

Books for People Who Have Read Everything

DB072610

Title: The Elephant's Journey

Author: Jose' Saramago

Lisbon, 1551. Portuguese King João III sends his cousin Archduke Maximilian of Austria an unusual wedding present: an elephant named Solomon. Solomon, his caretaker Subhro, and the royal caravan travel across Europe, over the Alps, to Vienna. Originally published in Portuguese by the Nobel Prize-winning author. 2010.

DB078570

Title: The Sound Book: The Science of the Sonic Wonders of the World

Author: Trevor J. Cox

Acoustic engineer details his search for wondrous sounds after having an epiphany about unusual noises while listening to the acoustics of a Victorian-era sewer. Explains the mechanics behind sounds such as ice melting on a Siberian lake and singing sands in the Mojave Desert. 2014.

DB081272

Title: Alphabetical: How Every Letter Tells a Story

Author: Michal Rosen

Former U. K. Children's Laureate Michael Rosen provides a history of the alphabet. The evolution of the letters, the history of language, lost letters, unusual sounds, the beginnings of the written word, codes, poetry, and even the writing of dictionaries are among the topics that come under discussion. 2015.

DB084548

Title: Fox Tossing: And Other Forgotten and Dangerous Sports

Author: Edward Brooke-Hitching

Documentary filmmaker looks at ninety of the more unusual games enjoyed throughout history. Includes campus pranks such as phone-booth stuffing, bizarre variant versions of more common sports like ice tennis and boxing on horseback, and many unkind activities involving animals such as monkey-fighting and bear-baiting. 2015.

DB086548

Title: Queen of Spies: Daphne Park, Britain's Cold War Spy Master

Author: Paddy Hayes

A recounting of the evolution of the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) from World War II until the Cold War as seen through the life of Daphne Park, one of its most unusual and highest-ranking agents. Discusses how Park was able to rise through the ranks of a predominantly male field. 2015.

DB087200

Title: The Nordic Theory of Everything: In Search of a Better Life

Author: Anu Partanen

A Finnish journalist recounts her experience moving from Finland to America. She suggests aspects of the Nordic way of life for America to adopt, comparing and contrasting her experiences of society in both countries, focusing on the relationships between parents and children, men and women, employees and employers, and government and citizens. 2016.

DB087801

Title: The Moth Presents All These Wonders

Author: Catherine Burns

A collection of stories from the twenty-year history of The Moth, a nonprofit organization devoted to storytelling that hosts live events, podcasts, and a public radio program. Contributors, both famous and not, share personal stories. Strong language. 2017.

DB078793

Title: The Time Traveler's Almanac

Author: Ann VanderMeer

Collection of seventy-two stories and essays that journey through time and are divided into four major categories: Experiments, Reactionaries & Revolutionaries, Mazes & Traps, and Communiqués. Includes authors such as Ray Bradbury, George R.R. Martin, Richard Matheson, Charles Stross, Connie Willis, and more. Descriptions of sex, some strong language, and some violence. 2013.

DB021093

Title: Women's Diaries of the West Ward Movement

Author: Lillian Schlissel

The diaries, letters and reminiscences of the women who migrated West. Offers an accurate, unsentimental picture of the daily lives of the families who travelled the Overland Trail from the mid-West to California or Oregon between 1840 and 1870.

DB059392

Title: The Grand Idea: George Washington's Potomac and the Rise of the West

Author: Joel Achenbach

Washington Post writer documents George Washington's plans to transform the Potomac River into a commercial artery linking the Atlantic to the Mississippi Valley. Chronicles his 1784 journey across the Appalachians to speculate on inland navigation and explains how his ambitions spawned the National Road, B&O Railroad, and C&O Canal. 2004.

DB069543

Title: Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip

Author: Matthew Algeo

Author retraces the 1953 2,500-mile cross-country road trip of Harry and Bess Truman. Describes the Trumans' post-presidential life in Missouri, when they lived on Harry's army pension, and provides first-person accounts of the original journey. 2009.

DB088473

Title: Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, a Poisonous Plant, and Their Remarkable Story of Coevolution

Author: Anurag A. Agrawal

Biologist examines the development of the monarch butterfly, its sole source of nourishment as a caterpillar--the milkweed--and their convergent evolutionary processes. Discusses in detail their parallel lifecycles and the monarchs' epic migration patterns from Canada and the northern United States to Mexico. 2017.

DB083198

Title: Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and How They Change Our Lives

Author: Stephen L. Buchmann

A pollination ecologist examines the impact of flowers in our world. Starting with their intersection with bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects, he moves on to the use of flowers in food, medicine, and perfume. He also looks at flowers in our culture, myths, and legends. 2015

DB66081

Title: Code Green Experience of a Lifetime

Author: Kerry Lorimer

Promotes principles of responsible tourism to minimize environmental impact, maximize connections to other cultures, and benefit local communities. Offers information on seeing gorillas in Rwanda, tagging turtles in Australia, and counting macaws in Peru. Includes tips on accommodations and volunteering. 2006.