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[September 2020](#)

*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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[Audio / History / Museums](#)

[The Louvre: The Many Lives of the World's Most Famous Museum](#) by James Gardner, read by Graham Halstead, audiobook, MP3-CD, unabridged, running time 13 hours (Tantor Audio)

Some ten million people from all over the world flock to the Louvre each year to enjoy its incomparable art collection. Yet few of them are aware of the remarkable history of that place and of the buildings themselves – a story that historian James Gardner elegantly chronicles in the first full-length history of the Louvre in English in [The Louvre](#).

Gardner is an American art critic and literary critic based in New York and Buenos Aires whose writings have appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Republic*, and the *British Spectator*. Reader of the audio version, Graham Halstead, is a Brooklyn-based actor and voice artist whose work in the theater includes performances in New York, in Washington DC, and internationally in Edinburgh and London. [The Louvre](#) is the little-known story of the Louvre, from its inception as a humble fortress to its transformation into the palatial residence of the kings of France and then into the world's greatest art museum.

According to Gardner in [The Louvre](#), more than 7,000 years ago, men and women camped on a spot called *le Louvre* for reasons unknown; a clay quarry and a vineyard supported a society there in the first centuries AD. A thousand years later, King Philippe Auguste of France constructed a fortress there in 1191, just outside the walls of a city far smaller than the Paris we know today.

Intended to protect the capital against English soldiers stationed in Normandy, the fortress became a royal residence under Charles V two centuries later, and then the monarchy's principal residence under the great Renaissance king François I in 1546. It remained so until 1682, when Louis XIV moved his entire court to Versailles.

Thereafter the fortunes of the Louvre languished until the tumultuous days of the French Revolution when, during the Reign of Terror in 1793, it first opened its doors to display the nation's treasures. Ever since – through the Napoleonic era, the Commune, two World Wars, to the present – the Louvre has been a witness to French history, and expanded to become home to a legendary collection, including such masterpieces as the *Mona Lisa* and *Venus de Milo* whose often-complicated and mysterious origins form a spectacular narrative that rivals the building's grand stature.

[The Louvre](#) is a fascinating, complicated, and little-known story, elegantly written. <>

[Biographies & Memoirs / Gun Control](#)

[At Close Range: A Memoir of Tragedy and Advocacy by Leesa Ross \(Texas Tech University Press\)](#)

I respect everybody's right to own a gun in America. I'm a member of the NRA. I don't understand why our schools and our churches and our communities don't require us to teach and learn gun safety. It's as if handguns are being sold everywhere without safeties. There's nothing that can be built into a gun to make it safer. There's only us. – from the book

What happens after the unthinkable tragedy from one shot fired? How are pieces of hope and safety picked up and reassembled, even when some parts are broken forever?

Leesa Ross did not expect to write a book. Neither did she expect the tragedy that her family endured, a horrific and sudden death that led her to write [At Close Range](#). Her

memoir is the story of what happened after her son Jon died in a freak gun accident at a party. Ross unsparingly shares the complexities of grief as it ripples through the generations of her family, then chronicles how the loss of Jon has sparked a new life for her as a prominent advocate for gun safety.

Ross is a debut author who has transformed a tragedy into a mission. After losing a son, she formed Lock Arms for Life, an educational organization teaching gun safety.

Before the accident, Ross says she never had a motivation to consider the role that guns played in her life. Now, she revisits ways in which guns became a part of everyday life for her three sons and their friends. Ross's attitude towards guns is thorny. She has

collectors and hunters in her family. To balance her advocacy, she joined both Moms Demand Action and the NRA.

Through [At Close Range](#), the national conversation about gun control plays out in her family's catalyzing moment and its aftermath. [At Close Range](#) ultimately shows one mother's effort to find a universally reasonable position and focal point: gun safety and responsible ownership.

In the pages of this book, the national conversation about gun ownership plays out in one family's catalyzing moment and its aftermath. However, [At Close Range](#) ultimately shows one mother's effort to create meaning from tragedy. <>

[Biographies & Memoirs / Occult](#)

[Julius Evola: The Philosopher and Magician in War: 1943-1945](#) by Gianfranco de Turrís (Inner Traditions)

[Julius Evola](#) is a memoir of a famous figure in Italian occultism that:

- Traces Evola's activities in Italy, Germany, and Austria during World War II.
- Clarifies Evola's relations with Nazism and Fascism and reveals how he passionately rejected both ideologies because they were totalitarian.
- Draws on personal conversations with those who knew Evola, new documentation never before made public, and letters from the Hakl and Scaligero archives.

Baron Giulio Cesare Andrea Evola, known to the English-speaking world as Julius Evola (1898-1974), was an Italian philosopher, magician, painter, occultist, Orientalist, linguist, and champion mountain climber. Often considered a pillar of Neo-Fascist thought, Evola opposed Fascism and called himself a 'radical traditionalist.'

In [Julius Evola](#), an exploration of Evola's inner and outer life from World War II into the early 1950s, Gianfranco de Turrís, who knew Evola when he was alive and is the executor of his estate, offers a new portrait of Julius Evola and debunks many of the pseudo-myths about his activities during the war.

De Turrís is one of the foremost scholars on Baron Julius Evola. A journalist for both radio and television, he is the author of more than 20 books in Italian, both fiction and nonfiction, as well as many artistic and political essays. He has been awarded the Italian Prize for Science Fiction eleven times.

Drawing on personal conversations with those who knew him and new documentation never before made public, including letters from the Hakl and Scaligero archives, de

Turris in [Julius Evola](#) traces Evola's activities – including his time on the run and living under assumed names – in Italy, Germany, and Austria from 1943 into the mid-1950s. He shares a thorough account of the Baron's sojourn at Hitler's headquarters in Rastenburg, his work for the German secret military services, and his passionate rejection of the racial theories that were the core of Nazi ideology. De Turris outlines Evola's critiques of Fascism and Nazism and also explores Evola's disapproval of the Italian Social Republic because it was destroying traditional values in favor of modernity.

Detailing the Baron's occult and magical work during the war, de Turris in [Julius Evola](#) shows that the only thing Evola took with him when he escaped Italy was the UR Group papers, material that would later become the three-volume work *Introduction to Magic*. Sharing details from Evola's long hospital stays during and after the war, he proves that the injury that led to Evola's paralysis was caused by an Allied bombing raid in Vienna and not, as rumor has it, by a sex magic act gone horribly wrong. De Turris shares photographs from the time period and the Baron's correspondence with René Guenon on the possibility of restoring the spiritual and magical power of an authentic Freemasonry.

[Julius Evola](#) is an intimate and through portrait of Evola and his wartime activities that rebuts many of the Fascist pseudo-myths about him. Offering conclusive evidence that Evola was not part of the Nazi regime, de Turris sheds light on the inner workings of this legendary occult figure and what Evola believed was the best approach for the magus to take in the modern world. <>

[Children's Books / Grade Level: K-2 / Ages 5-7](#)

[Sing Some More! by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Howard Gray \(Sleeping Bear Press\)](#)

We perform our songs for others

And we hope they'll sing along.

We have tunes for all occasions,

And our harmonies are strong.

– from the book

From just before dawn four spirited and confident birds in [Sing Some More!](#) are warming up their vocal chords preparing for a full day of singing. They combine their vocal talents in a daylong concert for their neighborhood – whether their neighbors (humankind and animal) are ready for it or not. Confident in their musical abilities and united in their efforts, these feathered choristers are dissuaded by nothing.

These birds sing ballads, they sing anthems.

They perform solos and a capella and arpeggios.

They sing and sing and SING.

And then they sing some more!

But by day's end, even this quartet needs to take a rest.

As the day comes to an end and they decide... they're actually pretty exhausted. But come morning, they have big plans to SING SOME MORE!!!

Author Deborah Diesen has worked as a bookseller, a bookkeeper and a reference librarian. She is the author of *Catch a Kiss*, *Pippa and Percival*, *Pancake and Poppy*, as well as the *Pout Pout Fish* books. Illustrator Howard Gray illustrates both fiction and nonfiction children's books. He lives in the picturesque city of Durham, UK.

Written in rhyme, [Sing Some More!](#) is an exuberant musical celebration, perfect for anyone who has awakened to the sound of birdsong, welcome or otherwise. Bright, colorful and humorous illustrations add a parallel storyline about a family trying to enjoy their day.

[Sing Some More!](#) introduces musical vocabulary to children in a fun way including words like *vocalize*, *arpeggios*, *harmonies*, *a cappella*, *ballads*, and *anthems* with back matter provides definitions of these musical terms.

In addition to the musical fun, [Sing Some More!](#) is perfect for bedtime reading. <>

[Children's Books / Grade Level: K-3 / Ages 5-8](#)

[Tails from the Animal Shelter by Stephanie Shaw, illustrated by Liza Woodruff \(Sleeping Bear Press\)](#)

Who will be your favorite animal?

A puppy named Tinkle or a cat named Hack?

Or will it be Hamlet?

More than six million pets arrive annually at community animal shelters in the United States. Of that number over three million are dogs. But of course it's not just dogs and puppies that need homes. Shelters take in cats, kittens, birds, reptiles, and even domestic farm animals.

And there are many reasons why these animals need to go to shelters. Some of the animals are strays and some are lost; some are rescued from natural disasters or from mistreatment. Some have been given up because their owners could no longer care for them. [Tails from the Animal Shelter](#) tells their stories.

Author Stephanie Shaw's children's books include *A Cookie for Santa*, *Piece by Piece*, and *Schnitzel: A Cautionary Tale for Lazy Louts*. She lives in McMinnville, Oregon. Illustrator Liza Woodruff has illustrated many books, including *Emerson Barks*.

Using adorable, poetic back stories and informative text, [Tails from the Animal Shelter](#) shines a spotlight on the good work of community animal shelters. Ten different fictional animals, including a handicapped dog, a magician's former rabbit, and a pot-bellied pig, represent the millions of pets brought to shelters every day.

Animal shelters – whether they're known as Humane Societies, rescue services, or by other names – these organizations and their caring staff remind readers how a loving home can change the life of a vulnerable animal. And how a loving animal can change the life of a human.

The back matter in [Tails from the Animal Shelter](#) includes tips and resources for families interested in adopting a pet. <>

[Education & Learning / PreK-College / Trauma](#)

[Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door: Strategies and Solutions for Educators, PreK–College](#) by Karen Gross (Teachers College Press)

[Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door](#) explores how educational institutions have failed to recognize and effectively address the symptoms of trauma in students of all ages. Given the prevalence of traumatic events in the world, including the COVID-19 pandemic, author Karen Gross argues that it is time for educational institutions and those who work within them to change their approaches and responses to traumatic symptoms that manifest in students in schools and colleges. These changes can alter how and what educators teach, how they train teachers, how they structure their calendars and create their schedules, how they address student behavior and disciplinary issues, and how they design their physical space.

Gross is an author and educator as well as an advisor and consultant to nonprofit schools, organizations, and governments; instructor of continuing education at Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work; visiting professor at Bennington College; former president of Southern Vermont College and former senior policy advisor to the United States Department of Education.

Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door:

- ◆ Focuses on trauma within the early childhood-adult educational pipeline.
- ◆ Explains how trauma is often cumulative, with recent traumatic events often triggering a revival of traumatic symptomology from decades ago.
- ◆ Provides clarifications of currently used terms and scoring systems and offers new and alternative approaches to identifying and ameliorating trauma.
- ◆ Includes visual images to augment the descriptions in the text.

Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door is structured in three parts. Part I defines and then addresses trauma and its symptomology in the educational system. It offers a diagrammatic way of understanding trauma's many parts and nuances. It recognizes the difficulty of nomenclature, including the word trauma. Part II is solution focused, centered on how schools and colleges can develop trauma skills to enable more of their students to succeed academically and psychosocially. It identifies and explores concrete strategies and how to implement them in institutions, even those settings initially reluctant to change or respond to the call for addressing trauma. Part III suggests that the prevalence of trauma experienced in the United States opens the door to naming a generation – Generation T or Gen T (with the T standing for trauma) – and examines what supports this movement and why it matters as well as its more controversial features. The name draws attention to the issues that have been hidden and gives readers and educators a shared language to describe what is occurring in and outside classrooms and educational institutions.

Gross in Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door uses real-life examples and solutions from her own professional experiences in classrooms, community-based and nonprofit organizations, and disaster sites across the United States. Other examples are from Gross's own personal trauma experiences, which inform who she is and what she does.

Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door links to and engages with *Breakaway Learners*, her earlier book on student success. The two books share a goal and an approach: enabling student success because of an understanding of who they are, why they behave as they do, where educators can foster improvement, and what they can accomplish in building on their strengths while handling their negatives differently. *Breakaway Learners* focuses on the attributes that breakaway students and the institutions that serve them possess – laticity – and how to foster and ensure the presence of these attributes. By contrast, Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door focuses on students and institutions that are not latic. It offers approaches to help these students break away and later become latic. And the two books share an answer to the when question, and it is that educators need to make changes now.

This book is both scholarly and practical, enabling us better to understand the research, evidence, and effects of trauma and the positive steps we can take to address its

many impacts. [Gross] offers us extraordinary insights and solutions to build and sustain safe, thriving environments that can reduce both the frequency of traumatic incidents and traumatic stress on individuals and communities. The book is a treasure trove of ideas and strategies that teachers, parents, students, and leaders of any organization can leverage to make positive transformational changes across the nation. – Martha J. Kanter, Executive Director, College Promise Campaign; U.S. under secretary of education (2009–2013)

This book is highly recommended to all educators and administrators who are interested in understanding the association of trauma and the autonomic nervous system as well as exploring strategies on policy, program, and practice in trauma-responsive education. It is a book for the 'Generation T' in the context of our time. The book offers strategies for quieting the hyper-aroused stress response system. – Ed K.S. Wang, M.S., Psy.D., Massachusetts General Hospital

With [Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door](#), Dr. Gross helps educators and student advocates become trauma-aware and charts a course for teachers and schools to become trauma-responsive. – G. Gill Hunter, professor, Eastern Kentucky University

Karen Gross gives her readers perspectives and resources that should be added to every teacher's toolbox in order to move beyond the delivery of content and become more cognizant of obstacles that can affect learners under their charge. A must-read for anyone that practices the art of teaching. – Ivan Figueroa, educational consultant

Applying the principles from [Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door](#) to my work as a teacher in a trauma-sensitive elementary school has transformed the way I think, plan, and teach my learners. Karen Gross gives all educators the necessary tools to facilitate student success. – Allyson Hoffman, library media specialist, Molly Stark Elementary School, Bennington, VT

Drawing on real-life examples and scenarios that will be familiar to educators, [Trauma Doesn't Stop at the School Door](#) provides concrete suggestions to assist institutions in becoming trauma-responsive environments, including replicable macro- and microchanges. <>

[History / CIA / Biographies & Memoirs](#)

[Risk Taker, Spy Maker: Tales of a CIA Case Officer by Barry Michael Broman \(Casemate Publishers\)](#)

Joining the CIA after fighting in Vietnam as a Marine, Barry Broman's first posting was war-torn Cambodia. As he describes in [Risk Taker, Spy Maker](#), he was present at the fall of Phnom Penh in 1975, escaping just before the Khmer Rouge took power.

Broman was a teenage photographer for the Associated Press in Southeast Asia, then a Marine Corps infantry officer in combat in Vietnam before spending a quarter century as a 'head-hunter' with dozens of recruits for the Clandestine Service in operations around the world. A lifelong photographer and traveler, he has published many articles and books.

During his career, Broman was twice chief of station, once a deputy chief of station, and supervised an international paramilitary project in support of the Cambodian resistance to Vietnamese invaders. He was actively involved in several assignments in counternarcotics operations in Southeast Asia including a major 'bust' that yielded 551 kilograms of high-grade heroin from a major drug trafficker. His 'favorite agent' against a variety of 'hard targets' was a fellow whose only demand was that his assignments be 'life threatening.' He survived them all.

As amazing as the characters Broman has met are the places he has been, with visits to little-known and rarely seen places like the Naga Hills on the India-Burma border, the world-famous but off-limits jade and ruby mines of Burma, and the isolated Banda Islands of Indonesia, the home of nutmeg. Many of his true tales are accompanied by photographs in [Risk Taker](#), [Spy Maker](#); they include Marines in action in Vietnam, the ravages of war in Cambodia, and opium buyers forcing growers to sell in Burma.

... refreshingly gives the reader the all too rare, studied insight and subtle nuances of the myriad events and historical occurrences in which Broman was either a key player or on-site witness. – Col John C. McKay, USMC (Ret)

... offers stories of serious encounters accompanied by memorable ring of history. [The author's] recollections introduce the reader to a cast of bigger than life characters: movie stars, royalty, presidents, international drug traffickers and correspondents, sufficient in number to satisfy the most ardent adventure seeker. – Hal Buell, former VP of the Associated Press

Broman proves that he is not just an accomplished photographer, but a thoroughly engaging writer. Over the course of his colorful career, he has managed to rub shoulders with some of the most interesting people that have passed through his posts – all of them unsuspecting as to the true nature of his employment. He has also engaged in The Great Game under some of the most trying circumstances in Southeast Asia, making for a fascinating read from start to finish. – Ken Conboy, author of The Cambodian Wars: Clashing Armies and CIA Covert Operations

As a veteran of a quarter of a century of traveling the world for the CIA in hot wars and during the height of the Cold War, Broman's true tales of putting his life on the line recruiting and running spies in a dozen countries are the stuff of action movies and popular espionage fiction ... Broman's detailed account of his months as a platoon commander in the 5th Marines in Vietnam is gripping to read, a worthy addition to the already extensive history of the war written by the American soldiers who fought it. – Peter Arnett, Pulitzer Prize Winner

Broman's remarkable life story will have broad appeal for readers who relish circumspect spy chronicles and vivid tales of passionate exploration and interaction. – Booklist

Broman's engaging tone in [Risk Taker, Spy Maker](#) is perfectly complemented by photographs taken throughout his career, many of them his own, shot using the skills he learned as a teenager when working for the Associated Press in Southeast Asia. A fascinating read. <>

[History / Military / World War II / Equipment](#)

[Sherman: The M4 Tank in World War II by Michel Estève](#) [\(Casemate Illustrated Special: Casemate Publishers\)](#)

As told in [Sherman](#), the Medium Tank, M4, better known to the British as the Sherman, was the most widely used medium tank by the United States and western Allies in World War II. Reliable, relatively cheap to produce, and easy to maintain, thousands were distributed to the British Commonwealth and the Soviet Union by the Lend-Lease program. The tank first saw combat in North Africa, where it outclassed lighter German and Italian tanks. By 1944 the M4 was outgunned by the German heavy tanks, but it still contributed to the fight when deployed in numbers and supported by artillery and fighter-bombers.

A detailed insight into the development and deployment of the M4, [Sherman](#) covers the design and construction of the chassis, turret, engine, armaments and munitions and differences between the variants of the M4. It covers the difficulties facing the crews who fought in this legendary tank, exploring the training they received and the different combat methods perfected by the Allies, including landing from a landing craft, maneuvering in the bocage of Normandy, and fighting in the snow.

Author Michel Estève served 21 years in the Armored Cavalry Arm, and often used, adapted, and repaired many variants of the M4 in the service of the French Army.

Fully illustrated with hundreds of contemporary and modern photographs and detailed diagrams, [Sherman](#) is a complete account providing all the technical details of the construction of the M4, its maintenance and repair, and the logistics required to support it in combat.

Contents include:

- ◆ A Tank Called Sherman
- ◆ Production of the M4
- ◆ The Chassis
- ◆ The Turret
- ◆ Armament and Munitions
- ◆ Equipment

- ◆ Variants of the M4
- ◆ The Sherman Family
- ◆ Logistics and Distribution
- ◆ Numbers and Markings
- ◆ Composition of units
- ◆ Shermans under Other Flags

Whether readers are collectors, modelers or simply passionate about military history, [Sherman](#) provides an unparalleled insight into the M4.

Like all the books in the series, *Casemate Illustrated Specials*, [Sherman](#) offers detail on the weapons, equipment, and machinery of war. Focused text is accompanied by hundreds of photographs, illustrations, and diagrams, providing a wealth of visual information for historians, modelers, and researchers. <>

[History / Military / Vietnam](#)

[A Shau Valor: American Combat Operations in the Valley of Death, 1963–1971 by Thomas R Yarborough \(Casemate\)](#)

Throughout the Vietnam War, one focal point persisted where the Viet Cong guerrillas and ARVN were not a major factor, but where the trained professionals of the North Vietnamese and U.S. armies repeatedly fought head-to-head. [A Shau Valor](#) is a thoroughly documented study of nine years of American combat operations encompassing the crucial frontier valley and a 15-mile radius around it – the most deadly killing ground of the entire Vietnam War.

Author Colonel Thomas R. Yarborough, a former professor and department chair at Indiana University, served as an Air Force pilot for 28 years and flew two combat tours in Vietnam as a forward air controller. His combat decorations include the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

Yarborough in [A Shau Valor](#) says that beginning in 1963 Special Forces A-teams established camps along the valley floor, followed by a number of top-secret Project Delta reconnaissance missions through 1967. Then U.S. Army and Marine Corps maneuver battalions engaged in a series of sometimes controversial thrusts into the A Shau designed to disrupt NVA infiltrations and to kill enemy soldiers, part of what came to be known as Westmoreland's 'war of attrition.'

The various campaigns included Operation Pirous in 1967, 1968's Operations Delaware and Somerset Plain, 1969's Operations Dewey Canyon, Massachusetts Striker, and Apache Snow – which included the infamous battle for Hamburger Hill – culminating with Operation Texas Star and the vicious fight for and humiliating evacuation of Fire Support Base Ripcord in the summer of 1970, the last major U.S. battle of the war.

By 1971 the fighting had once again shifted to the realm of small Special Forces reconnaissance teams assigned to the ultra-secret Studies and Observations Group – SOG.

Colonel Thomas Yarborough spent his time in the air over the A Shau Valley, but he has detailed knowledge of what took place on the ground. He insightfully covers the infantryman's hardships, difficulties, and physical price paid. Thanks to his extensive research, study, and personal knowledge, Tom describes the nine-year war in the A Shau in riveting detail. This book is a 'must read' for all interested in why we did not close and win that war. – Wesley L. Fox, Colonel USMC (Ret), Medal of Honor recipient and author of Marine Rifleman: Forty-Three Years in the Corps.

Tom Yarborough provides a gripping, fast paced, page-turning account of America's finest warriors who fought in and above the most strategically important terrain in Vietnam. A masterful blend of history, national strategy, and warrior ethos which simultaneously highlights leadership attributes at every level. A must read for all warriors, scholars, and students of leadership. Additionally, it is a great tribute to the warriors who fought, and those who died, in the A Shau Valley. – General H. Hugh Shelton, U.S. Army (Ret), A Shau veteran, 14th Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and author of Without Hesitation: The Odyssey of an American Warrior

There is such a great deal we still don't know about some of the theaters of the Vietnam War – Yarborough writes as though he were there when it happened, such is the vividness with which he recounts some of the events... – Books Monthly

Covers eight years of military action in chronological, episodic fashion in this detailed military history. The A Shau Valley, located about 25 miles south of the Vietnamese city of Hue and near the border with Laos, was a main entry route into South Vietnam for North Vietnamese forces on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Widely known as the 'Valley of Death,' this area was the site of many vicious engagements between the North Vietnamese Army and the U.S. Military.... Yarborough's volume is the first that looks solely at fighting in the A Shau during virtually the entire conflict. – Publisher's Weekly

... arguably the first full length account of American combat in the valley, stands as a sterling testament to the extraordinary courage – no less than 15 Medals of Honor were awarded for actions in and around the valley – displayed by the men who fought and died there. – Vietnam Magazine

Applying the lessons of the A Shau to today's conflicts one can also ask if its mistakes are being repeated today. – The Drop: The Journal of the Special Forces Association Winter 2016

The North Vietnamese Army and the US Army clashed frequently in this strategic valley near the Ho Chi Min trail. The author covers the nine years of fighting that occurred there. – Military Heritage

This is a truly remarkable, well-written, thought-provoking book... will appeal to a wide audience interested in gaining a better understanding of the Vietnam War. – On Point:

The Journal of Army History

Yarborough's work is replete with repeated references to the valor of those who served in this hotly-contested section of Vietnam... Highly recommended for those interested in this important part of the War in Vietnam. – Military Writer's Society of America

Other works have focused on individual battles or units, but the remarkable [A Shau Valor](#), thoroughly documented and thought provoking, is the first to study the nine-year campaign – for all its courage and sacrifice – chronologically and within the context of other historical, political and cultural events.

The book is the winner of the Military Writers Society of America's 2017 Gold Medal for History and Finalist, 2016 Army Historical Society Distinguished Writing Award. <>

[Law / Self-Help / Guides](#)

[Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise, 10th edition](#) by [Emily Duskow Attorney, & Lina Guillen, Attorney \(Nolo\)](#)

Readers don't have to let a neighborly nuisance turn into a nasty lawsuit. They can learn their rights and responsibilities with [Neighbor Law](#), 10th edition, the plain-English guide to the laws behind common neighbor disputes.

Authors are Emily Duskow and Lina Guillen. Duskow is a practicing attorney and mediator who has worked with families in the Bay Area for more than 15 years. Guillen, Nolo's Family Law Legal Editor, is a trial attorney with over 15 years of experience in a wide range of legal matters, including family law and civil litigation.

[Neighbor Law](#) is more than a legal guide – it is a practical book filled with tips on how to solve problems and restore good neighbor relations. Readers find out how to handle:

- Noisy neighbors.
- Trees that hang over a property line.
- Blocked views.
- Unclear boundary lines.
- High, unsightly, or deteriorating fences.
- Dangers to children ('attractive nuisances').
- Problems with neighboring businesses.
- Drones trespassing onto their property.

- Other common issues, like secondhand smoke, blighted property, and animal issues.

[Neighbor Law](#), 10th edition includes updated laws and information on going to court, boundary fences, and private nuisances.

This NOLO law guide for general readers uses plain language and examples to explain the law on neighborhood relations and provides sample forms. There is much information on problems related to trees: injured or destroyed trees, invading branches and roots of trees, unsound limbs, boundary trees, and ownership of fruits and nuts from trees. There are two chapters on fences and two chapters on boundary lines, trespass, and easements. Other topics are noise, dangers to children and attractive nuisances, rural neighbors and the right to farm, water damage, water rights, home-based businesses, and other neighborhood businesses. One chapter briefly deals with other issues such as blighted property, drug dealers, registered sex offenders, drones, animals, and outdoor lights. The final chapters give advice on researching local laws, state statutes, and case law, and outline the processes of mediation and small claims court. Appendices present 20 pages of state statutes. – Eithne O'Leyne, Editor Ringgold, Inc. ProtoView

A Nolo book that gives practical, no-nonsense approaches to handling neighbor disputes. – Los Angeles Times

This classic book, which keeps getting better with each new edition, answers virtually all questions.... – Orlando Sentinel

An extremely well-researched, well-written and well-organized book.... – The Detroit News

It's said that 'good fences make good neighbors'. Now in a newly updated and expanded ninth edition, [Neighbor Law: Fences, Trees, Boundaries & Noise](#) by attorneys Emily Duskow and Lina Guillen will help the non-specialist general reader to avoid neighborly nuisances from turning into a hostile and expensive lawsuits. More than just an ordinary legal guide, [Neighbor Law](#) is a practical, jargon free instructional guide filled from cover to cover with practical tips on how to solve problems and restore good neighbor relations. – James A. Cox, The Midwest Book Review

Readers of [Neighbor Law](#), a practical book, learn to resolve neighbor conflicts and get peace of mind. <>

Literature & Fiction / Novels

Brontë's Mistress: A Novel by Finola Austin (Atria Books)

Brontë's Mistress is a debut novel exploring the scandalous historical love affair between Branwell Brontë and Lydia Robinson, giving voice to the woman who allegedly corrupted her son's innocent tutor and brought down the entire Brontë family. Author Finola Austin, also known as the Secret Victorianist on her award-winning blog, is an England-born, Northern Ireland-raised, Brooklyn-based historical novelist and lover of the 19th century. By day, she works in digital advertising.

Brontë's Mistress takes place in Yorkshire in 1843: Lydia Robinson – mistress of Thorp Green Hall – has lost her precious young daughter and her mother within the same year. She returns to her bleak home, grief-stricken and unmoored. With her teenage daughters rebelling, her testy mother-in-law scrutinizing her every move, and her marriage grown cold, Lydia is restless and yearning for something more. All of that changes with the arrival of her son's tutor, Branwell Brontë, brother of her daughters' governess, Miss Anne Brontë and those other writerly sisters, Charlotte and Emily. Branwell has his own demons to contend with – including living up to the ideals of his family – but his presence is a breath of fresh air for Lydia. Handsome, passionate, and uninhibited by social conventions, he's also twenty-five to her forty-three. A love of poetry, music, and theatre bring mistress and tutor together, and Branwell's colorful tales of his sisters' elaborate play-acting and made-up worlds form the backdrop for seduction.

But in **Brontë's Mistress** Lydia's new taste of passion comes with consequences. As Branwell's inner turmoil rises to the surface, his behavior grows erratic and dangerous, and whispers of their passionate relationship spout from her servants' lips, reaching all three protective Brontë sisters. Soon, it falls on Lydia to save not just her reputation, but her way of life, before those clever girls reveal all her secrets in their novels. Unfortunately, she might be too late.

A beautifully written, highly seductive debut....The chemistry between Branwell and Lydia positively crackles on the page.... Masterful storytelling which is sure to delight fans of the Brontës and of historical fiction. – Hazel Gaynor, New York Times bestselling author of The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter

Brontë's Mistress gives us a fascinating new perspective on one of literature's most famous families. Smart and sexy, this captivating novel is true to the romantic spirit of the Brontës themselves, with a modern feminist twist. A delicious treat for Brontë fans! – Elizabeth Blackwell, author of *Red Mistress* and *On a Cold Dark Sea*
Austin's great strength is that she is able to write so that both Lydia's own strengths and weaknesses seamlessly coexist, creating a thoroughly, beautifully, complicatedly human character. **Brontë's Mistress** gives voice to a woman who, until now, has been

voiceless; and, indeed, to thousands of women whose lives, like Lydia's, were so terribly suffocating. – Molly Greeley, author of *The Clergyman's Wife*

A richly atmospheric, compelling portrait of a woman torn between expectation and the wish for more. [Brontë's Mistress](#) stayed with me long after I put it down. – Megan Chance, author of *A Drop of Ink*

Finola Austin's debut novel is a stunner. Anyone who has ever thrilled to a Brontë novel needs to read this glorious historical novel about the Brontë sisters and their brother, Branwell, and his affair with the outrageous, scandalous woman who broke all conventions. Atmospheric and beautifully imagined, this is a must-read for lovers of great historical fiction. – Jeanne Mackin, author of *The Last Collection: A Novel of Elsa Schiaparelli and Coco Chanel*

Confident, convincing and engrossing, and with a sure historical touch, it illuminates another dark corner in the Brontës' story. – Gill Hornby, author of *Miss Austen*

Finola Austin's riveting debut novel presents a deftly rendered, complex heroine swept up in the allure of forbidden passion—and the heartrending consequences when the romantic illusion shatters. Beautifully detailed and richly atmospheric, [Brontë's Mistress](#) portrays one of literature's most famous families from an intriguing new perspective. – Jennifer Chiaverini, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Resistance Women*

Wonderfully engaging and clever, [Brontë's Mistress](#) captures the tragic claustrophobia of women's limited lives in nineteenth century England. – Andrea Chapin, author of *The Tutor*

Rich in heart and detail, Finola Austin's novel [Brontë's Mistress](#) is a beautifully created tour-de-force.... Using a plethora of research sources, Austin has written a beautifully-created novel whose every character (save for a horse!) is based on the actual historical persons involved in the events. – Sarah Shoemaker, author of *Mr. Rochester*

[Brontë's Mistress](#) is a captivating reimagining of the scandalous affair that has divided Brontë enthusiasts for generations and an illuminating portrait of a courageous, sharp-witted woman who fights to emerge with her dignity intact.

It is a triumph of historical fiction with a refreshingly feminist bent, meticulously researched. With rich historical detail and incredible insight into gender and class dynamics of the time, this novelization offers a riveting, persuasive and profoundly humanizing portrait of the woman accused of bringing ruin to one of literature's most famous families.

[The Well-Gardened Mind: The Restorative Power of Nature](#)

[by Sue Stuart-Smith \(Scribner\)](#)

In [The Well-Gardened Mind](#) a distinguished psychiatrist and avid gardener offers an inspiring and consoling work about the healing effects of gardening and its ability to decrease stress and foster mental well-being in our everyday lives. In a blend of psychology, neuroscience, and stories from around the world, psychotherapist Sue Stuart-Smith breaks ground to explore the power of interacting with nature and how the garden can provide a vital place for cultivating the mind.

Stuart-Smith, a prominent psychiatrist and psychotherapist, took her degree in English literature at Cambridge before qualifying as a doctor. She worked in the National Health Service for many years, becoming the lead clinician for psychotherapy in Hertfordshire. She currently teaches at The Tavistock Clinic in London and is consultant to the DocHealth service.

Gardening is one of the quintessential nurturing activities and yet we understand so little about it; [The Well-Gardened Mind](#) provides a new perspective on the power of gardening to change people's lives. Stuart-Smith investigates the many ways in which mind and garden can interact and explores how the process of tending a plot can be a way of sustaining an innermost self.

Stuart-Smith's own love of gardening developed as she studied to become a psychoanalytic psychotherapist. From her grandfather's return from World War I to Freud's obsession with flowers to case histories with her own patients to progressive gardening programs, Stuart-Smith weaves thoughtful yet powerful examples to argue that gardening is much more important to our cognition than we think.

Using contemporary neuroscience, psychoanalysis, and compelling real-life stories, [The Well-Gardened Mind](#) investigates the remarkable effects of nature on our health and well-being. From the science of the brain's own 'gardener cells' to the grounding effects of working with nature's rhythms of growth, decay, and regeneration, Stuart-Smith provides a new perspective on the power of gardening. Prisoners given the chance to grow plants are less likely to re-offend. At-risk young people who get their hands in the soil are more likely to stay in school. Elderly people who garden tend to live longer and have a better quality of life. Using case studies of people struggling with stress, depression, trauma, and addiction, Stuart-Smith in [The Well-Gardened Mind](#) explores the many ways in which gardening can help transform people's lives. Presenting recent research into why people feel more fully alive and energized in the natural world, why gardeners report feeling calmer and more vigorous, and why spending time outside awakens the connection-seeking aspects of our human nature,

she argues that our increasingly urbanized and technology-dependent lifestyles make it more important than ever to rediscover a closer relationship with the earth.

A psychiatrist and gardening devotee explores the mental health benefits that come with tending a plot. Something we can all use right now. – People

[Stuart-Smith] delivers a thoroughly researched text based on her deep and wide reading about the history of gardening, her visits to many of the therapeutic garden sites she mentions, and her interviews with many people, professionals and patients alike... Full of surprise and wonder. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Wise, insightful, and eloquent, Stuart-Smith's soulful and sensitive treatise on horticulture's healing properties is a well-positioned book for the current age of anxiety, offering a personally relevant perspective on how to cope in troubled times. – Booklist

[Stuart-Smith] offers science-backed insight into the healing effects of nature... a joyful, peace-giving read. – Woman's World magazine

*This is a book so wise and comfortable that it merits a place alongside Christopher Lloyd's *The Well-Tempered Garden* by the side of every bed... [Stuart-Smith's] deep understanding of the human psyche makes this a perfect source text as well as an engrossing read. – Illustrated Garden magazine*

The most original gardening book ever.... Combines observation, horticulture, literature and history... it is a book that builds, chapter by chapter.... as a reference and an inspiration... there is much here to feed the soul. – Sunday Times (UK)

*In this gentle and wise book, Sue Stuart-Smith explores the vigorous relationship between the land and mental health, demonstrating the many occasions and ways that gardening can strengthen our inner vitality. In examining working of the land as a psychodynamic process, she exposes deep truths about the interconnectedness of the mind, the body, and what lies outside ourselves, and she does so with a winning mix of verve and generosity. – Andrew Solomon, author of *The Noonday Demon* and *Far from the Tree**

The wisest book I've read in many years. You don't have to be a gardener or own a garden to take immense solace and pleasure from this remarkable book. Dr. Stuart-Smith doesn't presume to make absurd and extravagant claims, but everything she says about the mind (and I've learned so much in the way of the history of psychiatry and psychology, as well as practical tips for both mind and garden) has the ring of authenticity and truth. Hugely recommended. – Stephen Fry

[The Well-Gardened Mind](#) is a book for gardeners and the perfect read for people seeking healthier mental lives. In this glorious book of science, insight, and anecdote, Stuart-Smith shows that our understanding of nature and its restorative powers is just beginning to flower. <>

The Good Is Love: The Body and Human Acts in *Humanae Vitae* and John Paul II by Adrian Reimers, Msgr., with a foreword by Michael Heintz (St. Augustine's Press)

John Paul II in his personalist approach to moral questions reaffirmed that as sin offends that which is good, if we truly know what human love is – and that it is good – we would thereby see how certain acts can never be acceptable insofar as they wound this love. Yet in moral debates surrounding love, sex and contraception Adrian Reimers in [The Good Is Love](#) observes that we are not using this approach and these debates are not advancing the cause of real love.

Reimers is the author of numerous works on the personalist and theological thought of John Paul II. He taught in the departments of theology and philosophy at the University of Notre Dame for eighteen years.

In [The Good Is Love](#) Reimers draws upon the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* and John Paul II's catechesis known as the theology of the body to respond to the stalled development of moral theology on the issues most crucial to human love and intimacy. "It is time, we are told, for a 'paradigm shift' in the Catholic Church's moral teaching, such shift representing a more pastoral and less dogmatic approach to moral issues," writes Reimers. His claim that "a paradigm shift in moral theology and philosophy may be valuable – perhaps vital – to scholars who think and write about these sciences and to teachers who communicate moral truth" is not an exhortation to redefine moral truths. Rather, he argues that an approach to contraception, for example, that relies exclusively on natural law is a hackneyed one and often 'tedious.'

John Paul II's series of catechetical addresses known as the theology of the body was originally composed in the 1970s after Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. Albeit derived from the writing of an archbishop and not yet pope, Reimers in [The Good Is Love](#) identifies John Paul II's perspectives on love, sex and contraception as an essential force behind this so-called paradigm shift in continuity with the profound and unchanging truths set forth in *Humanae Vitae*. As Reimers states, "Moral truths do not change, even if our ways to understand them improve."

How, then, is our sense of the goodness or badness of contraception meant to be helped by such a development of thought? Ethics grounded philosophically tends to lean toward legalism in the context of moral actions, says Reimers, as it emphasizes conformity to God's law and largely overlooks "the relationship between moral behavior and the human person's ultimate end of beatitude with God." The important principle of the necessarily two-fold description that natural law gives to sex – namely, as unitive and procreative – must not be the authoritative end of the discussion regarding the moral nature of contraception. In an age where technology has given

human beings new power it seems there must be new rules as well, and the conquest of procreative acts changes the human perception of the limitations once associated with harmful acts. Herein lies the importance of John Paul II's catechesis and *Humanae Vitae* – the goodness or badness of acts is not just concerned with the end of a particular act. As Reimers in [The Good Is Love](#) writes, "If we are to understand the complex relationships among love, marriage, and their sexual expression, we must situate these within the context of the end of the human being."

A position on contraception and human sexuality cannot be comprehensive without a concept of love properly understood. Human acts must bring us closer to sanctity, not to comfort or possession. Holiness is the perfection of love, and its pursuit aims at ultimate beatitude. This end, the truest love a human can know, is the end which ultimately condemns contraception once and for all, as 'contracepted sex is contrary to holiness.' Reimers in [The Good Is Love](#) unpacks this sometimes difficult truth in eight chapters, which begin with love and conclude with faithfulness to moral norms and a spirituality of marriage.

The arguments surrounding contraception and 'good sex' seem to have set the grounds for coherently choosing a side rather than to have succeeded in presenting certain human acts as definitively immoral. As Reimers notes, a natural law position on contraception often fails to employ its greatest ally: the reality of authentic human love and 'victory' of the individual in one's sanctity as achieved through that love.

Readers will benefit greatly from this book, not least because the author invites readers into the mind of Karol Wojtyla/John Paul II. Like an immersion experience, readers will come away not only knowing what Wojtyla thought, but how he thought it; they will be able to think with him, so to speak. This is the crowning work of a scholar who has devoted his life to thinking, in the company of Karol Wojtyla, about the human person and human action, both philosophically and under the aspect of grace. – Msgr. Michael Heintz, PhD, Academic Dean and Associate Professor, Mount St Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland

[The Good Is Love](#) will reorient the objectives and claims of the moral debate, as well as influence the popular notion of what love is and what it cannot be. It is an aid to scholars, students and study groups, humanists, and those who seek to deepen the sense of love's highest physical expression. <>

[Religion & Spirituality](#)

[Abraham in the New Testament by John Eifion Morgan-Wynne \(Pickwick Publications\)](#)

In [Abraham in the New Testament](#), John Morgan-Wynne examines the very different ways in which Paul's epistles, Hebrews, James, Luke-Acts, John's Gospel, and Matthew's

Gospel utilize the critical figure of Abraham, the father of the people of Israel. He explores the question of the extent to which various New Testament authors developed something already present in the tradition and the extent to which they molded their depiction of Abraham to suit their own purposes in novel and creative ways. [Abraham in the New Testament](#) also considers how the diverse New Testament depictions and interpretations of the patriarch affect the preaching of the Abrahamic tradition today.

Morgan-Wynne was New Testament Tutor at Regent's Park College Oxford (1964-87) and Principal of Bristol Baptist College (1987-93).

According to [Abraham in the New Testament](#), Abraham is discussed at some length by the apostle Paul in two of his writings: the Letter to the Galatians and the Letter to the Romans. But the phrase 'the seed of Abraham' occurs outside these two letters in 2 Corinthians, in a passage where Paul refers to a rival apostolate who had arrived at Corinth, and whose members were clearly calling themselves members of the 'seed of Abraham' as part of the commendation of themselves. Very reluctantly Paul 'took them on' on their own approach and, at the beginning of what has come to be known as 'the Fool's Speech' (11:1-12:13), matched their claims, for he too was a Hebrew, an Israelite, a member of the seed of Abraham, a servant of Christ (11:22). The first three items are relative to Jewishness and refer to the position of one who is a member of the elect people of God, who shares in the benefits of all God's mighty acts on behalf of His people and His promises to them, acts and promises which go back to the founding patriarch of the nation.

Morgan-Wynne skillfully shows how the life of Abraham lights up the pages of the New Testament and becomes, as it were, the glue that binds the Testaments together. Scholarly, yet highly readable, the author presents a striking, nuanced exposition of the differing perspectives of New Testament writers and where they find significant meaning from this 'man of faith,' father of Jews and Christians. Written for all serious readers of Scripture, this book makes the case why our biblical forbears matter and in particular, how the patriarch Abraham must be foundational in shaping Christian thought and practice today. – Marvin R. Wilson, Professor Emeritus, Gordon College; author of Our Father Abraham

In this comprehensive, learned study of the New Testament's treatment of Abraham, Morgan-Wynne shows that the kaleidoscopic diversity of the first-century church's readings of the patriarch's life sprang from Genesis itself. Preachers following in the New Testament's footsteps may tread paths of theological insight and spiritual renewal. By its careful attention to both the early and the contemporary church, this volume helps us all join the 'ancestor of the faithful' in the life of faith. – Mark W. Hamilton, Onstead Professor of Biblical Studies, Abilene Christian University

Scholars may find [Abraham in the New Testament](#) useful and those who preach may also find that what is offered impels them to their own reflection on how they handle the word of truth today and the manner in which they show themselves to be a herald of the good news of God. <>

[Religion & Spirituality](#)

[Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity: The Theological Vision and Logic of Paul's Letter to the Galatians](#) by Samuel J. Tedder, with a foreword by John M. G. Barclay (Cascade Books)

Paul's letter to the Galatians is, and always has been, central to the understanding of Paul's theology; precisely because it is so heated: when the temperature (and the stakes) are this high, the essential features of the good news rise to the surface. Tedder's fresh analysis of the vision and logic of Paul's gospel in Galatians is thus extremely welcome,... [[Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity](#) is] a major contribution to our understanding of Galatians. Tedder's treatment of Galatians displays all the virtues of scholarship: he gives the closest attention to the details of the text, expertly weaves his way through the thickets of scholarly disagreement, and forges his own distinctive path. The result is a fine, cutting-edge contribution to scholarship on Paul – but also more than that, a rich resource for the contemporary reading of a letter that continues to provoke and inspire its readers to a unique degree. – John M. G. Barclay in the foreword

Paul's passionate Letter to the Galatians has occasioned various perspectives for explaining Paul's defense of the 'truth of the gospel' in it. [Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity](#) makes an audacious claim that the allegorical passage of

4:21-5:1 is the best vantage point for configuring Paul's theological vision and logic in the letter.

Author Samuel J. Tedder is a teacher at The Finnish School of Theology (Suomen Teologinen Opisto). He is also an ordained pastor, and has served churches in America, Canada, and Finland.

Offering a fresh approach for understanding Paul's allegorical practice, the book demonstrates how both the Abraham narrative and the book of Isaiah function as a formative matrix for Paul's theology. With an in-depth analysis of these scriptural texts, Paul's two identifications for believers in Christ – belonging to the 'Jerusalem above' and being 'children of promise' in the pattern of Isaac – receive new clarity and precision. The investigative journey in [Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity](#) discusses key concepts and texts from Galatians, and addresses questions concerning the shape of Paul's retelling of Israel's story in relation to Jews and Gentiles.

In Pauline scholarship, the time to move beyond the ideologically colored discussion of the old, new, and radical new Paul is long overdue. In his well-grounded book, Samuel Tedder focuses on what Paul actually does in Galatians. In a thought-provoking way, Tedder displays how Paul builds up novel theology based on Abraham's promise and Isaiah's vision on restoration. – Lauri Thurén, University of Eastern Finland

Offering a bold integrative reading of Galatians through the lens of 4:21-5:1, Tedder explores the intertextual contributions of Abraham's family story and Isaiah's vision to Paul's proclamation of the gospel. Careful and provocative in its argument. [Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity](#) advances our understanding of Paul's theological vision and its pastoral implications. – Susan Eastman, Duke Divinity School

In a genuinely insightful and fresh reading of Paul's 'infamous' Hagar and Sarah 'allegory,' Tedder's location of Paul's hermeneutical emphases is very much in the right place. Essential reading for anyone interested in the way Scripture shaped Paul's understanding of what God did in Christ. – Rikk Watts, Regent College, Vancouver

[Children of Laughter and the Re-Creation of Humanity](#) is a well-grounded interpretation of Paul's conception of the gospel that made him new and continues to bring about new creation in the world. <>

[**The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to the End Times Workbook** by Todd Hampson \(Harvest House Publishers\)](#)

In [**The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to the End Times Workbook**](#) readers dig deeper into what the Bible says about the end times and gain insight into God's plan for their future. Todd Hampson's companion workbook to his bestselling *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the End Times* makes the challenging study of Bible prophecy clear, understandable, and fun. Hampson is a best-selling author, speaker, illustrator, and animation producer. His award-winning animation company Timbuktoons, LLC produces cartoons for well-known children's ministry resource providers, global mission organizations, and Christian entertainment companies. His best-selling *Non-Prophet's Guide* book series has opened up the world of Bible prophecy to a new generation.

With more than 100 helpful and humorous graphics and illustrations, readers explore scriptural prophecies and discover answers for their questions about the last days, such as...

- How does fulfilled Bible prophecy affect the view of prophecies not yet fulfilled?
- What can readers learn from those who were watching at Jesus's first coming?
- How can readers discern between conspiracy theories and trustworthy facts that line up with end-time geopolitical signs?

Hampson says readers of [**The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to the End Times Workbook**](#) are a rarity because most people will not take the time to embark upon a dedicated journey into Bible prophecy and eschatology. Many avoid the book of Revelations like the plagues that are detailed in its pages. But readers of this book are different. They want to know more.

According to Hampson, scripture is like a divine roadmap. It is a spiritual GPS, pinpointing where readers are on God's prophetic calendar. As they prayerfully study God's prophetic Word, it also gives them personal insight into their calling. God has sovereignly placed readers at this time in history when all the signs seem to be pointing to the Lord's soon return, and those who know the Savior each have a specific calling at this critical moment.

Hampson says his prayer is that readers would use this workbook in conjunction with *The Non-Prophet's Guide to the End Times* so they can form deep and lasting convictions about end-time events. This study will help them make sense of the world today and discover a little more about their personal calling as they serve God.

The clear timeframe for the first arrival of the Messiah was provided in Daniel 9. This mega-prophecy – along with hundreds of additional prophecies – armed first-century students of Scripture with an understanding of the timing for his arrival.

Yet few understood and fewer really believed the prophecies enough to actively watch. Old Simeon and Anna (Luke 2) were among the few.

As readers begin their journey, Hampson encourages them to follow their example: study carefully what Scripture teaches about the end times. They should believe God's Word, take it at face value, and watch the events, conditions, and signs of the day with an eye to the sky in anticipation of an otherworldly shout, a cosmic trumpet blast, and a supernatural cumulonimbus cloud formation.

According to Hampson in [The Non-Prophet's Guide™ to the End Times Workbook](#), the rapture is even more imminent than it was in generations past. Signs and conditions are aligning today at a level of frequency and intensity that is unprecedented. One day soon the Lord will return. It is up to readers to understand these things so they can be ready, and so they can share the great news of salvation with a sense of urgency. <>

[Points of Contact: Science, Religion, and the Search for Truth](#)
[by Glenn Sauer \(Orbis Books\)](#)

As a scientist and a Catholic, Glenn Sauer brings a unique perspective to several of the deeper issues connected to the sometimes opposing fields of science and religion. Drawing from the four-fold typology of Ian Barbour, the founder of the modern field of science and religion, Sauer in [Points of Contact](#) introduces some of the ideas and common misconceptions regarding the interface of science and religion.

Sauer is an endowed chair of biology and biochemistry and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Fairfield University. He is also a spiritual director in the university's Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality.

In [Points of Contact](#) Sauer incorporates the life and writings of Teilhard de Chardin as a model for integrating scientific knowledge and religious faith in one's life, and delves into the scientific evidence for the Big Bang and the multiverse, the origins of life, evolution, and the history of life leading to the emergence of humankind. Each of these areas is explored in terms of scientific evidence and theory as well as their religious implications.

[Points of Contact](#) is organized into two main parts. In part I (Foundations), chapter 1 serves as a general introduction to science and religion using the pioneering work of Ian Barbour as a starting point. Chapter 2 considers the virtue of humility as it applies to terms like knowledge, faith, and reason. Too often, one side or the other in the science vs. religion wars will seize one of these terms as their exclusive domain on which to plant their battle standards. Chapter 3 explores why people are drawn to science either as a career or as interested members of the larger community. In this chapter the life of the French Jesuit Pierre Teilhard de Chardin serves as an illustration. Sauer also explores why in the modern era, science and religion are viewed by some as oppositional fields. Part II (chapters 4-7) examines some of the big questions in the science-and-religion conversation using the lives and ideas of the key historical figures who have shaped this

dialogue over the past two centuries. These chapters tell two stories. First, they recount the history of the universe and Earth from the Big Bang to modern-day humans as we presently understand it. Second, they lay out the historical development of the scientific fields that have contributed to our cosmic story, along with the ways in which science has intersected with religion and theology over the centuries. The stories are framed by the topics of Big Bang cosmology (chapter 4), the origin of life (chapter 5), Darwin and evolution (chapter 6), and the history of life on Earth to the evolution of humans (chapter 7). Enough depth on these topics is provided to whet the appetite of readers for further exploration. However, Sauer does not provide a comprehensive analysis of the scientific fields or detailed theological arguments; a complete consideration of any of these fields could fill multiple volumes. Finally, interspersed throughout [Points of Contact](#) is guidance on how readers might begin to reflect on these topics at a spiritual level.

*Sauer is a scientist who has gone where others fear to tread. He has taken the time to study carefully the ideas and methods of both scientists and theologians. As a result of his long experience with the topic of science and faith the reader is rewarded here with an interesting and informative introductory synthesis. The book sets up a nicely nuanced conversation, involving a number of authors and positions, including his own Catholic beliefs and scientific expertise. I believe this book will be of considerable interest to teachers, students, and general readers. – John F. Haught, author, *Science and Religion: From Conflict to Conversation**

*By making complex knowledge accessible, the author's elegant style guides readers to discover the origins of the Earth and humanity, appreciating how science and religion – together – long for truth. A must-read! – Andrea Vicini, SJ, author, *Emerging Issues in Theological Bioethics**

[Points of Contact](#) can serve as an introduction to the broad inter-disciplinary field of science and religion. It is written for non-specialists, though it will be of interest to faculty members of many disciplines and specialties. [Points of Contact](#) might serve as the text for an introductory course in science and religion, as a starting point for adult discussion groups in churches, synagogues, and Catholic parishes, or even as a change of fare for science or theology discussion groups at colleges and universities around the world. In addition, the book may help readers mold and shape their spirituality. <>

Mechanics of Nanocomposites: Homogenization and Analysis, 1st edition by Farzad Ebrahimi & Ali Dabbagh (CRC Press)

Emphasizing the static and dynamic behaviors of nanocomposite single- or multilayered structures in the framework of continuum mechanics-based approaches,

Mechanics of Nanocomposites: Homogenization and Analysis investigates mechanical behaviors of polymeric matrices strengthened via various nanofillers and nanoparticles such as carbon nanotubes (CNTs), graphene platelets (GPLs), and graphene oxides (GOs).

Coauthors are Farzad Ebrahimi and Ali Dabbagh. Ebrahimi is an associate professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Imam Khomeini International University, Qazvin, Iran. Dabbagh is studying for his MSc in the School of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, University of Tehran, Tehran.

Mechanics of Nanocomposites covers equivalent properties of nanocomposites that are obtained via homogenization techniques based on micromechanics approaches. In addition, the book:

- Discusses the effects of various nanofillers and identifies the amount of the improvement that can be induced in the stiffness of the polymeric nanocomposites by adding a finite content of the aforementioned nanosize reinforcements.
- Magnifies the effect of the number of the stacking plies of the multi-layered nanocomposite structures on both static and dynamic responses of the continuous systems manufactured from such sandwich structures.
- Presents a wide range of analytical and numerical solution procedures.
- Investigates the effects of porosity along with mechanical characteristics of nanocomposites.
- Considers the time-dependency of the material properties of the viscoelastic polymeric nanocomposite structures.

- Performs analyses using an energy-based approach incorporated with the strain-displacement relations of both classical and higher-order shear deformable beam, plate, or shell theorems.

The first chapter in [Mechanics of Nanocomposites](#) is dedicated to the introduction and applications of nanocomposite materials. The second chapter presents the mathematical tools required to carry out the analyses presented in the following parts of the book. In chapter 2, an introduction to the elasticity relations and different types of shell, beam, and plate theories is presented followed by micromechanical homogenization of polymeric nanocomposites reinforced with carbon nanotubes, graphene oxides, and graphene platelets regarding the effects of the existence of porosities, the viscoelastic nature of the material, and the single- or multi-layered character of the nanocomposite structure. Following the first two chapters, chapters 3-10 examine the static analyses and chapters 11-21 discuss the dynamic responses of continuous systems manufactured from nanocomposites.

Comprehensive and aimed at researchers, academics, and professionals working across mechanical, materials, and other areas of engineering, [Mechanics of Nanocomposites](#) ensures that readers are equipped to understand the mechanical characteristics of nanocomposite structures so that they can design, develop, and apply these materials effectively. <>

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[The Handy Physics Answer Book \(The Handy Answer Book Series\), 3rd edition by Charles Liu Ph.D. \(Visible Ink\)](#)

[The Handy Physics Answer Book](#) is an informative, accessible, easy-to-use guide to physics, covering the fundamental concepts and amazing discoveries that govern the universe.

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Author Charles Liu, Ph.D. is a professor of astrophysics at the City University of New York's College of Staten Island and an associate with the Hayden Planetarium and Department of Astrophysics at the American Museum of Natural History.

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- ◆ Why does my voice sound different on a recording?
- ◆ Can a light beam be frozen in time?
- ◆ Why are soap bubbles sometimes so colorful?
- ◆ Why does a charged balloon stick to a wall?
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