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[October 2020](#)

*We Review the  
Best of the Latest  
Books*

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Agriculture / Ecology / Food

[Food](#), 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Jennifer Clapp (Resources Series: Polity Press)

Humans all need food to survive, and forty percent of the world's population relies on agriculture for their livelihood. Yet control over food is concentrated in relatively few hands. Attempts to increase production through the spread of an industrial model of agriculture have resulted in serious ecological consequences.

The fully revised and expanded **third edition** of [Food](#) explores how the rise of industrial agriculture, corporate control, inequitable agricultural trade rules, and the financialization of food have each enabled powerful actors to gain fundamental influence over the practices that dominate the world food economy and result in uneven consequences for both people and planet. A variety of movements have emerged that are making important progress in establishing alternative food systems, but, as Jennifer Clapp's penetrating analysis in [Food](#) ably shows, significant challenges remain.

Clapp is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability in the School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability at the University of Waterloo.

The world food economy has been shaped by key forces that have, as the world food system has become more globalized, managed to create and occupy middle spaces in that system. The opening up of these spaces by governments, private foundations,

TNCs, and financial actors has created new norms and governance frameworks, including international trade rules, that have shifted control away from farmers and consumers. As this process has occurred, new features of the world food economy have emerged, including the commodification of food and the problems of distance, imbalance, and volatility in world food markets, as well as ecological crises linked to the industrialization of agriculture. The evolution of the global food system in this direction raises important concerns of a social, economic, and ecological nature. [Food](#) examines these forces and features in detail.

*Jennifer Clapp has done it again. Bravo! A true classic, [Food](#) is breathtaking in its scope and insight. In bringing this brilliant work up to the moment, Clapp demystifies the global food economy so we can all realize our power to transform it. – Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet* and co-author of *World Hunger: 10 Myths**

*The global food economy may seem remote from daily experience, but Jennifer Clapp explains how it affects every aspect of what we eat and, therefore, our health and welfare. Best of all, she provides the information and tools advocates can use to redesign the global food economy to promote fair trade, food justice, and food sovereignty. – Marion Nestle, Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health at New York University, and author of *Soda Politics**

*In the **third edition** of this invaluable text, Jennifer Clapp synthesizes the latest literature in a rapidly changing and vital field, in ways that are rigorous, accessible, and always thought-provoking. From the end of the Second World War to the thick of the climate emergency, [Food](#) tells the story of the modern food system with signature clarity and sophistication. – Raj Patel, University of Texas at Austin*

*[Food](#) is detailed, it is engrossing, and it is clear. The documentation of the political and economic motivations that have shaped the current food system over the past decades is enlightening for the scientific food community and the general public. – Nature Food*

[Food](#), **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** provides the tools to reorganize the global food economy to make it fairer. Clear and enlightening, this accessible book synthesizes the literature to demystify the science behind the issues. <>

Arts & Photography / Digital

**[Infrared Photography](#)**: Digital Techniques for Brilliant Images, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition by Laurie Klein, Kyle Klein, & Shelley Vandegriff (Pro Photo Series: Amherst Media)

In this age of ubiquitous phone and digital cameras, dedicated photographers seek ways for their work to stand out from the over-growing crowd. Infrared is a perfect

medium for meeting that goal. [Infrared Photography](#), **2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, takes readers from understanding the technical basics to mastering key compositional strategies unique to infrared capture. Finally, it presents workflow and software considerations for creating masterful infrared images ready to post, share, or print.

Readers of [Infrared Photography](#) learn to harness and capture infrared wavelengths with an infrared-converted digital camera. The authors teach photographers how those invisible light wavelengths will be recorded in-camera and the steps they need to take to ensure the best possible photographs. Readers study myriad images that show how various materials – from skin, hair, and eyes to the sky, trees, grasses, and clouds – will appear in their images and learn to predict the way that the colors and tones they perceive with their naked eyes will be rendered in-camera. Readers discover compositional techniques that will visually engage their audience. They learn how to use artistic applications to add selective color to their black & white infrared images, how to create dramatic color infrared photographs that take infrared capture to a whole new level and how to edit images in postproduction for enhanced contrast and superb detail.

[Infrared Photography](#) has 3 authors. Laurie Klein is an award-winning fine art, wedding and portrait photographer. Kyle Klein has his photography business and is a consultant for studio owners and teaches photography, workflow, and Photoshop skills. Shelley Vandegriff is an award-winning fine art photographer whose images have been published in *B&W Magazine*.

The majority of the educational material currently available on infrared is highly technical, but composition and artistic expression are also essential in making truly powerful infrared images. [Infrared Photography](#) covers not only the 'how' but also the art of infrared photography in one book.

*I will be referring my students to this book as a useful guide to both nude and infrared imagery.* – Kate Jordahi, Photography Professor at Foothill College

*Their passion and love of image-making have inspired me to jump into the world of infrared photography.* – Thomas Munos, M. Photog. Cr., CPP

*The authors exploit the artistic possibilities of infrared light brilliantly, bringing expertise in landscape photography to all their subjects.* – Andy Finney, regular contributor to the *Royal Photographic Society Journal*

[Infrared Photography](#), **2<sup>nd</sup> edition**, helps photographers to both understand infrared technology and learn the aesthetic properties of digital infrared photography. It guides readers in creating infrared imagery that surpasses the simply unique and achieves the artistically exceptional. Plentiful before-and-after images make it easy to envision how subjects will be transformed in infrared and how to capture them beautifully. <>

**Design Elements**: Understanding the rules and knowing when to break them – A Visual Communication Manual, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Timothy Samara (Rockport, Quarto Publishing Group)

Being a creative designer is often about coming up with unique design solutions. But when the basic rules of design are ignored in an effort to be distinctive, design becomes useless. In language, a departure from the rules is only appreciated as great literature if recognition of the rules underlies the text. Graphic design is a 'visual language,' and brilliance is recognized in designers whose work seems to break all the rules, yet communicates its messages clearly.

A new and updated **3<sup>rd</sup> edition** of Rockport's best-selling **Design Elements** presents the fundamentals of design in lists, tips, brief text, and examples. With new images and diagrams, the book covers everything from working with grids, color application, typography, and imagery to how to finally put it all together.

Author Timothy Samara, a graphic designer, has been a senior art director at Ruder Finn, New York's largest public relations firm, and senior art director at Pettistudio, a small multidisciplinary design firm. Before relocating to Manhattan, he was principal of Physiologic in Syracuse.

Features of **Design Elements** include:

- The ultimate primer on graphic design's basic visual toolkit – dot, line, plane, texture, space, and contrast – and how these basics underpin all successful layouts.
- An in-depth look at color – from its optical qualities and its effect on type to its potential for communication concepts and emotions.
- One of the most thorough compilations of typography concepts to be found – including information on letterform structure and optics, combining typeface styles, the mechanics of detailed text typesetting, and using type as image.
- An extensive overview of imagery – the endless possibilities of medium, depiction, abstraction, stylization, and how these communicate effectively.
- Methods for integrating type and image, including a tutorial on using grid systems to structure layouts.
- Twenty rules for good design – and the best ways to break them.

New to this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition:

1. 500 new, international, real-world project images.
2. More concise, reader-friendly language.

3. Expanded emphasis on UX/UI design issues.
4. 50+ new diagrams and 50 pages of new information.
5. Simplified layouts for easier navigation.

A visually rich and accessible handbook, [Design Elements](#) is still the most comprehensive compilation of visual thinking around. Now with the **3<sup>rd</sup> edition**, the ultimate primer on graphic design just got a little more ultimate. Renowned design educator and author Samara rewrites the book (so to speak) on his bestselling manual that explains the fundamentals of visual communication – the language of shapes, color, type, images, and layout that designers use to convey ideas, persuade audiences, and create compelling experiences in print, digital, and spatial media. <>

Business & Economics / Illegitimate / Memoir

## [Dopeworld](#): Adventures in the Global Drug Trade by Niko Vorobyov (St. Martin's Press)

*After I got out of jail, I was determined to find out more about how the issue of drugs not only landed me there, but has shaped the entire world: wars, scandals, coups, revolutions. I read every book, watched every documentary. I saved up to buy plane tickets. I went to Colombia, Mexico, Russia, Italy, Japan and the Afghan border – all in all, fifteen countries across five continents.*

*Call me Narco Polo. – from the book*

In this irreverent ode to gonzo journalism, one writer travels the globe to explore the use of recreational drugs in cultures around the world.

Just as Anthony Bourdain's *No Reservations* did for the world of food, [Dopeworld](#) is an intoxicating journey into the world of drugs. From the cocaine farms in South America to the streets of Manila, [Dopeworld](#) traces the emergence of psychoactive substances and our intimate relationship with them. As a former drug dealer turned subversive scholar, with unparalleled access to drug lords, cartel leaders, street dealers and government officials, journalist Niko Vorobyov attempts to shine a light on the dark underbelly of the drug world.

Vorobyov was born in Leningrad, Russia, before moving to Great Britain. From 2013-2014 he served a two-and-a-half year sentence for Possession with Intent to Supply. Upon his release, he graduated from University College London and began working at a Russian news outlet, *Russia Today*.

But this isn't just another true-crime story. Vorobyov says he always been more of a geek than a gangster, so if readers picked [Dopeworld](#) up expecting the millionth book about the Krays, he gives his condolences. This is a true-crime, gonzo, social, historical-memoir meets travel book.

Although some readers may find some parts of the book uncomfortable, they should keep in mind that they are reading the perspective of a drug dealer. Since Vorobyov has been known to be wrong about some things, he has traveled the world to hear perspectives other than his own: he says if he only talked to those who thought like him, this would be a boring read.

[Dopeworld](#) explores our curious relationship with those plants, pills and powders that play with the mind, how and why people have tried to stamp them out of existence, and what the consequences of that may be. How come a gram of coke can land one in handcuffs, but anyone can buy beer and cigs at any corner shop? Why are so many kids dying, and why are the prisons filling up? Why does every society have an underclass whose chief source of employment seems to be black-market pharmaceuticals? Why do gangsters apparently control entire neighborhoods, and in some cases, entire countries? And what, if anything, is going to change?

*[A] terrific debut...Vorobyov makes a persuasive case for the legalization of drugs... It could well become a classic. – Publishers Weekly, starred*

*An entertaining excursion into the narcotics trade by a one-time practitioner... A revealing treatise that provides ample ammunition for the legalize-it crowd. – Kirkus Reviews*

*Fast-paced, in-your-face, sprawling... Equal parts criminal memoir, history lesson, and travelog, [Dopeworld](#) will appeal to readers seeking an immersive and intimate look at the drug trade. – Library Journal*

*[Dopeworld](#) hooked me from page one on out – as engrossing and informative as it is fun to read. A winner! – Bruce Porter, bestselling author of *Blow: How a Small-Town Boy Made \$100 Million with the Medellin Cocaine Cartel and Lost It All* and *Snatched: From Drug Queen to Informer to Hostage**

*A free-rolling and frank depiction of the global narcotics scene. Fascinating. – The Spectator (UK)*

*An obsessive, immersive account of all aspects of the drug culture – its ways, its rules, its rituals, its rhythms, its language. – Irish Examiner (UK)*

At once a bold piece of journalism and a hugely entertaining travelogue, [Dopeworld](#) is a brilliant and enlightening journey across the world, revealing how drug use is at the heart of our history, our lives, and our future. <>

Children's Books / Grade Level: 1-3 / Reading Level: 6-8 years

## [Lions & Cheetahs & Rhinos OH MY!](#): Animal Artwork by Children in Sub-Saharan Africa by John Platt & Moira Rose Donohue (Sleeping Bear Press)

Do you know how many gallons of water an elephant can drink in a day?

Or which direction a zebra's stripes run?

You'll have to read [Lions & Cheetahs & Rhinos OH MY!](#) to find out!

Ten African animals, including lions, zebras, giraffes, and elephants, are brought to life in colorful artwork, accompanied by fun nature facts. With text written by John Platt and Moira Rose Donohue, each animal portrait in [Lions & Cheetahs & Rhinos OH MY!](#) is painted by a student from the How to Draw a Lion program. Established in 2018 by New York artist Platt, How to Draw a Lion is a nonprofit art education program that provides art classes for children in sub-Saharan Africa.

African wildlife comes alive through amazing paintings by young artists in East Africa.

All the artwork in [Lions & Cheetahs & Rhinos OH MY!](#) is used with permission of the artists and/or their legal guardians. One hundred percent of the authors' royalties from the sale of this book will be donated to How to Draw a Lion, which will continue to support these and future artists in East Africa. This program provides children in Sub-Saharan Africa with incredible opportunities: creatively, academically, and personally. Platt splits his time between teaching art and conservation in Africa and continuing to grow the program from his home in New York City. His grassroots efforts aim to help break the cycle of poverty in Africa. Donohue has authored a number of nonfiction educational series.

Teachers can take young readers on an African safari with [Lions & Cheetahs & Rhinos OH MY!](#) All of the illustrations were made by children who live in East Africa are gorgeous. Connecting young readers to young artists, this beautiful story is both educational and empowering.

Criminal Justice / True Crime

## [El Jefe](#): The Stalking of Chapo Guzmán by Alan Feuer (Flatiron Books)

*Marston and Potash plugged in Guzman's name wherever the PIN appeared, and a whole new world emerged. They read about the kingpin's home renovations and the plastic surgeries he had purchased for his mistresses. There were glimpses of his lawyers,*

his pilots, his father-in-law, even of his young wife, Emma Coronel, giving voice to their twin infant daughters, Kiki and Emali.

2:07 p.m.: I want my little princesses here to fix my meals.

2:08 p.m.: Yes, daddy. What do you want us to make you? Enchiladas? Or maybe it's best if mommy makes them for you, after all, it was her enchiladas that made you fall in love with her.

Surfacing from all of this, Marston and Potash were dazzled. They had jumped into the FlexiSPY data thinking they would come out with a negative of the kingpin. Instead, they had stumbled onto what amounted to a high-resolution color portrait. It simply hadn't occurred to them that the program's malware would have picked up Guzman's own texts along with those of all of his many targets. But there they were, exposed for all to see and still stored in the system.

The two of them could not believe their luck – or his stupidity. In his fits of suspicion, Guzman had managed the impossible.

By wiretapping everyone around him, he had accidentally wiretapped himself. – from [El Jefe](#)

[El Jefe](#) is the definitive account of the rise and fall of the ultimate narco, 'El Chapo.' Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman is the most legendary of Mexican narcos. As leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel, he was one of the most dangerous men in the world. His fearless climb to power, his brutality, his charm, his taste for luxury, his penchant for disguise, his multiple dramatic prison escapes, his unlikely encounter with Sean Penn – all of these burnished the image of the world's most famous outlaw.

He was finally captured by U.S. and Mexican law enforcement in a daring operation years in the making. [El Jefe](#) is that entire epic story – from El Chapo's humble origins to his conviction in a Brooklyn courthouse. The author, longtime *New York Times* criminal justice reporter Alan Feuer's coverage of his trial was some of the most riveting journalism of recent years. Feuer covers courts and criminal justice for the Metro desk. He has written about mobsters, jails, police misconduct, wrongful convictions, and government corruption.

[A] fast-paced tale of the decades-long quest to capture a notorious drug kingpin... Feuer builds a taut narrative of the cat-and-mouse game that found Guzmán... [and] he knows how to spin a tale. Fans of Don Winslow's fiction and Mark Bowden's nonfiction alike will be eager to read Feuer's blood-spattered tale. – Kirkus Reviews

El Chapo Guzmán was both a criminal and a celebrity – something like Depression Era-gangsters Al Capone and John Dillinger.... New York Times reporter Alan Feuer, who covered Guzmán's 2019 drug trafficking trial, charts his rise from teenage smuggler to

*drug lord – a mix of tall tales and brutal crimes. – San Antonio Express-News*

*[A] brisk, rich account of the kingpin's rise to power and his downfall – The New York Times*

*[A] brisk, compact tale – The New York Times Book Review*

*Perhaps no one alive incites fear and fascination quite like Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán.... A reporter for the New York Times, Mr Feuer covered Mr Guzmán's trial in New York... [El Jefe](#) builds upon that reportage by diving into the events leading up to the courtroom drama, from Mr Guzmán's beginnings as a small-time marijuana farmer to the joint Mexican-American operation that ultimately brought him down. Through the lens of Mr Guzmán's life, Mr Feuer reveals much about society and the drug trade in both Mexico and America. – The Economist*

Feuer's mastery of the complex facts of the case, his unparalleled access to confidential sources in law enforcement, and his powerful understanding of disturbing larger themes – what this one man's life says about drugs, walls, class, money, Mexico, and the United States – will ensure that [El Jefe](#) is the one book to read about 'El Chapo.' <>

Culture / Sustainable Living / Self-Help

## [Human Permaculture](#): Life Design for Resilient Living by Bernard Alonso & Cécile Guiochon, illustrated by Marie Quilvin (New Society Publishers)

As climate change, ecological decline, and social breakdown start to bite, people expect that governments will solve their problems. Yet this belief has proven to be false. Rather than looking to others, changes must come from the inside out: transforming the 'I' to 'we,' changing the world by changing ourselves, and reestablishing a deep connection to nature.

[Human Permaculture](#) is a forward-thinking guide that uses permaculture principles of ecological design rooted in people care, Earth care, and fair share for redesigning one's life and community to align with the resources available on the planet. Richly illustrated, [Human Permaculture](#) offers specific actions and tools for adopting an ethical, regenerative way of life.

Authors are Bernard Alonso and Cécile Guiochon. Alonso is co-founder of the Collaborative International University of Transition and a human permaculture facilitator, speaker, coach, and project designer. Guiochon, a French journalist and holder of a Permaculture Design Certificate, co-founded KerWatt, which develops citizen projects renewable energy in Brittany, France.

According to Jean-Marie Pelt in the preface, [Human Permaculture](#) heralds a promising trend that foreshadows fruitful innovations in many domains. The authors begin by defining permaculture as “a systemic approach that makes it possible to create viable ecosystems inspired by the laws of nature.... It seeks to care for human beings and the environment while generating life and fostering abundance and sharing.” Nature provides humans with the model of ecosystem functioning – the whole web of species existing in relation to each other, exchanging services that form the very basis of the delicate balances that support them. The same goes for human societies – vast ecosystems where each individual, each group, each profession, each institution contributes to the balance of the whole. This is the key objective of human permaculture. In [Human Permaculture](#), the authors elaborate on several subjects that help create and maintain these balances. They propose 12 methods for building unified and functional teams, also known as collective intelligence.

Pelt says she greatly enjoyed the authors' vision of striking the proper balance between the right brain and the left brain. In our modern age, the left brain is king. It analyzes, deduces, and is perfectly suited to the world of information and communication technology. This is completely unlike the operation of the right brain, the seat of emotions, intuitions, sensations, and affects – the brain of creativity and spiritual drive. Education must allow both sides to develop in tandem. Permaculture represents another way to see the world, a different manner of feeling and acting. It is a path that so-called transition towns and cities are already on.

[Human Permaculture](#) lays out the different steps involved in creating a design, which the authors define as “a set of practices for conceiving, planning, arranging, and structuring a space, project, group, relationship, or organization to make it fertile, abundant, and sustainable.” Such designs are inspired by the laws of nature and are meant to include the best strategies for ensuring the system's functionality: producing energy, protecting biodiversity, using resources optimally, recycling, reducing the environmental impact of human activities, etc.

With the foundations in place, the body of [Human Permaculture](#) goes on to discuss the practices needed to care for the Earth and human beings, especially by finding alternative ways to fulfill their basic needs. A set of practices and behaviors are given, each inspired by examples that have yielded results that work. This makes it a precious source of information, offering successful existing models that can be used to inspire future action.

The authors have chosen a suitable form for [Human Permaculture](#). The writing is perfectly structured, and their editorial opinions and elaboration of ideas and proposals are easy to follow. The language is clear, the style flowing. Everything ultimately boils down to love including the love humans have for nature and for each other. Reading

between the lines, one discovers a work brimming with fraternity, solidarity, and conviviality.

*In the times of rapid and deep transition that we find ourselves in, we need the right tools at our disposal. We need to be imaginative, playful, effective, resourceful, and we need to roll our sleeves up and do stuff. But at the same time, we need templates, principles, and a lens through which to see the possibilities before us. [Human Permaculture](#) provides that – a distilled crash course in how to think in a way the future needs us to think. Vital reading.* – Rob Hopkins, author, *From What Is to What If*, founder, Transition movement

*I am encouraged that so many permaculture practitioners, designers, teachers and activists are finding their voices in writing about permaculture and I am sure your book will make a contribution in that process and I personally wish you well with the book.* – Dr. David Holmgren, Permaculture co-originator

*By closely examining the second directive of permaculture – people care – this beautifully illustrated book applies design science to one of the oldest questions ever asked: what makes a good life? The younger you are, the sooner you need to read this.* – Albert Bates, author, *The Biochar Solution and Burn*

*This is an outstanding book bringing together the theory and the practice of the most enlightened way of growing food, harvesting energy, and living in harmony with our precious planet Earth. It is an inspirational, as well as a practical, book. It celebrates the soil, nourishes the soul, and sustains the human spirit.* – Satish Kumar, author, *Elegant Simplicity*, founder, Schumacher College

*This book could not have arrived at a more crucial time. The coronavirus pandemic has upended our food system, requiring us to rethink it quickly and in broad strokes. The principles for doing so, to the benefit of people and planet, are all contained herein. Accessible, well-grounded, and profound.* – Richard Heinberg, author, *The End of Growth*, Senior Fellow, Post Carbon Institute

[Human Permaculture](#) expands the goal of creating self-sustaining agricultural systems towards the vision of creating regenerative human ecosystems. This book serves as a guide for anyone wanting to create a more sustainable lifestyle for their family, business, or community. Rather than working alone on self-sufficient homesteads, [Human Permaculture](#) outlines tools to bring people together towards collaborative solutions for all. – Thomas J. Elpel, author, *Botany in a Day* and *Green Prosperity*

[Human Permaculture](#) invites each of us to deliberately design our lives so we can more fully realize our own potential, while also contributing to greater collective abundance, and working with all other life forms to co-create regenerative ecosystems. People who understand the importance of the 'human angle' and have been thirsting for more

works along the lines of Looby Macnamara's *People & Permaculture*, will find [Human Permaculture](#) a welcome addition to their bookshelves. – Jenny Nazak, author, *Deep Green*, blogger

[Human Permaculture](#) is the book that so many have been waiting for. It widens the territory of permaculture to more fully include the need to not just redesign what we manage in the environment but, more foundationally, ourselves and our ways of understanding and living in the world. This is an essential resource for all who want to make a meaningful, equitable, nurturing, and ecologically sustainable contributions to our shared future. – Stuart B Hill, Emeritus Professor, Western Sydney University, NSW, Australia

I loved the part on diet, especially the summary of the many adaptations that other species have made, as guidance for our own dietary choices. This is vital information for our species, we now have such choice of what to eat that we seem to be lost at best, or worse still, engaged in our own destruction, via soil loss, biodiversity loss and pollution of air, land, and sea. – Andrew Darlington, permaculture trainer and designer

This is the book for people who want to apply permaculture in their personal lives. It will join the canon of social permaculture together with Looby MacNamara's *People & Permaculture*. – Rosemary Morrow, Blue Mountains Permaculture Institute, author, *Earth User's Guide to Permaculture*

Powerful, forward-thinking, richly illustrated and inspiring, [Human Permaculture](#) is for everyone who wants to find their own meaning in life, put their talents at the service of the environment, live ethically, and navigate the great transition humans face in a future of climate change and energy decline. Readers learn to harness the power of permaculture to change themselves and become a regenerative forces for the planet.

<>

History / Politics / Biographies & Memoirs

## [Demagogue](#): The Life and Long Shadow of Senator Joe McCarthy by Larry Tye (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

[Demagogue](#) is the definitive biography of the most dangerous demagogue in American history, based on a review of his personal and professional papers, medical and military records, and recently unsealed transcripts of his closed-door Congressional hearings.

The author is Larry Tye, previously an award-winning reporter and national writer at the Boston Globe and a Nieman fellow at Harvard University, now running the Boston-based Health Coverage Fellowship.

In the long history of American demagogues, from Huey Long to Donald Trump, never has one man caused so much damage in such a short time as Senator Joseph McCarthy. The term 'McCarthyism' is still used to stand for outrageous charges of guilt by association, a weapon of polarizing slander. From 1950 to 1954, McCarthy destroyed careers and lives, whipping the nation into a frenzy of paranoia, accusation, loyalty oaths, and terror. When the public finally turned on him, he came crashing down, dying of alcoholism in 1957. Through Tye's exclusive look at the senator's records, the full story is coming out.

**Demagogue** is a portrait of a human being capable of immense evil, yet beguiling charm. Tye describes McCarthy as a tireless worker and a genuine war hero. His ambitions knew few limits. Neither did his socializing, his drinking, nor his gambling. When he finally made it to the Senate, he flailed around in search of an agenda and angered many with his sharp elbows and lack of integrity. After three years, he hit upon anti-communism. By recklessly charging treason against everyone from George Marshall to much of the State Department, he became the most influential and controversial man in America. His chaotic, meteoric rise is a gripping object lesson. Yet, according to Tye, his equally sudden fall from fame offers reason for hope that, given the rope, most American demagogues eventually hang themselves.

*The fullest account yet of the crusading junior senator from Wisconsin... the rigor of his research ensures he goes far beyond the caricature to give us a portrait of nuance and depth. – Wall Street Journal*

*Tye captures 'Low Blow Joe' in all his shambolic ingloriousness... The result is an epic expose that... will leave [readers] shaking their heads over the rise and fall of the greatest demagogue in American history, with the possible exception of the current White House incumbent. – The Boston Globe*

**Demagogue** does an impressive job of shedding new light on Joe McCarthy, but the more light is shed, the more repulsive he appears. 'The more we learn,' Tye writes, 'the fewer heroes this story has. – Christian Science Monitor

*Tye has produced a compelling and rich biography that will become the new authoritative text on its subject. – Los Angeles Review of Books*

*... vivid chronicle of the ascent, reign, and decline of Joseph McCarthy. – National Book Review*

**Demagogue** is a beautifully written, richly researched tragedy, a morality tale in three acts. In the end, it proves that most demagogues, like the legendary emperor, usually have no clothes. And it's not a pretty sight to behold. – New York Journal of Books

*An interesting, readable account... new material from McCarthy's personal archive add interesting and colorful detail to what has previously been known. – Life and Liberty Tantalizing. – Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

*In an age when we see the resurrection of Senator Joe McCarthy's tactics – exaggeration and lies, guilt by association, the smearing of political opponents, and*

above all the acquiescence of enablers who know better – Larry Tye's [Demagogue](#) is a gripping, essential read. Drawing on records newly unsealed after sixty years, Tye explains how McCarthy's fear-mongering caught fire, offering timely insight into the rise of bullies and what is required to defeat them. – Samantha Power, former US Ambassador to the United Nations and New York Times bestselling author of *The Education of an Idealist*

For many contemporary readers, Joseph McCarthy is a done and dusted relic for the history books, but Tye (Bobby Kennedy, 2016) brings him back to ferocious life... Tye is an even-handed reporter, tracking the truth of stories advanced by both McCarthy's devotees and detractors... This is a must-read biography for anyone fascinated by American history, and every reader will blanch at its events' resemblances to today's fraught political conflicts. – Booklist, starred review

Larry Tye's [Demagogue](#) nails the defining biography of Joe McCarthy. I grew up a Cold War kid watching it all on television. I thought I knew it all, but Tye makes it real. To understand Donald Trump, you have to understand Joe McCarthy first, and Tye's your guide. – John Kerry, former US Secretary of State

Tye has written a fabulous, can't-put-down examination of one of the most dangerous politicians in American history. But [Demagogue](#) is more than a biography – it's a warning of the peril we are facing. – William Cohen, former US Secretary of Defense  
Written in a straightforward, judicious style... a definitive biography that will stand the test of time. – Library Journal

[A] sure-handed account... searing and informative portrait of [Senator Joseph McCarthy] and his specific brand of self-aggrandizing demagoguery. – Publishers Weekly

Meaty narrative... a timely examination of a would-be savior whose name remains a byword for demagoguery. – Kirkus Reviews

Beautifully written, well researched, gripping, [Demagogue](#) lifts McCarthy from stereotype to vivid reality. Readers cannot ignore the lessons revealed in [Demagogue](#) – a must-read. <>

History / Tools & Equipment

## [Chainsaws](#): A History by David Lee (Harbour Publishing)

*In the story of the ongoing struggle between man and nature (not to mention between man and man), the chainsaw makes for a surprisingly colourful chapter.* – Stephen Knight, Quill & Quire, *Praise for Chainsaws: A History*

From the earliest chainsaws – deafening, dangerous, and often too darn heavy to get to a tree – to today's lightweight modern machine, [Chainsaws](#) is the history for anybody with an interest in chainsaws or technology.

When it was first published in 2006, [Chainsaws: A History](#) was the first ever book on the worldwide history of the chainsaw, an invention that transformed the forest industry. Now, with over 10,000 copies sold, this award-winning book is back in print with a new paperback edition.

With hundreds of full-color photographs and fascinating ephemera, combined with an authoritative text listing hundreds of chainsaw models from the 1800s to the present, [Chainsaws](#) traces the evolutionary threads of countless pioneer devices.

Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, chainsaws have taken on many forms: from six-hundred pound steam-powered behemoths to gas chainsaws mounted on wheeled carriages, and from diesel chainsaws to electric chainsaws with portable generators. The text examines Andreas Stihl's Black Forest experiments, Vancouver's booming WWII chainsaw industry and the postwar race to develop one-man saws, the rise and fall of Canada's proud Pioneer brand, and the late entry into the field of the centuries-old arms manufacturer Husqvarna. Recalling once-familiar brands such as Titan, Timberhog, Bluestreak, Hi-Baller, Hornet, Wasp, IEL, Partner, PM, Poulan, Dolmar, Danarm, Disston, Remington, Canadien, Lombard, Mall, McCulloch, Shade, Solo, Be-Bo and Jo-Bu among others, author David Lee worked together with some of the world's leading chainsaw history experts to create this tribute to one of humanity's most labor-saving inventions.

Lee is an award-winning author whose books range from *Four-Wheeling on Vancouver Island*, a guide to the island's rugged back roads, to *Commander Zero*, a novel set on the BC coast. Lee is originally from Mission, BC, and lived in Pender Harbour, BC, where he gained the hands-on experience that led him to write [Chainsaws](#). The book was compiled with the assistance of some of the world's leading chainsaw history experts, including Mike Acres of the Chain Saw Collectors Corner and chainsaw specialist Marshall Trover.

This new paperback edition concludes [Chainsaws](#) with a note on recent advances in chainsaw technology – notably the cordless electric chainsaw, powered by a lithium-ion battery – bringing readers up to date on today's lightweight modern machine. [Chainsaws](#) is a handsome gift book and an indispensable reference for anybody with an

Featuring hundreds of full-color photographs and fascinating ephemera and an authoritative text listing hundreds of chainsaw models from the 1800s to the present, [Chainsaws: A History](#) is a handsome book and an indispensable reference for anybody with an interest in chainsaws or technology. Meticulously researched, the book will captivate gadget-fanciers and history buffs alike. <>

Leadership / Female

## [The Grit Factor](#): Courage, Resilience, and Leadership in the Most Male-Dominated Organization in the World by Shannon Huffman Polson (Harvard Business Review Press)

What does it take for women to succeed in a male-dominated world?

At age nineteen, Shannon Huffman Polson became the youngest woman ever to climb Denali, the highest mountain in North America. She went on to reach the summits of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Kilimanjaro and spent more than a decade traveling the world. Yet, as told in [The Grit Factor](#), it was during her experience serving as one of the Army's first female attack helicopter pilots and eventually leading an Apache flight platoon on deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina, that she learned the lessons of leadership that forever changed her life.

Polson served as one of the first women to fly the Apache helicopter in the US Army. In addition to her military service, she spent five years leading and managing in the corporate sector at Guidant and Microsoft. She is the founder of the Grit Institute.

Where did Polson's insights come from? From her own crucibles of experience – and from other women. In writing [The Grit Factor](#), Polson made it her mission to connect with an elite pack of tough, impressive female iconoclasts who shared with her their candid stories of combat and career. This slate of decorated leaders includes Heather Penney, one of the first female F-16 pilots, who was put on a suicide mission for 9/11; General Ann Dunwoody, the first female four-star general in the Army; Amy McGrath, the first female Marine to fly the F/A-18 in combat and a 2020 candidate for the US Senate – and dozens of other unstoppable women who got there first, including Polson herself.

These women led at the highest levels in the most complicated, challenging, and male-dominated organization in the world. Now, when positive role models of women leading are needed as never before, Polson in [The Grit Factor](#) brings these voices together, sharing her own life lessons and theirs with storytelling flair, keen insight, and incisive analysis of current research.

*If you aspire to become an outstanding leader, this book is a must-read. – Amy McGrath, Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps, Retired; candidate (2020), US Senate (D - KY)*

*I wish the working world was such that we didn't need [The Grit Factor](#), but we do need it. With a jillion books out there on leadership, this one is truly one of a kind, a giant and unique step forward. I can imagine it dramatically changing thousands of lives. And though men are not the primary audience, we can all learn from the amazing stories and practical steps laid out here in plain English. Bravo, Shannon Polson! – Tom Peters, coauthor, *In Search of Excellence**

*Shannon Polson's story and the stories of the remarkable military women she profiles, as well as the essential leadership principles and techniques these stories illustrate, will inspire and instruct new generations of leaders in any context. A must-read.* – General Charles C. Krulak, US Marine Corps, Retired, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps

*With compelling and page-turning stories of resilience and adaptability, [The Grit Factor](#) is a groundbreaking book about women who took on the stereotypes and blew right past them. Practical, accessible, and inspirational, this is the leadership book we've been waiting for.* – Sydney Finkelstein, professor, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth; bestselling author, *Superbosses*; host, *The Sydcast*

*The hard truth is that we have a long way to go before women are treated equally, at work and elsewhere. Until then, we need [The Grit Factor](#). Shannon Polson has it, and she showcases it in the inspiring and instructive stories of these amazing women leaders.* – Tina Morris, Chief Operating Officer, S&P Global Ratings; US Army veteran

With its gripping narrative and relatable takeaways, [The Grit Factor](#) is both inspiring and pragmatic, a book that will energize and enlighten current and aspiring leaders everywhere – whether male or female. <>

Medicine / Clinical / Self-Help

## [Restart Your Heart](#): The Playbook for Thriving With AFib by Aseem Desai (Greenleaf Book Group Press)

AFib patients, their family, friends, and caregivers are often misinformed about the latest research, advancements, and treatments. In [Restart Your Heart](#), renowned AFib expert Aseem Desai diminishes the worry and confusion that come with an AFib diagnosis by presenting readers with the latest medical information in a concise and positive way.

Dr. Desai, a cardiac electrophysiologist (EP), a physician specializing in heart rhythm disorders, served as Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of Implantable Device Therapy at the University of Chicago Hospital.

Desai has made it his mission to improve the lives of those diagnosed with a type of heart arrhythmia called atrial fibrillation (AFib) and to offer hope and encouragement to patients and their loved ones. In the realm of heart rhythm disorders, Desai's incorporation of integrative health tools such as nutrition and mindfulness creates a new paradigm in managing AFib and promoting wellness. This life-changing book includes explanations of the condition and treatments, resources for dealing with the emotional impact of AFib, and touching stories. Desai discusses beneficial tools that may not be presented in the typical medical visit, such as mindfulness, nature, and music. Filled with

innovative knowledge and vivid illustrations, [Restart Your Heart](#) inspires readers by providing straightforward answers and options to deal with this complex disease.

In [Restart Your Heart](#) readers will:

Be Informed about what AFib is, why it happens, and simple steps to take after being diagnosed.

Be Prepared to deal with the diagnosis and condition on mental and emotional levels and create a toolbox for resilience in challenging times.

Be in Control by gaining crucial knowledge about trigger and risk factor modifications, the latest treatment options, and how to monitor the disease for progression or recurrence.

[Restart Your Heart](#) delivers cutting-edge information, options, and solutions that afford readers a newfound sense of comfort, confidence, and control.

*This wonderful book explains for patients what physicians know about the important public health problem of atrial fibrillation. Dr. Desai is a cardiologist with special expertise in this area, and he presents clearly to patients what they should know about this problem in order to better guide and understand their many options available for therapy. Dr. Desai clarifies complex concepts with easy-to-understand language and provides an important perspective for patients. This book is a must-read for anyone who has atrial fibrillation. – Kenneth A. Ellenbogen, MD, Martha M. and Harold W. Kimmerling Professor of Cardiology, Chair of Cardiology, VCU School of Medicine*

*In [Restart Your Heart](#), my former colleague at the University of Chicago, Dr. Aseem Desai, a veteran specialist in the treatment of patients with heart rhythm disorders, tackles the epidemic of atrial fibrillation by going straight to the patient. He provides expert advice beyond what patients will find in brochures and other patient-education materials, and beyond what most time-limited encounters with physicians and other health care providers can offer. This book empowers patients who often have a lifelong condition that can put them at risk of stroke, heart failure, and disabling symptoms. – Bradley P. Knight, MD, FHRS, Chester and Deborah Cooley Distinguished Professor of Cardiology, Northwestern University, Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology, Northwestern Medicine*

*Dr. Desai is a brilliant cardiologist and author who has clearly laid out an easy-to-follow playbook for anyone who is not willing to accept that atrial fibrillation is a lifelong condition that can't be beaten. – John Day, MD, FACC, FHRS, Past President of the Heart Rhythm Society, Medical Director, Heart Rhythm Services, Intermountain Healthcare, author of *The Longevity Plan**

*Drawing on his own life lessons, his extensive knowledge as a cardiologist, his organized and intellectual thought in addressing problems, his compassion for those with an illness, and his philosophy to make life all it can be, Dr. Desai provides an important resource for patients. Those with atrial fibrillation will find this a meaningful and understandable guide with a scientific and human approach to this common problem. – Kelley M. Skeff, MD, PhD, George Deforest Barnett Professor in Medicine, Stanford University, Co-Director, Stanford Faculty Development Center for Medical Teachers, author of *Methods of Teaching Medicine**

Comprehensive and life-changing, [Restart Your Heart](#) offers compelling, expert advice on how to live fearlessly with atrial fibrillation. <>

Outdoors & Nature / Crafts & Hobbies / Birding / Reference

## [Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#) by John Kricher (Peterson Reference Guides: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

*A Black-capped Chickadee comes to your bird feeder and carries away a sunflower seed. Where does it go? Sometimes you see it land on a branch and hack the seed husk to open it, eating the seed within. Sometimes it does this while still at the feeder. Other times it flies away with the seed in its beak. Chickadees are 'scatter hoarders' and thus often hide or cache a seed rather than devour it. They hide seeds in scattered locations – under leaves, between flakes of loose bark, whatever appeals to the chickadee mind, which makes a great many daily decisions. And they remember. Ask yourself: Could you take, say, 50 cashew nuts and hide each one at a different place around your yard, and then a few days later, at happy hour, go back and retrieve each and every one? Chickadees are capable of finding most of the seeds they have hidden, even after days and weeks go by. That is how they provision for challenging conditions that might lie ahead. Do they plan? Do they anticipate leaner times? How do they learn? Are they mere automatons that mindlessly hide seeds but equally mindlessly retain a sufficient spatial memory to relocate them at a future date? – from the book*

Both casual and serious birdwatchers can take their skills to the next level with this detailed consideration of bird behavior. [Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#) makes it possible to move beyond identifying birds to understanding some of the underpinning and meaning to what birds do, how they do it, and why they do it. Written in an easy-to-understand style, with an abundance of photos illustrating the behaviors, the book shows how flight, molt, migration, feeding, predation, social behavior, courtship, and nesting shape birds' behaviors.

Author John Kricher is Professor Emeritus of Biology at Wheaton College, Norton, MA, where for 48 years he taught ecology, ornithology, and vertebrate evolution. He is a

Fellow in the American Ornithologists Union and is past president of the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society, and the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

[Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#) provides a key to unlocking the mysteries and complexities of bird behavior. With technical jargon kept to a minimum, Kricher takes the 'observation-explanation' approach. After noting particular behaviors that one might easily observe in the field, he explains the science and adaptation underlying those actions.

According to Kricher, birds are everywhere, from cities to prairies, over the oceans, in snow during the depths of winter. They are diverse, obvious, and colorful; produce remarkable sounds; and make elegantly structured nests in which to raise their young. They are out there for readers to observe, over 10,000 species worldwide. People see more species of birds on a typical day than they do mammals. They challenge and they entertain. They connect with humans and puzzle them with a unique form of cognition and sentience known only to them. And in doing so, they connect people with nature. Humans who watch birds develop a feeling of empathy for a creature that, yes, thinks, as it tries to survive for another day.

After a brief primer on how to watch behavior in birds and an overview of their biology, the remainder of the book highlights the most distinctive behaviors readers will likely observe as they encounter and watch birds of various families. Many of these behaviors are shown in the nearly 400 color photographs throughout [Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#).

[Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#) is a fascinating look at what birds do and why they do it. The book introduces readers to various elements of bird behavior and explains something of the ecological and evolutionary bases for them; this approach connects readers more intimately with these remarkable and beguilingly perceptive animals. Once readers have learned how to have birds tell them about their lives by carefully observing and thinking about their actions, birds will become more compelling than merely names to be marked on a checklist.

[Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior](#) is part of the series **Peterson Reference Guides**. The books in this series offer authoritative, comprehensive information, including detailed text, maps, and superior illustrations. Written by expert authors, the guides are an unparalleled resource for understanding specific groups of animals. <>

Psychology / Counseling / Clinical

## **The Big Book of Exposures**: Innovative, Creative, and Effective CBT-Based Exposures for Treating Anxiety-Related Disorders by Kristen S. Springer PhD & David F. Tolin, PhD (New Harbinger Publications, Inc.)

For clinicians **The Big Book of Exposures** is breakthrough book offering 400 creative, innovative, and easy-to-implement exposure exercises to help them and their clients move past fears, energize treatment sessions, and improve client outcomes.

In cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), exposures are the gold standard for treating anxiety-related disorders, including obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic, and phobias. But if readers are like many therapists, they have likely encountered clients who are fearful or reluctant regarding exposure therapy. As a result, they may also shy away from doing exposures out of fear of worsening the client's anxiety or rupturing the client/therapist rapport. So, how can they find a new approach for using this effective – yet intimidating – treatment?

Authors are Kristen S. Springer, PhD and David F. Tolin, PhD, ABPP. Springer is a licensed clinical psychologist who worked at the Anxiety Disorders Center in Hartford, Connecticut as a staff psychologist before opening her private practice in Concord, Massachusetts. Tolin, PhD, ABPP, the founder and director of the Anxiety Disorders Center/Center for Cognitive Behavioral Therapy at Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, is adjunct professor of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine, and maintains a private practice in the greater Hartford area.

**The Big Book of Exposures** offers hundreds of exposure exercises clinicians can use in any setting and adapt to their clients' unique needs. Readers find a comprehensive overview of exposure therapy; a rationale for its use in treating anxiety; troubleshooting tips for dealing with common roadblocks such as avoidance; and techniques for helping clients stay motivated in session.

Part 1, "An Overview of Exposure Therapy," is designed to provide readers with information about the empirical support for exposure with clients with panic, anxiety, phobias, OCD, and trauma-related disorders. Springer and Tolin discuss common misconceptions that mental health providers may have about exposure work, aiming to help them solidify their rationale for using it as a treatment of choice for various anxiety-related disorders. They also include a chapter dedicated to the nuances of doing successful exposure work with children and adolescents.

Part 2, "Getting Creative with Exposures for Anxiety and Related Disorders," gets into the diverse work that can be done with exposures. According to Springer and Tolin in **The Big Book of Exposures**, it really is fun work – creative, empowering, flexible, and, best of

all, effective. They dedicate full chapters to each of the anxiety-related disorders for which clinicians will commonly use exposure as a central component of treatment. Each chapter in part 2 includes many innovative exposure ideas for readers to use to best match their clients' needs. In addition to the exposure examples, each of the chapters in part 2 contains resources such as imaginal scripts to use or adapt, games to play with their clients to target their fears, and more. These resources, as well as some from earlier chapters, are also available on the website dedicated to [The Big Book of Exposures](#), and can be downloaded, printed, and used with clients.

[The Big Book of Exposures](#) is a cornucopia of creative and effective exposure strategies for a range of anxiety disorders. The authors have cataloged hundreds of simple and effective exposures that they've tested in their own clinical practices. The exposures worked for them, and will work for you. If you're in search of thoughtful guidance on designing and implementing exposures, add this book to your bookshelf. You won't regret it. – Michael A. Tompkins, PhD, ABPP, codirector of the San Francisco Bay Area Center for Cognitive Therapy; assistant clinical professor at the University of California, Berkeley; and author of *Anxiety and Avoidance*

*Exposure therapy – helping patients therapeutically face their fears – is the most effective intervention for treating clinical fear and anxiety, and Springer and Tolin have amassed a comprehensive, practical guide to using this technique. Complete with loads of creative exposure ideas and suggestions, this book is a must for any clinician working with anxious and fearful individuals.* – Jonathan S. Abramowitz, PhD, professor of psychology at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and author of *Getting Over OCD*

*Drawing from their extensive clinical experience and research expertise, Springer and Tolin have created an invaluable resource for both beginner and advanced clinicians who use, or who would like to use, exposure therapy in their practice. This practical guide is packed with evidence-informed, innovative recommendations for designing in vivo, interoceptive, and imaginal exposures for children and adults with a range of anxiety and related disorders. A 'must-read' for clinicians looking to expand their repertoire of clinical skills.* – Susan M. Orsillo, PhD, professor of psychology at Suffolk University, and coauthor of *The Mindful Way through Anxiety*

*Confronting feared situations is among the most powerful approaches to treating anxiety and related disorders. This well-written, accessible book is filled with practical tips for conducting exposure therapy for the most common anxiety-related problems. This book will even help therapists to overcome their own apprehension about using exposure therapy, by addressing frequently occurring misconceptions and myths concerning exposure. [The Big Book of Exposures](#) is essential reading for any therapist who treats anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), illness anxiety, and related problems – whether they are a student,*

novice clinician, or seasoned therapist. – Martin M. Antony, PhD, ABPP, professor of psychology at Ryerson University, and coauthor of *The Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook* and *The Anti-Anxiety Workbook*

With this essential resource, clinicians learn to create engaging and enjoyable exposure exercises to improve treatment outcomes and help their clients live better lives. They can find the guidance and instruction in [The Big Book of Exposures](#) helpful in learning not only how to use exposures successfully with their clients, but also how to get creative with designing their own unique exposures and implementing them with confidence. <>

Public Policy / Science / Environment / Analysis

## [Environmental Assessments](#): Scenarios, Modelling and Policy edited by K. N. Ninan, with a foreword by Anne Larigauderie (Edward Elgar Publishing)

[Environmental Assessments](#) offers a roadmap for strengthening the science policy interface for environmental decision-making. Leading international experts examine the use of scenario analyses and modelling in environmental assessments. The book highlights their potential uses in making evidence-based decisions to address the risks and adverse impacts of rapid environmental change such as global warming and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

[Environmental Assessments](#) was edited by K.N. Ninan, Chairperson, Centre for Economics, Environment and Society, Bangalore, India, and lead author, *Working Group III, Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* (IPCC), World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environment Programme, Geneva. The book has 23 contributors.

In addition to theoretical and conceptual issues, contributors analyze the latest research on the applications of scenarios and models and discuss the opportunities and challenges in using them for policy relevant research and action. Chapters include in-depth case studies from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America as well as those with a global or regional focus, providing a comprehensive review of the available tools and frameworks for conducting environmental assessments in diverse contexts.

[Environmental Assessments](#) is timely and addresses the theoretical and conceptual issues and applications of the use of scenarios and models for building plausible futures of the drivers of environmental change and their consequences for nature and nature's contributions to people, including impacts on quality of life and sustainable development. Apart from an in-depth and critical review of the different types of

scenarios and models available for policy analysis, the book includes case studies and applications of their use at the global, regional and national levels in agricultural, forest, marine, wetland and urban ecosystems. [Environmental Assessments](#) in particular addresses the opportunities and challenges in using scenarios and models for policy-relevant research and action.

*This is an excellent collection of the latest state-of-the-art work on environmental scenario analysis and long-term modelling from within the social sciences. It provides essential conceptual, methodological and empirical insights to anyone working on understanding the long-term and complex causes and implications of environmental problems.* – Andreas Kontoleon, University of Cambridge

*One of the less obvious benefits of international assessments is spin-off books on topics flagged in the assessments. This book picks up on several issues identified in the IPBES methodological assessment of biodiversity scenarios and models. Aside from a very useful set of chapters on methodology, it includes a number of applications to marine, freshwater, terrestrial, and urban systems. Dr Ninan is to be congratulated for bringing together such an interesting and informative collection.* – Charles Perrings, Arizona State University

*As we move deeper into the Anthropocene, the need deepens for assessments of the complex interactions between man and his environment. This book is a big step towards filling this gap. It provides interesting assessments on a row of important topics from seafoods to forestry, management of invasive species to climate and fisheries or municipal planning. The book draws extensively on good expertise from a range of important countries, including many in the developing world. Strongly recommended reading for everyone interested in ecosystems and global change.* – Thomas Sterner, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

An authoritative book, [Environmental Assessments](#) is crucial reading for scholars, postgraduate students, practitioners and policy makers working in ecological economics and ecology, biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change and natural resources. It will be useful for those working for international and intergovernmental agencies, national governments, businesses and NGOs looking to make informed decisions about responses to environmental change.

And [Environmental Assessments](#) will be especially helpful for the future work of Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). <>

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism / Tibetan

**Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two**: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection by Jigme Lingpa, with commentary by Longchen Yeshe Dorje, Kangyur Rinpoche, translated by the Padmakara Translation Group (Shambhala Publications)

**Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two**: **Yajrayana and the Great Perfection** is a translation of the second part of a commentary on the *Treasury of Precious Qualities*, the most celebrated work of Jigme Lingpa (1730–1798), one of the most important figures in the Nyingma lineage. In a slender volume of elegant verse, this root text presents the entire Buddhist path according to the Nyingma school. Because it is so concise and makes use of elaborate poetic language, this commentary on the text is indispensable.

Author Rigdzin Jigme Lingpa (1730-1798) was one of the most important masters of the Nyingma tradition of Tibetan Buddhism. He and the great fourteenth-century master Longchen Rabjam (1308-1363), with whom he was closely linked through visionary experience, are known as the 'two omniscient masters, father and son.' The root of the Khyentse lineage, Jigme Lingpa was a tertön, or discoverer of treasure teachings, and revealed the Longchen Nyingtik, one of the most important cycles of meditative practice in the Nyingma school. The *Treasury of Precious Qualities* is one of his universally respected scholarly compositions. Commentary writer Longchen Yeshe Dorje, Kangyur Rinpoche (1897-1975), was, like Jigme Lingpa himself, both a tertön and a great scholar. He spent much of his life as a wandering hermit, living in mountain retreats and practicing in various parts of Tibet and the Himalayan region. He left Tibet in the 1950s and was one of the first Tibetan masters to accept Western disciples. The book was translated by Helena Blankleder and Wulstan Fletcher of the Padmakara Translation Group.

The *Treasury of Precious Qualities* gives instructions for all the stages of the path to enlightenment according to the capacities of the three kinds of beings. **Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two**: **Yajrayana and the Great Perfection**, the second volume, is now available in English, providing those who are interested with instructions that make it possible to reach enlightenment in a single lifetime. It is as though buddhahood were being placed in the readers' hands.

Of course, the Buddha's teaching, from the preliminaries right up to the practice of the Great Perfection, is not a magical recipe that will simply give one enlightenment right away, so that readers can become Buddhas without having to abandon their old habits. To practice the Dharma means to change, and to want to change, for the better. Therefore if readers do actually read this book, they should do so with the genuine, heartfelt wish to be free from the samsara of their old ways, and with the wish to attain enlightenment for the sake of all beings.

As [Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection](#) shows, the practice of the Vajrayana is based upon pure vision and the five perfections. Teachings like these are not meant to fill filing cabinets. They are not intended to be the source material for academic research. Neither, on the other hand, are they a holiday brochure for so-called practitioners to daydream about flying to accomplishment. To be no more than an erudite scholar on the one hand, or a 'dzogrim or dzogchen dreamer' on the other, are ways to waste one's precious human life.

These teachings are meant to be taken seriously for what they are. Therefore, it is recommended that [Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection](#) be read and studied under the guidance of authentic and accomplished teachers.

[Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection](#) is a translation of the second and concluding section of the *Treasury of Precious Qualities* by Rigdzin Jigme Lingpa, together with the commentary of Longchen Yeshe Dorje, Kangyur Rinpoche.

Despite the length of time separating the appearance of the first and second volumes, they nevertheless belong together as a single work. *The Treasury of Precious Qualities* belongs to the literary genre known in Tibetan as *lam rim*, or stages of the path in which the way to enlightenment is explained in terms of the system of three levels of spiritual capacity popularized by the great Indian master Atisha Dipamkara, who visited Tibet in the eleventh century. And since, in this exposition, the path is viewed according to the perspective of the Nyingma, or old translation school, of Tibetan Buddhism, its different levels are regarded as steps and stages leading to the teachings of the Great Perfection, which is considered the pinnacle of all vehicles.

The first nine chapters of the Treasury (corresponding to the first volume of this translation) cover all the levels of Buddhist teaching up to and including the sutra section of the Mahayana, which, taken together, are referred to as the causal vehicle. The concluding four chapters, translated in [Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection](#), are an exposition of the resultant vehicle. Chapter 10 is a general exposition of the Vajrayana. After a brief account of the transmission lineages and an explanation of the classification of the tantras according to the old and new translation schools, the main body of the chapter consists of a detailed presentation of the Anuttara or highest level of tantra. It contains lengthy presentations of such topics as the four empowerments, the generation and perfection stages, and the various categories of samaya.

The section on the tantras is a compendious presentation of all-important issues: lineage, empowerment, the generation and perfection stages, and samaya. The section on the Great Perfection is arranged according to the classification of Ground,

Path, and Result, and gives an extremely clear introduction to the doctrinal background that underpins the practice of this unique system.

**Treasury of Precious Qualities: Book Two: Yajrayana and the Great Perfection** is able to supply readers with a tool of maximum efficacy and an abundant source of help in their study and practice. Because the original text is so concise and makes use of elaborate poetic language, the commentary is indispensable. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

## **The Apocalypse of John**: A Commentary by Francis J. Moloney, SDB, with a foreword by Eugenio Corsini (Baker Academic)

*I trust that Professor Moloney's careful, profound, and skillful capacity to capture the narrative shape of the text will reopen debate on John's book, guided by the hermeneutic I suggested many years ago. It may appear to be new, but it is in fact as old as the earliest Christian communities that read the Apocalypse, not as an announcement of the kingdom of God that will be realized only at the end of all time, but as a symbolic commentary on the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. – Eugenio Corsini, from the foreword*

In **The Apocalypse of John**, a major, paradigm-shifting commentary on the book of Revelation, internationally respected author Francis J. Moloney brings his keen narrative and exegetical work to bear on one of the most difficult, mysterious, and misinterpreted texts in the biblical canon. Challenging the assumed consensus among New Testament scholars, Moloney reads Revelation not as an exhortation to faithfulness in a period of persecution but as a celebration of the ongoing effects of Jesus's death and resurrection.

Moloney, SDB is Senior Professorial Fellow at Catholic Theological College, University of Divinity, in Melbourne, Australia, and the author of more than 40 books. He is the former Provincial Superior of the Salesians of Don Bosco for Australia and the Pacific. Preface writer Eugenio Corsini, the former professor of ancient Christian literature at the University of Turin, had a distinguished career until his recent demise.

Corsini comments in the foreword to **The Apocalypse of John** that the 'revelation' of the Apocalypse is not an obscure prophecy about the catastrophic end of the world and the second coming of Christ. On the contrary, it is the story of a past event that embraces the whole of the history of salvation, beginning with the creation of the world and culminating in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In 1983 Moloney published an edited translation of Corsini's original 1980 volume. On reading the Italian original, he found Corsini's questioning of the more traditional interpretative paradigm fascinating. There were places in which his interpretation appeared to reach beyond the evidence, but his overall case was impressive. Aware that his paradigm-questioning work would receive little attention from English-speaking scholars in its Italian dress, Moloney produced his English translation so that an alternative voice might be heard over the confused and confusing variety of interpretations that rest upon what has long been a traditional interpretative paradigm.

As so few commentators devoted attention to his proposed reading of the Apocalypse, Eugenio Corsini returned to it in a second edition of his work in 2002. [The Apocalypse of John](#) is a further attempt, on Moloney's part, to draw his proposal into the broader discussion, especially for English-language readers of the Apocalypse. However, it is not a translation of his conclusions into an English-speaking context. Not everything in Corsini's interpretation is convincing. But he was fascinated by, and indeed theologically attracted to, his hermeneutical key of the perennial impact, from before all time, of the saving effects of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the participation of the saints in the salvific event of the death of Jesus 'before the foundation of the world'.

The cover of [The Apocalypse of John](#) created for this alternative commentary on the Apocalypse of John is representative of the widespread Eastern Christian iconographic theme of the anastasis portraying the crucified and risen Jesus' *descensus ad inferos* ('descent into hell' or 'harrowing of hell'). He raises Adam and Eve to life by taking their hands and leading them upward. Old Testament kings and prophets look on. Although the artistic tradition is associated with the temporal, indicating what happened in the silence of Holy Saturday, it can also be interpreted as an indication of the transtemporal saving presence of death and resurrection 'from the foundation of the world'.

This iconographic tradition powerfully illustrates the transtemporal perspective of the Apocalypse. Although the document certainly addresses Christians, it overflows with the confidence that the saving action of Jesus' death and resurrection has always been present. From the first page John acclaims the crucified and risen Christ and the kingdom of priests to which Jesus' death and resurrection gave birth. He lays bare the truth that the saints from before the historical event of the death and resurrection of Jesus anticipated and participated in that saving action. He asks that Christians of all time be aware that their names can be written in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain from before the foundation of the world. They can confidently look forward to the one who will come quickly, and they can cry out, 'Come, Lord Jesus'.

Moloney says that at this stage of his academic life, he does not have the energies required to return to the thankless task of translation. [The Apocalypse of John](#) is his

rethinking and rewriting of the interpretation of Corsini, guided by the questions he poses to the traditional interpretative paradigm, represented in various ways by contemporary commentary on the Apocalypse. He also indicates that contemporary study of the Apocalypse is moving away from the traditional interpretative paradigm.

Moloney says he differs from Corsini's reading of the Apocalypse in his adoption of a narrative approach to the reading/listening experience. As a fine literary and historical critic, Corsini moves across the document, drawing parallels and resonances from later passages as he builds his case. This is a solid traditional way of supporting philological, rhetorical, and theological interpretations. In general, however, he allows the narrative to unfold word by word, verse by verse, and chapter by chapter. This means that he only looks back to what readers has already encountered in the reading/listening experience to that point. Only rarely does he have recourse to elements in the narrative that lie ahead.

*Francis Moloney has given us a remarkable commentary that is deeply sensitive to the literary artistry of Revelation. He reads the Apocalypse in the same way that John's intended reader (the implied reader) approaches it: with a word-by-word, sentence-by-sentence, paragraph-by-paragraph sequential reading of the narrative. Challenging the traditional view that Revelation was written to address the suffering of the Christian community under Roman persecution, Moloney provides a compelling case for a divergent reading – one that sees the saving effects of Jesus' death and resurrection as the key to this enigmatic book. His commentary is a breed apart, fascinating and abreast with contemporary scholarship on Revelation. – James L. Resseguie, Winebrenner Theological Seminary (emeritus)*

*Francis Moloney, renowned as a specialist on the Fourth Gospel, here turns to the book of Revelation. Inspired by the work of Italian scholar Eugenio Corsini, Moloney offers a vigorous challenge to readings of Revelation as an 'apocalyptic' work focused on eschatological judgment. With astute sensitivity to the rhetoric of this 'genre-bending' text, Moloney argues that Revelation celebrates the eternal victory of the sacrificed Lamb over all powers of evil. His persuasive reading of Revelation as a work of 'realized' eschatology will stimulate debate but will also inspire a deeper appreciation for this complex, visionary book, particularly relevant in an 'apocalyptic' epoch. – Harold W. Attridge, Yale Divinity School*

*Francis Moloney offers a much-needed perspective to the interpretive conversation about the Apocalypse (the book of Revelation). Reinvigorating a long-standing mission to bring Eugenio Corsini's voice into the global scholarly discussion, Moloney, in his customarily engaging and accessible manner, challenges readers to encounter this text as a genre-bending, apocalyptic reenvisioning of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Both late first-century and early twenty-first-century churches are asked to take stock of themselves: Where do they (we) belong – in the new Jerusalem of the*

*sacrificed Lamb, or outside, selling out to the far more immediate gratification of the status quo? It is a choice made daily, and this commentary guides us through John of Patmos's challenging scriptural counsel.* – Sherri Brown, Creighton University

*Widely acclaimed for his narrative-critical readings of the Gospels of Mark and John, Francis Moloney now applies his considerable exegetical skills to the Apocalypse. Inspired especially by the work of Eugenio Corsini, Moloney's careful analysis of the unfolding narrative produces an interpretation which gives full weight to Revelation's conviction that the Lamb has been slain 'from the foundation of the world,' with implications for Israel's past no less than the church's present and creation's future. Even those readers unpersuaded by Moloney's overall thesis will find in his commentary a rich treasure trove of narrative sensitivity, intertextual connections, and theological insight.* – Ian Boxall, The Catholic University of America

Engaging and accessible, [The Apocalypse of John](#) will serve as a helpful guide for many who find that reading this document from the church's Sacred Scriptures at Easter does not make sense. Maybe the Apocalypse does make sense, provided one has the key to unlocking its secrets. It may raise an alternative, even if challenging, voice to which both lay readers and colleagues might devote some attention. >? >

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Bible Commentary

[ESV Expository Commentary: Ezra–Job](#) (Volume 4) edited by Ian M. Duguid, James M. Hamilton Jr., and Jay Sklar, with series editor Iain M. Duguid (Crossway)

Designed to help the church understand and apply the overarching storyline of the Bible, the **ESV Expository Commentary**, a two volume set, is broadly accessible, theologically enriching, and pastorally wise.

The editors of [ESV Expository Commentary: Ezra–Job \(Volume 4\)](#) are Iain M. Duguid, professor of Old Testament and pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Glenside, Pennsylvania; James M. Hamilton Jr., professor of biblical theology at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and preaching pastor at Kenwood Baptist Church; and Jay Sklar, professor of Old Testament and vice president of academics at Covenant Theological Seminary. Contributors are W. Brian Aucker, Professor of Old Testament and Director of ThM Program, Covenant Theological Seminary (Ezra-Nehemiah); Eric Ortlund, Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Hebrew, Oak Hill College (Esther); and Douglas Sean O'Donnell, Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elgin, Illinois (Job).

**Overview of Ezra.** Ezra, along with Nehemiah, recounts a series of homecomings. Although there is long-standing scholarly debate concerning the authorship of Ezra-

Nehemiah and the relationship of those books to Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah has traditionally been viewed as a unified work, a position taken in this commentary. As such, Ezra-Nehemiah comprises three sections: Ezra 1:1–11; Ezra 2:1–Nehemiah 7:73a; and Nehemiah 7:73b–13:31. The short first section is an introduction narrating the initial authorization granted by Cyrus, king of Persia for the Jewish exiles to return to the Promised Land. This occurs as the result of the divine decree from the 'mouth of Jeremiah'.

The second section, the largest, is framed by two nearly identical lists. Generally speaking, this second section describes movements to Jerusalem that result in three different building projects, each with its own historical context. The first two of these projects are found in Ezra; the third takes place in Nehemiah. More specifically, the second section begins with a large list of individual names and numbers (Ezra 2), followed by two movements. The first begins by noting the people are 'gathered as one man to Jerusalem'. Here, as a unified people, they begin altar and temple reconstruction under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Jeshua. Ongoing resistance to the building projects spans a wide chronological range throughout the reigns of several Persian kings. This results in cessation of the work. However, a prophetic call to restart temple reconstruction leads to a supportive decree from Darius and the successful completion of the temple (516 BC) and its resulting dedication. The first movement ends with a joyful Passover celebration.

The second movement takes place fifty-seven years later and is described in two parts: (1) authorization and return; (2) conflict and resolution. After a brief introduction, Ezra the priest is granted authority to lead another return to Jerusalem and is given tasks by King Artaxerxes, especially the responsibility of instructing God's people in the 'laws of your God'. Preparations for the return are followed by a brief description of the journey itself, concluding with burnt offerings. Homecomings, however, are not always easy, and the joy of return is short-lived. An internal crisis arises with a report of serious 'faithlessness' among returnees, as men have married 'foreign wives.' In response, Ezra mourns and confesses. Proposals from within the community lead to the formation of a commission that investigates and promotes confession, repentance, and atonement. Resolution takes place within one year of the initial departure, with a final list. The book of Nehemiah then recounts wall building – the third construction project – along with a conclusion.

**Overview of Nehemiah.** Nehemiah completes the story of the homecoming and restoration of God's people begun in Ezra. The book opens with the news that the exiles in Jerusalem are in 'great trouble and shame' and the city walls in disrepair. Nehemiah laments this problem before both divine and human kings and is granted permission to journey to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. The accomplishment of the wall rebuilding is recounted in Nehemiah 3–6. However, as in Ezra, trouble is encountered from

adversaries without and disobedience from the community within. The remarkable speed of wall completion is evidence of the 'help of our God', but the need to repopulate the city also becomes apparent at this time as Nehemiah considers the genealogy of the people.

The climax of Nehemiah and of Ezra-Nehemiah as a whole is recounted in 7:73b–13:31. The theological highpoint is reached with a covenant-renewal ceremony, concluding with the vital pledge, 'We will not neglect the house of our God'. After Jerusalem is repopulated, the culmination of Ezra-Nehemiah is reached at 12:27–13:3 as a purified community dwells within a purified city. The conclusion then narrates a series of reforms associated with the temple, Sabbath, and separation. These reforms remind the people to be ever vigilant in their calling to be a people holy to the Lord.

**Overview of Esther.** The book of Esther narrates the deliverance of God's people from the schemes of Haman, who plots the death of every Jew in the Persian Empire over a personal insult. The book depicts this common biblical theme of deliverance as God's people live in exile, under the authority of a Gentile king, without priests to consult or an army to fight for them. It also shows the kindness of the Lord to a portion of Abraham's seed that seems to have forgotten about him. The book's famous silence about God is best interpreted not as a sign that God is uninvolved but as a sign that the Jews living in Persia are Jewish only in regard to their customs and ethnic identity, with no special allegiance to the God of Abraham. One consequence of their spiritual insensitivity is that the real victory God gives his people is muted and obscured. This prompts modern-day believers, who are also living in exile, to consider how they can look for God's deliverance amid hostility, as well as how they can speak about God to spread his fame among the nonbelievers all around them.

**Overview of Job.** The book of Job prefigures the purposeful sufferings of Jesus Christ. That is, the story of God's servant Job prepares readers for the story of Jesus, the suffering servant who in his passion and death exhibits how innocent suffering can show forth the justice of God.

The drama of Job opens and closes with God's blessings upon the righteous man Job. Between the prologue and the epilogue, Job suffers the arrows of inexplicable divine providence. In two days he loses his wealth, his children, and his health. In the days that follow he loses his closest and wisest friends' respect. He thinks he is losing his mind, and he wants to lose his life. While Job claims his innocence, his friends debate the nature of his offense against God. Surely such sufferings are caused by Job's sin.

It is not until God speaks – first indirectly through Elihu, then directly – that wisdom is found. Everyone is guilty but God. Job understands, or sees, this, as do his friends. In the end (and as the book's goal), the righteous sufferer is vindicated, sinners are atoned for

through a costly blood sacrifice, and the sovereign freedom and justice of God is upheld.

**The ESV Expository Commentary** will be a welcome addition to the toolbox of those who are committed to expounding the inerrant and infallible Word of God. It is biblically sound, theologically faithful, and practically helpful. I look forward to using it in my own preaching and teaching ministry. – Daniel L. Akin, President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

**The ESV Expository Commentary** is one of the best, most useful building blocks for a Bible teacher's basic library. Readily accessible to lay readers and at the same time sufficiently learned to assist experienced expositors, this twelve-volume set seems destined to become a standard Bible reference tool for serious students of Scripture around the world. – Philip Graham Ryken, President, Wheaton College

**The ESV Expository Commentary** is truly a treasure of outstanding biblical exposition and thoughtful biblical theology. Not only will readers find high-quality scholarship, but they will discover a readable, accessible, and well-designed commentary. Pastors, Bible teachers, and interested students will find this excellent resource to be an incredibly helpful and trustworthy guide. Highly recommended! – David S. Dockery, Distinguished Professor of Theology, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Sheer exposition! Based on top-level scholarship which has been distilled into a form that is helpful to all students of the Bible, the easy-to-access format of the material is ideal for quick reference. This is a commentary I will refer to often in my study and preparation. – Ajith Fernando, Teaching Director, Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka; author, *Discipling in a Multicultural World*

From eternity to eternity, God's Word reveals his eternal and global plan to bless the nations with the knowledge of his Son. It warms my heart to know these volumes are being provided to the church, with the intention to bless the nations with access to faithful, solid exposition of the Scriptures. May God use this to fill the earth with the knowledge of his glory as the waters cover the sea. – Ian Chew, Pastor, Kay Poh Road Baptist Church, Singapore

With exegetically sound, broadly reformed, biblical-theological, passage-by-passage commentary, [ESV Expository Commentary: Ezra–Job](#) helps pastors and Bible readers around the world understand the overarching storyline of the Bible.

All serious students of God's Word, both those who seek to teach others and those who pursue study for their own personal growth in godliness, will be served by the **ESV Expository Commentary**. It provides a clear, crisp, and Christ-centered explanation of the biblical text for a team of respected pastor-theologians. And it is broadly accessible, theologically enriching, and pastorally wise. <>

## **Becoming Brave**: Finding the Courage to Pursue Racial Justice Now by Brenda Salter McNeil, with a foreword by Austin Channing Brown (Brazos Press)

Reconciliation is not true reconciliation without justice – author Brenda Salter McNeil has come to this conviction as she has led the church in pursuing reconciliation efforts over the past three decades. McNeil in **Becoming Brave** calls the church to repair the old reconciliation paradigm by moving beyond individual racism to address systemic injustice, both historical and present.

McNeil is associate professor of reconciliation studies at Seattle Pacific University and director of the Reconciliation Studies program. She is also associate pastor of preaching and reconciliation at Quest Church in Seattle.

According to McNeil, it's time for the church to go beyond individual reconciliation and 'heart change' and to boldly mature in its response to racial division. Looking through the lens of the biblical narrative of Esther, McNeil challenges Christian reconcilers to recognize the particular pain in this world so they can work together to repair what is broken while maintaining a deep hope in God's ongoing work for justice.

**Becoming Brave** offers a distinctly Christian framework for addressing systemic injustice. It challenges Christians to be everyday activists who become brave enough to break the silence and work with others to dismantle systems of injustice and inequality.

*[A] powerful work.... Provides a road map for any Christian seeking greater racial justice. – Publishers Weekly*

*Once again, Dr. McNeil proves herself as a leading theologian and practitioner of reconciliation and justice. She brilliantly uncovers, through the book of Esther, how God uses the marginalized as brave vessels of transformation. I am grateful for her reminding us of the courageous women of the Bible and how they can inspire justice-oriented disciplinarians today. – Efre Smith, co-senior pastor, Bayside Church Midtown, Granite Bay, California; author of *Killing Us Softly**

*Rev. Brenda, one of the American church's great leaders of racial reconciliation, delves into the unexpected disruptions she has encountered during her journey toward deep reconciliation. She models and illuminates a path for others. A fantastic resource for advocating for and embodying justice. – Nikki Toyama-Szeto, executive director, Evangelicals for Social Action at the Sider Center of Eastern University*

*Brenda's stories, rooted in women of action in Scripture, inspire us to deepen our faith and take the whole gospel to the whole of creation. Paul admonishes us that 'the whole of creation awaits the revelation of the children of God.' Perhaps this is less about us being revealed than it is about us experiencing the gospel more fully. In **Becoming***

**Brave**, Brenda challenges us to be woke! – Terry LeBlanc, director, NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community

*I want to be a leader for racial reconciliation. Dr. McNeil's book is an essential tool for my leadership education. And while I was inspired by the wisdom of the book, it's going to challenge you. It pulls no punches. For these reasons, it is an essential read.* – Shirley Hoogstra, president, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

*This book is a clarion call that cuts through the fog of our partisan arguments and blazes a path to abundant life for all. All of those who are suffering unjustly at this time need you to read this book and respond.* – Alexia Salvatierra, Centro Latino professor, School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary

*Part confession, part biblical reflection, part call to storm the gates, **Becoming Brave** declares that the Christian call to do justice cannot and shall no longer be guided, shaped, and defanged by sensibilities more loyal to white people's comfort than to God. A must-read.* – Lisa Sharon Harper, founder and president, Freedom Road  
*There is no one who understands more clearly what is necessary to move white evangelicals forward beyond their racial captivity than Brenda Salter McNeil, and there is no more important book that must find its way into the hands of students, pastors, Christian activists, and all those who understand the urgency of this moment than **Becoming Brave**.* – Willie James Jennings, professor, Yale Divinity School; author of *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*

*Real prophets lovingly criticize and truthfully energize. McNeil does both with clarity and rare vulnerability. This book will move your heart and compel your feet to move as well, with others, in response to God's call to do justice.* – Jennifer Harvey, author of *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*

*Through a combination of personal reflection, cultural awareness, and biblical exegesis of the book of Esther, Dr. McNeil provides a roadmap for leaders to become and to be brave.* – Bishop Claude Alexander, senior pastor, The Park Church, Charlotte, North Carolina

*This book is light in our darkness and an urgent, prophetic wake-up call to a church that has lost its reconciling credibility.* – Inés Velásquez-McBryde, pastor, speaker, and reconciler; chaplain, Fuller Theological Seminary

*There is not a more credible, seasoned, and dynamic voice in the country that could speak to us about leadership and reconciliation than Brenda Salter McNeil. I cannot recommend **Becoming Brave** strongly enough.* – Daniel Hill, pastor; author of *White Awake*

In **Becoming Brave**, McNeil calls readers out of passivity and into action. She does not chastise but inspires readers by her own example. Highly motivational, the book provides education and prophetic inspiration for every person who wants to take reconciliation seriously. <>

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Religion & Spirituality / Racial Justice / Racial Reconciliation

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