Celebrate National Reading Group Month
with these outstanding science books by women authors

Take your book club to new heights by choosing a book that's not only interesting, but also presents an opportunity to learn about a topic that you and your reading group may not know very much about. The non-fiction science books listed below have all the adventure and intrigue of a great novel, with the added bonus of introducing readers to important ideas in science.

Angier, Natalie. *Canon: A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science.* Houghton Mifflin, 2007. 292pp. ISBN 978-0-618-24295-5.

Natalie Angier takes us on a whirligig tour of the scientific canon. She draws on conversations with hundreds of the world's top scientists and oh her own work as a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer for the *New York Times* to create a thoroughly entertaining guide to scientific literacy.

Conant, Jennet. *109 East Palace: Robert Oppenheimer and the Secret City of Los Alamos.* Simon & Schuster, 2005. 442pp. ISBN 0-7432-5007-9.

In *109 East Palace*, Jennet Conant presents an intriguing description of the creation of Los Alamos National Laboratory and the development and production of the first atomic bombs.

Ellis, Hattie. *Sweetness and Light: The Mysterious History of the Honeybee.* Harmony Books, 2005. 256pp. ISBN 1-4000-5405-2.

What a delightful volume on the honey bee this is: Not only is the reader treated to a wealth of information on the biology, ecology, and economic importance of that insect, but the interrelationship of the honeybee and humanity throughout history is very nicely presented.

Fossey, Dian. *Gorillas in the Mist.* Houghton Mifflin, 1983. 326pp. ISBN 978-0395282175.

Among the most important books ever written about our connection to the natural world, *Gorillas in the Mist* is the riveting account of Dian Fossey's 13 years in a remote African rainforest with the greatest of the great apes.

Goldsmith, Barbara. *Obsessive Genius: The Inner World of Marie Curie.* Norton, 2004. 256pp. $23.95. ISBN 0-393-05137-4. C.I.P.

The book is a credible and insightful account of Marie Curie's life and work, as well as a recounting of part of the history of nuclear science.

O' Connell, Caitlin. *The Elephant's Secret Sense: The Hidden Life of the Wild Herds of Africa.* Free Press, 2007. 240pp. ISBN 978-0-7432-8441-7.

Naturalist O'Connell's memoir of her 14 years researching the complexities of elephant behavior is a successful combination of science and soulfulness, explaining her groundbreaking theory of how elephants use seismic communication; she also sympathetically illuminates current social and ecological conditions in Africa.

Ouellette, Jennifer. *The Physics of Buffyverse*. Penguin Group, 2006. 325pp. ISBN 978-0-14-303862-7.

Through examples from the hit TV show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*—and the vampires, demons, witches, and interdimensional portals therein—acclaimed science writer Jennifer Ouellette explains complicated principles of biology, chemistry, and physics.

Roach, Mary. *Spook: Science Tackles the Afterlife*. W.W. Norton, 2005. 288pp. ISBN 978-0393059625.

Roach made an exceptional debut two years ago with *Stiff*—it might seem a hard act to follow. Yet she has done it again: after her study of what becomes of our mortal coil after death, she now presents an equally smart, quirky, hilarious look at whether there is a soul that survives our physical demise.

Todd, Kim. *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis.* Harcourt, 2007. 326pp. ISBN 0-15-101108-7.

In 1699, Maria Sibylla Merian, an artist turned naturalist, sailed from Amsterdam to South America to study metamorphosis. It was an unheard of journey for any naturalist at the time, especially a women. Kim Todd brings to life this amazing 17th century women whose boldness and vision would still be exceptional today.

Wolf, Maryanne. *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*. HarperCollins, 2007. 320pp. ISBN 978-0060186395.

Wolf, a professor of child development at Tufts University, integrates psychology and archaeology, linguistics and education, history and neuroscience in a truly path-breaking look at the development of the reading brain–a complicated phenomenon that Wolf seeks to chronicle from both the early history of humanity and the early stages of an individual's development.

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