the apparel industry. Melding worrisome facts, intuitive tips, and helpful resources, Cline's intelligent work provides plenty of tips for making ethical consumer choices. (Sept.)

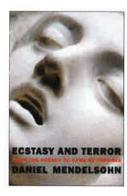
## The Deep History of Ourselves: The Four-Billion-Year Story of **How We Got Conscious Brains** Joseph Le Doux, Viking, \$30 (434p) ISBN 978-0-7352-2383-7

The eons-long development of the mechanics of thought—and other aspects of life—are covered in this sprawling, sometimes indigestible treatise from NYU neuroscientist Le Doux (The Emotional Brain). Surveying the rise and evolution of life-forms out of the primordial soup, he highlights such milestones as the acquisition of neurons by jellyfish and the arrival of mammals with their structured brains. Le Doux then focuses on the neuroscience of how brains process information and control behavior, elaborating on two themes: that, contrary to conventional wisdom, one's emotions do not cause one's behaviors and that, contrary to anthropomorphism, nonprimate animals may not have emotions, or even consciousness. The book contains provocative, sometimes unsettling descriptions of experiments, by Le Doux and others, that demonstrate how much seemingly conscious, willed behavior is actually unconscious and automatic, along with detailed discussions of the complex interactions of perception, memory, emotions, and cognition that underlie consciousness. However, Le Doux's writing tends to bog down in impenetrably dense terminology: "The dorsal and ventral lateral prefrontal cortex regions also receive inputs from the multimodal convergence zone in the neocortical pareital and temporal lobes." Though this exhaustive study brings up some fascinating concepts, the often arcane presentation will deter all but the most devoted of lav readers. Agent: Katinka Matson, Edge. (Sept.) ------

# **Ecstasy and Terror: From the Greeks to Game of Thrones**

Daniel Mendelsohn. New York Review Books. \$18.95 (384p) ISBN 978-1-68137-405-5

Displaying an erudite but accessible prose style, this essay collection is at its best when literary critic Mendelsohn (An



Odyssey), who holds a PhD in classics, invokes the writings of the ancient Greeks and Romans "as models for thinking about contemporary culture." In the first section.

he explores the classical world's modern relevance, looking at the continuing fascination exerted by Sappho, the Aeneid's political significance, and, in the title essay, how the ancient Greeks' concern with providing proper burial even for enemies relates to the controversy over burying Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The middle section is not as consistently strong, though a feminist reading of the Game of Thrones book series and a reconsideration of Evelyn Waugh's Brideshead Revisited stand out. In the final section, Mendelsohn tells his own story. Of particular note is his essay about grappling with his sexuality in adolescence while carrying on a correspondence with English writer Mary Renault, whose Alexander the Great novels meshed his two great interests of the time, "ancient Greece and other boys." Summing up his philosophy of criticism by asserting, in the final essay, that the best practitioners "educate and edify in an engaging and, preferably, entertaining way," Mendelsohn bears out this contention by his own example throughout this fine volume. (Sept.)

#### The Force:

### The Legendary Special Ops Unit and WWII's Mission Impossible Saul David. Hachette, \$28 (368p) ISBN 978-0-316-41453-1

In this action-packed tale, historian and broadcaster David recounts the WWII exploits of the Force, an unusual elite military unit. The Canadian and American militaries recruited "single men... whose occupation or hobby included lumberjack, forest ranger, hunter, trapper, north woodsman (guide), game warden, prospector and explorer" for special training and a mysterious mission. The servicemembers who volunteered (such as Capt.

Bill Rothlin, "a no-nonsense former metalworker" from California, and Capt. Tom MacWilliam, a small but athletic New Brunswick schoolteacher) could scale mountains and survive extreme winter conditions. After intense training and much diplomatic red tape, they embarked on their top-secret "impossible" mission in 1943. The Allied forces had begun a slow march up through Southern Italy, only to be stymied at the German Winter Line, a fortified position blocking a passage between Mount Difensa and Mount Camino, en route to Rome. It was considered impassable by Allied leaders after several regiments tried and failed, at great human cost, to take it. So the job was given to the Force. David vividly recounts their scaling a 200-foot sheer cliff wall on a cold, blustery night; engaging in heavy battle with the German defenders; and, after sustaining many casualties, emerging triumphant, having opened the way to Rome. He works the soldiers' individual stories into the narrative, adding heart to the derring-do. This thrilling history will captivate readers. (Sept.)

#### High School

Tegan and Sara Quin. MCD, \$27 (352p) ISBN 978-0-374-16994-7

The Canadian musician authors focus on their high school years in this moody memoir set in the mid-1990s. The twin sisters tell their story in alternating chapters whose topics include first loves, coming out as gay, and making music. They heartbreakingly recall the girls they fell for and the discomfort that came with hiding their romantic relationships from critical adults. Even though the two bickered as teenagers ("It didn't matter what it was; everything was a battlefield," Sara writes), music always brought them together. Their life-changing moment came when they found their stepfather's guitar and played it for the first time. Their descriptions of touching the guitar match up strikingly. Writes Tegan: "Its thick body pressed into my thighs... the desire to play it felt instinctive." Adds Sara: "The weight of the wood felt intimate, touching almost all of me at once." The sisters began composing songs and eventually entered a contest that would get them a deal with PolyGram Records. The narrative ends as they gear up to