

Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood



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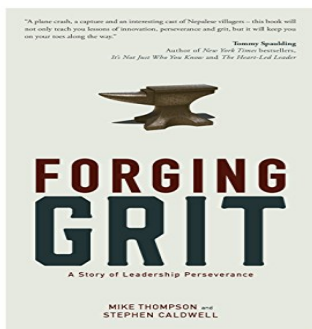
Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood

Long before Oliver Sacks became a distinguished neurologist and bestselling writer, he was a small English boy fascinated by metals—also by chemical reactions (the louder and smellier the better), photography, squids and cuttlefish, H.G. Wells, and the periodic table. In this endlessly charming and eloquent memoir, the author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and *Awakenings* chronicles his love affair with science and the magnificently odd and sometimes harrowing childhood in which that love affair unfolded. In *Uncle Tungsten* we meet Sacks' extraordinary family, from his surgeon mother (who introduces the fourteen-year-old Oliver to the art of human dissection) and



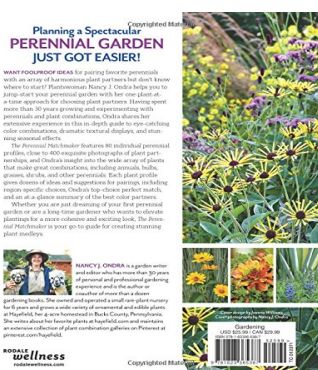
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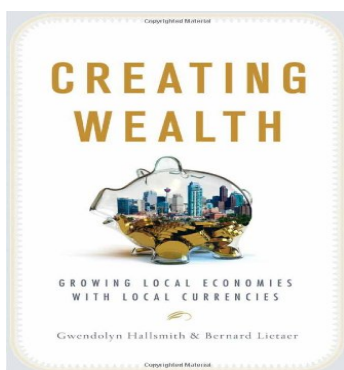
Forging Grit: A Story of Leadership Perseverance

Forging Grit is a fictional story that brings to life the science-backed theory that grit matters, and that any leader can develop it. Set in Nepal, it recounts the experiences of a business leader who encounters some extreme misfortune while taking a break from a special assignment in India. Throu



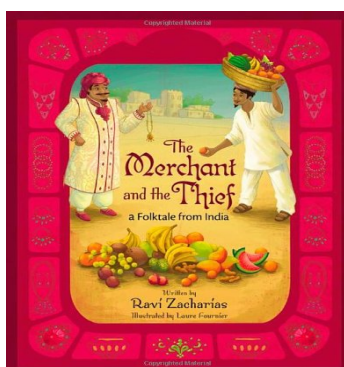
The Perennial Matchmaker: Create Amazing Combinations with Your Favorite Perennials

Want foolproof ideas for pairing favorite perennials with an array of harmonious plant partners but don't know where to start? Plantswoman Nancy J. Ondra helps you to jump-start your perennial garden with her one-plant-at-a-time approach for choosing plant partners. Having spent more than 30



Creating Wealth: Growing Local Economies with Local Currencies

Communities everywhere are challenged by issues such as health, elder and child care, housing, education, food security, and the environment. On the surface, these problems appear to be rooted in economic crisis—for example, budget cuts have triggered reduced public services, soaring food pric



The Merchant and the Thief: A Folktale from India

When Raj left the room, Mohan tiptoed over to his belongings and searched hurriedly under Raj's pillow. Again he found nothing. Mohan longs for Raj's treasure. He plots and he schemes and his plan seems perfect! But along the way, he discovers an important lesson about wanting what s

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Review 1:

no

Review 2:

Now, this is a good autobiography -- don't believe I've ever read one by someone who loved chemistry (though I did love "Absolutely Small" by Michael Fayer, which doesn't qualify because it's not biographical). This one shines both as biography and as a tour of chemistry and it shows his love and even admiration for chemistry and chemists. He spent most of his childhood years studying it, experimenting with chemicals and he also was lucky enough to be related to two uncles who themselves worked with chemicals. He also came of age when quantum mechanics was explaining the basics of chemistry.

He writes in some depth of those chemists in history who made great strides forward and how much he admired them: Humphry Davy, John Dalton, Dmitri Mendeleev, and those physicists like Niels Bohr, who brought understanding to quantum mechanics.

Young Oliver had access to many minerals, experimented with chemicals -- made more than his share of explosions and various chemical concoctions -- see chapter "Stinks and Bangs" and much more.

He rounds off this autobiographical account by telling how he left chemistry behind and eventually went into neurology. And that is where he closes this story.

All in all, he covers a lot of ground, both about his childhood and about chemistry and that's what makes this a joy to read.

Review 3:

Great for travel

Review 4:

wonderful, amusing, touching, gripping!

Review 5:

Fun read and I learned about chemistry at the same time.

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