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### 5BC - CARLY CINDY

A lighthearted survey of the science of mistakes by the authors of *Chances Are* reveals how the human race is hard-wired to get things wrong in countless ways, citing such examples as successful racy advertisements for inferior products, our inclinations to favor dysfunctional relationship partners and the socially unacceptable behaviors of leaders. Reprint.

The value of nothing is explored in rich detail as the author reaches back as far as the ancient Sumerians to find evidence that humans have long struggled with the concept of zero, from the Greeks who may or may not have known of it, to the East where it was first used, to the modern-day desktop PC, which uses it as an essential letter in its computational alphabet.

The theory of concurrent engineering is based on the concept that the different phases of a product lifecycle should be conducted concurrently and initiated as early as possible within the product creation process. Concurrent engineering is important in many industries, including automotive, aerospace, shipbuilding, consumer goods and environmental engineering, as well as in the development of new services and service support. This book presents the proceedings of the 21st ISPE Inc. International Conference on Concurrent Engineering, held at Beijing Jiaotong University, China, in September 2014. It is the first volume of a new book series: 'Advances in Transdisciplinary Engineering'. The title of the CE2014 conference is: 'Moving Integrated Product Development to Service Clouds in the Global Economy', which reflects the variety of processes and methods which influence modern product creation. After an initial first section presenting the keynote papers, the remainder of the book is divided into 11 further sections with peer-reviewed papers: product lifecycle management (PLM); knowledge-based engineering (KBE); cloud approaches; 3-D printing applications; design methods; educational methods and achievements; simulation of complex systems; systems engineering; services as innovation and science; sustainability; and recent research on open innovation in concurrent engineering. The book will be of interest to CE researchers, practitioners from industry and public bodies, and educators alike.

This is the inspiring story of a modern American icon, the first comprehensive account of the life and times of Michelle Obama. With disciplined reporting and a storyteller's eye for revealing detail, Peter Slevin follows Michelle to the White House from her working-class childhood on Chicago's largely segregated South Side. He illuminates her tribulations at Princeton University and Harvard Law School during the racially charged 1980s and the dilemmas she faced in Chicago while building a high-powered career, raising a family, and helping a young community organizer named Barack Obama become president of the United States. From the lessons she learned in Chicago to the messages she shares as one of the most recognizable women in the world, the story of this First Lady is the story of America. Michelle Obama: A Life is a fresh and compelling view of a woman of unique achievement and purpose.

Argues that humanity can be seen as a case of mistaken identity.

We live in an era of misinformation, much of it spread by authority figures, including politicians, religious leaders, broadcasters, and, of course, apps and websites. In this second edition, author John Grant uses ripped-from-the-headlines examples to clearly explain how to identify bad evidence and poor arguments. He also points out the rhetorical tricks people use when attempting to pull the wool over our eyes, and offers advice about how to take these unscrupulous pundits down. Updated to include a chapter on fake news, *Debunk It* serves as a guide to critical thinking for young readers looking to find some clarity in a confusing world.

"Riveting. ... Pattison's uncanny ability [is] to write evocatively about science. ... In this, he is every bit as good as the best scientist writers." —New York Times Book Review (Editors' Choice) "Brilliant. ... A work of staggering depth." —Minneapolis Star Tribune A decade in the making, *Fossil Men* is a scientific detective story played out in anatomy and the natural history of the human body: the first full-length account of the discovery of a startlingly unpredicted human ancestor more than a million years older than Lucy It is the ultimate mystery: where do we come from? In 1994, a team led by fossil-hunting legend Tim White uncovered a set of ancient bones in Ethiopia's Afar region. Radiometric dating of nearby rocks indicated the resulting skeleton, classified as *Ardipithecus ramidus*—nicknamed "Ardi"—was an astounding 4.4 million years old, more than a million years older than the world-famous "Lucy." The team spent the next 15 years studying the bones in strict secrecy, all while continuing to rack up landmark fossil discoveries in the field and becoming increasingly ensnared in bitter disputes with scientific peers and Ethiopian bureaucrats. When finally revealed to the public, Ardi stunned scientists around the world and challenged a half-century of orthodoxy about human evolution—how we started walking upright, how we evolved our nimble hands, and, most significantly, whether we were descended from an ancestor that resembled today's chimpanzee. But the discovery of Ardi wasn't just a leap forward in understanding the roots of humanity—it was an attack on scientific convention and the leading authorities of human origins, triggering an epic feud about the oldest family skeleton. In *Fossil Men*, acclaimed journalist Kermit Pattison brings us a cast of eccentric, obsessive scientists, including White, an uncompromising perfectionist whose virtuoso skills in the field were matched only by his propensity for making enemies; Gen Suwa, a Japanese savant whose deep expertise about teeth rivaled anyone on Earth; Owen Lovejoy, a onetime creationist-turned-paleoanthropologist with radical insights into human locomotion; Berhane Asfaw, who survived imprisonment and torture to become Ethiopia's most senior paleoanthropologist; Don Johanson, the discoverer of Lucy, who had a rancorous falling out with the Ardi team; and the Leakeys, for decades the most famous family in paleoanthropology. Based on a half-decade of research in Africa, Europe and North America, *Fossil Men* is not only a brilliant investigation into the origins of the human lineage, but the oldest of human emotions: curiosity, jealousy, perseverance and wonder.

The complex, deeply binding relationship between mothers and daughters is brought vividly to life in Katie Hafner's remarkable memoir, an exploration of the year she and her mother, Helen, spent working through, and triumphing over, a lifetime of unresolved emotions. Dreaming of a "year in Provence" with her mother, Katie urges Helen to move to San Francisco to live with her and Zoë, Katie's teenage daughter. Katie and Zoë had become a mother-daughter team, strong enough, Katie thought, to absorb the arrival of a seventy-seven-year-old woman set in her ways. Filled with fairy-tale hope that she and her mother would become friends, and that Helen would grow close to her exceptional granddaughter, Katie embarked on an experiment in intergenerational living that she would soon discover was filled with land mines: memories of her parents' painful divorce, of her mother's drinking, of dislocating moves back and forth across the country, and of Katie's own widowhood and bumpy recovery. Helen, for her part, was also holding difficult issues at bay. How these three women from such different generations learn to navigate their challenging, turbulent, and ultimately healing journey together makes for riveting reading. By turns heartbreaking and funny—and always insightful—Katie Hafner's brave and loving book answers questions about the universal truths of family that are central to the lives of so many. Praise for *Mother Daughter Me* "The most raw, honest and engaging memoir I've read in a long time."—KJ Dell'Antonia, *The New York Times* "A brilliant, funny, poignant, and wrenching story of three generations under one roof, unlike anything I have ever read."—Abraham Verghese, author of *Cutting for Stone* "Weaving past with present, anecdote with analysis, [Katie] Hafner's riveting account of multigenerational living and mother-daughter frictions, of love and forgiveness, is devoid of self-pity and unafraid of self-blame. . . . [Hafner is] a bright—and appealing—heroine."—Cathi Hanauer, *Elle* "[A] frank and searching account . . . Currents of grief, guilt, longing and forgiveness flow through the compelling narrative."—Steven Winn, *San Francisco Chronicle* "A touching saga that shines . . . We see how years-old unresolved emotions manifest."—Lindsay Deutsch, *USA Today* "[Hafner's] memoir shines a light on nurturing deficits repeated through generations and will lead many readers to relive their own struggles with forgiveness."—Erica Jong, *People* "An unusually graceful story, one that balances honesty and tact . . . Hafner narrates the events so adeptly that they feel enlightening."—Harper's "Heartbreakingly honest, yet not without hope and flashes of wry humor."—Kirkus Reviews "[An] emotionally raw memoir examining the delicate, inevitable shift from dependence to independence and back again."—O: *The Oprah Magazine* (Ten Titles to Pick Up Now)

'Brilliantly unillusioned thinking... It could hardly be more necessary in these all-too-moralistic times' - James Marriott, *THE TIMES* Morals have held empires together, kept soldiers marching under fire, fed the hungry, passed laws, built walls, welcomed immigrants, destroyed careers and governed our sex lives. But what if morality's all meaningless rubbish, a malfunctioning relic of our evolutionary past? This is the provocative argument that Chris Paley makes. This isn't an attack on one set of moral codes or one way of thinking about ethics: it's a call for abolishing the whole caboodle. He uses evolutionary psychology to show how and why morality emerged: they enabled our forebears to survive and prosper in tribal groups. Today, our morals constrain us, bias us, and push us in the wrong direction. The biggest challenges our species faces, whether global warming, nuclear proliferation or the rise of the robots, are pan-human. These challenges are beyond what our moral minds were designed to cope with. You can't build smartphones with stone-age axes, and you can't solve modern humanity's problems with tools that are designed to create primitive, competitive groups. From Chris Paley, author of the 'extraordinary', 'startling' and 'thought-provoking' *Unthink*, comes *Beyond Bad*, which shows morals hinder us from achieving what we want to achieve. *Beyond Bad* is the book that 'does for morals what Dawkins did for God'.

The Harvard mathematician authors of *The Art of the Infinite* present a history of the famous relation "A squared plus B squared equals C squared" that assesses its contributors from da Vinci to the Freemasons while analyzing its numerous proofs and applications.

The *New York Times* called *Chances Are*, the authors' look at the application of probability in everyday life, a "dizzying, exhilarating ride." In *Bozo Sapiens*, they take us on a another funhouse journey, exploring the surprising, or alarming, number of ways that humans can make bad judgments and poor decisions. The Kaplans' ability to explain everything from statistics to evolutionary biology in witty, accessible, and anecdotal style will endear this book to readers of *Blink*, *Freakonomics*, and other recent pop-social science successes.

One of the most provocative science books ever published—"a feast of great thinking and writing about the most profound issues there are" (*The New York Times Book Review*). "Fiercely intelligent, beautifully written and engrossingly original." —*The New York Times Book Review* Are men literally born to cheat? Does monogamy actually serve women's interests? These are among the questions that have made *The Moral Animal* one of the most provocative science books in recent years. Wright unveils the genetic strategies behind everything from our sexual preferences to our office politics—as well as their implications for our moral codes and public policies. Illustrations.

Meave Leakey's thrilling, high-stakes memoir--written with her daughter Samira--encapsulates her distinguished life and career on the front lines of the hunt for our human origins, a quest made all the more notable by her stature as a woman in a highly competitive, male-dominated field.

A detailed study of research on the psychology of expertise in weather forecasting, drawing on findings in cognitive science, meteorology, and computer science. This book argues that the human cognition system is the least understood, yet probably most important, component of forecasting accuracy. *Minding the Weather* investigates how people acquire massive and highly organized knowledge and develop the reasoning skills and strategies that enable them to achieve the highest levels of performance. The authors consider such topics as the forecasting workplace; atmospheric scientists' descriptions of their reasoning strategies; the nature of expertise; forecaster knowledge, perceptual skills, and reasoning; and expert systems designed to imitate forecaster reasoning. Drawing on research in cognitive science, meteorology, and computer science, the authors argue that forecast-

ing involves an interdependence of humans and technologies. Human expertise will always be necessary.

Uses modern headline examples to explain how to identify bad evidence and poor arguments, summarizing the rhetorical tricks people use to sway public opinion in a range of fields.

The classic book on the development of human language by the world's leading expert on language and the mind. In this classic, the world's expert on language and mind lucidly explains everything you always wanted to know about language: how it works, how children learn it, how it changes, how the brain computes it, and how it evolved. With deft use of examples of humor and wordplay, Steven Pinker weaves our vast knowledge of language into a compelling story: language is a human instinct, wired into our brains by evolution. The Language Instinct received the William James Book Prize from the American Psychological Association and the Public Interest Award from the Linguistics Society of America. This edition includes an update on advances in the science of language since The Language Instinct was first published.

Following World War II, a British widow joins a Benedictine monastery in this poignant New York Times bestseller from the author of *Black Narcissus*. For most of her adult life, Philippa Talbot has been a successful British professional. Now in her forties, the World War II-widow has made a startling decision: She's giving up her civil service career and elite social standing to join a convent as a postulant Roman Catholic nun. In Sussex in the south of England, Philippa begins her new life inside Brede Abbey, a venerable, 130-year-old Benedictine monastery. Taking her place among a diverse group of extraordinary women, young and old, she is welcomed into the surprisingly rich and complex world of the devout, whom faith, fate, and circumstance have led there. From their personal stories, both uplifting and heartbreaking, Philippa draws great strength in the weeks, months, and years that follow, as the confidence, conflicts, and poignant humanity of her fellow sisters serve to validate her love and sacred purpose. But a time of great upheaval in the hierarchy of the Catholic Church approaches as the winds of change blow at gale force. And for the financially troubled Brede and the acolytes within, it will take no less than a miracle to weather the storm. Author Rumer Godden spent three years living in close proximity to Stanbrook Abbey in Worcestershire communing with the Benedictine nuns in preparation for the writing of this beloved bestseller. The result is an honest and unforgettable novel of love, sacrifice, and devotion, a major literary achievement from the acclaimed author of *Black Narcissus* and *The River*. This ebook features an illustrated biography of the author including rare images from the Rumer Godden Literary Estate.

The best-selling Distributed Sensor Networks became the definitive guide to understanding this far-reaching technology. Preserving the excellence and accessibility of its predecessor, Distributed Sensor Networks, Second Edition once again provides all the fundamentals and applications in one complete, self-contained source. Ideal as a tutorial for

Nahuatl is the language used by the ancient Aztecs and the Nahua Indians of Central Mexico. This text introduces the language using an anthropological approach, teaching learners to understand Nahuatl according to its own distinctive grammar and to reject translationalist descriptions based on English or Spanish notions of grammar. In particular, the author emphasizes the nonexistence of words in Nahuatl (except for the few so-called particles) and stresses the nuclear clause as the basis for Nahuatl linguistic organization.

"The main goal of this book is to provide students with a set of robust, integrated critical concepts and processes that will allow to them think through a topic and then write about it, and to do so in a way that is built on, and permeated by, substantive critical thinking"--

In the wrong hands, math can be deadly. Even the simplest numbers can become powerful forces when manipulated by politicians or the media, but in the case of the law, your liberty -- and your life -- can depend on the right calculation. In *Math on Trial*, mathematicians Leila Schneps and Coralie Colmez describe ten trials spanning from the nineteenth century to today, in which mathematical arguments were used -- and disastrously misused -- as evidence. They tell the stories of Sally Clark, who was accused of murdering her children by a doctor with a faulty sense of calculation; of nineteenth-century tycoon Hetty Green, whose dispute over her aunt's will became a signal case in the forensic use of mathematics; and of the case of Amanda Knox, in which a judge's misunderstanding of probability led him to discount critical evidence -- which might have kept her in jail. Offering a fresh angle on cases from the nineteenth-century Dreyfus affair to the murder trial of Dutch nurse Lucia de Berk, Schneps and Colmez show how the improper application of mathematical concepts can mean the difference between walking free and life in prison. A colorful narrative of mathematical abuse, *Math on Trial* blends courtroom drama, history, and math to show that legal expertise isn't always enough to prove a person innocent.

An account of the murder of Candy Short describes how investigators were initially unable to collect enough evidence against Candy's husband, John, and how George Brejack, a homicide detective, finally solved the crime. Original.

"In this sparkling narrative, mathematics is indeed set free." -Michael Shermer, author of *The Believing Brain* In classrooms around the world, Robert and Ellen Kaplan's pioneering Math Circle program, begun at Harvard, has introduced students ages six to sixty to the pleasures of mathematics, exploring topics that range from Roman numerals to quantum mechanics. In *Out of the Labyrinth*, the Kaplans reveal the secrets of their highly successful approach, which embraces the exhilarating joy of math's "accessible mysteries." Stocked with puzzles, colorful anecdotes, and insights from the authors' own teaching experience, *Out of the Labyrinth* is both an engaging and practical guide for parents and educators, and a treasure chest of mathematical discoveries. For any reader who has felt the excitement of mathematical discovery-or tried to convey it to someone else-this volume will be a delightful and valued companion.

The first book in an enthralling mystery series from award-winning author Peter May. "A WRITER I WOULD FOLLOW TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH." --- Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times* Book Review "SHINES WITH INTRIGUE AND SUPERB PLOTTING." --USA Today Every step toward solving the case brings Scottish detective Fin Macleod closer to a dangerous confrontation with the dark events of the past that shaped--and nearly destroyed--his life. When a grisly murder occurs on the Isle of Lewis that bears similarities to a brutal killing on mainland Scotland, Edinburgh detective and native of the Isle of Lewis Fin Macleod is dispatched to the Outer Hebrides to investigate, embarking at the same time on a voyage into his own troubled past. As Fin reconnects with the people and places of his tortured childhood, the desolate but beautiful island and its ancient customs assert their grip on his psyche.

Our lives are composed of millions of choices, ranging from trivial to life-changing and momentous. Luckily, our brains have evolved a number of mental shortcuts, biases, and tricks that allow us to quickly negotiate this endless array of decisions. We don't want to rationally deliberate every choice

we make, and thanks to these cognitive rules of thumb, we don't need to. Yet these hard-wired shortcuts, mental wonders though they may be, can also be perilous. They can distort our thinking in ways that are often invisible to us, leading us to make poor decisions, to be easy targets for manipulators...and they can even cost us our lives. The truth is, despite all the buzz about the power of gut-instinct decision-making in recent years, sometimes it's better to stop and say, "On second thought . . ." The trick, of course, lies in knowing when to trust that instant response, and when to question it. In *On Second Thought*, acclaimed science writer Wray Herbert provides the first guide to achieving that balance. Drawing on real-world examples and cutting-edge research, he takes us on a fascinating, wide-ranging journey through our innate cognitive traps and tools, exposing the hidden dangers lurking in familiarity and consistency; the obstacles that keep us from accurately evaluating risk and value; the delusions that make it hard for us to accurately predict the future; the perils of the human yearning for order and simplicity; the ways our fears can color our very perceptions . . . and much more. Along the way, Herbert reveals the often-bizarre cross-connections these shortcuts have secretly ingrained in our brains, answering such questions as why jury decisions may be shaped by our ancient need for cleanliness; what the state of your desk has to do with your political preferences; why loneliness can literally make us shiver; how drawing two dots on a piece of paper can desensitize us to violence... and how the very typeface on this page is affecting your decision about whether or not to buy this book. Ultimately, *On Second Thought* is both a captivating exploration of the workings of the mind and an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to learn how to make smarter, better judgments every day.

This review of recent evolutionary theories on psychopathology takes on controversies and contradictions both with established psychological thought and within the evolutionary field itself. Opening with the ancestral origins of the familiar biopsychosocial model of psychological conditions, the book traces distinctive biological and cultural pathways shaping human development and their critical impact on psychiatric and medical disorders. Analyses of disparate phenomena such as jealousy, social anxiety, depressive symptoms, and antisocial behavior describe adaptive functions that have far outlasted their usefulness, or that require further study and perhaps new directions for treatment. In addition, the book's compelling explorations of violence, greed, addiction, and suicide challenge us to revisit many of our assumptions regarding what it means to be human. Included in the coverage:

- Evolutionary foundations of psychiatric compared to non-psychiatric disorders.
- Evolutionary psychopathology, uncomplicated depression, and the distinction between normal and disordered sadness.
- Depression: is rumination really adaptive?
- A CBT approach to coping with sexual betrayal and the green-eyed monster.
- Criminology's modern synthesis: remaking the science of crime with Darwinian insight.
- Anthropology: the abiding malady of the species. With its wealth of interdisciplinary viewpoints, *The Evolution of Psychopathology* makes an appropriate supplementary text for advanced graduate courses in the evolutionary sciences, particularly in psychology, biology, anthropology, sociology, and philosophy.

Information fusion refers to the merging of information from disparate sources with differing conceptual, contextual and typographical representations. Rather than focusing on traditional data fusion applications which have been mainly concerned with physical military targets, this unique resource explores new human-centered trends, such as locations, identity, and interactions of individuals and groups (social networks). Moreover, the book discusses two new major sources of information: human observations and web-based information. This cutting-edge volume presents a new view of multi-sensor data fusion that seeks to address these new developments, explicitly considering the active role of a human user/analyst. Professionals become knowledgeable about the key inputs into this innovative information fusion process, including traditional sensing resources (S-space), dynamic communities of human observers (H-space), and resources such as archived sensor data, blogs, and dynamic news reports from citizen reporters via the Internet (I-space).

The book delves into a unique mix of the following areas: 1. The psychology of learning, memory, and thinking 2. Tools for critical thinking and assessment 3. Collective thinking of groups, corporations, and the public 4. Measurement of attitudes and market research 5. Mathematical logic and computer programming 6. Planning and scheduling techniques 7. Optimization techniques (both linear and non-linear) 8. World's first finite element method (FEM) models of distribution, inventory, and traffic flow systems and optimization of them 9. Mohr's flow ratio design (FRD) optimization technique 10. Econometric modeling techniques (some of them new) The book is the most modern, technically resourced, and innovative study of thinking to date and will prove useful to a wide range of people, including managers, planners, engineers, scientists, teachers, psychologists, and politicians.

A witty, conversational, and accessible tour of math's profoundest mysteries. Mathematical symbols, for mathematicians, store worlds of meaning, leap continents and centuries. But we need not master symbols to grasp the magnificent abstractions they represent, and to which all art aspires. Through language, anyone can come to delight in the works of mathematical art, which are among our kind's greatest glories. Taking the concept of infinity, in its countless guises, as a starting point and a helpful touchstone, the founders of Harvard's pioneering Math Circle program Robert and Ellen Kaplan guide us through the "Republic of Numbers," where we meet both its upstanding citizens and its more shadowy dwellers, explore realms where only the imagination can go, and grapple with math's most profound uncertainties, including the question of truth itself--do we discover mathematical principles, or invent them?

Featuring David Sedaris's unique blend of hilarity and heart, this new collection of keen-eyed animal-themed tales is an utter delight. Though the characters may not be human, the situations in these stories bear an uncanny resemblance to the insanity of everyday life. In "The Toad, the Turtle, and the Duck," three strangers commiserate about animal bureaucracy while waiting in a complaint line. In "Hello Kitty," a cynical feline struggles to sit through his prison-mandated AA meetings. In "The Squirrel and the Chipmunk," a pair of star-crossed lovers is separated by prejudiced family members. With original illustrations by Ian Falconer, author of the bestselling *Olivia* series of children's books, these stories are David Sedaris at his most observant, poignant, and surprising.

"Powerful ... Timely ... a High-Impact Inspirational Resource for God's Christian Soldiers!" Faithful Christians are under spiritual and physical assault in our modern world, and their challenges are greater than at any other time in recent history. Hostile religions, anti-faith movements and politically correct governments are literally trying to destroy Christianity at its core. God won't let that happen; He has deployed a new generation of Christian Warriors to stand in defense of His faithful elect. "Christian Warrior Mindset: Spiritual Strength in Challenging Times," is a powerful and inspirational book written for God's Christian Warriors in the modern age. By the Grace and Glory of God, Christians will stand together, rise against the threats it faces and emerge victorious in its battles with the enemies of the Living God. You will be inspired by 365 days of powerful Scripture, inspirational commentary and a personal journal that allows readers to discover and plan how they will rise to defend God's Kingdom on earth. If you're led by God to stand

in defense of your Christian faith, "Christian Warrior Mindset" was written at the perfect time, just for you.

A compelling journey through history, mathematics, and philosophy, charting humanity's struggle against randomness. Our lives are played out in the arena of chance. However little we recognize it in our day-to-day existence, we are always riding the odds, seeking out certainty but settling—reluctantly—for likelihood, building our beliefs on the shadowy props of probability. *Chances Are* is the story of man's millennia-long search for the tools to manage the recurrent but unpredictable—to help us prevent, or at least mitigate, the seemingly random blows of disaster, disease, and injustice. In these pages, we meet the brilliant individuals who developed the first abstract formulations of probability, as well as the intrepid visionaries who recognized their practical applications—from gamblers to military strategists to meteorologists to medical researchers, from blackjack to our own mortality.

*Virus of the Mind* is the first popular book devoted to the science of memetics, a controversial new field that transcends psychology, biology, anthropology, and cognitive science. Memetics is the science of memes, the invisible but very real DNA of human society. In *Virus of the Mind*, Richard Brodie carefully builds on the work of scientists Richard Dawkins, Douglas Hofstadter, Daniel Dennett, and others who have become fascinated with memes and their potential impact on our lives. But Richard goes beyond science and dives into the meat of the issue: is the emergence of this new science going to have an impact on our lives like the emergence of atomic physics did in the Cold War? He would say the impact will be at least as great. While atomic bombs affect everybody's life, viruses of the mind touch lives in a more personal and more pernicious way. Mind viruses have already infected governments, educational systems, and inner cities, leading to some of the most pervasive and troublesome problems of society today: youth gangs, the welfare cycle, the deterioration of the public schools, and ever-growing government bureaucracy. Viruses of the mind are not a future worry: they are here with us now and are evolving to become better and better at their job of infecting us. The recent explosion of mass media and the information superhighway has made the earth a prime breeding ground for viruses of the mind. Will there be a mental plague? Will only some of us survive with our free will intact? Richard Brodie weaves together science, ethics, and current events as he raises these and other very disturbing questions about memes.

In J. L. Carr's deeply charged poetic novel, Tom Birkin, a veteran of the Great War and a broken marriage, arrives in the remote Yorkshire village of Oxgodby where he is to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church. Living in the bell tower, surrounded by the resplendent country-

side of high summer, and laboring each day to uncover an anonymous painter's depiction of the apocalypse, Birkin finds that he himself has been restored to a new, and hopeful, attachment to life. But summer ends, and with the work done, Birkin must leave. Now, long after, as he reflects on the passage of time and the power of art, he finds in his memories some consolation for all that has been lost.

$A^2 + b^2 = c^2$ . It sounds simple, doesn't it? Yet this familiar expression is a gateway into the riotous garden of mathematics, and sends us on a journey of exploration in the company of two inspired guides, acclaimed authors Robert and Ellen Kaplan. With wit, verve, and clarity, they trace the life of the Pythagorean theorem, from ancient Babylon to the present, visiting along the way Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, President James Garfield, and the Freemasons—not to mention the elusive Pythagoras himself, who almost certainly did not make the statement that bears his name. How can a theorem have more than one proof? Why does this one have more than two hundred—or is it four thousand? The Pythagorean theorem has even more applications than proofs: Ancient Egyptians used it for surveying property lines, and today astronomers call on it to measure the distance between stars. Its generalizations are stunning—the theorem works even with shapes on the sides that aren't squares, and not just in two dimensions, but any number you like, up to infinity. And perhaps its most intriguing feature of all, this tidy expression opened the door to the world of irrational numbers, an untidy discovery that deeply troubled Pythagoras's disciples. Like the authors' bestselling *The Nothing That Is* and *Chances Are* . . . -hailed as "erudite and witty," "magnificent," and "exhilarating"—*Hidden Harmonies* makes the excitement of mathematics palpable.

*The Best Time to Do Everything* is really just that—a guide to the best time to do everything in life. From buying shoes to cleaning a murder scene, each entry is built around the well-informed advice of an expert in that particular field: Donald Trump on the best time to haggle, Johnny Ramone on the best time to learn to play guitar, Bill Maher on the best time for a political conversation, the Car Talk guys on the best time to repair your car. Not all of the advice comes from celebrities, but all of it does come from people who know their stuff. Incredibly useful (best time to buy life insurance, best time to look for a job, best time to purge and organize), entertaining (best time to start a high-fashion modeling career, best time to approach a celebrity, best time to cheat on your diet), and outrageous (best time to get punched in the face, best time for a coup, best time to have sex with 209 strangers), *The Best Time to Do Everything* is educational, practical, and wholly addictive. Michael Kaplan is a journalist based in Brooklyn, NY, and his writing has appeared in *Wired*, *Details*, *Spin*, *Playboy*, and *SmartMoney*. He is the author of the nonfiction book *Buried Mistakes* and the gambling columnist for *Cigar Aficionado*.