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KEY=OF - SALAZAR MELANY

Bizarre Books A Compendium of Classic Oddities [Harper Collins](#) They say you can't judge a book by its cover—but its title can tell you more than you ever needed to know! Amazing, illuminating, and gut-bustingly funny, **Bizarre Books** is the wonderfully twisted product of more than two decades of determined searching in forgotten corners of out-of-the-way libraries and through the literary detritus of eclectic private collections. It is certain to delight every true fan of trivia and the patently absurd. **Orange Proverbs and Purple Parables The Enterprise of Reading the Holy Scriptures as Scripture** [Wipf and Stock Publishers](#) In the words of Saint Augustine, the Bible is long, complicated, and difficult to read. **Orange Proverbs & Purple Parables** is a book about reading the Bible. How does one become a more spiritually discerning and critically appreciative reader of the Holy Scriptures? What does it take to become a better interpreter of biblical texts? This book explores wide-ranging approaches and considerations germane to the enterprise of reading. The catch phrase used throughout the book is that of reading the Holy Scriptures as scripture. What goes into reading the Bible as scripture? What are some of the major elements inherent in this endeavor that should be of concern to the one who aspires to become a deep, thoughtful reader and an effective interpreter? This book weaves through a labyrinth of characters and disciplines as it explores this enterprise of reading the Holy Scriptures. The likes of Chomsky, Augustine, neuroscience, Barth, linguistics, theological interpretation, Origen, metaphor theory, devotional reading, and Jerome, along with many more people and fields of inquiry, are all garnered to encourage the reader in an exploration of the enterprise of reading the Holy Scriptures. **Ruminations, Volume 2, Dawns and Departures Selected Philosophical, Historical, and Ideological Papers** [Gegensatz Press](#) Essays and other short works on Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, socialism, Stirner, Feuerbach, Karl Schmidt, art, religion, popular music, suicide, games, humor, and general culture. **The Pleasures of Reading: A Booklover's Alphabet** [ABC-CLIO](#) Based on years of ground-breaking research, this book supplies a look at the unique relationship between each text and the individual reader that results in a satisfying, pleasurable, and even life-changing reading experience. • Supplies succinct, authoritative, and readable accounts on a wide range of genre literature and explains why these types of books appeal to readers • Promotes the librarian's role with readers and helps librarians design readers' advisory services to better serve readers • Offers valuable insights into readers and reading based on reading research • Includes an extensive bibliography and list of relevant titles for further reading • Provides a fascinating read for librarians, educators, and avid readers **A Cabinet of Medical Curiosities** [Cornell University Press](#) 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. **Fish Who Answer the Telephone and Other Bizarre Books** Out of the tens of thousands of books published every year, a significant proportion are unintentionally funny or just plain loopy. Bringing these choice works together, Russell Ash and Brian Lake discuss the extraordinary titles: 'Aeroplane Designing For Amateurs', 'How To Draw a Straight Line' and 'Phone Calls From The Dead'. Boring, Botty and Spong [Random House](#) Have you ever visited a town called Bacon? Or met a man named Hamster? Or eaten at the Frying Nemo chip shop? If not then you'll love this hilarious guide to the strangest names on Earth - from wacky places and bizzare people, to the fascinating stories of where everyday items get their totally weird names."--Back cover. **The Inscribed List : Or, why Librarians are Crazy Hilarious Real Names of Real People from Library Catalogs** What do Ludwig von Baldass, Theodore Rolly Ball, John Cawte Beaglehole, Guido van Deth, Fulvia de Cunto Fadigas, Dingle

Foot, Rev. Daniel Parish Kidder, Thomas Strangeways Pigg-Strangeways, Franciscus Petrus Hubertus Prick van Wely, Walter Lytle Pyle, Hendrik Peter Godfried Quack, Lazar Shitnitzky, Elephant Smith, Preserved Smith, Increase Niles Tarbox, and over 2000 others have in common? They are all real names of real people. They are all verified entries in library catalogs. They are all on The Inscribed List. The Inscribed List, or, Why Librarians Are Crazy Hilarious Real Names of Real People from Library Catalogs [Gegensatz Press](#) What do Ludwig von Baldass, Theodore Rolly Ball, John Cawte Beaglehole, Guido van Deth, Fulvia de Cunto Fadigas, Dingle Foot, Rev. Daniel Parish Kidder, Thomas Strangeways Pigg-Strangeways, Franciscus Petrus Hubertus Prick van Wely, Walter Lytle Pyle, Hendrik Peter Godfried Quack, Lazar Shitnitzky, Elephant Smith, Preserved Smith, Increase Niles Tarbox, and over 2000 others have in common? They are all real names of real people. They are all verified entries in library catalogs. They are all on The Inscribed List. A Cabinet of Medical Curiosities [W. W. Norton & Company](#) A collection of essays discussing historical medical oddities like spontaneous combustion and tailed people, offering a likely cause for the condition, and mentioning some real human oddities The Madman's Library The Strangest Books, Manuscripts and Other Literary Curiosities from History [Chronicle Books](#) 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. The Ultimate Ambition in the Arts of Erudition A Compendium of Knowledge from the Classical Islamic World [Penguin](#) 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. Take Me to Your Leader Weird Facts, Bizarre Stories, and Life's Oddities [Penguin](#) From pictures of dressed-up dogs to Bond Girls, and extreme sports to extreme weather, Take Me To Your Leader is packed with information that is curious, compelling, intriguing, and indispensable. With its innovative visual take on trivia, pop culture, and strange-but-true tales, this is an exciting, original, and hilarious look at humans and the world they've created. Ian Harrison is a part-time inventor and the author of numerous books on a variety of subjects ranging from ancient battlefields to modern inventions. His books have been translated into numerous languages, including Dutch, French, Norwegian, South Korean, Greek, Italian, Bulgarian, Afrikaans, and Estonian. The Book of Firsts, which was published in hardback in 2003, has sold over 100,000 copies and been translated into 14 languages. Illustrated by some of today's hottest illustrators and featuring specially commissioned artworks and photographs. It contains things you need to know and a lot you probably don't, but interesting anyway. The ideal gift book for list-lovers and trivia hounds. Associated websites link features in the book to the internet. It covers everything from urban myths to the best and worst of pop, rock, sports, and politics. It Just Slipped Out A Bulging Encyclopaedia of Double Entendres [Headline Book Pub Limited](#) 'Such was Catherine Morland at ten. At fifteen appearances were mending; she began to curl her hair and long for balls...' (Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey) 'Will it jerk me off?' (Margaret Thatcher, inspecting a field gun in the Falklands) 'You know, animals are very psychic. I mean, the least sign of danger and my pussy's hair stands on end' (Mrs Slocombe, Are You Being Served?) From the unwittingly filthy, to the gleefully subversive, double entendres have been making us

laugh for centuries. In this hilarious survey, Russell Ash uncovers some of history's dirtiest double meanings. From the smut lurking between the polished lines of literature's most revered writers, to the public innuendo accidents that have tripped up even the most respected of politicians, right through to the sly innuendo that has characterized some of our best-loved comedies, **IT JUST SLIPPED OUT** has it all. Cluck! The True Story of Chickens in the Cinema Vermont Curiosities Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff [Rowman & Littlefield](#) A fun, accessible read for travelers and non travelers alike Vermont Curiosities is part zany Vermont guidebook and part Who's Who of unusual and unsung heroes, this compendium of the state's quirks and characters will amuse Vermont residents and visitors alike. Montana Curiosities Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Offbeat Fun [Rowman & Littlefield](#) Montana Curiosities brings to the reader with humor and affection—and a healthy dose of attitude—the oddest, quirkiest, and most outlandish places, personalities, events, and phenomena found within the state's borders and in the chronicles of its history. A fun, accessible read, Montana Curiosities is a who's who of unusual and unsung heroes. This compendium of the state's quirks and characters will amuse Montana's residents and visitors alike. What Makes This Book So Great Re-Reading the Classics of Science Fiction and Fantasy [Tor Books](#) As any reader of Jo Walton's *Among Others* might guess, Walton is both an inveterate reader of SF and fantasy, and a chronic re-reader of books. In 2008, then-new science-fiction mega-site Tor.com asked Walton to blog regularly about her re-reading—about all kinds of older fantasy and SF, ranging from acknowledged classics, to guilty pleasures, to forgotten oddities and gems. These posts have consistently been among the most popular features of Tor.com. Now this volumes presents a selection of the best of them, ranging from short essays to long reassessments of some of the field's most ambitious series. Among Walton's many subjects here are the Zones of Thought novels of Vernor Vinge; the question of what genre readers mean by "mainstream"; the underappreciated SF adventures of C. J. Cherryh; the field's many approaches to time travel; the masterful science fiction of Samuel R. Delany; Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*; the early Hainish novels of Ursula K. Le Guin; and a Robert A. Heinlein novel you have most certainly never read. Over 130 essays in all, *What Makes This Book So Great* is an immensely readable, engaging collection of provocative, opinionated thoughts about past and present-day fantasy and science fiction, from one of our best writers. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. The Madman's Library The Greatest Curiosities of Literature [Simon and Schuster](#) * 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. Lo! [Library of Alexandria](#) *Alter Ego: The Comic Book Artist Collection* [TwoMorrows Publishing](#) See the material that heralded the return of Roy Thomas' ALTER EGO to the modern age of comics fandom! This 160-page trade paperback reprints the ALTER EGO sections from the flip-side of COMIC BOOK ARTIST #1-5, and includes over 30 PAGES OF NEW FEATURES and SUPER-RARE ART by JOE KUBERT, GIL KANE, JACK KIRBY, WALLY WOOD, FRANK ROBBINS, and others, plus a special color ALL-STAR SQUADRON cover by KUBERT! Featuring: A never-before-seen 1999 interview with GIL KANE! Extended coverage of THE INVADERS with art by KIRBY, ROBBINS, and DAVE HOOVER! STEVE DITKO on the creation of Spider-Man! The original synopsis of FANTASTIC FOUR #1- annotated by STAN LEE! The ROY THOMAS/NEAL ADAMS X-MEN, AVENGERS, and CONAN! Scarce art by STEVE DITKO- MICHAEL T. GILBERT- GENE COLAN- DICK GIORDANO- CARMINE INFANTINO- BOB KANE- NORMAN MAURER- MARSHALL ROGERS- ART SPIEGELMAN and others! Mark Z. Danielewski's *House of Leaves* [Pantheon](#) A family relocates to a small house on Ash Tree Lane and discovers that the inside of their new home seems to be without boundaries *Daily Rituals How Artists Work* [Knopf](#) From Beethoven and Kafka to George Sand, Picasso and Agatha Christie, this compilation of letters, diaries and interviews reveals the profound fusion of discipline and dissipation through which the artistic temperament is allowed to evolve, recharge and emerge. 20,000 first printing. *The Top 10 of Everything, 1999* [DK Publishing \(Dorling Kindersley\)](#) Contains top ten lists in a wide assortment of categories covering the universe, humans, crime, culture, music, entertainment, food, transportation, sports and other topics. *A World of Curiosities Surprising, Interesting, and Downright Unbelievable Facts from Every Nation on t he Planet* [Penguin](#) 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 Oldale 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 miniscule. 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 fresh 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. **Firefly's World of Facts** [Firefly Books Limited](#) Presents a collage of information about science, history, culture, and human civilization. **Flying Snakes and Griffin Claws And Other Classical Myths, Historical Oddities, and Scientific Curiosities** [Princeton University Press](#) A treasury of astonishing mythic marvels—and the surprising truths behind them Adrienne Mayor is renowned for exploring the borders of history, science, archaeology, anthropology, and popular knowledge to find historical realities and scientific insights—glimmering, long-buried nuggets of truth—embedded in myth, legends, and folklore. Combing through ancient texts and obscure sources, she has spent decades prospecting for intriguing wonders and marvels, historical mysteries, diverting anecdotes, and hidden gems from ancient, medieval, and modern times. **Flying Snakes and Griffin Claws** is a treasury of fifty of her most amazing and amusing discoveries. The book explores such subjects as how mirages inspired legends of cities in the sky; the true identity of winged serpents in ancient Egypt; how ghost ships led to the discovery of the Gulf Stream; and the beauty secrets of ancient Amazons. Other pieces examine Arthur Conan Doyle's sea serpent and Geronimo's dragon; Flaubert's obsession with ancient Carthage; ancient tattooing practices; and the strange relationship between wine goblets and women's breasts since the times of Helen of Troy and Marie Antoinette. And there's much, much more. Showcasing Mayor's trademark passion not to demythologize myths, but to uncover the fascinating truths buried beneath them, **Flying Snakes and Griffin Claws** is a wonder cabinet of delightful curiosities. **Elephants on Acid And Other Bizarre Experiments** [Pan Macmillan](#) The Sunday Times Top Ten Bestseller Have you ever wondered if a severed head retains consciousness long enough to see what happened to it? Or whether your dog would run to fetch help, if you fell down a disused mineshaft? And what would happen if you were to give an elephant the largest ever single dose of LSD? The chances are that someone, somewhere has conducted a scientific experiment to find out... 'Excellent accounts of some of the most important and interesting experiments in biology and psychology' Simon Singh If left to their own devices, would babies instinctively choose a well-balanced diet? Discover the secret of how to sleep on planes Which really tastes better in a blind tasting - Coke or Pepsi? The Mystery of the Exploding Teeth And Other Curiosities from the History of Medicine [Penguin](#) "Delightfully horrifying."--Popular Science This wryly humorous collection of stories about bizarre medical treatments and cases offers a unique portrait of a bygone era in all its jaw-dropping weirdness. A puzzling series of dental explosions beginning in the nineteenth century is just one of many strange tales that have long lain undiscovered in the pages of old medical journals. Award-winning medical historian Thomas Morris delivers one of the most remarkable, cringe-inducing collections of stories ever assembled. Witness Mysterious Illnesses (such as the Rhode Island woman who peed through her nose), Horrifying Operations (1781: A French soldier in India operates on his own bladder stone), Tall Tales (like the "amphibious infant" of Chicago, a baby that could apparently swim underwater for half an hour), Unfortunate Predicaments (such as that of the boy who honked like a goose after inhaling a bird's larynx), and a plethora of other marvels. Beyond a series of anecdotes, these painfully amusing stories reveal a great deal about the evolution of modern medicine. Some show the medical profession hopeless in the face of ailments that today would be quickly banished by modern drugs; but others are heartening tales of recovery against the odds, patients saved from death by the devotion or ingenuity of a conscientious doctor. However embarrassing the ailment or ludicrous the treatment, every case in **The Mystery of the Exploding Teeth** tells us something about the knowledge (and ignorance) of an earlier age, along with the sheer resilience of human life. **A Peculiar Peril** [Farrar, Straus and Giroux \(BYR\)](#) **A Peculiar Peril** is a head-spinning epic about three friends on a quest to protect the world from a threat as unknowable as it is terrifying, from the Nebula Award-winning and New York Times bestselling author of **Annihilation**, Jeff VanderMeer. Jonathan Lamshead stands to inherit his deceased grandfather's overstuffed mansion—a veritable cabinet of curiosities—once he and two schoolmates catalog its contents. But the three soon discover that the house is filled with far more than just oddities: It holds clues linking to an alt-Earth called Aurora, where the notorious English occultist Aleister Crowley has stormed back to life on a magic-fueled rampage across a surreal, through-the-looking-glass version of Europe replete with talking animals (and vegetables). Swept into encounters with allies more unpredictable than enemies, Jonathan pieces together his destiny as a member of a secret society devoted to keeping our world separate from Aurora. But as the ground shifts and allegiances change with every step, he and his friends sink ever deeper into a deadly pursuit of the profound evil that is also chasing after them. **Curiosities of Paris: An idiosyncratic guide to overlooked delights...** hidden in plain sight [New York Review of Books](#) **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. **Atlas Obscura An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders** [Workman Publishing](#) It's time to get off the beaten path. Inspiring equal parts wonder and wanderlust, **Atlas Obscura** celebrates over 700 of the strangest and most curious places in the world. Talk about a bucket list: here are natural wonders—the dazzling glowworm caves in New Zealand, or a baobab tree in South Africa that's so large it has a pub inside where 15 people can drink comfortably. Architectural marvels, including the M.C. Escher-like stepwells in India. Mind-boggling events, like the Baby Jumping Festival in Spain, where men dressed as devils literally vault over rows of squirming infants. Not to mention the Great Stalacpipe Organ in Virginia, Turkmenistan's 40-year hole of fire called the Gates of Hell, a graveyard for decommissioned ships on the coast of Bangladesh, eccentric bone museums in Italy, or a weather-forecasting invention that was powered by leeches, still on display in Devon, England. Created by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton, **ATLAS OBSCURA** revels in the weird, the unexpected, the overlooked, the hidden and the mysterious. Every page expands our sense of how strange and marvelous the world really is. And with its compelling descriptions, hundreds of photographs, surprising charts, maps for every region of the world, it is a book to enter anywhere, and will be as appealing to the armchair traveler as the die-hard adventurer. Anyone can be a tourist. **ATLAS OBSCURA** is for the explorer. **The World in One Day** [Dk Pub](#) Provides statistics on what happens to the world in a single day, in such areas as geology, biology, technology, and culture. **Wonders and Rarities The Marvelous Book That Traveled the World and Mapped the Cosmos** [Harvard University Press](#) Travis Zadeh revives the work of the thirteenth-century Persian scholar Qazwīnī, whose *Wonders and Rarities* was for centuries one of the most influential natural histories in the world. Inviting us to embrace anew Qazwīnī’s rationalized study of nature and magic, Zadeh dramatically revises the place of wonder in the history of Islamic thought. **The Top Ten of Everything 2001** [Turtleback Books](#) Features more than one thousand separate lists that cover a broad range of subjects, including Culture & Learning, Sports, the Universe & the Earth, the Human World, and Town & Country. **Beethoven's Skull Dark, Strange, and Fascinating Tales from the World of Classical Music and Beyond** [Skyhorse](#) Beethoven’s Skull is an unusual and often humorous survey of the many strange happenings in the history of Western classical music. Proving that good music and shocking tabloid-style stories make excellent bedfellows, it presents tales of revenge, murder, curious accidents, and strange fates that span more than two thousand years. Highlights include: A cursed song that kills those who hear it A composer who lovingly cradles the head of Beethoven’s corpse when his remains are exhumed half a century after his death A fifteenth-century German poet who sings of the real-life Dracula A dream of the devil that inspires a virtuoso violin piece Unlike many music books that begin their histories with the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries, **Beethoven’s Skull** takes the reader back to the world of ancient Greece and Rome, progressing through the Middle Ages and all the way into the twentieth century. It also looks at myths and legends, superstitions, and musical mysteries, detailing the ways that musicians and their peers have been rather horrible to one another over the centuries. **Potty, Fartwell and Knob** [Hachette UK](#) Russell Ash has trawled parish registers and censuses going back 900 years to compile the first ever complete book of breathtakingly unlikely-but-true British names. It features an incredible and diverse range of totally genuine names, evoking everything from body parts (Dick Brain), sex (Matilda Suckcock), illness (Barbaray Headache) and toilet functions (Peter Piddle) to food (Hazel Nutt), animals (Minty Badger) and places (Phila Delphia). Every single one has been checked for authenticity and its source is given, as well as extra notes where further fascinating illumination is possible. The book provides a rigorously researched yet laugh-out-loud overview of Britain's eccentricity through the ages. And in this fully revised, expanded and enhanced paperback edition, it is no exaggeration to say that it's Pottier, Fartier and Knobbier than ever before. **100 of the World's Greatest Mysteries** [Harbor House](#) Comprehensive collection of unexplained phenomena, science mysteries and historical oddities ranging from Big Bang and Killer comets to poltergeist and alien abductions. **Oddities of the Mineral World Bizarre Botany An A-Z Adventure Through the Plant Kingdom** [Royal Botanic Gardens Kew](#) Explore the wonders of the plant kingdom in this A-Z of intriguing facts. Discover the tallest and the smallest, the smelliest and the deadliest. What are breathing knees? What is a vegetable sheep and which plants were once used in embalming? It's time to find out.