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Web Search **Best Books of 2005****Top 10 Editors' Picks: Science**


[Collapse](#), Jared Diamond's sprawling and compelling look at the lessons we can learn from human societies that suddenly disappeared from history--and those that didn't--was one of the first big books of the new year, and we kept thinking about it all through 2005. It's our choice for the top book on our list of the year's best in Science. See more editors' picks and customers' favorites in our

[Best of 2005 Store.](#)

1.  **[Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★
by Jared Diamond
Usually ships in 24 hours **List Price:** ~~\$20.95~~ **Price:** **\$19.77** **Add to cart**
Viking Adult **You Save:** \$10.18 (34%) **Add to Wish List**
Hardcover - 592 pages **Used & new** from \$17.25
(December 29, 2004)

[Click here for more info](#)**Amazon.com**

Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* is the glass-half-empty follow-up to his Pulitzer Prize-winning *Guns, Germs, and Steel*. While *Guns, Germs, and Steel* explained the geographic and environmental reasons why some human populations have flourished, *Collapse* uses the same... [Read more](#)

2.  **[Incompleteness: The Proof and Paradox of Kurt Godel \(Great Discoveries\)](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★
by Rebecca Goldstein
Usually ships in 24 hours **List Price:** ~~\$22.95~~ **Price:** **\$15.61** **Add to cart**
W. W. Norton & Company **You Save:** \$7.34 (32%) **Add to Wish List**
Hardcover - 296 pages **Used & new** from \$11.22
(February 2005)

[Click here for more info](#)**Amazon.com**

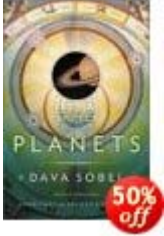


Kurt Gödel is often held up as an intellectual revolutionary whose incompleteness theorem helped tear down the notion that there was anything certain about the universe. Philosophy professor, novelist, and MacArthur Fellow Rebecca Goldstein reinterprets the evidence and restores to Gödel's... [Read more](#)

3. **[Infrastructure: A Field Guide to the Industrial Landscape](#)** **Avg. Customer Review:** ★★★★★
by Brian Hayes
Usually ships in 24 hours **List Price:** ~~\$40.95~~ **Price:** **\$32.97** **Add to cart**
W. W. Norton **You Save:** \$16.98 (34%) **Add to Wish List**
Hardcover - 512 pages

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From Publishers Weekly




Starred Review. Renowned inventor Kurzweil (The Age of Spiritual Machines) may be technology's most credibly hyperbolic optimist. Elsewhere he has argued that eliminating fat intake can prevent cancer; here, his quarry is the future of consciousness and intelligence. Humankind, it runs, is at the... [Read more](#)

7.  **The Planets**
by Dava Sobel
- Usually ships in 24 hours
Viking Adult
Hardcover - 288 pages
(October 11, 2005)
- List Price: ~~\$24.95~~
Price: **\$12.47**
You Save: \$12.48 (50%)
- Avg. Customer Review:**
★★★★☆
-  Add to cart
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Used & new from \$11.24

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From Publishers Weekly

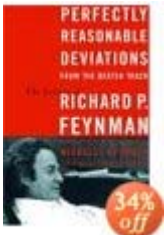


Starred Review. Sobel's purpose in this lovely and personal volume is to show us the planets as she sees them. Writing in quite a different mode than in her best-selling Longitude and Galileo's Daughter, Sobel offers intimate essays inspired by the planets in our solar system, which she describes... [Read more](#)

8.  **Warped Passages : Unraveling the Mysteries of the Universe's Hidden Dimensions**
by Lisa Randall
- Usually ships in 24 hours
Ecco
Hardcover - 512 pages
(August 30, 2005)
- List Price: ~~\$27.95~~
Price: **\$18.45**
You Save: \$9.50 (34%)
- Avg. Customer Review:**
★★★★☆
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From Publishers Weekly

The concept of additional spatial dimensions is as far from intuitive as any idea can be. Indeed, although Harvard physicist Randall does a very nice job of explaining—often deftly through the use of creative analogies—how our universe may have many unseen dimensions, readers' heads are... [Read more](#)

9.  **Perfectly Reasonable Deviations From The Beaten Track: The Letters Of Richard P. Feynman**
by Timothy Ferris (Foreword), et al
- Usually ships in 24 hours
Basic Books
Hardcover - 486 pages
(April 5, 2005)
- List Price: ~~\$26.00~~
Price: **\$17.16**
You Save: \$8.84 (34%)
- Avg. Customer Review:**
★★★★☆
-  Add to cart
 Add to Wish List
Used & new from \$2.99

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Amazon.com

Finding out about someone by reading their correspondence is a fundamentally different thing than reading their biography. Letters offer both more intimacy with the subject and at the same time a crucial distance--the exact distance the letter-writer intended from the people to whom he was writing.... [Read more](#)

10. **The Genius Factory: The Curious** **Avg. Customer Review:**★★★★☆