

Far Out!

Three books out this month shed light on seminal, sensational and outright strange scientific discoveries BY AMANDA OGLE

Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race
By Margot Lee Shetterly (William Morrow/HarperCollins, \$27.99; Sept. 6)
This book (and soon-to-be movie) follows real African-American female mathematicians who, in the face of Jim Crow laws and segregation, made significant contributions in aerospace advancement.

The 37th Parallel: The Secret Truth Behind America's UFO Highway
By Ben Mezrich (Atria Books, \$26; Sept. 6)
Chuck Zukowski likes to track down UFO reports for fun. But after some shocking discoveries, Zukowski's research turns sinister as he realizes that the horrors are clustered around the 37th Parallel, or "UFO Highway." This thrilling, real-life tale will leave lingering that age-old question: Are we really alone?

The Last Days of Night
By Graham Moore (Random House, \$28; Sept. 27)
The Oscar-winning screenwriter of *The Imitation Game* is back with this tale, which is also slated for big-screen adaptation. The story is set in 1888, when Thomas Edison sued George Westinghouse for \$1 billion for infringing on his lightbulb patent. Moore uses an eerie, lightless New York to illuminate how much two men were willing to risk in the race to exploit electricity.



DON'T MISS THIS

Under development for 13 years, the Smithsonian Institution's **National Museum of African American History and Culture** debuts in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 24. Five acres neighboring the Washington Monument are dedicated to the museum, which will house more than 34,000 artifacts, from Nat Turner's Bible to a shawl that belonged to Harriet Tubman. Nmaahc.si.edu



AMENDMENT APOCALYPSE

This new D.C. exhibit gives a glimpse of some of America's craziest could-have-beens

The National Archives' ongoing "Amending America" exhibit in Washington, D.C. celebrates this December's 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights. Of the more than 11,000 proposals in the years since its introduction, only 27 amendments have been made to the Constitution. Here's a glimpse of what life may have been like had some of the others passed the test. Archives.gov

One Is the Loneliest Number
1878

An executive council of three replaces the president. (And you thought picking just one was tough.)

Imperial Power
1893

Say it with me, kids: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of Earth." Global domination initiated.

Wedding Bells or Jail Cells
1914

"Till death do us part" or you're going behind bars. Although divorce is illegal, imprisonment may be a sacrifice some spouses are willing to make.

You Asked For It
1916

Put your money where your vote is. Vote "yes" to war, and you're being shipped to the front lines.

Money Matters
1933

Forget the one-percenters. No one can possess more than \$1 million in personal wealth. -S.D.

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