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Foundation *Spectra* The first novel in Isaac Asimov's classic science-fiction masterpiece, the Foundation series **THE EPIC SAGA THAT INSPIRED THE APPLE TV+ SERIES FOUNDATION, NOW STREAMING** • Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read For twelve thousand years the Galactic Empire has ruled supreme. Now it is dying. But only Hari Seldon, creator of the revolutionary science of psychohistory, can see into the future—to a dark age of ignorance, barbarism, and warfare that will last thirty thousand years. To preserve knowledge and save humankind, Seldon gathers the best minds in the Empire—both scientists and scholars—and brings them to a bleak planet at the edge of the galaxy to serve as a beacon of hope for future generations. He calls his sanctuary the Foundation. The Foundation novels of Isaac Asimov are among the most influential in the history of science fiction, celebrated for their unique blend of breathtaking action, daring ideas, and extensive worldbuilding. In Foundation, Asimov has written a timely and timeless novel of the best—and worst—that lies in humanity, and the power of even a few courageous souls to shine a light in a universe of darkness. **Second Foundation** *Spectra* The third novel in Isaac Asimov's classic science-fiction masterpiece, the Foundation series **THE EPIC SAGA THAT INSPIRED THE APPLE TV+ SERIES FOUNDATION** The Foundation lies in ruins—destroyed by a mutant mind bent on humanity's annihilation. But it's rumored that there's a Second Foundation hidden somewhere at the end of the Galaxy, established as insurance to preserve the knowledge of mankind. Now a desperate race has begun between the survivors of the First Foundation and an alien entity to find this last flicker of humanity's shining past—and future hope. Yet the key to it all might be a fourteen-year-old girl burdened with a terrible secret. Is she the Foundation's savior—or its deadliest enemy? Unforgettable, thought-provoking, and riveting, **Second Foundation** is a stunning novel of adventure and ideas writ huge across the Galaxy—a powerful tale of humankind's struggle to preserve the fragile light of wisdom against the threat of its own dark barbarism. **Foundation Foundation and Empire** ; **Second Foundation** *Everyman's Library* The Foundation, established after the Old Empire gives way to barbarism, fights against a mutant strain called the Mule and tries to get rid of the Second Foundation after learning it will inherit a future Empire. **Prelude to Foundation** *Spectra* In the year 12,020 G.E., Hari Seldon arrives in the domed city of Trantor and begins to develop his theory of psychohistory, which predicts the rise of a power greater than the Empire. **Reissue. The Foundation Trilogy Three Classics of Science Fiction** *Avon Books* The Foundation is established after the Old Empire gives way to barbarism, a mighty struggle for power occurs, and a mutant strain gone wild poses a threat following the First Empire's defeat **Foundations of Data Science** *Cambridge University Press* This book provides an introduction to the mathematical and algorithmic foundations of data science, including machine learning, high-dimensional geometry, and analysis of large networks. Topics include the counterintuitive nature of data in high dimensions, important linear algebraic techniques such as singular value decomposition, the theory of random walks and Markov chains, the fundamentals of and important algorithms for machine learning, algorithms and analysis for clustering, probabilistic models for large networks, representation learning including topic modelling and non-negative matrix factorization, wavelets and compressed sensing. Important probabilistic techniques are developed including the law of large numbers, tail inequalities, analysis of random projections, generalization guarantees in machine learning, and moment methods for analysis of phase transitions in large random graphs. Additionally, important structural and complexity measures are discussed such as matrix norms and VC-dimension. This book is suitable for both undergraduate and graduate courses in the design and analysis of algorithms for data. **Forward the Foundation** *Del Rey* Originally published: New York: Doubleday, 1993. **Foundations of Machine Learning, second edition** *MIT Press* A new edition of a graduate-level machine learning textbook that focuses on the analysis and theory of algorithms. This book is a general introduction to machine learning that can serve as a textbook for graduate students and a reference for researchers. It covers fundamental modern topics in machine learning while providing the theoretical basis and conceptual tools needed for the discussion and justification of algorithms. It also describes several key aspects of the application of these algorithms. The authors aim to present novel theoretical tools and concepts while giving concise proofs even for relatively advanced topics. **Foundations of Machine Learning** is unique in its focus on the analysis and theory of algorithms. The first four chapters lay the theoretical foundation for what follows; subsequent chapters are mostly self-contained. Topics covered include the Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning framework; generalization bounds based on Rademacher complexity and VC-dimension; Support Vector Machines (SVMs); kernel methods; boosting; on-line learning; multi-class classification; ranking; regression; algorithmic stability; dimensionality reduction; learning automata and languages; and reinforcement learning. Each chapter ends with a set of exercises. **Appendixes** provide additional material including concise probability review. This second edition offers three new chapters, on model selection, maximum entropy models, and conditional entropy models. **New material in the appendixes** includes a major section on Fenchel duality, expanded coverage of concentration inequalities, and an entirely new entry on information theory. More than half of the exercises are new to this edition. **Basic German A Grammar and Workbook** *Psychology Press* Suitable for both independent study and class use, this text comprises an accessible reference grammar and related exercises in a single volume. **Power Electronics Handbook Components, Circuits and Applications** *Elsevier* **Power Electronics Handbook: Components, Circuits, and Applications** is a collection of materials about power components, circuit design, and applications. Presented in a practical form, theoretical information is given as formulae. The book is divided into three parts. **Part 1** deals with the usual components found in power electronics such as semiconductor devices and power semiconductor control components, their electronic compatibility, and protection. **Part 2** tackles parts and principles related to circuits such as switches; link frequency chargers; converters; and AC line control, and **Part 3** covers the applications for semiconductor circuits. The text is recommended for engineers and electricians who need a concise and easily accessible guide on power electronics. **New Frontiers of Philanthropy A Guide to the New Tools and New Actors that Are Reshaping Global Philanthropy and Social Investing** *Oxford University Press* The resources of both governments and traditional philanthropy are either barely growing or in decline, yet the problems of poverty, ill-health, and environmental degradation balloon daily. It is therefore increasingly clear that we urgently need new models for financing and promoting social and environmental objectives. Fortunately, a significant revolution appears to be underway on the frontiers of philanthropy and social investing, tapping not only philanthropy, but also private investment capital, and providing at least a partial response to this dilemma. This book examines the new actors and new tools that form the heart of this revolution, and shows how they are reshaping the way we go about supporting solutions to social and environmental problems throughout the world. With contributions from leading experts in the field, **New Frontiers of Philanthropy** provides a comprehensive analysis of the many new institutions that have surfaced on this new frontier of philanthropy and social investment; the new tools and instruments these institutions are bringing to bear; the challenges that these actors and tools still encounter; and the steps that are needed to maximize their impact. The result is a powerful and accessible guide to developments that are already bringing significant new resources into efforts to solve the world's problems of poverty, ill-health, and environmental degradation; unleashing new energies and new sources of ingenuity for social and environmental problem-solving; and generating new hope in an otherwise dismal scenario of lagging resources and resolve. **Investors, philanthropists, social entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, business executives, government officials, and students** the world over will find much to build on in these pages. **Good Leaders Ask Great Questions Your Foundation for Successful Leadership** *Center Street* **A #1** New York Times bestselling author and leadership expert answers questions from his readers about what it takes to be in charge and make a difference. **John Maxwell, America's #1 leadership authority**, has mastered the art of asking questions, using them to learn and grow, connect with people, challenge himself, improve his team, and develop better ideas. Questions have literally changed Maxwell's life. In **GOOD LEADERS ASK GREAT QUESTIONS**, he shows how they can change yours, teaching why questions are so important, what questions you should ask yourself as a leader, and what questions you should be asking your team. Maxwell also opened the floodgates and invited people from around the world to ask him any leadership question. He answers seventy of them--the best of the best--including . . . **What are the top skills required to lead people through difficult times? How do I get started in leadership? How do I motivate an unmotivated person? How can I succeed working under poor leadership? When is the right time for a successful leader to move on to a new position? How do you move people into your inner circle? No matter whether you are a seasoned leader at the top of your game or a newcomer wanting to take the first steps into leadership, this book will change the way you look at questions and improve your leadership life.** **Foundation and Empire** *Spectra* The Foundation, a colony of psychologists, battles for supreme power in the galaxy, while also struggling to preserve all the accumulated knowledge of humankind in The Foundation, a sanctuary created by Hari Seldon. Reprint. 25,000 first printing. **Asimov on Science Fiction** *Doubleday Books* A collection of essays by a master of science fiction is devoted to a discussion of the nature, characteristics, and function of science-fiction writing, including information on authors, works, and themes **Basics of Foundation Design** *Lulu.com* The "Red Book" presents a background to conventional foundation analysis and design. The text is not intended to replace the much more comprehensive 'standard' textbooks, but rather to support and augment these in a few important areas, supplying methods applicable to practical cases handled daily by practising engineers and providing the basic soil mechanics background to those methods. It concentrates on the static design for stationary foundation conditions. Although the topic is far from exhaustively treated, it does intend to present most of the basic material needed for a practising engineer involved in routine geotechnical design, as well as provide the tools for an engineering student to approach and solve common geotechnical design problems. **Byzantine Monastic Foundation Documents A Complete Translation of the Surviving Founders' Typika and Testaments** *Dumbarton Oaks* The nature of the typkia, discussed by John Thomas in the introduction, was one of flexible and personal documents, which differed considerably in form, length, and content. Not all of them were foundation documents in the strict sense, since they could be issued at any time in the history of an institution. Some were wills; others were reform decrees and rules; yet others were primarily liturgical in character. **Biostatistics A Foundation for Analysis in the Health Sciences** *Wiley* The ability to analyze and interpret enormous amounts of data has become a prerequisite for success in allied healthcare and the health sciences. Now in its 11th edition, **Biostatistics: A Foundation for Analysis in the Health Sciences** continues to offer in-depth guidance toward biostatistical concepts, techniques, and practical applications in the modern healthcare setting. Comprehensive in scope yet detailed in coverage, this text helps students understand—and appropriately use—probability distributions, sampling

distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing, variance analysis, regression, correlation analysis, and other statistical tools fundamental to the science and practice of medicine. Clearly-defined pedagogical tools help students stay up-to-date on new material, and an emphasis on statistical software allows faster, more accurate calculation while putting the focus on the underlying concepts rather than the math. Students develop highly relevant skills in inferential and differential statistical techniques, equipping them with the ability to organize, summarize, and interpret large bodies of data. Suitable for both graduate and advanced undergraduate coursework, this text retains the rigor required for use as a professional reference. Practical Foundations for Programming Languages *Cambridge University Press* This text develops a comprehensive theory of programming languages based on type systems and structural operational semantics. Language concepts are precisely defined by their static and dynamic semantics, presenting the essential tools both intuitively and rigorously while relying on only elementary mathematics. These tools are used to analyze and prove properties of languages and provide the framework for combining and comparing language features. The broad range of concepts includes fundamental data types such as sums and products, polymorphic and abstract types, dynamic typing, dynamic dispatch, subtyping and refinement types, symbols and dynamic classification, parallelism and cost semantics, and concurrency and distribution. The methods are directly applicable to language implementation, to the development of logics for reasoning about programs, and to the formal verification language properties such as type safety. This thoroughly revised second edition includes exercises at the end of nearly every chapter and a new chapter on type refinements. Foundations of Computer Science C Edition *W. H. Freeman* Foundations of Databases *Addison Wesley* This product is a complete reference to both classical material and advanced topics that are otherwise scattered in sometimes hard-to-find papers. A major effort in writing the book was made to highlight the intuitions behind the theoretical development. The Foundation Novels 7-Book Bundle Foundation, Foundation and Empire, Second Foundation, Foundation's Edge, Foundation and Earth, Prelude to Foundation, Forward the Foundation *Spectra* The story of our future begins with the Foundation. Named the best series of all time by the Hugo Awards, the Foundation novels of Isaac Asimov unquestionably comprise one of the great masterworks of science fiction, unsurpassed for its unique blend of nonstop action, daring ideas, and extensive world-building. Now, all seven volumes are together for the first time in this essential eBook bundle: FOUNDATION FOUNDATION AND EMPIRE SECOND FOUNDATION FOUNDATION'S EDGE FOUNDATION AND EARTH PRELUDE TO FOUNDATION FORWARD THE FOUNDATION For twelve thousand years the Galactic Empire has ruled supreme. Now it is dying. Only Hari Seldon, creator of the revolutionary science of psychohistory, can see into the future—a dark age of ignorance, barbarism, and warfare that will last thirty thousand years. To preserve knowledge and save humanity, Seldon gathers the best minds in the Empire—both scientists and scholars—and brings them to a bleak planet at the edge of the galaxy to serve as a beacon of hope for future generations. He calls this sanctuary the Foundation. But soon the fledgling Foundation finds itself at the mercy of corrupt warlords rising in the wake of the receding Empire. And mankind's last best hope is faced with an agonizing choice: submit to the barbarians and live as slaves—or take a stand for freedom and risk total destruction. Praise for Isaac Asimov and his Foundation series “A true polymath, a superb rationalist, an exciting and accessible writer in both fiction and nonfiction, Isaac Asimov was simply a master of all he surveyed.”—Greg Bear “Asimov served wondrous meals-of-the-mind to a civilization that was starved for clear thinking about the future. To this day, his visions spice our ongoing dinner-table conversation about human destiny.”—David Brin “Isaac was still in his teens when I met him, a fan of mine before I was a fan of his. Writing for John W. Campbell back in the famous ‘golden age of science fiction,’ he became one of the founders of our field. With the Robot stories and the Foundation stories, he helped to shape science fiction as we know it.”—Jack Williamson “I grew up on the ABC’s of science fiction—Asimov, Bradbury, Clarke. There’s a reason Asimov’s name comes first, and not just because of the alphabet!”—Janis Ian “With his fertile imagination, his wit, and his prolific output, Isaac Asimov truly laid the foundation for all future generations of science fiction writers.”—Kevin J. Anderson “If anything can be said to have been the launch pad for space-age science fiction, it has to be the Foundation trilogy. It’s a classic. And it’s unforgettable.”—Jack McDevitt “The Foundation series is one of the masterpieces of science fiction. If you’ve never read these novels, then you’re in for a treat, and even if you’ve already read them, then you owe it to yourself to reread them, because they’re still great.”—Allen Steele “Quite simply, Asimov got me started.”—Liz Williams Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Treasury *Gramercy Books* This giant volume combines two collections of the best science fiction stories from the fifties, sixties, and seventies, edited and with an introduction by the incomparable Isaac Asimov. These thrilling and sometimes frightening visions of the future include: • “The Last Question” by Isaac Asimov • “Who’s There?” by Arthur C. Clarke • “Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes Here for Good: Community Foundations and the Challenges of the 21st Century Community Foundations and the Challenges of the 21st Century *Routledge* Community foundations bring together the resources of individuals, families, and businesses to support effective nonprofits in their communities. Over the years, foundations have come to engage community problem-solving through more than just grant-making. They have added a rich array of other activities, including programs of community capacity building, active modes of advocacy, and centres for meeting. In 2011, the 700+ institutions in the United States gave an estimated \$4.2 billion to a variety of nonprofit activities in fields that included the arts and education, health and human services, the environment, and disaster relief. The origins of this book stem from conversations among the leadership of community foundations about the challenges they must overcome in order to make such “foundational” contributions to their communities. As community foundations enter the second century of their existence (the first foundation was formed in Cleveland in 1914), the need for knowledge and best practices has never been greater. This book, with expert authors representing the best and the brightest in this important field, fills that need. Principles of Foundation Engineering *Cengage Learning* Master the core concepts and applications of foundation analysis and design with Das/Sivakugan’s best-selling PRINCIPLES OF FOUNDATION ENGINEERING, 9th Edition. Written specifically for those studying undergraduate civil engineering, this invaluable resource by renowned authors in the field of geotechnical engineering provides an ideal balance of today’s most current research and practical field applications. A wealth of worked-out examples and figures clearly illustrate the work of today’s civil engineer, while timely information and insights help readers develop the critical skills needed to properly apply theories and analysis while evaluating soils and foundation design. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version. Tantra The Foundation of Buddhist Thought *Simon and Schuster* There are a great many books now available describing the complex rituals and esoteric significance of the ancient practices of Buddhist tantra. But none take the friendly, helpful approach of Geshe Tashi Tsering’s Foundation of Buddhist Thought series. Understanding the many questions Westerners have upon first encountering tantra’s colorful imagery and veiled language, Geshe Tsering gives straight talk about deities, initiations, mandalas, and the various stages of tantric development. He even goes through a simple tantric compassion practice written by the Dalai Lama, using it to unpack the building blocks common to all such visualization techniques. Tantra is a fitting conclusion to the folksy and practical wisdom in the Foundation of Buddhist Thought series. Family Foundation Handbook 2009 *CCH* The Family Foundation Handbook provides comprehensive coverage of the legal, tax, and business aspects of forming and operating a family foundation. From grantmaking to investment management, accounting procedures to tax filings, and funding the foundation to protecting it from liability, this handbook provides coverage of all the issues a family foundation faces. This valuable resource provides forms, checklists, questionnaires, training forms, and other items to help provide the professional assistance every foundation needs. The Algorithmic Foundations of Differential Privacy The problem of privacy-preserving data analysis has a long history spanning multiple disciplines. As electronic data about individuals becomes increasingly detailed, and as technology enables ever more powerful collection and curation of these data, the need increases for a robust, meaningful, and mathematically rigorous definition of privacy, together with a computationally rich class of algorithms that satisfy this definition. Differential Privacy is such a definition. The Algorithmic Foundations of Differential Privacy starts out by motivating and discussing the meaning of differential privacy, and proceeds to explore the fundamental techniques for achieving differential privacy, and the application of these techniques in creative combinations, using the query-release problem as an ongoing example. A key point is that, by rethinking the computational goal, one can often obtain far better results than would be achieved by methodically replacing each step of a non-private computation with a differentially private implementation. Despite some powerful computational results, there are still fundamental limitations. Virtually all the algorithms discussed herein maintain differential privacy against adversaries of arbitrary computational power -- certain algorithms are computationally intensive, others are efficient. Computational complexity for the adversary and the algorithm are both discussed. The monograph then turns from fundamentals to applications other than query-release, discussing differentially private methods for mechanism design and machine learning. The vast majority of the literature on differentially private algorithms considers a single, static, database that is subject to many analyses. Differential privacy in other models, including distributed databases and computations on data streams, is discussed. The Algorithmic Foundations of Differential Privacy is meant as a thorough introduction to the problems and techniques of differential privacy, and is an invaluable reference for anyone with an interest in the topic. The Ultimate Foundation of Economic Science An Essay on Method This is a new release of the original 1962 edition. Foundation's Triumph *Harper Collins* Isaac Asimov's Foundation Trilogy is one of the highwater marks of science fiction. The monumental story of a Galactic Empire in decline and a secret society of scientists who seek to shorten the coming Dark Age with tools of Psychohistory, Foundation pioneered many themes of modern science fiction. Now, with the approval of the Asimov estate, three of today's most acclaimed authors have completed the epic the Grand Master left unfinished. The Second Foundation Trilogy begins with Gregory Benford's Foundation's Fear, telling the origins of Hari Seldon, the Foundation's creator. Greg Bear's Foundation and Chaos relates the epic tale of Seldon's downfall and the first stirrings of robotic rebellion. Now, in David Brin's Foundation's Triumph, Seldon is about to escape exile and risk everything for one final quest—a search for knowledge and the power it bestows. The outcome of this final journey may secure humankind's future—or witness its final downfall... Pearson Foundation Series Biology for Class 9 *Pearson Education India* Pearson Foundation Series, Biology, is a much awaited addition to the existing Foundation Series and is particularly designed for aspirants of medical entrance examinations. Each title provides authentic and class-tested content for effective preparation and competitive readiness. C conceptual clarity and gaining mastery over the art of critical thinking are the central theme s and to ensure this, the series has lucid content along with neatly-sketched diagrams, illustrations, concept-maps and real-life images. These books are an indispensable companion for all aspirants aiming to succeed in key entrance examinations, like the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), Olympiads, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), etc. The series covers classes 7 to 10. The Impact of Science on Society CONTENTS: Foreword The Legacy of Science James Burke Accomplishments of Science by the Year 2000 Jules Bergman Our Future in the Cosmos ? Computers Isaac Asimov Our Future in the Cosmos ? Spacelac Asimov Foundation and Endowment Investing Philosophies and Strategies of Top Investors and Institutions *John Wiley & Sons* In Foundation and Endowment Investing, authors Lawrence Kochard and Cathleen Rittereiser offer you a detailed look at this fascinating world and the strategies used to achieve success within it. Filled with in-depth insights and expert advice, this reliable resource profiles twelve of the most accomplished Chief Investment Officers within today's foundation and endowment community—chronicling their experiences, investment philosophies, and the challenges they face—and shares important lessons that can be used as you go about your own investment endeavors. Cap and Trade: The Kyoto Protocol, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, Carbon Tax, Emission Allowances, Acid Rain SO2 Program, Ozone Transport Commission, NOX, Carbon Markets, and Climate Change *The Capitol Net Inc* Foundation Engineering for Expansive Soils *John Wiley & Sons* Your guide to the design and construction of foundations on expansive soils Foundation Engineering for Expansive Soils fills a significant gap in the current literature by presenting coverage of the design and construction of foundations for expansive soils. Written by an expert author team with nearly 70 years of combined industry experience, this important new work is the only modern guide to the subject, describing proven methods for identifying and analyzing expansive soils and developing foundation designs appropriate for specific locations. Expansive soils are found worldwide and are the leading cause of damage to structural roads. The primary problem that arises

with regard to expansive soils is that deformations are significantly greater than in non-expansive soils and the size and direction of the deformations are difficult to predict. Now, *Foundation Engineering for Expansive Soils* gives engineers and contractors coverage of this subject from a design perspective, rather than a theoretical one. Plus, they'll have access to case studies covering the design and construction of foundations on expansive soils from both commercial and residential projects. Provides a succinct introduction to the basics of expansive soils and their threats. Includes information on both shallow and deep foundation design. Profiles soil remediation techniques, backed-up with numerous case studies. Covers the most commonly used laboratory tests and site investigation techniques used for establishing the physical properties of expansive soils. If you're a practicing civil engineer, geotechnical engineer or contractor, geologist, structural engineer, or an upper-level undergraduate or graduate student of one of these disciplines, *Foundation Engineering for Expansive Soils* is a must-have addition to your library of resources. Please Explain *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt* Answers to questions in various scientific disciplines, e.g., "What are pulsars?", "Is the universe running down?", "What is the difference between a brain and a computer?", and "Why did the dinosaurs die off?". *Murder at the ABA A Puzzle in Four Days and Sixty Scenes* When the acclaimed protégé of writer Darius Just suddenly turns up dead at the annual convention of the American Booksellers Association, chaos and confusion sweep the autographing sessions, the buffet tables, the bars and the famed hospitality suites. Darius is certain he can discover the murderer. But only if the murderer doesn't find him first - book cover. *The Israeli Economy from the Foundation of the State through the 21st Century* *Cambridge University Press* This book analyzes the development of the Israeli economy in its historical context. It shows how the ideology of the dominant group in the Zionist movement led to the development of agriculture, thus meeting the preconditions for successful industrialization. Remarkable, if uneven, growth has taken place, with increasing allocations for defense. Regional isolation led to the emphasis on high-quality exports for developed markets that has stimulated the technological base. Israel has benefited from mass immigration and increased access to foreign capital, factors that have transformed the economy. The book includes chapters on the development of the Jewish community in Palestine during the British Mandate; macroeconomic developments and economic policy; globalization and high technology; defense; the economics of the Arab minority; Israeli settlements and relations with the Palestinians; and the role of religion. It concludes with an examination of the socioeconomic divisions that have widened as the economy has grown. *The Development Dimension Private Philanthropy for Development - Second Edition Data for Action* *Data for Action OECD Publishing* This second edition of *Private Philanthropy for Development* aims to meet the growing demand for open, reliable and comparable data on philanthropic giving. Compared to the first edition, it collected more data from large foundations and other organisations based in developing countries to have a more comprehensive understanding of cross-border financing and domestic giving. *The Complete Stories* *Broadway Books* Gathers together previously published stories from one of the masters of science fiction *Treasury of Humor* *Mariner Books* "Here is a lifetime harvest of Isaac Asimov's favorite anecdotes, jokes, puns, and scandalous verse--640 selections in all. Everything is included, from the original shaggy-dog story (in mercifully truncated form) to famous put-downs from ancient history, from the cerebral whimsies of Talmudic wit to the bawdiness of the barracks ... The author has interwoven the tales with very personal running commentary, providing much informed advice on how to tell them effectively. He offers further anecdotes from his own experiences, both on the lecture platform and at parties great and small, as well as gleanings from his philosophy of what humor (and life) is all about." --