

Bonk : the curious coupling of science and sex (2008)

by Mary Roach

The study of sexual physiology has taken place behind the closed doors of laboratories, brothels, MRI centers, pig farms, sex-toy R&D labs, and Alfred Kinsey's attic. Mary Roach,

"the funniest science writer in the country," devoted the past two years to stepping behind those doors.

The canon : a whirligig tour of the beautiful basics of science (2007)

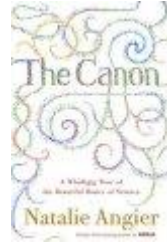
by Natalie Angier

An entertaining guide to scientific literacy--a joyride through the major scientific disciplines:

physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy. It's for anyone who wants to

understand the great issues of our time--from stem cells and bird flu to evolution and global warming. It's also one of

those rare books that reignites our childhood delight in figuring out how things work.



The disappearing spoon : and other true tales of madness, love, and the history of the world from the periodic table of the elements (2010)

by Sam Kean

The periodic table of the elements is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of passion, adventure,

obsession, and betrayal. These tales follow carbon, neon, silicon, gold, and all the elements in the table as they play out their parts in human history.

Do elephants jump? (2004)

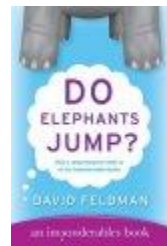
by David Feldman

Ponder, if you will... Why do pianos have 88 keys?

How does the hole get in the needle of a syringe?

Why is peanut butter sticky? Charmingly illustrated

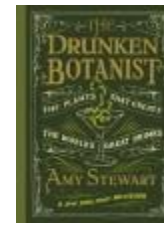
by Kassie Schwan, this book provides you with small mysteries that puzzle and amaze us.



The drunken botanist : the plants that create the world's great drinks (2013)

by Amy Stewart

Amy Stewart explores the dizzying array of herbs, flowers, trees, fruits, and fungi that humans have, through ingenuity, inspiration, and sheer desperation, contrived to transform into alcohol over the centuries.



Freakonomics : a rogue economist explores the hidden side of everything (2005)

by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

Which is more dangerous, a gun or a swimming pool? What do schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers have in common? Why do

drug dealers still live with their moms? Levitt studies the stuff and riddles of everyday life--from cheating

and crime to sports and child rearing--and his conclusions regularly turn the conventional wisdom on its head.

Gulp : adventures on the alimentary canal (2013)

by Mary Roach

Few of us realize what strange wet miracles of science operate inside us after every meal. This

book investigates the beginning, and end, of our food, addressing such questions as: why

crunchy food is so appealing, why it is hard to find words for flavors and smells, why the stomach doesn't digest itself,

how much we can eat before our stomachs burst, and whether constipation killed Elvis.

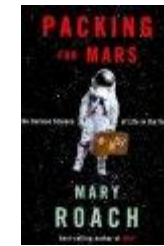


How we got to now : six innovations that made the modern world (2014)

by Steven Johnson

Filled with surprising stories of accidental genius and brilliant mistakes, How We Got to Now investigates the secret history behind the

everyday objects of contemporary life.



Packing for Mars : the curious science of life in the void (2010)

by Mary Roach

Space exploration is in some ways an exploration of what it means to be human.

How much can a person give up? How much weirdness can they take? What happens to

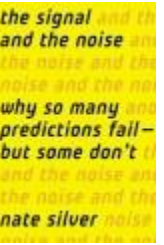
you when you can't walk for a year? have sex? smell flowers? What happens if you vomit in your helmet during a space walk?

The signal and the noise : why most predictions fail-- but some don't (2012)

by Nate Silver

Silver built an innovative system for predicting baseball performance, predicted the 2008

election within a hair's breadth, and became a national sensation as a blogger.



Stuff matters : exploring the marvelous materials that shape our man-made world (2014)

by Mark Miodownik

Why is glass see-through? What makes elastic stretchy? Why does a paperclip bend? With

clarity and humor, world-leading materials scientist Mark Miodownik answers all the questions you've

ever had about your pens, spoons, and razor blades, while also introducing a whole world full of materials you've never even heard of.

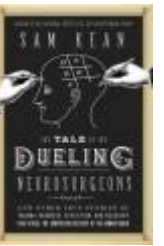
The tale of the dueling neurosurgeons : the history of the human brain as revealed by true stories of trauma, madness, and recovery (2014)

by Sam Kean

Sam Kean explains the brain's secret

passageways and recounts forgotten tales of

the ordinary people whose struggles, resilience, and deep humanity made modern neuroscience possible.





Thing explainer : complicated stuff in simple words (2015)

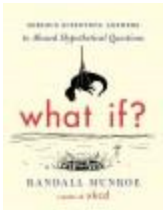
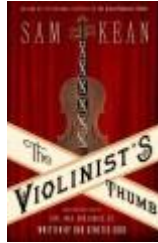
by Randall Munroe

The creator of the popular webcomic "xkcd" uses line drawings and just ten hundred common words to provide simple explanations for how things work, including microwaves, bridges, tectonic plates, the solar system, the periodic table, helicopters, and other essential concepts.

The violinist's thumb : and other lost tales of love, war, and genius, as written by our genetic code (2012)

by Sam Kean

Explores the wonders of the magical building block of life: DNA. There are genes to explain crazy cat ladies, why other people have no fingerprints, and why some people survive nuclear bombs. Genes illuminate everything from JFK's bronze skin (it wasn't a tan) to Einstein's genius.



What if? : serious scientific answers to absurd hypothetical questions (2014)

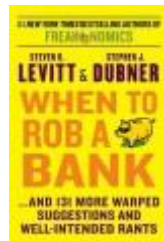
by Randall Munroe

People ask Munroe a lot of strange questions. What if you tried to hit a baseball pitched at 90 percent the speed of light? How fast can you hit a speed bump while driving and live? If there was a robot apocalypse, how long would humanity last? His responses are masterpieces of clarity and hilarity, complemented by signature xkcd comics.

When to rob a bank : ... and 131 more warped suggestions and well-intended rants (2015)

by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the landmark book Freakonomics comes this curated collection from the most readable economics blog in the universe.



Why do men have nipples? : hundreds of questions you'd only ask a doctor after your third martini (2005)

by Mark Leyner and Billy Goldberg

Say you're at a party. You've had a martini or three, and you mingle through the crowd; suddenly you're introduced to someone new, Dr. Nice Tomeetya. Now is the perfect time to bring up all those strange questions you'd like to ask during an office visit with your own doctor but haven't had the guts to do so. You're filled with liquid courage... now is your chance!



Wicked bugs : the louse that conquered Napoleon's army & other diabolical insects (2011)

by Amy Stewart

In this darkly comical look at the sinister side of our relationship with the natural world, Stewart has tracked down over one hundred of our worst entomological foes-creatures that infest, infect, and generally wreak havoc on human affairs.

Wicked plants : the weed that killed Lincoln's mother & other botanical atrocities (2009)

by Amy Stewart

Stewart takes on over two hundred of Mother Nature's most appalling creations. It's an A to Z of plants that kill, maim, intoxicate, and otherwise offend. You'll learn which plants to avoid (like exploding shrubs), which plants make themselves exceedingly unwelcome (like the vine that ate the South), and which ones have been killing for centuries (like the weed that killed Abraham Lincoln's mother).



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