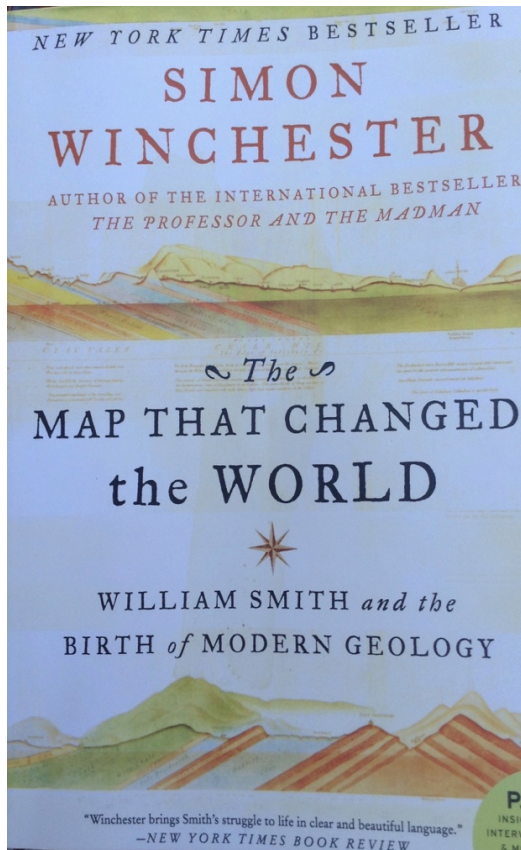


The Map that Changed the World

by Simon Winchester



- In 1793, a canal digger named William Smith made a world-changing discovery:
 - by tracing the placement of fossils, one could for the first time ever, draw a chart of the hidden underside of the earth.
- Instead of accolades and honors, Smith ended up in debtors' prison, the victim of plagiarism, and virtually homeless for ten years.
- A tale of endurance and achievement, of one man's dedication in the face of ruin.
- The map opened up the field of geology, and later biology and natural history.
- Contributed to the theory of evolution.
- Scientists now know that Earth is about 4.5 billion years old.

"Winchester brings Smith's struggle to life in clear and beautiful language."
— New York Times Book Review

"Winchester has once again captured the essence of persistence against odds resulting in achievement." — Library Journal

"Smith's life provides a terrific plot to frame his contribution to science. Winchester's wonderful account does credit to it." — Publishers Weekly