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## LIBRARY JOURNAL

## Science &amp; Technology

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**Abstract (summary)**

Several books on science and technology are reviewed, including: 1. *Women and Their Gardens: A History from the Elizabethan Era to Today* by Catherine Horwood, 2. *Practical Centering: Exercises To Energize Your Chakras for Relaxation, Vitality, and Health* by Larkin Barnett, 3. *The Battle Over Health Care: What Obama's Reform Means for America's Future* by Rosemary Gibson and Janardan Prasad Singh, 4. *Pharmageddon* by David Healy, and 5. *Two Whole Cakes: How To Stop Dieting and Learn To Love Your Body* by Lesley Kinzel.

**Full Text** Turn on search term navigation**Science & Technology****Agriculture**

Review by Donna L. Davey

This delightful and impeccably researched history claims a place on the crowded gardening shelf by interleaving the personal stories and accomplishments of individual women gardeners of Great Britain within the larger story of women's history told from a horticultural perspective. Horwood (honorary research fellow, Bedford Ctr. for the History of Women, Royal Holloway, London; *Keeping Up Appearances: Fashion and Class Between the Wars*) profiles such well-known female gardeners as Gertrude Jekyll, Vita Sackville-West, and Beth Chatto, as well as scores of unsung or forgotten women who have affected the way we garden through their contributions to design, illustration, research, and writing. Chapters are topically rather than chronologically arranged and weave together lively anecdotes that illustrate the thrill and passion inspired by a love of plants and gardening as well as the sobering facts of women's struggle to achieve equal footing with men in society, education, and the workplace, specifically as it manifests itself in the realm of gardening. **VERDICT** Highly recommended to all armchair or actual gardeners interested in the history of gardening.--**Donna L. Davey, New York Univ. Lib.**

Horwood, Catherine. *Women and Their Gardens: A History from the Elizabethan Era to Today*. Ball Pub: Chicago Review, dist. by IPG. Apr. 2012. c.448p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781613743379. \$26.95. GARDENING

**Health & Medicine**

Review by Janet Tapper

Yoga and Pilates instructor and physical therapist Barnett (*Functional Fitness*) has created a system of relaxation and revitalization that uses fundamentals of breath work, core fitness, and yogic teachings of the chakras. Integrating techniques of mindfulness, guided imagery, color therapy, yoga, and Pilates, Barnett provides different exercises intended to relieve stress and restore physical and emotional ease in five-minute daily sessions. Clear descriptions and minimalist line drawings (which are sometimes overly simple and confusing) illustrate each movement and its associated breath, imagery, and affirmation. Barnett's explanations of the chakra system, the seven centers of energy in the etheric body (i.e., one's aura), their characteristics, and related purposes are well rounded and friendly to untrained readers. **VERDICT** This easy-to-use self-help title will appeal to readers looking for stress-reduction techniques. Meditators, students of mindfulness, yoga and Pilates aficionados, and those interested in mind-body topics will also find much of interest. Recommended.--**Janet Tapper, Univ. of Western States Lib., Portland, OR**

Barnett, Larkin. *Practical Centering: Exercises To Energize Your Chakras for Relaxation, Vitality, and Health*. Quest. Apr. 2012. ISBN 9780835609036. pap. \$15.95. HEALTH

Review by Lynne F. Maxwell

Health-care expert Gibson and World Bank economist Singh (coauthors, *Wall of Silence: The Untold Story of the Medical Mistakes That Kill and Injure Millions of Americans*) have produced a timely, cogent analysis of the high-stakes debate over health-care reform legislation. Veterans of conservative think tank the American Enterprise Institute, the authors parse critical policy concerns in this well-reasoned five-part book. Part 1 addresses the expedient political deals made by the Obama administration and the health-care industry that resulted in a significantly compromised version of the legislation. Part 2 cautions that the current health-care system cannot accommodate the increase in newly insured patients. In Part 3, the authors analogize the collapse of the banking industry and the imminent collapse of the health-care industry, both fueled by dangerous bubbles. Part 4 ties economic security to health-care security, while Part 5 asserts that, like its finance counterpart, the health-care industry privatizes gains and socializes losses. Finally, the authors advocate "careful pruning of the enormous inefficiency and waste in health care." **VERDICT** A provocative, informative book directed toward a general audience, but especially policymakers and health-care professionals. It's certain to appeal to readers of such books as Paul Starr's *Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle Over Health Care Reform*.--**Lynne F. Maxwell, Villanova Univ. Sch. of Law Lib., PA**

Gibson, Rosemary & Janardan Prasad Singh. *The Battle Over Health Care: What Obama's Reform Means for America's Future*. Rowman & Littlefield. Apr.

Review by Leigh Mihlrاد

Healy (psychiatry, Cardiff Univ.; *Let Them Eat Prozac: The Unhealthy Relationship Between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Depression*) presents a well-documented and well-executed case against big pharma, forcing readers to think about both the pharmaceutical industry's role in their health care and the new development of drugs. Tracing how drug development and medical tests transitioned throughout the 20th century from addressing the diagnosis and cure of life-threatening diseases (e.g., X-rays, polio) to chronic disease management with potentially no end date (e.g., bone-density scans, bipolar disorder), the book tackles pharmaceutical companies' role in negligent clinical trials, ghostwriting in medical journals, new medical tests that encourage diagnosis, and the rise of blockbuster drugs. While other books address drug marketing (e.g., Marcia Angell's *The Truth About the Drug Companies* and John Abramson's *Overdosed America*), this title is much broader. Healy details the shift toward "lifestyle drugs," changes in patent law, hidden clinical trial results, off-label drugs use, and other topics. **VERDICT** Well written if sometimes dense, this book is for anyone who wishes to learn more about how the practice of medicine and development of drugs is changing.--**Leigh Mihlrاد, National Inst. of Health Lib., Bethesda, MD**

Healy, David. Pharmageddon. Univ. of California. 2012. c.328p. index. ISBN 9780520270985. \$39.95. MED

Review by Barbara M. Bibel

Blogger Kinzel has always been big. She tried diets, exercise, and weight-loss programs without success. Regardless of her size, she is healthy and happily married, and she wants the same for all large women. Drawn from Kinzel's personal blog, *twowholecakes.com*, this book shares her story of coming to terms with her body in the hopes of inspiring readers to accept themselves as they are. While acknowledging the challenges of being a plus-size woman in a world that reveres the slim, she tells readers to forgo diets, drugs, and corporate food plans. Instead, they should eat what they like, try to stay healthy, and join supportive communities of like-minded women. Above all, Kinzel encourages readers to lose the victim mentality, start enjoying life, and surround themselves with others who accept them as they are. **VERDICT** A useful addition to self-help collections, this book will be of interest to fat-positive readers.--**Barbara M. Bibel, Oakland P.L.**

Kinzel, Lesley. Two Whole Cakes: How To Stop Dieting and Learn To Love Your Body. Feminist Pr., dist. by Consortium. Apr. 2012. c.176p. ISBN 9781558617933. pap. \$14.95. HEALTH

Review by Dick Maxwell

Therapist Levine (*Healing Trauma*) and psychologist Phillips (*Reversing Chronic Pain*) here provide a program of steps to help people suffering from chronic pain. They intend to teach "simple strategies that you can learn to use effectively in order to recruit your body as your main ally in obtaining lasting freedom from both pain and suffering." Their approach is firmly rooted in the mind-body alternative/complementary/integrative side of medicine, although they don't dismiss the benefits of conventional approaches like surgery and medication when appropriate. Levine and Phillips suggest that past traumas, physical and/or psychological, and fear are often at the root of pain's becoming chronic. Their progressive exercises involve such tactics as mindfulness, controlled breathing, grounding, affirmations, and "restoring the deep self." They include a chapter dealing with specific types of pain, such as fibromyalgia, migraine, complex regional pain syndrome, and chronic head, shoulder, and neck pain. **VERDICT** Appropriate for libraries with alternative medicine collections and patrons with an interest in mind-body approaches to healing.--**Dick Maxwell, Porter Adventist Hosp. Lib., Denver**

Levine, Peter A. & Maggie Phillips. Freedom from Pain: Discover Your Body's Power To Overcome Physical Pain. Sounds True. Apr. 2012. c.200p. ISBN 9781604076639. pap. \$17.95 with CD. HEALTH

Review by Pauline Baughman

Tired of being overweight and bullied at school, ten-year-old Marshall Reid embarked on a monthlong journey to be healthy. Inspired by the movie *Super Size Me*, Marshall and his mom, Alexandra Reid, decided to make some lifestyle changes, including eating real (i.e., unprocessed) food, reading ingredients on packages, exercising, helping out in the kitchen, and watching portion sizes. These changes not only resulted in improved physical fitness for Marshall but also helped him overcome emotional eating. Not a diet plan, this book is instead part cookbook and part inspirational journal, coupled with food factoids, culinary information, and URLs for videos of Marshall ("Watch Marshall compare juice boxes"). Each page is dedicated to a day of the Reids' journey, followed by ten days of breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Recipes are kid friendly and mostly appealing (e.g., Cuban Black Beans, Homemade Granola), with a few exceptions (Angel Hair & Yogurt). Surprisingly, no nutritional information or serving sizes are given. **VERDICT** While this title won't solve the childhood obesity problem, the child-parent viewpoint and the Reids' success story may encourage kids and families to make more healthful eating choices.--**Pauline Baughman, Multnomah Cty. Lib., Portland, OR**

Reid, Alexandra & Marshall Reid. Portion Size Me: A Kid-Driven Family Plan to a Healthier Family. Sourcebooks. Apr. 2012. c.192p. ISBN 9781402265822. pap. \$16.99. HEALTH

Review by Elizabeth J. Eastwood

Trying to find the latest information and advice on exercise? *New York Times* "Phys Ed" columnist Reynolds has done an expert job of processing and reporting recent research on the human body's capacity for fitness--what is achievable and how the average reader can meet these physical goals. Each chapter deals with a particular aspect of fitness, some of which are particularly mystifying (e.g., the cause of cramps). Reynolds compares past beliefs and practices with current research findings and gives readers information about optimal routines in such areas as nutrition, stretching, brain fitness, and interval training. She uses her reporting skills to gain insights from specialists throughout the text to help explain and explore the topics. **VERDICT** A well-written and thorough overview of fitness, this book doesn't require readers to wade through statistics or specific scientific trial information. Those who prefer more hard data may find the material too digested; it lacks a detailed list of citations and references, though the names of researchers and institutions are included. Overall, this would make an excellent addition to any consumer health--or personal--collection. --**Elizabeth J. Eastwood, Los Alamos P.L. Syst., NM**

Reynolds, Gretchen. The First 20 Minutes: Surprising Science Reveals How We Can Exercise Better, Train Smarter, Live Longer. Hudson Street. Apr. 2012. c.288p. ISBN 9781594630934. \$25.95. HEALTH

Few if any of the numerous recent books on end-of-life care combine humor, learning, and insight as Teresi (*Lost Discoveries: The Ancient Roots of Modern Science*) does here. By exploring how death has been determined from ancient times through modern Western medicine, he shows that some tests for death are not always foolproof. He argues that the possibility of organ donation has changed how we define death and shows the sometimes forceful recruitment tactics of procurement agencies. While the book discusses how the 1968 Ad Hoc Committee of Harvard Medical School influentially defined brain death, several other works have covered it in more depth. Teresi also includes sometimes moving personal stories of friends who struggled with end-of-life issues, putting a human face on the debates. **VERDICT** By combining learning and humor in an accessible format, this book is a good introduction to the medical, biological, and social conditions related to end-of-life care. Teresi will make you laugh, groan, and question what you *think* you know. An accessible but illuminating introduction to current questions in end-of-life care. [See Prepub Alert, 9/11/11.]--**A.W. Klink, Duke Univ., Durham, NC**

Teresi, Dick. *The Undead: Organ Harvesting, The Ice-Water Test, Beating-Heart Cadavers--How Medicine Is Blurring the Line Between Life and Death*. Pantheon. 2012. c.368p. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780375423710. \$26.95. MED

### Home Economics

Review by Maggie Knapp

Bastianich's insider's view of the New York wine and restaurant world is either straightforward, in-your-face, or just plain crude, depending on the reader's tolerance for four-letter words and descriptions like "arrogant douche bag" and "pretentious tool" (and those are the guys he respects). Bastianich, son of cookbook author and restaurateur Lidia Bastianich, is a self-described wine savant, who has opened a generous handful of successful New York eateries, often in partnership with Mario Batali (e.g., Babbo). His darkly humorous and gossipy memoir begins with his philosophy: appear to be generous but keep an eagle eye on the bottom line. This narrative has something to offend everybody, from Jesuit priests (fat) to Irish girls (easy) to professional waiters (bitter), Beverly Hills ("makes me want to barf"), and foodies ("spoiled kids"). **VERDICT** Whatever readers may think of Bastianich's writing style, he knows food, wine, and the restaurant business. The combative assessment of patrons, chefs, and critics is reminiscent of Anthony Bourdain (*Kitchen Confidential; Medium Raw*) and covers some of the same territory. Best for those considering work in the restaurant field or who want to sit on the stoop after hours and dish about the inner workings of the high-stakes wine and food industry in New York City. [See Prepub Alert, 11/21/12.] --**Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley Sch. Lib., Fort Worth, TX**

Bastianich, Joe. *Restaurant Man*. Viking. May 2012. c.288p. ISBN 9780670023523. \$27.95. COOKING

Review by Ann Wilberton

G.Y. Dryansky (former contributing editor, *Condé Nast Traveler*) and his wife, Joanne, who live in Paris, have clearly left no stone unturned in tracking down historical bits about the culinary heritage of France, including stories of chefs both famous and notorious, restaurants frequented by kings, and those where whores congregated; however, the authors rarely stop long enough to truly satisfy readers' curiosity after piquing it with such wild tales. This book is part history of France, part travelog, and part description of culinary practices and ingredients, interlaced with recipes and tidbits about the people and places that have contributed to France's rich culinary heritage. **VERDICT** With so much information squeezed into this book, it is a fairly thorough history, but it deprives readers of the pleasure of savoring a well-described meal or a richly told tale. Still, avid followers of food writing or those with a strong interest in culinary heritage will find value. --**Ann Wilberton, Pace Univ. Lib., Brooklyn**

Dryansky, G.Y. with Joanne Dryansky. *Coquilles, Calva & Crème: Exploring France's Culinary Heritage; A Love Affair with French Food*. Pegasus. Jun. 2012. c.360p. illus. ISBN 9781605983295. \$28.95. COOKING

Review by Jerry P. Miller

A formerly overweight chef, food critic, and *New York Times* columnist, Kaminsky urges readers to use culinary intelligence--that is, their heads, not their stomachs--to guide their diet. He advises a new generation of eaters, many of whom are obese, to select flavorful, well-prepared food rather than the fattening, processed kind. Kaminsky shares creative insights and techniques from his extensive travels on how to choose fresh produce, meat, and seafood in today's marketplace and how to prepare satisfying dishes that maximize flavor. He argues that a mindset based on the aroma, flavor, and five basic tastes of healthful food, instead of on the precise number of calories, provides a long-term, flexible framework for eating well--while remaining fit and trim. **VERDICT** Kaminsky outlines a commonsense approach for selecting healthful food; however, he presumes readers can prepare it themselves (or happen to live with someone who can). This reviewer, having been overweight himself, finds Kaminsky's comments refreshing. For readers seeking advice in today's complex food world. --**Jerry P. Miller, Cambridge, MA**

Kaminsky, Peter. *Culinary Intelligence: The Art of Eating Healthy (and Really Well)*. Knopf. May 2012. c.272p. index. ISBN 9780307593375. \$24.95. COOKING

Review by John Charles

Quinoa is called the "perfect" protein for a reason: it contains all nine of the essential amino acids humans need to stay healthy. In addition, the wonder grain is rich in lysine, antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, but getting the average American to try quinoa hasn't been easy. Polisi, whose website, [CookingQuinoa.net](http://CookingQuinoa.net), gets 200,000 visitors a month, knows a thing or two about taking the fear (or yuck) factor out of cooking with this South American quasigrain. With her debut cookbook, she shares her favorite recipes ranging from breakfast to dessert. In addition to providing basic details on the different forms of quinoa and how to cook it, Polisi includes nutritional information for each dish as well as options for making recipes more quickly or even healthier. **VERDICT** Despite fierce competition from other cookbooks on the topic, including Rena Patten's recent *Cooking with Quinoa*, this is bound to be in demand by both cooks looking for creative new ways to serve more nutritional dishes and anyone trying to live a healthier lifestyle.--**John Charles, Scottsdale P.L., AZ**

Polisi, Wendy. *The Quintessential Quinoa Cookbook: Eat Great, Lose Weight, Feel Healthy*. Skyhorse, dist. by Norton. Apr. 2012. 224p. photogs. index. ISBN 9781616085353. \$17.95. COOKING

### Sciences

Review by Judith B. Barnett

Pairing vivid images of bottlenose dolphins swimming together and caring for one another with descriptions of the meticulous scientific work required to record their behavior, Bearzi (founder, Los Angeles Dolphin Project; coauthor, *Beautiful Minds: The Parallel Lives of Great Apes and Dolphins* ) sheds light on the life of a field biologist. She avoids attributing human emotions to dolphins (their brains' responses cannot be documented in the wild) but conveys her love of the species and concern for their survival in ever more-polluted oceans. Like other firsthand narratives (Trevor Norton's *Underwater To Get Out of the Rain* and Julia Whitty's *Deep Blue Home* ), this book provides a balanced account of the realities of scientific work, and it portrays Bearzi's own scientific journey from Padua to Los Angeles. A list of cetaceans cited, three pages of suggested readings, and numerous line drawings by the author enhance the text. **VERDICT** A beautifully written account of the author's scientific development, this book will appeal to high school and college students interested in pursuing marine biology as well as to the general public.--**Judith B. Barnett, Univ. of Rhode Island Lib., Kingston**

Bearzi, Maddalena. *Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of a Field Biologist*. Univ. of Chicago. Apr. 2012. c.224p. illus. index. ISBN 9780226040158. \$26. NAT HIST

Review by Betty Galbraith

Fortey (former senior paleontologist, Natural History Museum, London; *Life: A Natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth* ) mingles natural history with geology as he rambles the globe seeking out the locations of plants and animals that appear to have survived to the present day from as far back as the Paleozoic era. He discusses how they currently fit into their ecosystems and shares information gleaned from the geologic record. Fortey admits that these "living fossils"--or living species that appear the same as species known only from fossils and that are without close living relatives--are unlikely to have survived for so long without changing, as it is the nature of all life to change and mutate. While this book provides a glossary, its major weakness is that there are too few illustrations. Readers unfamiliar with these little-known species will have trouble visualizing the plants Fortey discusses. **VERDICT** The information presented here will appeal to readers interested in living fossils; recommended with the caveat that images are lacking. [See Prepub Alert, 9/29/11.]--**Betty Galbraith, Washington State Univ. Lib., Pullman**

Fortey, Richard. *Horseshoe Crabs and Velvet Worms: The Story of Animals and Plants That Time Has Left Behind*. Knopf. Apr. 2012. c.352p. illus. index. ISBN 9780307263612. \$28.95. NAT HIST

Review by Nancy R. Curtis

Hazen (senior research scientist, Carnegie Inst.; earth science, George Mason Univ.; *Genesis: The Scientific Quest for Life's Origin* ) here describes mineral evolution--a sequence of mineral formation common to terrestrial planets. In later stages of this sequence, living organisms contribute to the formation of novel crystalline substances, while minerals make possible the evolution of new life forms; for example, Earth's first photosynthetic bacteria released oxygen into their watery surroundings and the atmosphere above, making possible new chemical reactions that produced a variety of oxygen-rich minerals. Some new minerals, in turn, provided sources of chemical energy that new life forms could exploit. Hazen is confident that life and minerals will continue to interact for millions of years, but he cautions that both natural geologic processes and human activity will probably jeopardize the survival of our own species. **VERDICT** While some overlap with the author's previous work is inevitable, this title is considerably more focused on geological history. Hazen has a gift for explaining science in lay terms, and even readers with a minimal understanding of geology, chemistry, and physics will find this book riveting.--**Nancy R. Curtis, Univ. of Maine Lib., Orono**

Hazen, Robert M. *The Story of Earth: The First 4.5 Billion Years, from Stardust to Living Planet*. Viking. May 2012. c.303p. index. ISBN 9780670023554. \$27.95. SCI

Review by Eva Lautemann

Freelance writer and photographer Lanza (Northwest editor, *Backpacker* ) chronicles his one-year journey with his nine-year-old son and seven-year-old daughter to ten climate-threatened American national parks. As a lifelong backpacker, he has observed firsthand the changes in parks caused by global warming, and he wanted his children to see Glacier, Yellowstone, the Everglades, Yosemite, and Mount Rainier National Parks before they are permanently altered. (Scientists agree that if current climate conditions persist, Glacier National Park's glaciers may disappear entirely as soon as 2020.) Part travelog (including kayaking, canoeing, and rock climbing), part memoir, and part scientific inquiry, the work points to what lies ahead--melting glaciers, disappearing species, and inundated coastlines, unless Americans decide as a society to change their behavior. Yes, these national treasures will remain beautiful parks but they will be inalterably changed. **VERDICT** Lanza's sobering account is recommended for all readers who care about nature's grandeur.--**Eva Lautemann, Georgia Perimeter Coll. Lib., Clarkston**

Lanza, Michael. *Before They're Gone: A Family's Year-Long Quest To Explore America's Most Endangered National Parks*. Beacon, dist. by Random. Apr. 2012. c.224p. ISBN 9780807001196. \$24.95. SCI

Review by Ryan Nayler

Robbins (*A Symphony in the Brain: The Evolution of the New Brain Wave Biofeedback* ) offers a wide range of case studies on different tree species and ancient growth forests that are now in peril but that are also undergoing conservation efforts. He makes persuasive arguments regarding the health, economic, and ecological value of forests as well as the need to preserve the DNA of the world's longest-surviving trees. The book follows lifelong nursery worker David Milarch as he works alongside leading scientists to take stock of the heartiest trees and add their genetic code to his nonprofit, the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive. Robbins explains some phenomena, like trees' magnetic fields, as spiritual or beyond the realm of science, as do Jim Conroy and Basia Alexander in *Tree Whispering: A Nature Lover's Guide to Touching, Healing, and Communicating with Trees, Plants, and All of Nature* . **VERDICT** Though readers never get to know Milarch well, this book will appeal to tree enthusiasts, botanists, and conservationists alike--a great choice for those seeking a brief overview of tree research and some of the major tree conservation efforts that have taken place. [See Prepub Alert, 10/9/11.] --**Ryan Nayler, Univ. of Toronto Lib.**

Robbins, Jim. *The Man Who Planted Trees: Lost Groves, Champion Trees, and an Urgent Plan To Save the Planet*. Spiegel & Grau. Apr. 2012. c.256p. illus. index. ISBN 9781400069064. \$25. NAT HIST

Review by Gloria Maxwell

French paleontologist Steyer (Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris), with the help of self-described paleoartist Bénéteau (*L'Empreinte des géants*), writes of a time before dinosaurs walked the earth over 200 million years ago. The first four-footed vertebrates began to appear around 370 million years ago and faded from the record only as dinosaurs started to arrive at the 200-million-year mark. Moving from the sea to land, a parade of strange and unusual animals left fossil remains behind for paleontologists to discover and decipher as they strive to document the evolutionary history of life. As Steyer describes this fossil record, he demonstrates how certain previously accepted ideas about species evolution have proven false with these findings. The book's 154 color and 63 black-and-white illustrations are riveting and can furnish hours of careful study and rewarding perusal. **VERDICT** A fascinating exploration of past life forms, this book will appeal to anyone interested in paleontology and Earth's history.--**Gloria Maxwell, Metropolitan Community Coll.-Penn Valley, Kansas City, MO**

Steyer, Sébastien (text) & Alain Bénéteau (illus.). *Earth Before the Dinosaurs*. Indiana Univ. Aug. 2012. c.204p. tr. from French by Chris Spence. illus. ISBN 9780253223807. pap. \$35. SCI

Review by Linda Loos Scarth

Central New York journalist Wilber tells the story of a permanent geological scar caused by the search and extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale that underpins the mountains from central New York State through West Virginia. With an anthropologist's and a storyteller's eye, Wilber describes the human and geologic drama along the New York/Pennsylvania border and its effects on people, land, water, air, politics, and economies. The narrative revolves around the area's geologic history, mineral and property rights, corporate actions, government regulations (or lack thereof), human and environmental health issues, social networks, and economic realities. **VERDICT** The cast of advance men, scientists, cheerleaders, locals, corporate CEOs, accidental activists, politicians, and bureaucrats step off the page to meet readers. The interplay of their words and actions tells the often sad but sometimes positive story of people and politics in a world that demands ever-increasing amounts of energy. Recommended to all readers curious about the backstory of an important, ongoing public drama. --**Linda Loos Scarth, formerly with Mount Mercy Coll. Lib., Cedar Rapids, IA**

Wilber, Tom. *Under the Surface: Fracking, Fortunes, and the Fate of the Marcellus Shale*. Cornell Univ. May 2012. c.272p. index. ISBN 9780801450167. \$27.95. SCI

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