

Oct. 2

A Crack in Creation
Jennifer A. Doudna

Not since the atomic bomb has a technology so alarmed its inventors that they warned the world about its use. Not, that is, until 2015, when biologist Jennifer Doudna called for a worldwide moratorium on the use of the gene-editing tool CRISPR - a revolutionary new technology that she helped create - to make heritable changes in human embryos. Yet even the tiniest changes to DNA could have myriad, unforeseeable consequences.



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Nov. 6

*This is How to Lose
the Time War*
El-Mothar & Gladstone

Among the ashes of a dying world, an agent of the Commandment finds a letter. It reads: Burn before reading. Thus begins an unlikely correspondence between two rival agents hellbent on securing the best possible future for their warring factions. Now, what began as a taunt, a battlefield boast, becomes something more. Something that could change the past and the future and the discovery of their bond would mean the death of each of them. There's still a war going on, after all. And someone has to win. That's how war works, right?



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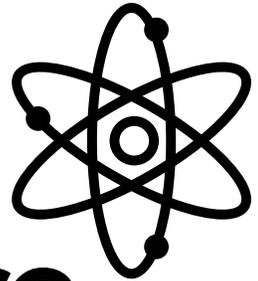
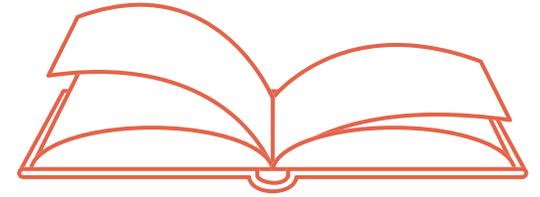
Updated 12/28/22

Dec. 4

The Icepick Surgeon
Sam Kean

Science is a force for good in the world--at least usually. But sometimes, when obsession gets the better of scientists, they twist a noble pursuit into something sinister. The book reveals the problematic origins of much of modern science and we learn that the sins of science aren't all safely buried in the past. Many of them still affect us today.

Book Group



S2: Science Squared

SCIENCE TWO WAYS @ TPL
Meets on the first Monday of the month @ 7:00pm

Jan-Dec 2023



Jan. 9

The Martian Chronicles
Ray Bradbury

A milestone of American literature, this is Bradbury's classic collection of interconnected vignettes about life on the red planet in which humanity is the conqueror, colonizing Mars to escape an Earth devastated by atomic war and environmental catastrophe. A must-read and an influence on films like "Alien" and "Avatar".

Feb. 6

The Poison Squad
Deborah Blum

Today's consumers may debate whether GMO foods need to be labeled, but in 19th-century America food additives could be deadly. Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley set out to ensure food safety. He selected food tasters to test various food additives and preservatives, letting them know that the substances could be harmful or deadly. The tasters were recognized for their courage, and became known as the poison squad.

Mar. 6

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
Douglas Adams

It's an ordinary Thursday morning for Arthur Dent . . . until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly after to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and Arthur's best friend has just announced that he's an alien. After that, things get much, much worse. With just a towel, a small yellow fish, and a book, Arthur has to navigate through a very hostile universe in the company of a gang of unreliable aliens.

Apr. 3

The First Cell
Azra Raza

Azra Raza offers a searing account of how both medicine and our society (mis)treats cancer, how we can do better, and why we must. A lyrical journey from hope to despair and back again, *The First Cell* explores cancer from every angle: medical, scientific, cultural, and personal. Indeed, Raza describes how she bore the terrible burden of being her own husband's oncologist as he succumbed to leukemia.

May 8

Artemis
Andy Weir

Jasmine Bashara never signed up to be a hero. She just wanted to get rich. Not crazy, eccentric-billionaire rich, like many of the visitors to her hometown of Artemis, humanity's first and only lunar colony. Just rich enough to move out of her coffin-sized apartment. When a chance at a huge score finally comes her way, Jazz can't say no. But it turns out to be trickier than she imagined and she's way over her head.

June 5

How to Astronaut
Terry Virts

Col. Terry Virts, a former astronaut, space shuttle pilot, and International Space Station commander who spent 200 consecutive days in space, answers all of our curious questions and much more about being an astronaut and living in space. He reveals the often-untold side of space travel in 51 short chapters filled with a mix of you-are-there detail, a dose of science made simple, and the inherent drama of describing something few will ever know firsthand.

Jul. 3

Klara and the Sun
Kazuo Ishiguro

From her place in the store that sells artificial friends, Klara--an artificial friend with outstanding observational qualities--watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass in the street outside. She remains hopeful a customer will soon choose her, but when the possibility emerges that her circumstances may change forever, Klara is warned not to invest too much in the promises of humans.

Aug. 7

Empire of Pain
Patrick Radden Keefe

The Sackler name has adorned the walls of many storied institutions--Harvard, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Oxford, the Louvre. They are one of the richest families in the world, known for their lavish donations to the arts and the sciences. The source of the family fortune was vague, however, until it emerged that the Sacklers were responsible for making and marketing a blockbuster painkiller that was the catalyst for the opioid crisis.

Sep. 11

Variable Star
Robinson & Heinlein

When the love of his life turns out not to be what she seems, Joel Johnston joins a colony ship headed for a new world outside the solar system. Joel eventually learns to appreciate his new surroundings and his new future, as well as his fellow travelers--just before a series of unexpected calamities threatens to rob him of everything. Begun by Heinlein in 1955 and unfinished at the author's death in 1988, his estate authorized its completion by Robinson.