

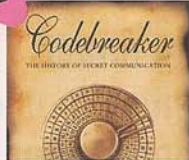


Japan's Bot Fetish

LOVING THE MACHINE

► **Timothy N. Hornyak**

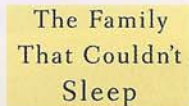
In this beautiful, photo-rich book, tech journalist Hornyak delivers an enlightening chronicle of Japan's love affair with bots. He posits that the Japanese view of automatons as helpers and partners – in contrast to a US perception of them as amoral, mechanical threats – has been a predominant force in advancing everything from the country's literature to corporate R&D. *Loving the Machine* explores both the science and style of robots, making it a must-read for bot-obsessed humanoids. – **Eric Steuer**



Codebreaker

► **Stephen Pincock**

This heavily illustrated cryptography lesson examines the history and craft of making and breaking codes, from the ancient Phaistos Disk to WWII's Enigma machines. Sections on unbroken codes (like the Zodiac Killer's) are fodder for aspiring hackers, as are instructions for making invisible ink. Take that, you rights-trampling NSA spooks! – **Asami Novak**



The Family That Couldn't Sleep

► **D. T. Max**

Explore 18th-century Venice, the jungles of Papua New Guinea, the British countryside, and a San Francisco lab – hot on the trail of killers called prions. These mysterious misfolded proteins are thought to cause kuru, scrapie, and mad cow disease, as well as the fatal insomnia referred to in the title. It'll make you think twice about chowing down on that burger. – **Greta Lorge**



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thumping low end, cowbell(!), and production contributions from Danger Mouse, these tracks are more righteously danceable than anything from all the third-wave disco-punkers out there. – **Steven Leckart**



Ta-Dah

► **Scissor Sisters**

This NYC quintet's snappy mix of disco and glam rock shamelessly evokes '70s hitmeisters like the Bee Gees, Queen, and Elton John (who collaborated on this collection's sugary-sweet "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'"). Innovative melodies and witty lyrics make these fun-loving drama geeks sound like much more than mere homage. – **E.S.**

