

The Radioactive Boy Scout Frightening True Story Of A Whiz Kid And His Homemade Nuclear Reactor Ken Silverstein

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Fieldhouse Scott Novosel 2017-08-31 Based on actual events, *Fieldhouse* is the story of Scott Novosel and his journey to play for the Kansas Jayhawks basketball team.

Atomic Accidents James Maheffey 2021-08-31 From the moment radiation was discovered in the late nineteenth century, nuclear science has had

a rich history of innovative scientific exploration and discovery, coupled with mistakes, accidents, and downright disasters. Mahaffey, a long-time advocate of continued nuclear research and nuclear energy, looks at each incident in turn and analyzes what happened and why, often discovering where scientists went wrong when analyzing past meltdowns. Every incident has lead

to new facets in understanding about the mighty atom—and Mahaffey puts forth what the future should be for this final frontier of science that still holds so much promise.

Monument 14 Emmy Laybourne 2012-06-05

When a group of kids trapped together in a chain superstore build a refuge for themselves inside, outside, a series of disasters from a monster hailstorm to a chemical weapons spill, seems to be tearing the world apart.

Meltdown Joel Levy 2021-11-09 Meltdown

investigates and recreates the dramatic events behind the most notorious nuclear accidents in

history, as well as those shrouded in secrecy.

Combining human tragedy with intriguing science, each account reveals new aspects of humanity's complex relationship with nuclear power and the ongoing struggle to harness and control it. From the pioneers of Los Alamos who got up close and personal with the cores of atomic bombs, to the hapless engineers in Soviet fuel-processing plants who unwittingly mixed up a disaster in a bucket, and from the terrifying impact of a tsunami at Fukushima to the mystery of the recent Russian incident, Meltdown explores the past and future of this extraordinary and potentially lethal source of

infinite power.

Red Star Rogue Kenneth Sewell 2006-09-26

Documents the true story of a rogue Soviet submarine's 1968 attempt to provoke a war between the U.S. and China by firing a missile off the coast of Hawaii, in an account that offers insight into the subsequent cover-up and the event's influence on U.S. negotiations with the USSR and China. Reprint.

The Boy Who Played with Fusion Tom Clynes

2015-06-09 This story of a child prodigy and his unique upbringing is “an engrossing journey to the outer realms of science and parenting” (Paul

Greenberg, author of *Four Fish*). A PEN/E. O.

Wilson Literary Science Writing Award Finalist

Like many young children, Taylor Wilson dreamed of becoming an astronaut. Only Wilson mastered the science of rocket propulsion by the age of nine. When he was eleven, he tried to cure his grandmother's cancer—and discovered new ways to produce medical isotopes. Then, at fourteen, Wilson became the youngest person in history to achieve nuclear fusion, building a 500-million-degree reactor—in his parents' garage. In *The Boy Who Played with Fusion*, science journalist Tom Clynes narrates Wilson's extraordinary story.

Born in Texarkana, Arkansas, Wilson quickly displayed an advanced intellect. Recognizing their son's abilities and the limitations of their local schools, his parents took a bold leap and moved the family to Reno, Nevada. There, Wilson could attend a unique public high school created specifically for academic superstars. Wilson is now designing devices to prevent terrorists from shipping radioactive material and inspiring a new generation to take on the challenges of science. If you're wondering how someone so young can achieve so much, *The Boy Who Played with Fusion* has the answer. Along the way, Clynes'

narrative teaches parents, teachers, and society how and why we urgently need to support high-achieving kids. "An essential contribution to our understanding of the most important underlying questions about the development of giftedness, talent, creativity, and intelligence." —*Psychology Today* "A compelling study of the thrills—and burdens—of being born with an alpha intellect." —*Financial Times*

Dear Dracula Joshua Williamson 2008 Sam, a horror movie fan, does not want to wait for Santa to bring him the vampire figure he would like, so he writes to Count Dracula and asks to be a real

vampire for Halloween instead, signing his letter "your friend," and the Count decides to come for a visit.

Eagle on Ice Patricia Potter Wilson 2008 A remarkable story that focuses on the 1928-1930 adventures of nineteen-year-old Paul Siple, the Eagle Scout selected to go on Commander Richard E. Byrd's first expedition to Antarctica.

A Long Way Gone Ishmael Beah 2007-02-13 In a heart-wrenching, candid autobiography, a human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his

native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army. 75,000 first printing.

Capacity Building in the Fight Against Terrorism
IOS Press 2013-09-18 The fight against terrorism is constantly in the news, and NATO has committed to the mission of counterterrorism as a central role of the alliance. This is a mission which requires the maximum cooperation of all NATO members and partners, and the sharing of knowledge and expertise is crucial to its success. This book presents the proceedings of the NATO Centre of Excellence – Defence against Terrorism

(COE-DAT) Advanced Training Course ‘Capacity Building in the Fight against Terrorism’, held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June 2012. The presentations were delivered by 11 expert practitioners and academics from eight countries. The subjects covered include: an overview of terrorism; NATO's approach to defence against terrorism; weapons of mass destruction terrorism; eco-terrorism; religion and the question of violence; as well as energy and environmental security, international cooperation, human rights, use of the internet, crisis management, finance, recruitment and prejudice perception

management as they relate to the fight against terrorism. This book will be of interest to all those wishing to maintain an awareness of the current situation as regards terrorism and counter terrorism worldwide.

Kill Anything That Moves Nick Turse 2013-01-15

Based on classified documents and first-person interviews, a controversial history of the Vietnam War argues that American acts of violence against millions of Vietnamese civilians were a pervasive and systematic part of the war and that soldiers were deliberately trained and ordered to conduct hate-based slaughter campaigns.

Idaho Falls William McKeown 2003-04-01 The little-known true story of a mysterious nuclear reactor disaster—years before Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, or Fukushima. Before the Three Mile Island incident or the Chernobyl disaster, the world's first nuclear reactor meltdown to claim lives happened on US soil. Chronicled here for the first time is the strange tale of SL-1, an experimental military reactor located in Idaho's Lost River Desert that exploded on the night of January 3, 1961, killing the three crewmembers on duty. Through exclusive interviews with the victims' families and friends, firsthand accounts

from rescue workers and nuclear industry insiders, and extensive research into official documents, journalist William McKeown probes the many questions surrounding this devastating blast that have gone unanswered for decades. From reports of faulty design and mismanagement to incompetent personnel and even rumors of sabotage after a failed love affair, these plausible explanations raise startling new questions about whether the truth was deliberately suppressed to protect the nuclear energy industry.

The Bastard Brigade Sam Kean 2019-07-09 From

New York Times bestselling author Sam Kean comes the gripping, untold story of a renegade group of scientists and spies determined to keep Adolf Hitler from obtaining the ultimate prize: a nuclear bomb. Scientists have always kept secrets. But rarely have the secrets been as vital as they were during World War II. In the middle of building an atomic bomb, the leaders of the Manhattan Project were alarmed to learn that Nazi Germany was far outpacing the Allies in nuclear weapons research. Hitler, with just a few pounds of uranium, would have the capability to reverse the entire D-Day operation and conquer

Europe. So they assembled a rough and motley crew of geniuses -- dubbed the Alsos Mission -- and sent them careening into Axis territory to spy on, sabotage, and even assassinate members of Nazi Germany's feared Uranium Club. The details of the mission rival the finest spy thriller, but what makes this story sing is the incredible cast of characters -- both heroes and rogues alike -- including: Moe Bergm, the major league catcher who abandoned the game for a career as a multilingual international spy; the strangest fellow to ever play professional baseball. Werner Heisenberg, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist

credited as the discoverer of quantum mechanics; a key contributor to the Nazi's atomic bomb project and the primary target of the Alsos mission. Colonel Boris Pash, a high school science teacher and veteran of the Russian Revolution who fled the Soviet Union with a deep disdain for Communists and who later led the Alsos mission. Joe Kennedy Jr., the charismatic, thrill-seeking older brother of JFK whose need for adventure led him to volunteer for the most dangerous missions the Navy had to offer. Samuel Goudsmit, a washed-up physics prodigy who spent his life hunting Nazi scientists -- and

his parents, who had been swept into a concentration camp -- across the globe. Irène and Frederic Joliot-Curie, a physics Nobel-Prize winning power couple who used their unassuming status as scientists to become active members of the resistance. Thrust into the dark world of international espionage, these scientists and soldiers played a vital and largely untold role in turning back one of the darkest tides in human history.

Quick and Popular Reads for Teens Pam Spencer
Holley 2009-01-01 Collects ten years of the "Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults" and

"Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers" lists, organized by both author and theme.

The Radioactive Boy Scout Ken Silverstein

2005-01-11 Growing up in suburban Detroit,

David Hahn was fascinated by science. While he was working on his Atomic Energy badge for the Boy Scouts, David's obsessive attention turned to nuclear energy. Throwing caution to the wind, he plunged into a new project: building a model nuclear reactor in his backyard garden shed.

Posing as a physics professor, David solicited information on reactor design from the U.S. government and from industry experts. Following

blueprints he found in an outdated physics textbook, David cobbled together a crude device that threw off toxic levels of radiation. His wholly unsupervised project finally sparked an environmental emergency that put his town's forty thousand suburbanites at risk. The EPA ended up burying his lab at a radioactive dumpsite in Utah. This offbeat account of ambition and, ultimately, hubris has the narrative energy of a first-rate thriller.

The Walking Dead Vol. 9 Robert Kirkman

2009-12-07 In the last volume we learned that no one is safe. Now after the staggering losses

they've sustained, Rick and Carl are left to pick up the pieces and carry on... knowing that they could join their fallen friends and family at any moment. Collects issues 49-54.

The Right Kind of Crazy Adam Steltzner 2016

Adam Steltzner is no ordinary engineer. His path to leadership was about as unlikely as they come. A child of beatnik parents, he barely made it through school. He blew off college in favour of work at a health food store and playing bass in a band, but after discovering an astonishing gift for maths and physics, he ended up helping a group of scientists land the heaviest rover in the history

of space exploration on Mars. This is the story of the teamwork, drama and extraordinary feats of innovation at the Jet Propulsion Lab that culminated in that landing in 2012.

Von Braun Michael Neufeld 2017-04-12 Curator and space historian at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum delivers a brilliantly nuanced biography of controversial space pioneer Wernher von Braun. Chief rocket engineer of the Third Reich and one of the fathers of the U.S. space program, Wernher von Braun is a source of consistent fascination. Glorified as a visionary and vilified as a war criminal, he was a man of

profound moral complexities, whose intelligence and charisma were coupled with an enormous and, some would say, blinding ambition. Based on new sources, Neufeld's biography delivers a meticulously researched and authoritative portrait of the creator of the V-2 rocket and his times, detailing how he was a man caught between morality and progress, between his dreams of the heavens and the earthbound realities of his life.

The Stand Stephen King 2011 A monumentally devastating plague leaves only a few survivors who, while experiencing dreams of a battle between good and evil, move toward an actual

confrontation as they migrate to Boulder, Colorado.

Disciplinary and Content Literacy for Today's Adolescents, Sixth Edition William G. Brozo
2017-04-24 Well established as a clear, comprehensive course text in five prior editions, this book has now been extensively revised, with a focus on disciplinary literacy. It offers a research-based framework for helping students in grades 6-12 learn to read, write, and communicate academic content and to develop the unique literacy, language, and problem-solving skills required by the different disciplines.

In an engaging, conversational style, William G. Brozo presents effective instruction and assessment practices, illustrated with extended case studies and sample forms. Special attention is given to adaptations to support diverse populations, including English language learners. (Prior edition title: Content Literacy for Today's Adolescents, Fifth Edition.) New to This Edition: *Shift in focus to disciplinary literacy as well as general content-area learning. *Chapter on culturally and linguistically diverse learners. *Incorporates a decade of research and the goals of the Common Core State Standards. *Increased

attention to academic vocabulary, English language learners, the use of technology, and multiple text sources, such as graphic novels and digital texts. *Pedagogical features: chapter-opening questions plus new case studies, classroom dialogues, practical examples, sample forms, and more.

On the Dual Uses of Science and Ethics Michael J. Selgelid 2013-12-19 Claims about the transformations enabled by modern science and medicine have been accompanied by an unsettling question in recent years: might the knowledge being produced undermine – rather

than further – human and animal well being? On the Dual Uses of Science and Ethics examines the potential for the skills, know-how, information, and techniques associated with modern biology to serve contrasting ends. In recognition of the moral ambiguity of science and technology, each chapter considers steps that might be undertaken to prevent the deliberate spread of disease. Central to achieving this aim is the consideration of what role ethics might serve. To date, the ethical analysis of the themes of this volume has been limited. This book remedies this situation by bringing together contributors from a broad range

of backgrounds to address a highly important ethical issue confronting humanity during the 21st century.

The Age of Radiance Craig Nelson 2014-03-25 A narrative of the Atomic Age by the award-winning author of *Rocket Man* explores the complexities of nuclear energy, citing the contributions of such individuals as Marie Curie, Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer while sharing lesser-known historical details.

[Lord of the Flies](#) William Golding 2003-12-16 Golding's iconic 1954 novel, now with a new foreword by Lois Lowry, remains one of the

greatest books ever written for young adults and an unforgettable classic for readers of any age. This edition includes a new Suggestions for Further Reading by Jennifer Buehler. At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate. This far from civilization they can do anything they want. Anything. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued.

The Hot Zone Richard Preston 2012-03-14 The bestselling landmark account of the first emergence of the Ebola virus. Now a mini-series drama starring Julianna Margulies, Topher Grace, Liam Cunningham, James D'Arcy, and Noah Emmerich on National Geographic. A highly infectious, deadly virus from the central African rain forest suddenly appears in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. There is no cure. In a few days 90 percent of its victims are dead. A secret military SWAT team of soldiers and scientists is mobilized to stop the outbreak of this exotic "hot" virus. The Hot Zone tells this dramatic story,

giving a hair-raising account of the appearance of rare and lethal viruses and their "crashes" into the human race. Shocking, frightening, and impossible to ignore, *The Hot Zone* proves that truth really is scarier than fiction.

Oh No, Not Ghosts! Richard Michelson 2006 An older brother "reassures" his frightened younger sister about all the creatures that she imagines lurking in the dark bedroom, but his words only manage to scare her more.

The Wrong Hands Ann Larabee 2015-06-15 "[A] valuable account ... *The Wrong Hands* brilliantly guides us through [the] challenges to American

democracy." -Howard P. Segal, *Times Higher Education* Gun ownership rights are treated as sacred in America, but what happens when dissenters moved beyond firearm possession into the realm of high explosives? How should the state react? Ann Larabee's *The Wrong Hands*, a remarkable history of do-it-yourself weapons manuals from the late nineteenth century to the recent Boston Marathon bombing, traces how efforts to ferret out radicals willing to employ ever-more violent methods fueled the growth of the American security state. But over time, the government's increasingly forceful targeting of

violent books and ideas-not the weapons themselves-threatened to undermine another core American right: free expression. In the 1886 Haymarket Square bombing, a new form of revolutionary violence that had already made its mark in Europe arrived in the United States. At the subsequent trial, the judge allowed into evidence Johann Most's infamous *The Science of Revolutionary Warfare*, which allegedly served as a cookbook for the accused. Most's work was the first of a long line of explosive manuals relied on by radicals. By the 1960s, small publishers were drawing from publicly available US military

sources to produce works that catered to a growing popular interest in DIY weapons making. The most famous was *The Anarchist Cookbook* (1971), which soon achieved legendary status-and a lasting presence in the courts. Even novels, such as William Pierce's *The Turner Diaries*, have served as evidence in prosecutions of right-wing radicals. More recently, websites explaining how to make all manner of weapons, including suicide vests, have proliferated. The state's right to police such information has always hinged on whether the disseminators have legitimate First Amendment rights. Larabee ends with an analysis

of the 1979 publication of instructions for making a nuclear weapon, which raises the ultimate question: should a society committed to free speech allow a manual for constructing such a weapon to disseminate freely? Both authoritative and eye-opening, *The Wrong Hands* will reshape our understanding of the history of radical violence and state repression in America.

So You're 40! Mike Haskins 2006-03-05 You will never now become a rock star or regain the waist size you had at 18. You have taken a sudden interest in bleeding your radiators, listening to "The Money Programme" and figuring out the

best route to anywhere in the country. On the bright side, you can look forward to cheaper car insurance, and it's only ten years until you can book your first Saga holiday! You can take delight in the fact that you will never again have to sleep in a muddy field at Glastonbury, stay up all night at a party, or pretend to like Tequila Slammers.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie 2012-01-10 Bestselling author

Sherman Alexie tells the story of Junior, a budding cartoonist growing up on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Determined to take his future into his own hands, Junior leaves his troubled

school on the rez to attend an all-white farm town high school where the only other Indian is the school mascot. Heartbreaking, funny, and beautifully written, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which is based on the author's own experiences, coupled with poignant drawings by Ellen Forney that reflect the character's art, chronicles the contemporary adolescence of one Native American boy as he attempts to break away from the life he was destined to live. With a forward by Markus Zusak, interviews with Sherman Alexie and Ellen Forney, and four-color interior art throughout, this edition is perfect for

fans and collectors alike.

The Golden Book of Chemistry Experiments

Robert Brent 2015-10-10 BANNED: *The Golden Book of Chemistry Experiments* was a children's chemistry book written in the 1960s by Robert Brent and illustrated by Harry Lazarus, showing how to set up your own home laboratory and conduct over 200 experiments. The book is controversial, as many of the experiments contained in the book are now considered too dangerous for the general public. There are apparently only 126 copies of this book in libraries worldwide. Despite this, its known as one

of the best DIY chemistry books every published. The book was a source of inspiration to David Hahn, nicknamed "the Radioactive Boy Scout" by the media, who tried to collect a sample of every chemical element and also built a model nuclear reactor (nuclear reactions however are not covered in this book), which led to the involvement of the authorities. On the other hand, it has also been the inspiration for many children who went on to get advanced degrees and productive chemical careers in industry or academia.

Death in Yellowstone Lee H. Whittlesey

2014-01-07 The chilling tome that launched an entire genre of books about the often gruesome but always tragic ways people have died in our national parks, this updated edition of the classic includes calamities in Yellowstone from the past sixteen years, including the infamous grizzly bear attacks in the summer of 2011 as well as a fatal hot springs accident in 2000. In these accounts, written with sensitivity as cautionary tales about what to do and what not to do in one of our wildest national parks, Whittlesey recounts deaths ranging from tragedy to folly—from being caught in a freak avalanche to the going of a

photographer who just got a little too close to a bison. Armchair travelers and park visitors alike will be fascinated by this important book detailing the dangers awaiting in our first national park.

Paper Towns John Green 2013 Quentin Jacobson has spent a lifetime loving Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs into his life - dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge - he follows. After their all-nighter ends, Q arrives at school to discover that Margo has disappeared.

White Noise Don DeLillo 1999-06-01 A brilliant

satire of mass culture and the numbing effects of technology, *White Noise* tells the story of Jack Gladney, a teacher of Hitler studies at a liberal arts college in Middle America. Jack and his fourth wife, Babette, bound by their love, fear of death, and four ultramodern offspring, navigate the rocky passages of family life to the background babble of brand-name consumerism. Then a lethal black chemical cloud, unleashed by an industrial accident, floats over their lives, an "airborne toxic event" that is a more urgent and visible version of the white noise engulfing the Gladneys—the radio transmissions, sirens,

microwaves, and TV murmurings that constitute the music of American magic and dread.

The World Book Encyclopedia 2002 An encyclopedia designed especially to meet the needs of elementary, junior high, and senior high school students.

The Radioactive Boy Scout Ken Silverstein
2008-10-04 Traces a boy's fascination with science and nuclear physics, which compelled him to misrepresent himself to the government and build a reactor in his back yard, causing an environmental catastrophe in his quiet Detroit town.

Revisiting Nuclear Power Anne C. Cunningham
2017-07-15 In an era defined by anxiety over global warming and the search for alternative fuel sources, nuclear power is rarely part of the conversation. It promises limitless power and a drastic reduction in greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Yet, it is by no means perfectly safe or “clean,” as Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima remind us. Even so, thirty countries are operating 444 reactors, accounting for almost 11 percent of the world’s electricity production. The debate over nuclear energy is a fierce and emotional one, and arguments, agendas,

assumptions, and factual information must be scrutinized meticulously and carefully. This volume allows readers to do just that as they begin to form their own opinions on the viability of nuclear power.

The Deep Nick Cutter 2015-07-28 "A strange plague called the 'Gets is decimating humanity on a global scale. It causes people to forget--small things at first, like where they left their keys, then the not-so-small things like how to drive or the letters of the alphabet. Then their bodies forget how to function involuntarily. There is no cure. But far below the surface of the Pacific Ocean, a

universal healer hailed as 'ambrosia' has been discovered. In order to study this phenomenon, a special research lab has been built eight miles under the sea's surface. When the station goes incommunicado, a brave few descend through the lightless fathoms in hopes of unraveling the mysteries lurking at those crushing depths...and perhaps to encounter an evil blacker than anything one could possibly imagine"--Page [4] of cover.

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes Eleanor Coerr 2009-01-09

The Disappearing Spoon Sam Kean 2010-07-12

From New York Times bestselling author Sam Kean comes incredible stories of science, history, finance, mythology, the arts, medicine, and more, as told by the Periodic Table. Why did Gandhi hate iodine (I, 53)? How did radium (Ra, 88) nearly ruin Marie Curie's reputation? And why is gallium (Ga, 31) the go-to element for laboratory pranksters?* The Periodic Table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession.

These fascinating tales follow every element on the table as they play out their parts in human history, and in the lives of the (frequently) mad

scientists who discovered them. THE DISAPPEARING SPOON masterfully fuses science with the classic lore of invention, investigation, and discovery--from the Big Bang through the end of time. *Though solid at room temperature, gallium is a moldable metal that melts at 84 degrees Fahrenheit. A classic science prank is to mold gallium spoons, serve them with tea, and watch guests recoil as their utensils disappear.

The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II
Herbert Feis 2015-03-08 This book discusses the decision to use the atomic bomb. Libraries and

scholars will find it a necessary adjunct to their other studies by Pulitzer-Prize author Herbert Feis on World War II. Originally published in 1966. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by

Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

Strange Angel George Pendle 2006-02-06 Now a CBS All Access series: “A riveting tale of rocketry, the occult, and boom-and-bust 1920s and 1930s Los Angeles” (Booklist). The Los Angeles Times headline screamed: ROCKET SCIENTIST KILLED IN PASADENA EXPLOSION.

The man known as Jack Parsons, a maverick rocketeer who helped transform a derided sci-fi plotline into actuality, was at first mourned as a scientific prodigy. But reporters soon uncovered a more shocking story: Parsons had been a

devotee of the city's occult scene. Fueled by childhood dreams of space flight, Parsons was a leader of the motley band of enthusiastic young men who founded the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a cornerstone of the American space program. But Parsons's wild imagination also led him into a world of incantations and orgiastic rituals—if he could make rocketry a reality, why not black magic? George Pendle re-creates the world of John Parsons in this dazzling portrait of prewar superstition, cold war paranoia, and futuristic possibility. Peopled with such formidable real-life

figures as Howard Hughes, Aleister Crowley, L. Ron Hubbard, and Robert Heinlein, Strange Angel explores the unruly consequences of genius. The basis for a new miniseries created by Mark Heyman and produced by Ridley Scott, this biography “vividly tells the story of a mysterious and forgotten man who embodied the contradictions of his time . . . when science fiction crashed into science fact. . . . [It] would make a compelling work of fiction if it weren't so astonishingly true” (Publishers Weekly).