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April 2018

We Review the  
Best of the Latest  
Books

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# April 2019

## Table of Contents

Arts & Photography / Outdoors & Nature

[\*\*In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light: Passages through the Grand Canyon, 1<sup>st</sup> edition\*\* by John Annerino \(Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.\)](#)

Audio / Historical Novel / World War II / Love Story

[\*\*Bridge of Scarlet Leaves – Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged, 2 MP3 CDs, running time: 14 hours\*\* by Kristina McMorris, narrated by C.S.E. Cooney \(Tantor Media, Inc.\)](#)

[\*\*Bridge of Scarlet Leaves – Paperback\*\* by Kristina McMorris \(Kensington\)](#)

Business & Management / Psychology

[\*\*Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders? \(and how to fix it\)\*\* by Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic \(Harvard Business Review Press\)](#)

Children's Books / Age Range: 5-8 / Grade Level: K-3

[\*\*The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng\*\* by Sophia Gholz, illustrated by Kayla Harren \(Sleeping Bear Press\)](#)

Children's Books / Biographies & Memoirs / Age Range: Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue: Moral and Spiritual Change in Christian Perspective edited by Thomas M. Crisp, Steven L. Porter, and Gregg A. Ten Elshof (Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books: IVP Academic) Age: 10- / Grade Level: 5-7

[\*\*Becoming Emily: The Life of Emily Dickinson\*\* by Krystyna Poray Goddu \(Chicago Review Press\)](#)

Children's Books / Mysteries / Travel / Adventure / Environment / Age Range: 8-11 / Grade Level: 3-4 / Reading Level: Grade 4

[\*\*The Wolves of Slough Creek\*\* by Judy Young \(The Wild World of Buck Bray, Book 3: Sleeping Bear Press\)](#)

Current Events / Social Science

[\*\*Hate Crime Hoax: How the Left is Selling a Fake Race War\*\* by Wilfred Reilly \(Regnery Publishing\)](#)

Health & Illness / Culture / Narratives

[\*\*Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives: Stories of Rage and Repair, 1<sup>st</sup> edition\*\* by Emilia Nielsen \(University of Toronto Press\)](#)

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies

[\*\*Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide: Master timeless techniques, explore new forms, dig and process your own clay\*\* by Melissa Weiss \(Rockport Publishers\)](#)

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[\*\*Run Cold\*\* by Ed Ifkovic \(\*\*Edna Ferber Mysteries: Poisoned Pen Press\*\*\)](#)

Literature & Fiction / Poetry

[\*\*Dreaming of Stones: Poems\*\* by Christine Valters Paintner \(\*\*Paraclete Poetry Series: Paraclete Press\*\*\)](#)

Health & Medicine / Neurology / Law

[\*\*Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians: Foundations and Evolving Challenges\*\* by James E. Szalados \(\*\*Clinical Neurology Best Practices Series: Rutgers University Press\*\*\)](#)

Literature & Fiction / Fantasy

[\*\*The Heavens: A Novel\*\* by Sandra Newman \(Grove Press\)](#)

Popular Science / Genealogy / Guides

[\*\*The Family Tree Problem Solver: Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition\*\* by Marsha Hoffman Rising \(Family Tree Books, F+W Media, Inc.\)](#)

Psychology / Psychopathology

[\*\*The New Evil: Understanding the Emergence of Modern Violent Crime\*\* by Michael H. Stone MD & Gary Brucato PhD \(Prometheus Books\)](#)

Religion & Spirituality / Psychology / Theology / Philosophy

[\*\*Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue: Moral and Spiritual Change in Christian Perspective\*\* edited by Thomas M. Crisp, Steven L. Porter, and Gregg A. Ten Elshof \(\*\*Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books: IVP Academic\*\*\)](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Arts & Photography / Outdoors & Nature

[\*\*In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light: Passages through the Grand Canyon, 1<sup>st</sup> edition\*\* by John Annerino \(Schiffer Publishing, Ltd.\)](#)

From the supernal peaks of sacred temples to the depths of roaring river rapids, author/photographer/adventurer John Annerino in [\*\*In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light\*\*](#) takes readers off the Grand Canyon's tourist grid to retrace the footpaths and rough-water passages of its earliest explorers.

Annerino is a photographer and author of distinguished photography books, photographic essays, and single-artist calendars of the American West and Old Mexico. His work has appeared in prestigious publications and includes

award-winning photography for National Geographic Adventure, and the map, "The Grand Canyon Explored," on display as a wall mural at the Grand Canyon National Geographic Visitor Center.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Grand Canyon National Park in 2019, [In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light](#) unveils the timeless legacy of brave women who still navigate the hypnotic currents and legendary 'big drop' rapids of the Colorado River. The rough water adventure, and companion chapters, feature literary quotes, historical vignettes, essays, and full-color image galleries.

Among Annerino's most daunting canyon adventures was the 250 mile, 8½ day traverse he made running on foot solo below the Grand Canyon's North Rim to prove his hypothesis that Ancestral Puebloans conceivably ran the great abyss end-to-end long ages ago for trade and vision quests. Fraught with intimidating cliff exposure, thirst, flash floods, and near-drownings, his epic run was backed by a two-person support crew and traversed the virtually trailless, seldom explored hanging terraces of the inner gorge that stretched between the historic Grand Canyon National Park boundaries from Saddle Mountain to Thunder River.

In [In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light](#) spectacular photographs and stories of Annerino's own dicey expeditions in the canyon and on the Colorado River are juxtaposed with

historical tales, illustrations, and black-and-white images taken by pioneering photographers. Annerino visits the ancient sites of native peoples who roamed the far corners of this otherworldly abyss, and provides firsthand descriptions of the hidden landscapes explored by Spanish missionaries, scientists, National Geographic Society parties, and women river runners. These trailblazing treks in [In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light](#) tested their endurance in extreme conditions and, for some, yielded rare plant and animal specimens that were collected for scientific study.

*John Annerino chronicles love and enchantment of an extraordinary landscape with exquisite photographs and prose. It is a crowning work.*

*In 2019, we celebrate 100 years since the designation of Grand Canyon National Park, and yet the river that is the flowing heart of this land has been carving this greatest of all chasms for millions of years. Water, time, and wind are portrayed with aesthetic sensitivity by Annerino. He includes in his photographic journeys historic images of those who lived in the great canyon and also those*

*who traveled through.  
There are many tales in  
each of the journeys  
undertaken by Mr.  
Annerino along with a very  
rich portfolio of  
outstanding photographs.*

*Three women river runners  
are also profiled, and they  
feared nothing except  
being denied the chance  
to row the wild rapids of  
the great red river of the  
American Southwest. A  
book to inspire everyone. –  
Wendover Brown,  
Cofounder, Browntrout  
Publishers*

### **[In the Chasms of Water, Stone, and Light](#)**

chronicles love and enchantment of an extraordinary landscape with Annerino's exquisite photographs and vivid prose. Readers join him on this wild adventure in what National Geographic called the 'greatest and most spectacular canyon system on earth.' It is a crowning work.  
<>

Audio / Historical Novel / World War II /  
Love Story

**[Bridge of Scarlet Leaves](#) – Audiobook,  
MP3 Audio, Unabridged, 2 MP3 CDs,  
running time: 14 hours** by Kristina  
McMorris, narrated by C.S.E. Cooney  
(Tantor Media, Inc.)

**[Bridge of Scarlet Leaves](#) – Paperback** by  
Kristina McMorris (Kensington)

**[Bridge of Scarlet Leaves](#)** is a novel about a California marriage threatened by the Japanese internments of World War II.

In this poignant and evocative novel by acclaimed author Kristina McMorris, a country is plunged into conflict and suspicion – forcing a young woman to find her place in a volatile world.

McMorris is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling, award-winning author of *The Pieces We Keep* and *Letters from Home* as well as this book. McMorris is the recipient of more than twenty national literary awards, as well as a nominee for the prestigious RITA Award. Reader of the audio-version, C.S.E. Cooney, launched her voice-acting career narrating *short factor* for Podcastle, the world's first audio fantasy magazine. She is a performance poet, singer-songwriter and fantasy author.

Los Angeles, 1941.

In **[Bridge of Scarlet Leaves](#)** violinist Maddie Kern's life seems destined to unfold with the predictable elegance of a Bach concerto. Then she falls in love with Lane Moritomo, her brother's best friend. Lane is the handsome, ambitious son of Japanese immigrants.

Maddie is prepared for disapproval from their families, but when Pearl Harbor is bombed the day after she and Lane elope, the full force of their decision becomes apparent. In the eyes of a fearful nation, Lane is no longer just an outsider, but an enemy.

Maddie follows when her husband is interned at a war relocation camp,

sacrificing her Juilliard ambitions. Behind barbed wire, tension simmers and the line between patriot and traitor blurs. As Maddie strives for the hard-won acceptance of her new family, Lane risks everything to prove his allegiance to America – at tremendous cost.

*Impeccably researched and beautifully written.* – Karen White, author of *The Sound of Glass*

*... McMorris's words reach right off the page and grab at your heart* – Sarah Jio, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Blackberry Winter*

This timeless love story skillfully captures one of the most controversial episodes in recent American history, McMorris draws readers into [Bridge of Scarlet Leaves](#), a novel filled with triumphs and heartbreaking loss – an authentic, moving testament to love, forgiveness, and the enduring music of the human spirit. <>

Business & Management / Psychology

[Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders? \(and how to fix it\)](#) by Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic (Harvard Business Review Press)

Incompetent leadership is everywhere, and there's no denying that most of these leaders are men.

In this provocative book, [Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?](#), named one of "14 business

books everyone will be reading in 2019" by Business Insider, author Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic asks two questions: Why is it so easy for incompetent men to become leaders? And why is it so hard for competent people – especially competent women – to advance?

Chamorro-Premuzic is the Chief Talent Scientist at ManpowerGroup, a professor of business psychology at University College London and at Columbia University and an associate at Harvard's Entrepreneurial Finance Lab.

Marshaling decades of rigorous research, Chamorro-Premuzic points out that although men make up a majority of leaders, they under-perform when compared with female leaders. In fact, most organizations equate leadership potential with a handful of destructive personality traits, like overconfidence and narcissism. These traits may help someone get selected for a leadership role, but they backfire once the person has the job.

When competent women – and men who don't fit the stereotype – are unfairly overlooked, everyone suffers the consequences. The result is a flawed system that rewards arrogance rather than humility, and loudness rather than wisdom.

There is a better way. Chamorro-Premuzic in [Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?](#) shows readers what it takes to lead and how new systems and processes can help them put the right people in charge.

**[Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?](#)** helps readers identify the key qualities that cause people to become incompetent leaders – and, conversely, good leaders. By understanding the difference between the traits commonly associated with leaders and those that actually help leaders be effective, readers can, hopefully, abandon the selection criteria that are driving the epidemic of bad leadership.

Chapter 2 examines one of the biggest causes for the bad-leadership epidemic: the inability to distinguish between confidence and competence, particularly when trying to infer leadership potential in others.

Chapter 3 looks at why narcissists manage to emerge as leaders and the consequences of narcissism on both the quality of leadership and the gender imbalance in leadership.

Chapter 4 examines the charisma myth. People tend to overrate the importance of charisma, a subjective inference based largely on someone's attractiveness or likeability, as a key ingredient of leadership potential.

Chapter 5 discusses the female advantage in leadership. Because women generally have greater emotional intelligence than men do, women display more self-control, empathy, and transformational leadership when they are in charge.

Chapter 6 looks at the universal qualities that make leaders – both men and

women – more effective. Although there are many models of good leadership, most of them highlight a few essential ingredients of leadership potential, such as expertise, intelligence, and curiosity.

Chapter 7 summarizes ways to evaluate the central elements of leadership potential. It focuses on data-driven tools that enable organizations to select better leaders by overcoming their problematic reliance on intuition.

Chapter 8 evaluates the effectiveness of coaching and development interventions designed to improve leaders' performance. While most organizations devote significant time and money to such interventions, their average success levels are disappointing.

Chapter 9 presents some final thoughts on the issues discussed throughout **[Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?](#)**. Chamono-Premuzie draws from lessons from the past and discusses the potential implications for gender-diversity programs in the future.

*The single most important book on leadership of our time. This insightful, innovative, original perspective is an absolute must-read for anyone who wants to identify the best leaders for their business and to be the best leaders they can be themselves – men and women alike. This book is now going to*

*be my go-to gift for everyone I know, in business and in life. – Cindy Gallop, founder and CEO, IfWeRanTheWorld*  
*This wonderful book illustrates how gender balance is a lever for higher business performance. A delightfully honest manifesto to transform traditional, underperforming, overconfident male standards of leadership into something that actually delivers, inspires, and engages. Brilliant and timely. – Avivah Wittenberg-Cox, bestselling author, Seven Steps to Leading a Gender-Balanced Business*

*As the title – **Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?** – suggests, Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic has written a lively and provocative book. For anyone with an interest in leadership, and in gender differences as they might particularly pertain, the issues he raises and the conclusions he reaches will provide good grist for their collective mill. – Barbara Kellerman, James MacGregor Burns Lecturer*

in Public Leadership,  
Harvard Kennedy School

**Why Do So Many Incompetent Men Become Leaders?** debunks some of readers' preconceptions about gender and leadership. The book makes suggestions that are different from the mainstream. Progress on the issue of female leadership has been slow and piecemeal; the time has come to consider a different solution, and that solution calls for a different type of analysis such as the one found in this book. <>

Children's Books / Age Range: 5-8 /  
Grade Level: K-3

**The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng** by Sophia Gholz, illustrated by Kayla Harren (Sleeping Bear Press)

*Only by growing plants, the earth will survive – Jadav Payeng*

**The Boy Who Grew a Forest** is a true story demonstrating the agency a young person can have to affect change. As proved by Jadav Paveng, even a simple effort can have an impact beyond one's wildest expectations.

As a young boy on Majuli Island in northeastern India, Jadav was distressed by the destruction deforestation and erosion was causing on his island home in India's Brahmaputra River. After experiencing devastating flooding, erosion and the poaching of wildlife, Jadav began planting bamboo seedlings, making it his lifelong mission to rebuild the forest and its ecosystem.

In [The Boy Who Grew a Forest](#), what began as a small thicket of bamboo, grew over the years into a 1,300 acre forest filled with native plants and animals. Now it is called the Molai Forest.

Author Sophia Gholz is a music lover, magic seeker, and lifelong writer. Her father was a prominent forest ecologist, and some of her earliest memories are of camping in research forests. Illustrator Kayla Harren's books include *Hannah's Tall Order: An A to Z Sandwich* and *Mary Had a Little Lizard*.

*The true story of a young boy who built a forest from the ground up in northeastern India. Inspired by the documentary Forest Man, debut author Gholz pens the story of Jadav Payeng. The story begins with the erosive impact of seasonal floodwaters on his island home, which propels Jadav to take action. A group of elders give him 20 bamboo seedlings to plant. He plants them and waters them every day, devising various methods of irrigation, and over time, his hard work pays off and a forest grows. Animals come back but with them come threats. However, Jadav inventively copes and continues to protect the forest. While the*

*relative absence of the community throughout Jadav's endeavors is somewhat startling, the story provides young children with a real-life example of the connections between man and nature.... The illustrations overall are detailed and engaging, however, with beautiful imagery of the islands and the forest. Backmatter provides further information, a glossary, and tips on planting. – Kirkus Reviews*

[The Boy Who Grew a Forest](#): *This inspiring story has a lesson for us all! Concerned with the loss of trees in on his island, Payeng began planting trees. This small wood grew to be a forest and a home for flora and fauna. – Kita B World*

An idea as small as a seed saves an entire island in [The Boy Who Grew a Forest](#).

Young readers learn about environmentalism and see that even the mightiest results really do begin with a small seed of an idea. This book can be used as a tie-in for lessons on ecology and sustainability. <>

Children's Books / Biographies & Memoirs / Age Range: 10- / Grade Level: 5-7

### **Becoming Emily: The Life of Emily**

**Dickinson** by Krystyna Poray Goddu (Chicago Review Press)

**Becoming Emily** introduces budding young writers to the life and legacy of one of 19<sup>th</sup> – century America's most prolific poets.

Author Krystyna Poray Goddu is the author of *A Girl Called Vincent, An Unlikely Ballerina* and coauthor of *Kryssia*. She has contributed to *American Girl* magazine, *Publishers Weekly*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and the *Riverbank Review of Books for Young Readers*.

Emily Dickinson wrote short, often enigmatic poems that are widely read and quoted by people of every age. Yet, as well known as her poetry is, Dickinson as a person is considered to have been a mysterious recluse – a silent figure who wore only white, wrote in secret, never left her home, and had no interest in sharing her poetry.

In **Becoming Emily**, young readers learn how as a child, an adolescent, and well into adulthood, Dickinson was a lively social being with a warm family life. Highly educated for a girl of her era, she actively engaged in both the academic and social aspects of the schools she attended until she was nearly eighteen. Her family and friends were important to her, and she was a prolific, thoughtful, and witty

correspondent who shared many poems with her close friends and relatives. **Becoming Emily** includes photos, full-length poems, letter excerpts, a timeline, source notes, and a bibliography to present a vivid portrait of this singular American poet.

In 1886, poet Emily Dickinson passed away at age 55. That same year, Emily's sister Lavinia unearthed nearly 1800 poems and over 1000 letters, items Emily refused to share with anyone other than close family and friends while she was alive. Defying strict instructions from Emily to destroy all correspondences, Lavinia convinced two personal acquaintances to publish a volume of select poems that propelled her sister into the literary spotlight.

**Becoming Emily** introduces middle-grade readers to the indelible literary figure through a journey that traces Emily's gradual transformation into a poet. From her strenuous school years to her relationships with friends and family, Goddu explores how each stage in her life shaped Emily's worldviews and how they, in turn, molded her into the literary icon she has become.

Goddu also offers a fuller portrait of Emily, shying away from the oft-used spinster stereotype and presenting her as a lively, well-educated young woman with sharp wit and a warm heart. Readers also learn about Emily's struggle to overcome crippling illnesses, her encounter with Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind and her unconventional religious beliefs that put

her at odds with the Puritanical culture she was brought up in.

It was to her friend Jane that Emily confided something new and important in her life. Even as she wrote of her conflicting religious feelings, she turned to another subject. She wrote with great excitement, but vaguely, as though she were afraid to express exactly what was happening. "I have dared to do strange things," she began, "bold things, and have asked no advice from any – I have heeded beautiful tempters, yet do not think I am wrong."

She longs to sit down with Jane and confess to "an experience bitter, and sweet, but the sweet did so beguile me – and life has had an aim, and the world has been too precious for your poor – and striving sister!" She wrote that things were "budding, and springing, and singing." Jane could probably make no sense of what Emily was trying to tell her. But most scholars agree that Emily, at the age of 19, was trying to describe her first attempts at writing poetry.

*Emily Dickinson and her world come to life in this beautifully written, well-researched tribute to one of our great poets. Kids' nonfiction at its best. – Susanna Reich, author of Minette's Feast and José! Born to Dance*

*With select poems, revealing passages from letters, and a richly detailed narrative, this*

*thorough study is sure to entice middle-grade readers to explore one of the 19th century's greatest poets. – Kirkus Reviews*

*An excellent companion for those reading or studying her poetry. – Booklist*

Including entertaining anecdotes, full-length poems, captivating photographs and an extensive collection of private correspondence, [Becoming Emily](#) is a must-read for aspiring writers hoping to learn all they can about the woman who redefined American poetry. <>

Children's Books / Mysteries / Travel / Adventure / Environment / Age Range: 8-11 / Grade Level: 3-4 / Reading Level: Grade 4

[The Wolves of Slough Creek](#) by Judy Young ([The Wild World of Buck Bray, Book 3](#): Sleeping Bear Press)

A Yellowstone National Park adventure by Judy Young, the award-winning author of more than twenty children's books, including the middle-grade series *The Wild World of Buck Bray* and the beginning reader series *Digger and Daisy*.

*Buck heard the whirring sound again, this time in front of him.*

*He jerked his head around to face forward. A strange-looking bright orange plastic thing,*

*smaller than his palm,  
hovered in the air a few  
yards away, just a little  
higher than his head. It  
looked like a four-legged  
spider with tiny helicopter  
blades spinning above  
each leg. A single eye in  
the middle of its body  
seemed to stare at him.*

*Cool, thought Buck. A  
drone!*

*The drone quickly zipped  
to the left a few feet,  
hovered for a second,  
then it moved to the right.  
It spurted upward and  
dropped back down, did  
a little flip and hovered in  
front of Buck again for just  
a second. Then it darted  
across the lot toward the  
longer parking spaces in  
back. Buck was trying to  
keep the drone in focus  
when he heard Toni  
scream.*

*"Buck! Watch out!" – from  
the book*

In his third wilderness adventure, [The Wolves of Slough Creek](#), eleven-year-old Buck Bray, along with the rest of *The Wild World of Buck Bray* TV crew, including the cameraman's daughter, Toni Shoop, heads to Yellowstone National Park to film an episode about its famous geysers and hot springs. They are also there to learn more about the park's gray wolf restoration program.

But soon after arriving, Buck narrowly escapes injury when a herd of bison stampedes. Buck is almost certain the animals were agitated by a drone. Flying drones in a national park is illegal. Who is behind it? What are they trying to do? And drones aren't the only problem. Someone is threatening the wildlife.

Once Buck and Toni start to investigate in [The Wolves of Slough Creek](#), they find out that gray wolves are not the only top predator in Yellowstone.

*Middle schooler and  
television star Buck Bray is  
back for a third outing ....  
Young cleverly inserts  
ample red herrings,  
sustaining the suspense  
while including lots of  
information about both  
the park and the wolf  
packs that have been  
reintroduced there. None  
of the characters have  
physical descriptions  
(except for age), which  
combines with the cover  
depiction of light-skinned  
Buck and Toni to imply the  
white default. Information  
about drone flying adds  
additional appeal to this  
engaging tale.  
Substantially the best of  
the mystery/travelogue  
series to date.... – Kirkus  
Reviews*

*Many readers looking for something reminiscent of Will Hobbs's books will find this enjoyable.... – School Library Journal*

The illegal use of drones in a national park highlights technology's impact on the natural environment in [The Wolves of Slough Creek](#), the third title of this mystery and adventure middle grade series. <>

Current Events / Social Science

**[Hate Crime Hoax: How the Left is Selling a Fake Race War](#)** by Wilfred Reilly (Regnery Publishing)

Has the election of Donald Trump ushered in a new era of racial hatred in the country? How else to explain the frightening wave of hate crimes that began in November 2016? The explanation, according to [Hate Crime Hoax](#), is that there is no wave of hate crimes.

In reality, America is a dramatically less racist society today than in the past. In fact, as African American Professor Wilfred Reilly demonstrates, the only spike is in hate crime hoaxes.

Reilly is a tenure-track Professor of Political Science at Kentucky State University and the author of *The \$50,000,000 Question: An Engagingly Empirical Examination of the Relationship between 'Privilege' and Pride*.

In [Hate Crime Hoax](#), Reilly examines over one hundred widely publicized

incidents of so-called hate crimes that never actually happened.

Why does the Left need to believe their opponents are racists? – According to Reilly there are a few reasons. First, they need money and support to keep progressive social organizations – like Black Lives Matter, the NAACP, and the Southern Poverty Law Center – afloat. Without racism these organizations would generally have no purpose. Second, the Left must incite a fake race war to win elections and bolster the 'Continuing Oppression' narrative that they have latched on to.

Some hoaxes are motivated by a simple desire for insurance money. But many – from a young Black woman's claim that she was chased by Trump supporters throwing both rocks and racial insults at her on the day after the 2016 election to the giant swastika supposedly painted in human feces on a dorm wall at the University of Missouri – arise out of the Left's need to believe that their opponents are racists. Ironically and disturbingly, their hoaxes are themselves increasing racial tensions.

With a critical eye and attention to detail, Reilly debunks these incidents – many of them alleged to have happened on college campuses – and explores why so many Americans are driven to fake hate crimes. People are not experiencing an epidemic of hate crimes, Reilly concludes in [Hate Crime Hoax](#), but they might be experiencing an unprecedented epidemic of hate crime hoaxes.

*Reilly pulls no punches in his depiction of the hate crime inventors and the broader network of liberal college administrators and journalists who inadvertently egg them on, all to serve the narrative that virtually every American town, college, or white community is saturated in racial and ethnic hatred. – Scott McConnell, founding editor of The American Conservative*

*There is no epidemic of police shootings. There is only a picture painted by a media that wants the public to believe this to be something of major concern and out of control. Dr. Wilfred Reilly does us all a favor by illustrating the large number of misrepresented, misrepresented, and misunderstood incidents that frequent our national media. – Jonathon Sharp, assistant professor of psychology at Kentucky State University and former sheriff's deputy*

**Hate Crime Hoax** separates fact from fiction and drags many ugly things we often simply refuse to believe in

*squirming into the light. – Jimmy Cobb, lead singer of The Snake Oil Salesmen*

*With this blockbuster book, Will Reilly skewers the smelly little orthodoxies of our time: the blind acceptance of purported hate crimes as real (often they are not), the refusal to discuss the taboo of black-on-white crime, and the simplistic farce of 'white privilege' as determining the success or failure of individuals. – Jonathan Bean, author of Race and Liberty in America: The Essential Reader, Beyond the Broker State, and Big Government and Affirmative Action*

**Hate Crime Hoax** is a must-read for anyone who cares about our country and who wants to prevent fake news and fake crimes from tearing the country apart. <>

Health & Illness / Culture / Narratives

**Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives: Stories of Rage and Repair, 1st edition** by Emilia Nielsen (University of Toronto Press)

Engaging with discussions surrounding the culture of disease, **Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives** explores politically insistent narratives of illness. Resisting the optimism of pink ribbon culture, these

stories use anger as a starting place to reframe cancer as a collective rather than an individual problem.

### **Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives**

discusses the ways emotion, gender, and sexuality, in relation to breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, all become complicated, relational, and questioning. Providing theoretically informed close readings of breast cancer narratives, this study explores how disruption functions both personally and politically.

Author Emilia Nielsen is Assistant Professor in the Health and Society program, Department of Social Science at York University.

Highlighting a number of contributors in the field of health and gender studies including Barbara Ehrenreich, Kathlyn Conway, Audre Lorde, and Teva Harrison, **Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives** takes into account documentary film, television, and social media as popular mediums used to explore stories of disease.

The practice of sharing one's story of breast cancer has become increasingly common in this historical moment, one in which the telling and public dissemination of emotionally charged autobiographical narratives is explicitly encouraged. The American Cancer Society's "Tell Your Story" campaign solicits a particular type of cancer narrative when asking for 'inspirational stories' to provide 'hope' or 'comfort and courage' for the many people whose lives are 'touched' by cancer.

There are reasons to resist standardized cancer stories of hope and courage if only because, for many women, a breast cancer diagnosis is fraught with the conflicting emotions of anxiety, anger, and sadness.

In making space only for the sharing of cancer stories with positive outcomes, other types of cancer narratives are effectively silenced. Unfortunately, not every person who receives a breast cancer diagnosis will experience successful treatment and recovery.

### **Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives**

explores how breast cancer narratives are changing public perceptions of the disease as well as a breast cancer culture formed in relation to dominant discourses such as biomedicine. In uncovering a subgenre of 'disruptive breast cancer narratives,' Nielsen found that these stories resist 'pink ribbon' culture with its primary focus on awareness and the promotion of early detection, cheerfulness, and adoption of the identity of 'survivor.' By using anger these stories instead often reframe cancer as a collective rather than individual problem, thus questioning what it means to live with and die from cancer. In highlighting the work breast cancer narratives can do – for those writing them and those reading them – it becomes evident that restrictive cultural politics engender standardized stories, while personal narratives have the potential to be both unsettling and well-informed.

Disruptive breast cancer narratives explicitly offer experiential insights of breast cancer as a disease and a culture from patients who are affected by but not necessarily equipped with biomedical knowledge. But the 'disruptive' aspects of these stories can only surface if the multiple ways of telling a breast cancer narrative are encouraged in public discourse rather than shut down simply because these narratives are inextricably connected to personal experience. Disruptive breast cancer narratives are formed in relation with and in response to standardized storytelling about cancer; still, as Nielsen illustrates throughout [Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives](#), disruptive breast cancer narratives are heterogeneous in perspective, theme, and tone. Contained within disruptive breast cancer narratives are questions of how to perform patienthood and survivorship.

That [Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives](#) is able to discuss, specifically, 'disruptive breast cancer narratives' is testament to a shifting public discourse of the disease and the writing of a different kind of cancer story. In an example that illustrates the power of disruptive narratives, women diagnosed and treated for breast cancer debate the cultural politics of breast cancer by publicly engaging with private realities, thus sharing stories of their own experience.

In chapter 2, "Feminist Counternarratives," Nielsen advances why she remains unconvinced by the

argument that breast cancer narratives are fundamentally unable to further a progressive public dialogue about the disease. She questions the stance of canonical scholarship on illness narratives and traces the evolution of what has been called the first wave of medical humanities scholarship to the present day and the call for a more critical field of study. Thus, she explores how breast cancer narratives as a type of personal narrative have a decided ethical orientation towards cancer, a stance feminist narrative bioethics can illuminate.

Throughout chapter 3, "Angry Stories of Survivorship," Nielsen engages with textual and cultural performances of anger. She reads three published narratives: Barbara Ehrenreich's "Welcome to Cancerland," Audre Lorde's *The Cancer Journals*, and Kathlyn Conway's *Ordinary Life* to ascertain how each author engages with feminist anger as a strategy to resist what she understands as the prescriptive cultural politics of breast cancer. She provides a type of genealogy to show that Ehrenreich's blistering critique of breast cancer culture has at least two antecedents in *The Cancer Journals* and *Ordinary Life*. These texts provide a way of examining the problematics of feminist anger in the 1980s and 1990s, and especially feminist anger in relation to breast cancer culture.

In chapter 4, "Questioning Environmental Causation," Nielsen reads Wendy Mesley's and Kris Carr's

documentaries as films that purport to disrupt the dominant discourse of breast cancer. She explores a figure she calls the 'cancer killjoy,' reorienting Sara Ahmed's explication of the 'feminist killjoy.' The cancer killjoy is a troublemaker, a muckraker, and is not satisfied with a 'business as usual' attitude where cancer is concerned. Mesley's documentary engages with an environmentally motivated politics of cancer prevention, one where grassroots activists urge industry and government to find the root cause or causes of the disease. Mesley's film frames the prevention of cancer as a collective project rather than an individual one.

In chapter 5, "Queering Breast Cancer," Nielsen reads Catherine Lord's 2004 hybrid text in tandem with a postmillennial television series. She begins with Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's personal essay "White Glasses," examining her assertion that breast cancer itself inscribes gender in such a way that it requires the most normative performance of gender, sexuality, and attitude in order to be understood properly as a 'woman.' Here, she reads Lord's *The Summer of Her Baldness* as an example of elegiac politics as she mourns the loss of her hair and, by extension, stable notions of identity including gender and sexuality.

In the final chapter of [Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives](#), "The Power of Narrative Repair," she return to Barbara Ehrenreich's "Welcome to Cancerland" to illustrate that mainstream breast

cancer culture has not only been resisted but also disrupted by counter-narratives of breast cancer rooted in experiential knowledge. These disruptive breast cancer narratives should be properly understood as creating important emotional, political, and cultural knowledge in the public discourse of the disease. Learning to live with cancer, in the form of a terminal diagnosis, vivifies the complexity of narrative repair, as revealed in the difficult life lessons imparted in Teva Harrison's graphic memoir, *In-Between Days: A Memoir about Living with Cancer*. It can be understood as a recent example in a lineage of disruptive breast cancer narratives.

*Emilia Nielsen explores graphic narrative, comics, and other media to critique breast cancer's cultural impact. Focusing on the performance of patienthood and survivorship in disruptive narratives, Emilia Nielsen clearly argues that personal narratives have the power to 'shift the public discourse' from its long tradition of mystifying the disease. – Jane E. Shultz, Professor, Department of English, Indiana University*

*Emilia Nielsen impressively draws on, and enters in dialogue with, a wide range of recent*

*scholarship addressing illness narratives and challenging mainstream breast cancer culture. Nielsen shows how the study of disruptive breast cancer narratives requires attention to the performativity of patienthood and resistance as well as to the entanglement of emotion, gender, and sexuality. – Stella Bolaki, Senior Lecturer, School of English, University of Kent*

### **Disrupting Breast Cancer Narratives**

shatters the pink door so that other narratives about cancer than that of enforced cheerfulness can come into the room. <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies

**Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide: Master timeless techniques, explore new forms, dig and process your own clay** by Melissa Weiss (Rockport Publishers)

In [Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide](#), pottery expert Melissa Weiss shows readers the basics of crafting without a wheel, how to harvest and work wild clay, and how to use natural glazes.

Weiss is an Asheville, North Carolina potter. She makes a variety of ash and celadon glazes and fires her pots in a gas reduction kiln. She teaches classes in handbuilding at intervals throughout the year at the famous Penland Art School and the North Carolina Pottery Center among others. She also operates

an 8,000 square foot art cooperative called Southside Studios that houses studio space for twenty potters.

Handbuilt pottery is a good way for new potters to dive into this unique medium because it doesn't require access to a potter's wheel. In [Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide](#), Weiss takes an organic approach to harvesting and working with local clays and shows readers how to mix their own glazes to use on functional pottery for use at home. Weiss provides readers with a solid course on slab and pinch-pot techniques that allows beginning students to master the basics and progress through finished wares. If they are looking to go a little deeper, Weiss also offers her unique knowledge of how to dig and process local clays for use in pottery and the techniques she has developed for creating unique glazes with ash, salt, and other dry materials. Weiss also introduces readers to talented contemporary potters who share their work, tips, advice, and techniques.

In [Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide](#), Weiss takes readers with her as she digs, processes, and uses her own clay in every pot she makes. She covers some familiar methods of handbuilding, and some not-so-familiar methods as well. She shows readers how to create cups using a Japanese technique called kurinuki – a subtractive method of carving a pot out of a solid block of clay. She lead them though the steps of making serving trays and buckets by combining slab and coil methods and

building vases and pitchers by putting together two slab-built bowls.

In other chapters, Weiss takes on the challenge of creating bisque molds, using them to make platters and dishes. She explores different techniques for creating feet and handles and ways to attach them to pots. She talks about surfaces and tries out a variety of decorating methods – including wax resist, sgraffito, and carving – to make each pot one of a kind.

In each chapter, Weiss introduces readers to the work of talented contemporary potters from around the country. They take readers into their studios for a look at their pottery and they share their tips, advice, and techniques.

Over the past thirteen years Weiss says she has collected and saved little pieces of knowledge, techniques, and recipes from every branch of my path of learning and built them into her own practice. She use a variety of methods, including carving, coil, slab construction, and combination techniques that she shows readers in [Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide](#). She tries to make pots that feel primitive and look modern by using a minimally processed wild clay body, thin slips, and ash glazes, and by leaving the marks of the maker. She doesn't 'fuss' over her pots. They're not painstakingly perfected and honed; they're meant to be inviting and used in daily life.

An engaging guide, [Handbuilt, A Potter's Guide](#) is for potters working at

many levels. It's a book that honors tradition, but also looks at new ways of approaching clay. If readers are just getting started, they will find the basics they need. If they are experienced potters looking for new ways to work contemplatively with handbuilding, then this is the book for them, too. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[Run Cold](#) by Ed Ifkovic (**Edna Ferber Mysteries**: Poisoned Pen Press)

*The Arctic trails have their secret tales That would make your blood run cold.*

– Robert W. Service, "The Cremation of Sam McGee"

Here comes Ed Ifkovic with another in his popular *Edna Ferber* mystery series.

Ifkovic (1943- ) taught literature and creative writing at a community college in Connecticut for over three decades. His short stories and essays have appeared in the *Village Voice*, *America*, *Hartford Monthly*, and *Journal of Popular Culture*.

In [Run Cold](#), Jack Mabie claims to be the meanest man in Alaska, yet the old sourdough seems to be just one of the

crusty geezers in every roadhouse bewildered by how his lawless frontier life has morphed into the pastel 1950s world of martini cocktail bars up and down Fairbanks' Second Avenue.

Sonia Petrievich, an editor at *The Gold*, her father's weekly pro-statehood paper, learns through the mukluk telegraph about Jack's gleeful account of murders and robberies and shell games during the gold rush days. Her breezy March 1957 profile lets Jack revel in newfound notoriety.

And the other major character in [Run Cold](#) is, of course, Edna Ferber, who is not completely satisfied with her forthcoming novel *Ice Palace*. She has just returned for further research and is fascinated by Jack and his wild tales. Plus the previous summer, young Athabaskan lawyer Noah West, a war hero and Sonia's lover, bent on bettering the lives of Alaskan Natives, had sharpened Edna's sense of a corner of the territory she'd ignored: "I felt I'd lost sight of the real Alaska, the heartless icebox in the North, the blank-eyed old-timers still haunted by gold.... I'd forgotten Alaska is still frontier ... a violent, mysterious world below the glossy skin I'd written about."

When Jack is found beaten to death, Noah becomes a suspect. Two violent deaths follow. Edna, Noah's advocate, decides she needs to clear his name, believing the murders are connected. As debates over potential statehood rage, Edna begins unearthing scandals and sordid stories hidden in Fairbanks

but also dating back to village life in Fort Yukon and down into the Lower 48.

What horrible secrets carried from the Arctic Circle have led to so many murders in [Run Cold](#)? And what novelist could stand aside from this story?

*Distinctive characters, intelligent dialogue, and a credible solution to the crimes ensure that the series ends on a strong note. Fans will be sorry to see the last of Edna's sleuthing adventures. – Publishers Weekly, starred review*

This series is ending? <>

Literature & Fiction / Poetry

[Dreaming of Stones: Poems](#) by Christine Valters Paintner (**Paraclete Poetry Series:** Paraclete Press)

### **Breath**

This  
breathing  
in is a miracle,  
this breathing out, release,  
this breathing in a welcome to  
the unseen gifts which sustain me each  
moment, this breathing out a sweet  
sigh,  
a bow to my mortality, this breathing in  
a holy yes to life, this breathing out  
a sacred no to all that causes  
me to clench and grasp,  
this breathing in is a  
revelation, this  
breathing out,  
freedom.

– from the book

Poetry is language carved down to its essence, heightened by rhythm and music, offering a doorway into a new way of seeing, dance between rhythm and image, music and meaning. Poetry brings soulfulness to the world; it amplifies experience, reflecting what is most essential.

The poems in [Dreaming of Stones](#) are about what endures: hope and desire, changing seasons, wild places, love, and the wisdom of mystics. Inspired by Christine Valters Paintner's time living in Ireland, these readings invite readers into deeper ways of seeing the world. They have an incantational quality.

Paintner, PhD, REACE is the online Abbess of Abbey of the Arts, a virtual monastery and global, ecumenical community integrating contemplative practice and creative expression. Paintner is the author of twelve books on spirituality, monastic wisdom, creativity, and the arts including *The Artist's Rule* and *The Soul's Slow Ripening*.

Drawing on Paintner's commitment as a Benedictine oblate, the poems arise out of a practice of sitting in silence and *lectio divina*, in which life becomes the holy text.

No stranger to poetry, Paintner's bestselling spirituality titles have often included poems. In this first exclusively poetic collection, she writes with a contemplative heart about kinship with nature, ancestral connections, intimacy, the landscape, the unfolding nature of

time, and Christian mystics. The book can be read for reflection to spark the heart and to offer solace and inspiration in difficult times.

Paintner says the title of this collection, [Dreaming of Stones](#), comes from a poem she wrote inspired by St. Tha. She is one of the Irish women saints, and one story about her says she received three stones in a dream. Three is a sacred number in the Celtic imagination. Three moves people past duality into a place of integration, much like poetry can.

[Dreaming of Stones](#) also refers to Paintner's relationship with the landscape in Ireland, where she has now lived since 2012. It wasn't until moving there that she fell in love with the beauty of limestone, granite, marble, and quartz, discovering how each stone has its own textures and qualities, its own stories, and speaks to her of the endurance of landscape and place.

[Dreaming of Stones](#) is divided into six sections. "Hours" explores the gift of the monastic view of time's daily unfolding, while "The Time of Our Lives" offers poems that explore different and widening rhythms of time. "Possibilities" celebrates the way a poem can crack open a new vision and understanding. "Wild Places" explores the solace and gift of nature. "Love" explores the way of intimacy with the world. And "Monks and Mystics" takes its cue from stories of significant wisdom figures in the Hebrew and Christian traditions. Many of these come from the Irish monks, who have

become guides for her in her new home.

*Christine Valters Paintner's poems have both a mystical and an earthy sensibility to them, drawing us to the transcendent as well as the immanent presence of the divine. Her poems, much like her nonfiction writing, offer the reader an experience of retreat and sacred encounter.* – Richard Rohr, OFM

*... In this new work, she brings poetic insight to observation. She presents the flash of light, the kernel of truth that goes deeper and more mystically into the heart of the universe than fact and faith can hope to do. She makes a bridge for us between experience and wisdom and gives us a veritable holograph of life.* – Joan Chittister, OSB

*These are poems about things that really matter: the tides of time, the lure of landscape, our links to our forebears, our love of home. Paintner has a musical ear and an artist's craft with colour and texture. The work is lushly sensual in its language, generous in its patient wisdom.* [Dreaming of](#)

[Stones](#) is a collection you will want to keep near you, as a source of comfort and inspiration. Here, the profound is made warmly accessible; the ordinary made wondrous. – Susan Millar Dumars, poet, author of *Dreams for Breakfast* and *Bone Fire*

*The sequences unfold like breath, a motif that holds the collection together. I found myself immersed in the flow of the poems, and the sprinkling of imagination-catching phrases like 'brawl of light,' until by the end I too was saying 'yes and yes and yes.'* – Roselle Angwin, poet, author of *A Trick of the Light: Poems from Iona*  
*Paintner describes the kinship between the paths of the poet and the monk. She writes about our journeying to retrieve a lost intimacy with the world in poems sculpted as though from fine pieces of light: delicate things made beautiful for a road less travelled. More than anything I am drawn to poems inspired by the early Celtic saints of Ireland for whom nature and a God-created world were inseparable from faith. The stories they leave*

*behind and the poems  
that tell them are pieces  
of wisdom for an age  
trying to travel too fast  
and too loudly. – Kenneth  
Steven, author  
of Coracle, Salt and Light*

These words may offer readers some solace and inspiration for living well in the world. In reading [Dreaming of Stones](#), they come away seeing things anew. <>

Health & Medicine / Neurology / Law

[Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians: Foundations and Evolving Challenges](#) by James E. Szalados (**Clinical Neurology Best Practices Series**: Rutgers University Press)

According to author James E. Szalados in [Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians](#), the brain represents the final frontier in medical sciences.

Szalados, MD, MBA, MHA, has over thirty years of training and clinical experience in medicine and over a decade of experience as an attorney. The author of dozens of articles and chapters on diverse aspects of healthcare law, Szalados is also a professional speaker and educator, and regularly participates in the education of attorneys and physicians on medical-legal matters.

According to Szalados in [Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians](#), the first lens through which clinicians see their patients is the clinical perspective; however, the complexity of

neurosciences and the rapidity of the advances in the subspecialties require that clinicians not lose sight of the personhood of the patients, the professionalism required in the care of these complex patients, or the regulatory environment in which they practice. Science and technology are advancing more rapidly than regulations or the law can interpret and integrate them into a supportive or regulatory framework. Thus, morality, ethics, and the law comprise the final lens through which they approach complex patient management issues, frame communications with patients and families, and evaluate the risks and potential benefits of new technology.

The practices of medicine and its allied professions are among the most highly regulated of public services and economic activities. There is little doubt that health care providers, by and large, chose health care as a profession to help their fellow human beings through illness and personal medical catastrophes. Thus, almost uniformly, health care providers are persons with strong internal moral and ethical compasses, driven to their respective fields because of a sense of caring, work ethic, diligence, and intellectual need. In contrast to almost all other professions, health care entails enormous commitment and personal sacrifice and also is not devoid of personal risks. In their day-to-day and moment-to-moment hectic worlds, health care practitioners tend to be so focused on the care of each individual patient, tending to each successive

urgency and emergency, and completing paperwork requirements, that they seldom stand back to look at the legal and regulatory complexity of the health care system; that is, until they find themselves, their work, or practices under scrutiny.

The purposes of [Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians](#) are both to provide a concise practical review of the ethical, legal, and regulatory foundations that affect these complex practices, and to explore new and evolving areas of neuroscience practice, in which many will find new opportunities and challenges, as well as legal and ethical risks and conundrums.

Technology is rarely created by legislation, regulations, or laws; instead, technological innovation forces the development of laws and regulations to harmonize technological innovation with existing public policy. However, health care providers are typically scientists, whereas regulators and politicians are instead typically social scientists with disparate but not necessarily irreconcilable views. Thus, it is imperative that providers participate fully in organizations that represent patient and provider interests to help those who formulate public policy, rules, regulations, and even standards understand the intricacies of clinical care.

*Medical, ethical and legal issues interact acutely in neurological patients, and Dr. Szalados's book on*

*these issues is vital reading for the administrators, nurses, physicians, lawyers and ethicists who care for them. – Denham Ward M.D., Ph.D.*

To the extent possible, clinicians must take steps to understand and shape the environments in which they practice, and they can only accomplish that goal through active involvement and engagement. [Ethics and Law for Neurosciences Clinicians](#) is written for all clinicians in the neurosciences specialties to examine and reexamine the ethical and legal implications of advances in clinical neurosciences. The book presents an overview of the critical ethical, legal, and regulatory issues facing clinicians now and into the future. <>

Literature & Fiction / Fantasy

[The Heavens: A Novel](#) by Sandra Newman (Grove Press)

Sandra Newman's ambitious 2015 novel *The Country of Ice Cream Star* garnered a cult following among critics and attentive readers. With her new novel, [The Heavens](#), Newman fuses literary brilliance and emotional power in a haunting narrative that bridges early-2000's New York City and Elizabethan England, dreams and reality, and love and loss.

Newman is the author of the novels *The Only Good Thing Anyone Has Ever Done*, shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, *Cake*, and *The Country of*

*Ice Cream Star*, longlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and named one of the best books of the year by the Washington Post and NPR.

[The Heavens](#) opens in late summer, 2000, at a party in a spacious Manhattan apartment, hosted by a wealthy young activist. Dozens of idealistic twenty-somethings have impassioned conversations over takeout dumplings and champagne. The evening shines with the heady optimism of a progressive new millennium. A young man, Ben, meets a young woman, Kate – and they begin to fall in love. From their first meeting, Ben knows Kate is unworldly and fanciful, so at first he isn't that concerned when she tells him about the recurring dream she's had since childhood. In the dream, she's transported to the past, where she lives a second life as Emilia; the mistress of a nobleman in Elizabethan England.

But for Kate, the dream becomes increasingly real and compelling until it threatens to overwhelm her life. And soon she's waking from it to find the world changed – pictures on her wall she doesn't recognize, new buildings in the neighborhood that have sprung up overnight. As she tries to make sense of what's happening, Ben worries the woman he's fallen in love with is losing her grip on reality.

*From Orlando to  
Outlander, the riddles of  
consciousness and time  
have preoccupied  
storytellers for centuries*

*and now sit at the heart of  
Sandra Newman's heady  
and elegant fourth novel,  
[The Heavens](#). [The Heavens](#)  
is something of a  
chameleon, a strange and  
beautiful hybrid...  
Newman's self-assured  
prose [is] at once  
disciplined and sensuous...  
I woke from [The Heavens](#)  
as I hope to emerge from  
any work of fiction: moved  
and unsettled, a new and  
intoxicating set of  
questions alight on the  
mind's horizon. – Laura  
Van Den Berg, New York  
Times Book Review*

*In [The Heavens](#), Newman  
takes on time travel, 9/11,  
Shakespeare, mental  
illness, and the end of the  
world through the  
experiences of a young  
couple... Her characters  
may not save the world  
(spoiler alert!) but they  
experience love,  
community, and meaning  
– even joy. – Kate Tuttle,  
Boston Globe*

*We're introduced to a  
world that feels like first  
love, as hopeful and  
beautiful. Unsurprisingly,  
and just like in a love affair,  
in a plot halfway between  
science fiction and  
magical realism, things*

quickly begin to go wrong. Every one of [The Heavens](#)'s pages feels like that first shuddering spark of attraction – the potential for great joy, and terrible pain. [The Heavens](#) gives us both. – Dazed

In Newman's stellar novel, a woman's ability to travel back in time in dreams – specifically, to 16th-century Britain – morphs into a world-altering liability. Kate, an art school dropout living in Brooklyn in 2000, has since childhood entered alternate worlds as she sleeps; but the dreams shift and intensify when, in her 20s, she meets and begins dating Ben, a grounded PhD student.... Newman's novel expertly marries historical and contemporary, plumbing the rich, all-too-human depths of present-day New York and early modern England, and racing toward a well-executed peak. But it's the evolution of Kate and Ben's relationship that serves as the book's emotional anchor, making for a fantastic, ingenious novel. – Publishers Weekly, starred and boxed review

Newman is known for her bold imagination, and this kaleidoscopic novel is no exception. Like an apocalyptically tinged version of *The Time Traveler's Wife*, Kate and Ben's love story encompasses difficult questions: What is mental illness? Can art, or love, have power? Is humanity doomed? And if it is, then how do we create a life with meaning?... Newman's sentences, like the embroidery Kate practices, pull the story along with their intricate beauty. A complex, unmissable work from a writer who deserves wide acclaim. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

I was bewitched by the ambition and charge of Sandra Newman's time-slip narrative, which is at once troubling and beautiful, emotionally resonant and fantastically strange. – Olivia Laing, author of *Crudo*

I fell into [The Heavens](#) and it was not unlike falling in love: effortless, magical, seductive, humming with beauty and possible danger. This gorgeous novel is a feat of the

*imagination. Sandra Newman has created a fictional world that was a frightening pleasure to inhabit, one in which the realm of dreams and its mysteries were as compelling as waking life.*  
– Fatima Farheen Mirza,  
New York Times-bestselling author of *A Place for Us*

*What a wonderful, strange, terrifying, brilliant novel this is.* – Kamila Shamsie, author of *Home Fire*

*Reading Sandra Newman's [The Heavens](#) is like falling up a brilliant flight of stairs. Inventive and moving and surprising on every level, it's a novel that doesn't just play with time and history and certainty: it turns those things inside out. I've been haunted by its characters and ideas ever since I reluctantly finished it.* – Elizabeth McCracken, author of *Thunderstruck & Other Stories* and *Bowlaway*

Transporting readers between a richly detailed past and a frighteningly possible future, [The Heavens](#) will appeal to readers who may have registered the disquieting sensation that perhaps a glitch in the universe derailed history's

trajectory into a surreal alternate timeline in recent years. Both intoxicating and thought-provoking, it is a powerful reminder of the consequences of our actions, a poignant testament to how the people we love are destined to change, and a masterful exploration of the power of dreams. <>

Popular Science / Genealogy / Guides

**[The Family Tree Problem Solver: Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition](#)** by Marsha Hoffman Rising (Family Tree Books, F+W Media, Inc.)

Sooner or later, it happens to everyone researching their ancestors; they realize they are stuck. Perhaps they can't find a relative in a federal census or before a marriage. Or maybe the ancestor has seemingly vanished altogether. Name changes, record loss, bad handwriting, translation difficulties, transcription errors – any number of factors can keep them from the ancestors they are seeking. But there's hope. [The Family Tree Problem Solver](#) presents a collection of timeless genealogy solutions that can break down the thickest brick walls.

Marsha Hoffman Rising, CG, FASG, (1945-2010) was initially a social worker and academic director. Known for her problem-solving lectures, she began teaching practical and effective methods for tackling genealogical problems in 1981. She lectured at many major national genealogy conferences, and published in *The American Genealogist*, *Ozar'kin*, and the *National*

*Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Throughout her decades in genealogy, Rising, who received several awards, held positions in many of the major genealogical societies: president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, founding president of the Genealogical Speakers Guild, president of the American Society of Genealogists, vice president of the National Genealogical Society, and trustee of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

In her time as a researcher, Rising discovered many techniques, tools, and methods for solving genealogy problems. In 2005, she compiled them into [The Family Tree Problem Solver](#), a collection of her strategies that has helped thousands of genealogy researchers. Newly updated, this **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** of the best-selling book has solutions to help researchers find the answers they seek.

Readers find:

- Work-arounds for lost or destroyed records.
- Techniques for finding ancestors with common names.
- Strategies for analyzing their problem and creating a successful research plan.
- Ideas on how to find vital records before civil registration.
- Troubleshooting advice for interpreting their DNA results.
- Tips for finding 'missing' ancestors in censuses.

- Instructions for investigating collateral kin to further their family tree.
- Methods for finding ancestors who lived before 1850.
- Case studies that show how to apply these strategies to real-life research problems.

This revised **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** of [The Family Tree Problem Solver](#) includes new guides to record hints from genealogy websites and DNA results from companies like AncestryDNA. Readers find a glossary of genealogy terms and case studies that put the book's advice into action. This **third edition** of [The Family Tree Problem Solver](#) has been updated with more resources that bring Rising's tried-and-true strategies to the next generation of genealogists.

This edition includes two problem-solving chapters that reflect how genealogy continues to change in the Internet age. Chapter 12, written by genealogist Sunny Jane Morton, discusses how to determine whether to accept record hints from genealogy websites. In chapter 13, DNA consultant Diahann Southard tackles the difficult subject of genetic genealogy and how test-takers can use DNA results in their research.

[The Family Tree Problem Solver](#) is not for those who are just beginning their genealogical research. Instead, the book is intended to give readers new ideas for tackling those knotty problems that have been sitting on the back burner of the research schedule for months or even years.

Some genealogy may always be 'lost,' but how will readers know which lines

will remain forever blocked and which can be solved if they don't keep looking? [The Family Tree Problem Solver](#)'s techniques will help them find answers to genealogy's toughest problems. <>

Psychology / Psychopathology

**[The New Evil: Understanding the Emergence of Modern Violent Crime](#)** by Michael H. Stone MD & Gary Brucato PhD (Prometheus Books)

Revisiting Michael H. Stone's groundbreaking 22-level Gradations of Evil Scale, a hierarchy of evil behavior first introduced in the book *The Anatomy of Evil*, Stone and Gary Brucato, a fellow violence and serious psychopathology expert, in [The New Evil](#) provide even more detail, using dozens of cases to exemplify the categories along the continuum. [The New Evil](#) also presents evidence that, since a cultural tipping-point in the 1960s, certain types of violent crime have emerged that in earlier decades never or very rarely occurred.

Stone, MD, is professor of clinical psychiatry at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. Brucato, PhD, a clinical psychologist and researcher in the areas of violence, psychosis, and other serious psychopathology, is the assistant director of the Center of Prevention and Evaluation at the New York State Psychiatric Center/Columbia University Medical Center.

The authors in [The New Evil](#) examine the biological and psychiatric factors behind serial killing, serial rape, torture,

mass and spree murders, and other severe forms of violence. They argue that, in at least some cases, a collapse of moral faculties contributes to the commission of such heinous crimes, such that 'evil' should be considered not only a valid area of inquiry, but, in the current cultural climate, an imperative one. They consider the effects of new technologies and sociological, cultural, and historical factors since the 1960s that may have set the stage for 'the new evil.' Further, they explain how personality, psychosis, and other qualities can meaningfully contribute to particular crimes, making for many different motives.

Relying on their extensive clinical experience, and examination of writings and artwork by infamous serial killers, these experts offer many insights into the logic that drives horrible criminal behavior, and they discuss the hope that in the future such violence may be prevented.

Brucato and Stone in [The New Evil](#) contend that the concept of evil, which is universally sensed on a basic level, and yet extremely difficult to articulate and comprehend, is worthy of serious inquiry. They have spent years evaluating, studying, and sometimes even treating violent killers, rapists, child abusers, and other offenders people whose crimes few would hesitate to call 'evil' – in prisons, hospitals, and other settings. Within this larger context, Stone has made a specialty of what are known as personality disorders, characterized by inflexible, maladaptive patterns of behavior, thought, and inner

experience, which, constitute a key aspect of violent behavior. Brucato's area of expertise, following forensic training and experience, has been psychosis, or abnormal states of the mind, in which perceptions, thoughts, and emotions are impaired to the point that one loses contact with reality. In his clinical work, as well as in his research with a team of investigators, he explores the relationship between violent thoughts and behaviors, and psychotic illness, especially as the latter first emerges in adolescents and young adults.

By 'evil,' they are not referring to spiritually sinful or societally forbidden acts, per se, since what is deemed abominable by one religion or culture might be fully accepted by another. Rather, they refer to the types of actions that virtually anyone, regardless of faith, time, or place, would find unspeakably horrible and utterly depraved. Moreover, acts commonly called 'evil' share three other core elements, in that they are generally preceded by malice aforethought or premeditation, inflict wildly excessive degrees of suffering, and would be considered altogether incomprehensible to the average individual. The term 'evil,' does not generally refer to people themselves but rather to actions that are so violent and horrifying as to evoke the typical emotional reaction they describe. Only in rare instances do certain persons commit heinous, sadistic offenses with such frequency and regularity as to perhaps justify being called evil people,

and not merely individuals who perpetrate evil acts.

[The New Evil](#) turns to the basic questions of whether some individuals' acts and core drives are more evil than others and, if so, how one might classify them into distinct, meaningful categories that can then be ranked by severity. In *The Anatomy of Evil*, Stone proposed a Gradations of Evil scale, so he might endeavor to quantify the degree of evil associated with an individual's violent and/or homicidal actions.

Using a twenty-two-point continuum, the instrument takes into account the morality of the prime motivation underpinning an individual's crime or repeated criminal acts, ranging from the justifiable to the groundlessly cruel. Stone's scale has real value for understanding why murderers, for instance, should not be grouped into a single category merely because they have killed. This is especially true of those they call serial killers, a topic they discuss at some length in [The New Evil](#). It is critical to note that the scale's focus is isolated to crimes that occur in peacetime, since wartime can alter the justifiability of an 'evil' act in an individual's mind.

The first several chapters of [The New Evil](#) discuss each ranking in the scale, describing the key distinctions between them in detail. To clarify the distinctions between the scale's sometimes complicated categories, they provide highly detailed case histories of a number of individuals designated to

each. The names and facts provided in [The New Evil](#) are all matters of public knowledge, having been openly reported by the media. They also review points drawn from the academic literature on the genetic, dispositional, and environmental antecedents to violence, as well as various systems for categorizing criminal behavior. Wherever possible, they include samples of offenders' actual written or spoken language, culled from published interviews and personal writings. Some examples of the latter have been reproduced alongside original artworks by various serial murderers, in a selection of illustrations elsewhere in [The New Evil](#). At the close of part I the authors introduce an algorithm they have developed, which greatly facilitates the process of determining a violent individual's most appropriate ranking in the Gradations of Evil scale.

In part II of [The New Evil](#), Stone discusses the increased frequencies and unprecedented heinousness of rapes, serial murders, and other violent crimes since the turbulent era of the 1960s, illuminating a number of cultural, psychological, and philosophical factors that they feel may have fundamentally contributed to these disturbing trends. He also catalogs several types of violence that have first emerged during this era of 'new evil,' including mass shootings by civilians involving semiautomatic weapons, internet-related crimes, fetus-snatching, and other contemporary atrocities.

These stories force people to reflect on the stark reality that these victims were real people who could have been readers' own children, grandchildren, parents, siblings, spouses or significant others, friends, or neighbors. Let us remember, still, that the existence of evil proves, incontrovertibly, its counterpart, which is goodness, motivated by denial of the self and by love.

*Fascinating, disturbing.... Budding criminologists will find this a useful resource for study and contemplation, while true crime enthusiasts will be riveted by the assiduous prodding into the criminal mind. – Publishers Weekly*  
*[The New Evil](#) is a book that will not only be considered groundbreaking but a work that's also long overdue, given the violent changes that have convulsed the United States since the 1960s.... There are reasons for the types of violence we are seeing today, and Drs. Michael Stone and Gary Brucato have given us not just something we want to read but also something we absolutely must read if we're ever going to understand the mind-set of these killers. – Kevin M. Sullivan, author of *The Bundy Murders: A Comprehensive History**

*This impressive team of clinical experts has gotten as close to evil as anyone ever has. They've come face-to-face with some of the world's worst offenders. Building on Stone's twenty-two-step scale of evil, Brucato and Stone unflinchingly explore shocking acts of depraved aggression so we can better understand and treat violent individuals.*

*[The New Evil](#) should be required reading in criminology and forensic psychology. – Katherine Ramsland, PhD, professor of forensic psychology and author of *Confession of a Serial Killer: The Untold Story of Dennis Rader, the BTK Killer**

*A fascinating and disturbing addition to the study of violent crime and its motivations.... [The New Evil](#) merits inclusion on the reference shelf alongside the classics by Hare and Cleckley. – Diane Fanning, author of *Bitter Remains* an Edgar Award finalist*

*Unflinchingly and insightfully examining hundreds of cases of serial murder, mass shootings, sexual assault, and other atrocities... Their blood-chilling catalog of the*

*most terrible crimes of the last half century is interwoven with keen observations regarding the role of our ever-coarsening culture in giving breadth and scope to these atrocities, giving us genuine pause upon pause. – John Douglas, FBI criminal profiler and author of the #1 New York Times–bestseller *Mindhunter**

*This remarkable compendium of 'evil' should be in the libraries of psychologists, psychiatrists, prosecutors, homicide investigators, criminal attorneys, and anyone with an interest in the criminal mind throughout the world. The extensive research alone makes this a benchmark text.... –*

*Cmdr. Vernon J. Geberth, MS, MPS, Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and author of *Sex-Related Homicide and Death Investigation**

*In this impressive book, Dr. Stone and Dr. Brucato provide one of the most comprehensive, conceptually clear frameworks on the typology of violence. Using extensive case studies, they explore and offer*

*insight into different motives and patterns of homicides and other violent behavior. This book sharpens and enhances our understanding of violence and psychopathology of evil acts like no other resource.*

– Ali Khadivi, PhD, clinical and forensic psychologist and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

*... A major, disturbing finding emerges from this study: the increase of extremely destructive, violent individual criminal behavior since the 1960s in this country and, to a lesser degree, in other parts of the world. This book challenges the reader to become concerned about the increase of evil that we are witnessing, to reflect on its causes, and to recognize our collective responsibility to confront this development. It is a must-read for all mental health professionals and for the educated citizen alert to our social problems.* – Otto Kernberg, MD, professor of psychiatry at the Weill Cornell Medical College, and

training and supervising psychoanalyst at the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research

*The varieties of evil encountered in the commission of serious crimes can easily defy understanding.... By dividing motivations for murder and other serious crimes into twenty-two well-defined gradations that range from the least evil (killing in self-defense) to evil at its most extreme (murder in the context of torture), Stone and Brucato's excellent book [The New Evil](#) provides readers with the tools to tease apart the motivations underlying violent crime acts and to help make the unfathomable more understandable.* – Michael B. First, MD, editorial consultant on the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*

A chilling follow-up to the popular true crime book *The Anatomy of Evil*, [The New Evil](#) presents compelling evidence regarding the increase in incomprehensibly violent crimes, of real

evil. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Psychology /  
Theology / Philosophy

**[Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue: Moral and Spiritual Change in Christian Perspective](#)** edited by Thomas M. Crisp, Steven L. Porter, and Gregg A. Ten Elshof (**Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books: IVP Academic**)

Can the phenomena of the human mind be separated from the practices of spiritual formation – of growing to have the mind of Christ? Research into the nature of moral and spiritual change has revived in recent years, in the worlds of psychology on the one hand and theology and philosophy on the other. But psychology and spiritual formation draw upon distinct bodies of research and theory grounded in different methodologies, resulting in conversation that has suffered from a lack of interdisciplinary cross-pollination. Rooted in a year-long discussion held by Biola University's Center for Christian Thought (CCT), **[Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#)** bridges the gaps caused by professional specialization among psychology, theology, and philosophy. The essays were forged out of an integrative discussion among theologians, psychologists, philosophers, New Testament scholars, educators, and pastors around the CCT seminar table. Topics that emerged included relational and developmental spirituality, moral virtue and judgment, and suffering and trauma.

**[Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#)** is edited by Thomas M. Crisp, professor of philosophy; Steve L. Porter, professor of theology, spiritual formation, and philosophy, Talbot School of Theology and Rosemead School of Psychology; and Gregg Ten Elshof, professor of philosophy, all at Biola University. The book has 16 contributors.

**[Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#)** is divided into three main parts. Part one treats issues regarding the relationship between psychology and theology. In the opening chapter, "Spiritual Theology: When Psychology and Theology in the Spirit Service Faith, John H. Coe reacquaints readers with the ancient practice of spiritual theology.

While Coe urges the retrieval of spiritual theology to undergird the relevance of psychology to spiritual formation, in "Is 'Spiritual Formation' More Cultural Than Theo-Anthropological? An Ongoing Dialogue," James M. Houston contends that psychologists' professional identity can blind them to hidden assumptions of what it means to be human, to an ahistorical and restrictive scientific methodology, and to the hubris that often accompanies disciplinary specialization. Houston directs readers' attention to a thin view of human depravity that is at work particularly in the North American context such that people's views of spiritual formation are shallow when it comes to the need for 'radical conversion'. Houston calls readers "to critique the present status of the human sciences, as not being

human enough" and to press forward with Karl Barth's notion of a "theo-anthropology ... where the nature of God is indissolubly united with the nature of man."

Part two of [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#), considers theological insights for a psychology of spiritual formation. In chapter three, "'End of Faith as Its Beginning': A Christ-Centered Developmental Spirituality," Bruce Hindmarsh has readers consider six theological propositions in order to reframe the conversation about human development and spiritual development. Hindmarsh contends that "in order for developmental psychology to be deeply Christian at its foundations and for spiritual formation to be deeply human, there must be a vivid appreciation of the end for which humans were created." Spiritual development cannot be merely one subtype of human development; it is the essential core of human development such that every other aspect of human growth finds its place in light of persons-in-relation with God. This, Hindmarsh argues, rightly reorients developmental psychology and simultaneously humanizes spiritual formation.

In chapter four, "Living `Before God': A Kierkegaardian View of Spirituality;" C. Stephen Evans continues the exploration of a relational spirituality. Evans's chapter is a brilliant illustration of Coe's point, such that to study spirituality is an inherently psychological task. Evans begins his chapter by distinguishing a sense in which all

human persons are in relation to God whether they recognize that fact or not. Evans shows that for Kierkegaard the atheist's claim that he does not believe in God is a volitional or characterological matter and not an epistemic matter. Evans concludes his chapter with a Kierkegaardian treatment of several factors that inhibit spiritual life and several practices that foster spirituality (Scripture, prayer, worship, and Communion).

Chapter five of [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) provides the first author – Siang-Yang Tan – who is a psychologist. Tan is also a full-time pastor and approaches his psychology from a biblically engaged, pastoral perspective. In "Beyond Resilience, Posttraumatic Growth, and Self Care: A Biblical Perspective on Suffering and Christian Spiritual Formation," Tan takes up the topic of how a Christian perspective on suffering offers a corrective to the psychological literature on resilience, posttraumatic growth, and self-care. Tan argues that sanctified or redemptive suffering conduces to spiritual brokenness, humility, sharing in Christ's sufferings, and God's power perfected in human weakness. Moreover, Tan contends that suffering is ultimately for the glory of God, and yet the way in which suffering redounds to God's glory may not be clear this side of heaven. Tan's contribution is an excellent example of how Christian theology reinterprets contemporary psychological research and theory for the sake of spiritual formation in Christ.

In chapter six, Ellen T. Charry invites readers to join her in "Seeking the Topological Import of Psalm 35." Psalm 35 is a psalm that invokes calamity on one's enemies – in which the psalmist requests God's vengeance on those who have done him harm. In conversation with evolutionary psychology, Charry takes a figurative approach to this psalm. The psalm provides a safe and empathic place for the complainant to express his hurt honestly and leave his grief and anger in the hands of God. Charry showcases the way in which biblical material often draws a profound psychological picture of the complex dynamics of instances of harm, abuse, and oppression at both individual and social levels.

Charry's chapter concludes part two of [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#). In part two, the chapter-authors endeavor to bring theological and biblical perspectives to bear on psychological themes. Part three turns the reader's gaze in the opposite direction, looking to psychology as an aid to understanding spiritual formation.

The first contribution is Earl D. Bland's "On Specks and Planks: Psychotherapy, Spiritual Formation, and Moral Judgment." Bland writes from the perspective of psychoanalytic, self psychology and brings depth psychological principles to bear on spiritual formation. Bland argues that because spiritual formation is an embodied, lived process, it must include 'deep and connective relational engagement' and that psychotherapy

provides a unique relational context for that engagement. And yet Bland stresses that explicit usage of Christian language and interventions can blind the therapist and client to 'unconscious enactments that operate to undermine lasting change.' Bland proposes four ways in which therapeutic encounter, even if not explicitly Christian in presentation, can help accomplish Jesus' call to remove the plank from one's own eye.

In chapter eight, Robert A. Emmons addresses the "Queen of the Virtues and King of the Vices: Graced Gratitude and Disgraced Ingratitude." After summarizing some of the research showing the positive effects of gratitude on mental health, Emmons presents five possible explanations for this connection: gratitude increases spiritual awareness, gratitude promotes physical health, gratitude maximizes positive experiences, gratitude protects against negative experiences, and gratitude strengthens relationships. Emmons goes on to note the affinity of gratitude with humility in turning persons to beneficial realities beyond themselves on which they are dependent and of which they are undeserving (i.e., graced gratitude). But this turning from independent self to self-dependent-on-others does not come easily. Emmons puts forward practices for the cultivation of virtuous gratitude.

Chapter nine of [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) is a multi-authored chapter (Steven J. Sandage, David R. Paine, and Jonathan Morgan)

titled "Relational Spirituality, Differentiation, and Mature Alterity." Sandage and his colleagues propose that alterity – relating to otherness – is an essential dimension of maturing Christian spirituality. They frame their discussion within a relational model of spirituality that emphasizes the significance of differentiated relationships between self, God (understood as a trinity of persons in relation), and others. Sandage et al. conclude that 'benevolent alterity' involves differentiated relations between self and other with an orientation to what is good and just. They conclude their chapter with several practical implications for spiritual formation centered around practices that aim to foster intercultural competence and social justice commitment.

Chapter ten continues the theme of drawing on psychological insights for deepened understanding of spiritual formation. Everett L. Worthington, Brandon J. Griffin, and Caroline R. Lavelock look for resources in positive psychology in their "Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Contributions of Positive Psychology to Spiritual Formation." The authors interact with Dall( wi)-11 as Will( wi)-11ard and in so doing, the therapist is in some imperfect way modeling the love and acceptance of Christ.

James Wilhoit, Jeffrey Greenman, and George Kalantzis in order to arrive at an understanding of spiritual formation that emphasizes human participation with the Holy Spirit in community with others that brings about character formation for the benefit of the world. By positive psychology, they intend the psychological science of the nature of eudaimonic virtue and virtue formation.

The authors conclude that "much of spiritual formation is not through individual moral decisions but through arranging one's relationships with people, organizations, and things to maximize the number of times particular values reach momentary ascendancy in one's virtue hierarchy."

Marie T. Hoffman takes up the significance of relational psychoanalysis and object-relations theory for Christian formation in her "Born to Relate: In Trauma, In Transformation, In Transcendence." Hoffman argues that spiritual formation is best understood and practiced from the perspective that humans are formed through relationship, disordered by relationship, and restored/transformed through relationship. In particular, object relations theory offers a helpful paradigm, suggests Hoffman, for understanding how one's early relational history can distort one's present experience of relational connection with both other human persons and the Divine persons. Hoffman contends that therapists can forge deep, loving relationships with their clients that free clients from their past patterns of relational dysfunction and in so doing, the therapist is in some imperfect way modeling the love and acceptance of Christ.

Justin L. Barrett concludes [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) with "Give Up Childish Ways or Receive the Kingdom like a Child? Spiritual Formation from a Developmental Psychology Perspective." Echoing chapter three, Barrett closes the loop,

proposing that Christian formation stands to gain from sensitivity to one's developmental stage. Barrett observes that much of the spiritual formation literature assumes an adult or late adolescent population when there is reason to think that important opportunities exist for formation in young children and that the formative mechanisms involved would look quite different for children than adults (the same, he suspects, is true of older adults). Barrett proposes that childhood is a period of development that is particularly conducive to spiritual formation in part because research shows that children lose some psychological flexibility as they age. Barrett goes on to discuss how faithfulness and kindness (which are called fruit of the Spirit) overlap with Jonathan Haidt's research on moral foundations drawing the conclusion that encouraging growth in particular moral foundations (e.g., authority/ respect and in-group/loyalty) at a young age may enable children to more easily develop these fruit of the Spirit as they develop. These proposals by Barrett are meant to motivate further research and, accordingly, Barrett aptly concludes his chapter and [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) with several questions to stimulate future research on spiritual formation from a developmental perspective.

*A very welcome, timely, and important volume bringing together some of the best thinkers currently working at the interface between empirical*

*psychology and Christian formation. It offers rich insights with practical application to the nurture of flourishing Christian communities. – Joanna Collicutt, University of Oxford, author of *The Psychology of Christian Character Formation**

[Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) is a fitting tribute to Dallas Willard and a very helpful exchange of ideas for which I feel certain he would be grateful. Dallas once said that the only way to divide the components of a person is with the chapter titles of a book.... May this important work fan the flames of both Christian spiritual theology and psychology and diminish the effect of nonhelpful barriers and hidden assumptions. – Gary W. Moon, distinguished professor of psychology and spiritual formation, Richmond Graduate University

*The brightest and best of Christian theologians, philosophers, and psychologists are here amassed to grapple with how our understanding and enhancement of the*

*spiritual life of Christians can be aided by the insights of psychology. Many striking insights are provided, resisting an overly strict adherence to methodological naturalism that can create a barrier to a Christian understanding of what it means to be fully human. Each chapter is worth a careful read for a complete picture of the field. Biola's Center for Christian Thought (CCT), who sponsored year-long weekly discussions on this topic, is to be commended for such an achievement. – Peter C. Hill, Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University, editor of the Journal of Psychology and Christianity*

*Pondering these essays on spiritual maturation was perturbing and gratifying. It requires dialogue that disturbs our disciplinary comfort zones to realize holistic Christian practice.... – Stephen P. Greggo, professor of counseling, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, author of Assessment for Counseling in Christian Perspective*

*The dialogue between the discipline of psychology and the practice of spiritual formation is a timely and important discussion for our day, but it also remains one where too much misunderstanding remains. Very often folks from different disciplines fail to listen and learn from one another. Thankfully, this blended volume is another important step toward a healthier conversation that aims to push us toward more faithful reflections. – Kelly M. Kopic, professor of theological studies at Covenant College, author of Embodied Hope*

*... This book is distinguished by an especially fine set of essays in the first two parts of the book in which the Christian faith provides a guiding role in the relationship, followed by an excellent selection of contemporary conversation partners who offer various alternatives to the prior vision. Altogether one obtains here a lay of the land regarding the options practiced today by Christians. A remarkable contribution to the dialogue. – Eric L. Johnson, professor of*

Christian psychology,  
Houston Baptist University

Because of the interdisciplinary focus of Biola's CCT, the chapters in [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) are somewhat unique in that they were prepared for a multidisciplinary audience and forged out of discussion between theologians, New Testament scholars, philosophers, educators, pastors, and psychologists around the CCT seminar table. Furthermore, the chapter authors are scholars who not only have expertise in their primary disciplines but also possess regard for and fluency in relevant disciplines outside their own. Therefore, [Psychology and Spiritual Formation in Dialogue](#) speaks across disciplinary divides, fostering fruitful conversation for fresh insights into the nature and dynamics of personal spiritual change, an important and timely topic. <>

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