Off the Shelf

Recent books with Harvard connections

Health Care Reform, by Jonathan Gruber, Ph.D. ’92, with HP Newquist, illustrated by Nathan Schreiber (Hill and Wang, $30; $13.95 paper). Think “Healthcare reform: the comic book.” An illustrated guide to the new law by the MIT professor of economics who advised former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, M.B.A. ’74,J.D. ’75 (and later the U.S. government) on combining insurance reform, a coverage mandate, and subsidies for lower-income people to make insurance universal.

Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care Reform, by Paul Starr, Ph.D. ’78, JF ’78 (Yale, $28.50). Not by Paul Starr, Ph.D. ’78, JF ’78

Pieter Bruegel, by Larry Silver, Ph.D. ’74 (Abbeville, $150). A magnificent volume on the Netherlandish painter by the Farquhar professor of art history at Penn, in a lush large format (with reproductions of all the surviving paintings) that makes visible the craft and imagination in Bruegel’s hellish, quotidian, and amusing compositions of crowds and compelling individuals.

Guantánamo: An American History, by Jonathan M. Hansen, lecturer on social studies (Hill and Wang, $35). A deep dive into the place that has become since 9/11 the complicated center of the uncertain intersection of U.S. law and sovereignty.

Knocking on Heaven’s Door, by Lisa Randall, Baird professor of science (Ecco, $29.99). The author, who unusually combines string theory with writing for the wider public, here ranges widely over hard problems addressed by the Large Hadron Collider, and harder ones involving cosmology, the nature of science, and belief.


Conversations with Michael Crichton [’64, M.D. ’69], edited by Robert Golla (University Press of Mississippi, $55; $25 paper). The late, bestselling author (The Andromeda Strain, Jurassic Park, etc.) and climate-change skeptic, in interviews with the New York Times, Playboy, and more.

Strange Relation: A Memoir of Marriage, Dementia, and Poetry, by Rachel Hadas ’69 (Paul Dry, $16.95 paper). The author, a professor of English at Rutgers, movingly relates what ensued when,
“In early 2005, my husband, George Edw-  

The Copan Sculpture Museum: An-
  

Critical Children, by Richard Locke, G  

Where China Meets India:  

Peasant Kermis, an outdoor festival, by  

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