

great non-fiction 2



More outstanding true stories that will keep you absorbed and entertained.

A Ball, a Dog, and a Monkey (629.45/DAN) by Michael D'Antonio

The launch of *Sputnik 1*, the first orbital satellite, by Soviet Russia in 1957 caused America to begin pouring even more money and resources into the space race. This is an entertaining account of an era of exploding rockets and orbiting dogs.

Brother I'm Dying (813.54/DAN) by Edwidge Danticat

This is a wonderfully moving story of the author's relationship with her father and his brother. When her parents left Haiti for a better life she was left in the care of her uncle Joseph, who became her second father. When, in his eighties, he fled to the USA in search of safety, the outcome was a tragic one.

Born Standing Up: a comic's life (792.7028/MAR) by Steve Martin

In 1978 Steve Martin was pulling in thousands to his solo stand up comedy concerts. In 1981 he stopped, never to perform another. In this book he tells us how he developed his act, got to the top, and explains why he quit.

The Black Swan (003.54/TAL) by Nassim Taleb

For years the author has studied how we fool ourselves into believing we know more than we actually do. We think about inconsequential things while large and completely unexpected events continue to shape our world. Black swans were once considered an impossibility, until they were discovered in Australia.

Circling My Mother (813.54/GOR) by Mary Gordon

Mary Gordon, a successful novelist, writes about her mother Anna. She was an immigrant who lived through the Great Depression and the second world war and who also managed to raise her daughter alone in spite of many setbacks. She

was one of five sisters from an unhappy Irish-Italian family and was a devout Catholic who had platonic relationships with several priests.

The Coldest Winter (951.9042/HAL) by David Halberstam

In 1950, just five years after the end of the Second World War, America became embroiled in another conflict in a little known nation in the Far East. In this gripping narrative of the Korean War, Halberstam tells a story that has been ignored for many years.

Musicophilia: tales of music and the brain (781.11/SAC) by Oliver Sacks
Sacks, the author of 'Awakenings', shows us again that our brains have the capacity to confound us. He examines the extraordinary power of music using the experiences of patients, musicians and everyday people. If you have ever heard music in your head this book will show that you are not alone.

Travels with Herodotus (930/KAP) by Richard Kapuscinski

As a young novice reporter in communist Poland in 1955 the author longed to travel outside his own country. He thought that he might be assigned to go to Czechoslovakia but, to his great surprise, was sent to India. He took a volume of Herodotus with him and, with the aid of this traveler from ancient times, began to fathom the mysteries of the east.

Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters (155.7/MIL) by Alan S. Miller and Satoshi Kanazawa

Why do we do the things that we do? This is a lively and readable look at human nature that throws new light on everything from dating and shopping to going to war.

The Year of Eating Dangerously (641.013/PAR) by Tom Parker Bowles

All over the world people eat food that other cultures consider revolting. Tom Parker Bowles takes his appetite and spirit of adventure on a trip to try some of these exotic foods. The results are funny and informative.

The Zookeeper's Wife (940.5318/ACK) by Diane Ackerman

After the Nazis occupied Poland the director of the Warsaw Zoo and his wife hid more than 300 Jews in their house and in outbuildings. The book draws on the wartime journals of Antonia Zabinski and vividly conveys the unselfish courage of this remarkable couple.

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