

THE READERS EXCHANGE

Ideas and Information for Readers



FREE SPEECH Who could have imagined free speech would be an issue in America today? Yet it is. Have you had enough of speakers begin shouted down on college campuses? This occurs only when the speaker's views do not comport with Leftist ideology, in which case this is "hate speech." When these staged disturbances occur, college administrators should clamp down on the students and faculty involved (suspension, discharge, arrest), but weak-kneed presidents typically do not do so. When will they (or the Trustees) take a stand, toughen up, and protect the doctrine of free speech, disciplining this outrageous behavior? No one has the right to upset college events with political gag mechanisms. On another front, many of the Prager University's educational films have been banned from *You Tube* (Google) as being "unsuitable," but it's clear that the real reasons center on political differences. Just another indication of destruction of the doctrine of free speech, one of those precious American freedoms.

DISPOSITION When Jane asks what attracted me to her years ago (and still does), the first thing that comes to mind is a great disposition. She always has a ready smile, she laughs, and lives on the "up" side of life. Martha Washington said that, "I am determined to be cheerful and happy in whatever situation I may find myself. For I have learned that the greater part of our misery or unhappiness is determined not by our circumstance but by our disposition." And Samuel Johnson said: "He who has so little knowledge of human nature as to seek happiness by changing anything but his own disposition will waste his life in fruitless efforts." Sourpusses, complainers, and holier-than-thou folks are turnoffs. Mood, kindness, temperament, and personality really count.

INTELLECTUAL FITNESS is a subject we've written about over the years, noting that we are deluged with books and materials on physical fitness and our health, but much less is said about its would-be companion, intellectual fitness. Founded in education, our intellectual fitness, our mental acuity, must be continually nurtured to maintain a fine edge, and to successfully adapt as we learn more about all aspects of life. But for some reason, this does not appear on priority lists as it should. Certainly reading should be a centerpiece in intellectual fitness, but it seems that reading is frequently a victim of whirlwind schedules and the electronic age. Who has time to read? There are, of course, other activities that support intellectual fitness, such as doing crossword puzzles, playing bridge, pursuing a craft or a hobby, and staying active and connected. At *TRE*, our goal has always been to heighten the awareness of reading for pleasure, to stay informed... and to enhance intellectual fitness.

WORDS WE USE... AND MISUSE has been a feature of *The Readers Exchange* for years, tracking usage to focus on anomalies in the way we use our language. Enter the words *Democratic Socialist*, a political description being used by several Democrats who have announced their candidacy for president, as well as several new Democratic congresswomen. For this observer, the two terms clash and should not be used together. *Socialism* is a repressive form of government that advocates collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production. Government is king and individuals are secondary. *Democracy* is a government by the people, the institutionalization of freedom built around capitalism and a free market society. In a recent column, Father George W. Rutler, pastor of the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in New York City, alluded to socialism as, "vaunting the power of the collective state over individual dignity. In our times, these malignant social theories are being propounded by culturally illiterate politicians whose eccentricity still has a centric force of persuasion among those who are ignorant of the human experience."

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN At this writing in February, Los Angeles has received a welcome 18 inches of rain so far this season compared with three inches last year and an average of 12 inches. The camellias and azaleas are in bloom, the rose plants are leafing, and the Japanese maples, crepe myrtles, sycamores, and other deciduous trees will come to life as the sunny days return. This "nature in action" is a joy to behold every year, and, taken in concert with the Lenten season during which we are asked to do a little self-reflection (an "awakening"), makes for a powerful combination in this "Spring forward" time of the year.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Ackerman Publisher

Subscribers-Only Password:

SHAW

Until April 2019 for

www.the-readers-exchange.com

"Our 28th Year"

Reviews in This Issue

- The Betrayal of Mary Queen of Scots (Williams)
- The Banker's Wife (Alger)
- Barbarian Days (Finnegan)
- The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump (McCabe)
- Churchill (Roberts)
- The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches (Bradley)
- Deep Creek (Houston)
- The Disunity of America (Schlesinger, Jr.)
- The Diversity Delusion (Mac Donald)
- The Fox (Forsyth)
- The House of Five Fortunes (Hughes)
- I Should Have Honor (Brohi)
- The Joan Kennedy Story (Chellis)
- The Labyrinth of the Spirits (Zafon)
- The League (Eisenberg)
- The Making of the Wind in the Willows (Hunt)
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- Open (Agassi)
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- Building Your Working Vocabulary
- Pronunciation of... Brand Names

THE QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR READERS BY READERS

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BOOK REVIEWS

TITLE
AUTHOR, NO. OF PAGES,
YEAR OF PUBLICATION,
PUBLISHER AND
RATING

Reviews and Ratings: Book reviews are written by the Publisher (SHA) or by one of the Contributing Editors and attributed accordingly. The 0 - 10 rating system was developed to provide some sense of the level of satisfaction of a book compared with other books. This is not a sophisticated evaluation. The rating is based on writing, storytelling ability, and the overall impact of each reading experience.

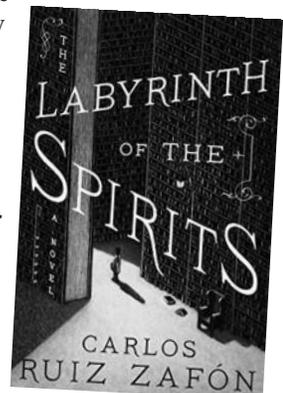
CHURCHILL: WALKING WITH DESTINY
ANDREW ROBERTS
(2019, 1103pp,
Viking)
10

Andrew Roberts has written a splendid biography of Winston Churchill. It is the best of the other stellar Churchill biographies. Roberts title is important, *Churchill: Walking with Destiny*. Roberts believed, and he is not alone, that Churchill thought he was marked for destiny. He believed it as a little boy. He imagined that even the smallest things in his life were a part of his destiny. Roberts' book marches to Churchill's destiny for more than a thousand pages. There is never a dull moment. Roberts' *Churchill* is up against two heavyweight Churchill classics. First, Roberts' book bests William Manchester's glorious and swooping *Last Lion*, a two-volume masterpiece that is a brilliant study of one man's heroism. Roberts also bests Roy Jenkins' elegant *Churchill*. Like Churchill, Jenkins was a "lifer" in service in Parliament. His biography is a long love letter from one Member to another. Jenkins' conclusion in his biography expressed its British government focus – he concluded that Gladstone was the greater prime minister but Churchill was the greater man. Roberts is after bigger fish than Gladstone. Good but shorter Churchills deserve mention. A classic of concision is Paul Addison's *Churchill* (300 pages not a thousand like the others). A prominent British historian of World War II, Addison was paid the ultimate compliment when he was asked "to do" Churchill for the prestigious *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. He was allotted an unheard of 30,000 words, and granted permission to make it a stand-alone book. Addison's biography is a delight. Also in the running for "best Churchill" is a *YouTube* video Churchill done by David Cannadine, a professor of both English and American history, who was assigned one hour to assess *Churchill the Man*. Cannadine did it extraordinarily well. Robert's book is the best because he invests in all of Churchill's doings, even the smallest, the sense of destiny. One often overlooked and seemingly inconsequential event is Churchill's failed educational experience at St. George's Preparatory School. Churchill's self-absorbed parents sent him to boarding school when he was eight. He was "sent down" in his second year. What happened at the school was all about destiny, if you take the long view of the affair. The headmaster H.W. Sneyd-Kinnersley was a despot and a sadist. He liked to cane the young boys on their bare bottoms. He and Churchill hated each other at first sight. Churchill made no moves to establish a middle ground. He committed a series of highly visible infractions, for which he was caned in public. He never flinched and he never cried. He stepped up the pace of his infractions. He was "sent down" when Sneyd-Kinnersley was informed that Churchill's bottom was so lacerated he could not walk properly. In British military speak, he was "invalided out." Churchill already marched with destiny, even though he was only eight. Churchill spotted the tyrant at first sight. He did not try to broker some negotiating ground with him. He went to war, showed no fear, and took his punishment. His fellow students were terrified. "Dreadful legends about Winston were told," said one. Among the legends: He was reckless. He liked fighting. He only provoked the bully into beating other students. Years later fellow alumnus and writer Maurice Baring described Sneyd-Kinnersley as "an unconscious sodomite." Churchill knew it when he was eight. (Contributing Editor William Lilley, III, Washington D.C.)



THE LABYRINTH OF THE SPIRITS
CARLOS RUIZ ZAFON
(2018, 430pp,
Penguin)
10

Carlos Ruiz Zafon has done it again. After his first book, *The Shadow of the Wind*, was published in 2001 in Spanish and translated into English in 2004 to resounding international success, it sold 15 million copies worldwide. He continued the series with book two, *The Angels Game*, and book three, *Prisoner of Heaven*, which were less than memorable. However, his final story in this saga written during the civil war in Spain in the late 1930's is probably his best. *The Shadow of the Wind* is a delicious blend of the fantastic and true history of the time. The familiar characters in the original book, Fermin de Torres, Daniel Sempiere of the book store in Barcelona, and the cruel policeman Fumero, the





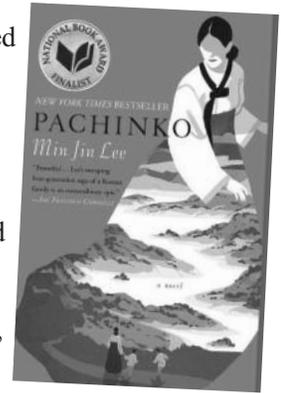
BOOK REVIEWS

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adventure this time takes us once again into the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. The heroine is a young woman named Alicia Gris who was a child during the Italian bombing of Barcelona in the late 1930s. She and Fermin are thrown together (literally) when they are struck by flying shrapnel from a direct hit where they were sheltering. Mystery and menace lead the reader deep into the labyrinthian wonder that is the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. As the story progresses, Fermin and Alicia's paths cross and criss-cross in Zafon's intriguing manner. The language in this book has multiple memorable expressions, many with a deft humorous touch. Having been disappointed by the second and third books in this series, I am thrilled by this final volume. It was worth the wait. A Spanish friend of mine said that in Spain, only El Cid has sold more books than *The Shadow of the Wind*. This finale volume promises the same success. (Contributing Editor Patricia Santa Cruz, Stanford, CA)

PACHINKO
MIN JIN LEE
(2017, 479pp,
Grand Central
Publishing)
10

This historical novel, a National Book Award Finalist, opens with "History has failed us, but no matter." This brief sentence sets the stage for a sweeping epic spanning almost a century. We follow four generations of a Korean immigrant family in Japan. Beginning in the early 1900's in a Korean village, teenage Sunja becomes impregnated by a wealthy Korean businessman, Hansu, who is married into an influential Japanese family. Hansu offers to make Sunja a kept woman. Pride, tradition, and strength of character cause Sunja to forsake the man's offer and instead marry a kind, gentle, intelligent, but sickly Isak, who takes her to live the life of a pastor's wife in Japan. Life in Japan, as a Korean immigrant is tough and often humiliating. Being neither accepted by Korea or Japan, they live in a state of limbo, with no country claiming them as their own. This limbo shapes the trajectory of Sunja's children and grandchildren. For the grandchildren, who were born in Japan, even with Japanese blood, they are still considered foreigners. Generations of a family whose identity erodes and re-emerges through the Japanese occupation of Korea, World War II, the Cold War, and the Korean War. This saga takes us on an incredible journey through the small villages of Korea, to the seedy Pachinko gambling parlors of Japan and to the Ivy League schools of the U.S. How much does our blood determine who we are and what we can do? How hard is it to have a sense of yourself if no country accepts you as its own? What really determines belonging? These universal questions unfold, under the backdrop of balancing survival, tradition, and morality controlled by money, race, power, and class. If "home" is the foundation upon which all else is built, what happens if you have no country to call home? (Contributing Editor Kay Sheth, Manhattan Beach, CA)



THE PATCH
JOHN MCPHEE
(2018, 242pp,
Farrar, Straus
and Giroux)
10

John McPhee (now 87), Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University, is the master of creative nonfiction. He has written some 30 books on a wide range of subjects, is a four-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction, and won that award in 1999 for *Annals of the Former World*. *The Patch* is McPhee's seventh collection of essays and makes for great reading. The book is divided into two parts. Part I, *The Sporting Scene*, includes the title story, *The Patch*, about fishing for chain pickerel, a piece on recovering errant golf balls, and a wonderful golf story about St. Andrews and the Old Course which includes a definition of a *links* course: "The word comes from Old English and refers to a coastal topography behind a beach, a somewhat dunal and undulating landscape, untillable, under bushes of prickly gorse, scattered heather, and a thin turf of marram and other grasses." Part II, *An Album Quilt*, is an assortment of pieces of varying length written over the years and never published. The subjects of these writings range from a visit to the Hershey chocolate plant, Cary Grant, Oscar Hammerstein, the Alister MacKenzie-designed Burning Tree Club, an all-male golf club in Bethesda, Maryland frequented by presidents, congressmen, and military leaders, the tennis roster at Forest Hills in the 1970s, bird-watching, and Sophia Loren. The latter was





BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 3.

IN PRAISE OF WASTING TIME

ALAN LIGHTMAN

(2018, 90pp,
TED Books)

9

described as follows: “Her feet are too big. Her nose is too long. Her teeth are uneven. She has the neck, as one of her rivals has put it, of ‘a Neapolitan giraffe.’ Her waist seems to begin in the middle of her thighs, and she has big, half-bushel hips. She runs like a fullback. Her hands are huge. Her forehead is low. Her mouth is too large. And, *mamma mia*, she is absolutely gorgeous.” John McPhee is a joy to read, so if you are new to McPhee, dive in here or into one of his numerous works for a highly satisfying reading experience. (SHA)

In *In Praise of Wasting Time*, MIT Professor Alan Lightman writes about the “rush and heave” of modern life and the price being paid for those caught up in it. We’ve created a frenzied lifestyle where every minute counts and we are married to our smart phones and computers. There’s a sense of urgency in the air and a pervasive concern that we may be missing something. Lightman writes that the “world today is faster, more scheduled, more fragmented, less patient, louder, more wired, and more public.” He calls this world “the wired world,” not just the electronic connections, but the pace and noise of the world. So, what have we lost by adhering to this lifestyle? Three items mentioned by Lightman were (1) *creative activities* are threatened or diminished, (2) the loss of time for *mind replenishment*, and (3) the loss of something of the *inner self*, the part “that imagines, that dreams, that explores, that is constantly questioning who I am and what is important to me.” We all need that quiet time to gather our senses and ruminate about life circumstances. To think. Lightman writes that surveys show that since the advent of the iPhone, young people spend less time dating and less time person-to-person with friends. I’ve often thought of this obsession with cell phones and computers – the digital world – as “the depersonalization of society.” There is an important message here, but I fear that younger folks in particular are so heavily invested in the digital world that any near-term change in activity would be minute. With all the positive things smart phones and computers have brought to us, and the consequent new world circumstances so created, time to repair the inner self should be created to abate the downside. (SHA)

VINDOLANDA

ADRIAN GOLDSWORTHY

(2018, 403pp,
Zeus)

9

Vindolanda is a superb piece of historical fiction which features a young Briton serving as a Roman officer on the northern frontier of Roman Britain. It is the first volume in what has become a widely-acclaimed series in England; the second volume, *The Encircling Seas*, has just been published. The author, Adrian Goldsworthy, is one of those Brits who came from nowhere, a poor boy from South Wales, to become one of the popular performers on *BBC* shows about British history. He won a scholarship to Oxford, took a first in History, wrote a doctoral dissertation on the Roman army that Oxford published before he was 30. He turned down professorships and chairs at prestigious places because he could not stand administrative work of any kind, especially committee meetings. Over the next 21 years he wrote 12 books about the Roman empire, all involving the Roman army, and one – his biography of Julius Caesar – a bestseller. Goldsworthy has now turned his hand to historical fiction about the Roman army in Britannia, Rome’s troublesome and northernmost province. *Vindolanda* takes place 100 AD in the Vindolanda army fort, a real fort that later would be one of the anchor forts in Hadrian’s Wall straddling the province for the 80 miles from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. In 100 AD the Vindolanda fort stood as the empire’s most northern, garrisoned outpost. The fort was the edge point separating civilization from barbarism. The English imagination has had a long-standing love affair with Roman Britain (55 BC to 400 AD). This novel plays to that love affair. Vindolanda is Britannia at its most beautiful, most mysterious and most dangerous. From the fort facing northward stretch the many hills and mountains of what would become Scotland. In that space the novel takes place and centurion Flavius Ferox plays the role of hero. Part Briton and part Roman, Ferox is in his early 20s and already a veteran centurion of the imperial wars along the Danube. He had a distinguished record for fighting, and for independence.





BOOK REVIEWS

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He had been given a promotion and with it an exile to far-flung Vindolanda. Ferox now was *centurio regionarius*, the ranking Roman officer for the hostile space north of the fort. Ferox commanded a squadron of scouts (Brigantes), Celts from northern Britannia who were loyal to Rome. Ferox and his Brigantes patrolled a vast space, settling disputes, collecting taxes, and gathering military intelligence (who was loyal and who was not). Ferox's patrols in the novel grow steadily more hazardous as anti-Roman sentiment built in the north. Ferox does his best to dampen hostilities but fails. The novel marches from the first page onwards to the paroxysms of attacks which forced Hadrian, in 122 AD, to pull the empire south to Vindolanda and build a massive wall closing off southern Britannia (the civilized south) from the barbaric north and its marauding tribes. Hadrian's Wall is a testimony to how fiercely the northern tribes hated Rome. It still stands in many places, an engineering tribute to tribal independence from Rome. (Contributing Editor William Lilley, III, Washington D.C.)

THE WORDS WE USE... AND MISUSE

Two of my favorite reference books are *The Writer's Art* (1985) and *Fine Print: Reflections on the Writing Art* (1993), both written by James J. Kilpatrick (1920-2010). A long-time political commentator, Kilpatrick was an excellent writer who understood that countless Americans really cared about the English language and the manner in which it was used. In each of the aforementioned books, there is a chapter entitled "My Crotchets and Your Crotchets" in which, with humor, he notes common abuses, style preferences, and misunderstandings in writing or in speech, and we have excerpted liberally from these sources over the years. Here are a few Kilpatrick "crotchets" about proper word selection taken from *Fine Print* and *The Writer's Art*.

UP is one of those little idiomatic barnacles that cling to the keel of a sentence. To be sure, *up* serves a useful purpose in *to throw up*, but it ought to be pruned from *rise up in wrath*, *saddle up the horse*, *sign up the contract*, and *finish up the task*. We need an *up* in *take up the challenge* but not in *grab up your suitcase*. When you look down on an *up* in your copy, see if the *up* can't be lifted.

PREPLAN Is there a difference between an action that is *planned* and one that is *preplanned*? I can think of none. Let us also guard against *advance planning* unless there is some good reason for using the phrase.

ORAL/VERBAL The trouble is that while *oral* and *verbal* both apply to that which is spoken, only *verbal* applies to that which is written.

MEDIA is the plural of *medium*. This means that *media are*, *media are*, *media are*!

DIALOGUE Latin and Greek roots combine to produce *dialogue*, which once meant the alternating statements of two persons. "You did!" "I did not!" "You did!" That was *dialogue*, but the word long ago lost that narrow constriction, colloquy or debate in which two or *more* persons engage. There is a verb, *to dialogue*, that has been around since the early 1700s, but it ought to be returned to Queen Anne for decent interment. In today's polluted atmosphere, "the principals dialogued with the school board" has the sickly smell of academic jargon.

EACH IS There is no such thing as a plural *each*, but now and then some absent-minded writer will come with, "Each of the soloists are masters of the piano." Yecch! This ear-jarring collision probably is owing to the reasoning that if "soloists" is plural, it must take a plural verb, therefore, etc. But "Soloists" isn't the subject. *Each* is the subject, and each is.

INTENTS AND PURPOSES You can be certain, without looking into the matter deeply, that *intents and purposes* is a phrase devised by lawyers. These were lawyers who examine every jot and tittle. The inflated phrase echoes the old question of a witness, "What is his reputation for truth and veracity?" If there is a significant difference between intents and purposes, it escapes me. It both escapes and eludes me. It escapes, eludes, and evades me. Each and every time I see *to all intents and purposes*, I am minded to search every nook and cranny for a less redundant phrase.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE FOX
FREDERICK FORSYTH
(2018, 288pp,
G.P. Putnam's Sons)
9

British author Frederick Forsyth wrote his first full-length novel, *The Day of the Jackal*, in 1971. It was an international bestseller, won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Novel, and was later made into a film. His next two novels, *The Odessa File* (1972) and *The Dogs of War* (1974) were also made into films, the former starring Jon Voight and the latter Christopher Walken and Tom Berenger. His books have sold over 70 million copies. Forsyth has a reputation as a master of international espionage and *The Fox*, his first novel in five years and one that Mr. Forsyth says will be his last, will underscore that reputation. When the U.S. National Security Agency is hacked, an intense search to find out who did it is undertaken and they are stunned to learn that the culprit is Luke Jennings, an 18-year-old computer genius living with his family in a village on the outskirts of London. Enter Sir Adrian Weston, retired from the British Secret Intelligence Service but still Prime Minister Marjory Graham's personal advisor on matters of national security. With support from the American president, he hatches a plan to use Luke's brilliance in hacking against enemies of the West. He moves the fragile Luke (nicknamed "The Fox" for his genius) and his family to a safe house with high-level security to put "Operation Troy" into effect. Russia was the first target of a clever Weston-inspired online attack and Iran and North Korea were subsequent targets. These events created increasing risks for Luke, and occasioned other moves for the Jennings family. Readers will thoroughly enjoy the clear and engaging narrative, Luke's missions and their impact, and the suspense built around Luke as enemies mark him for elimination. (SHA)

THE MONK OF MOKHA
DAVE EGGERS
(2018, 323pp,
Knopf)
9

Award-winning Dave Eggers has earned a solid reputation for *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, *What is the What*, *Zeitoun*, *A Hologram for the King*, and others. He also founded *McSweeney's*, a literary journal, co-founded the literacy project *826 Valencia* and the human rights nonprofit Voice of Witness, and founded Scholar Match, a program that matches donors with needy students. *The Monk of Mokha* is a book of nonfiction centered on Mokhtar Alkhanshali, a San Francisco-born Yemeni-American raised in the Tenderloin district and living a somewhat shiftless life. That is, until he learns that coffee was originally grown in Yemen and that its current quality is poor, prompting him to aspire to exporting quality coffee grown in Yemen. Starting at zero since he had no money and knew nothing about coffee, he used street smarts and energy to raise some money, learn something about coffee, and travel to Yemen to visit the coffee farms and collect samples. He brought these samples back to the U.S. where they were brewed and tasted for quality. He returned to Yemen, visited the farm(s) that had yielded the best beans to begin planning for a processing a plant, as well as establishing an export plan. These plans were impeded when a civil war broke out in Yemen in early 2015, and Mokhtar had no ready means of escape, leading to a harrowing experience to get out with his coffee samples, returning to the U.S. to attend an important coffee conference, and establishing what became a successful Yemeni coffee export operation. In reading Mokhtar's story and his quest, readers will learn about Yemen, about the Houthi coup of 2015, a lot about coffee, and about his study required to become a certified "Q grader," a professional judge of coffee quality. *The Monk of Mokha* is a bit of a yawner in the early stages as Mokhtar bounces around seeking direction in his life, but becomes interesting when he formulates his goal and makes his trips to Yemen. See *Port of Mokha Coffee*, the result of this rags-to-riches story. (SHA)



TRUST BUT VERIFY
**KARNA SMALL
BODMAN**
(2018, 358pp,
Regnery Fiction)
8

Karna Bodman served in the Reagan White House for six years, first as Deputy Press Secretary (to Jim Brady) and later as Senior Director and spokesman for the National Security Council. When she left the White House, Karna was the highest-ranking woman on the White House staff. This experience provided great background for her career as a political novelist. *Trust But Verify*, her fifth thriller, centers on Samantha Reid, Director of the White House Office of Homeland Security, who is currently investigating Russian arms sales. Samantha is attending a charity affair in Naples, Florida when a bomb is exploded, sending the guests running. Investigations of this event indicate that this was triggered by the Russians and suggest that Samantha was the target due to the nature of her investigation. FBI Special Agent Brett Keating is assigned to provide protection while the Russians step up their plan to take her out, and focus on the Federal Reserve's annual economic symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming where Samantha is scheduled to speak. The narrative alternates between the plotting Russians and the efforts by Keating to protect Reid (and a growing affection between the two) and unravel their plans before terror can be created at the financial conference at the expense of life and worldwide financial turmoil. The suspense grows as Keating fights the clock to avert disaster. *Trust But Verify* (that famous Reagan statement) is an entertaining political thriller. (SHA)



BOOK REVIEWS

THE STORM OVER PARIS

WILLIAM IAN GRUBMAN

(2018, 319pp, Dupapier Press)

9

William Grubman's first novel, *The Storm Over Paris*, centers on a Jewish family in 1942 in Nazi-occupied Paris and their efforts to dangerously defy and survive Nazi rule. Maurice ("Mori") Rothstein is a highly-regarded and successful French art dealer with an international reputation. He lives well with his wife, Ruth, and their two sons, Jacob and Émile, on Avenue Montaigne. Their existence, already threatened with other members of the Jewish community, is further shaken when the feared Hermann Goering, head of the Gestapo (and an art collector) asks (demands) that Mori collaborate with him on the selection of master artworks for Hitler's planned museum in Austria. At this point, the Germans have already stolen a huge amount of master paintings and now begin to deliver them to Mori's gallery/studio for his analysis. As his work proceeds, Mori is enraged when he comes across stolen artworks that he had previously sold to customers, and he devises a plan to keep these stolen items from being carried away by the Nazis. Working secretly with his son Émile under an eagle-eyed and suspicious Nazi colonel who is also an art expert, Mori's plan is implemented and the threat of discovery builds. As other Jewish families are taken away, and the issue of survival becomes paramount, both Ruth and Jacob play important roles in the fate of the Rothstein family. *The Storm Over Paris* is a well-written, historical novel which readers will enjoy, an art-centered, suspenseful work which contains an ending suggesting more to come. (SHA)



BUILDING YOUR WORKING VOCABULARY

The key word here is *working*. There are many words that seem to fall on the fringe of an average vocabulary. We think we know the meaning of these words, but when we read or hear them, are not quite sure. They are, therefore, not regularly used in our writing and conversation. The purpose of the *TRE* vocabulary section is not to stump you, but to sharpen your knowledge and use of words frequently used in books and/or heard in conversation. Here are a few such words, with abbreviated definitions and some rough pronunciation guidance.

- ABSTRUSE** Difficult to understand; recondite; ambiguous. (ab-STROOS)
- DISHABILLE** The state of being partially or very casually dressed; casual or lounging attire. (dis-uh-BELL or BEE)
- SHIBBOLETH** A word or pronunciation that distinguishes people of one group or class from those of another; a commonplace saying or ideas; a customs or practice that betrays one as an outsider. (SHIB-a-lith)
- REGNANT** Reigning, ruling; predominant; widespread, prevalent. (REG-nant)
- PEDANT** One who pays undue attention to book learning and formal rules. One who exhibits one's learning or scholarship ostentatiously. (PED-int)
- DEFALCATE** To misuse funds; embezzle. (di-FAL-kate)
- BATHOS** An abrupt, unintended transition in style from the exalted to the commonplace producing a ludicrous effect; an anticlimax; banality, triteness, sappiness. (BAY-thas)

The three bios reviewed herein are built around sports but as with all good biography, the stories have a reach far beyond the sports themselves. All readers can enjoy these books.

UNBEATEN: ROCKY MARCIANO'S FIGHT FOR PERFECTION IN A CROOKED WORLD

Mike Stanton (2018, 354pp, Henry Holt) 9

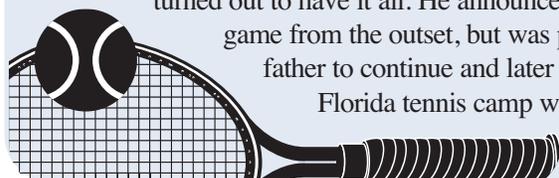
The sport of boxing seems to create little interest today, but back in the 1940s and 1950s, it was a big deal and New York was the center of boxing at that time. We listened to the fights on the radio, and I recall the big names from this period: Joe Louis, Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Jake La Motta, Rocky Graziano, Carmen Basilio, Tony Zale, and of course, Rocky Marciano. Born Rocco Marchegiano (1923-1969), Rocky grew up poor in Brockton, Massachusetts, the son of Italian immigrants, and became heavyweight champion of the world. When he retired from boxing in 1956, his record was a perfect 49-0 with 43 knockouts. He won the heavyweight title on September 23, 1952 when he KO'd Jersey Joe Walcott and fought his last fight on September 21, 1955 in which he KO'd Archie Moore. Stanton noted that the key to his success was his "indomitable will to win." Marciano, at 5'10" and 185 pounds was not considered a "boxer" but could withstand pounding in the ring, had a murderous punch, and Muhammad Ali wrote in his autobiography, "He was the onliest one that would've given me some trouble." Marciano's rise to the top of the boxing world is a remarkable story and Stanton tells it well. This humble and polite son of immigrants was devoted to his family, but strayed on occasion and was tied to the mob. His manager was Al Weill, who took 50% of Marciano's purses (and stole more from him on the side) and shared it with mob boss Frankie Carbo, a high-ranking member of the Lucchese crime family. Marciano, a man of the 1950s from the factories and a hardscabble neighborhood who lived the American dream, went down in a small plane crash in August of 1969. He was 46. (SHA)



OPEN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Andre Agassi (2009, 386pp, Knopf) 10

I often pass on autobiographies for reasons of inherent bias, but this one by Andre Agassi was strongly recommended. Agassi grew up in Las Vegas and later became one of the top tennis players in the world. His father, Mike, who worked at one of the casinos, was determined to groom a champion tennis player and subjected his four kids to extreme pressure and abusive training to achieve this end. The older kids could not handle it, but Andre turned out to have it all. He announced his hatred of the game from the outset, but was pressured by his father to continue and later sent him to a Florida tennis camp which Agassi called "a glorified

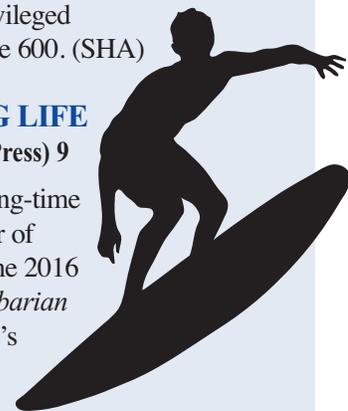


prison camp." His hate for tennis spilled over to his personal life, rebelling by drinking, brawling, and acting up as a "bad boy" on all fronts. Forced into a tennis career, he surrounded himself with a surrogate family, notably his physical trainer, Gil Reyes, and his tennis coach, Brad Gilbert. He broke through with a 1992 win at Wimbledon, went on to win a total of eight Grand Slam events, and achieved a number one world ranking. *Open* is a highly candid, lively, interesting, brutally honest, tell-it-like-it-is autobiography. He had a two-year troubled marriage with Brooke Shields, he was insecure with huge mood swings, relied heavily on his team, and ultimately found peace in tennis and in life when he married tennis star Steffi Graf. *Open* is an exceptional work of professional tennis and personal torment. I recall Agassi in his earlier days as a rebellious brat with an attitude and later as a highly popular tennis player when he got it all together. Tennis lovers will relish the description of his matches against the world's best. Today, Agassi lives in Las Vegas, has two children with Steffi and can take a bow for establishing the Andre Agassi College Preparatory School for underprivileged children, now with an enrollment of some 600. (SHA)

BARBARIAN DAYS: A SURFING LIFE

William Finnegan (2015, 447pp, Penguin Press) 9

Author/journalist William Finnegan, a long-time staff writer at *The New Yorker* and author of works of international journalism, won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Autobiography for *Barbarian Days*. The book chronicles Mr. Finnegan's surfing life from his childhood in California and Hawaii, and later around the world to Asia, Africa, Australia, the South Pacific, and San Francisco. As we follow him on his surfing journeys, the book becomes a travelogue as well as a memoir, and we meet an assortment of surfing pals and a few girlfriends, most of whom come in second to surfing. But the star of this book is surfing, a religion for Finnegan and his mates, and his ongoing analysis of the waves along with a plethora of oceanographic information is impressive, but for the non-surfer, it's over the top. This ongoing description of waves, studied from every angle possible, makes *Barbarian Days* a long read which led this reader to skimming these passages. Surfing has a lingo all its own – and Finnegan's seeming recall of every wave he ever rode was amazing. *Barbarian Days* is an apt title for this memoir since years of the author's early life were consumed by surfing at the expense of career, marriage, and all other aspects of a normal life. Duty and convention were set aside. Finnegan did his share of drugs and scrounged for food and shelter as he made his way around the globe wherever surfing called, making for an interesting tale, which will be catnip for surfers. Today, at age 67, a married man with a daughter, Finnegan lives in New York and does his surfing in the Atlantic. (SHA)





BOOK REVIEWS

**THE THREAT:
HOW THE FBI
PROTECTS AMERICA
IN THE AGE OF
TERROR AND TRUMP**

ANDREW G. MCCABE
(2019, 262pp,
St. Martin's Press)

6

I decided to read this book after Andrew McCabe appeared on *60 Minutes* and said that discussions were held among McCabe, Rod Rosenstein, and others about removing President Trump via the Constitution's 25th Amendment. He also said that Rosenstein suggested that he wear a wire to record the president for the purpose of gathering information to pursue the question of his capacity to perform the duties of the office. These were stunning admissions and we wanted to learn more about these revelations. McCabe served as Acting Director of the FBI from May to December in 2017 (after James Comey was fired) and then Deputy Director from February 2016 to January 2018, when he was fired for leaking unauthorized information to the media. I've often passed on books like this since they are frequently self-serving and I should have anticipated that this would be the same. *The Threat* describes the functions of the FBI, lauds Robert Mueller and James Comey in their capacity as FBI Director, and trashes President Trump. This book clearly was written to serve other purposes for McCabe, which could have been predicted in the very use of *The Threat* as a title and the use of "Age of Terror and Trump" in the subtitle. Readers may learn something of FBI operations here, but you'll more than likely learn little from the rest. (SHA)

**THE HOUSE OF
FIVE FORTUNES**

AMANDA HUGHES
(2016 324pp,
CreateSpace)

8

San Francisco in 1870 housed the country's largest Chinatown, crowded and oppressive for the Chinese living there. Although whites could enter, Chinese could not exit. They could not exit for a dinner on the town, to attend an opera, go shopping, or travel. Xiu Jung, the book's heroine, owns a run-down opium den in Chinatown called "The House of Five Fortunes." She inherited it as a nearly bankrupt establishment and was expected to support her younger brother and sister. Xiu struggled to do her duty, including to "help" her sister become a prostitute. Unfortunately, she becomes drug-addled and is ultimately murdered. Xiu's younger brother, in his effort to "help," joins the gold rush with a get-rich-quick motive. He finds no gold, but asks Xiu for help when both arms and legs are badly broken as retribution for impregnating a friend's sister who dies when her baby is born. Xiu is now saddled with supporting a crippled brother and his baby. At this low time in her life Xiu finds love in the form of a world-famous actor, Madison Hayes, who talks Xiu into changing the run-down opium den into an elegant one with the idea of attracting the choicest clientele. This venture turns into a highly successful one. In love now, Xiu and Madison would like to marry but marriage between races is against the law. What-do-we-do-now's problem is fairly quickly solved when a mob enters Chinatown attempting to kill every Chinese that comes into view, plundering, then burning Chinatown to the ground, including "The House of Five Fortunes." It is agreed that they can no longer live in San Francisco. They must leave, so Xiu and Madison put their heads together to figure out where to go... a place they will be able to move and live in freedom. *The House of Five Fortunes* is book three of three in the author's Bold Women of the 19th Century Series – and it's a good one. (Contributing Editor Janet Daggatt, Seattle, WA)

**FOR YOU TO
SEE THE STARS**

RADNEY FOSTER
(2017, 156pp,
Working Title Farm)

9

Radney Foster made his mark as a country music singer/songwriter, musician, and music producer. Initially a songwriter in Nashville, he began his career as a singer/guitar soloist in 1993. In 2015, he got sick and lost his voice for a month, making him wonder how he would make a living if he could never sing again. Alas, he was an avid reader and, as a songwriter, was a storyteller, so he decided to write a story based on a new song, and became a writer "of short stories and the songs that inspired them or vice versa." Radney Foster was the guest at a dinner of Jane's Book Club and we had a chance to hear him tell stories, play his guitar, sing his songs, and read a few passages from this book. *For You to See the Stars* is a compilation of short stories, each marked by the related song included in a CD of the same title. Although I am not usually attracted to collections, the fact that Foster was linking literature with music made a difference and drew me in. It was a good decision, as I thoroughly enjoyed Foster's stories, well-plotted, interesting tales about important aspects of life and relationships penned with clarity and emotional impact. From the title story *For You to See the Stars* to the hilarious *Bridge Club*, to the wonderful stories of *Isabel* and *Sycamore Creek*, this slim storybook supplied entertainment and provocation. When Foster spoke and performed at the Book Club affair, we all got the flavor of marrying music and storytelling. (SHA)

...Multiethnic Society Work

In the Foreword to *The Disunity of America*, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. poses this question: “What happens when people of different ethnic origins, speaking different languages and professing different religions, settle in the same geographical locality and live under the same political sovereignty? Unless a common purpose binds them together, tribal antagonisms will drive them apart. In the century darkly ahead, civilization faces a critical question: *What is it that holds a nation together?*” America has been multiethnic right from the beginning, so what is it that kept the nation together for so many years? The answer, according to Schlesinger, was that for 200 years or so, people of all ethnicities joined to create a new national identity called America. The point of America, he said, was not to preserve old cultures but to produce a new American culture. *E Pluribus Unum*: one out of many. America “had a brilliant solution for the inherent fragility, the inherent combustibility of a multiethnic society” and that was “the creation of a brand new national identity by individuals who, in forsaking old loyalties and joining to make new lives, melted away ethnic differences.” Unfortunately, with the obsession by some with identity politics, this sensible approach has been eroded, causing significant problems for the country. These two books, one first published in 1991 and one in 2018, speak to this problem.

THE DISUNITY OF AMERICA: REFLECTIONS ON A MULTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1998, 179pp, Norton)

This revised and enlarged edition of *The Disunity of America* (first published in 1991) by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. (1917-2007) is an exceptional disquisition on the related subjects of ethnicity, immigration, and multiculturalism that should be widely read. Schlesinger, a Democrat, won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography for his *A Thousand Days: John F. Kennedy in the White House*, wrote a biography titled *Robert Kennedy and His Times*, and served as Special Assistant to the President for JFK. All Americans, Schlesinger notes, even those not treated well, contributed over the years to the formation of a national identity. In more recent times, however, an opposing vision has emerged, a vision that challenges the concept of “one people,” one that rejects the unifying vision of people from all nations melted into a new race. The ethnic interpretations reverse the idea of America as one people, the principle that until recent years has kept American society whole. This belittles *unum* and glorifies *pluribus*. At a time when our society cries for unification, multiculturalism is pulling in the other direction. The deleterious results of this are evident all around us.

THE DIVERSITY DELUSION: HOW RACE AND GENDER PANDERING CORRUPT THE UNIVERSITY AND UNDERMINE OUR CULTURE

Heather Mac Donald (2018, 247pp, St. Martin’s Press)

Heather Mac Donald goes after university administrators and faculties head-on in her provocative and insightful *The Diversity Delusion*. They deserve it. In her *Introduction*, she notes that a changed set of ideas are dominating universities in America: “That human beings are defined by their skin color, sex, and sexual preference; that discrimination based on those characteristics has been the driving force in Western civilization; and that America remains a profoundly bigoted place, where heterosexual white males continue to deny opportunity to everyone else.” She adds that these ideas, which can be joined under the categories of diversity and identity politics, have remade the universities (and the country) in recent years and that *The Diversity Delusion* is an attempt to investigate how this transformation happened and why, noting that the “diversity bureaucracy” advances the idea that “to be a student from an ever-growing number of victim groups is to experience daily bigotry from your professors and peers.” This sense of victimology ignites efforts to shut down commentaries that challenge accepted campus ideology. Mac Donald herself was the target of these “silencing tactics” in 2017, first at Claremont McKenna College and later at UCLA, a *Facebook* post at the former stating that students would “NOT allow fascism to have a platform.” We’ve written previously about these alarming circumstances, which center on skewed ideology, curricula that omit disciplines of importance (e.g. civics, Western civilization, comparative political models, literature), lack of diversity in professors, and spending of millions on schools of diversity. Mac Donald covers all of these subjects and much more in this timely work that should be widely read. (SHA)



BOOK REVIEWS

I SHOULD HAVE HONOR: A MEMOIR OF HOPE AND PRIDE IN PAKISTAN

KHALIDA BROHI
(2018, 224pp,
Random House)

9

Years ago, Anwar Sadat’s widow wrote about her success in helping the women of Egypt gain independence and respect. The author of *I Should Have Honor* has taken on the same objective, writing about helping the women of Pakistan. Khalida Brohi begins her life adhering to customs in Pakistan as they relate to women, arranged marriages of mere children to men that they have never met, marriage when their menstrual periods start, and taking care of younger siblings and their home beginning at age three. Schooling is for the boys, usually only those not working in the fields. Brohi begins by focusing on one custom, that of honor killing, wherein if a girl touches a man, it is cause enough to be murdered in savage fashion. In the event the girl gets off easy, she may only have her eyes taken out! The justification for an honor killing is that she has brought dishonor on her house. Once murdered for this reason, all of her belongings are removed from the house, burned and no mention is to be made of her again. Khalida Brohi’s favorite cousin finishes her life in this way and Ms. Brohi sets out to eliminate this ghoulis custom, and is met with threats against her and her family. The first step in her strategy is to appeal to the residents of her own small, flood-devastated area with a plea to allow the women to learn a trade with the goal of supporting their families during these crises. With a bit of cajoling, this step made sense to the males, however the second step snuck up on them. Once the females were allowed to have jobs, it gave them a sense of independence and worth. With the genie out of the bottle, Brohi can see into the future. Her visits to America opened her eyes, not just to the horror of honor killings, but to the medical advances not yet introduced in Pakistan. She met influential people who could help support her projects with money. Brohi, young and not yet 30, loves her country and is willing to devote her energies to saving the women from these killings. There are still about 5,000 per year still reported, where TV is not standard household equipment and newspapers and education rare, a recipe for old customs to linger. (Contributing Editor Janet Daggatt, Seattle, WA)

THE LEAGUE: HOW FIVE RIVALS CREATED THE NFL AND LAUNCHED A SPORTS EMPIRE

JOHN EISENBERG
(2018, 416pp,
Basic Books)

9

By the time this *TRE* review appears, the play of Super Bowl LIII will be a memory. But the impact of the NFL, even in the offseason, is enormous. No other sport matches pro football’s profitability or effect on communities, culture, race, politics, or health awareness (CTE). The huge stadia now built for billionaires are today’s Roman monuments. We don’t care who sings the national anthem at the World Series, but the half-time Super Bowl show occupies terabytes of social media data. With a rootless team set to play in Las Vegas in two years, and regular season games scheduled annually in London and Mexico, it is football – not baseball or basketball or hockey – by which we are known in team sports worldwide. It was not always this way, and the trajectory of the pro game was not straight up. John Eisenberg writes sports for the *Baltimore Sun* and has authored nine other football and horse-racing books. His new book *The League* starts in 1920 and traces the pro game into the late 1950’s. The NFL was born in the shadow of the much more popular college game, as pro leagues early on gave former college stars an extended but impoverishing way to keep playing. First the depression and then WWII almost killed the NFL. Bankruptcies and failed franchises populate the league’s history. Initial NFL founders Art Rooney (Pittsburgh), George Halas (Chicago), Tim Mara (New York), George Marshall (Boston/Washington), and Bert Bell (Philadelphia) were – except for Bell – self-made men, and all were risk-takers. Their businesses ranged from laundries to car dealerships to saloons. How these competitive capitalists came together on a college draft that spread talent, on schedules that shared profits given very disparate home gate revenues, and on rules changes that turned a mud-slogging sport into a dynamic offensive game are sport’s equivalent of Abraham Lincoln assembling an 1860 “team of rivals” that held the government together during the Civil War. In 1932, NFL teams were together scoring on average only 8.2 points per game. The “curious brotherhood” of these rivals agreed to rule changes to improve field goal chances (the term “moving the goal posts” resonates) and the passing game (ditching the college rule that required passes emanate from five yards behind the line of scrimmage). Hash-marks were moved more to the center of the field to give offenses more sideline choices on all plays. A rule change



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BOOK REVIEWS

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in the 1950's allowing unlimited substitutions further dynamized the game. The draft – born from Commissioner Joe Carr who said in 1935 “the league is no stronger than its weakest link” – almost failed with strong teams like Halas’ Bears making backroom deals to stack the draft, and players refusing to play for weaker selecting teams. Such player grievances would lead to a strong players union by 1957 to tamp the labor strife. In 1946, the league owners under Commissioner Bert Bell finally prevailed over Halas’ travel-related objections to West Coast expansion. Dan Reeves’ Cleveland Rams relocated to Los Angeles subject to a high \$10,000 per game gate “guarantee” for visiting teams. From 1934 to 1945 the league was all-white due to Redskins’ owner George Marshall, who courted the south as his market and had “halftime shows [that] occasionally featured entertainers in blackface.” How the game emerged from that ugly shadow is football’s and the country’s shared legacy. It was the new LA Rams in 1947 that first drafted black players into the NFL, Kenny Washington and Woody Strode from UCLA, who were key to the Rams developing a fanbase. This followed success by rival league (AAFC) owner Paul Brown of Cleveland, whose black players led the Browns to an AAFC title in 1946. (It was not until the December 1961 draft that the Redskins selected a black player, under threat from the Kennedy administration that the team would lose its lease on Federal stadium lands if it continued to be segregated). By December 1949, the AAFC and the NFL merged, adding the San Francisco 49ers, Cleveland Browns, and Baltimore Colts to the league. The 1950’s saw the first televised NFL games, and brought blackouts and antitrust challenges as the owners tried to balance the power of the new “black box” against the potential loss of gate revenues. After the 1958 championship game (Johnny Unitas’ Colts beat Frank Gifford’s NY Giants), Commissioner Bert Bell was “crying tears of joy” over reports that 40 million Americans had watched the televised game. Bell died of a heart attack in 1959, and Pete Rozelle was named Commissioner. The modern NFL era had begun, though it was not until 1988 that Art Rooney died, the longest living of the five league pioneers. (Contributing Editor Rob Bunzel, Oakland, CA)

THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES

ALAN BRADLEY
(2014, 310pp,
Delacorte Press)

9

This is our third of Alan Bradley’s Flavia de Luce series (after *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* and *The Weed that Strings the Hangman’s Bag*) and readers who have not read the Flavia books should dive in. Flavia is a precocious 11-year-old amateur sleuth and chemist who lives with her father and two older sisters in the British village of Bishop’s Lacey. They’ve always been told that their mother, Harriet, had vanished in the Himalayas back in 1941 and was presumed dead. Now her body has been recovered after ten years and is



being returned to them. The family is at the train station to receive Harriet’s coffin and Flavia is stunned to find out the former Prime Minister Winston Churchill is on hand, and is baffled when a stranger gives her a message for her father that “The Gamekeeper is in jeopardy.” Minutes later, someone pushes the stranger under the wheels of the train as it is leaving the station. These developments puzzle Flavia and, as her father grieves and funeral arrangements are made, she instigates her own investigation to understand just who and what is behind these occurrences. While village mourners line up to pay their respects, other family members arrive, and her pesky sisters carry on, Flavia comes across clues through which she learns of her mother’s background and why she was in Asia, muses about bringing her mother back to life through chemistry, and recovers important information upon secretly opening the coffin. Bradley knows how to spin a great story, but readers will love the irrepressible Flavia de Luce, her self-confidence, her musings, and her ability to grasp the meaning of events and to think through their implications. Great reading! (SHA)



BOOK REVIEWS

**THE OVERNIGHT
KIDNAPPER**
ANDREA CAMILLERI
(2019, 255pp,
Penguin)
9

Andrea Camilleri is a genius. He is a little old and a little rebellious, but he is a genius. *The Overnight Kidnapper* is a sly and sardonic triumph. It is full of violence and greed, and a little bit of lust too. It is Camilleri's 27th adventure for Inspector Montalbano. It is as good as the others. These adventures have been coming from Penguin publishers on an annual cycle since 1994, 27 episodes in 25 years. The Camilleri books have reached cult status in Sicily, in Italy and in the United States. More than ten million copies are in print. This is not an easy literary cycle. Camilleri is 93, a defiantly heavy smoker (he will be photographed only if he is smoking), and a proud "non-militant atheist." Camilleri writes his books in both Italian and Sicilian dialect. The books for the U.S. market are translated by Stephen Sartarelli, a poet working in upstate New York who is fluent in Italian and Sicilian dialect. *The Overnight Kidnapper* features crimes that are cunning and terrifying but essentially harmless. The harmless crimes serve as distractions from real crimes happening alongside the harmless ones. Three women in their early 30s are kidnapped... well, sort of kidnapped. The women are bank tellers at the three different banks in the Vigata area; the women are seized on their way home in the mid-afternoon; the women are drugged and left on the roadside by their cars. They are found several hours later, unmolested in every way, with their money, car keys, and credit cards, etc. completely untouched. But the women were terrified. Montalbano has Sicilian

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ORIGINS OF WORDS AND PHRASES

The derivation of words and phrases we use in conversation is an interesting study, one that demonstrates just how much English owes to other languages. There are a number of sources on this and the explanations are often at variance. The entries below are taken from *Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins* (Second Edition).

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL comes from the game of Kelly pool. In one version of this game the player is required to pocket the balls in numerical rotation, except for the black ball, which is numbered eight. If another ball hits the eight ball, its player is penalized. So a position directly behind the eight ball is a position of great hazard.

BELL, BOOK, AND CANDLE refers to a solemn form of excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church. When the sentence denying further participation in the sacraments or rituals of the church is pronounced, a bell is rung, the book is closed, and a candle extinguished – this last to symbolize the spiritual darkness in which the person sentenced must abide in the future.

b.i.d and t.i.d on prescriptions are abbreviations for the Latin terms *bis in die* (twice a day) and *tres in die* (three times a day).

BERSERK In Norse legend, a *berserkr* was a warrior who fought with the fury and ferocity of a wild beast. He was said to wear a coat of bearskin, from which he got his name (*ber* for "bear" and *serkr* for "coat"). As a matter of fact, *Berserker* was a name of a legendary hero of the eighth century, who was so named because he refused to wear the traditional protective coat of mail. We inherited the word as *berserk* and we use it as an adjective or adverb meaning "in or into a state of wild or violent frenzy."

BLAZER This sports jacket gets its rather remarkable name from the fact that the first *blazers*, worn by the Lady Margaret (St. John's College, Cambridge) crew in a late 19th century, were made of brilliant red cloth, so bright that at a distance the crew seemed almost literally ablaze.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME AND THE LAMP POST is an old expression – at least two centuries old, because Charles Dickens used it in *Nicholas Nickleby*. It often appears as *between you and me and the gatepost*. The meaning of the expression is that what is about to be said is being said in confidence just the two of us and an inanimate object like a fence post will know what we say. It usually precedes a particularly juicy bit of gossip.

BIALY Now we will introduce you to a first cousin of the bagel, the *bialy*. Pronounced bee-AH-lee, it's a flat, round baked roll topped with onion flakes and lacking the hole characteristic of the bagel. It got its name from Bialystok, an industrial city in northeastern Poland. Naming foods for places has been going on for centuries. Boston baked beans, for instance, or to take a socially high-toned first cousin of the *bialy*, how about the Parker House roll, born on Tremont Street in Boston?



BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 13.

madness on his hands: The always overwrought populace believes the kidnappings presage an attack on the banks, some deposits are withdrawn, the mob signals Montalbano that it is blameless. While Montalbano tries to deal with the kidnapper, real crime takes place: A manager of a high-end electronics store is murdered (first he disappeared), his girlfriend is murdered too (previously she too had disappeared), and the electronics store was torched. *The Overnight Kidnapper* is a two-crimes-in-one Montalbano mystery. One is a sly crime that takes place in the entire Vigata community, in daylight; the other is a crime of lust and greed, all occurring within a tight circle of people and space, and in the night. *The Overnight Kidnapper* is an especially good Montalbano because the kidnapper actions frighten the police bureaucracy (which had been pestered by the frightened bank bureaucracy). Criminals and bureaucrats come with police work in crime-infested, oceanside Vigata. Montalbano survives both because he is a master at deceit. Montalbano takes steps, carefully contrived, which give the appearance he has matters in hand. In Sicily, to be good is to be cunning. (Contributing Editor William Lilley, III, Washington D.C.)



THE BETRAYAL OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS: ELIZABETH I AND HER GREATEST RIVAL

KATE WILLIAMS
(2018, 344pp,
Penguin Books)

9

In 1542, a six-day old girl, Mary, became Queen of Scotland when her father died. Soon thereafter she was betrothed to the Dauphin of France and she became Queen of France in her teenage years. In the same era, a 25-year-old woman, Elizabeth I, became Queen of England. They were cousins. This is the story of these two female monarchs who corresponded over about 40 years, but never met and, warily, like two boxers, danced around each other with respect, caution, and worry. In the end Elizabeth signed a death warrant and Mary was executed. Elizabeth did not betray Mary, indeed there is some doubt Elizabeth even wanted Mary executed because Mary was kin, Mary was a Queen like Elizabeth and if one Queen could be executed so could another. Mary was betrayed by those who pretended to serve her. The book will test your ability to keep clearly in mind who was supporting which Queen, but that reflects not on the author, but on the complex times in which intrigue and

Continued on page 15.



Pronunciation of... ...BRAND NAMES

There are online sites dealing with the pronunciation of well-known brand names and the entries below were sourced there. We thought you might appreciate this guidance.

BRAND

Hermes
Zagat
Saucony
Guerlain
Adidas
Givency
Porsche
Miele
Lululemon
Stella Artois
Stila
Bulgari
Yves Saint Laurent
Renault

SOME SAY

her-meez
zay-get
sow-cone-ee
girl-lane
ah-DEED-us
gah-VIN-chee
porsh
mie-ell
loo-loo-leem-own
stell-ah-are-twahs
stila
bul-GAR-ee
eeves-saint-lau-rant
re-NAULT

CORRECT PRONUNCIATION

AIR-mez
zah-GAT
SOCK-a-nee
gher-lehng
ah-DEED-us (U.S.) AH-dee-dahs (Europe)*
Jhee-VON-she
POR-sha
MEAL-uh
loo-loo-LEM-on
stell-ah-AR-twa
STEE-lah
BOWL-ga-ree
eve-san-lo-RON
re-NO

*Founders name
was Adi Dassler



BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 14.

double agents thrived. Had Mary's beloved first husband, Francis, King of France survived, she, as Queen of Scotland and Queen of France might well have been the most powerful person in that world. But Francis died as a teenager and Mary returned to Scotland after years in France to find turmoil and betrayal. This is a good read. While most know "how it comes out," it is fascinating to see tragedy unfold as Mary wanders from France to Scotland to about 20 years in "custody" in Elizabeth's England. We meet the people involved and see a world of wealth, passion, brutality, poisoning, spying, torture and, of course, execution. When one looks at this book through the lens of today, we see two extraordinarily intelligent, street-smart women with spines of steel. One has the feeling that if they had ever actually met and talked, they could have worked out a way to live with each other's rule and dominate the world. Two things got in the way: Mary's Catholicism and Elizabeth's Protestantism and Mary's failure to find a loyal husband and Elizabeth's wisdom in never marrying. In our modern era, we have begun to see women emerge as leaders in politics and other parts of society. We often hear talk that the world would be a better place if women were in charge. Mary and Elizabeth may represent the first time in history that there were women leaders of two major nations in the world. They performed amazingly well considering the men who surrounded them did not believe that women could rule, harassed them in every sense and showed little, if any, loyalty. (Contributing Editor Sam Chauncey, New Haven, CT)



THE MAKING OF THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

PETER HUNT
(2018, 112pp,
Bodleian Library)
9+

If you have not read *The Wind in the Willows*, then I urge you to read this splendid book on how it came about. The book ostensibly is about little water animals, dressed as people, "messaging around in boats." The animal characters are meant to be nothing but human beings. There is a rat, a toad, a mole, and a badger. They are anthropological animals, loose on river adventures, in a pastoral version of Edwardian England. The book was first published in 1908. Edward VII ruled from 1901-1910. Historians mark the "Edwardian era" as the 1880s to World War I, described by writer Samuel Hynes as, "a leisurely time when the sun never set on the British flag." *The Wind in the Willows* captures the spirit of that time; the Thames River, running peacefully along its upper reaches, holds the book's chapters together. The adventures always are riverside; the imagined time always is a long, golden summer afternoon, the place always sounds like rural Berkshire County. The adventures are of such apparent originality and ingenuity that a serial adventurer and professional writer like Theodore Roosevelt praised them, and he did it while he was president. How this all came together in one book in 1908 is an adventure in itself. Author Kenneth Grahame, something of an eccentric, made it up as he went along. In the beginning, there were bedtime stories he told his beloved son Alastair (blind in one eye and sickly), and then there were adventure stories within letters he wrote to Alastair, and then there were actual chapters on "Mr. Badger" and "Mr. Toad." Wife and mother, Elspeth Grahame, alone saw a brilliant book in the scattered notes, and letters and chapters. She cheekily pushed it from publisher to publisher until she found one who did not care if it was an adult book, or a children's book, or a non-book. The book was a great success. More than a century later, the book had not lost its grip. The *BBC* polled the country in 2017 for the most-read books: *Wind in the Willows* was #16, *Lord of the Rings* was #1, and *Great Expectations* was #17. The book on "The Making" of *Wind in the Willows* explains why the book still has such an audience. The book captures Grahame, he is a man of brilliance, however eccentric, and he is a man who grew up where Toad and "Ratty" adventured. He spent a childhood on the grounds of Berkshire's Cockham Dean church where his uncle was the curate. The church was perched alongside the Thames. The curate took Kenneth boating, almost daily, and they explored the nearby woods, which sound an awfully lot like the Quarry Woods in the book. Oxford University's Bodleian Library published the book. The Bodleian is famous for doing things with panache, especially when the library is working on something that is quintessentially British. *The Making of the Wind in the Willows* reimagines the Edwardian era through an array of river-scape paintings of a Thames river running leisurely in a summer sun past fields of uncut grass. Amazon sells the book for \$22.50, a sign that the Bodleian always prices in a gentlemanly fashion. (Contributing Editor William Lilley, III, Washington D.C.)



BOOK REVIEWS

WARLIGHT

MICHAEL ONDAATJE
(2018, 290pp,
Knopf)

9

Michael Ondaatje's dense and mysterious *Warlight* opens in 1945 post-war London. Fourteen-year-old Nathaniel and his older sister, Rachel, have been left by their parents in the care of the third-floor boarder whom they nickname The Moth for his "tentative presence." While their father disappears from their lives forever, they discover that their mother, Rose, who worked as a radio operator and a spy in the war, now works undercover in an unauthorized, still-violent war. They begin to realize life is not safe but – as The Moth warns – "schwer" meaning "heavy" or "difficult." For more than a year, strangers crowd into their Ruvigny Gardens house, operating at night and under aliases. One of the regulars, the former-boxer-turned-smuggler Pimlico Darter, enlists the teenagers' help on a barge, plying the cuts and canals north of the Thames, transporting greyhound racing dogs and other mysterious cargo. Nathaniel lands jobs in the Criterion Hotel's basement laundering tablecloths and washing glasses, as a lift jockey transporting artworks out of cellar war-storage, and at a restaurant in Chelsea's World's End, where he is seduced by Agnes (in abandoned houses around London) – a coming-of-age story as singular as the rest of his experiences. Without warning Rose returns, and the strange interlude abruptly and violently ends, leaving Rachel estranged and Nathaniel living with his mother on school holidays in her childhood Suffolk home and working for the neighboring farmer, Sam Malakite – until her sudden death. A decade later, Nathaniel buys the Malakite's "small timbered house with a walled garden" and also finds a job in London sifting through war archives at the Foreign Office – where Rose once worked. He decides to find out about his mother's past and what it tells him about his own splintered memories. An alternate account unfolds – Rose's lonely childhood and her relationship with Marsh Felon, a young thatcher who fell from the roof, broke his hip, and came to live with her family, and their relationship during and after the war. Only then does the "schwer" of mystery surrounding his mother's abandonment begin to come clear to Nathaniel. *Warlight* is dazzling, unforgettable, and utterly original. (Contributing Editor Jenny Lawrence, New York, NY)

THE WINTER SOLDIER

DANIEL MASON
(2018, 318pp,
Little Brown)

10

The Winter Soldier is an exceptional historical novel by Daniel Mason (*The Piano Tuner*), a physician and currently a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at Stanford. This is a World War I novel set in Vienna and the Eastern Front and centers on Lucius Krzelewski, a medical student in 1914 Vienna and the sixth child of a prominent Vienna-based Polish family. When World War I breaks out, he enlists and is sent to a field hospital operating in a battered church in the Carpathian Mountains in the hamlet of Lemnowice. He has zero experience as a surgeon but since no doctors are available, is asked to perform emergency surgeries. Fortunately, he is well-coached by Sister Margarete, a rifle-carrying nun who, in the absence of a doctor at Lemnowice, runs the show at the hospital. The two of them, along with a few orderlies, transform this hospital and handle major surgeries, but there are also casualties who are mentally maimed, what we would call post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) today. These are the most challenging patients for Lucius and Margarete and, as they treat a new Hungarian soldier seriously impacted neurologically (and whose condition and cure becomes an obsession for Lucius), an unexpected romance develops. The psychiatry side of the author deals with this in depth and the story of treatments in this field hospital are set forth as the war begins to close in. *The Winter Soldier* can be tough reading at times given the gore and agony of wartime injuries, but Mason is a first-rate writer and these passages are seamlessly woven into a tale of war romance, medicine, and human relationships, built around Lucius and the mysterious, strong Margarete, culminating in an unforeseen and beautiful redemption. (SHA)

THE SILENT PATIENT

ALEX MICHAELIDES
(2019, 323pp,
Celadon Books)

9

Londoners Alicia Berenson and her husband, Gabriel, she an accomplished painter, he a fashion photographer, live the good life in an upscale area of London. One fateful night when she was 33-years-old, Alicia murdered her husband, shooting him five times in the face, and then attempted to take her own life by slashing her wrists. Taken to the hospital, she answered no questions, did not speak when charged with Gabriel's murder, and never spoke again. Her silence turned this story into a profound mystery which captured the public imagination for months. At her murder trial, a professor of forensic psychiatry argued successively that her silence was evidence of profound psychological distress and should be treated accordingly. Six years later, Alicia resides at the Grove, a secure psychiatric facility in North London, she is still silent, is heavily medicated, and psychiatrists believe that further efforts to make her speak are futile. Enter Theo Faber, a criminal psychotherapist (and narrator of this story) who has followed Alicia's life and applies for a position at the Grove, positions himself to work directly with her, hoping to effect a cure. His persistence to get her to talk about the murder leads him to



BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 16.

VIETNAM: AN EPIC TRAGEDY, 1945-1975

MAX HASTINGS

(2018, 860pp)

10

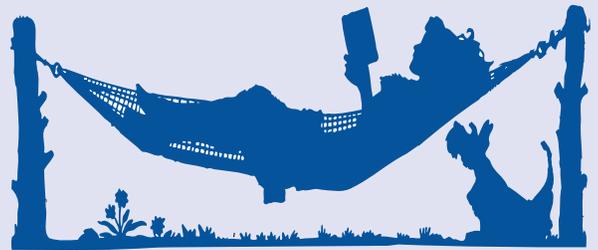
conversations with family, friends, other psychiatrists and, importantly, to Alicia's diary, and his sessions with her. Theo's efforts on behalf of Alicia take him down a twisting tale that exposes his own life struggles, which reveal much about him, often paralleling those of Alicia. This is an excellent psychological thriller (debut novel for Alex Michaelides) and readers will thoroughly enjoy the ride to a series of surprising developments. (SHA)

Max Hastings is widely acknowledged as the finest military historian writing today. Nowhere has he done finer work than in this epic study of the wars in Vietnam, first with the French, then with the Americans. Making use of recently declassified information including tapes from the Nixon White House and interviews with participants on all sides of the conflicts, Hastings presents a nuanced view of the ongoing struggles, focusing as much as possible on the beleaguered Vietnamese people, regarded as vassals by the French and largely disregarded by the Americans. By the end of French involvement, the U.S. was already picking up the tab for the war as the Eisenhower administration pumped a billion dollars into the French war effort in 1953 alone. Following the partition of Vietnam into North and South in 1954, the U.S. found itself increasingly involved in propping up the South with money and men, more of both each year. One of the enduring myths of this era is that Ho Chi Minh was more nationalist than communist. Hastings debunks the notion: "Beneath a veneer of benignity... Ho's ruthlessness was absolute, his capacity for compassion moot, given the systemic cruelties, privations, and denial of personal freedom over which he presided since 1954." He and his successor, Le Duan, were Stalinists, pure and simple. And the Vietcong operating under their aegis in the South were brutal – beheadings and live burials were commonplace as any village chiefs who were slow to embrace them were quickly done away with, often along with their entire families. Attempting to deal with this guerrilla force was a terminally corrupt and inefficient government in Saigon. As Hastings writes, corruption "was a plague bacillus. A society in which vice was seen to prosper and virtue received no reward was sorely wounded even before the enemy opened fire." To compound the corruption, the Catholic Diem regime was hostile to the majority Buddhist population, further alienating it from the people it allegedly served. And when, with the acquiescence of the Kennedy administration, Diem was murdered in 1963, his assassination, "dealt a crippling and probably irretrievable blow to America's moral standing in Southwest Asia." From then on, Hastings convincingly argues, "Kennedy's Vietnam policy suffered from the same fatal flaw as that of every other president between 1945 and 1975: It was rooted in the demands of U.S. domestic politics rather than in a realistic assessment of the interests or wishes of the Vietnamese people. Kennedy was a sufficiently intelligent and sensitive man... to recognize the unlikelihood of American military success there. However, in the climate of the Cold War, which was then very cold, the political cost of staying in South Vietnam appeared to the Kennedy White House lower than that of being seen to quit, fail, lose, or give in to the communists." Kennedy's eye was on the '64 elections and after winning by the narrowest margin ever in 1960, he couldn't afford to be The Man Who Lost Vietnam. Following his death, that same fear haunted Lyndon Johnson, notwithstanding his campaign pledge not to, "send American boys to fight a war Asian boys should fight for themselves." Johnson didn't believe a word of it and Vietnam became the cancer that destroyed his administration. Just weeks before Johnson's abdication, Walter Cronkite, reporting from Vietnam, told his viewers, "We are mired in a stalemate... The only rational way out is to negotiate," after which LBJ allegedly said, "If I've lost Walter, I've lost Middle America." And then he quit. Cronkite was right, of course, but the U.S. took another seven years and 23,000 dead GI's before those negotiations were completed. By then the American war effort had changed considerably. "From 1968 onward... as veterans went home, they were replaced by new men, many infected by a cult of dissent, drugs, and disbelief." The U.S. Army "was crumbling from within – a slow, inexorable, deadly process that attained a nadir in 1971. It was driven by three related and mutually reinforcing elements: Drug



Jane's SELECTIONS

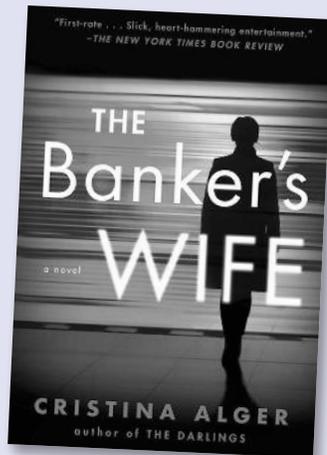
By Contributing Editor Jane Ackerman
(Studio City, CA)



THE BANKER'S WIFE

(Cristina Alger)

The Banker's Wife is a terrific international thriller built around the world of finance. It's a page-turner that I really enjoyed. After Matthew Werner dies in an Alpine plane crash, his widow, Annabel, senses that all is not right with the police investigation nor with Swiss United, the bank where Matthew worked, which is highly interested in having his laptop returned. After a secret meeting with Matthew's assistant, Annabel begins seeking answers herself. Meanwhile, American investigative journalist Marina Tourneau begins an investigation into Swiss United and irregularities in the banking world, and the story alternates between Annabel's and Marina's investigative trails moving through Geneva, New York, London, and the Cayman Islands. These two separate investigations will ultimately merge as secrets are exposed and the villains begin to move in. Great story for all readers.

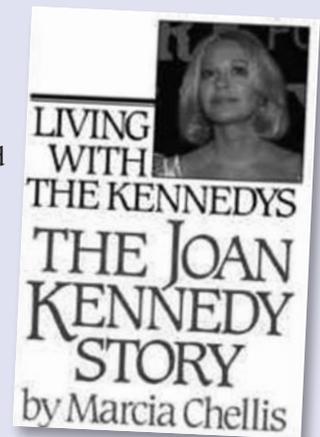


life you just know will leave an impact forever. Charles Krauthammer was one of these people. His words and knowledge and his eloquence on the issues were unsurpassed. He could cut through the noise and get to the point better than anyone." *The Point of it All* is a compilation of his columns, speeches, and essays on his thoughts and the major issues of the times, edited and with an introduction by his son, Daniel, and should be in everyone's library. You could turn to any page and find something interesting and worthwhile. When Baier said "Thank you Charles," he would answer "My pleasure." The truth is, it was our pleasure, and I'm missing him more than words can say.

THE JOAN KENNEDY STORY

(Marcia Chellis)

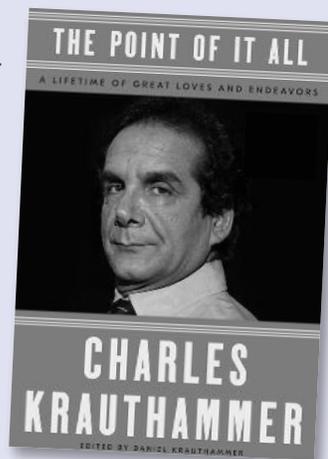
I was sitting in Steve's office waiting for him to get off the phone and on his desk was a big pile of books being donated to the Los Angeles Library, including this book. I picked it up, started reading, and quickly became engrossed in this history. The narrative begins in the 1980s with her husband Ted Kennedy making a bid for the presidency to carry on the Kennedy tradition, but was burdened with the Chappaquiddick tragedy where Mary Jo Kopechne drowned. Joan Kennedy came from a very quiet, Catholic family and was not prepared for a marriage to a member of one of America's most well-known political families. After Chappaquiddick and the scandal following, Joan slipped into having a few drinks and this grew into full-fledged alcoholism. This book tells the story of how she found the strength to overcome the problems that plagued her life – alcoholism, political ambition, miscarriages, a son with cancer, breast cancer, the end of her marriage, and how she developed into an independent woman. I really enjoyed this book, finding it somewhat nostalgic to review this history as told by a Joan Kennedy confidante. Divorced from Ted in 1983, she never remarried and is now 82.



THE POINT OF IT ALL: A LIFETIME OF GREAT LOVES AND ENDEAVORS

(Charles Krauthammer)

Charles Krauthammer (1950-2018) was my favorite political commentator, such a gentleman and a man of great intellect. He spent his life in a wheelchair after becoming paralyzed in a diving accident when he was at Harvard Medical School. When he spoke about the news of the day on the Bret Baier show, *Special Report*, his comments were penetrating and you knew you had heard something important. About Krauthammer, Baier said, "There are people you meet throughout your





BOOK REVIEWS

Continued from page 17.

abuse, racial strife, powerfully influenced by the U.S. domestic Black Power movement, and a decline of discipline and the will to fight.” Around that time an Army lieutenant remarked, “they might call the missions ‘search and destroy,’ but by then it was more ‘search and avoid.’ You could tell this thing was all over.” As with Kennedy and Johnson, Nixon didn’t want to be the one to lose Vietnam, either, and the cynicism with which he and Kissinger viewed both the war and the negotiations is one of the book’s major revelations. While they played war as well as diplomacy, “Hundreds of thousands of combat deaths from 1968 onward were especially tragic because they took place after the U.S. had abandoned hopes of victory and was merely battling to escape explicit defeat.” Driven ever forward by the exigencies of presidential elections and the preoccupation with containing Red China, America’s war effort in Vietnam never strayed very far from Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge’s imperious assertion that “We have the right and the duty to do certain things with or without the [Vietnamese] government’s approval.” The war’s epitaph might well be this: “The Vietnamese were cast as the little men who weren’t there. To all intents and purposes, they appeared to have become outsiders in the struggle for their country.” (Contributing Editor Thomas Hudnut, Los Angeles, CA)

DEEP CREEK: FINDING HOPE IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

PAM HOUSTON
(2019, 303pp,
W.W. Norton)

9

Although this book is subtitled “Finding Hope in the High Country,” it is really an elegy to the sense of rootedness that the author has found in the Rocky Mountains above the town of Creede, Colorado. After a desperate childhood spent with parents who didn’t want her – an abusive father and an alcoholic mother – the author embarks on the sporadically successful life of a writer and teacher of writing. Heading west at age 31 with no destination in mind following her mother’s death, she discovers 120 acres that she can’t afford but finds a way to buy it over time and it becomes, “the only real home I have ever had. It might have been fate, or some kind of calling. It could have been random, but it doesn’t *feel* random. Sometimes a few pieces of the puzzle click into place, and the world seems to spin a little more freely. In other words, maybe I didn’t choose this ranch at all. Maybe this ranch chose me.” Houston’s prose tumbles off the page reassuringly, even when writing about her wretched childhood, forest fires, distressed animals, useless ranch sitters, and the ghost of a long dead rancher. This is a book that will appeal to anyone who shares the author’s sense of place; it needn’t be a place in the Rockies like hers, it can be a place anywhere, but it must be a place that resonates deeply within the reader’s soul. Ideally, it is someone who can relate to the delight Houston takes in such a mundane task as splitting and stacking a cord of wood. “I find moving and stacking this amount of wood both mind-numbingly tedious and deeply satisfying. There is something so pleasingly pure about having a task to be accomplished and then accomplishing it. It is the exact opposite of writing, and pretty close to the opposite of teaching. In both writing and teaching, nothing is ever finished, only finished enough to let go.” For a reader who appreciates evocative writing, or who has a place to love, or who just wants to feel what it’s like to get away from it all, Pam Houston has finished something clearly good enough to let go. (Contributing Editor Thomas Hudnut, Los Angeles, CA)



THE THIRD VICTIM PHILLIP MARGOLIN

(2018, 312pp,
Minotaur)

9

Courtroom-procedure mysteries are dominated by John Grisham, Scott Turow, and Phillip Margolin. The big three account for the blockbuster books and the successful movies in the legal thriller field. Margolin’s next big book (*The Perfect Alibi*, to be released March 2019) features the new legal character whom Margolin debuted in this book *The Third Victim*. The new lead is Robin Lockwood, who is a young lawyer on a career tear – a super athlete, Yale Law School, clerk for the chief justice of Oregon’s supreme court, and just hired as legal backup for Portland’s leading defense lawyer. She is the star of the *Third Victim*. She is her firm’s back up in two cases which appear to be separate but

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BOOK REVIEWS

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really are linked and should not be handled simultaneously by the same lawyer in the same firm. The issue is further complicated when the same conflicted lawyer begins to have spells of memory loss which the firm shields from the public. Robin Lockwood, Portland's newest legal phenom, has started her private-sector career handling cases which she should not be handling, and backing up a high-profile defense lawyer who should not be practicing law. The two cases provide the plots for the *Third Victim*. In both of them, women have been abducted and tortured, some of the women were prostitutes and some were not. Sexual sadism was involved in every incident. "Bent" policemen were players also, where cops overlooked drug deals in return for "free time" with prostitutes. The cops used the "free time" to torture the prostitutes. Robin's once-promising career remained in jeopardy throughout the mystery. Her biggest problem was her boss's memory. The head lawyer goes through trial preparation beautifully, Robin has her groomed for success, and then the lawyer cannot remember where her car was parked, or even what kind of car it was. The lead lawyer mishandled the defense, and the client was found guilty, all because of the faulty memory problem. The client, a wealthy and obnoxious Portland trial lawyer, was found guilty of kidnapping three women, two of them prostitutes who were tortured and then killed. He also was found guilty of kidnapping and torturing a third victim who managed to escape and testify against Robin's client. The twist in the plot was that Robin thought the third victim was fishy from day one. She also had an altercation with one of the "bent" cops accused of torturing the prostitutes. Robin damaged the cop's knee in a fight over how he used his cigarette to burn the bound prostitutes. The torture burns were similar in both cases, the ones tortured by the police in one case and the ones tortured by the guilty defendant in the other case. (Contributing Editor William Lilley, III, Washington D.C.)



Jane Says . . . "In the tiny book *Pocket Coco Chanel Wisdom*, there is this: "The best things in life are free. The second best things are very, very expensive." Someday SHA will understand! Coco Chanel also said, "You can be gorgeous at 30, charming at 40, and irresistible for the rest of your life."

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