

The Random House Book Of How Things Work

A new edition of the classic New York Times bestseller edited by Toni Morrison, offering an encyclopedic look at the black experience in America from 1619 through the 1940s with the original cover restored. "I am so pleased the book is alive again. I still think there is no other work that tells and visualizes a story of such misery with seriousness, humor, grace and triumph."—Toni Morrison Seventeenth-century sketches of Africans as they appeared to marauding European traders. Nineteenth-century slave auction notices. Twentieth-century sheet music for work songs and freedom chants. Photographs of war heroes, regal in uniform. Antebellum reward posters for capturing runaway slaves. An 1856 article titled "A Visit to the Slave Mother Who Killed Her Child." In 1974, Middleton A. Harris and Toni Morrison led a team of gifted, passionate collectors in compiling these images and nearly five hundred others into one sensational narrative of the black experience in America—The Black Book. Now in a newly restored hardcover edition, The Black Book remains a breathtaking testament to the legendary wisdom, strength, and perseverance of black men and women intent on freedom. Prominent collectors Morris Levitt, Roger Furman, and Ernest Smith joined Harris and Morrison (then a Random House editor, ultimately a two-time Pulitzer Prize–winning Nobel Laureate) to spend months studying, laughing at, and crying over these materials—transcripts from fugitive slaves' trials and proclamations by Frederick Douglass and celebrated abolitionists, as well as chilling images of cross burnings and lynchings, patents registered by black inventors throughout the early twentieth century, and vibrant posters from "Black Hollywood" films of the 1930s and 1940s. Indeed, it was an article she found while researching this project that provided the inspiration for Morrison's masterpiece, *Beloved*. A labor of love and a vital link to the richness and diversity of African American history and culture, The Black Book honors the past, reminding us where our nation has been, and gives flight to our hopes for what is yet to come. Beautifully and faithfully presented and featuring a foreword and original poem by Toni Morrison, The Black Book remains a timeless landmark work.

Goldilocks, The Three Bears, and Peter Rabbit are three of the twenty-one colorfully illustrated stories compiled in a charming collection of classic bedtime tales.

With illustrations by Caldecott award winner Paul O. Zelinsky, the anthology will have readers rolling in the aisles over 34 laugh-out stories by Judy Blume, Richard Peck, Beverly Cleary, E. Nesbit, Natalie Babbitt, Mark Twain, Roald Dahl, and many more!

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! A TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON SUMMER READS NOMINEE! Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2021 by Newsweek ? Oprah Magazine ? The Skimm ? Marie Claire ? Parade ? The Wall Street Journal ? Chicago Tribune ? PopSugar ? BookPage ? BookBub ? Betches ? SheReads ? Good Housekeeping ? BuzzFeed ? Business Insider ? Real Simple ? Frolic ? and more! Two best friends. Ten summer trips. One last chance to fall in love. From the New York Times bestselling author of *Beach Read* comes a sparkling new novel that will leave you with the warm, hazy afterglow usually reserved for the best vacations. Poppy and Alex. Alex and Poppy. They have nothing in common. She's a wild child; he wears khakis. She has insatiable wanderlust; he prefers to stay home with a book. And somehow, ever since a fateful car share home from college many years ago, they are the very best of friends. For most of the year they live far apart—she's in New York City, and he's in their small hometown—but every summer, for a decade, they have taken one glorious week of vacation together. Until two years ago, when they ruined everything. They haven't spoken since. Poppy has everything she should want, but she's stuck in a rut. When someone asks when she was last truly happy, she knows, without a doubt, it was on that ill-fated, final trip with Alex. And so, she decides to convince her best friend to take one more vacation together—lay everything on the table, make it all right. Miraculously, he agrees. Now she has a week to fix everything. If only she can get around the one big truth that has always stood quietly in the middle of their seemingly perfect relationship. What could possibly go wrong?

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout explores the mysteries of marriage and the secrets we keep, as a former couple reckons with where they've come from—and what they've left behind. "Elizabeth Strout is one of my very favorite writers, so the fact that *Oh William!* may well be my favorite of her books is a mathematical equation for joy. The depth, complexity, and love contained in these pages is a miraculous achievement."—Ann Patchett, author of *The Dutch House* I would like to say a few things about my first husband, William. Lucy Barton is a writer, but her ex-husband, William, remains a hard man to read. William, she confesses, has always been a mystery to me. Another mystery is why the two have remained connected after all these years. They just are. So Lucy is both surprised and not surprised when William asks her to join him on a trip to investigate a recently uncovered family secret—one of those secrets that rearrange everything we think we know about the people closest to us. What happens next is nothing less than another example of what Hilary Mantel has called Elizabeth Strout's "perfect attunement to the human condition." There are fears and insecurities, simple joys and acts of tenderness, and revelations about affairs and other spouses, parents and their children. On every page of this exquisite novel we learn more about the quiet forces that hold us together—even after we've grown apart. At the heart of this story is the indomitable voice of Lucy Barton, who offers a profound, lasting reflection on the very nature of existence. "This is the way of life," Lucy says: "the many things we do not know until it is too late."

A retelling of "Swan Lake," "The Sleeping Beauty," "The Nutcracker," and seven other tales that evoke the elegance and mystery of the ballet

Four Nickelodeon Blue's Clues & You board books in a sturdy box with a handle-for reading fun on the go! Learn about colors, numbers, feelings, and the alphabet with Blue, Josh, and all your favorite friends from Nickelodeon's Blue's Clues & You! Boys and girls ages 0-3 will love this sturdy box featuring four board books and a plastic handle for learning on the go!

Nickelodeon's Blue's Clues & You stars Joshua Dela Cruz as he searches for clues left by energetic puppy Blue in order to solve a daily puzzle. The series combines the best interactive and educational elements of Nickelodeon's original Blue's Clues with a refreshed signature look.

Seventeen ghost stories from England are cozy or comic rather than spooky.

Presents the plots of famous operas in story format, including "The Magic Flute," "Carmen," "Aida," and "The Cunning Little Vixen"

Over one thousand full-color photographs feature leaves, flowers, fruit, and other identifying characteristics

"This collection of 100 original dares will help boys expand their worldview, inspire more respect toward girls and non-binary kids, and generally develop a healthier idea of

manhood."--Amazon.

Recipient of the 2015 PEN New England Award for Nonfiction "The arrival of a significant young nonfiction writer . . . A measured yet bravura performance." —Dwight Garner, The New York Times James Joyce's big blue book, *Ulysses*, ushered in the modernist era and changed the novel for all time. But the genius of *Ulysses* was also its danger: it omitted absolutely nothing. Joyce, along with some of the most important publishers and writers of his era, had to fight for years to win the freedom to publish it. *The Most Dangerous Book* tells the remarkable story surrounding *Ulysses*, from the first stirrings of Joyce's inspiration in 1904 to the book's landmark federal obscenity trial in 1933. Written for ardent Joyceans as well as novices who want to get to the heart of the greatest novel of the twentieth century, *The Most Dangerous Book* is a gripping examination of how the world came to say Yes to *Ulysses*.

An illustrated collection of Mother Goose nursery rhymes, including well-known ones such as Bah, Bah, Black Sheep and Little Boy Blue and less familiar ones such as Doctor Foster went to Gloucester and When clouds appear like rocks and towers.

A comprehensive, illustrated guide showing how more than 300 machines, mechanisms, and processes that affect our everyday lives work.

Presents a collection over fifty illustrated stories from the Old and New Testaments retold for young readers.

A guide to more than 450 varieties of roses offers advice on selection, planting, watering, fertilizing, and pruning

A collection of fifteen stories in easy-to-read format by such authors as Dr. Seuss, Stan and Jan Berenstain, P. D. Eastman, and Richard Scarry.

More than 550 poems by American, English, and anonymous authors.

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Midnight Library*. The world is messing with our minds. What if there was something we could do about it? Looking at sleep, news, social media, addiction, work and play, Matt Haig invites us to feel calmer, happier and to question the habits of the digital age. This book might even change the way you spend your precious time on earth.

Retells some of the most famous Greek myths about gods, goddesses, humans, heroes, and monsters, explaining the background of the tales and how they have survived.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A heartfelt story of love, grief, and renewal about two unlikely friends who discover that sometimes you don't know you've lost someone until you've found them "A dazzling debut novel."—*O: The Oprah Magazine* "Tremendously moving."—*The Wall Street Journal* "Touching and ultimately hopeful."—*People* 1987.

The only person who has ever truly understood fourteen-year-old June Elbus is her uncle, the renowned painter Finn Weiss. Shy at school and distant from her older sister, June can be herself only in Finn's company; he is her godfather, confidant, and best friend. So when he dies, far too young, of a mysterious illness her mother can barely speak about, June's world is turned upside down. But Finn's death brings a surprise acquaintance into June's life. At the funeral, June notices a strange man lingering just beyond the crowd.

A few days later, she receives a package in the mail containing a beautiful teapot she recognizes from Finn's apartment, and a note from Toby, the stranger, asking for an opportunity to meet. As the two begin to spend time together, June realizes she's not the only one who misses Finn, and that this unexpected friend just might be the one she needs the most. **WINNER OF THE ALEX AWARD** • **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY** *The Wall Street Journal* • *O: The Oprah Magazine* • *BookPage* • *Kirkus Reviews* • *Booklist* • *School Library Journal*

Meet all of the engines in this Thomas & Friends board book with a padded cover! Train-loving boys and girls ages 2 to 5 will love to discover fascinating facts about Thomas, Nia, Bertie, Harold, and all their favorite Thomas & Friends characters in this sturdy board book with padded cover. In the early 1940s, a loving father crafted a small blue wooden train engine for his son, Christopher. The stories that this father, the Reverend W Awdry, made up to accompany the wonderful toy were first published in 1945 and became the basis for the Railway Series, a collection of books about Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends--and the rest is history. Thomas & Friends(TM) are now a big extended family of engines and others on the Island of Sodor. They appear not only in books but also in television shows and movies, and as a wide variety of beautifully made toys. The adventures of Thomas and his friends, which are always, ultimately, about friendship, have delighted generations of train-loving boys and girls for more than 70 years and will continue to do so for generations to come.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • An award-winning guide to the sometimes erratic and confusing behavior of teenage girls that explains what's going on, prepares parents for what's to come, and lets them know when it's time to worry. Look for *Under Pressure*, the companion guide to coping with stress and anxiety among girls, available now. In this sane, highly engaging, and informed guide for parents of daughters, Dr. Damour draws on decades of experience and the latest research to reveal the seven distinct—and absolutely normal—developmental transitions that turn girls into grown-ups, including *Parting with Childhood*, *Contending with Adult Authority*, *Entering the Romantic World*, and *Caring for Herself*. Providing realistic scenarios and welcome advice on how to engage daughters in smart, constructive ways, *Untangled* gives parents a broad framework for understanding their daughters while addressing their most common questions, including • My thirteen-year-old rolls her eyes when I try to talk to her, and only does it more when I get angry with her about it. How should I respond? • Do I tell my teen daughter that I'm checking her phone? • My daughter suffers from test anxiety. What can I do to help her? • Where's the line between healthy eating and having an eating disorder? • My teenage daughter wants to know why I'm against pot when it's legal in some states. What should I say? • My daughter's friend is cutting herself. Do I call the girl's mother to let her know? Perhaps most important, *Untangled* helps mothers and fathers understand, connect, and grow with their daughters. When parents know what makes their daughter tick, they can embrace and enjoy the challenge of raising a healthy, happy young woman. **BOOKS FOR A BETTER LIFE AWARD WINNER** "Finally, there's some good news for puzzled parents of adolescent girls, and psychologist Lisa Damour is the bearer of that

happy news. [Untangled] is the most down-to-earth, readable parenting book I've come across in a long time."—The Washington Post "Anna Freud wrote in 1958, 'There are few situations in life which are more difficult to cope with than an adolescent son or daughter during the attempt to liberate themselves.' In the intervening decades, the transition doesn't appear to have gotten any easier which makes Untangled such a welcome new resource."—The Boston Globe

Offers advice on selection, planting, and cultivation

An illustrated collection of stories based on the plays of William Shakespeare.

"I've got the name for our publishing operation. We just said we were going to publish a few books on the side at random. Let's call it Random House." So recounts Bennett Cerf in this wonderfully amusing memoir of the making of a great publishing house. An incomparable raconteur, possessed of an irrepressible wit and an abiding love of books and authors, Cerf brilliantly evokes the heady days of Random House's first decades. Part of the vanguard of young New York publishers who revolutionized the book business in the 1920s and '30s, Cerf helped usher in publishing's golden age. Cerf was a true personality, whose other pursuits (columnist, anthologist, author, lecturer, radio host, collector of jokes and anecdotes, perennial judge of the Miss America pageant, and panelist on What's My Line?) helped shape his reputation as a man of boundless energy and enthusiasm and brought unprecedented attention to his company and to his authors. At once a rare behind-the-scenes account of book publishing and a fascinating portrait of four decades' worth of legendary authors, from James Joyce and William Faulkner to Ralph Ellison and Eudora Welty, *At Random* is a feast for bibliophiles and anyone who's ever wondered what goes on inside a publishing house.

Predicts the pace of environmental change during the next thirty years and the ways in which the individual must face and learn to cope with personal and social change

'Indispensable...a book that everyone interested in modern poetry should have close to hand, a source of renewable delights and discoveries, a book that will long claim our attention...To my knowledge, no current anthology is as full and as deftly edited.' --Peter Brooks

In his remarkable memoir, at once frank, audacious, canny, and revealing, Michael Korda, the author of *Charmed Lives* and *Queenie*, does for the world of books what Moss Hart did for the theater in *Act One*, and succeeds triumphantly in making publishing seem as exciting (and as full of great characters) as the stage. *Another Life* is not just an adventure--the engaging and often hilarious story of a young man making his career--but the insider's story of how a cottage industry metamorphosed into a big business, with sometimes alarming results for all concerned. Korda writes with grace, humor, and a shrewd eye, not only about himself and his rise from a lowly (but not humble) assistant editor reading the "slush pile" of manuscripts to a famous editor in chief of a major publishing house, but also about the celebrities and writers with whom he worked over four decades. Here are portraits--rare, intimate, always keenly observed--of such larger-than-life figures as Ronald Reagan, affable and good-natured but the most reluctant of authors, struggling with his "ghosted" presidential autobiography; Richard Nixon, seen here as a genial, if bizarrely detached, host; superagent Irving Lazar, pursuing his endless deals and dreams of "class"; retired Mafia boss Joseph Bonanno, the last of the old-time dons, laboring over his own version of his life in his desert retreat; Joan Crawford, giving Korda her rules for successful living; and countless other greats, near greats, and would-be greats. Here too are famous writers, sometimes eccentric, sometimes infuriating, sometimes lost souls, captured memorably by someone who was close to them for years: Graham Greene, in pursuit of his FBI file and a Nobel Prize; Tennessee Williams, wrestling unsuccessfully with his demons; Jacqueline Susann, facing and conquering the dreaded "second-novel syndrome" after the stunning success of *Valley of the Dolls*; Harold Robbins (who had to be guarded under lock and key and made to finish his novels), struggling to keep the IRS at bay from the deck of his yacht; Carlos Castaneda, at his most sorcerously charming, described--at last--in detail, as he really was, by one of the few people who knew him well; not to mention Richard Adams, Will and Ariel Durant, Susan Howatch, S. J. Perelman, Fannie Hurst, Larry McMurtry, and many, many more. Parts of this book that have appeared in *The New Yorker* over the years have brought Korda great acclaim--the chapter about Jacqueline Susann has been made into a major motion picture. Here at last, entertaining and provocative and always hugely readable, is the whole story--a book as engaging and full of life as Korda's highly acclaimed memoir of his family, *Charmed Lives*, about which Irwin Shaw wrote: "I don't know when I have enjoyed a book more."

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • "Desus & Mero are smarter and funnier than everyone writing books."—Shea Serrano "I will never write anything as hilarious as they have. I give up."—Malcolm Gladwell "These motherf****ers make me laugh until I choke."—Jia Tolentino NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY NPR A wild, hilarious guide to life from the hosts of the hit late-night show *Desus & Mero* and the *Bodega Boys* podcast Who could have predicted that, after a fateful meeting in a Bronx summer school in the 1990s, Desus & Mero would turn their friendship into an empire of talking to each other. And it's no surprise—tuning in to them is like listening to the funniest, smartest people you know dissect a topic and then light it on fire. Now they've written the most essential guide to life of this century*, in which all the important questions are asked: How do I talk to my kids about drugs if I do them, too? What are the ethics of ghosting in a relationship? How do I bet on sports? How should I behave in jail? How much is too much to spend on sneakers? Is porn really that bad for me? As they put it: "We want to share all we've learned, after years in the Bronx streets, with you: the people. So with a lifetime spent building up a plethora of information from trials and tribulations and a handful of misdemeanors, we decided to write this book—a sequel to the Bible, or maybe to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, depending on how big a nerd you are. Let this book be your North Star."

*NO REFUNDS

Questions and answers present information on curiosities and wonders in such categories as the universe, animals, the human body, and the arts.

The ten stories included here are 'Swan Lake', 'The Sleeping Beauty', 'Cinderella', 'Gisele', 'Coppelia', 'The Nutcracker', 'Petrouchka', 'Romeo and Juliet', 'La Sylphide', and 'The Firebird'. Each one evokes the excitement of a night at the ballet."

An upcoming book to be published by Penguin Random House.

Canada's beloved comic genius tells his own story for the first time. What is Rick Mercer going to do now? That was the question on everyone's lips when the beloved comedian retired his hugely successful TV show after 15 seasons—and at the peak of its popularity. The answer came not long after, when he roared back in a new role as stand-up-

comedian, playing to sold-out houses wherever he appeared. And then Covid-19 struck. And his legions of fans began asking again: What is Rick Mercer going to do now? Well, for one thing, he's been writing a comic masterpiece. For the first time, this most private of public figures has turned the spotlight on himself, in a memoir that's as revealing as it is hilarious. In riveting anecdotal style, Rick charts his rise from highly unpromising schoolboy ("Rick still owes 15 dollars to the chocolate bar fundraiser" was one of the less brutal items on a typical report) to heights of TV fame, by way of an amazing break as a teenager when his one-man show, "Show Me the Button, I'll Push It. Or, Charles Lynch Must Die," became an overnight sensation—thanks in part to a bizarre ambush by its target, Charles Lynch himself. That's one story you won't soon forget, and this book is full of them. There's the tale of how little Rick stole a tree from the neighbours that's set to become a new Christmas classic. There's Rick the aspiring actor—hitting the road as a new young punk in a vanload of hippies and appearing on stage in Shakespeare—and a wealth of behind-scenes revelations about This Hour Has 22 Minutes, Made in Canada, Talking to Americans and the coming of the mega-hit Rick Mercer Report. It's a life so packed with incident and laughter we can only hope that a future answer to "What is Rick Mercer going to do now?" is: "Write volume two."

A lush treasury of 19 fairy tales that generations of children have grown up on, lushly illustrated by Diane Goode.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A special holiday wish list brings about hope, love, and second chances in this nostalgic novel from the queen of Christmas stories, Debbie Macomber. Lindy Carmichael isn't feeling particularly joyful when she returns home to Wenatchee, Washington, for Christmas. The man she thought was "the one" has cheated on her with her best friend, and she feels completely devoid of creativity in her graphic-design job. Not even carolers or Christmas cookies can cheer her up—but Lindy's mother, Ellen, remembers an old tradition that might lift her daughter's spirits. Reading through a box of childhood letters to Santa and reminiscing about what she'd wished for as a young girl may be just the inspiration Lindy needs. With Ellen's encouragement, she decides to write a new letter to Santa, one that will encourage her to have faith and believe just as she'd done all those years ago. Little does Lindy know that this exercise in gratitude will cause her wishes to unfold before her in miraculous ways. And, thanks to some fateful twists of Christmas magic—especially an unexpected connection with a handsome former classmate—Lindy ultimately realizes that there is truly no place like home for the holidays. In *Dear Santa*, Debbie Macomber celebrates the joys of Christmas blessings, old and new.

Collects science fiction stories by such authors as Arthur C. Clarke, John Christopher, Piers Anthony, Eric Brown, Samantha Lee, and Stephen Baxter

A young woman takes a job as a nanny for an impossibly wealthy family, thinking she's found her entrée into a better life—only to discover instead she's walked into a world of deception and dark secrets. "Wild, unpredictable, and utterly absorbing, *Nanny Needed* is a gasp-out-loud thriller that will make your head spin."—Samantha M. Bailey, #1 bestselling author of *Woman on the Edge* *Nanny needed. Discretion is of the utmost importance. Special conditions apply. When Sarah Larsen finds the notice, posted on creamy card stock in her building's lobby, one glance at the exclusive address tells her she's found her ticket out of a dead-end job—and life. At the interview, the job seems like a dream come true: a glamorous penthouse apartment on the Upper West Side of NYC; a salary that adds several zeroes to her current income; the beautiful, worldly mother of her charge, who feels more like a friend than a potential boss. She's overjoyed when she's offered the position and signs the NDA without a second thought. But in retrospect, the notice in her lobby was less an engraved invitation than a waving red flag. For there is something very strange about the Bird family. Why does the beautiful Mrs. Bird never leave the apartment alone? And what happened to the nanny before Sarah? It soon becomes clear that the Birds' odd behaviors are more than the eccentricities of the wealthy. But by then it's too late for Sarah to seek help. After all, discretion is of the utmost importance.*

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