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Meteorite: Nature and Culture (Earth)

Maria Golia

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Among the rarest things on earth, meteorites carry an air of mystery and drama while having left a pervasive, outsized mark on our planet and civilization. In *Meteorite*, Maria Golia tells the long history of our engagement with these sky-born space rocks. Arriving amid thunderous blasts and flame-streaked skies, meteorites were once thought to be messengers from the gods. Worshipped in the past, now scrutinized with equal zeal by scientists, meteorites helped sculpt Earth's features and have shaped our understanding of the planet's origins. Prized for their outlandish qualities, meteorites are a collectible and a commodity, objects of art and artists' desires and a literary muse; and 'meteorite hunting' is an adventurous, lucrative profession for some and an addictive hobby for thousands of others.

A richly illustrated, remarkably wide-ranging account of the culture and science surrounding meteorites, Golia's book explores the ancient, lasting power of the meteorite to inspire and awe.

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