

Nature and Science

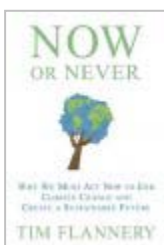
Next Reads - Winter 2010

Previously Purchased Nature and Science



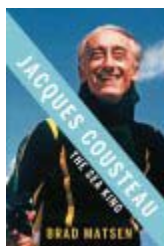
304.2 - Whole Earth Discipline: An Ecopragmatist Manifesto - by Stewart Brand

In his latest book, National Book Award-winning author Stewart Brand, creator of the *Whole Earth Catalog*, declares that we're past the point of no return on global climate change and that our only hope is to take immediate action to ensure the survival of the planet and its ecosystems. Brand, who defines himself as an "ecopragmatist," explores practical solutions for promoting sustainable living without shying away from controversial topics, such as the potential benefits of nuclear power and genetic engineering. *Booklist* calls *Whole Earth Discipline*, with its solid grounding in science and its forward-thinking solutions, a "power tool for change."



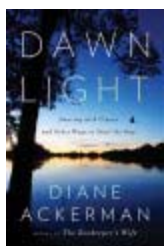
304.25 - Now or Never: Why We Must Act Now to End Climate Change and Create a Sustainable Future - by Tim F. Flannery

In this follow-up to *The Weather Makers*, Australian scientist and environmental activist Tim Flannery discusses the major issues surrounding the problem of anthropogenic (man-made) climate change, from CCS (carbon capture and storage) to energy demand and how it affects the food supply. Rejecting the idea that the earth is made for us, Flannery argues that it is up to humans to devise sustainable planet-saving solutions and put them into practice--before it's too late. With its accessible language and scientific grounding, *Now or Never* will "move the passive bystander, persuade the skeptic and rouse the activist" (*Publishers Weekly*).



Biography - Jacques Cousteau: The Sea King - by Bradford Matsen

This biography of oceanographer Jacques Cousteau traces his unlikely evolution from an injured naval officer who began swimming as a form of rehabilitation to a renowned explorer and filmmaker who documented the hidden life of the world's oceans. Combined with expertise in underwater photography gained from his work with the Resistance during WWII, Cousteau's refinement of SCUBA technology enabled him to go where humans had not previously ventured. For more about the life of this influential environmentalist and cultural icon, check out Cousteau's own account of his early days, *The Silent World* (or the documentary film of the same name that it inspired).



508.2 - Dawn Light: Dancing with Cranes and Other Ways to Start the Day - by Diane Ackerman

Diane Ackerman, author of *A Natural History of the Senses* and *An Alchemy of Mind*, combines science, nature, art, history, mythology, and more in this collection of essays that spans seasons and states. Separate but interconnected chapters include everything from observations of sunflowers and honey bees to reflections on Monet's use of light and the role of birds in ancient myth. "Ackerman creates a luxuriant word garden brimming with spirited observations, stories, and musings," says *Booklist*.



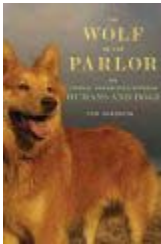
333.72092 - No Impact Man: The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet, and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process - by Colin Beavan

Having decided to live as low-impact a life as possible, author Colin Beavan recounts how, for a year, he shunned (among other things) electricity, heat, household appliances, takeout meals, and any form of fuel-powered transportation--although he kept his laptop so that he could blog about the experiment. Along with his wife, Michelle, a shopaholic with a serious Starbucks habit, and their two-year-old daughter, Beavan attempts to live in a one-bedroom, ninth-floor apartment (no elevators allowed!) resolving to eat nothing grown more than 250 miles away and buying only secondhand goods. From sharing the bathwater to giving up toilet paper, *No Impact Man's* story is one you might not want to emulate--but it sure is fascinating to read about.



523.1 - **Before the Big Bang: The Prehistory of Our Universe** - by Brian Clegg

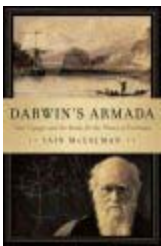
The universe is "everything, the whole of what's out there, the sum total of existence," says author Brian Clegg. But where did it come from? Although the big bang theory is the most widely accepted explanation of how the universe came to be, Clegg points out that, unlike evolution, it's more of a "best guess" solution, riddled with frustrating inconsistencies and raising puzzling questions. In addition to exploring the event itself, *Before the Big Bang* also pays attention to alternate theories and will appeal to science fiction fans as well as science buffs. For more on the history of the universe, try Simon Singh's *Big Bang*.



636.7 - **The Wolf in the Parlor: The Eternal Connection Between Humans and Dogs** - by Jon Franklin

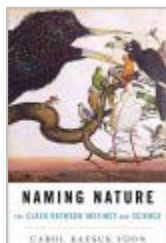
This book by Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Jon Franklin is the product of over a decade of research, inspired by his promise to his future wife that once they married they would get a puppy. After adopting a poodle named Charlie, Franklin began to research the origins of man's best friend, discovering that the story begins nearly 12,000 years ago, as wolves that followed groups of humans for the food they left behind were gradually domesticated. Franklin proposes that humans and dogs coevolved and today exist in a symbiotic relationship that's as emotional as it is practical.

Drawing on anthropology, zooarcheology, evolutionary biology, neuroanatomy, and behavioral science, *The Wolf in the Parlor* will appeal to both dog lovers and science enthusiasts.



576.8209 - **Darwin's Armada: Four Voyages and the Battle For the Theory of Evolution** - by Iain McCalman

Charles Darwin's legendary expedition around the world, which led to his 1839 book *The Voyage of the Beagle*, inspired three younger scientists who went on to make voyages of their own: biologist Thomas Henry Huxley, who sailed to Australia and New Guinea; botanist Joseph Hooker, whose travels included a trip to Antarctica; and zoologist Alfred Russel Wallace, who journeyed to the Amazon and later to Southeast Asia. And after Darwin published his seminal work *On the Origin of Species*, Huxley, Hooker, and Wallace became his most outspoken defenders, helping the theory of evolution to gain mainstream acceptance. Be sure to read this fascinating blend of history and science.



570.12 - **Naming Nature: The Clash Between Instinct and Science** - by Carol Kaesuk Yoon

Founded by Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus in the 18th century, the science of taxonomy concerns the ordering and classification of the world--and, according to *New York Times* science writer Carol Kaesuk Yoon, reflects humankind's natural instinct to sort and name the elements of their surroundings. Exploring the science behind taxonomy, she explains that while it was once based on direct observation of the natural world, it now happens in the laboratory using DNA sequencing. As a result, she argues, the general population has become removed from nature--and is thus less

invested in protecting it. *Booklist* calls *Naming Nature* "impossible to put down."