Hurrah! The long holiday weekend is coming up.

These titles are available today for your reading enjoyment. We’re open until 5PM today.

The book of Job

From Library Journal: “One does not usually think of reading a biography of a book. However, this series tells the story of how iconic religious works have been read and interpreted over time. In this case, readers may well be surprised by the widely divergent ways the biblical Book of Job has been understood. Larrimore (religious studies, Eugene Lang Coll., New Sch. for Liberal Arts; editor, The Problem of Evil: A Reader) discusses the tracing of the character of Job himself and interpretations of the biblical text. He references the Babylonian Talmud, Gregory the Great, Thomas Aquinas, Maimonides, John Calvin, Immanuel Kant, William Blake, and Elie Wiesel, among others, showing that the Book of Job has been used not only by those from Christian and Jewish traditions but also, as with Voltaire, by those who reject theism.”

A life worth living: Albert Camus and the quest for meaning

From Publishers Weekly: “University of Houston historian Zaretsky offers an invigorating blend of history, criticism, and biography in a stirring reassessment of the Nobel Prize–winning existentialist writer Albert Camus. Each chapter revolves around a key theme from Camus’s life and work: the absurdity of a meaningless existence; the silence of the universe and the silence of political noncommitment; political and moral moderation; fidelity to intellectual and moral principles; and revolt (rather than rebellion) as a response to power...Camus emerges as a compassionate thinker who always ruthlessly interrogated his own beliefs and assumptions. Zaretsky’s elegant prose and passion for the subject, meanwhile, will inspire both novices in existentialism as well as experts to revisit the contributions of this great French writer.”

Stay: a history of suicide and the philosophies against it
From Publishers Weekly: “Suicide as a concept has been praised, defended, and vilified in various contexts throughout history as poet and scholar Hecht (Doubt: A History) painstakingly illustrates in this nuanced and unsettling work, whose title acts as a rallying refrain throughout. Hecht's scrutiny of "despair suicide" begins with the personal—the destabilizing deaths of two poet friends in quick succession. Though the word "suicide" wasn't invented until the 17th century, the discussion carefully follows attitudes from myth, religion, philosophy, and literature as Hecht welcomes the voices of an impressive cast of thinkers.”

Death and the afterlife

From Publishers Weekly: “Based on the Berkeley Tanner Lectures given by N.Y.U. philosophy professor Scheffler, this volume offers an unusual conversation about our fear of death, and our hopes to live on in memories. Of Scheffler’s three lectures, the first two explore humanity’s possible reactions to two catastrophic scenarios. In the first, particular individuals would live normal life spans, but with the knowledge that all of humanity would be wiped out by an asteroid 30 days after their death. In the second, humanity is rendered infertile, so that the most recent generation would be the last...Thinking about the end of humanity provides insights into what we value, and why we value it...”

APA Dictionary of statistics and research methods

The bright continent: breaking rules & making change in modern Africa

From Publishers Weekly: “Nigerian-American journalist Olopade’s first book rebuts the view of Africa as mired in poverty, war, and failed aid projects, and instead offers a hopeful perspective. Olopade looks past the arbitrary boundaries of sub-Saharan Africa’s colonial legacy and re-maps it according to categories of Family, Technology, Commerce, Natural, and Youth. Instead of dwelling on political shortcomings, corrupt leadership, and stunted infrastructure, Olopade embraces the spirit of kanju, a Yoruba word for hustle (“the specific creativity born from African difficulty”) that bolsters a vibrant informal economy ranging
from fake license plate sellers in Lagos to Kenya’s M-Pesa system of mobile phone-based payments.”

491 Days: Prisoner number 1323/69

From Kirkus Reviews: “Journals and letters reveal a stark picture of brutality and injustice. In 1969, five years after Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage, Winnie Mandela was rounded up with other anti-apartheid activists and jailed for 16 months. The journal she kept during her imprisonment forms half of this book; the other half consists of letters by Nelson to his wife, daughters, relatives and prison officials...Taken together, these documents afford a chilling perspective on the Mandelas’ personal and political struggles.”

Extreme explosions: supernovae, hypernovae, magnetars, and other unusual cosmic blasts

From Barnes and Noble: “What happens at the end of the life of massive stars? At one time we thought all these stars followed similar evolutionary paths. However, new discoveries have shown that things are not quite that simple. This book focuses on the extreme –the most intense, brilliant and peculiar– of astronomical explosions. It features highly significant observational finds that push the frontiers of astronomy and astrophysics, particularly as before these objects were only predicted in theory.”

Water and the future of humanity: revisiting water security

From Barnes and Noble: “This unique, engaging, and highly authoritative volume enlightens readers on changes needed in the way society accesses, provides, and uses water. It further shines a light on changes needed in the way we use food, energy, and other goods and services in relation to water, and offers projections and recommendations, up to 2050, that apply to water access challenges facing the poor and the common misuse of water in industry, agriculture, and municipalities. Written by an unparalleled slate of experts convened by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the book takes on one of the most critical issues on the planet today.”
Wisconsin German land and life

From Barnes and Noble: “This volume, an innovative approach to immigration research, is the cooperative project of a group of German and American scholars. The focus is on migrants from farming communities along the Rhine who relocated to Wisconsin in the nineteenth century: from the Westerwald to Reeseville, from the Cologne area to Cross Plains, from the Eifel to the so-called Holyland in Fond du Lac and Calumet Counties, and from Rhine Hesse to Washington and Sheboygan Counties.”

Marta Oulie: a novel of betrayal

From Barnes and Noble: “Marta Oulie, written in the form of a diary, intimately documents the inner life of a young woman disappointed and constrained by the conventions of marriage as she longs for an all-consuming passion. Set in Kristiania (now Oslo) at the beginning of the twentieth century, Undset’s book is an incomparable psychological portrait of a woman whose destiny is defined by the changing mores of her day—as she descends, inevitably, into an ever-darker reckoning. Remarkably, though Undset’s other works have attracted generations of readers, Marta Oulie has never before appeared in English translation. Tiina Nunnally, whose award-winning translation of Undset’s Kristin Lavransdatter captured the author’s beautifully clear style, conveys the voice of Marta Oulie with all the stark poignancy of the original Norwegian.”

The ecopoetry anthology

From Barnes and Noble: “Definitive and daring, The Ecopoetry Anthology is the authoritative collection of contemporary American poetry about nature and the environment—in all its glory and challenge. From praise to lament, the work covers the range of human response to an increasingly complex and often disturbing natural world and inquires of our human place in a vastness beyond the human...With subtle discernment, the editors portray our country’s rich heritage and dramatic range of writing about the natural world around us.”
People’s science: bodies and rights on the stem cell frontier

From Barnes and Noble: “People’s Science uncovers the tension between scientific innovation and social equality, taking the reader inside California’s 2004 stem cell initiative, the first of many state referenda on scientific research, to consider the lives it has affected. Benjamin reveals the promise and peril of public participation in science, illuminating issues of race, disability, gender, and socio-economic class that serve to define certain groups as more or less deserving in their political aims and biomedical hopes. Under the shadow of the free market and in a nation still at odds with universal healthcare, the socially marginalized are often eagerly embraced as test-subjects, yet often are unable to afford new medicines and treatment regimes as patients.”

Stem cells: an insider’s guide

From Barnes and Noble: “This exciting new book takes readers inside the world of stem cells guided by the author, Dr. Paul Knoepfler, who is an international expert in stem cells. Stem cells are catalyzing a revolution in medicine and may transform how we age. The authors goal is to give readers an insiders guide into the world of stem cells. The book answers the most common questions that people have about stem cells and stem cell treatments. What are stem cells? Why are some types controversial? Can stem cells help my family with a serious medical problem such as Alzheimers or Autism? Are such treatments safe? Can stem cells make me stay young? These questions and many more equally important ones are answered in this book in a manner that the reader can enjoy and understand.”

The information-literate historian: a guide to research for history students

From Cleveland State University: “The Information-Literate Historian is one of the most innovative guides to exploring traditional and non-traditional, electronic resources I’ve seen. Rather than make alterative and electronic sources an add-on, this book makes them the core of the exploration. At the same time, the author encourages students to read material fully and to use it, as she says, artfully. Guiding students to use parts of books or articles-and to mine sources-is hard to do, but Presnell excels at it.”
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"Great acts are made up of small deeds." - Lao Tzu