



**Saturday, October 2 • 2:30 PM**

They are woven into our lives, our bodies, our language, and one another in ways both uncountable and unignorable. Insofar as such things appear, as they do in these books, borne by the idiosyncrasy of a particular voice or style, they may seem to extend and underline our quarrel with objectivity. But they might at the same time offer a path back to a broadened sense of the actual lived fabric within which objectivity, in all its forms, still matters.

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Their lives are, in their way, as various as the things about which they write.

## The Hidden Lives of Ordinary Things Object Lessons

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"The Object Lessons series achieves something very close to magic: the books take ordinary—even banal—objects and animate them in a rich history of invention, political struggle, science, and popular mythology. Filled with fascinating details and conveyed in sharp, accessible prose, the books make the everyday world come to life. Be warned: once you've read a few of these, you'll start walking around your house, picking up random objects, and musing aloud: 'I wonder what the story is behind this thing?'"  
—Steven Johnson, author of *How We Got to Now*

We do not, these days, appear to believe much in "objectivity," and are increasingly inclined to imagine things more or less as we want and as they answer to our "point of view." But things—real, ordinary things like remote controls or dust or eggs or eye charts, to choose just a few from the thirty-plus titles that have so far appeared in Bloomsbury Publishing's brilliant series of little books called "Object Lessons"—things are more insistent than that.