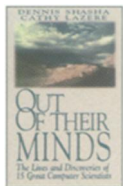
The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity—Roy Porter. Encompassing roughly 2,500 years of practical medicine, Porter concentrates on Western medicine after it split from the ancient practices of the Chinese, Indians, and the Greeks. Clearly written and laden with anecdote as well as factual data, Porter's book explains the convergence of medical breakthroughs with relevant social, political, and religious views and discusses the impact of such views on physicians and scientists. Originally published in England in 1997. Norton, 1998, 831 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$35.00.



If a Lion Could Talk: Animal Intelligence and the Evolution of Consciousness—Stephen Budiansky. Our anthropomorphic tendencies cloud our perspective on the way animals think, concludes Budiansky. Humans typically link intelligence to behavior that mimics our own, but this is giving animals too much credit and lacks imagination on our part, in his opinion. Budiansky argues if animals could talk, we could understand them, but their minds wouldn't be their own. These ideas lead Budiansky to assert that each animal processes information in its own unique way, part of his effort to strike a middle ground between radical behaviorists and cognitive ethologists. Free Pr., 1998, 219 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



The Invisible Sky: ROSAT and the Age of X-Ray Astronomy—Bernd Aschenbach, Hermann-Michael Hahn, and Joachim Trümper. Since 1990, the ROSAT satellite has revealed more than 120,000 sources of X rays in stellar explosions, galactic collisions, black holes, and even comets. Aschenbach and Trümper's involvement with the satellite dates to its inception at the Max Planck Institute. Their unlimited access to the images and data garnered is obvious, as seemingly every page of this book features bold photographs from the satellite and insight into the short history of X-ray astronomy. Originally published in Germany in 1996. Copernicus, 1998, 175 p., color photos, hardcover, \$40.00.



Out of Their Minds: The Lives and Discoveries of 15 Great Computer Scientists—Dennis Shasha and Cathy Lazere. In its four parts, this book tackles basic questions computer scientists have wrestled with over the last 50 years: How should I talk to the machine? What is a good method for solving a problem quickly? Can I build a better computer? Can I write a computer program that can find its own solutions? To depict the struggles these questions have engendered, 15 of the world's leading computer scientists are portrayed. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Copernicus, 1998, 291 p., b&w plates and illus., paperback, \$16.00.

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