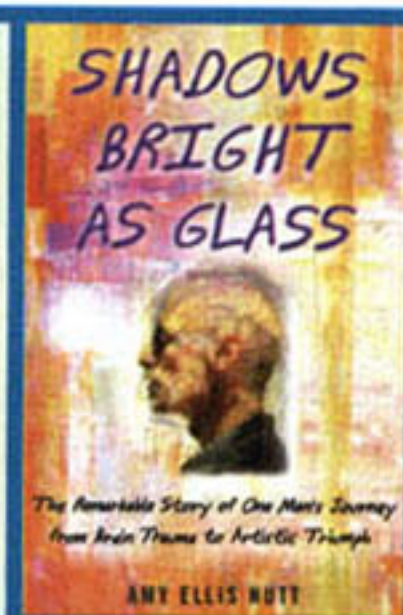


★ **Shadows Bright as Glass: The Remarkable Story of One Man's Journey from Brain Trauma to Artistic Triumph.**

By Amy Ellis Nutt.

Apr. 2011. 288p. Free Press, \$26 (9781439143100). 362.196.

Nutt exquisitely twins the inspirational and vexing story of Jon Sarkin, brain-damaged chiropractor turned renowned artist, with an account of humankind's eternal pursuit of the soul. When Sarkin was just 35 years old, in 1988, he was struck down by a stroke that resulted in severe damage to the left hemisphere of his brain. Aside from catastrophic physical impairment for which the family man and his wife were prepared, his personality took a one-eighty. The once-companionable man of medicine started to uncontrollably, obsessively draw, sketch, and paint. His conversations, such as they were, became unfiltered soliloquies. What exacerbated him most was that he was cognizant of the change yet powerless to affect it. Questions plagued him. Where had "he" gone? Was "he" indeed gone? Was there even a definitive "he" at all? These are puzzles that scientists and philosophers have pondered for eons, and, as it happens, the more the experts learn about the brain and "personhood," the less they seem to know. It is all truly a mystery, but Nutt's compelling narrative makes this a real page-turner. —Donna Chavez



started by hopeful early-twentieth-century declarations that Pacific Ocean wave motors would render Los Angeles "a smokeless and sootless city." While the motors were a failure at the time, the enthusiasm for their success is echoed in the current use of tidal power. From modern-day transcendentalists to suburban solar homes of the Ozzie-and-Harriet era, Madrigal disproves any notion that an energy-conscious attitude is a twenty-first-century invention. Rather, it is one that has been as much a part of our national fabric as the frontier ideal itself. He shows beyond a doubt that the past will lead the way to a greener future, one that nods to Thoreau while embracing the tools to finally make green technology a real success. —Colleen Mondor

Sun Tzu at Gettysburg: Ancient Military Wisdom in the Modern World.

By Bevin Alexander.

May 2011. 304p. Norton, \$26.95 (9780393078138). 355.02.

The vogue for Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, of which there are innumerable translations in print, continues with Alexander's applications of its axioms to several battles of modern times. Also on display is Alexander's penchant for counterfactual history (*How Hitler Could Have Won World War II*, 2000), which will pique military-history readers as Alexander imparts different scenarios for how the Revolutionary War, Waterloo, the Civil War, WWI, WWII, and the Korean War could have turned out. In every case imagining what the ancient sage would have thought about generals' conduct of these battles, Alexander avoids tactical aspects, focusing, as Master Sun would have, on the strategic campaigns that brought them about. The purest embodiment of Sun's principles, argues Alexander, is Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1862. Nearly all the other captains cited in this work provoke reproofs from Alexander as Sun Tzu's avatar. Using Sun Tzu's

precepts of *zheng* (orthodox force) and *qi* (unorthodox force) to unlock his analyses, Alexander may have his audience pronouncing in no time about what Lee should have done at Gettysburg. —Gilbert Taylor

Business

The Idea Hunter.

By Andy Boynton and others.

May 2011. 192p. Jossey-Bass, \$25.95 (9780470767764). 650.1.

With journalist William Bole's assistance, academics Boynton and Bill Fischer set forth their thesis that outstanding business ideas do not come from creative and brilliant people but from those who are always looking for new ideas that are already in the marketplace, just waiting to be found. They cite many examples of idea hunters, including Thomas Edison, Sam Walton, and Twyla Tharp. They describe the principles of idea hunting, which are "I" (interested, reading widely, sharing ideas through conversations, curious with an abiding interest in all matters relating to the job); "D" (diverse, seeking and learning from many different sources, thinking broadly and creatively); "E" (exercised, searching for ideas habitually and continually, being immersed both inside and outside their fields); and "A" (agile, setting in motion an idea and letting it develop in combination with other ideas). Boynton and Fischer contend, "Breakaway ideas come to those who are in the habit of looking for them." Thought-provoking and interesting. —Mary Whaley



The Money Class: Learn to Create Your New American Dream.

By Suze Orman.

2011. 288p. Spiegel & Grau, \$26 (9781400069736). 332.024.

New economic times demand new economic strategies. In her tenth book, Orman

deals some hard and sobering truths to readers, truths she had difficulty embracing. The parameters remain the same. She talks about home, job and career, family, retirement, and spending. Yet the advice often differs dramatically from that of previous books. She begins each section with hard-edged facts; for example, if unemployment hits you, be prepared to accept a job, almost any job, at a lower salary level than before. "Do not wait for the best job; take the best option that you have today." Pay off your mortgage before retiring. Delay Social Security benefits at least until the government's full retirement age. And so on. Sidebars lend detailed insight to chapters on topics including life insurance as the ultimate gesture of love, the risks of private college loans, and questions condo buyers need to ask. It's a very straightforward but still optimistic message that Orman's delivering: live below your means but within your needs. —Barbara Jacobs

HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Orman's new book will be given a publicity blitz of enormous proportions, which could even include billboards.

Science

Demon Fish: Travels through the Hidden World of Sharks.

By Juliet Eilperin.

June 2011. 320p. Pantheon, \$25.95 (9780375425127). 597.3.

Sharks are dangerous, but so are we. According to *Washington Post* environmental reporter Eilperin, these ancient fish have more to fear, for while few people ever die from shark attacks, entire species of sharks are dying because of trophy hunting, industrial fishing, habitat destruction, and the lucrative international trade in shark fins. The latter is especially destructive, as hundreds of thousands of mutilated shark carcasses are dumped in the sea each year by fishermen harvesting fins for Asian banquets, at which serving shark fin is a symbol of status, despite being tasteless and tough. In this wide-ranging natural history of shark-human relations, the author recounts frank interviews with an entertaining cast of scientists, fishermen, wholesalers, chefs, and ecotour operators, all of whom have a stake in the survival of the oceans' top predators. She also gets into the water with the sharks. For readers who like passionate investigative reporting. —Rick Roche

First Contact: Scientific Breakthroughs in the Hunt for Life beyond Earth.

By Marc Kaufman.

Apr. 2011. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (9781439109007). 576.8.

For the last several decades, the most visible tool in the search for intelligent life beyond earth has been the radio telescope. Now, according to *Washington Post* science reporter Kaufman, even more exotic and ingenious methods are overtaking radio signals in the hunt for ET. As Kaufman describes in this fascinating overview of the interdisciplinary field