

# Science

## ***Astronomy and Culture*** by Edith Hetherington

**Library Journal (September 15, 2009)**

Although slender, this cultural studies guide offers a vibrant outline of astronomy's influence on a variety of societies, from the enigmatic Celts onward. Independent scholar Edith Hetherington and author Norriss Hetherington (*Planetary Motions*) divide the book into ten themed chapters, covering subjects as complex and divergent as ancient archaeoastronomy and astronomy's embattled relationship with religion. Although it may lack the scholarly rigor required by researchers, this highly accessible, engaging read is ideal for curious laypeople. Moreover, it is the only astronomy reference to offer such a broad subject survey, expanding its scope beyond a single culture or time period. Copyright 2009 Reed Business Information.

## ***Evolution Revolution*** by Robert Winston

**Booklist starred (March 15, 2009 (Vol. 105, No. 14))**

Grades 5-8. Dense with exciting scientific detail, this large picture-book-size volume focuses in its first half on Darwin's discoveries and theories, and the excitement and the controversy that they generated in his time. Then biologist Winston goes on to discuss the modern science of genetics and evolutionary biology, including what Darwin did not consider and what he knew little about; the many new discoveries that prove Darwin right and that continue to fuel debate; and the role of DNA in helping to fill in the gaps. The clear, interactive, double-page spreads in the publisher's signature style pack in a wealth of very technical information with lots of gorgeous color photos, screens, and boxed inserts. Also included is a detailed six-page time line of the planet over four million years. Readers can browse through and delve into the geology and biology facts that grab them, and then follow some of the "Now try this!" suggestions, such as "How to find out what was living in your neighborhood 250,000 years ago." As accessible as it is informative, this is a great title for classroom browsing and sharing.

## ***Outer Planets*** by Glenn Chaple

Chaple surveys the gas giants and their moons, adding discussions of Jovian-type planets orbiting other stars and the Voyager 2 space mission. Covering the solar system's non-moon smaller bodies, from comets plunging out of the distant Oort Cloud to NEO (Near Earth Objects) asteroids and hypothetical "Vulcan Objects" spinning around the Sun inside Mercury's orbit, Rivkin devotes chapters to orbits, compositions, origins, and relevant space probe missions.

# Fiction

## ***The Zookeeper's Wife: A War Story*** by Diane Ackerman

Relates the story of Jan and Antonina Zabinski, Christian zookeepers at the Warsaw Zoo, who helped save the lives of approximately three hundred Polish Jews during World War II by housing and feeding them on zoo grounds and teaching them how to "pass" as Aryan.

## ***Tell us we're Home*** by Marina Budhos

**Horn Book (Fall 2010)**

Three immigrant girls from different backgrounds--but with the common bond that their mothers work as maids and nannies--navigate eighth grade in a wealthy New Jersey suburb. Alternating between each girl's perspective, this novel highlights the prejudices and social tribulations the girls face individually and together. Budhos admirably explores the subject of immigration in this emotional story about self-worth and friendship.

## ***Scarlett Fever*** by Maureen Johnson

Fifteen-year-old Scarlett, who is beginning to get over her break-up with Eric, stays busy as assistant to her theatrical-agent friend who is not only promoting Scarlett's brother Spencer, but also a new client whose bad-boy brother has transferred to Scarlett's school.

***Suite Scarlett*** by Maureen Johnson

Fifteen-year-old Scarlett Marvin is stuck in New York City for the summer working at her quirky family's historic hotel, but her brother's attractive new friend and a seasonal guest who offers her an intriguing and challenging writing project improve her outlook.

***Home is Beyond the Mountains*** by Celia Barker Lottridge

Nine-year-old Samira is driven from her village, along with her family, when the Turkish army invades Persia in 1918, and after only she and her older brother survive the treacherous journey into the mountains, they are conveyed from one orphanage to another and eventually returned to their homes with help from Susan Shedd.

***Secret to Lying*** by Todd Mitchell

Fifteen-year-old James lies about himself to be considered "cool" when he gets into an exclusive boarding school, but soon unnaturally vivid dreams of being a demon-hunting warrior lead to self-destructive acts while he is awake.

***Sky is Everywhere*** by Jandy Nelson

In the months after her sister dies, seventeen-year-old Lennie falls into a love triangle and discovers the strength to follow her dream of becoming a musician.

***Med Head: My Knock Down Drag Out Fight with my Brain*** by James Patterson

Tells the true story of Cory Friedman and his thirteen-year battle with Tourette's syndrome, numerous medications and treatments, and his family's determination to find help for their son.

***Beautiful*** by Amy Lynn Reed

**Booklist (October 15, 2009 (Vol. 106, No. 4))**

Grades 10-12. This book is meant to shock, and it does. Fed up with her good-girl existence, 13-year-old Cassie uses her family's relocation as a chance to reinvent herself as an acid-dropping, dope-smoking, vodka-guzzling, coke-snorting, needle-using cypher who will dutifully sleep with any boy, provided he is popular. Cassie's journey down the road to ruin is guided by the volatile Alex, who soon welcomes into her hovel a girl named Sarah, who is fleeing her molester father . . . well, you get the picture. It's a stew of depravity delivered in emotionless, repetitive language meant to convey Cassie's numbness; at times, it reads like poetry. But never do we get a sense of why Cassie chose this path or what she was like before. Almost certainly this loss of identity is part of the point, though many readers will be forced to assume Cassie is mentally ill. Details of Cassie's debauchery nevertheless ring true, and there's no doubt that Reed's debut will enthrall as many teens as it will repel adults.

***God Box*** by Alex Sanchez

When openly gay Manuel transfers to Paul's high school, Paul, a born-again Christian, begins to question his own sexuality.

***Linger*** by Maggie Stiefvater *Sequel to Shiver*

Grace and Sam struggle to keep their relationship together, while Grace lies to her parents and keeps a secret from them and Sam copes with his werewolf past.

***Chasing Lincoln's Killer*** by James L. Swanson

Recounts the twelve-day pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth, covering the chase through Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia, with a discussion of Abraham Lincoln as a father, husband, and friend that examines the impact of his death on those close to him.

***Brilliant*** by Rachel Vail

**School Library Journal (June 1, 2010)**

Gr 9 Up-This final, stand-alone book in the Avery sisters trilogy that includes Lucky (2008) and Gorgeous (2009, both HarperCollins) is told from 16-year-old Quinn's point of view. The eldest child, she has always been the dependable daughter, loyal to her parents and a good girl who works hard and excels at everything. But her mom's

loss of her high-paying job-and her need for a lawyer-is taking a toll on the whole family, Quinn included, as they prepare to move out of their home and face an uncertain future. Suddenly her behavior is very un-Quinn-like (kissing her sister's ex, making out with guys at parties, admitting her feelings to her longtime crush), but ultimately freeing, as she comes to acknowledge her parents' flaws as well as her own. Good girls and rebels alike will be able to identify with this adolescent rite of passage; Quinn's response is realistic, her friends and family are well drawn, and her happy-enough ending is hard won. A natural choice for teens waiting for their next Sarah Dessen fix.-Laurie Slagenwhite Walters, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI Copyright 2010 Reed Business Information. Information.

***Gorgeous*** by Rachel Vail

Ninth-grader Allison has always been the least attractive among her sisters, but when she allows the devil to possess her cell phone in exchange for a gorgeous appearance, Allison must confront the power and deceptiveness of appearances.

***Lucky*** by Rachel Vail

As Phoebe and her clique of privileged girlfriends get ready to graduate from eighth grade, a financial scandal threatens her family's security--as well as Phoebe's social status--but ultimately it teaches her the real meaning of friendship.

All book descriptions and notes were copied form Follett's Titlewave on September 14, 2010.  
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