In the 1600s, over 350,000 intrepid English men, women, and children migrated to America, leaving behind their homeland for an uncertain future. Whether they settled in Jamestown, Salem, or Barbados, these migrants -- entrepreneurs, soldiers, and pilgrims alike -- faced one incontrovertible truth: England was a very, very long way away. In Between Two Worlds, celebrated historian Malcolm Gaskill tells the sweeping story of the English experience in America during the first century of colonization. Following a large and varied cast of visionaries and heretics, merchants and warriors, and slaves and rebels, Gaskill brilliantly illuminates the often traumatic challenges the settlers faced. The first waves sought to recreate the English way of life, even to recover a society that was vanishing at home. But they were thwarted at every turn by the perils of a strange continent, unaided by monarchs who first ignored then exploited them. As these colonists strove to leave their mark on the New World, they were forced -- by hardship and hunger, by illness and infighting, and by bloody and desperate battles with Indians -- to innovate and adapt or perish. As later generations acclimated to the wilderness, they recognized that they had evolved into something distinct: no longer just the English in America, they were perhaps not even English at all. These men and women were among the first white Americans, and certainly the most prolific. And as Gaskill shows, in learning to live in an unforgiving world, they had begun a long and fateful journey toward rebellion and, finally, independence.
The Fourth Bear Hug is a continuation of the stories in The Bear Hug, The Final Bear Hug, and The Third Bear Hug. The story in the latter book concludes with Deborah Czermak dying and John Czermak recovering. However, Andrei’s brother, Alexei Pushkin, is determined to kill John since he is convinced that John was responsible for the deaths of his brother and two nephews. However, Alexei is unsuccessful in killing Professor Czermak. John then returns to work at Clemson University. The story in The Fourth Bear Hug begins after Czermak retires from Clemson, sells his two homes, and moves to Colorado. He then starts working as a part-time professor at the University of Colorado and shares an office with a visiting professor from Moscow. He and Professor Lara Medvedev start traveling together to meetings, and a loving relationship develops. They attend a conference in Sweden followed by going to Moscow so John can meet Lara’s parents. During this time Czermak visits a good friend at the Academy of Sciences where they go to the roof of a tall academy building to take some pictures. Then Alexei shows up and tries to push Czermak off the building, but instead Alexei falls to his death. Since John now thinks that no one is trying to murder him, he asks Lara to marry him. She happily agrees. A few days later they have a wedding reception at Lara’s parents’ home. The party has a tragic ending. Globe-trotters should especially enjoy reading about some of the author’s travels to various places in the world.

On August 17–18, 1942, 211 men of the US Marine Corps’ 2nd Raider Battalion conducted a daring amphibious raid on the Japanese-occupied Makin Island in the South Pacific. This ambitious but flawed operation was intended to divert Japanese reinforcements bound for Guadalcanal, over 1,000 miles to the southwest, in the wake of the US landings there ten days earlier; the Raiders were to destroy the seaplane base and radio station, take prisoners, and collect intelligence. Although yielding limited results, it was to be an invaluable test of the innovative training and tactics employed by the Raiders, and a crucial boost to national morale at this difficult stage in the war. Featuring specially commissioned full-colour artwork and expert analysis, this gripping account of the fateful Makin Raid tells the whole story, from the plan’s conception to its troubled execution and aftermath.


Drawing on recent scholarship on the history of Western esotericism and religious studies on the importance of millenarian thought in Early Modern Europe, this study provides an innovative re-examination of Peter the Great’s Court in early eighteenth-century Russia.
This book focuses on the highly touristed, but surprisingly under-researched Lesser Antilles region. After offering a brief overview of the region’s geologic and tectonic history, as well as its basic climatology, subsequent chapters then discuss each island’s (or island set’s) geomorphology and geology, and how the settlement history, tourism, and hazards have affected their individual landscapes. Written by regional experts and replete with up-to-date information, stunning color imagery, and beautiful cartography (maps), it is the only comprehensive, scientific evaluation of the Lesser Antilles, and serves as the region’s definitive reference resource. Accessible to non-experts and amateur explorers, the book includes in-depth discussions and reference sections for each island/island set. Usable as both a textbook and guidebook, it offers readers a straightforward yet detailed assessment of an interesting and intriguing – but often-overlooked and under-appreciated – locale.