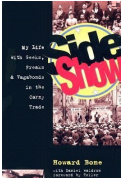


CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Side Show: My Life with Geeks, Freaks and Vagabonds in the Carny Trade

by Howard Bone (791.3 BONE)

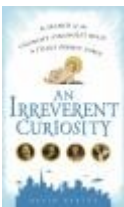
Howard Bone was a sideshow magician virtually his whole working life. During a long, eventful, and adventurous career he lived every aspect of outdoor show business in its golden era. SIDE SHOW captures the flavor of those boisterous times the characters, the scenes, the scams, the dodges, the joys and sorrows of carny ways as only an insider could know them. "An appealing, amusing and down and dirty glimpse into the rarely depicted nether regions of show business" Ricky Jay, magician, actor, and author. -- *Publisher's Weekly*



An Irreverent Curiosity: In Search of the Church's Strangest Relic in Italy's Oddest Town

by David Farley (232.9 FARLE)

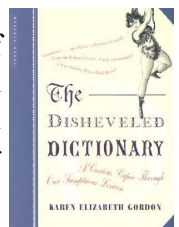
In December 1983, a priest in the Italian hill town of Calcata shared shocking news with his congregation: the pride of their town, the foreskin of Jesus, had been stolen. Some postulated that it had been stolen by Satanists. Some said the priest himself was to blame. Some even pointed their fingers at the Vatican. In 2006, travel writer David Farley moved to Calcata, determined to find the missing foreskin, or at least find out the truth behind its disappearance. Farley recounts how the relic passed from Charlemagne to the papacy to a marauding sixteenth-century German soldier before finally ending up in Calcata, where miracles occurred that made the sleepy town a major pilgrimage destination. Blending history, travel, and perhaps the oddest story in Christian lore, *An Irreverent Curiosity* is a weird and wonderful tale of conspiracy and misadventure. -- *BarnesandNoble.com*



The Disheveled Dictionary: A Curious Caper Through Our Sumptuous Lexicon

by Karen Elizabeth Gordon (423 GORDON)

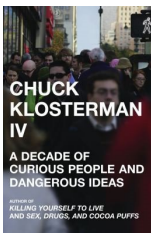
The *Disheveled Dictionary* takes a voluptuary's approach to language, carousing in a wanton world of words and their multiple and mischievous uses. Favorite characters from earlier books appear in cameo, including Yolanta, Jonquil Mapp, cowboys with lingerie, and assorted royal riffraff, who join in adumbration with the Grim Reaper, a reluctant baba, the contralto Constanza Zermattress, and other inspired creations. -- From *Powells.com*



Chuck Klosterman IV: A Decade of Curious People and Dangerous Ideas

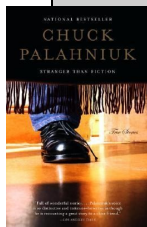
by Chuck Klosterman (814 KLOST)

Pop-culture-enthusiast Klosterman anthologizes his previously published rock interviews, opinion pieces, and a short story to create an entertaining albeit head-scratching follow-up to *Killing Yourself to Live* (2005). Rock fans will appreciate the ironies in Klosterman's interviews as he plays the interloper invited to the party who sits back and makes fun. Caustic throughout while alternating between disclosures oddly unrevealing and quasi sympathetic, Klosterman observes, "Britney Spears is the most famous person I've ever interviewed. She was also the weirdest." Contradictions and silliness best exemplify this collection. Klosterman's writing is funny and smart, if not so new or earth shattering, and that, after all, is pop culture. -- *Booklist*



Stranger Than Fiction: True Stories

by Chuck Palahniuk (814 PALA)

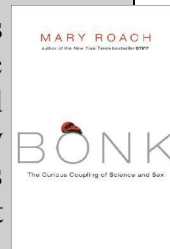


Chuck Palahniuk's world has always been, well, different from yours and mine. In his first collection of nonfiction, Chuck Palahniuk brings us into this world, and gives us a glimpse of what inspires his fiction. At the Rock Creek Lodge Testicle Festival in Missoula, Montana, average people perform public sex acts on an outdoor stage. In a mansion once occupied by The Rolling Stones, Marilyn Manson reads his own Tarot cards and talks sweetly to his beautiful actress girlfriend. Across the country, men build their own full-size castles and rocketships that will send them into space. Palahniuk himself experiments with steroids, works on an assembly line by day and as a hospice volunteer by night, and experiences the brutal murder of his father by a white supremacist. With this new direction, Chuck Palahniuk has proven he can do anything. -- *BarnesandNoble.com*

Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex

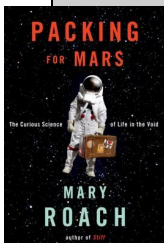
by Mary Roach (612.6 ROACH)

Mary Roach has been called the funniest science writer in America. Now the author who brought us *Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers* tackles the often hilarious study of sex. The topic seems fraught with possibilities for embarrassment, but in Roach's capable hands we forge ahead where few have dared to look. Roach's writing is an unusual amalgam of avid curiosity and dry asides that bring comic relief just when the details get a bit intense. Sandra Burr narrates as if she's lecturing from a text-book, which only adds to the dry irony of some of the material. In other hands it could well be over-the-top. -- *Amazon.com*



Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void

by Mary Roach (571.091 ROACH)



With her wry humor and inextinguishable curiosity, Mary Roach has crafted her own quirky niche in the somewhat staid world of science writing, showing no fear (or shame) in the face of cadavers, ectoplasm, or sex. In *Packing for Mars*, Roach tackles the strange science of space travel, and the psychology, tech-nology, and politics that go into sending a crew into orbit. Her zeal for discovery, combined with her love of the absurd, amazing, and stranger-than-fiction, make *Packing for Mars* an uproarious trip into the world of space travel. -- *Amazon.com*

Stiff: The Curious Lives of Cadavers

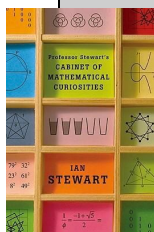
by Mary Roach (611 ROACH)

For 2,000 years, cadavers—some willingly, some unwittingly—have been involved in science's boldest strides and weirdest undertakings. In this fascinating, ennobling account, Mary Roach visits the good deeds of cadavers over the centuries and, in so doing, tells the engrossing story of our bodies when we are no longer with them. -- *Amazon.com*



Professor Stewart's Cabinet of Mathematical Curiosities

by Ian Stewart (793.74 STEWA)



For an exceptional reader, this book could mean a million dollars. For among the many doors that Stewart opens into the wonderland of mathematics, one offers a tantalizing perspective on the Riemann hypothesis, a conjecture so rich with implications that philanthropists have offered a million-dollar prize to anyone who can prove it. Of course, armchair mathematicians are not likely to find the path to that money. But they are certain to find pleasure in this cornucopia of puzzles, brainteasers, and digressions. Readers will delight, for instance, in testing their wits against Euclid's theorems, in enlarging their understanding of geometry by constructing antigravity cones, and in allying themselves with an ancient genius by calculating just how much Archimedes could have moved the earth with his famous fulcrum. But besides inviting his readers to exercise their gray matter, Stewart initiates them into vertigo-inducing mysteries, including the wild dynamics of chaos and the unearthly beauty of logarithmic spirals. The ideal book for dispelling the supposed drudgery of mathematics with its real magic. -- *Booklist*