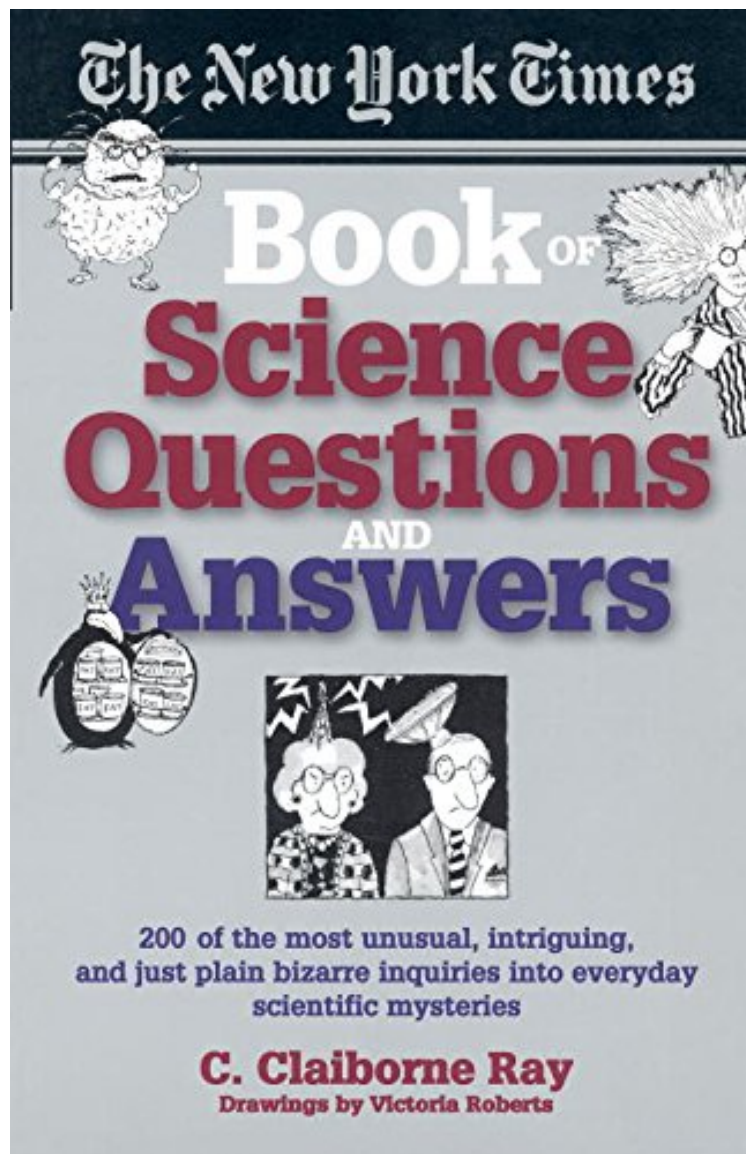


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About the Author C. Claiborne Ray has been an editor at the New York Times for more than 25 years, and has been the writer of the New York Times Science QA column since 1988. A resident of a historic Brooklyn neighborhood, she is a cat lover and a major-league jazz fan.