



techno-thriller is an outstanding first purchase.—*Chris Shoemaker, New York Public Library*

### Don't Turn Around

Michelle Gagnon

Don't tell your secrets. A whisper can betray you. Don't trust anyone. Not even yourself. Sixteen-year-old Noa wakes up on a table with an IV in her arm and no memory of how she got there. A computer hacker who's been living off the grid, Noa needs help to discover who's hunting her and why. Enter Peter Gregory. A rich kid and the leader of a hacker alliance, Peter needs people with Noa's talents on his team. But what they both don't realize is that Noa holds the key to a terrible secret, and there are those who'd stop at nothing to silence her for good.

### Geektastic: Stories From the Nerd Herd

Grade 9 Up—From Trekkers to science geeks, Buffy fanatics to Dungeon Masters, nerds of all persuasions are sure to find themselves in the pages of this anthology. It contains fun reads such as Black and Castellucci's "Once You're a Jedi, You're a Jedi All the Way" in which a Klingon wakes with a Jedi in her hotel room while at a sci-fi convention, and Tracy Lynn's "One of Us," in which a cheerleader enlists the school nerds to teach her the basics of geekdom so she can impress her Trekker boyfriend. The collection also includes more profound fare such as Kelly Link's moving and masterful "Secret Identity" about a 15-year-old girl who has pretended to be her 32-year-old sister on an online RPG. She must face the consequences of her lies when she arranges to meet the man with whom she has developed a relationship. Also included are stories by YA lit greats such as John Green, Libba Bray, Scott Westerfeld, and M. T. Anderson. Each story is followed by a comic-book-style illustration offering information or advice such as "What Your Instrument Says About You" and "How to Look Cool and Not Drool in Front of Your Favorite Author." Simultaneously addressing the isolation and loneliness that geeks can feel as well as the sense of camaraderie and community that can be found when one embraces a world or ideology in which he or she can completely invest, *Geektastic* is a completely dorky and utterly worthwhile read.—

### Eve & Adam

Michael Grant

Gr 8 Up—When she wakes up amidst tubes and lines in a hospital room, Evening (Eve) realizes that the last thing she can remember seconds before the horrible crash was that she was looking at an exceptionally crimson apple that stood out in a vendor's shop among an array of average looking fruit. Eve survives her debilitating injuries, but before she can fully regain consciousness, her mother arranges to have her transported to her own research facility—Spiker Biopharmaceuticals. While Eve is recuperating, she meets a mysterious boy about her own age and tries to learn who he really is and what his job is at her mother's facility. At the same time, she's also trying to cope with her mother's demands that keep her in isolation. Eve is desperate to maintain communication with her best friend Aislin, and her mother eventually relents—but only if Eve agrees to work on a genetic project. Listeners will enjoy the present-day sci-fi plot (Feiwel & Friends, 2012) because of its fast pace and twists and the intrigue of Eve's creation of the "perfect" human, who she names Adam. Revelations occur quickly, making this a great book for reluctant readers. Narrators Jenna Lamia (Eve) and Holter Graham (Solo) read alternating chapters, bringing these fascinating characters to life and creating a promising love interest. A not-to-be-missed, edgy sci-fi story.—Sheila Acosta

### Insignia

S.J. Kincaid

It's World War III. The enemy is winning. What if the government's secret weapon is you?

Video gamer Tom Raines has been recruited for the chance of a lifetime: to train at the Pentagonal Spire, an elite military academy, in preparation for becoming a member of the Intrasolar Forces. Life at the Spire holds everything that Tom's always wanted and never had—friends, the possibility of a girlfriend, and a life where his every action matters—but what will it cost him?

Gripping and provocative, S. J. Kincaid's futuristic thrill ride of a debut crackles with memorable characters, tremendous humor, and a vision of the future that asks startling, timely questions about the melding of humanity and technology

### Planesrunner

Ian McDonald

"Smashing adventure fiction that spans the multiverse without ever losing its cool or its sense of style. Ian McDonald is one of the greats of science fiction, and his young adult debut is everything you could hope for: romantic, action packed, wildly imaginative, and full of heart." --Cory Doctorow, author *For the Win*

"This is science fiction adventure at its best, and at its core is Everett, the heroic little geekling that we all wanted to be as kids... With "Ten Known Worlds" as part of this book's lore... I want an interdimensional passport ASAP... The adventure simply never stops... Snappy dialogue...and fascinating details round out this marvelous series debut." --Speculative Fiction Examiner

"Science fiction rules in this stellar series opener about a boy who travels to parallel universes. What joy to find science fiction based on real scientific concepts... In his debut for teens, established science-fiction writer McDonald builds a world just different enough to charm readers into believing, populating it with entertaining, quirky characters, spicing up the story with Punjabi cooking and a secret dialect (complete with glossary) and explaining the multiverse theory in readily comprehensible terms. Suspense rules, and Everett's advantages come from both his football goalie skills and his intelligence. Shining imagination, pulsing suspense and sparkling writing make this one stand out. As [character] Sen would say, "fantabulosa bona.""" --Kirkus Reviews, *Starred Review*

### Cinder

Marissa Meyer

Humans and androids crowd the raucous streets of New Beijing. A deadly plague ravages the population. From space, a ruthless lunar people

watch, waiting to make their move. No one knows that Earth's fate hinges on one girl. . . .

Cinder, a gifted mechanic, is a cyborg. She's a second-class citizen with a mysterious past, reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's illness. But when her life becomes intertwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she suddenly finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle, and a forbidden attraction. Caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal, she must uncover secrets about her past in order to protect her world's future.

**Across the Universe**  
**Beth Revis**

Gr 10 Up-Imagine leaving everything behind in order to be with the people you love, only to be left with nothing. Amy and her parents have been cryogenically frozen to be awakened in 300 years when their spaceship reaches the planet they will colonize. Unfortunately, Amy is unfrozen 50 years too soon. Her parents are too critical to the colony to awaken early, so by the time she sees them again, she will be older than they are. The culture on the spaceship is unfamiliar and everyone Amy meets is either an emotionless drone or lives in the mental ward. But there is little time for her to grieve the loss of her former life, because someone is thawing other colonists and leaving them to die. In order to find the murderer, Amy must join forces with Elder, the teenage future leader of the ship. But all of the inhabitants onboard have been told lies, and there are secrets that even Elder doesn't know. This compelling novel is told in alternating chapters from Amy's and Elder's points of view. Amy is a contemporary character in a fish-out-of-water situation, and her grief and fear are realistically depicted. And as Elder learns the truth behind the ship, he begins to experience a coming-of-age that is convincingly written. The mystery will propel readers along, and the budding romance between Amy and Elder set against the backdrop of a dystopian society will appeal even to readers who don't enjoy science fiction. Revis's thrilling debut novel hints at more great books to come

**Endangered**  
**Eliot Schrefer**

Gr 8 Up-Fourteen-year-old Sophie rescues Otto, a young chimp, while spending the summer at her mother's bonobo sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo. When the president is assassinated and war breaks out, Sophie has a chance to return home to the United States but cannot bear to leave Otto. Their journey to safety takes them into the bonobo enclosure, but the real danger begins when they venture out and risk encountering rebel soldiers. Schrefer excels at imbuing the bonobos with individual personalities and endearing quirks. The bond between Sophie and Otto is so expertly depicted that it almost seems like a parent/child relationship, and readers will readily relate to the anguish the girl feels as she debates leaving her pet behind. The novel tackles tough ethical dilemmas without offering easy answers and delves into racial politics (Sophie's mixed racial heritage influences how others treat her), giving the book a nuanced tone. Schrefer portrays painful scenes in unflinching detail, and his powerful use of language drives the story forward. However, Sophie often seems preternaturally skilled for a teenager who has spent limited time in the Congo. Several moments stretch plausibility, such as when she rescues Otto from a group of soldiers or when she becomes leader of the bonobo tribe. Additionally, because Sophie is recounting the story as an adult looking back, her voice is often far more mature and polished than most adolescent protagonists. Yet despite the flaws, this is a poignant and moving story.-Mahnaz Dar,

**Catch & Release**  
**Blythe Woolston**

Polly has physically recovered from the flesh-eating bacteria that attacked her face near the close of her senior year. She has lost one eye and that side of her face is now deeply distorted. Much more brutal than the physical scarring, however, is the fact that the boyfriend with whom she had planned a happily-ever-after future dumped her while she was hospitalized. He just couldn't stand the imperfections that New Polly bore— aesthetically, psychologically, and socially. While in the hospital, however, Polly strikes up an acquaintance with another bacteria survivor, Odd Estes, who lost his foot to the disease and has been outfitted with a robotic prosthesis that he learns to work quite well. In addition to sharing the adjustment to life as bacteria survivors, they both love fishing, and Odd takes Polly on a road trip outfitted with some nearly Kerouacian moments. Woolston's novel offers intriguing characters, contemporary ethical questions, and a story that will have appeal to a wide range of readers. Grades 10-12. --Francisca Goldsmith

**Catalyst**  
**Laurie Halse Anderson**

Chemistry honors student and cross-country runner Kate Malone is driven. Daughter of a father who is a reverend first and a parent second ("Rev. Dad [Version 4.7] is a faulty operating system, incompatible with my software.") and a dead mother she tries not to remember, Kate has one goal: To escape them both by gaining entrance to her own holy temple, MIT. Eschewing sleep, she runs endlessly every night waiting for the sacred college acceptance letter. Then two disasters occur: Sullen classmate Teri and her younger brother, Mikey, take over Kate's room when their own house burns down, and a too-thin letter comes from MIT, signifying denial. And so the experiment begins. Can crude Teri and sweet Mikey, combined with the rejection letter, form the catalyst that will shake Kate out of her selfish tunnel vision and force her to deal with the suppressed pain of her mom's death? "If I could run all the time, life would be fine. As long as I keep moving, I'm in control." But for Kate, it's time to stop running and face the feelings she's spent her whole life racing away from.

*Catalyst*, Laurie Halse Anderson's third novel for teens, is a deftly fashioned character study of a seldom explored subject in YA fiction: the type-A adolescent. Teens will identify (if not exactly sympathize) with prickly Kate instantly, and be shocked or perhaps secretly pleased to discover that life is no easier for the honor roll student than it is for the outcast. Anderson earns an A plus for this revealing and realistic take on life, death, and GPAs. (Ages 12 and older) --

**The Way We Fall**

## Megan Crewe

When a deadly virus begins to sweep through sixteen-year-old Kaelyn's community, the government quarantines her island—no one can leave, and no one can come back.

Those still healthy must fight for dwindling supplies, or lose all chance of survival. As everything familiar comes crashing down, Kaelyn joins forces with a former rival and discovers a new love in the midst of heartbreak. When the virus starts to rob her of friends and family, she clings to the belief that there must be a way to save the people she holds dearest.

Because how will she go on if there isn't?

Megan Crewe crafts a powerful and gripping exploration of self-preservation, first love, and hope. Poignant and dizzying, this heart-wrenching story of one girl's bravery and unbeatable spirit will leave readers fervently awaiting the next book in this standout new series

## The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

Jacqueline Kelly

Boys don't make pies and girls don't work in fields in Jacqueline Kelly's debut novel (Holt, 2009) set in Texas in 1899. Twelve-year-old Calpurnia (the only girl of seven siblings) is interested in science rather than cooking and sewing. She would much rather spend her time exploring the river with her grandfather, a naturalist and a loner, who has given her a copy of *The Origin of the Species*. The results are humorous when Callie's mother attempts to prepare her for her place in society by giving her cooking and knitting lessons in contrast to her natural tendencies to be outside studying grasshoppers and other phenomena of nature. Will Callie ever learn those hideous domestic skills in time for her debut? Is the plant that she and her grandfather discovered actually a new species? Fascinating epigraphs from Darwin's opus at the beginnings of each chapter cap off the story line. Natalie Ross's sensitive, poetic narration reflects all the emotions experienced by Callie and the members of her family. (5-8)

## Adaptation

Malinda Lo

Gr 8 Up—Following their loss in the national debate championship, Reese Holloway and David Li are in the Phoenix airport awaiting their flight home to San Francisco when all flights across the U.S. are canceled due to a series of plane crashes caused by flocks of birds. While they are trying to drive home, their coach, Mr. Chapman, is shot and killed and the teens flee, only to crash in the middle of the Nevada desert. They awake nearly a month later and find themselves in a secret facility. Reese and David are told that they have received experimental medical treatments and that they must sign confidentiality agreements before they can return to their families. Reese discovers that she heals incredibly quickly and that she has strange dreams and sensory experiences. Given the location of their crash, their friend from back home wonders if the two may have been treated at Area 51. Before Reese can process any of this, she meets and finds herself falling in love with Amber Gray. This lesbian relationship seems to come out of the blue for both Reese and readers, but Amber's significance is later revealed. Lo pens a near future science-fiction thriller with a romance component. Although readers may find some plot points predictable, the alien-conspiracy theory element and the fast pacing ought to draw in many readers.—Eric Norton,

## 3:59

Gretchen McNeil

When a book's first paragraph includes the terms photo laser module, beam splitter, and vacuum dome, you know you are in for some geeky sci-fi fun. Josie, 16, is the geek in question, a mostly ignored high-school brain whose mother is known for her work on creating micro black holes. Then an experiment goes—guess what?—horribly awry, and Josie begins seeing her twin, Jo, from a parallel universe via an antique mirror. Twice a day, at exactly 3:59, the two can communicate. They decide to step through and swap lives for a day, a fine idea until Josie discovers that Jo's world is infested with the Nox, vicious monsters that feed on humans at night. Maybe even worse, Jo is in no hurry to come back home. Logic can get a bit strained, and the science is kinda goofball, but McNeil's movie-quick setup speed and humorously inventive language (Josie needed to spend some time perusing around the house) make her a very welcoming author who succeeds at injecting fresh verve into some stalwart sci-fi concepts. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus

## Counting by 7s

Holly Goldberg Sloan

Gr 5-8—Twelve-year-old Willow Chase lived with her adoptive parents in Bakersfield, California. There in the midst of the high desert, she grew a garden in her backyard, her sanctuary. She was excited about starting a new school, hoping this time she might fit in, might find a friend. Willow had been identified in preschool as highly gifted, most of the time causing confusion and feelings of ineptness in her teachers. Now at her new school she is accused of cheating because no one has ever finished the state proficiency test in just 17 minutes, let alone gotten a perfect score. Her reward is behavioral counseling with Dell Duke, an ineffectual counselor with organizational and social issues of his own. She does make a friend when Mai Nguyen brings her brother, Quang-ha, to his appointment, and their lives begin to intertwine when Willow's parents are killed in an auto accident. For the second time in her life she is an orphan, forced to find a "new normal." She is taken in temporarily by Mai's mother, who must stay ahead of Social Services. While Willow sees herself as just an observer, trying to figure out the social norms of regular family life, she is actually a catalyst for change, bringing together unsuspecting people and changing their lives forever. The narration cleverly shifts among characters as the story evolves. Willow's philosophical and intellectual observations contrast with Quang-ha's typical teenage boy obsessions and the struggles of a Vietnamese family fighting to live above the poverty level. Willow's story is one of renewal, and her journey of rebuilding the ties that unite people as a family will stay in readers' hearts long after the last page.—Cheryl Ashton,

## Partials

Dan Wells

In the last half of the twenty-first century, there are very few humans left in the United States. The Partials, genetically engineered humanlike creatures built to fight the U.S.'s wars, attacked their overlords with a deadly virus. Kira, a medical intern, wants desperately to figure out how to save babies who are dying from the virus they're infected with at birth, and comes up with a plan. Persuading her friends, including boyfriend Marcus, that all they need to do is kidnap a Partial and figure out why it's immune to the virus, she leads them on a harrowing mission—several, actually. A Partial is obtained, but the result reveals far more questions than answers. This book does several things very well. The Long Island setting, along with the configuration of Kira's struggling society, is fully realized, and the many twists and turns keep readers intriguingly off-balance. But some trimming, especially of the medical discoveries, would have helped maintain the momentum. Kira is a bold heroine with lofty goals, and readers will willingly follow her to the sequel, where things are sure to tilt again. Grades 8-12. --Ilene Cooper

### In the Shadow of Blackbirds

Cat Winters

Gr 8 Up-The year is 1918. World War I is killing millions of boys abroad, and the flu pandemic is killing millions of Americans at home. People are increasingly desperate, looking to Spiritualism and folk remedies to help them speak to dead loved ones and survive the flu. After her father is jailed for anti-Americanism, Mary Shelley Black, 16, must go live with her aunt in San Diego. There she is confronted with memories of her first love, Stephen, who is away at war. She is also forced to face Julius, Stephen's bully of an older brother who is making a fortune as a "Spiritualist Photographer," a photographer who can capture ghosts in images. She also meets Mr. Darning, a man with a broken heart who is trying to prove that Julius is a fake. After Mary Shelley learns of Stephen's "heroic" death, she is visited by his suffering ghost. His spirit is delusional and scared, and Mary Shelley suspects there is a terrible reason he's not at rest. Did Stephen really die on the frontline? How are Julius and Mr. Darning involved? Winters deftly combines mystery, ghost story, historical fiction, and romance. The character development is not deep, but the excellent pacing and deliciously creepy descriptions of Spiritualism more than make up for it; the story and setting are atmospheric and eerie. Black-and-white photos are scattered throughout the book, giving context to the time period.-Laura Lutz,

## Stem Nonfiction

If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge Marc Aronson with Mike Parker Pearson. National Geographic Children's Books (6-8) Explore the mysterious circle of stones while new questions are raised and new ideas are shared from unusual sources. Experience archaeology at its best, along with maps, illustrations, personal observations, and photos. Narrative Fact-Finder Index, Archaeologists and Their Theories, Chronology of Digs, and the Ever-Changing Timeline of Stonehenge. (SMF) I, II, V.

Every Bone Tells a Story: Hominin Discoveries, Deductions, and Debates. Jill Rubalcaba and Peter Robertshaw. Charlesbridge (9-12) This book tells interesting stories about the discoveries of four different hominins, the deductions made by the archaeologists and scientists who studied these hominins, and the debates spurred on in the world of science about our ancestors.

The Complete Human Body: The Definitive Visual Guide. Alice Roberts. DK Publishing. 512pp. This ambitious volume examines human evolution, anatomy, function, reproduction, and disease in an orderly, up-to-the-minute visual format. Glossary, Index. (NHM) IV. Supplemental Material:

Over the Coasts: An Aerial View of Geology. Michael Collier. 9-12 Come fly along the North American coastal landscapes while observing the results of geology's shaping forces of tides, wind, waves, and weather. The text is stunningly enhanced with color photography that puts readers in the pilot's seat.

Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering. Martin W. Sandler. National Geographic Children's Books. 96pp. (5-8) Read how one man with a vision took on the Tammany political machine in New York City to build a subway. This is a revealing story of the interplay between science and culture. Further Reading,

Honey Bees: Letters From the Hive. Stephen Buchmann. (6-12) A bee expert and renowned entomologist shares the history of bees and their relationship with humans throughout history, and looks at the current role of bees as pollinators.

Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot. Montgomery.. (6-12) Have you ever seen a nine-pound green-and-yellow parrot that doesn't fly? Follow the scientists, rangers, and volunteers hard at work on a remote island near New Zealand to protect this uniquely loveable bird and bring it back from the brink of extinction. P.S.

Project Seahorse. Pamela S. Turner. (6-12) Scientists off an island in the Philippines work to help the dwindling numbers of seahorses and to protect their coral reef ecosystem. In working with the local fishing community to protect this fragile ecosystem, a way of life is also being preserved. Glossary, Acknowledgments, Resources, Index, How to Help Seahorses.

[Earth Heroes: Champions of Wild Animals](#). Bruce and Carol Malnor. (6-12) Meet eight animal conservationists as young people who grew into adults passionate about saving animals from extinction. Each chapter has Fast Facts, Ripples of Influence, Personal Timeline and Historical Timeline, End Notes about Becoming a Citizen Scientist, and Index. (SMF) II, V, VII. Supplemental Material:

[Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness](#)  
Susannah Cahalan

New York Post reporter Cahalan details the madness that briefly robbed her of her independence and ability to write. At first, the author's erratic behavior seemed symptomatic of overwork. Soon, her lack of physical control and frightening, self-destructive behavior became impossible to ignore. Following a string of misdiagnoses, a top neurologist recognized a then newly discovered autoimmune condition called anti-NMDA-receptor encephalitis. With the help of her doctor and supportive family and boyfriend, Cahalan recovered and was back at work within a year. Though more journalistic in tone, the book parallels Sylvia Plath's literary classic *The Bell Jar*. VERDICT A compelling, quick read with a moving message. Cahalan's hip writing style, sympathetic characters, and suspenseful story will appeal to fans of medical thrillers and the television show *House*. Brief, informative biology and abnormal psychology discussions throughout the text will interest science students without slowing the narrative. Because Cahalan's condition is rare and its causes unknown, this book may save lives and promote empathy for those struggling with mental illness. [See Prepub Alert, 5/20/12.]-Chrissy Spallone, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Lib. (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted

[A Black Hole is Not a Hole](#)  
Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano

Gr 5-7-This introduction to black holes takes readers from simple to complex by dropping definitions and information slowly and clearly into the lively narrative. Dramatic and amazing illustrations help to impart the sense of the vast distances in space, of how atomic nuclei meld in the intense interaction called fusion, and how the areas of a black hole-the event boundary, the extreme gravity zone, and the singularity-are defined. The appended time line begins with Newton's work on gravity in 1687 and ends with the theoretical shining of a flashlight toward our galaxy's black hole (Sagittarius A\*, with a mass four million times that of our Sun) in 2012, which would take about 3600 years to reach its goal. The author's list of print resources credits classic science titles. Her website list cautions that the sites may not stay current, and she recommends using a search engine to get at the most up-to-date data. A four-page glossary provides succinct definitions and some pronunciation guides. The one-page index leads readers back to the text for many of the terms found in the glossary, e.g., "spaghettification," as well as for many of the scientists mentioned throughout. Informative, fun, and so beautiful that even general readers will be drawn into it.-Frances E. Millhouser, formerly at Chantilly Regional Library, Fairfax County, VA (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

[The Scientists: A History of Science Told Through the Lives of Its Greatest Inventors](#)  
John Gribbin

Fans of Gribbin's earlier works-*In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*, *Q is for Quantum*, and *Stephen Hawking: A Life in Science*-will not be disappointed with this anecdotal history. Well written and scholarly, it is still accessible, if not downright entertaining, for the general reader. Starting with the Renaissance, Gribbin traces the development of science over the past 500 years through the lives of the people who made it. From Copernicus and Galileo to Albert Einstein and Linus Pauling, Gribbin carefully places the individual in the time in which he or she lived, a real asset. He also clearly understands the important role that technology played in making science's greatest discoveries possible. Thus, Gribbin accurately shows the development of science to be the result of the interplay among three factors: the person, the historical time, and the available technology. As he points out, it should be no surprise that the birth of science coincided with the development of the telescope and the microscope. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries or as a text for the history of science.-James Olson, Northeastern Illinois Univ. Lib., Chicago (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted

[Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat](#)  
Gail Jarrow

Gr 6 Up-This haunting insight into a little known epidemic from the early 20th century provides statistics, firsthand accounts, pictures, and an easy-to-follow narrative of the pellagra outbreak in the United States. The book details the baffling uprise of pellagra, a life-threatening disease characterized by weakness, rash, and insanity; the medical investigation that ensued; and the eventual changes that were made in America's diet to combat both this sickness and other maladies caused by nutritional deficiencies. This title is descriptive and well researched, with a striking bold-red color scheme. Though the images are graphic and potentially disturbing, they are not sensationalized, and enhance the narrative. This is an excellent addition to nonfiction collections in school and public libraries. [Ed note: See author Q&A, p. 16.]-Tammy Turner, Centennial High School, Frisco, TX (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted

[Chemistry Made Simple](#)  
John Moore

See the world, one molecule at a time. Chemistry helps us understand not only the world around us, but also our own bodies. CHEMISTRY MADE SIMPLE makes it fun. Each chapter has practice problems with complete solutions that reinforce learning. A glossary of chemical terms, the modern periodic table, and detailed illustrations throughout make this the best introduction to one of the most studied of all sciences. Topics covered include: \*the Scientific Method \*the structure and properties of matter \*compounds \*laws of chemistry \*gases, liquids, and solids \*solutions \*electrochemistry \*the atmosphere \*biochemistry \*organic chemistry \*nuclear chemistry \*energy \*the environment Look for these Made Simple titles Accounting Made Simple Arithmetic Made Simple Astronomy Made Simple Biology Made Simple Bookkeeping Made Simple Business Letters Made Simple Earth Science Made Simple English Made Simple French Made Simple German Made Simple Ingles Hecho Facil Investing Made Simple Italian Made Simple Latin Made Simple Learning English Made Simple Mathematics Made Simple The Perfect Business Plan Made Simple Philosophy Made Simple Physics Made Simple Psychology Made Simple Sign Language Made Simple Spelling Made Simple Statistics Made Simple Your Small Business Made Simple [www.broadwaybooks.com](http://www.broadwaybooks.com)

[Invincible Microbe: Tuberculosis and the Never-Ending Search for a Cure](#)

Jim Murphy

Gr 5-9-Starting with the dramatic cover photo of a row of girls lying in their hospital beds, Murphy and Blank unwind the tangled history of tuberculosis, a disease that continues to kill millions every year. The writing is crisp and clinical. Readers will be surprised to learn that kings believed that a single touch of their hand would cure the peasants and that one of the more radical treatments for TB included removing multiple ribs from a patient's chest. At times gruesome and somewhat somnolent when describing the peaceful sanatoriums, the book clearly details all the many unsuccessful attempts to cure this infectious disease. The authors also describe how close modern medicine has come to eradicating it. Students researching diseases or medical breakthroughs will find this book both informative and interesting. Helpful, too, are the pronunciation tips that are included when the authors discuss the complicated names of the bacteria and illnesses. The book is liberally illustrated with photos, drawings, and prints that vividly complement the text. The selected bibliography and source notes serve also as excellent examples of useful citations.-Denise Schmidt, San Francisco Public Library (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

[The Science of Soldiers](#)

Lucia Raatma

What does it take to be a soldier? Strength and intelligence both play a part, but soldiers need extra help to do their job of defending their country. Enter technology such as satellites, robotics, and computers. Learn all about these forms of technology and the scientific principles behind them.

[Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon](#)

Steve Sheinkin

In December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned 3 continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb.

[The Radioactive Boy Scout: The True Story of a Boy and His Backyard Nuclear Reactor](#)

Ken Silverstein

Judging from this book, Los Angeles Times investigative reporter Silverstein is good at his job. Unfortunately, the kind of well-researched human-interest story that makes for good reading in a newspaper article is less than gripping in a 200-page book. His detached third-person reporting gets the story across but never draws the reader into the life of David Hahn-the troubled youth who tried to build a breeder nuclear reactor in a garden shed-or any other party involved. Rather, it merely engenders horror at the utter disregard that David had for himself and everyone around him and dismay at the complete lack of guidance or supervision from adults in his life. There are minor inaccuracies scattered throughout-Silverstein defines half-life as the amount of time required for the intensity of radiation to decay by half rather than as the time for half of the radioactive particles to have decayed-so it should not necessarily be classified as a science book. However, it is an important story that many patrons in public libraries will find interesting, if disturbing.-Marcia R. Franklin, Academy Coll. Lib., Bloomington, MN (c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted

[Wicked Bugs: The Louse that Conquered Napoleon's Army and Other Diabolical Insects](#)

Amy Stewart

They're everywhere! Insects, arachnids, and gastropods that bite, sting, burrow, invade, and otherwise compete with humans in their effort to survive and reproduce. Stewart follows her best-selling *Wicked Plants* with this delightfully gruesome compilation of facts about the critters with which we share the planet. The Asian Giant Hornet, up to five centimeters long, is a recent threat in Japan. When it stings it leaves a pheromone that attracts other giant hornets to sting the same site-how nice! Bedbugs, which can live up to a year without feeding (in upholstery or bedding, for example) until a human host comes along, are a renewed threat in New York. Along with the scientific facts, Stewart also includes historical and literary anecdotes (the death-watch beetle that horrified the madman in Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart"). Coleen Marlo's narration is very clear and well-paced. This may not be the ideal selection for an outdoor camping trip, but it will appeal to kids and young adults as well as the general public who like creepy crawlies. [The Algonquin hc, published in May, was a New York Times best seller.-Ed.]-Nann Blaine Hilyard, Zion-Benton P.L., IL (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

[Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland](#)

Sally M. Walker

Gr 6-9-Walker takes readers on an archaeological investigation of human and material remains from 17th- and 18th-century Jamestown and colonial Maryland, while addressing relevant topics in forensic anthropology, history, and archaeology. The excavations encompass burial sites of colonists from various backgrounds, including a teenage indentured servant hastily buried in a trash pit, a grouping of prominent colonists laid to rest in lead coffins, and a woman of African heritage who likely toiled as a slave. Answers concerning the identity and fate of the uncovered remains are realized only after various specialists combine their findings to re-create relevant historical circumstances. In one instance, anthropologists provide anatomical details of a recovered skull to artists, who then use the data to produce the first sculpture of an American colonist of African ancestry. The text succinctly explains complex forensic concepts, such as determining the gender and age of a skeleton, or whether a skull represents a person originating from Europe or Africa. Captioned, full-color photographs of skeletal, dental, and artifactual remains shed light on colonial life. Historical documents, illustrated maps, and anatomical drawings complement images of various specialists at work in the field. Photographs of reenactors performing period tasks, such as grinding corn, provide insight into the daily life of the recovered individuals.

