Alley, Richard B. *Earth*. In this companion book to the PBS TV series of the same name, Alley, a Penn State professor of geology who served as a member of the U.N. climate change committee, presents a primer on combatting global warming.

Boo, Katherine. *Behind the Beautiful Forever’s*. The author of this book is an American Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. Boo spent the last few years doing scrupulous research for this book, which is a realistic portrayal of life in a Mumbai slum.


Farmer, Paul. *Haiti After the Earthquake*. On Jan.12, 2010, a massive earthquake laid waste to Port au Prince, Haiti, killing hundreds of thousands of people. Within three days, Farmer arrived in the capital, along with a team of volunteers. This vivid narrative describes the suffering and resilience he encountered in Haiti.

Kean, Sam. *The Disappearing Spoon*. The Periodic Table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it’s also a treasure trove of adventure, betrayal, and obsession.

Konnikova, Maria. *Mastermind*. Beginning with the “brain attic,” Holmes’ metaphor for how we store information and organize knowledge, Konnikova unpacks the mental strategies leading to clearer thinking and deeper insights.

Kurlansky, Mark. *Salt*. The only rock we eat, salt has shaped civilization from the very beginning, and its story is a glittering, often surprising part of the history of humankind.

Shadid, Anthony. *House of Stone*. In summer 2006, racing through Lebanon to report on the Israeli invasion, Shadid found himself in his family’s ancestral hometown of Marjayoun. There he discovered his great-grandfather’s once-magnificent estate in near ruins, devastated by war. One year later, Shadid returned to Marjayoun, not to chronicle the violence, but to rebuild in its wake.

Shubin, Neil. *The Universe Within*. A story of how human beings and life on Earth are connected to the wider universe.

Stewart, Christopher S. *Jungleland*. The solution to the riddle of the whereabouts of Ciudad Blanca, buried somewhere deep in the rain forest on the Mosquito Coast. Imagining an immense and immaculate El Dorado-like city made entirely of gold, explorers as far back as the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés have tried to find the fabled White City.

Tabor, James M. *Blind Descent*. The deepest cave on Earth was a prize that remained unclaimed for centuries, long after every other ultimate discovery had been made: both poles by 1912, Everest in 1958, the Challenger Deep in 1961. And yet as late as 2000, the Earth’s deepest cave – the super cave – remained undiscovered. This is the story of the men and women who risked everything to find it, earning their place in history beside the likes of Peary, Amundsen, Hillary, and Armstrong.