

A Compendium Of Curiosities

From first kisses to missed kisses, stolen kisses, the chemistry of kisses, around-the-world kisses, silver-screen kisses, Freudian kisses, lipstick kisses and record-breaking kisses, this eclectic collection of facts, figures, quotes and curiosities has everything you've ever wanted to know—and more—about that most deceptive, delightful and indispensable gesture: the kiss.

"From oaks and maples to the more exotic dragon's blood and baobab species, trees are known and appreciated across the globe. This book is a mini encyclopedia of sorts—for not only trees, but also tree-related topics like reforestation, forest fires, emerald ash-borers, and more. Similar to Millman's *Fungipedia*, this book will include entries on both the commonplace and the whimsical alike, with line drawings throughout. The book has roughly 80 entries in which readers will explore topics ranging from the vast Tongass forest in Alaska to the comparatively very small meristem cells, which allow trees to generate new growth. In addition to entries on the biological and ecological aspects of trees, the book also features more culturally focused entries, including those on historical figures such as renowned nature writer John Muir, and activist Mangari Maathai. Similar to *Fungipedia*, the book is intended for a general audience, however, it will also appeal to seasoned tree enthusiasts. Entries are supplemented with line drawings from Maren Westfall!"--

Make way for this defiantly idiosyncratic, hilariously illuminating compendium of curiosities you never knew you wanted to know! How do you flirt in Turkish? How do you dump someone in Japanese? What are the names of all the animals ever sent into space? There are just some of the fun and insightful oddities that made Gideon Haigh's *The Uncyclopedia* a hit overseas. The first ever encyclopedia for the curious, *The Uncyclopedia* is a compendium of illuminating knowledge and a delight for all inquisitive readers. As proved by Schott's *Original Miscellany* and the enormous rise in popularity of quiz and trivia nights, arcane knowledge and non-essential facts have never been so popular. At last in one convenient volume, everything for knowledge-hungry readers: Lists of Norse gods Suicide notes of the famous All anyone needs to know about How to toast in 10 languages A list of all the men to walk on the moon Twisted Latin mottoes Fortune-telling techniques Neither trivial nor essential, yet always engaging and illuminating, *The Uncyclopedia* is the reference book referred to purely for the purposes of amusement--and readers just can't put it down!

From the acclaimed creator of *Subway Book Review*, *Between the Lines* gloriously takes to the underground and showcases in over 170 interviews what moves us forward—a thrilling ride as unexpected as New York City itself. “Subway Book Review has changed how we look at books.” —*Forbes* “[Beuter Cohen’s] rosy view of the subway is a refreshing contrast.” —*The Cut*, *New York* magazine “Subway Book Review is one of the few purely good things on the internet.” —*Time* In the better part of a decade, *Ull Beuter Cohen* rode the subway through New York City’s underground to observe society through the lens of our most creative thinkers: the readers of books. *Between the Lines* is a timely collection of beloved and never-before-published stories that reflect who we are and where we are going. In over 170 interviews, *Ull* shares nuanced insights into our collective psyche and gives us an invaluable document of our challenges and our potential. Complete with original photography, and countless intriguing book recommendations, *Between the Lines* is an enthusiastic celebration of the ways stories invite us into each other’s lives, and a call to action for imagining a bold, empathetic future together. Meet Yehoud, who reads Dapper Dan; Made in Harlem and talks about the power of symbols in fashion. Diana shares how Orlando shaped her journey as a trans woman. Saina reads *They Say, I Say* and speaks about the power of her hijab. Notable New Yorkers open up about their lives and reading habits, including photographer Jamel Shabazz, filmmaker Katja Blichfeld, painter Devon Rodriguez, comedian Aparna Nancherla, fashion editor Lynn Yeeger, playwright Jeremy O. Harris, fashion designer and TV personality Leah McSweeney, designer Waris Ahluwalia, artist Debbie Millman, activist Amani al-Khatibeh, and esteemed authors such as *Via Tolentino*, Roxane Gay, Ashley C. Ford, Eileen Myles, Min Jin Lee, and many more.

Facts, Quotes and Curiosities

A Compendium of Strange and Dark Stories

From Seconds to Centuries, a Compendium of Measures

Trepedia

A Curiosity of Folklore, Magic and Spells

Between the Lines

Alaska Curiosities

A Compendium of CuriositiesVolume III

From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Dangerous Book for Boys* comes the long-awaited sequel – another action-packed adventure guide featuring full-color illustrations, perfect for dads, grads, and boys of all ages. The *Double Dangerous Book for Boys* is a treasure trove of the essential activities and skills that have defined generations of boyhoods, from building a treehouse to fishing to finding true north. Designed with the same nostalgic look and feel as the first book, this companion volume includes more than 70 new chapters and important skills, fascinating historical information, and captivating stories, including: How to pick a padlock Making a Windsor Knot Advice from Fighting Man Questions About the Law Chess Openings Making Perfume Maps of Historic Empires: British, Ottoman, Ganjhis, Persian, Medes, Babylonian, Alexander Great Speeches Forgotten Explorers How to Wire a Plug and Make a Lamp Writing a Thank You Letter Polishing Shoes Parents looking to reduce screen time and rediscover the great outdoors can use this book to fill weekend afternoons and summer days with wonder, excitement, adventure, and fun—learn to build go-carts and electromagnets, identify insects and spiders, and fly the world’s best paper airplanes. This charming and practical guide, packed with hundreds of full-color charts, maps, diagrams, and illustrations, will ignite the imagination and stimulate curiosity, and provide grandfathers, fathers, sons, and brothers the opportunity to deepen their bonds. Conn Igulden has at last put together a second wonderful collection that is the essence of boyhood.

*** BBC RADIO 4 BOOK OF THE WEEK * ‘Anybody who loves the printed word will be bowled over by this amusing, erudite, beautiful book about books. It is in every way a triumph. One of the loveliest books to have been published for many, many years’ Alexander McCall Smith ‘Quite simply the best gift for any book lover this year, or perhaps ever’ Lucy Atkins, *Sunday Times Literary Book of the Year* ‘An utterly joyous journey into the deepest eccentricities of the human mind... The most cheering, fascinating book I’ve read for ages’ *Guardian* From the author of the critically acclaimed and globally successful *The Phantom Atlas*, *The Golden Atlas* and *The Sky Atlas* comes a stunning new work. *The Madman’s Library* is a unique, beautifully illustrated journey through the entire history of literature, delving into its darkest territories to hunt down the very strangest books ever written, and uncover the fascinating stories behind their creation. This is a madman’s library of eccentric and extraordinary volumes from around the world, many of which have been completely forgotten. Books written in blood and books that kill, books of the insane and books that hoaxed the globe, books invisible to the naked eye and books so long they could destroy the Universe, books worn into battle, books of code and cypher whose secrets remain undiscovered... and a few others that are just plain weird. From the 605-page Qur’an written in the blood of Saddam Hussein, through the gorgeously decorated 15th-century lawsuit filed by the Devil against Jesus, to the lost art of binding books with human skin, every strand of strangeness imaginable (and many inconceivable) has been unearthed and bound together for a unique and richly illustrated collection ideal for every book-lover.**

“This little book is big fun.”—Michael Pollan *An Illustrated mini-encyclopedia of fungal lore, from John Cage and Terrence McKenna to mushroom sex and fairy rings Fungipedia presents a delightful A-Z treasury of mushroom lore. With more than 180 entries—on topics as varied as Alice in Wonderland, chestnut blight, medicinal mushrooms, poisonings, Santa Claus, and waxy caps—this collection will transport both general readers and specialists into the remarkable universe of fungi. Combining ecological, ethnographic, historical, and contemporary knowledge, author and mycologist Lawrence Millman discusses how mushrooms are much more closely related to humans than to plants, how they engage in sex, how insects farm them, and how certain species happily dine on leftover radiation, cockroach antennae, and dung. He explores the lives of individuals like African scientist George Washington Carver, who specialized in crop diseases caused by fungi; Beatrix Potter, creator of Peter Rabbit, who was prevented from becoming a professional mycologist because she was a woman; and Gordon Wasson, a J. P. Morgan vice-president who almost single-handedly introduced the world to magic mushrooms. Millman considers why fungi are among the most significant organisms on our planet and how they are currently being affected by destructive human behavior, including climate change. With charming drawings by artist and illustrator Amy Jean Porter, Fungipedia offers a treasure trove of scientific and cultural information. The world of mushrooms lies right at your door—be amazed!*

Tim Holtz Distressedables 2

A World of Curiosities

A Brief Compendium of Dinosaur Lore

The Madman's Library

A Cabinet of Medical Curiosities

A Compendium of Kisses

Curiosities of Paris: An idiosyncratic guide to overlooked delights... hidden in plain sight

Whether you're a born-and-raised Alaskan, a recent transplant, or just passing through, Alaska Curiosities will have you laughing out loud as B. B. Mackenzie takes you on a rollicking tour of the strangest sides of the Last Frontier State. Catch a glimpse of the ghost ship Clara Nevada, lost in a storm in 1898 while carrying a cargo of gold from the Klondike. Watch a baseball game on the longest day of the year in Fairbanks. Witness the Running of the Reindeer down 4th Avenue in Anchorage—held annually in March.

A fascinating journey to little-known and contested lands around the globe, from Tibet to the Isle of Man to Elgaland-Vargaland (Geographical Magazine). What is a country? Acclaimed travel writer and Oxford geography don Nick Middleton brings to life the origins and histories of fifty states that, lacking international recognition and United Nations membership, exist on the margins of legitimacy in the global order. From long-contested lands like Crimea and Tibet to lesser-known territories such as Africa's last colony and a European republic that enjoyed independence for a single day, Middleton presents fascinating stories of shifting borders, visionary leaders, and "forgotten" peoples. "Engrossing . . . You'll not find Middle-earth, Atlantis or Lilliput inside, but you will find something just intriguing — sure to prompt discussions about what makes a country a "real country.'" —Seattle Times

Beautiful LEGO 2: Dark showcases dark LEGO masterpieces from artists around the world. From realistic sculptures of creepy crawlers to impressionist works of shadowy nightmares, this collection will leave you marveling at every turn. But dark has its lighter side, too—with sculptures of dark chocolate as well as plenty of black humor on display. Gothic fantasies and sci-fi horrors come to life in scenes created entirely with the simple LEGO brick. Step into a world of pure imagination in Beautiful LEGO 2: Dark.

Francophiles and Paris buffs will find something new and fascinating in this timeless guidebook, filed with sites, passageways, hotels, shops, and more What if—walking around Paris—instead of seeing only the Paris of 2017, you glimpsed Paris in Revolutionary times? Or Paris when it was home to 80,000 horses; or Paris lit by gaslight; or medieval Paris? What if—walking down a block in Paris—you recognized the signs, mosaics, pieces of hardware, and architectural details as relics of many centuries that have stories to tell of past eras? This is what Curiosities of Paris reveals. Each of the book’s 800 photos of unique locations and architectural oddities—as well as utilitarian objects whose functions have long been obscured with the passage of time—discloses a previously unnoticed city. Even those who know Paris well might never have registered the thousands of details on every street that testify to the enduring presence of the past: the solar cannon at Invalides, street signs with the word “saint” and all fleur-de-lys removed; the unique features of Parisian street lighting. You’ll never look at an elm tree the same way again. And, with Curiosities of Paris as your guide, you’ll feel very in-the-know as you walk down the Champs-Élysées past all the auto dealerships. Organized by subject—including fountains and wells; centuries-old shop signs; vestiges of wars and ancient Egypt; hotels of legend; remarkable trees; sundials and meridians; equestrian Paris; romantic ruins; unusual tombs, stairways, and passageways; religious relics; mosaics; public barometers and thermometers; and hundreds more urban elements and anachronisms—the book also includes three themed walks (along the city’s ancient walls, in the steps of Quasimodo, and through the French Revolution), as well as an index of street names. This absorbing compendium is an essential addition to the library of the armchair traveler and flâneur alike.

The Double Dangerous Book for Boys

Volume III

An Unconventional Compendium of Health Facts and Oddities, from Asthmatic Mice to Plants that Can Kill

Bibliophile

A Compendium of Fifty Unrecognized and Largely Unnoticed States

214 Things You Can Actually Learn How to Do

A Compendium of Scotch Whisky

A captivating A–Z treasury about birds and birding Birdpedia is an engaging illustrated compendium of bird facts and birding lore. Featuring nearly 200 entries—on topics ranging from plumage and migration to birds in art, literature, and folklore—this enticing collection is brimming with wisdom and wit about all things avian. Christopher Leahy sheds light on “hawk-watching,” “twitching,” and other rituals from the sometimes mystifying world of birding that entail a good deal more than their names imply. He explains what kind of bird’s nests you can eat, why mocking birds mock, and many other curiosities that have induced otherwise sane people to peer into treecrofts using outrageously expensive optical equipment. Leahy shares illuminating insights about pioneering ornithologists such as John James Audubon and Florence Bailey, and describes unique bird behaviors such as anting, caching, duetting, and mobbing. He discusses avian fossils, the colloquial naming of birds, the science and history of ornithology, and more. The book’s convenient size makes it the perfect traveling companion to take along on your own avian adventures. With charming illustrations by Abby McBride, Birdpedia is a marvelous mix of fact and fancy that is certain to fascinate birders and armchair naturalists alike. Features a real cloth cover with an elaborate foil-stamped design.

A delightful illustrated treasury of botanical facts and fancy Florapedia is an eclectic A–Z compendium of botanical lore. With more than 100 enticing entries—on topics ranging from achlorophyllous plants that use a fungus as an intermediary to obtain nutrients from other plants to zygomorphic flowers that admit only the most select pollinators—this collection is a captivating journey into the realm of botany. Writing in her incomparably engaging style, Carol Gracie discusses remarkable plants from around the globe, botanical art and artists, early botanical explorers, ethnobotanical uses of plants, botanical classification and terminology, the role of plants in history, and more. She shares illuminating facts about van Gogh’s sunflowers and reveals how a hallucinogenic weed left its enduring mark on the early history of the Jamestown colony. Gracie describes the travels of John and William Bartram—father and son botanists and explorers who roamed widely in early America in search of plants—and delves into the miniature ecosystems entangled in Spanish moss. The book’s convenient size allows for it to be tucked into a pocket or bag, making it the perfect companion on your own travels. With charming drawings by Amy Jean Porter,

Florapedia is the ideal gift book for the plant enthusiast in your life and a rare pleasure for anyone interested in botanical art, history, medicine, or exploration.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER “It’s undeniably thrilling to find words for our strangest feelings...Koenig casts light into lonely corners of human experience...An enchanting book. ”—*The Washington Post* A truly original book in every sense of the word. The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows poetically defines emotions that we all feel but don't have the words to express—until now. Have you ever wondered about the lives of each person you pass on the street, realizing that everyone is the main character in their own story, each living a life as vivid and complex as your own? That feeling has a name: “sonder.” Or maybe you’ve watched a thunderstorm roll in and felt a primal hunger for disaster, hoping it would shake up your life. That’s called “lachesism.” Or you were looking through old photos and felt a pang of nostalgia for a time you’ve never actually experienced. That’s “anemoia.” If you’ve never heard of these terms before, that’s because they didn’t exist until John Koenig set out to fill the gaps in our language of emotion. The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows “creates beautiful new words that we need but do not yet have.” says John Green, bestselling author of *The Fault in Our Stars*. By turns poignant, relatable, and mind-bending, the words Koenig coins are drawn from languages around the world, interspersed with otherworldly collages and lyrical essays that explore forgotten corners of the human condition—from “astrophe,” the longing to explore beyond the planet Earth, to “zerisyne,” the sense that time keeps getting faster. The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows is for anyone who enjoys a shift in perspective, pondering the inefable feelings that make up our lives. With a gorgeous package and beautiful illustrations throughout, this is the perfect gift for creatives, word nerds, and human beings everywhere. From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, everything you never knew you never knew about every country on Earth. A scientist by training and an explorer by passion, Dr. John Oskala has logged half a million miles visiting more than ninety nations. Now, he celebrates our weird and wonderful world in a cornucopia of fascinating facts brought vividly to life through the unexpected stories behind them. Touching on history, travel, politics, natural history and more, he paints a unique portrait of each country from the mightiest to the most minuscule. You won't find the following in your average travel guide: Why is kissing on trains banned in France? - In what country are litigants expected to present their case at court in the form of a poem? - Which war did women win in 1929 just by sitting down? - If Panama hats aren't from Panama, where are they from? - Who eat fesh camel dung as a cure for dysentery (and why does it work)? - Why were US disk jockeys once told they could play birthday requests on any day except the one requested? - Which modern dictator banned old age, libraries and gold teeth, and was later replaced by his dentist? - And 2,000 more funny, trivial, poignant, and telling facts A must for active and armchair globe-trotters alike, A World of Curiosities will engross anyone who is at all curious about the world beyond their door. Explore and enjoy.

Beautiful LEGO 2: Dark

From the Sun and Moon to Wormholes and Warp Drive, Key Theories, Discoveries, and Facts about the Universe

Fungipedia

A Book of the Sea

Storey's Curious Compendium of Practical and Obscure Skills

An Illustrated Miscellany

A Brief Compendium of Insect Lore

This fascinating and bizarre collection compiles the most unusual, obscure books from the far reaches of the human imagination throughout history. From the author of the critically acclaimed bestsellers *The Phantom Atlas* and *The Sky Atlas* comes a unique and beautifully illustrated journey through the history of literature. *The Madman’s Library* delves into its darkest territories to hunt down the oddest books and manuscripts ever written, uncovering the intriguing stories behind their creation. From the Qur’an written in the blood of Saddam Hussein, to the gorgeously decorated fifteenth-century lawsuit filed by the Devil against Jesus, to the most enormous book ever created, *The Madman’s Library* features many long forgotten, eccentric, and extraordinary volumes gathered from around the world. Books written in blood and books that kill, books of the insane and books that hoaxed the globe, books invisible to the naked eye and books so long they could destroy the Universe, books worn into battle and books of code and cypher whose secrets remain undiscovered. Spell books, alchemist scrolls, wearable books, edible books, books to summon demons, books written by ghosts, and more all come together in the most curiously strange library imaginable. Featuring hundreds of remarkable images and packed with entertaining facts and stories to discover, *The Madman’s Library* is a captivating compendium perfect for bibliophiles, literature enthusiasts, and collectors intrigued by bizarre oddities, obscure history, and the macabre. • MUST-HAVE FOR BOOKLOVERS: Anyone who appreciates a good read will love delving into this weird world of books and adding this collection to their own bookshelf. • DISCOVER SOMETHING TRULY UNIQUE: *The Madman’s Library* will let you in on the secret and obscure histories of the strangest books ever made. • EXPERT AUTHOR: Edward Brooke-Hitching is the son of an antiquarian book dealer, a lifelong rare book collector, and a master of taking visual deep dives into unusual historical subjects, such as the maps of imaginary geography in *The Phantom Atlas* or ancient pathways through the stars in *The Sky Atlas*.

Explore the curiosities of our galaxy with this comprehensive, digestible guide to astronomy! Too often, textbooks obscure the beauty and wonder of outer space with tedious discourse that even Galileo would oppose. Astronomy 101 cuts out the boring details and lengthy explanations, and instead, gives you a lesson in astronomy that keeps you engaged as you discover what’s hidden beyond our starry sky. From the Big Bang and nebulae to the Milky Way and Sir Isaac Newton, this celestial primer is packed with hundreds of entertaining astronomy facts, charts, and photographs you won’t be able to get anywhere else. So whether you’re looking to unravel the mystery behind black holes, or just want to learn more about your favorite planets, Astronomy 101 has all the answers—even the ones you didn’t know you were looking for.

Long ago, curiosities were arranged in cabinets for display: a dried mermaid might be next to a giant’s shinbone, the skeletons of conjoined twins beside an Egyptian mummy. In ten essays, Jan Bondeson brings a physician’s diagnostic skills to various unexpected, gruesome, and extraordinary aspects of the history of medicine: spontaneous human combustion, colonies of snakes and frogs living in a person’s stomach, kings and emperors devoured by lice, vicious tribes of tailed men, and the Two-Headed Boy of Bengal. Bondeson tells the story of Mary Toft, who gained notoriety in 1726 when she allegedly gave birth to seventeen rabbits. King George I, the Prince of Wales, and the court physicians attributed these monstrous births to a “maternal impression” because Mary had longed for a meal of rabbit while pregnant. Bondeson explains that the fallacy of maternal impressions, conspicuous in the novels of Goethe, Sir Walter Scott, and Charles Dickens, has ancient roots in Chinese and Babylonian manuscripts. Bondeson also presents the tragic case of Julia Pastrana, a Mexican Indian woman with thick hair growing over her body and a massive overgrowth of the gums that gave her a simian or ape-like appearance. Called the Ape Woman, she was exhibited all over the world. After her death in 1860, Julia’s husband, who had also been her impresario, had her body mummified and continued to exhibit it throughout Europe. Bondeson tracked the mummy down and managed to diagnose Julia Pastrana’s condition as the result of a rare genetic syndrome.

Drawn from 35 years of publishing trusted how-to books, this visual volume gathers entertaining and practical step-by-step knowledge from Storey Publishing’s wide-ranging library, covering topics from gardening and animal husbandry to wilderness survival skills, home repair and improvement, cooking, and self-care.

The Book of Marvels

Quiky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff

Strange Beasts of China

A Brief Compendium of Geologic Curiosities

The Strangest Books, Manuscripts and Other Literary Curiosities from History

An authority on Scotch Whisky An ideal addition to a collection of whisky books for beginners or whisky distilling books Fantastic gift for any whisky lovers Have you ever wondered why Scotch whisky tastes the way it does? Have you ever questioned the history of whisky and how its flavor notes have changed over the years? If so, then this book is for you! The flavor of Scotch whisky is influenced by a combination of history, craft, science, and tradition. Whether it is single mal or you will learn something about it in this book. This book on scotch is also a compendium of curiosities! Learn about bottles of scotch, including orbit bottle labels, whiskey green labels, and more. Whiskypedia also outlines information about individual distilleries. Each one provides their whiskies with unique characteristics. They are grounded in the craft and custom of the distillery and its district, but the real key influences on the flavor are how the spirit is matured, the distilling equipment operated. This guide explores all of those influences and more. Whiskypedia is the first comprehensive source of the flavor and character of every malt whisky in Scotland. Written by Charles MacLean, “a world authority on malt whisky” (Daily Telegraph), shares his wisdom throughout this book. The history of Scotch whisky and information on Scotch distilling are also included. John MacPherson’s stunning photos compliment the text well. This is an ideal book about Scotch for any of our Good Books and Arcade imprints. is proud to publish a broad range of cookbooks, including books on juicing, grilling, baking, frying, home brewing and winemaking, slow cookers, and cast iron cooking. We’ve been successful with books on gluten-free cooking, vegetarian and vegan cooking, paleo, raw foods, and more. Our list includes French cooking, Swedish cooking, Austrian and German cooking, Cajun cooking, as well as books on jerky, canning and preserving, peanut butter, m and more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home.

From the duo behind the massively successful and award-winning podcast Stuff You Should Know comes an unexpected look at things you thought you knew. Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant started the podcast Stuff You Should Know back in 2008 because they were curious—curious about the world around them, curious about what they might have missed in their formal educations, and curious to dig deeper on stuff they thought they understood. As it turns out, they aren’t the fan base, making Stuff You Should Know one of the most popular podcasts in the world. Armed with their inquisitive natures and a passion for sharing, they uncover the weird, fascinating, delightful, or unexpected elements of a wide variety of topics. The pair have now taken their near-boundless “whys” and “hows” from your earbuds to the pages of a book for the first time—featuring a completely new array of subjects that they’ve long wondered about and wanted to explore. E visual material to allow for rabbit-hole tangents and digressions—including charts, illustrations, sidebars, and footnotes. Follow along in the two dig into the underlying stories of everything from the origin of Murphy beds, to the history of facial hair, to the psychology of being lost. Have you ever wondered about the world around you, and wished to see the magic in everyday things? Come get curious with Stuff You Should Know. With Josh and Chuck as your guide, there’s some jam-packed fun!

Perfect gift for book lovers, writers and your book club Book lovers rejoice! In this love letter to all things bookish, Jane Mount brings literary people, places, and things to life through her signature and vibrant illustrations. Readers of Jane Mount’s Bibliophile will delight in: Touring the world’s most beautiful bookstores Testing their knowledge of the written word with quizzes Finding their next great read in lovingly curated stacks of books Sampling the most famous fictional male authors A source of endless inspiration, literary facts and recommendations: Bibliophile is pure bookish joy and sure to enchant book clubbers, English majors, poetry devotees, aspiring writers, and any and all who identify as book lovers. If you have read or own: I’d Rather Be Reading: The Delights and Dilemmas of the Reading Life: The Written World: The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, and Civilization: or How to Read Literature Like a Professor: A Lively and Entertaining Guide then you will want to read and own Jane Mount’s Bibliophile.

A New York Times Editors’ Choice and Notable Book of 2021 “Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror of 2021”—The Washington Post From one of the most exciting voices in contemporary Chinese literature, an uncanny and playful novel that blurs the line between human and beast... In the fictional Chinese city of Yong’an, an amateur cryptozoologist is commissioned to uncover the stories of its fabled beasts. These creatures live alongside humans in near-inconspicuousness—so strange birthmarks. Aided by her elusive former professor and his enigmatic assistant, our narrator sets off to document each beast, and is slowly drawn deeper into a mystery that threatens her very sense of self. Part detective story, part metaphysical enquiry, *Strange Beasts of China* engages existential questions of identity, humanity, love and morality with whimsy and stylistic verve.

Geopedia

Insectpedia

A Brief Compendium of Floral Lore

The Greatest Curiosities of Literature

Florapedia

A Brief Compendium of Avian Lore

Astronomy 101

An endlessly fascinating, beautifully designed survey of time—how long things take, how long things last, and how we spend our days Our relationship to time is complex and paradoxical: Time stands still. Time also flies. Tomorrow is another day. Yet there’s no time like the present. We want to do more in less time, but wish we could slow the clock. And despite all our time-saving devices—iPhones, DVRs, high-speed trains—Americans feel that they have less leisure time than ever. In an era when our time feels fractured and imperiled, *The Book of Times* encourages readers to ponder time used and time spent. How long does it take to find a new mate, digest a hamburger, or compose a symphony? How much time do we spend daydreaming, texting, and getting ready for work? The book challenges our beliefs and urges us to consider how, and why, some things get faster, some things slow down, and some things never change (the need for seven to eight hours of sleep). Packed with compelling charts, lists, and quizzes, as well as new and intriguing research, *The Book of Times* is an addictive, browsable, and provocative look at the idea of time from every direction.

Tim Holtz shares fabulous tips and techniques for distress art and collage with paper crafts in this great book. Learn how to use decorative papers, image strips, mini folders, slide mounts and metal accents in great collage art. Tips and hints are for collage, stamping, aging, inking and embossing. Create and embellish scrapbook pages,cards,albums,board books,mini file folder booklets and jewelry.
The Magic and the Wardrobe - A Curiosity of Folklore, Magic and Spells, is a lovingly curated compendium of time-honored traditions and curious customs that have bewitched us for generations. Discover simple magic, heirloom recipes and forgotten fairytales in this eclectic treasury. The twelve chapters, representative of the seasons, present the celebrations, superstitions and folklore that shape our year. From ancient traditions like Valentine’s Day to the last excitement of May Day, The Magic and the Wardrobe reveals a calendar bursting with history, imagination and curious facts. Take a closer look at your favourite homespun rituals and the magic we conjure every day; make a candle wish, mix a moon oil elixir, and hang your romantic hopes on the predictions of an apple peat. Illustrated by a unique collection of ephemera and embellish with trinkets and charms, this sumptuous volume will appeal to the creative and curious. Digital version available in an enhanced ebook format.
Presents techniques and ideas for creating nontraditional handicraft art, including using rubber stamps, altered metal, and distressed fabric to create trinkets, buttons, fasteners, and homemade paper.

A Compendium of Knowledge from the Classical Islamic World

The Medicine Cabinet of Curiosities

A Brief Compendium of Mushroom Lore

A Brief Compendium of Arboreal Lore

Stories from the Underground

Birdpedia

The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows

Did you know that knitting burns 102 calories per hour? That November is national Knit a Sweater month? Filled with fun facts and trivia, "Knitting Ephemera "contains 300 entries covering everything from knitting in history, folklore, and pop culture to little-known info on wool and sheep. This engaging knitter s treasury features tips and techniques, along with illuminating illustrations."

A fun and fact-filled A–Z treasury for the insect lover in all of us Insectpedia introduces you to the wonders of the insect world while inviting you to make discoveries of your own. Featuring dozens of entries on topics ranging from murder hornets and the “insect apocalypse” to pioneering entomologists such as Margaret James Strickland Collins and Douglas Tallamy, this beautifully illustrated encyclopedia dispels many common myths about insects while offering new perspectives on the vital relationships we share with these incredible creatures. This entertaining collection celebrates the long and storied history of entomology, highlights our dependence on insects for food and ecosystem services, and explains the meaning behind various entomological terms. With Eric Eaton as your guide, you

will circle the globe in search of African Toktokkies and Australian beer bottle beetles, and witness the peculiar spectacle of cricket fighting in Asia. Profiles of influential figures in entomology provide insights into the curious minds that animate this extraordinarily broad field of scientific inquiry, while the book’s portable size makes it the perfect travel companion no matter where your own entomological adventures may lead you. With captivating illustrations by Amy Jean Porter, Insectpedia is an engaging blend of insect facts and folklore that will inspire anyone who delights in the marvels of nature. Features a real cloth cover with an elaborate foil-stamped design

Not your typical how to book, but inspirational papercraft and mixed media projects designed by Tim Holtz.

An illuminating and entertaining collection of dinosaur facts, from A to Z Dinopedia is an illustrated, pocket-friendly encyclopedia of all things dinosaurian. Featuring dozens of entries on topics ranging from hadrosaur nesting colonies to modern fossil hunters and paleontologists such as Halszka Osmólska and Paul Sereno, this amazing A–Z compendium is brimming with facts about these thrilling, complex, and sophisticated animals. Almost everything we know about dinosaurs has changed in recent decades. A scientific revolution, kick-started in the late 1960s by astounding new discoveries and a succession of new ideas, has shown that these magnificent creatures were marvels of evolution that surpassed modern reptiles and mammals in size, athletic abilities, and more. Darren Naish sheds invaluable light on our current, fast-changing understanding of dinosaur diversity and evolutionary history, and discusses the cultural impacts of dinosaurs through books, magazines, and movies. Naish also shows how our emerging view of these animals is very much a human story about ambition and competing egos, revealing that controversy and disagreement are commonplace in the vigorous field of dinosaur studies. With a wealth of original illustrations by the author, Dinopedia is an informative and entertaining collection of lore for the dinosaur lover in all of us. Features a real cloth cover with an elaborate foil-stamped design

Breverton’s Phantasmagoria

A Compendium of Everyday Things

You’ll Never Believe it

Breverton’s Nautical Curiosities

Tim Holtz Distressables

An Atlas of Countries That Don’t Exist

Surprising, Interesting, and Downright Unbelievable Facts from Every Nation on t he Planet

A garden of geologic delights for all Earthlings Geopedia is a trove of geologic wonders and the evocative terms that humans have devised to describe them. Featuring dozens of entries—from Acasta gneiss to Zircon—this illustrated compendium is brimming with lapidary and lexical insights that will delight rockhounds and word lovers alike. Geoscientists are magpies for words, and with good reason. The sheer profusion of minerals, landforms, and geologic events produced by our creative planet demands an immense vocabulary to match. Marcia Bjornerud shows how this lexicon reflects not only the diversity of rocks and geologic processes but also the long history of human interactions with them. With wit and warmth, she invites all readers to celebrate the geologic glossary—a gallimaufry of allusions to mythology, imports from diverse languages, embarrassing anachronisms, and recent neologisms. This captivating book includes cross-references at the end of each entry, inviting you to leave the alphabetic trail and meander through it like a river. Its pocket-friendly size makes it the perfect travel companion no matter where your own geologic forays may lead you. With whimsical illustrations by Haley Hagerman, Geopedia is a mix of engaging and entertaining facts about how the earth works, how it has coevolved with life over billions of years, and how our understanding of the planet has deepened over time. Features a real cloth cover with an elaborate foil-stamped design

Breverton’s Nautical Curiosities is about ships, people and the sea. However, unlike many other nautical compendiums, the focus of this book is on the unusual, the overlooked or the downright extraordinary. Thus, someone most of us do not know, Admiral William Brown, is given equal coverage to Admiral Nelson. Without Admiral Brown releasing Garibaldi, modern Italy might not exist. And without the barely known genius John Ericsson designing the Monitor, the Confederacy might have won the American Civil War. Readers will be stimulated to read more about the remarkable men – explorers, admirals and trawlermen – who have shaped our world. The sea has had a remarkable effect upon our language. We hear the terms 'steer clear of', 'hit the deck', 'don't rock the boat', 'to harbour a grudge' and the like, and give little thought to them. In the pages of this book, the reader will find the origin of 'bumpkin', a 'brace of shakes', 'born with a silver spoon', 'booby prize', 'to take on board', 'above board', 'bombed' (in the sense of being drunk), the 'blues', 'blind-side', 'blind drunk', 'the pot calling the kettle black', 'reach the bitter end', 'wasters', 'ahoy', 'all at sea', 'to keep aloof', 'piss-artist', 'taken aback', 'barbecue'' and 'bamboozle'. Other colourful terms, which have passed out of common usage, such as 'bring one's arse to anchor' (sit down), 'bely timber' (food) and 'bog orange' (potato) are also included, as well as important pirate haunts, technical terms, famous battles, maritime inventors and ship speed records.

For the first time in English, a catalog of the world through fourteenth-century Arab eyes—a kind of Schott’s Miscellany for the Islamic Golden Age An astonishing record of the knowledge of a civilization, The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition catalogs everything known to exist from the perspective of a fourteenth-century Egyptian scholar and litterateur. More than 9,000 pages and thirty volumes—here abridged to one volume, and translated into English for the first time—it contains entries on everything from medieval moon-worshipping cults, sexual aphrodisiacs, and the substance of clouds, to how to get the smell of alcohol off one’s breath, the deliciousness of cheese made from buffalo milk, and the nesting habits of flamingos. Similar works by Western authors, including Pliny’s Natural History and Diderot’s Encyclopédie, have been available in English for centuries. This groundbreaking translation of a remarkable Arabic text—expertly abridged and annotated—offers a look at the world through the highly literary and impressively knowledgeable societies of the classical Islamic world. Meticulously arranged and delightfully eclectic, it is a compendium to be treasured—a true monument of erudition. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

From Lovecraft to Borges to Gaiman, a century of intrepid literary experimentation has created a corpus of dark and strange stories that transcend all known genre boundaries. Together these stories form The Weird, and its practitioners include some of the greatest names in twentieth and twenty-first century literature. Exotic and esoteric, The Weird plunges you into dark domains and brings you face to face with surreal monstrosities. You won't find any elves or wizards here...but you will find the biggest, boldest, and downright most peculiar stories from the last hundred years bound together in the biggest Weird collection ever assembled. The Weird features 110 stories by an all-star cast, from literary legends to international bestsellers to Booker Prize winners: including William Gibson, George R. R. Martin, Stephen King, Angela Carter, Kelly Link, Franz Kafka, China Miéville, Clive Barker, Haruki Murakami, M. R. James, Neil Gaiman, Mervyn Peake, and Michael Chabon. The Weird is the winner of the 2012 World Fantasy Award for Best Anthology At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition

Stuff You Should Know

Knitting Ephemera

Dinopedia

A Compendium of Curiosities from the Bizarre World of Ripley's Believe it Or Not

A Compendium of Curiosities

The Weird

Presents a look at odd and unique medical cases and cures, including a transfusion using sheep's blood and flesh-eating bacteria.

A Globe and Mail top 100 book of 2012 In a series of playful and startling prose meditations, celebrated writer Lorna Crozier brings her rapt attention to the small matter of household objects: everything from doorknobs, washing machines, rakes, and zippers to the kitchen sink. Operating as a sort of literary detective, she examines the mystery of the everyday, seeking the essence of each object. She offers tantalizing glimpses of the household's inhabitants, too, probing hearts, brains, noses, and navels. Longing, exuberance, and grief colour her reflections, which at times take on the tenor of folktales or parables. Each of the short portraits in The Book of Marvels stands alone, but the connections are intricate as in life, each object gains meaning from its juxtaposition with others. Crozier approaches her investigations with a childlike curiosity, an adult bemusement, and an unflinling sense of metaphor and mischief. With both charm and mordant wit, she animates the panoply of wonders to be found everywhere around us and inside us.

Tim shares techniques and tricks for aging,distressing,collage,painting, and more. Create cards, jewelry, scrapbooks, and more.

From dragons and wyverns to vampires, werewolves and mischievous gremlins, pixies and fairies, Breverton’s Phantasmagoria is a unique compendium of over 250 mythical animals. Prepare to revisit familiar myths, such as vampires, werewolves and the Loch Ness Monster, the Minotaur and Medusa from Greek legend, and Biblical beasts such as Behemoth and Leviathan. Discover new mysterious animals like the giant serpents of Central America, the lethal Mongolian death worm, and the Emnedi tiger in Africa, and investigate the evidence for sightings of Bigfoot and the reclusive Yeti. Packed with quirky line illustrations and a wealth of weird and wonderful information, Breverton’s Phantasmagoria surveys the globe to uncover over 250 imaginary creatures passed down from generation to generation.

Whiskypedia

The Book of Times

The Uncyclopedia

An Incomplete Compendium of Mostly Interesting Things