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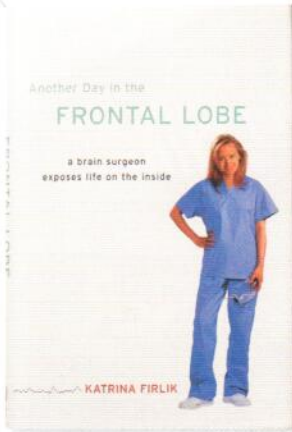
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**Another Day in the Frontal Lobe**

By Katrina Firlík  
(Random House)

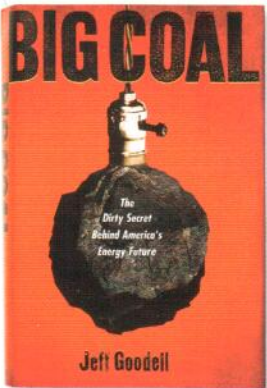
Hear about the guy who had a nail in his brain but was functioning normally? *This book is by his doctor.* The first woman at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's prestigious neurosurgery residency, Firlík has composed a "life on the inside" guide to her specialty that reads more like a college course than a memoir. Broaching topics such as tools, risks, emotion and death, Firlík brings tremendous empathy, passion and a surprising dry wit.



**Windows on Nature:  
The Great Habitat Dioramas of the  
American Museum of Natural History**

By Stephen Christopher Quinn  
(Harry N. Abrams)

Anyone who has spent time wandering the darkened halls of mammals at the AMNH understands why these works are described as "art to conceal art." Meticulously reconstructed from scenes in nature—many of which don't actually exist anymore—the tableaus give information-rich pause to a single moment. Quinn's details of the creation and personalities involved in each of the almost 50 dioramas profiled allow for an intimate and satisfying peek behind a magnificent curtain.



**Imaginary Weapons**

By Sharon Weinberger  
(Nation Books)

Not even Weinberger's long experience covering the defense industry could prepare her for the pseudoscience and bureaucratic ridiculousness she found while investigating the Pentagon's experimental weapons programs. From acoustic guns to something called a hafnium bomb, Weinberger debunks the spurious research behind the military's least-probable weaponry. Her account of these projects, which usually operate with massive budgets and minimal oversight, would be funny if it weren't so disturbing.

