



SirReadaLot.org | 1289 Fordham Blvd, Suite 500 | Chapel Hill
NC 27514 | USA

ph 9199292249 | fx 9199321508 | www.sirreadalot.org

July 2020

*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

ISSN 1934-6557

July 2020

Table of Contents

[Biographies & Memoirs / Disability / Essays](#)

[Places I've Taken My Body: Essays by Molly McCully Brown \(Persea Books\)](#)

[Business & Investing / Management](#)

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook: Tools and Tactics for Creating Your Company's Strategy by Vijay Govindarajan & Manish Tangri \(Harvard Business Review Press\)](#)

[Crafts & Hobbies / Knot-Tying](#)

[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying by Geoffrey Budworth \(Lorenz Books\)](#)

[Culture / Humanities / Ethnicity / African-American](#)

[Mother to Son: Letters to a Black Boy on Identity and Hope by Jasmine L. Holmes, with a foreword by Jackie Hill Perry \(IVP\)](#)

[History / Arts & Photography / Current Events](#)

[And Their Children after Them – 1936, 1986, 2019: The Legacy of Let Us Now Praise Famous Men: James Agee, Walker Evans, and the Rise and Fall of Cotton in the South, 30th anniversary edition by Dale Maharidge & Michael S. Williamson \(Seven Stories Press\)](#)

[History / Military / U.S. / World War II / Bombers](#)

[Solo into the Rising Sun: The Dangerous Missions of a U.S. Navy Bomber Squadron in World War II by Ed Kittrell \(Stackpole Books\)](#)

[Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Birding](#)

[Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd edition \(Peterson Field Guides\) by Roger Tory Peterson \(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt\)](#)

[Law / Landlord & Tenant](#)

[Every Landlord's Legal Guide, 15th edition by Marcia Stewart; Janet Portman, Attorney; & Ann O'Connell, Attorney \(NOLO\)](#)

[Literature & Fiction / Mystery](#)

[The Carrier by Mattias Berg \(MacLehose Press: Quercus: Mobius\)](#)

[Literature & Fiction / Religion & Spirituality / Classics](#)

[The Neglected C.S. Lewis: Exploring the Riches of His Most Overlooked Books by Mark Neal & Jerry Root, with a foreword by David C. Downing \(Mount Tabor Books: Paraclete Press\)](#)

[Outdoors & Nature / Crafts & Hobbies / Gardening / Design](#)

[Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden by Bill Noble \(Timber Press\)](#)

[Philosophy / TV & Film](#)

[His Dark Materials and Philosophy edited by Richard Greene & Rachel Robison-Greene \(Popular Culture and Philosophy Series, Vol. 132: Open Court\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Evangelical](#)

[Stott on the Christian Life: Between Two Worlds by Tim Chester, with series editor Justin Taylor \(Theologians on the Christian Life Series: Crossway\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Reformed](#)

[Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church by Hughes Oliphant Old, with an introduction by Jon D Payne \(Wipf & Stock\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Nature](#)

[Earth Magic: Your Complete Guide to Natural Spells, Potions, Plants, Herbs, Witchcraft, and More by Marie D. Jones \(Visible Ink Press\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Psychology / Community Building](#)

[Three Pieces of Glass: Why We Feel Lonely in a World Mediated by Screens by Eric O. Jacobsen \(Brazos Press\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Theology / Anthropology / African](#)

[Theologizing in Black: On Africana Theological Ethics and Anthropology by Celucien L. Joseph \(Pickwick Publications\)](#)

[Social Sciences / Media Studies / History](#)

[A Social History of the Media, 4th edition by Asa Briggs & Peter Burke, revised & updated with Espen Ytreberg \(Polity Press\)](#)

[Technology / Archaeology / History / Prehistory](#)

[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory edited by Michela Spataro & Martin Furholt \(Scales of Transformation in Prehistoric and Archaic Societies Series: Sidestone Press\)](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Biographies & Memoirs / Disability / Essays

[Places I've Taken My Body: Essays](#) by Molly McCully Brown
(Persea Books)

[Places I've Taken My Body](#) delivers essays on the body, mind, and spirit by Molly McCully Brown, author of the acclaimed poetry collection, *The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded*, a book the *New York Times* described as “part history lesson, part séance, part ode to dread.” Brown teaches at Kenyon College where she is the Kenyon Review Fellow in Poetry.

In seventeen intimate essays, poet McCully explores living with and beyond the limits of a body, in her case one shaped since birth by cerebral palsy, a permanent and often painful movement disorder. In spite of – indeed, in response to – physical constraints, Brown leads a peripatetic life: the essays in **[Places I've Taken My Body](#)** comprise a travelogue set throughout the United States and Europe, ranging from the rural American South of her childhood to the cobblestoned streets of Bologna, Italy. Moving between these locales and others, Brown constellates the subjects that define her inside and out: a disabled and conspicuous body, a religious conversion, a missing twin, a life in poetry. As she does, she depicts for readers not only her own life but a striking array of sites and topics, among them Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the world's oldest anatomical theater, the American Eugenics movement, and Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. Throughout, Brown offers readers the gift of her exquisite sentences, woven together in consideration, always, of what it means to be human – flawed, potent, feeling.

[Places I've Taken My Body](#) is a collection of essays not only about the author's personal struggles with cerebral palsy, but also her evolving understanding of the intersection between her physical body and that intangible other that she has come to call the soul.

Written in introspective prose, [Places I've Taken My Body](#) intertwines in time a montage of Brown's life from childhood until the present. The book is both an angst-ridden coming-of-age story of a gifted young woman, and a travelogue of sorts. Brown writes about her growing pains as a child with a neurological disorder, suffering through surgeries and medical interventions. She shares discoveries and the logistical challenges of traveling in a wheelchair in Europe while on a writing scholarship. She struggles with faith, finds a home in Catholicism, and writes of her spiritual ties to her twin sister who died after birth. At the heart of it all, Brown shares her own changing relationship with cerebral palsy and the language with which we talk about our bodies. "The tectonic plates for who I am keep shifting," she writes.

Brown eloquently, often wittily describes a mostly wheelchair-bound life lived with pain and the places, emotional and physical, to which she has traveled. [Her identical twin] Frances died [in] less than two days..... and Brown was stricken with cerebral palsy.... Memories of her dead sister haunt every page of this powerful book, as does the ominous ticking of her lifetime survival-rate clock.... Brown is a writer to watch.... Heartfelt and wrenching. – Kirkus Reviews, starred

Poet Brown (The Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded) explores living with cerebral palsy in her fine prose debut... Brown's work leaves readers with a lyrical look at living within the confines of the body. – Publishers Weekly

... searing and ineffable... Brown's essays can feel like a punch in the gut, but they are beautiful, nevertheless. – Booklist, starred

I want to press this book into the hands of everyone I know. Writing from the locus of her own constantly changing, often intractable body, Molly McCully Brown captures the fullness of the human experience – desire, loss, flesh, faith, poetry, place, memory – with lyric compression and expansive grace. Reading these exquisite essays made me want to get out and do something with my own body – kneel at an altar and recite the Hail Mary, stub out a cigarette in Bologna, stand on a hilltop and shout expletives at the Trump administration. Which is to say, these are urgent, compelling essays that remind us how to be fully alive inside our own bodies, wherever we take them. – Jamie Quatro, author of *Fire Sermon* and *I Want to Show You More*

These remarkable essays invite us to look long and hard at our own interior landscapes, and to negotiate exterior ones with as much grace and

gratitude as we can muster. – Eliza Griswold, author of *Amity & Prosperity*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize

Beautiful, lyrical, introspective, devastating, [Places I've Taken My Body](#) provides an indispensable and vivid travelogue into living with cerebral palsy. <>

Business & Investing / Management

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#): Tools and Tactics for Creating Your Company's Strategy by Vijay Govindarajan & Manish Tangri (Harvard Business Review Press)

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) is a new, comprehensive playbook for innovation from the *New York Times* bestselling author of **Reverse Innovation**, Vijay Govindarajan.

In his seminal book **The Three-Box Solution**, Govindarajan offered a simple and highly effective framework for leading innovation:

- Execute the present core business at peak efficiency. (Box 1)
- Avoid the inhibiting traps of past success. (Box 2)
- Build a future day by day through breakthrough innovations. (Box 3)

Since the book's publication, companies across the globe have used the three-box framework to great success. Now, along with Manish Tangri, a corporate dealmaker at Intel, Govindarajan goes deeper into the most crucial box of all: creating the future. Together they provide a repeatable process for companies to create new breakthroughs – from ideation through incubation to scaling.

Govindarajan is the Coxe Distinguished Professor of Management at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. Tangri has spent more than fifteen years executing entrepreneurial innovation activities in Fortune 500 organizations. At Intel Capital, Tangri executes strategic transactions – including mergers and acquisitions, equity investments, and partnerships – worldwide.

Govindarajan and Tangri organize [The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) into three parts – ideation, incubation, and scale. These three parts mirror the innovation process that they call Box 3. Further exploring these ideas, chapters 1-9 in the book include three sections:

The first section describes the key concepts, terminology, and building blocks of the three-box framework. It often uses examples from various companies to prepare readers for each section's exercises.

The Process section describes each section's relevant exercises and how they relate to the innovation process. They break them into sequential steps where applicable, and

share practical tips based on their field experience. [The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) Toolkit has editable templates, exercises, and tools to support readers' three-box journey.

The Ideas in Practice section provides examples from companies that elucidate the process readers will conduct within their own company.

As an in-depth case study, throughout the book Govindarajan and Tangri use the example of the New York Times Company, which started a Box 3 experiment called New York Times Digital (NYTD) in 1995 in response to the emergence of the internet. While there certainly may be examples of other companies that have strategically reinvented business models to future-proof their growth and leadership, they like the NYTD example for several reasons. First, it is an easy-to-follow story. Also, the evolution of NYTD during 1995-2019 provides several teachable moments for applying the three-box framework. Second, the newspaper industry has gone through turbulent times in the last two decades. Third, NYTD is a great example to drive home the central point of the three-box solution: the idea that the future is now. No doubt the world will change rapidly in the future. To ensure their ability to thrive in the future, companies need to prepare now. They must think 'future-back' but move from 'current-forward'.

In addition to the in-depth New York Times Company example, they provide breadth through other examples. Thus, they cover how the three-box framework tools apply in different industries, companies, and environments.

The Three-Box Solution and this playbook are highly integrated. [The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) provides a practitioner's perspective, along with field-tested tools and methodologies that organizations can systematically apply to drive Box 3 innovations. Because Box 3 innovation is a matter of changing business processes, mind-sets, and culture, it is accomplished most efficiently when it doesn't simply trickle down from the top. This playbook can serve as a force multiplier. The more managers in the organization who have learned to use the methodologies and tools in the playbook, the more likely change will happen faster and with less of the usual friction.

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) is a practical and cogent guide on innovation and execution. It's a must-read for every manager seeking organizational renewal and working to drive meaningful and sustained impact. – Anthony Llano, Regional Manager, Distribution Centers, Western USA/Hispano America, Deere & Company

Vijay Govindarajan has done it again. [The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) will inspire large companies all over the globe to truly innovate. Govindarajan's framework is terrific. – Linda Yates, founder and CEO, Mach49

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#) is an excellent guide to how organizations can grow, disrupt, pivot, and survive in times of deep uncertainty and change. Pragmatic and practical, Govindarajan and Tangri's playbook makes the seemingly insurmountable challenge of getting a break-through idea off the ground seem surmountable. – Ragnhild Øye, Change Partner, Talent, Leadership, and Capability, FTSE 100 Leading Industrial Technology Company

Full of worksheets, exercises, tools, and examples, **[The Three-Box Solution Playbook](#)** is the guide readers and their teams need to drive innovation and growth – and continually revitalize their companies. <>

Crafts & Hobbies / Knot-Tying

[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) by Geoffrey Budworth (Lorenz Books)

Knotting is an enjoyable pastime. According to Budworth in **[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#)**, most people can learn to tie knots and soon acquire an impressive repertoire. Nobody should be over-dependent upon safety pins and superglues, patent zips (zippers) and clips and other fastenings, when a suitable length of cord and the right combination of knots are cheaper, consume less of the planet's scarce energy resources and often work better.

[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) is a reference manual and practical handbook presenting over 200 knots, illustrating how to tie them in step-by-step photographs and detailed text. All the key knot types are covered: bends, hitches, bindings, loops, mats, plaits, rings and slings. There are knots for many outdoor pursuits including fishing, sailing, caving and climbing. These include familiar knots, such as the simple Overhand or Thumb Knot, and more challenging knots such as the Wrapped & Reef Knotted Coil.

Each set of instructions in **[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#)** is clearly written and accompanied by precise photographs that take readers through every step of tying the knot.

Author Geoffrey Budworth is a prolific writer and an influential name on the knotting scene. He co-founded the International Guild of Knot Tyers and is a past president of the Guild.

There are several thousand individual knots and an almost infinite number of variations of some of them. In addition, new knots emerge every year from the fingers of innovative knot tyers to increase the existing numbers. Then there are the ornamental aspects: macramé; leather-braiding and whipmaking; Chinese decorative knotting;

Japanese kumihimo and other elaborate braiding or plaiting techniques; traditional British corn dollies; tassels, tating and crocheting. Magicians and escapologists practice knot and rope trickery. Mathematicians venture into three dimensions when they explore the abstruse topological field of knot theory. For periodic dabblers and serious devotees alike, knotting is a delightful pursuit, a lifelong obsession, and for a few fortunate individuals, a wonderful way to make a living. [The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) cannot possibly cover everything, but the 200 or so carefully chosen knots it contains will gently challenge those new to knot tying and, it is hoped, even teach more experienced hands a thing or two.

[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) is an indispensable guide to the variety of cords and ropes, their breaking strengths, construction and application. Each knot is identified by category from angling to boating, caving to climbing, and general purpose to outdoor pursuits. Whether readers are eager beginners or life-long devotees of the art of knot-tying, [The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) may prove an absorbing and indispensable guide. <>

Culture / Humanities / Ethnicity / African-American

[Mother to Son: Letters to a Black Boy on Identity and Hope](#)

by Jasmine L. Holmes, with a foreword by Jackie Hill Perry
(IVP)

Wynn is my son. No little boy could be more loved by his parents. Inquisitive, fiercely affectionate, staunchly opinionated, he sees the world through eyes of wonder and has yet to become jaded by society's cruelty. I know he'll grow up with stories of having been made to feel 'other' because of the color of his skin. I want to teach him that, though life's unfair, he still has incomparable value in the eyes of his heavenly Father. I know this wondrous little person has the potential to change the world – and I want him to know it too. – from the introduction

In [Mother to Son](#), Jasmine L. Holmes shares a series of powerful letters to her young son about her journey as an African American Christian and what she wants her son to know as he grows. She reminds Wynn that his identity is firmly planted in the person and work of Jesus Christ, even when the topic is one as emotionally charged as race in America.

Holmes teaches humanities in a classical Christian school in Jackson, Mississippi.

According to Jackie Perry in the foreword, Holmes's letters to her son are her way of turning her pen into a hydrant. Not only to put out the flames inside of individuals and

communities. The heat coming from the unwillingness and perhaps inability to acknowledge that race and racism is a reality in this country. But her letters, a metaphor for water, are there to quench readers' thirst as well.

The letters in [Mother to Son](#) are personal and yet applicable to all. People may not all understand what it is to be her, a black mother with a brown boy, but they all understand what it is like to love. To care so deeply for someone that their affection becomes words, and these words a means to encourage, teach, remind, warn, and inspire. But Perry believes that Holmes's words aren't just an expression of her love for Wynn, but the evidence of her love for readers. If that weren't the case, she could've easily written each chapter by hand, bound them with string, and set them somewhere safe for Wynn to read when he is able.

Holmes says that it was her friend Karen Ellis who first told her to 'use my Wynnspiration.' She says that Ellis' advice to use Wynn as inspiration fanned a flame that had already been growing in her. She set out to write a series of letters to Wynn, not just about the racial climate of the country that he lives in, but about the conversation surrounding this racial climate. She wants to remind him of his dignity as an image bearer and to encourage him to respond out of that dignity, even to a topic as emotionally charged as racial reconciliation. Even when the topic concerns the brown skin that he lives in.

But more than that, Holmes wants these letters to be a testament of a mother's love for her son and of a sister's love for the body of Christ. Because when she speaks about these topics, she wants to hold her brothers and sisters in the Lord close to her heart, as she does her own son – her own flesh and blood.

The twofold purpose of [Mother to Son](#), then, is first and foremost to give readers a glimpse into the heart of a black mother's love for her beautiful black son. There are conversations that she has to have with her little boy – conversations similar to the ones her parents had with her – that are unique to their ethnicity.

While the first purpose of the letters in [Mother to Son](#) is an inward look at a mother's heart for her son, the second purpose is an outward look at a sister's heart for her siblings. As she raises her son in our current cultural climate, her desire is that older believers will work at daily changing that environment, making it a more welcome place for discussion, learning, and growth. That, above all, their goal would be to see brothers and sisters of every tribe, tongue, and nation dwelling in unity by living in the gloriously diverse reality of those identities for his glory.

The letters in [Mother to Son](#) are less about offering a systematic approach for how to think about difficult topics than extending what Holmes hopes is a refreshing vision for how to speak about them. She doesn't claim to have every single answer to the challenges we face, but she knows the hope that unifies everyone as they seek those answers.

Jasmine Holmes's [Mother to Son](#) is written for a far larger audience than just her own children; she has delivered a literary benediction to grace our bookshelves, challenge our earthly cultures, strengthen our feeble hearts, and point us toward lasting hope. – K. A. Ellis, Cannada Fellow and Director, the Center for the Study of the Bible and Ethnicity at Reformed Theological Seminary, Atlanta

[Mother to Son](#) is more than a collection of heartfelt letters of a young mother to her new son. [Mother to Son](#) is a missive to America and to the church about what it looks like to hope, to fear, to long, to risk, and to love – all while instilling in ourselves and in those we love and are called to lead both a sense of belonging in the present and a call to invest in a future of greater flourishing for us all. – Karen Swallow Prior, author of *On Reading Well* and *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More* – Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist

The love of black mothers for their sons defies easy categorization. It's at once fierce and tender. It's folksy and sophisticated. It careens toward indulgence but insists on growing up. Black mothers somehow combine both the romance all mothers feel for their sons with the realism required in a racially cruel world. The love of black mothers for their sons is a gift to the world – and the church. In these pages you will see why, as Jasmine Holmes speaks to her sons and to the church about her sons, about black boys, about black mothers, about hope and pain, love and fear, justice and gospel. Anyone looking for an honest yet hopeful exploration of what it means to be black, a mom, a wife, and a Christian – in all the ways those labels interact – will find a witty, womanly, biblical, theologically sound guide in Jasmine as she talks with her boys, and ours. – Thabiti Anyabwile, pastor of Anacostia River Church, Washington, DC

As I read [Mother to Son](#), I couldn't help but think of the many African American mothers who will read and be able to take a deep, long breath and say, 'I am not alone.' This book is rich in theological and foundational truth about God and about who we all are because of God. Yes, it's for a mother and son, but anyone who reads will benefit. A treasure of a book. – Trillia Newbell, author of *Sacred Endurance* and *God's Very Good Idea*

Deep with truth and honesty, a testament to love, [Mother to Son](#) calls readers to be part of the solution to the injustices imbedded in our culture. <>

And Their Children after Them – 1936, 1986, 2019: The Legacy of *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*: James Agee, Walker Evans, and the Rise and Fall of Cotton in the South, 30th anniversary edition by Dale Maharidge & Michael S. Williamson (Seven Stories Press)

For three years in the mid-1980s, Michael S. Williamson and I spent a considerable amount of time in the Deep South. We made many trips, the longest in July and August of 1986. By 1988, our work was finished. We were involved in an endeavor that seemed at the start odd, later foolish, but ultimately rewarding.

*The result is this book. The idea for it was birthed in 1982, when Michael and I were finishing another project about the new poor, riding freight trains and visiting hobo jungles across America. In the middle of that undertaking, a friend gave me a book that had a familiar title but that I confess I had not yet read – James Agee's **Let Us Now Praise Famous Men**, with photographs by Walker Evans. It described the lives of three Alabama families who grew cotton as tenant farmers during the Depression and with whom Agee lived for a while in 1936. – from the preface*

In [And Their Children after Them](#), the writer/photographer team Dale Maharidge and Michael S. Williamson return to the land and families captured in James Agee and Walker Evans's inimitable **Let Us Now Praise Famous Men**, extending the project of conscience and chronicling the traumatic decline of King Cotton. With this continuation of Agee and Evans's project, Maharidge and Williamson not only uncover some surprising historical secrets relating to the families and to Agee himself, but also effectively lay to rest Agee's fear that his work, from lack of reverence or resilience, would be but another offense to the humanity of its subjects. Williamson's ninety-part photo essay includes updates alongside Evans's classic originals. Maharidge and Williamson's work in [And Their Children after Them](#) was honored with the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction when it was first published in 1990.

When he isn't crossing the country talking to people, former newspaper reporter Maharidge has been a visiting professor of journalism at Columbia University and Stanford. He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1987-88. Williamson is a photographer for the *Washington Post* who, in addition to the Pulitzer Prize he shares with Maharidge, won a second Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the war in Kosovo.

Maharidge says that the demise of cotton transformed millions of lives in the Old South, but he found little written about the death of this system; as it was happening, newspapers and magazines either wrote nothing about it or ran occasional and mostly inconsequential short pieces. Most people think of blacks when tenant farming is mentioned, because blacks were the last to do it in large numbers. But whites were actually a majority of tenants in 1936, and for years before and afterward. So if [And Their Children after Them](#) seems to focus more on whites, it is because of their long-dominant position in tenant farming, because it was with three white families that Agee lived, and because Maharidge and Williamson were attracted to the project by curiosity about what had happened to these three families. But they tried not to ignore the existence of black tenant farmers. They visited a black family of ex-tenants during their several years of research for this book to explore the special experience of at least one family.

Maharidge says that a few people they approached wanted nothing to do with them. But most of the 128 survivors and offspring of the original 22 family members were quite willing to tell their stories. As for those who desired to be left alone, they honored their wishes and stayed far away. To respect the privacy of all, they, like Agee, chose not to use the real names of any individuals and of most places. They used the same pseudonyms he gave the families and small towns. To the people born after 1936, they gave new names.

A conscious decision was made to treat Agee and Evans as characters as important as the families they lived with and reported on. Their actions, their style, and even their motives must thus be open to comment. This book certainly starts from the study on which *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* is based, but its purpose and scope are different.

[And Their Children after Them](#) is a book about how people change. It is about how some do not. It is about how some persevere, only to end staring at hands worn from a lifetime of labor, realizing nothing – an absolute definition of defeat. It is about others who, through hard work and hope, have achieved varying degrees of success, along with an understanding of who they are and where they came from. It is about a group of men and women who long ago told us something about America that we, as a society, do not readily want to face, and who today still have something else to tell us about ourselves.

Unlike that of a novel, the story of these families is not static. The lives Agee wrote about had already changed by the time their book was published in 1941.

This edition of [And Their Children after Them](#) marks the thirtieth anniversary of its being awarded the nonfiction Pulitzer Prize. Most of the new material for this iteration comes from an extended trip to Alabama in late 2015, thirty years after their first visit, to retrace some of their own steps and to face some things that haunted them. They didn't

attempt to seek out everyone; they focused on a very few people who had the most impact on the co-authors and in retrospect were most vital. They were in for a shocking discovery, with uncomfortable echoes of James Agee's torment, which is in the new section of material, 1986-2019.

A stunning, multilayered follow-up to Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, James Agee's classic.... Compelling human interest skillfully interwoven with the story of the rise and fall of cotton in the South – and essential reading about America. – Kirkus Reviews

Mr. Williamson's photos are spellbinding and should become instant classics. Mr. Maharidge is a crusading journalist with the heart of a young man who can still look at and write about the bittersweet in life. Good for him, and good for us that he has done it. – John Elvin, The Washington Times

A book that reaches into this country's heart of darkness... A tragically human story more telling than a thousand polls. The photographs by Mr. Williamson are eloquent. – Herbert Mitgang, The New York Times

The collaborative effort of photographer Walker Evans and writer James Agee, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men, portrayed the lives of three sharecropper families in the South during the Depression, giving witness to the tyranny of the tenant farming system that enslaved some nine million tenants in 1936. Their book was at once poetic, scathing, compelling, and tragic. Fifty years later, Maharidge and Williamson have revisited, photographed, and interviewed the surviving members and descendants of the Gudger, Ricketts, and Woods families shown in that book... A fascinating work. – Library Journal

A stunning sequel to the James Agee/Walker Evans classic, Let Us Now Praise Famous Men. It is at times astonishing, at all times deeply moving. – Studs Terkel

And Their Children after Them, compelling and haunting, tells a moving story made more valuable by revisiting the same people. And of course, by the photographs. This writer would like to see the same thing done with tenant farmers from the tobacco farms in this area of the south – the red dirt where the cotton didn't grow. <>

[Solo into the Rising Sun](#): The Dangerous Missions of a U.S. Navy Bomber Squadron in World War II by Ed Kittrell
(Stackpole Books)

When people think about World War II bombers, they generally picture formations of scores of bombers, escorted and protected by fighters, flying into enemy territory and bombing the hell out of the enemy. In Europe and usually the Pacific, this was the standard approach, but some bomber squadrons flew a different kind of mission. This was the case for VPB-117 – the Blue Raiders – unique not only because its B-24 Liberators flew for the U.S. Navy and not the Army, but also because most of the Raiders' missions entailed bombers venturing out over the Pacific, *alone*, to seek and destroy on long-range missions of a thousand miles out and a thousand back, often at altitudes close enough for sea spray to cloud their windows. [Solo into the Rising Sun](#) is their story.

Author Ed Kittrell is a journalist who worked as a newspaper reporter in Chicago. He has been an independent writer for more than thirty years.

Kittrell says [Solo into the Rising Sun](#) came about because kids really wanted to know about the war their parents lived and he was no exception. And that remained mostly curtained off, by their fathers especially. He is not talking about men who had to be hospitalized with what later became the crisply clinical 'posttraumatic stress disorder.' He's talking about members of the Rotary Club. Ranchers and engineers. Teachers and coaches. They went to college, built businesses, ran for political office.

Part of their silence was a matter of manners. They had been taught it was bad form to talk too much about oneself. Especially for those who saw combat, there was something else too. The truth of that time in their lives was hard won. Sharing all that too easily was like selling a family heirloom at auction. They didn't want to surrender it cheaply. Memory wasn't too painful; it was too precious.

Besides, many of the folks back home didn't want veterans to share too much either. Wives and parents and friends needed reassurance that the veterans were all right. But usually they didn't press – partly from fear of 'upsetting' the person, partly from fear that the war itself was somehow a contagion and they didn't want to be exposed. Whatever the story and whatever the reason, for him it always ended the same – in silence, Dad staring at the back of his hands resting limply in his lap.

But Kittrell in [Solo into the Rising Sun](#) says he had to know more. In archives and other documents, in conversations with fliers and their families, in pieces and in time, he learned. VPB-117 was one of the navy's land-based patrol squadrons whose role has been mostly overlooked, even by the experts. They flew four-engine B-24 Liberators on

long-range missions, a thousand miles out and a thousand miles back, on search grids that looked like spokes on a wagon wheel. And they flew solo.

Among patrol squadrons, VPB-117's record is especially impressive. One statistic: Pilots who shot down five or more enemy planes were officially designated 'aces.' In all the navy and all the war, only eight B-24 plane commanders earned that title. Five of the eight flew in VPB-117. They were equally effective at destroying enemy shipping and targets on land. As a result, the squadron received a Presidential Unit Citation, the highest group award the military bestows.

And they did it all despite serious handicaps. VPB-117 often was among the first squadrons to fly from forward positions. That meant taking off and landing overloaded bombers on unpaved, makeshift runways. It meant few spare parts and spotty maintenance, which meant routinely flying unsafe airplanes. It meant frequent encounters with the enemy, sometimes within minutes of taking off. It meant lousy living conditions and no fresh meat for months. To top it all off, for much of its tour the squadron suffered from bad, even bizarre, leadership. The resulting tension and morale problems only made the experience more harrowing. It all took a toll.

The focus of [Solo into the Rising Sun](#) is on a number of men, a number of stories. And it's told as much as possible from their point of view.

People who know say veterans of World War II began to open up more when they reached their sixties. Perhaps by then time and distance had helped put their experiences in perspective. In interviews more than one squadron member said, "I'm telling you things I never told my children."

[Solo into the Rising Sun](#) tries to be faithful to that past and to that truth as it was told. War brings out cruelty, yes. It also brings out extraordinary acts of compassion, comradeship, and courage. The men in the squadron found that in each other, and most found it in themselves. They had become members of what we call 'the Greatest Generation.'

Kittrell says as children of these men, people have a special responsibility to see that it's shared. Because someday soon, they will be the only ones who remember them still young, back home and hopeful, new fathers in a new world they helped create.

Beautifully written and deeply researched. Ed Kittrell takes readers on a powerful journey through the Pacific air campaign to honor the sacrifice of those who flew and the families they left behind. This is an essential book for anyone interested in World War II. – Wil S. Hylton, author of Vanished: The Sixty-Year Search for the Missing Men of World War II

[Solo into the Rising Sun](#) is far more than a clinical history of a navy bomber squadron. It is a deeply moving portrait of young men swept up into a global war that killed many of them and forever transformed the rest. And, equally affecting, it is the story of the next generation, of children born into a resounding silence that was the legacy of their parents' wartime experience. Kittrell's quest to break through that silence not only honors the legacy of his father and his crewmates but also greatly enriches the historical record. – Stephen Harrigan, author of *Big Wonderful Thing* and *The Gates of the Alamo*

Many of the men who fought in the Pacific during World War II hardly spoke of it back home. So, a lifetime later, Ed Kittrell went looking for answers. The result is a great gift: true stories from a time and place that even now touches us in ways we never imagined. – Linda Spalding, author of *Who Named the Knife* and *The Purchase*

In [Solo into the Rising Sun](#) readers find touching stories, a moving portrait honoring the greatest generation. <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Birding

[Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#), 2nd edition (**Peterson Field Guides**) by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

For decades, the [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#) has been a popular and trusted guide for birders of all levels, thanks to its famous system of identification and unparalleled illustrations. Since the American Birding Association has expanded its species Checklist to include Hawaii, the [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#), 2nd edition now includes the exotic species of the fiftieth state. In addition, the text and range maps have been updated, and much of the art has been touched up to reflect current knowledge.

Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996), one of the world's greatest naturalists, received every major award for ornithology, natural science, and conservation as well as numerous honorary degrees, medals, and citations, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The Peterson Identification System has been called the greatest invention since binoculars.

Veteran birders will know how to use [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#). Beginners, however, will need to spend some time becoming familiar in a general way with the illustrations. The plates, for the most part, have been grouped into taxonomic

families. However, in cases where there is a great similarity of shape and action, similar-appearing families have been grouped outside their current taxonomic order, to aid in field identification.

Birds that could be confused are grouped together when possible and are arranged in identical profile for direct comparison. The arrows point to outstanding field marks, which are explained. The text also gives aids such as voice, actions, and habitat, not visually portrayable, and under a separate heading discusses species that might be confused. The general range is not described for most species in the text. The three-color range maps next to the species accounts provide range information.

In addition to the plates of birds normally found in North America north of Mexico, and on the Hawaiian Islands, there are also some plates depicting accidental vagrant species from Eurasia, offshore pelagic areas, and the Tropics, as well as some plates of the exotic escapees that are sometimes seen.

Readers of [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#) are advised to acquire the habit of comparing a new bird with some familiar 'yardstick' a House Sparrow, robin, pigeon, etc. – so that they can say to themselves, for example, "Smaller than a robin, a little larger than a House Sparrow." The measurements in the book represent lengths from bill tip to tail tip of specimens on their backs as in museum trays. For species that show considerable size variation, a range of measurements is given. For less variable species, only one measurement is given.

[Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#), 2nd edition indicates the status of species or populations as threatened or endangered according to the current U.S. Endangered Species List. The ranges of many species have changed markedly over the past 50 or more years. Some species are expanding because of protection given them, changing habitats, bird feeding, or other factors. Other avian species have diminished alarmingly and may have been extirpated from major parts of their range. The primary culprit here has been habitat loss, although other factors, such as increased competition, predation from other species, and (in Hawaii) avian diseases, may sometimes be involved. Many bird species will face challenges from impending changes in the climate.

The maps in [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#) are approximate, giving the general outlines of the range of each species. Within these broad outlines may be many gaps – areas ecologically unsuitable for the species.

In this edition of [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#), distinct subspecies that are easily recognized, such as those of Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*) and Dark-eyed Junco (*J. hyemalis*), are represented. When in the field, the book advises readers to challenge themselves to discern the subspecies to increase their visual and listening skills and add a new level of understanding and enjoyment of birds.

Similarly, the ages and sexes of birds can be identified to various degrees in many species, and being able to accurately determine age/sex groups can add fulfillment to the birding experience. It can also be important in assessing the degree to which less common species are reproducing. This new **2nd edition** makes an effort to point out every identifiable age/sex classification of each species, illustrating many of them. The authors have also refined and standardized the terminology, replacing such imprecise terms as 'immature' with specific age groupings (such as juvenile, adult, first-year, second-winter, etc.) and, for plumages, they have replaced the labels 'breeding' and 'nonbreeding' with 'spring/summer' and 'fall/winter,' respectively, to better align with age classifications and because plumage state does not directly equate to breeding state.

This **2nd edition** of [Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America](#) expands and updates the bestselling and widely used **1st edition** with consistent range maps, current knowledge and the addition of birds of Hawaii. The book is likely to sell widely – in these days of social distancing, more people are turning to birds for entertainment. <>

Law / Landlord & Tenant

[Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#), 15th edition by Marcia Stewart; Janet Portman, Attorney; & Ann O'Connell, Attorney
(NOLO)

Whether readers own one rental property or a hundred, they want to run a profitable business, protect their investment, and avoid legal hassles. Their success depends heavily on knowing and complying with dozens of state, federal, and local laws. Fortunately, they don't need a law degree – just **[Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#), 15th edition**.

From move-in to move-out, it provides help with legal, financial, and day-to-day issues. Readers will avoid hassles and headaches – not to mention legal fees and lawsuits. They can use this book to:

- Screen and choose tenants.
- Prepare leases and rental agreements.
- Avoid discrimination, invasion of privacy, personal injury, and other lawsuits.
- Hire a property manager.
- Keep up with repairs and maintenance.
- Make security deposit deductions.
- Handle broken leases.
- Learn how to terminate a tenancy for nonpayment of rent or other lease violations.
- Restrict tenants from renting their place on Airbnb.

- Deal with bedbugs, mold, and lead hazards.

The **15th edition** is completely revised to provide current laws, covering deposits, rent, entry, termination, and late rent notices. It includes an expanded discussion on the risks in using email and texts to communicate with tenants. It includes access to more than 30 essential legal forms including a lease and rental agreement, rental application, notice of entry, tenant repair request, security deposit itemization, and property manager agreement.

[**Every Landlord's Legal Guide**](#) has everything landlords need to legally and successfully run their businesses. [**Every Landlord's Legal Guide**](#) details all the steps, procedures, laws, and tips landlords should consider from the time they start looking for tenants to the time the tenants move out.

Co-authors are Marcia Stewart, Janet Portman, and Ann O'Connell. Stewart is the coauthor of many books at Nolo. Portman, Nolo's Executive Editor, oversees editorial work. Before joining Nolo in 1994, she practiced law as a public defender. O'Connell is a legal editor at Nolo specializing in landlord-tenant and real estate law. Before joining Nolo as an editor, O'Connell practiced civil litigation in California and Colorado, and had her own firm in Colorado.

Readers learn how to prepare a lease, handle repairs, and deal with tenants who pay rent late, make too much noise, or cause other problems. This book covers not only straightforward procedures (such as how to legally reject a prospect) but also advises readers on how to deal with more complicated situations (like what to do when a tenant threatens to withhold rent until they make certain repairs).

Readers use the book's comprehensive State Landlord-Tenant Law Charts to find their state's laws on: security deposits, required landlord disclosures, rent withholding, how to handle abandoned property, and unconditional quit terminations.

This book includes dozens of forms, letters, notices, checklists, and agreements for readers to use in their landlord business. Each form is easy to complete and has comprehensive instructions. Readers will find filled-in samples in the text and downloadable forms on the companion page for this book on the Nolo website.

[**Every Landlord's Legal Guide**](#), which first appeared in 1996, has been updated many times since to keep up with the constantly changing world of residential landlording. This is the only book on the shelf that combines current, comprehensive legal information and practical advice usable by landlords in every state. In addition, when important laws change during the life of this edition, readers will find updates on this book's companion page.

The approach to running a residential rental business rests on recognizing that tenants are their best asset and the key element in their financial success. This approach will

guard readers' legal and financial interests and, at the same time, make their customers – their tenants – feel that their practices are fair and reasonable.

No landlord should be without a copy of [Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#). – The Florida Times-Union

Complete, detailed, accurate, practical, easy-to-understand and superb.... Every residential landlord in all 50 states should be required to read this outstanding book and to keep it handy for reference. – Los Angeles Times

... the bible for landlords. – Chicago Tribune

Stewart, an author, and attorneys Warner and Portman offer a legal guide for landlords. They address screening tenants; preparing leases and rental agreements; basic rent rules; security deposits; discrimination; property managers; getting the tenant moved in; co-tenants, sublets, and assignments; the duty to repair and maintain the premises; liability for tenant injuries from dangerous conditions, environmental health hazards, and criminal activity; right of entry and tenant privacy; ending a tenancy; returning security deposits and other move-out issues; problems and dispute resolution; late rent, terminations, and evictions; and finding a lawyer and doing legal research. The book includes state-specific information and legal forms and letters. – Eithne O'Leyne, Editor, ProtoView

To keep up with the law and make money as a residential landlord, readers need a guide they can trust: [Every Landlord's Legal Guide](#), **15th edition**. It provides the legal forms and state rules every landlord and property manager needs. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[The Carrier](#) by Mattias Berg (MacLehose Press: Quercus: Mobius)

In [The Carrier](#), Erasmus Levine has a job like no other. He travels with the President of the United States at all times and holds in his hands the power to obliterate life as we know it.

Levine is the man with the nuclear briefcase, part of a crack team of top-secret operatives established after 9/11, led by a man code-named 'Edelweiss'. But not even Edelweiss knows the identity of their ultimate authority, Alpha.

But Levine has a secret, for years, in his cover role as an academic, he has been receiving cryptic messages from Alpha, an elaborate communication that began with

the words: 'we two against the world.' Now he's thinking of escape and his chance comes during an official visit to Sweden when the alarm sounds in the Grand Hotel.

But Alpha has other plans. As the President and the First Lady take refuge in a network of tunnels under the city, a relic of Sweden's long-defunct nuclear weapons program, Levine attempts to break ranks and abscond with the briefcase.

Levine is drawn into Alpha's plan to eliminate the world's nuclear arsenals. But is controlled demolition really the endgame? Could he be working towards a controlled apocalypse designed to wipe humanity from the face of the earth?

Either way, the full force of the U.S. military and the wrath of his old handler Edelweiss are now pitted against Levine and his co-conspirators.

The author of [The Carrier](#), Mattias Berg, has been a culture journalist since the late 1980s and worked at major Swedish newspapers, including *Dagens Nyheter* and *Expressen*. Since 2002 he has been employed at Swedish Radio, where he for ten years was the head of the Culture Department.

*What should a thriller do to rise above the ranks of the clichéd? It does no harm to demonstrate some intelligence and (if possible) an engagement with serious issues – but no polemics. Thankfully, Mattias Berg's [The Carrier](#) hits those targets squarely. – Barry Forshaw, *The Independent**
*Enjoyable, ingenious... packed with fascinatingly arcane nuclear facts. – Myles McWeeney, *Irish Independent**

*There are special trained super humans, amazingly transformed by surgery, quick-witted brains, codes and numerology, deceptions... But whilst other agent stories may only have this – spiced with some love in the sunset – [The Carrier](#) has more. Much more... Mattias Berg's knowledge in the scientific field is impressive, his storytelling skilled and well-balanced. – Niklas Wahlöf, *Dagens Nyheter**

*[The Carrier](#) is a doomsday-prophetic symphony for our times ... I don't think I have read such a philosophical; knowledge-studded and realistic adventure novel since Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* ... The entertainment factor, which makes it reminiscent of action movies such as 'Mission Impossible' does not diminish its grave political substance. – Sinzana Ravini, *Göteborgs-Posten**

*One of the most ambitious and spectacular debut novels I have read. – Jens Liljestrand, *Kulturnytt Swedish Radio**

A successful hybrid of a novel of ideas, a historical drama and a popular-science thriller... An informative, exciting story with a philosophical

backdrop. Why have we created something so powerful it can destroy us all? – Amanda Svensson, *Expressen*

[The Carrier](#) is an intricate suspense novel about mankind's most dangerous fantasy and its most ingenious invention, whose temptations may be beyond our power to withstand. With it, Berg introduces a new genre: Nuclear Noir. <>

Literature & Fiction / Religion & Spirituality / Classics

[The Neglected C.S. Lewis: Exploring the Riches of His Most Overlooked Books](#) by Mark Neal & Jerry Root, with a foreword by David C. Downing (Mount Tabor Books: Paraclete Press)

Who hasn't heard of Narnia, Asian, or the White Witch?

Readers who can quote word for word from C.S. Lewis's theological classic, *Mere Christianity*, or his science fiction novel, *Perelandra*, have often never read his work as a professional literary historian. They may not even recognize some of the neglected works discussed in [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#).

While C.S. Lewis and his books are familiar to millions of readers, most don't realize that he was an astute critic and scholar of literature. In [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#) authors Jerry Root and Mark Neal seek to revive eight of Lewis' lesser-known literary works and bring them to the attention they deserve.

Neal has lectured, taught and published nationally and internationally on Lewis for the last ten years. He works as the VP of a Chicago-area marketing firm. Root is an Associate Professor at Wheaton College and a visiting professor at Biola University and Talbot Graduate School of Theology in La Mirada, California. Root and Neal contend that these lesser known works – often not known even by avid readers of Lewis – contain many of his best ideas and are themselves doors into a moral education of the literature and thought of specific historical periods.

For example, when readers read *The Discarded Image* on the ancients' view of the heavens, they understand better why Ransom has such unpleasant sensations when first descending toward Malacandra in *Out of the Silent Planet*. And when they come across Lewis's discussion in OHEL of a minor sixteenth-century poet who described the hellish River Styx as a 'puddle glum,' they can't help but chuckle at the name when they meet the famous Marshwiggle in *The Silver Chair*. These are just two examples of how reading [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#) can help readers understand Lewis more fully.

This book examines eight works by Lewis that Root and Neal term 'neglected.' Each chapter focuses on one work, and the book is organized chronologically according to their original publication dates.

The Allegory of Love traces the development of the medieval love allegory as Lewis follows it through the seminal works of an age. He follows the code of chivalry with its emphasis on courage, humility, the religion of love, and adultery. This was the book that established Lewis's academic reputation.

The Personal Heresy is a debate between Lewis and Elizabethan literary scholar E. M. W. Tillyard over whether or not the personality of the author needs to be known in order to interpret his or her work.

Arthurian Torso examines a cycle of poems telling the story of Camelot from the perspective of the Court Poet, Taliessin, written by Lewis's friend and fellow Inking, Charles Williams. The poems are not easily accessible, but the theology and literary point of view is scintillating.

English Literature in the Sixteenth Century excluding Drama was Lewis's magnum opus. It is the ripe fruit of an eighteen-year project that occupied much of his mind and thought. It is an important book in the Lewis corpus and one that serious Lewis readers ought to know about.

Studies in Words examines word histories and how their meanings develop over time. This guidebook helps us better understand old books through knowing the original meanings of words as well as the elements that contribute to change in meaning in language. It also details Lewis's approach to responsibility with regard to language.

Written toward the end of Lewis's life, *An Experiment in Criticism* represents his mature literary critical thought. He analyzes a book based on how it is read rather than simply judging it to be good or bad. This book shows how literary experience can widen readers' views and enrich their understanding of the world.

The Discarded Image is the final edition of a series of lectures Lewis gave at Oxford University titled *The Prolegomena to Medieval and Renaissance Literature*. One of the last things he wrote before he died, it was published in the year following his death. This work is indispensable to knowing the background of medieval literature and to understanding Lewis's fascination with that period. This work also provides an essential key to understanding and appreciating Lewis's fiction.

The final selection in [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#) is *Selected Literary Essays*. Throughout the essays in this book that is little read today, readers see how, for Lewis, questions lead to answers which lead to discoveries. The book shows the width of his tastes, and anybody

who wants to break out of narrow self-referential approaches to life would benefit from these essays.

In 1952 Lewis disclosed that writing his magnum opus on the literature of the sixteenth century had been his 'top tune' for fifteen years and all the other books he wrote during that period were 'only its little twiddly bits.' It may surprise some readers to hear Lewis describe The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, The Screwtape Letters and The Abolition of Man – to mention just three – as mere twiddly bits in comparison with the main melody of his output. But that was how he saw it. Neal and Root are to be commended for rehabilitating that 'top tune' and other similarly neglected works in this clear, useful, and informative survey. – Michael Ward, University of Oxford, co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis

Neal and Root have done us a great service. At a time when we are in danger of being surfeited by the endless rehashing of the well-known C.S. Lewis, they have opened up the treasures of the less known but invaluable Lewis. I found this book delightful and stimulating. – Os Guinness, author of Carpe Diem Redeemed

Reading [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#) reminded me, a professor at a very secular Russian university, of what Lewis said about Charles Williams' lecture on Milton's Comus: 'I have at last, if only for once, seen a university doing what it was founded to do: teaching wisdom.' – Olga B.

Lukmanova, Nizhny Novgorod State Linguistics University, Russia
I remember my surprise and delight when I discovered, as a literature student, that the author whose Narnia stories I had enjoyed as a child was also a brilliant literary critic, in fact the most lucid and helpful of all the scholars whose works I read at Cambridge. I am delighted, therefore, to see that Neal and Root are sharing so much of this treasure in this new volume. They are ideal guides. I heartily recommend this volume. –

Malcolm Guite, author, poet, and Chaplain at Girton College, Cambridge
Lewis's most popular books are rich in wisdom and wonder, but many of his most important insights are buried in the pages of his lesser-known works. Now, at last, Mark Neal and Jerry Root have provided us with a map that leads us straight to the heart of these treasures. – Diana Pavlac Glycer, Professor in The Honors College at Azusa Pacific University and author of The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien as Writers in Community

Neal and Root are reliable guides to the professional writings of C. S. Lewis, demonstrating how his insights on past literature help us navigate the turbulent waters of today's words and rhetoric. – Bruce R. Johnson, General Editor, Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal

*Neal and Root have filled a huge void in the critical study of Lewis by writing an introduction to Lewis's scholarly work that should provide a guide for those interested in Lewis for years to come. – Professor Hal Poe, Union University, and author of *The Inklings of Oxford**

*That there still exists neglected dimensions of Lewis's work only attests to how masterfully multi-dimensional his work proves to be. Neal and Root have walked readers around to the lesser known, though no less important, places of Lewis's critical corpus to show us just how necessary the 'neglected' really is. – Corey Latta, author of *C.S. Lewis and the Art of Writing**

Anyone who enjoys reading Lewis and wants to understand him better will not want to neglect this book! – Karl 'KJ' Johnson, Director, C.S. Lewis Institute of Chicago

This book has been long overdue. All readers who really want to understand the depths of C.S. Lewis will find [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#) both a valuable resource full of insight as well as a journey of joyful intellectual discovery. – Pavel Hošek, Charles University, Prague

We in Romania greet with gratitude this excellent book by Neal and Root! – Denise Vasiliu, C.S. Lewis scholar and researcher in philology at University of Iasi, Romania

Celebrated C.S. Lewis scholars bring lesser known masterworks to light with [The Neglected C.S. Lewis](#). Neal and Root have done students of Lewis a great service, tracing the signature ideas in Lewis's works of literary criticism and showing their relevance to Lewis's more familiar books. Their thorough research and lucid prose will be welcome to all who would like to understand Lewis more fully, but who feel daunted by books of such evident scholarly erudition. <>

Outdoors & Nature / Crafts & Hobbies / Gardening / Design

[Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden](#) by Bill Noble (Timber Press)

Bill Noble gets it – about place, plants, and why gardens matter. Delve into this beautiful book. You'll come away sharing his passion for the beauty that gardens bring into our lives. – Sigourney Weaver, environmentalist, actor, trustee of New York Botanical Garden

How does an individual garden relate to the larger landscape? How does it connect to the natural and cultural environment? Does it evoke a sense of place? In [Spirit of Place](#), Bill Noble helps gardeners answer these questions by sharing how they influenced the creation of his garden in Vermont.

Noble is a lifelong gardener and the former director of preservation for the Garden Conservancy. His own Norwich, Vermont garden, included in the Smithsonian Institution's Archive of American Gardens, beautifully embodies the historical and cultural environment in which it resides.

In [Spirit of Place](#) Noble reveals that a garden is never created in a vacuum but is rather the outcome of an individual's personal vision combined with historical and cultural forces. Throughout, he shares insights gleaned over a long career. Noble tells a story of the pleasures and challenges, both aesthetic and practical, of creating a garden that feels genuinely rooted to its place. He also shares the evolution of that garden, growing out of both its particular location and setting, as well as from his own interests and passions.

Noble describes finding a long panorama of foothills of the White Mountains that unfolded to the east, across the Connecticut River Valley, and a classic Vermont farm hillside to the west. The land sloped away from the house, and there were tens of acres of lush green fields bordered by stone walls, with forest beyond. He says his first impression was that to make a garden set against such a vast, magnificent landscape would require more effort than he had in him. But he also understood then that this would be the place he and his partner would call home, and he would have to confront its challenges.

As a self-taught gardener, Noble says he didn't have the advantage of a course of study in design or horticulture. He was fortunate in that his gardening life began in the gardens of artists who were primarily interested in creating outdoor places in which to live and work, where they could be close to nature and the elements, atmosphere and light, with a fullness of plants. For him, gardening is a way to experience nature and beauty in close engagement. In keeping with the spirit of that, he made a garden with perennial and shrub borders, foliage borders, a vegetable garden and orchard, a rock garden, meadow plantings, and where he continues to experiment with plants and fresh ideas.

In [Spirit of Place](#), Noble says that a garden can be an experience akin to being in the presence of a work of art, and while there can be transcendent moments in one's own garden, they are few and fleeting. Much of what gardening is about is the feeling of being connected to a place, fostering a sense of belonging, and becoming familiar with the natural rhythms and cycles of a particular piece of the earth. The intellectual and emotional aspects of garden-making can't be separated: cultivating plants, learning how they grow; observing their beauty, their variety of form and color; their hardiness, habit, and the qualities that make them good garden plants; whether they are workhorses or specialty plants – these are all as rewarding as any physical sensation one might experience in a garden.

Noble in [Spirit of Place](#) says that he has found a great deal of inspiration in the artistry and experimentation of others – much of his own garden-making is a response to what he observed in other gardens or learned from other gardeners. It is a distillation of design ideas and plants from dozens of places, many that he has visited, some that he has worked in, and a few he has only studied in photos or drawings. Part of his motivation for working in the field of garden preservation is that he believes that, in visiting gardens made by outstanding gardeners, visitors become better gardeners themselves.

Noble in [Spirit of Place](#) says his is an amateur's garden, begun shortly after he first came to professional gardening. He and his partner moved to Bragg Hill in the fall of 1991, when he was still employed in his first job as a gardener, with no formal training and only a few years of relevant experience. In this way, his garden's development tracks the evolution of his career in the world of public gardens and preservation. It is autobiographical, reflecting his trajectory in this occupation – from market gardener to garden preservationist to garden designer. Key parts of it were born out of working at other sites. He made the Flower Garden, for example, while he was working in gardens in Cornish. The Rock Garden started when he was restoring its counterpart at The Fells, and other parts evolved as he was exposed to the larger world of gardens.

Noble's garden is a place where he has experimented with plants and developed ideas that he has applied to other gardens as part of his design practice. It is a kind of laboratory or workshop, as well as a repository for plants that once had a place in horticulture, but are no longer propagated or widely available today.

A gloriously illustrated source of information and inspiration for all who garden seriously. – Marco Polo Stufano, founding director of horticulture, Wave Hill

Bill Noble is that rare combination of a plant collector with an artistic sensibility. He takes us on an intimate walk through his garden, where a tapestry of plantings interacts with mountains and meadows. – Page Dickey, author of Embroidered Ground

The story of a remarkable garden and its creator, through a tour packed with plant information, glorious photographs, secrets, and tricks of the trade. – Antonia Adezio, executive director, Marin Art & Garden Center
Part memoir, part local history, part gardening how-to and why-to – should inspire all of us to create and celebrate our own special spirit of place. – Wall Street Journal

Bill Noble imparts decades of garden wisdom and experience and writes in a friendly yet authoritative way. This book is set to become a classic. – Troy Scott Smith, head gardener, Iford Manor, Wiltshire

Sumptuously illustrated with gorgeous photographs, [Spirit of Place](#) is a thoughtful look at the process of garden-making written in a friendly style. The book shares insights gleaned over a long career that will inspire readers to create a garden rich in context, personal vision, and spirit. <>

Philosophy / TV & Film

[His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#) edited by Richard Greene & Rachel Robison-Greene (**Popular Culture and Philosophy Series, Vol. 132**: Open Court)

The new TV series, **His Dark Materials**, is based on the series of novels by Philip Pullman, depicting a young girl's adventures in an imaginary world with similarities and dissimilarities to our own. The story tells of world domination by a religious body, the Magisterium, with malevolent intentions, serving a really existing God who is evil and who can be killed. The story, in all its manifestations, as novels, movies, and television shows, has received fierce criticism from religious organizations, especially because its criticisms of religion are aimed primarily at children.

While the story is a thrilling adventure yarn, enjoyed by millions of children and grownups alike, it raises many philosophical issues. In the world of **His Dark Materials** (or one of its many worlds) humans have an animal companion to which they are emotionally linked and which is like an external 'soul'. This provokes questions about the human personality and the way we think of humans as having bodies, minds, and maybe also souls. Human psychology can be analyzed by psychoanalysis and other theories, some of which are explored in [His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#).

Editors are Richard Greene and Rachel Robison-Greene. Greene is Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Richard Richards Institute for Ethics at Weber State University. Robison-Greene is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Utah State University. The book has 13 contributors.

Questions of social and political philosophy are prompted by the story of **His Dark Materials**. The malignant Magisterium has similarities with the various churches and other religious organizations which have wielded tremendous power, both politically and culturally, throughout human history. The relation of the Magisterium to the mysterious 'dust' which pervades the universe helps readers understand the relationship of science, religion, and metaphysics.

A popular theme in philosophy and in modern fantasy stories is that of possible worlds, including how possible worlds relate to parallel worlds. **His Dark Materials** has many alternative worlds (one of which happens to be our own) and is filled with rich materials for discussion of these questions. One chapter looks at the existentialist implications of the story, another at the feminist implications, and another at the Marxist interpretation.

Other chapters focus on specific aspects of metaphysics and epistemology, as well as controversial topics in ethics and the philosophy of religion.

Grab your daemon and prepare for discovery, dialogue, debate, and discussion about Dust, deaths, duels, and other delights in Pullman's astounding saga – written from the kind of perspective Pullman intended these topics to be approached. – Robert Arp, philosopher and Knowledge Management Analyst, US Army at Fort Leavenworth

*When I first read **His Dark Materials** years ago, I often wished for a guide to these amazing stories: there is just such nuance to these books and so much going on behind the scenes. And, now, we have [His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#), helping readers, as well as viewers of the show, to connect the dots on a big-picture scale. – Jack Bowen, author of *The Dream Weaver: One Boy's Journey through the Landscape of Reality**

*Readers and viewers of Philip Pullman's fantasy story will find in [His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#) rich explorations of perennial philosophical problems like mind, truth, free will, subjectivity, experience, morality, ontology, evil, and death, all in refreshingly clear and elegant form – a real treat for fans and philosophers alike. – Jerold J. Abrams, Creighton University, editor of *The Philosophy of Stanley Kubrick**

*Readers of this volume will explore gods, goodness, and the fundamental question of who we are as humans. Readers will, like viewers of **His Dark Materials**, confront important cultural institutions and assumptions. These chapters remind us all that when the Dust of the cosmos is at stake, philosophy can help us recognize and overcome the hard truths of our world. – Jamey Heit, author of *The Politics of The Hunger Games**

*One reason **His Dark Materials** is so popular is that it's rich with philosophical ideas as well as compelling characters, inspiring fantasy, and amazing plot twists. Pullman pulls no punches as he confronts issues of religious authority, freedom, sin, sexuality, multiverses, knowledge, and, of course – so compellingly with his unforgettable daemons – what it means to have a soul. The editors of this volume have pulled together a formidable clutch of thinkers to help us understand Pullman's great story. – Peter S. Fosl, Transylvania University, co-author of *The Philosopher's Toolkit**

A team of philosophers, fans of the Philip Pullman canon, come together in [His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#) to provide a rich kaleidoscope of insights into Pullman's stories, now the popular TV show, **His Dark Materials**. <>

[Stott on the Christian Life: Between Two Worlds](#) by Tim Chester, with series editor Justin Taylor (***Theologians on the Christian Life Series***: Crossway)

John Stott (1921-2011) was a twentieth-century pastor-theologian widely hailed for his heart for missions and expository preaching. Even today, Stott's legacy continues to influence churches around the world. As both a faithful preacher and a thoughtful writer, Stott profoundly shaped evangelicalism's contemporary understanding of Christianity through an approach to the Christian life founded on the word, shaped by the cross, and characterized by the pursuit of Christlikeness in every area of life. Tim Chester in [Stott on the Christian Life](#) invites a new generation of readers to experience the Christian life as John Stott envisioned it – not simply a theological puzzle to be solved, but the daily practice of humble service and compassion found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Chester is a faculty member of Crosslands and a pastor with Grace Church, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire. The series editor of ***Theologians on the Christian Life Series*** is Justin Taylor, executive vice president of book publishing and book publisher at Crossway.

Chester in [Stott on the Christian Life](#) presents a synthesis of Stott's approach to the Christian life. In addition, he identifies something of the inner logic of his theology, locate his ideas in their historical content, and explore their abiding significance.

He says one of his first thoughts on approaching the task was to wonder whether Stott had a distinctive perspective on the Christian life. Was he perhaps simply an articulate advocate of mainstream evangelical orthodoxy? But the more he explored his theology in its historical context, the more he realized that it has been Stott, perhaps more than anyone else, who has influenced the evangelical world he inhabits. So it is not just that Stott reflects evangelicalism; evangelicalism reflects Stott. This is one of the reasons why he is such an important figure to consider. People are looking at themselves in the mirror when they look at Stott; they are exploring their own story.

Moreover, according to Chester in [Stott on the Christian Life](#), Stott was far from simply an echo of the consensus. On a number of issues, he fought for the positions he held, sometimes countering opposite extremes simultaneously. On the doctrine of Scripture, for example, he battled both liberalism and fundamentalism. On missions, he fought an ecumenical missiology that neglected evangelism and a narrow evangelical missiology that neglected social action. Instinctively irenic by temperament, he brought together divided evangelicals on many issues. But he was also ready and willing to stand his

ground. Scripture was always his ultimate authority, and he was willing to follow wherever it led. One of his books was originally entitled *Christ the Controversialist*. In it he draws lessons from Christ's confrontations with the people of his day, making Christ's approach a model for a contemporary willingness to stand firm on the truth. "Certainly every right-thinking person will avoid unnecessary controversy, and we should steer clear of argument for argument's sake.... But we cannot avoid controversy itself.

Stott was a pastor-theologian, as is Chester. He was offered posts in academia on several occasions, but he chose to remain embedded in the local church. He took theology seriously and read widely. But he did not write like an academic theologian, nor did he engage in self-referential theological discussions. His theological work had to be squeezed around a full schedule of parish responsibilities, organizational commitments, and speaking engagements. But his theology is stronger rather than weaker as a result. He wrote from the church for the church – which is as it should be.

Stott was also an expositor. This not only provided the foundation for his thought; it also ensured a balance in his ministry. He was not, and could not be, a man of limited theological interests. Inevitably, therefore, Chester has not covered everything Stott said about the Christian life in [Stott on the Christian Life](#).

*... If we could be allowed but one mentor to grow us into Christlikeness, John Stott would be at the top of my list. I am so very grateful to Tim Chester for summarizing Stott's theological contributions in a manner that is exceptionally well done. Reading this book was a profoundly moving experience. – Derek W. H. Thomas, Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina; author, *Let's Study Revelation* and *Let's Study Galatians**

Why should anyone read John Stott these days? Tim Chester's book provides abundant reason and motivation. While not a biography, it tracks the sources and maturing of Stott's thinking along the historic contours of his immense lifetime's ministry, and across the breadth of his spiritual passions and intellectual profundity. Thoroughly researched and meticulously documented, this is a superb introduction to one of the greatest yet most humble leaders God has ever gifted to his church – comprehensively worthy of the man himself while glorifying Christ, as he would have wanted. If you knew John Stott, relish the spiritual challenge and tonic of journeying with him through this book. If you didn't, start here! You will be enriched, informed, and inspired. – Christopher J. H. Wright, International Ministries Director, Langham Partnership

John Stott towered over sixty years of global evangelicalism. This is the best examination of his theology of the Christian life, full of insight and

practical helpfulness. – Julian Hardyman, Senior Pastor, Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge, United Kingdom

This highly readable book invites us into the life and teaching of John Stott. It interprets for us the social, ecclesial, and theological contexts Stott navigated through the course of his ministry. Drawing on a broad range of Stott's writing, this book vibrantly conveys the central emphases and methods of his thinking, preaching, and institutional leadership – challenging readers to consider how the pursuit of Christlikeness takes visible shape in a life of service, obedience, and humility. – Laura S. Meitzner Yoder, Director and John Stott Chair of Human Needs and Global Resources, Professor of Environmental Studies, Wheaton College

[Stott on the Christian Life](#) encourages a new generation of evangelical Christians to benefit from Stott's thought. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Reformed

[Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church](#) by Hughes Oliphant Old, with an introduction by Jon D Payne (Wipf & Stock)

As a young seminary student, I too was among the uninitiated as it concerned the doctrine of the Lord's Supper – that is, until I had the privilege of taking Dr. Hughes Oliphant Old's magnificent course on Christian Worship. In his class I was introduced to the regulative principle of worship, the lectio continua reading and preaching of Scripture, Psalm singing, biblical prayer, and the nature and spiritual benefits of the sacraments. Not only is his instruction on worship firmly rooted in the theology of the sixteenth-century Reformation, so is his appearance! Indeed, his long, Calvin-like beard only adds to the aura of his captivating lectures. Like some of you, I have been profoundly impacted by Dr. Old's scholarship. Therefore, it is an honor to edit and introduce this outstanding and illuminating volume on the Lord's Supper. Dr. Old is arguably the greatest living authority on the subject of Protestant and Reformed worship. Pastors, seminary students, and laypersons, therefore, would do well to get acquainted with his writings in this age of doxological and liturgical confusion. – from the preface by John Payne

Holy communion is at the heart of Reformed worship and piety. Sixteenth and seventeenth-century Reformed confessions, catechisms, liturgies, and church orders, from Geneva to Westminster, give primary attention to the doctrine of the Lord's

Supper. Along with baptism and the preached Word, communion is viewed by the Reformed as a primary means whereby Christ imparts the benefits of Christ's mediation to the elect.

For the Reformed, the Lord's Supper is more than symbolic memorialism. It is an objective means of grace through which a believer's faith is mysteriously and yet truly nourished and strengthened in Christ. John Payne in the preface to [Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church](#) says that the Reformed have always confessed that it is in the verdant pastures of the divinely appointed means of grace that true piety flourishes. Notwithstanding, there is a kind of sacramental anemia that exists in churches today. Pastors rarely take time to reflect on the nature and spiritual benefits of holy communion, thus providing little instruction for their flocks on these crucial matters. Consequently, church members do not approach the table as they ought nor benefit from the table as they should. Moreover, most students who enter classes at Reformed Theological Seminary admit to only a scant consideration of the connection between the sacraments and godly piety. Surprisingly, a majority of these students are from Reformed backgrounds.

In [Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church](#), Hughes Oliphant Old leads readers through the lives and eucharistical writings of several key Reformed ministers from the Reformation to the present.

Hughes Oliphant Old (1933-2016) until his retirement in 2014 was the John H. Leith Professor of Reformed Theology and Worship at Erskine Theological Seminary. Previously he had taught at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Old introduces readers to Reformed pastor-theologians from around the world who may not have agreed on every aspect of the Lord's Supper, but who thought deeply about its application to Christian living, church unity; and biblical mission. Old challenges the sacramental anemia of our day calling the church to consider afresh the ordinance that the Good Shepherd instituted for the blessing, growth, assurance, and comfort of His sheep.

Old in [Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church](#) looks at a few examples of how Reformed eucharistic faith and worship have unfolded, starting with Calvin and continuing during the period of Protestant Orthodoxy. Then he looks at how the sacrament was celebrated among the Puritans. The Westminster Directory claims readers' attention as well as communion sermons from several prominent Puritans, such as John Owen and Edward Reynolds. The communion meditations of Matthew Henry is given special attention because they are of the highest value. Following that the book looks at some of the devotional manuals and eucharistic sermons of the eighteenth century, giving particular attention to the Old School Presbyterianism of Willison. Then it turns readers' attention to several American pastors, well known for their leadership in

the Great Awakening. It looks first at Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) who was not as helpful on this subject as one might have hoped, but whose contemporary Gilbert Tennent was a real find. Tennent (1703-1764) with his colleague Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen (1692-1747), pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Brunswick, sparked the Great Awakening in New Jersey's Raritan Valley. Old studies the communion sermons of Samuel Davies (1723-1761), who introduced the Great Awakening to Virginia. Finally in [Stoff on the Christian Life](#) Old looks at James W. Alexander (1804-1859), who provides readers with a good insight into the theology of Old Princeton. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Nature

[Earth Magic: Your Complete Guide to Natural Spells, Potions, Plants, Herbs, Witchcraft, and More](#) by Marie D. Jones (Visible Ink Press)

Nature's magic is everywhere. It's in backyards, in the woods, ponds, and even kitchens. Readers just need to know how to see it. It's finding the well-being drawn from the energies of the Earth and the universe. It's the herbs and plants, symbols and talismans, candles, stones, gems, and crystals, and their special powers and meanings, spells, potions, and animal and spirit guides. Even as it gives people the food, water, and air they need to survive, the Earth offers gifts far beyond the obvious.

[Earth Magic: Your Complete Guide to Natural Spells, Potions, Plants, Herbs, Witchcraft, and More](#) guides readers through the rites, practices, and traditions people use to connect themselves to the planet, spirits, and energies. They learn how the laws of the universe and the forces of science can allow them to achieve their desires and intentions by aligning unseen energy. They can find the wisdom in the stars and planets above and the Earth below including:

- Healing through herbs.
- Spells to find a soul mate.
- Stones to improve concentration and increase productivity.
- Potions for happiness.
- Secrets of the stars.

Readers discover these and more in [Earth Magic](#) by Marie D. Jones. Jones is the author of over a dozen nonfiction books on cutting-edge science, the paranormal, conspiracies, ancient knowledge and unknown mysteries.

In [Earth Magic](#), readers learn to work with the plants, herbs, stones, and even the energies and forces of the planet to not only enrich their lives but also to do so in a way that is healthy, empowering, and doesn't harm or disempower others. The book explores the vast array of tools the planet offers for finding well-being. Spells, potions,

stones and gems and their special powers, grounding themselves to the energy of the Earth, discovering animal and spirit guides, and finding wisdom in the stars and planets above are all covered in the book.

[Earth Magic](#) teaches readers how to use the old traditions for a new world. Earth-based beliefs are at the heart of who we are as human beings and our belief in being in harmony with the land, Moon, Earth and skies. Filled with colorful photos and graphics, the book is richly illustrated. Its helpful bibliography and extensive index add to its usefulness.

During this time of hardship and stress, a little earth magic might bring some needed relief. A fascinating read, [Earth Magic](#) shares practical advice and timeless insights. Green living, natural healing, alignment with the Earth and stars – it's all found in this guide to a universe filled with marvels. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Psychology / Community Building

[Three Pieces of Glass: Why We Feel Lonely in a World](#)

Mediated by Screens by Eric O. Jacobsen (Brazos Press)

Loneliness is increasingly recognized as a major public health crisis that is on the rise and impacting people of all ages. Addressing the crisis of loneliness from a fresh perspective, [Three Pieces of Glass](#) introduces belonging as an overlooked but critical aspect of a flourishing Christian life.

Author Eric O. Jacobsen is senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington.

Jacobsen shows how three pieces of glass – the car windshield, TV, and smartphone – are emblematic of significant societal shifts that have created a cultural habit of physical isolation. People feel increasingly disconnected from the people and places around them. Jacobsen explains how adopting everyday practices and making changes in neighborhoods can help people create a sense of belonging and rediscover what belonging in a place looks like. In order to effectively solve the problem of loneliness, they need to recover patterns and practices of community life that encourage them to form meaningful connections with people and stories that are part of the places where they live, work, and worship. To this end, Jacobsen in [Three Pieces of Glass](#) offers redemptive strategies for living a more intentional and spiritual life.

Eric Jacobsen's Sidewalks in the Kingdom was transformative for our family. It literally changed the way we walk. I expect [Three Pieces of Glass](#) is going to change the way people see, and most importantly, how we see one another. It's hard to imagine a more timely book for our fractured, lonely republic. – James K. A. Smith, Calvin University; author of You Are

What You Love and *On the Road with Saint Augustine*

[**Three Pieces of Glass**](#) is a revelatory examination of our human need to belong, showing how this universal desire is a reflection of God's own nature, his good design, and our ultimate purpose. In these pages, Jacobsen points the way past the various fractures and false senses of community that characterize today's culture in order to help us find – for ourselves and others – true belonging. – Karen Swallow Prior, author of *On Reading Well: Finding the Good Life through Great Books* and *Fierce Convictions: The Extraordinary Life of Hannah More – Poet, Reformer, Abolitionist*

A wise and much-needed book, a rich mix of social analysis and theology. Jacobsen offers churches a deep well of imagination for how we can be catalysts of belonging in a world that is dying of loneliness. [**Three Pieces of Glass**](#) is one of the very few books that is both hopeful and helpful for churches as we try to navigate the profound brokenness of late-modern culture, as manifested in our particular places. –

C. Christopher Smith, senior editor, *The Englewood Review of Books*; author of *How the Body of Christ Talks: Recovering the Practice of Conversation in the Church*

Jacobsen is a pioneer in the place-based movement. [**Three Pieces of Glass**](#) is a must read for anyone who cares about their community and their literal neighbors. The four practices that Eric outlines in this book are crucial to experiencing the kind of life that we are yearning to live. – Dave Runyon, coauthor of *The Art of Neighboring*

Open minded as to where readers find their community, not just in church, Jacobsen in [**Three Pieces of Glass**](#) offers strategies to help readers discover what community looks like, thereby providing numerous fresh perspectives and hope in a lonely world. The book may be of special help in these days of Zoom and social distancing. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Theology / Anthropology / African

[**Theologizing in Black: On Africana Theological Ethics and Anthropology**](#) by Celucien L. Joseph (Pickwick Publications)

The paramount goal of Africana theological anthropology and ethics is the preservation of life and promotion of human dignity and the sheer acknowledgement that the African people and people of African descent are bearers of the image of God.

[**Theologizing in Black**](#) is a creative and rigorous comparative study on black theological musings and liberative intellectual contemplations engaging the theological ethics and

anthropology of both continental African theologians (Tanzania, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo) and black theologians in the African Diaspora (Haiti, Trinidad, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, United States). Using the pluralist approach to religion promoted by the philosopher of religion and theologian John Hick, [Theologizing in Black](#) is also an attempt to bridge an important gap in the comparative study of religion, Africana Studies, and Liberation theology, both in Africa and its Diaspora.

The author is Celucien L. Joseph, Associate Professor of English at Indian River State College.

Africana critical theology is said to be a theology of contestation as it seeks to deconstruct white supremacy in the theological enterprise. [Theologizing in Black](#) not only articulates a rhetoric of protest about the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of the humanity of African and black people in white theological imagination; it also enunciates a positive image of black humanity and promulgates a constructive representation of blackness.

[Theologizing in Black](#) is divided into six chapters that recount a complex theology of protest, contestation, deconstruction, and reconstruction. The book provides an analytical framework and intellectual critique of White Christian theologians who deliberately disengage with and exclude Black and Africana theologians in their theological writings. Africana critical theology is said to be a theology of contestation as it seeks to deconstruct white supremacy in the theological enterprise.

Chapter one considers these vital issues by positing both religious and theological arguments to ascertain black inclusion in religious and theological discourse. It responds to the puzzling question: can the African people worship? In other words, do the Africans know God?

Chapter two of [Theologizing in Black](#) gives attention to the moral principles and theological aspect of Ubuntu associating with theological anthropology and ethics in African traditional religion. Ubuntu ethic establishes interconnectedness and relationality between human beings. It provides the theological blueprint to explain black humanity and proclaim the dignity of black people. The moral virtues and ideals associating with Ubuntu are premised on democracy, community, and human solidarity and brotherhood.

Chapter three complements the second chapter by drawing attention to James Cone's theological identity and his argument that Black humanity is grounded on black people's union and identification with Christ, which he also suggested as a solution to cope with the problem of black theodicy. Correspondingly, in Chapter four, Cone also interprets white racism and terrorism (i.e. slavery, lynching) toward black people results in the dehumanization and depreciation of black lives. Cone appeals to the justice of God to vindicate the cause of Black people and to liberate them from white tyranny

and violence. Cone posits that Black people's faith in God is the resource that supports them to resist evil in the white world with the hope that God will eventually readjust all things in their original intent and bring restorative healing and transformative renewal in the world.

Moreover, Africana critical theology narrates a theology of development and democracy, by considering the living conditions and economic status of Black people in the geographical locations covered in [Theologizing in Black](#) (i.e., the United States, Jamaica, Haiti, Trinidad, Kenya). Such theological imagination or project requires the virtue of courage and resistance: courage to conquer the odds of this world and to face the terror and violence in the white world, and resistance to refuse to die, but to remain alive in the midst of cultural alienation, political marginalization, and inequality of opportunity.

Chapter five provides a response to these underlying issues within the Caribbean experience of political corruption, suffering, imperial intervention, famine, hunger, and the violations of their human rights and freedom. According to the Caribbean theologians engaged in this chapter, the most possible solution to bring about the freedom and emancipation of the Caribbean people, both spiritual and natural, is to craft a Caribbean theology of emancipation, decolonization, and hope.

Joseph in [Theologizing in Black](#) says he strongly believes that Christian communities and religious associations in Africana communities should incorporate or implement these practices in view that they would help to improve people's living conditions, ameliorate interracial relations, and create a more humane and democratic social order for all people. He discusses similar issues in the final chapter on Benjamin Mays's clarion call upon Christians to civic participation and public witness.

Finally, Africana critical theology is not only a theology of being, that is, an empowering presence that tutors the marginalized how to fight for existence and instructs the most vulnerable in society what to do to maintain their right to live; it is also a theological discourse of becoming, that is, a massive divine energy that guides the poor to experience change and new birth, and the disinherited to excel and grow in their journey toward faith, wholeness, and shalom. Chapter six addresses these vital concerns in the writings of Mays, who interprets the Christian faith as the only hope for democracy and human flourishing. The basic public function of Christian theology and the vocation of the Christian in society is to bring out the emancipative plans and reconciling mission (salvation, healing, hospitality, wholeness, reconciliation, and peace) of God in contemporary societies and in postcolonial moments. The paramount goal of Africana theological anthropology and ethics is the preservation and promotion of Africana communities in all spheres of life.

[Theologizing in Black](#) by Celucien Joseph brings the voices of Africa and the African Diaspora to center stage while avoiding the US-centric bias of African Diaspora studies by locating distinctly US voices like James H. Cone in global context. Joseph challenges Africana studies and black liberation theology to engage theological writings in languages other than English, thereby providing a much-needed corrective to the Western and Eurocentric cultural hegemony within academic discourse. – Ruben Rosario Rodriguez, Saint Louis University

Joseph's work is theoretically sophisticated and pedagogically innovative. Joseph interacts with major thinkers in the field of black and African religions, but he also introduces other voices who should have been part of the conversations long ago. His analysis of the work of Jean Price Mars, a towering nineteenth-century Haitian intellectual, and his nuanced treatment of black and African religious expressions make his contribution a refreshing scholarly addition. For its clear exposition and thought-provoking ideas, I wholeheartedly recommend this book. – Ronald Charles, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada

Refreshing and innovative, creative and rigorous, [Theologizing in Black](#) fills an important gap in the comparative study of religion, Africana Studies, and Liberation theology, providing an analytical framework and intellectual critique of white Christian theologians who exclude black and Africana theologians in their theological writings and conversations. The book delivers a constructive representation of blackness. <>

Social Sciences / Media Studies / History

[A Social History of the Media](#), 4th edition by Asa Briggs & Peter Burke, revised & updated with Espen Ytreberg (Polity Press)

The first three editions of this book have established [A Social History of the Media](#) as a classic, providing a useful overview of communication media and of the social and cultural contexts within which they emerged and evolved over time.

This **fourth edition** has been revised and updated throughout to reflect the latest developments in the field. Additionally, an expanded introduction explores the wide range of secondary literature and theory that inform the study of media history today, and a new eighth chapter surveys the revolutionary media developments of the twenty-first century, including in particular the rise of social and participatory media and the penetration of these technologies into every sphere of social and private life. Avoiding technological determinism and rejecting assumptions of straightforward evolutionary progress, [A Social History of the Media](#) brings out the rich and varied

histories of communication media. The aim of [A Social History of the Media](#) – on a vast and ever-expanding theme – has been to show the relevance of the past to the present by bringing history into media studies and the media into history. Authors Peter Burke and Espen Ytreberg say that their own choice of medium reflects a qualified optimism in the future of the book, which they believe will continue to exist alongside newer forms of communication as manuscripts did in the age of print. There will, however, be a new division of labor between media, which is already apparent.

Burke is Professor Emeritus of Cultural History at the University of Cambridge. Asa Briggs, now deceased, was Provost at Worcester College, Oxford, and Chancellor of The Open University. Ytreberg is Professor in the Department of Media and Communication at the University of Oslo.

So far as the division of labor is concerned, in earlier editions, Burke was primarily responsible for Chapters 1-3, Briggs for Chapters 5-8, and the two authors, converging in Chapter 4, joined forces both to write and to revise the text.

There are significant differences between all editions of [A Social History of the Media](#). This **fourth edition**, revised after the death of the senior author, Asa Briggs, replaces his Chapter 8 with a major new chapter on twenty-first-century media developments by Espen Ytreberg, who has also comprehensively revised the introduction together with Burke. Subheadings have been introduced to make this a more reader-friendly volume and the chronology has been updated. The ever-expanding bibliography has been replaced by recommendations for further reading, while Brigg's chapters have been reduced in length.

I strongly recommend this book not only for use in undergraduate courses, but also for seasoned teachers and researchers. In an age where media technologies change at lightening speed, this book provides an invaluable overview of a rich history for which important milestones tend to be easily forgotten. – José van Dijck, Utrecht University

For an intensely media-conscious generation, this is an ideal survey of the history of communication. It ranges across continents and cultures, from the dawn of literacy to the advent of Twitter. It illuminates connections between new, old, and ancient new media, and it strikingly illustrates their impact on society and human thought. – Jonathan Rose, Drew University

A richly informative account of developments from Gutenberg to Google, by two of Britain's leading social and cultural historians. Espen Ytrebergs' new last chapter brings the narrative up to date with an authoritative and wide-ranging survey of the media today. Highly recommended as a source book for all students of media. – Paddy Scannell, University of Michigan

In an age of fast-paced media developments, a thorough understanding of media history is more important than ever, and the bestselling [A Social History of the Media](#) continues to be the first choice for students and scholars across the world, providing a masterful overview of the media as they emerged over time. <>

Technology / Archaeology / History / Prehistory

[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in](#)

[prehistory](#) edited by Michela Spataro & Martin Furholt

(Scales of Transformation in Prehistoric and Archaic Societies Series: Sidestone Press)

Prehistoric societies were never static, but the tempo of innovation occasionally increased to the point that one can refer to transformation taking place. Prehistorians must therefore identify factors promoting or hindering innovation.

[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#) stems from an international workshop, organized by the Collaborative Research Centre at Kiel University in November 2017. The meeting challenged its participants to detect and explain technological change in the past and its role in transformation processes, using archaeological and ethnographic case studies. The papers draw mainly on examples from prehistoric Europe, but case studies from Iran, the Indus Valley, and contemporary central America are also included. The authors adopt several perspectives, including cultural-historical, economic, environmental, demographic, functional, and agent-based approaches.

[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#) is a scholarly publication aimed at academic researchers, particularly archaeologists and archaeological scientists working on ceramics, osseous and metal artifacts. The case studies in **[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#)** often rely on interdisciplinary research, whereby field archaeology, archaeometric analysis, experimental archaeology and ethnographic research are used together to observe and explain innovations and changes in the artisan's repertoire. The results demonstrate that interdisciplinary research is becoming essential to understanding transformation phenomena in prehistoric archaeology, superseding typo-chronological description and comparison.

Editors of the volume are Michela Spataro and Martin Furholt. Spataro is the scientist for ceramics and stone in the British Museum's Department of Conservation and Scientific Research. Furholt is Professor at the Institute of Archaeology, Conservation and History at the University of Oslo. Before that, he was working as Research Fellow and Lecturer at the CAU Kiel. The book has 18 contributors. Series editors are Wiebke Kirleis and Johannes Müller.

The origin of the workshop 'Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistoric Europe' was the concept that it is not enough to map which innovations were diffused rapidly across cultural boundaries, or which societies were more conservative and which were more receptive to innovation. Spataro and Furholt say that researchers need to understand the social context and historical circumstances before attempting to explain the patterns. In particular, they need to think about how technical skills are transmitted and reproduced. One of the aims of the workshop as well as of [Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#) was to gain a better understanding of the factors promoting innovation in prehistoric societies. Invited researchers from a variety of backgrounds (field archaeology, anthropology, archaeometry, ethno-archaeology and experimental archaeology) discussed evidence of innovation in the production of different artifact types (pottery, lithic, bone and metal).

Overall, the workshop showed a wide spectrum of approaches to explaining technological innovations and their adaptation. Ecological factors (Ivanova, Manzura) and demography (Hofmann) were represented, while more emphasis was put on exploring the social structure and the organization of production as a main factor enabling or hindering innovation (Roux, Hofmann, Gomart *et al.*, Miller). This was accompanied by agent-centered approaches, where the actions and possibilities of artisans were at the center of analysis (Arnold, Larsson, Botwid). Here, also the material basis for production, the properties of raw materials (Eriksen, Arnold, Botwid) and the availability of latent knowledge of technological elements, which can be recombined (Vidale, Botwid), were discussed. Another group of papers came from a culture-historical tradition, which focused on the issue of innovation transmission from one community to the other in terms of transregional networks and human mobility (Kreiter *et al.*, Gomart *et al.*, Kadrow, Rauba-Bukowska and Czekaj-Zastawny, Czifra *et al.*). Vuković, Vitezović and Spataro used the perspective of technological change to – at least partly – deconstruct the culture-historical version of prehistory, by identifying technological innovation as the main reason for what is traditionally spoken of as 'culture change' (i.e. the transition from early Neolithic Starcevo to late Neolithic Vinča 'cultures').

Spataro and Furholt view this breadth of approaches not as eclecticism, but rather believe that all these factors are actually valid and necessary perspectives if researchers want to explain technological innovation and its role in social reality. For example, the engagement with network structures being connected to different susceptibility to innovation can potentially help to understand how innovative technologies are transferred from the Bükk region to the southern Polish LBK. The perspective of the artisan's abilities and possibilities might inform the evaluation of social structure and population densities as conditioning innovation rates, as will an evaluation of the ecological and environmental constraints as favoring or hindering factors.

Most of the workshop presentations are published for the first time in this volume. Their joint publication in [Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#) can help to create synergy between the different, yet compatible perspectives proposed.

<>

<>

Bibliography

Biographies & Memoirs / Disability / Essays

[Places I've Taken My Body: Essays](#) by Molly McCully Brown (Persea Books)

Business & Investing / Management

[The Three-Box Solution Playbook: Tools and Tactics for Creating Your Company's Strategy](#) by Vijay Govindarajan & Manish Tangri (Harvard Business Review Press)

Crafts & Hobbies / Knot-Tying

[The Practical Guide to Knots and Knot Tying](#) by Geoffrey Budworth (Lorenz Books)

Culture / Humanities / Ethnicity / African-American

[Mother to Son: Letters to a Black Boy on Identity and Hope](#) by Jasmine L. Holmes, with a foreword by Jackie Hill Perry (IVP)

History / Arts & Photography / Current Events

[And Their Children after Them – 1936, 1986, 2019: The Legacy of Let Us Now Praise Famous Men: James Agee, Walker Evans, and the Rise and Fall of Cotton in the South, 30th anniversary edition](#) by Dale Maharidge & Michael S. Williamson (Seven Stories Press)

History / Military / U.S. / World War II / Bombers

[Solo into the Rising Sun: The Dangerous Missions of a U.S. Navy Bomber Squadron in World War II](#) by Ed Kittrell (Stackpole Books)

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Birding

[Peterson Field Guide to Birds of North America, 2nd edition \(Peterson Field Guides\)](#) by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Law / Landlord & Tenant

[Every Landlord's Legal Guide, 15th edition](#) by Marcia Stewart; Janet Portman, Attorney; & Ann O'Connell, Attorney (NOLO)

Literature & Fiction / Mystery

[The Carrier](#) by Mattias Berg (MacLehose Press: Quercus: Mobius)

Literature & Fiction / Religion & Spirituality / Classics

[The Neglected C.S. Lewis: Exploring the Riches of His Most Overlooked Books](#) by Mark Neal & Jerry Root, with a foreword by David C. Downing (Mount Tabor Books: Paraclete Press)

Outdoors & Nature / Crafts & Hobbies / Gardening / Design

[Spirit of Place: The Making of a New England Garden](#) by Bill Noble (Timber Press)

Philosophy / TV & Film

[His Dark Materials and Philosophy](#) edited by Richard Greene & Rachel Robison-Greene (Popular Culture and Philosophy Series, Vol. 132: Open Court)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Evangelical

[Stott on the Christian Life: Between Two Worlds](#) by Tim Chester, with series editor Justin Taylor (*Theologians on the Christian Life Series*: Crossway)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Reformed

[Holy Communion in the Piety of the Reformed Church](#) by Hughes Oliphant Old, with an introduction by Jon D Payne (Wipf & Stock)

Religion & Spirituality / Nature

[Earth Magic: Your Complete Guide to Natural Spells, Potions, Plants, Herbs, Witchcraft, and More](#) by Marie D. Jones (Visible Ink Press)

Religion & Spirituality / Psychology / Community Building

[Three Pieces of Glass: Why We Feel Lonely in a World Mediated by Screens](#) by Eric O. Jacobsen (Brazos Press)

Religion & Spirituality / Theology / Anthropology / African

[Theologizing in Black: On Africana Theological Ethics and Anthropology](#) by Celucien L. Joseph (Pickwick Publications)

Social Sciences / Media Studies / History

[A Social History of the Media, 4th edition](#) by Asa Briggs & Peter Burke, revised & updated with Espen Ytreberg (Polity Press)

Technology / Archaeology / History / Prehistory

[Detecting and explaining technological innovation in prehistory](#) edited by Michela Spataro & Martin Furholt (**Scales of Transformation in Prehistoric and Archaic Societies**

Series: Sidestone Press)