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*We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books*

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Arts & Photography / Painting

[Brought to Life: Eliot Hodgkin Rediscovered](#) edited by Adrian Eeles (The Rothschild Foundation Waddesdon) (Paul Holberton Publishing)

Eliot Hodgkin (1905-1987) is best known as a painter of still-life subjects beautifully executed in tempera. His depictions of everyday objects – such as lemons, radishes, dead leaves and feathers – have always been much prized by collectors. Less well known are his haunting views of bombsites in London after World War II, with rank weeds and wildflowers pushing up through mounds of rubble. [Brought to Life](#) is a fully illustrated catalogue designed to accompany the first survey exhibition on the artist since 1990.

Although Hodgkin is best known for his still-life paintings in tempera, there are several other facets of his career as an artist which have never been fully explored. In the 1930s, once he had got into his stride, he produced large, almost flamboyant flower pieces in oil, but towards the end of the decade his style became more precise as he began to discover the refined quality of tempera as a medium. His subjects took on a distinctly surrealist treatment, echoes of Dali, and this led on to an almost obsessive attention to detail, each painting being preceded by an elaborate, scaled drawing in pencil and brown wash with color notes scribbled all over the sheet. He continued his concentration on still-life subjects, although there are some highly evocative landscapes in the 1950s and 1960s resulting from holiday tours through France, Switzerland and Italy. However, as can be seen in [Brought to Life](#), it is as an exquisite painter of objects, usually of ordinary things that Hodgkin is best known for among art connoisseurs. It is the 'placement' of the object, as much as the way the surface texture is described in paint, that makes these small pictures fascinating and deeply memorable.

Hodgkin is very much in the tradition of Adriaen Coorte and Sanchez Cotan, two artists that he much admired. Hodgkin and his wife were also keen art collectors, and, not surprisingly, they owned a fine still-life painting by Giorgio Morandi, which now has its home in the Tate Gallery.

A master of highly finished, luminescent still-life paintings ... an artist whose work transcends fashion or fashionable interpretation. – Country Life

... the exhibition, which this book accompanies, is the culmination of a long-held ambition. His still-life painting is of great beauty, executed with startling realism and skill, and deserves to be better known, as do his haunting depictions of wartime London, conceived with the same minute observation and rendering of detail.... I hope that these jewel-like paintings, with their subtlety, lustrous depth of colour, delicacy and deceptively simple realism, will have as strong an impact on them as they had on me. – Lord Rothschild, from the foreword

Displaying attention to detail, [Brought to Life](#) provides an excellent and revealing introduction to this painter of beautiful still-lives, country sides, and portraits. <>

Arts & Photography / Painting

[Disrupted Realism: Paintings for a Distracted World](#) by John Seed, with a foreword by Katherine Stanek (Schiffer Publishing)

Distorting traditional realism to reflect the fragmentation of modern life ... what does that mean and how does it change those reading this?

[Disrupted Realism](#) is the first book to survey the works of contemporary painters who are challenging and reshaping the tradition of Realism. Helping art lovers, collectors, and artists approach and understand this compelling new phenomenon, it includes the works of 38 artists whose paintings respond to the subjectivity and disruptions of modern experience. Widely published author and blogger John Seed, who believes that we are "the most distracted society in the history of the world," has selected artists he sees as visionaries in this developing movement.

Seed is an artist and curator known for his Huffington Post Arts blog.

Artists' impulses toward disruption are as individual as the artists themselves, but all share the need to include perception and emotion in their artistic process. Six sections in [Disrupted Realism](#) lay out and analyze common themes: "Toward Abstraction," "Disrupted Bodies," "Emotions and Identities," "Myths and Visions," "Patterns, Planes, and Formations," and "Between Painting and Photography." Interviews with each artist offer additional insight into some of the most incisive and relevant painting being created today.

According to Katherine Stanek of the Stanek Gallery in the foreword to [Disrupted Realism](#), an art movement of substance and longevity can be neither calculated nor contrived; rather, it arises organically, often during periods of significant social and cultural change. 'Disrupted realism' is no exception. In her view, it is a movement that begins with awareness that all things are interconnected.

The role of a traditional art gallery, also significantly affected by modern technologies and devices, has been changing. Galleries around the world are faced with a difficult choice of in-depth restructuring or retiring. High-quality artwork is being overlooked in favor of flashy trends and superficial gimmicks, as once-successful artists producing meaningful work are struggling to find desirable exhibition opportunities and move out of increasingly expensive metropolitan areas. Philadelphia, for one, is experiencing such an exodus of great artists who have studied, taught, worked, and exhibited in this city, including some painters featured in [Disrupted Realism](#).

With technology ranking indisputably high among far-reaching agents of change, it comes as no surprise that 'disrupted realism' has taken root in the current era. What is unusual is for this international movement in painting to make its premier appearance in an exhibition at a small, sculptor-owned fine art gallery in Philadelphia within the first two years of its existence.

Paintings in [Disrupted Realism](#) represent immense skill acquired through arduous study and discipline grounded in a profound search for meaning. An individual artist's imagery is influenced by his or her unique experiences that in turn shape his or her specific artistic process. Consequently, no work is alike and each offers a personal take on disruption. These artists respond viscerally to the world around them, presenting readers with recognizable fragments of the human figure rendered in a way that does not allow the eye the time to settle. Viewers find themselves following the painter all around the surface, between layers, in and out of pictorial space. Figures exist in different planes, disappearing and reappearing, fragmented, overlapping, moving. Unpredictability is woven in with familiar uneasiness that is accurately captured to resonate with everyone living in this particular moment of technologically and socially disrupted time, a period that will ultimately take its place in history.

Stanek in [Disrupted Realism](#) says she has counted many of these artists among her colleagues for years and has always been an avid admirer of their work. However, not until John Seed wrote a blog about a group of highly skilled painters challenging the traditional concept of realism did she make the connection between their work and her own observations about worldwide changes she was witnessing, particularly in the art world. Seed's blog initiated a cross-continental dialogue with influential Philadelphia-based artists at its heart, making it clear that there was a need for an exhibition bringing these artists together in Philadelphia and hosted by none other than the Stanek Gallery, which had only just opened its doors at that time.

In January 2018, an exhibition titled *Disrupted Realism* debuted at the Stanek Gallery in Philadelphia's Old City as a collaborative effort among John Seed, the Stanek Gallery team, and a group of extraordinarily talented contemporary artists with a unique but shared vision.

I consider John Seed as the Anthony Bourdain of the art world. Traveling and taking us on a journey of visual feasts for our eyes and imaginations. – Sue Greenwood, art dealer

*The visceral impact of the artist's hand is taking center stage within the widening circle of representational art. John Seed astutely frames **Disrupted Realism** as a movement, which it is, in every sense of the word. – Stanka Kordic, artist*

The best thing about 'Disrupted Realism' is that it doesn't focus on facile representation. Instead, it centers on the opposite – that something remarkable happens when the so-called 'real' is smeared, blurred, broken, battered, or even just a bit bruised. – Anne Harris, artist

John Seed is a diamond in a coal pile, a treasure. – Dave Hickey, author and critic

[Disrupted Realism](#) lays out the wide depth and breadth of a new art movement reshaping realism for this fragmented and distracted age. <>

Audio / Literature & Fiction / Mysteries

[Murder with Cucumber Sandwiches](#) by Karen Rose Smith, read by C.S.E. Cooney – Audiobook, MP3 Audio, Unabridged, running time: 8 hours (**A Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery**: Tantor Audio)

[Murder with Cucumber Sandwiches](#) – Paperback by Karen Rose Smith (**A Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery**: Kensington)

After writing romances for twenty years, *USA Today* bestselling author Karen Rose Smith is excited to see her *Caprice De Luca* home-stager mystery series published and her newest series – **Daisy's Tea Garden** cozies – released.

*I grew up in the Susquehanna Valley in Pennsylvania and often made visits to Lancaster County. This area is rich with history, quilts, unique food, and beautiful hand-crafted furniture. I chose this setting with the fictional town of Willow Creek for my **Daisy's Tea Garden** series. I also wanted to incorporate a sense of family. My sleuth Daisy is a widow with two teenage daughters. Daisy and her Aunt Iris are partners in running the tea garden. As is usually so with family, there are complications as well as mystery. I hope you find **Daisy's Tea Garden** a cozy place with warmth, soup and baked goods and suspense that you want to visit often. – from the author*

Narrator C. S. E. Cooney launched her voice-acting career narrating short fiction for Podcastle, the world's first audio fantasy magazine. She is a performance poet, singer-songwriter, and fantasy author.

In [Murder with Cucumber Sandwiches](#) Daisy's Tea Garden in Pennsylvania's Amish country is known for its elegant finger foods – but now owner Daisy Swanson has to finger a killer ...

Restaurant critic Derek Schumaker, notorious for his bitter reviews, is about to visit Daisy's Tea Garden, and Daisy and Aunt Iris are simmering with anxiety. A bad word from the culinary curmudgeon could really hurt their business, but Daisy tries to stay confident. After all, how can he resist her cucumber sandwiches with pimento spread – not to mention the cheesy cauliflower soup and strawberry walnut salad?

Schumaker takes a to-go order when the afternoon tea service is done, which Daisy hopes is a good sign. But when he perishes from a seizure, it looks like his food was dosed with something deadly. Considering a threat that recently appeared on his blog – and whispers of scandal in his past – Daisy has quite an assortment of suspects to sift through ...

And, believe it or not, [Murder with Cucumber Sandwiches](#) includes delicious recipes.

The Daisy's Tea Garden Mystery series always skillfully features a shocking murder plus family issues, and the third book certainly has lots of both. – Alwaysreviewing.com <>

Business & Economics / Management

[HBR's 10 Must Reads on Managing in a Downturn](#) by Harvard Business Review (Harvard Business Review Press)

How do the most resilient companies survive – and even thrive – during a slowdown?

If readers read nothing else on preparing for a tough economy and coming back stronger, advises *Harvard Business Review*, they should read these 10 articles. The staff at HBR have combed through hundreds of *Harvard Business Review* articles and selected the most important ones to help their readers' companies persevere through economic challenges and continue to grow even as their competitors stumble.

[HBR's 10 Must Reads on Managing in a Downturn](#) will inspire readers to:

- Get their company ready before a downturn strikes.
- Learn the right lessons from previous recessions.
- Minimize pain while cutting costs and managing risk.
- Foster a healthy organizational culture during anxious times.
- Seize the opportunity to innovate and reinvent their business.

Organized by the staff at HBR, the collection of articles in [HBR's 10 Must Reads on Managing in a Downturn](#) includes "Seize Advantage in a Downturn," by David Rhodes and Daniel Stelter; "How to Survive a Recession and Thrive Afterward: A Research Roundup," by Walter Frick; "How to Bounce Back from Adversity," by Joshua D. Margolis and Paul G. Stoltz; "Rohm and Haas's Former CEO on Pulling Off a Sweet Deal in a Down Market," by Raj Gupta; "Leadership in a (Permanent) Crisis," by Ronald Heifetz,

Alexander Grashow, and Marty Linsky; "How to Be a Good Boss in a Bad Economy," by Robert I. Sutton; "Layoffs That Don't Break Your Company," by Sandra J. Sucher and Shalene Gupta; "Getting Reorgs Right," by Stephen Heidari-Robinson and Suzanne Heywood; "Reigniting Growth," by Chris Zook and James Allen; "Reinvent Your Business Model Before It's Too Late," by Paul Nunes and Tim Breene; and "How to Protect Your Job in a Recession," by Janet Banks and Diane Coutu. Also included is a bonus article "Reigniting Growth" by Chris Zook and James Allen.

Harvard Business Review is the leading destination for smart management thinking. Through its flagship magazine, 12 international licensed editions, books from Harvard Business Review Press, and digital content and tools published on HBR.org, *Harvard Business Review* provides professionals around the world with rigorous insights and best practices to lead themselves and their organizations more effectively and to make a positive impact. <>

Children's Books / Reading Level: Grade 4 / Interest Level: 6-12 / Graphic Novels

[**Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet, Part 3**](#) – Library Binding by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Brian Stelfreeze & Laura Martin (Marvel Age, Spotlight, Abdo Publishing)

In this series of 6 graphic novels, ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet***, with a dramatic upheaval in Wakanda on the horizon, T'Challa struggles to find balance in his roles as king and the Black Panther. His people are restless, a superhuman terrorist group sparks a violent uprising, two former Dora Milaje become Midnight Angels to liberate oppressed Wakandans, and his sister, Shuri, is trapped between life and death. T'Challa knows Wakanda needs to change to survive, but can he survive the change?

Books in the series include:

- ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet: Part 1***
- ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet: Part 2***
- [**Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet, Part 3**](#)
- ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet: Part 4***
- ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet: Part 5***
- ***Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet: Part 6***

With [**Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet, Part 3**](#), a new era begins for the Black Panther. MacArthur Genius and National Book Award-winning writer Ta-Nehisi Coates takes the helm, confronting T'Challa with a dramatic upheaval in Wakanda that will make leading the African nation tougher than ever before. When a superhuman terrorist group that calls itself The People sparks a violent uprising, the land famed for its incredible technology and proud warrior traditions is thrown into turmoil. If Wakanda is to survive, it must adapt – but can its monarch, one in a long line of Black Panthers, make the necessary change? Heavy lies the head that wears the cowl!

In [Black Panther: A Nation under Our Feet, Part 3](#), T'Challa knocks out Zenzi after tracking her and her group of rebels down but Tetu uses his power to escape with Zenzi; Ayo and Aneka continue their mission to liberate oppressed Wakandans. Ayo and Aneka – formerly of the Dora Milaje, now known as the midnight angels – are liberating oppressed Wakandans that the crown has neglected for too long.

Meanwhile, T'challa tracks down Zenzi, the woman who incited a riot at the great mound, but falls prey to her mental powers. Distracting T'challa with his guilt over his sister Shuri's death, Zenzi escapes.

Except Shuri had not truly died. Her spirit now travels the Djalia, the plane of Wakandan memory...

Books in this **Black Panther** series are aligned to Common Core standards and correlated to state standards. The books have reinforced library-bound hardcovers. <>

Children's Books / Grade Level: Preschool-1 / Age Range: 3-6

[The Peace Book](#) – **Library Binding** by Todd Parr (**Todd Parr Picture Books**: Spotlight, Abdo Publishing)

[The Peace Book](#) takes on the importance of friendship, caring, and acceptance.

[The Peace Book](#) inspires kids (and adults!) with universal sentiments of compassion and hope. This book is designed to:

- Encourage early literacy.
- Enhance emotional development.
- Celebrate diversity.
- Promote character growth.

Other **Todd Parr Picture Books** include:

- **The Family Book**
- **The Feelings Book**
- **The Goodbye Book**
- **The I'm Not Scared Book**
- **It's Great to Be Different**
- **It's Okay to Make Mistakes**
- **Love the World**
- [The Peace Book](#)
- **The Thankful Book**

The easy-to-read titles in **Todd Parr Picture Books** encourage kids to believe in themselves and to accept others. Author and illustrator is *New York Times* bestselling author Todd Parr. Parr's colorful art and positive picture books are perfect for the youngest readers.

These books are aligned to Common Core standards and correlated to state standards. They have reinforced library-bound hardcovers. <>

Children's Books / Grade Level: 6-12 / Reading Level: Grade 8 / Series

[The Impact of Slavery in America](#) – **Library Binding** by Duchess Harris, with Gail Radley (**Slavery in America Series**: Essential Library, Abdo Publishing)

Millions of people were captured from their homes in Africa and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to live as slaves. In North America, thousands of them helped build the United States with their forced labor. The United States continues to experience the legacy of slavery today, partly because of the racist policies developed in the South during Reconstruction.

This series, *Slavery in America*, examines the history of slavery in the United States and why it matters today. In the *Slavery in America Series*, readers gain insight into how and why the historical practice has remnants in the present day.

Books in the *Slavery in America Series* include:

- *How Slaves Built America*
- [The Impact of Slavery in America](#)
- *Reconstructing the South*
- *The Transatlantic Slave Trade*

Features of this series include a timeline, a glossary, further readings, websites, source notes, and an index. The series is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

[The Impact of Slavery in America](#) explores the present-day repercussions of slavery on US society, including in housing, education, health care, and the justice system.

Africans began to arrive in North America about four hundred years ago, not of their own free will but rather through force, to serve as slaves in the developing English colonies.

Chapters in [The Impact of Slavery in America](#) include:

1. Fighting to Be Free
2. The Long Road Toward Equality
3. Issues in Entertainment
4. Education: Separate and Unequal
5. Help Wanted?
6. Where Is Home?
7. Policing, Profiling, and Prison
8. Where We Are and Where We're Going

The author of the series, Duchess Harris, is a professor of American Studies at Macalester College and curator of the *Duchess Harris Collection* of ABDO books. She is also the

coauthor of the titles in the collection, which features popular selections such as *Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA* and numerous series including *News Literacy* and *Being Female in America*. She served as an associate editor for *Litigation News*, the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's quarterly flagship publication, and was the first editor in chief of *Law Roza*, an interactive online journal covering race and the law, published at William Mitchell College of Law.

Coauthor of [The Impact of Slavery in America](#), Gail Radley, is the author of 28 books for young people and numerous articles for adults. She also teaches part time at Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. In the 1960s, she belonged to a civil rights group in the Washington, DC, area and is currently a member of the NAACP. <>

Children's Books / Grade Level: 6-12 / Reading Level: Grade 8 / Series

[LGBTQ Service in the Armed Forces](#) – Library Binding by Duchess Harris, with Jill C. Wheeler (**Being LGBTQ in America Series**: Essential Library, Abdo Publishing)

A man is turned away from joining the military because he was assigned a different sex at birth. A children's show creates controversy because it includes LGBTQ characters. Biases like these are a routine part of life for LGBTQ people in American society. The **Being LGBTQ in America Series** draws out and considers the impacts of these discriminatory attitudes while also highlighting the progress the LGBTQ community has made in recent decades through social movements, laws, and media representation.

Books in the **Being LGBTQ in America Series** include:

- *Being Transgender in America*
- *Growing Up LGBTQ*
- *LGBTQ Discrimination in America*
- *LGBTQ Rights and the Law*
- [LGBTQ Service in the Armed Forces](#)
- *LGBTQ Social Movements in America*

Features of the **Being LGBTQ in America Series** include a glossary, further readings, websites, source notes, and an index. The series is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

[LGBTQ Service in the Armed Forces](#) looks at enlisted LGBTQ people and legislation that made their experience in the US military difficult. It also discusses how LGBTQ soldiers served during times of war but were often discharged for their gender identity or sexuality after the war.

Chapters in [LGBTQ Service in the Armed Forces](#) include:

1. New Administration
2. LGBTQ Soldiers in the 1700s and 1800s
3. LGBTQ Soldiers in the World Wars

4. Wars of the Late 1900s
5. Fighting Back and Don't Ask, Don't Tell
6. The War on Terror and Repeal of DADT
7. Life as an LGBTQ Soldier
8. The Future of LGBTQ People in the Military

The author of the series, Duchess Harris, is a professor of American Studies at Macalester College and curator of the *Duchess Harris Collection* of ABDO books. She is also the coauthor of the titles in the collection, which features popular selections such as *Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA* and numerous series including *News Literacy* and *Being Female in America*. She served as an associate editor for *Litigation News*, the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's quarterly flagship publication, and was the first editor in chief of *Law Roza*, an interactive online journal covering race and the law, published at William Mitchell College of Law.

Coauthor of [LGBTQ Service in the Armed Forces](#) is Jill C. Wheeler. Wheeler is the author of more than 300 nonfiction titles for young readers. <>

Children's Books / Grade Level: 6-12 / Reading Level: Grade 8 / Series

[For-Profit Prisons](#) – Library Binding by Duchess Harris with Cynthia Kennedy Henzel (**History of Crime and Punishment Series**: Essential Library, Abdo Publishing)

Since its formation more than two centuries ago, the United States has developed a sprawling and complex criminal justice system with deep-rooted issues. Today, government officials are grappling with challenges such as a historically high number of prison inmates, racial bias in policing, and questions about the morality of capital punishment. With differing ideas among politicians, activists, and others about how these challenges should be addressed, young readers can dive into the **History of Crime and Punishment Series** and decide for themselves.

Titles in the **History of Crime and Punishment Series** include

- *Capital Punishment*
- [For-Profit Prisons](#)
- *The History of Criminal Law*
- *The History of Law Enforcement*
- *The Juvenile Justice System*
- *The US Prison System and Prison Life*

Features of the series include a glossary, further readings, websites, source notes, and an index. The series is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

[For-Profit Prisons](#) takes a close look at the side of the US prison system that relies on for-profit companies. It explores the history behind for-profit prisons in the United States as well as varying opinions about the ethics of for-profit prisons.

Chapters in [For-Profit Prisons](#) include:

1. Kids for Cash
2. Prisoners for Profit
3. The Return of Private Prisons
4. Public vs. Private
5. Inmate Care
6. Prisons and Politics
7. Immigrant Detention
8. The Future of For-Profit Prisons

The author of the series, Duchess Harris, is a professor of American Studies at Macalester College and curator of the *Duchess Harris Collection* of ABDO books. She is also the coauthor of the titles in the collection, which features popular selections such as *Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA* and numerous series including *News Literacy* and *Being Female in America*. She served as an associate editor for *Litigation News*, the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's quarterly flagship publication, and was the first editor in chief of *Law Roza*, an interactive online journal covering race and the law, published at William Mitchell College of Law.

Coauthor of [For-Profit Prisons](#), Cynthia Kennedy Henzel has worked as a teacher-educator in many countries. Currently, she writes books and develops education materials for social studies, history, science, and ELL students. She has written more than 85 books for young people. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine

[Posh Potatoes: Over 70 Recipes, From Wondrous Waffles to Fabulous Fries](#) by Rebecca Woods (Quadrille Publishing)

No other vegetable is as universally loved as the potato. It's a firm favorite of young and old alike, the world over.

So wonderful are they that readers can find the potato in food cultures the world over, and given these international makeovers, the humble spud can be a lot fancier than one might think. Sure, there's a time and a place when a simple baked potato topped with a lump of melting butter is all one could ever wish for, but it's time to embrace their somewhat posher incarnations, too.

Chips, wedges, mash, rösti, gnocchi, baked potatoes, hash browns, roast potatoes, French fries, Dauphinoise – no other vegetable is so versatile, comforting and delicious. This latest addition to the *Posh!* series, [Posh Potatoes](#), celebrates the humble potato in its many forms and offer amazing new ways to cook it. Through Breakfast & Brunch, Lunch, Snacks, Sides, Mains, readers will discover a variety of dishes from around the world, and every recipe is accompanied by a photo. Recipes include Poutine, Sweet Potato

Falafel Wraps, Latkes, Loaded Potato Skins, Fondant Potatoes, Potato, Rosemary and Gorgonzola Pizza, and Homity Pie.

Author Rebecca Woods is a food stylist, recipe writer, and developer whose clients include the *Telegraph*, *The Sunday Times*, *BBC Good Food*, *Olive*, *Harrods*, and the *Daily Mail*.

Chapters include Basic Potatoes, Breakfast & Brunch Potatoes, Lunch Potatoes, Snack Potatoes, Side Potatoes, and Main Potatoes. Recipes include Herby Hash Browns with Eggs & Mackerel, Korean Sweet Potato & Kimchi Mandu, Simple Salt & Pepper Hasselbacks, Gnocchi with Mushrooms & Tarragon, and Fennel, Potato & Pancetta Gratins.

A couple of simple things for readers to remember, according to [Posh Potatoes](#): look for floury ones for mashing and roasting, when light and fluffy is the aim; for salads, boiled or steamed potatoes, or when one needs them to hold their own a bit more (say, in a stew), go for a waxy variety. And never overlook the wonderful sweet potato as yet another option.

And a final word of endorsement – while they get a pretty bad rap healthwise, they are actually a decent source of vitamins and minerals, as well as being rich in fiber, if one eats the skins. Okay, perhaps dauphinoise isn't an everyday dinner... but they have more going for them than just their flavor, their versatility, their economy, their availability, their ease of cooking and their status as a Class A comfort food. Super spuds don't always have to be the supporting artist – they can be the star too.

[Posh Potatoes](#) celebrates this humble ingredient in its many forms and offers amazing to new ways to cook it with recipes from cuisines all around the world. Readers will be inspired to get to it, push up their potatoes, add some spark to their spuds, and impress at every meal. <>

Education & Learning

[The School in the Cloud](#): **The Emerging Future of Learning, 1st edition** by Sugata Mitra
(**Corwin Teaching Essentials**: Corwin)

... Sugata is a person with a dangerous idea – and it just might work. He powerfully joins the dots. Enjoy the thrill of being on the edge with him, because at the edge of chaos anything might happen. – John Hattie, Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne, Australia, from the foreword

This isn't another book about boring old teachers. – From the 3rd-year class of Belleville Primary School

[The School in the Cloud](#) tells the science and the story of the future of learning.

Educators have been trying to harness the 'promise' of technology in education for decades, to no avail, but we have learned that children in groups – when given access to the internet – can learn anything by themselves. In this groundbreaking book, readers glimpse the emerging future of learning with technology. It turns out the promise isn't in the technology itself; it's in the self-directed learning of the children who use it.

Author Professor Sugata Mitra's current work is on the internet and children's learning. He retired in 2019 as Professor of Educational Technology, Newcastle University.

Back in 1999, Mitra conducted the famous Hole-in-the-Wall experiment that inspired three TED Talks and earned him the first million-dollar TED prize for research in 2013. Since then, he has conducted new research around self-organized learning environments (SOLEs), building 'Schools in the Cloud' all over the world.

[The School in the Cloud](#) shares the results of this research and offers

- Examples of thriving Schools in the Cloud in unlikely places.
- Predictions on the future of learning.
- How to design assessments for self-organized learning.
- How to build one's own School in the Cloud.
- Clips from the documentary *The School in the Cloud*.

[The School in the Cloud](#) stops readers in their tracks and causes them to think again. For example, think of the millions spent on providing enough computers for one student, or at least one device between two students; whereas Sugata shows that children will learn at greater rates if they cluster around large screens, in mixed-age groups and discover together. Or, think of the ways in which ICT teaching carefully plans a step-by-step approach to ensure the 'right' thing is studied at the right time, whereas Mitra shows children who are given free and public access to computers and the Internet can become computer literate without the need for a planned curriculum. Perhaps most profound of all, Mitra describes the conditions leading to a Self-Organised Learning Environment (SOLE) in which, contrary to the usual situation in which students cram for a test and then forget much of what they've learned once the test is done, the students in his experiments actually knew more when they were given a surprise test months later. As for the 'School in the Cloud' idea, the underlying principle is to not teach; instead, have a conversation, raise questions and ask children to work out possible answers.

There is no shying away from evidence about the effectiveness of this model – and a major theme is asking how we should measure students' learning and depth of understanding. Where should we go next? How can we draw out learning to create new, stimulating, open, and engaging questions for subsequent sessions? And how can we prevent boredom and engage in appropriately challenging learning?

While many of the messages in [The School in the Cloud](#) seem to relate to India and places with fewer resources, there are many examples of the School in the Cloud working everywhere. But it will require a transfer of power and centrality – teachers will have to learn to talk less, to accept the internet as a primary resource, to evaluate learning in terms of both knowing lots and understanding deeply, to give up much of the current crowded curriculum, to get used to moving bodies in the school and not fixed classrooms, and to appreciate the vast reservoir of untapped excitement and potential that every student can use if not constrained to straight rows, bells, teacher talk, and too much doing.

Sugata Mitra's long awaited book is not only a documentation of two decades of studies into self-organised learning; it is also an invitation to explore the mind of a disruptor. Mitra deftly traces the history of his projects, offering keen insights into the thinking behind his celebrated Hole in the Wall and Schools in the Cloud experiments. He provides a compelling, personal and at times contentious narrative, replete with evidence that when given the right conditions, children really can learn for themselves. For educators everywhere, [The School in the Cloud](#) will be challenging and inspirational in equal measure. – Steve Wheeler, Learning Innovation Consultant, Former Associate Professor of Education

We universally underestimate children. Sugata does not. His life's work has been to enable children to explore for themselves, using their innate curiosity and imagination. Education is what people do to you. Learning is what you do to yourself. Digital ether allows that latter, as you will see in this book. – Nicholas Negroponte, Founder of MIT Media Lab and One Laptop per Child

Many people profess to know what the future of school will be. These claims are often vague, overconfident, or overly simplistic. Not here. This book is filled with examples, questions, humility, possibilities, and undeniable stories that should make us all uncomfortable with our current ways of thinking about education. This is a must-read for all who want to expand their understanding about learning. – Julie Stern, author of *Tools for Teaching Conceptual Learning*

For many years Sugata Mitra has been one of very few saying, and evidencing, that we should properly trust children with their learning. Children saw right away that they needed to know about the past to imagine and then build their futures. So of course they know how important it is to practice imagining. Children don't need this book; this book is for everyone else. – Stephen Heppell, Felipe Segovia Chair in Learning Innovation at Universidad Camilo José Cela

Many a good book will encourage and guide, and some will recommend better ways of doing things. [The School in the Cloud](#) also questions popular convention and provokes readers into a new way of thinking about learning. With this groundbreaking book, readers discover the future of learning by digging deep into Mitra's thought-provoking experiences, examples, and vision. <>

History / Military / Revolutionary War

[The Quaker and the Gamecock: Nathanael Greene, Thomas Sumter, and the Revolutionary War for the Soul of the South](#) by Andrew Waters (Casemate Publishers)

When Nathanael Greene became commander of the Southern Continental Army, he knew success depended on his ability to win over Thomas Sumter. While initially correspondence between the pair was cordial, relations quickly soured. Yet however troubled their relationship, both knew they needed the other to defeat the British.

This story of Nathanael Greene and Thomas Sumter – [The Quaker and the Gamecock](#) – is set against the backdrop of the American Revolution's last gasp.

Author Andrew Waters is a writer, editor, and conservationist residing in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He is the editor of three slave narrative collections. As a land conservationist, he has facilitated the preservation of over 20,000 acres in the Carolinas.

In [The Quaker and the Gamecock](#), as the newly appointed commander of the Southern Continental Army in December 1780, Nathanael Greene quickly realized victory would not only require defeating the British Army, but also subduing the region's brutal civil war. "The division among the people is much greater than I imagined, and the Whigs and the Tories persecute each other, with little less than savage fury," wrote Greene.

Part of Greene's challenge involved managing South Carolina's determined but unreliable Patriot militia, led by Thomas Sumter, the famed 'Gamecock.' Though Sumter would go on to a long political career, it was as a defiant partisan that he first earned the respect of his fellow backcountry settlers, a command that would compete with Greene for status and stature in the Revolutionary War's 'Southern Campaign.' Despite these challenges, Greene was undaunted. Born to a devout Quaker family, and influenced by the faith's tenets, Greene instinctively understood the war's Southern theater involved complex political, personal, and socioeconomic challenges, not just military ones. Though never a master of the battlefield, Greene's mindful leadership style established his historic legacy.

[The Quaker and the Gamecock](#) tells the story of these two wildly divergent leaders against the backdrop of the American Revolution's last gasp, the effort to extricate a British occupation force from the wild and lawless South Carolina frontier. For Greene, the campaign meant a last chance to prove his capabilities as a general, not just a talented administrator. For Sumter, it was a quest of personal revenge that showcased

his innate understanding of the backcountry character. Both men needed the other to defeat the British, yet their forceful personalities, divergent leadership styles, and opposing objectives would clash again and again, a fascinating story of the nation's bloody birth that still influences our political culture.

[The Quaker and the Gamecock](#) is an engaging biography of Nathanael Greene and Thomas Sumter, focusing on how their difficult relationship shaped the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution. <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Decor

[The Gift of Gathering: Beautiful Tablescapes to Welcome and Celebrate Your Friends and Family](#) by Bre Doucette (Harvest House)

When family and friends gather around the table for good food and fellowship, special memories follow.

Readers get assistance creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere with [The Gift of Gathering](#) – seasonally inspired tablescapes by popular decor blogger Bre Doucette. Doucette walks them through every step of the process, from planning the perfect get-together to adding special touches guests will appreciate and remember.

According to Doucette in [The Gift of Gathering](#), get togethers start with the set table. No matter the season or reason, from casual to elegant, readers discover tablescapes for any occasion. They enjoy an enchanting orchard picnic in spring, an alfresco evening in summer, a festive friends-giving in fall, a reflective New Year's soiree in winter, and eight other one-of-a-kind gatherings.

Throughout, readers find lavishly photographed details, unique decorating ideas, and spiritual inspiration. Specially selected Scripture verses and heartfelt prayers help readers invite God to any gathering.

Doucette welcomes others into her home through her blog, *Rooms for Rent*, where she spreads her passion for decorating, her belief that creating a home is much more than the stuff people fill their rooms with, and a little bit of faith along the way.

According to Doucette in [The Gift of Gathering](#), something sacred happens when people gather around the table with those they love. Beauty permeates the soul and nurtures everyone as conversation flows, laughter ignites, and the desire to stay lingers long after the food has been eaten.

That's what the gift of gathering is to her. It's not about a perfectly set table, it's about coming together, filling one's belly, and spending time connecting with those who are there, whether that means family, friends, a repeat guest, or a first-time visitor.

The table is the foundation. Whether it's a picnic table, a card table in an apple orchard, a breakfast bar, or a farmhouse table, the table is the blank canvas that is

ready for creative touches to make every gathering unique. No two gatherings are ever the same; however, [The Gift of Gathering](#) uses basic elements to prepare tables for guests to feast on. It looks at linens, place settings, and centerpieces, alongside additional elements and techniques that add dimension and style.

Planning starts with the information found on a typical event invitation, the research stage of planning. Readers figure out who they are inviting followed by the where, when, and why they are gathering. Is it a 'just because' get-together or a celebration of a holiday, birthday, life event, etc.? This information helps them brainstorm and become excited about the plans.

The photographed details, the stories, and the decor ideas encourage readers to create gatherings, they create a warm and welcoming atmosphere with [The Gift of Gathering](#). <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Quilting / Guides

[Free-Motion Quilting 101: Techniques & Patterns for Beginners](#) by Ashley Nickels (The Taunton Press)

Quilters want to finish their quilts – and that means doing their own machine quilting. In [Free-Motion Quilting 101](#), teacher and quilter Ashley Nickels provides in-depth instruction on learning the technique of free-motion quilting, combined with simple small projects that reinforce the technique. Quilters have fun while learning the necessary steps to complete a quilting project.

Nickels is a writer, teacher, and quilter in San Francisco. She grew up surrounded by quilters and makers – making her first nine-patch at age eight – and was designing her own bags by high school. She spent the first thirteen years of her career as a classroom teacher in Spain and San Francisco, teaching both English and Spanish literature and language. She is now fully immersed in the creative community, teaching in-person and online classes, and writing.

[Free-Motion Quilting 101](#) is divided into three parts – workbook-style practice; project sessions and in-depth reference for finishing a quilt. The book covers 15 foundational designs, 3 simple projects and 1 larger project that is a culmination of the techniques learned in the book. It is squarely on mastering the technique on a regular home sewing machine and can be the book new quilters pick up first to learn how to free-motion quilt successfully.

[Free-Motion Quilting 101](#) is a comprehensive guide to get readers quilting successfully. Nickels teaches the basics to get set up, provides 11 simple quilting patterns that demystify the free-motion quilting process, and answers "Yes!" to the question many quitters have: "Can I quilt my quilt myself?"

With encouragement to practice, relax, and have fun, Nichole leads readers step-by-step through the process and offers patterns ranging from very basic to more advanced, as well as four complete projects for them to put their newfound skills to use.

Nichols says she is always looking for something new to add to her quilting projects, and free-motion quilting provides that opportunity. In her mind, it's as essential to the quilting process as choosing a block design, picking fabrics, and piecing patchwork. She also loves that free-motion quilting can add depth and dimension to a piece, whether in the form of a straight line, detailed pattern, or words. Quilting is the 'cherry on top' of the quilt, enriching a piece created by hand.

Many quilters think free-motion quilting is beyond their abilities and don't know where to start or how to finish. But this is where practice and repetitive exercises come in. Nichols teaching style and philosophy toward any creative endeavor is based on the idea that practice is developed over time and that it must be cultivated from within each person. She advises readers to use [Free-Motion Quilting 101](#) as if they were taking a class. With her guidance and step-by-step instruction on the techniques of free-motion quilting, combined with simple designs and a few projects that allow readers to dive in and quilt small-scale projects, the practice of free-motion quilting will become more manageable.

Using the framework of teaching as a guide, she calls each 'chapter' a lesson. Each is structured as a step-by-step plan to provide necessary information on how to learn free-motion quilting through a simple quilting design. Within each quilting design readers find a practice page to help them warm up with pencil and paper before moving to the sewing machine. Because readers don't mark a design on fabric in free-motion quilting, drawing the design will help them visualize a pattern before quilting it on the machine. And even though the tools for quilting and hand-drawing are different, they will learn to get comfortable drawing without lifting their pencil – and stitching at the machine without stopping and starting.

Starting at the beginning translates into the most successful end result, so the lessons in Part 1 provide an in-depth explanation of materials, fabric, supplies, machine setup, and more. In Part 2 readers find patterns and projects, each starting with instruction on working first on paper then moving to fabric by working on practice squares. The focus here is on three different styles of quilting from very basic to more advanced – nature patterns, geometric patterns, and mixed-media designs. Each style of quilting is followed by a small project – a tote bag, placemats, and a wall hanging – although the practice squares can also be finished. A larger picnic blanket project, which includes free-motion designs from each lesson, completes Part 2. Part 3 provides step-by-step instruction for finishing any quilt.

[Free-Motion Quilting 101](#) includes a gallery of a few of Nickels' favorite pieces. The book will inspire readers to explore their own style as they start their free-motion quilting journey, and it will also make it fun. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[J-Curve: Dying and Rising With Jesus in Everyday Life](#) by Paul E. Miller (Crossway)

This book will revolutionize the way you look at your suffering. – Joni Eareckson Tada, Founder, Joni and Friends

Do we have the wrong map for the Christian life?

Life's inconveniences, disappointments, and trials can leave readers confused, cynical, and eventually bitter. But the apostle Paul traces out the path of dying and rising with Jesus – what Paul E. Miller calls the 'J-Curve' – as the normal Christian life.

Miller is the executive director of seeJesus as well as the best-selling author of *A Praying Life* and several other books. With the help of his ministry staff, Miller creates and conducts interactive discipleship seminars throughout the world.

According to Miller in [J-Curve](#), the J-Curve maps the ups and downs of daily life onto the story of Jesus. It grounds everyone's journeys not in some abstract idea but in union with Christ and his work of love. Understanding one's life in light of the J-Curve roots their hope, centers their love, and tethers their faith to Christ.

I love this book. I feast on Miller's emphasis on resurrection. I'm enthusiastic about his stress on union with Christ; there's more to the gospel than justification. But the J-Curve community (part 5) seems best to me. This is a wonderful, bigger, more Jesus gospel! It's much-needed, and Miller's style is just right, building on scholarly contributions but with personal experience and examples of others. It's just what you need to equip you for gospel living in our crumbling Christian culture. – D. Clair Davis, Emeritus Professor of Church History, Westminster Theological Seminary

This wise and readable book shows how the beloved doctrines of justification and union with Christ shape the thoughts, words, emotions, and actions of believers. I highly recommend this book for everyone who pursues gospel-driven discipleship. – Dan Doriani, Professor of Theology, Covenant Theological Seminary

A masterly treatment of the Christian life from a biblical perspective. It takes full account of the absorption with self, the preoccupation with appearance, and the individualism that characterize our age to present a biblical model of living that is both liberating and joy generating. I hope this desperately needed, countercultural approach to life will begin to

impact worldwide Christianity more and more. – Ajith Fernando, Teaching Director, Youth for Christ, Sri Lanka; author, [Discipling in a Multicultural World](#)

Paul Miller's earlier book on prayer, [A Praying Life](#), had a profound impact on how I understood prayer and reshaped how I taught it. To date I consider it the most important book written in our generation on the subject! I am delighted to see him turn his attention to another misunderstood and forgotten subject – the power of new life that comes from reckoning ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ. Paul has a way of taking profound truths and making them accessible, and in this book you'll see why – because he lives them. This is not a book of theological posturing, it is simply a guide written by someone who has walked the path and wants to show you how you can also. – J. D. Greear, President, Southern Baptist Convention; author, [Not God Enough](#); Pastor, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina

Paul Miller has carefully observed Jesus. He has carefully observed how the work of grace unfolds in the apostle Paul's life and in his own life. Take time with this book. You will become a deeper, wiser, truer person. You will become more humble, more joyous, more purposeful. And you will walk more steadily in the light. – David Powlison, Executive Director, Christian Counseling & Educational Foundation

'Take up your cross and follow me.' What was Jesus asking us to do – or be? How does it play out in everyday life? These questions are intensely practical from the moment I wake up in the morning. And that's why I love Paul Miller's new book, [J-Curve](#): Dying and Rising with Jesus in Everyday Life. Never have I read a more practical work on how a Christian can flourish through deep affliction. This book will revolutionize the way you look at your sufferings and your relationship to Christ. If you're craving a life with your Savior that utterly transforms, this book is your best hands-on guide. – Joni Eareckson Tada, Founder, Joni and Friends

The footnotes and shrewdness of this book point to an author who has read widely and pondered deeply. The stories and real-life focus of this book reveal an author who has paid a high price – the laceration of his ego – to begin to learn not only the power of Christ's resurrection but the fellowship of his sufferings. And a healing, fruitful, even joyful fellowship it is! In just three dozen brief and engrossing chapters, Paul Miller helps the reader see what's missing in many of our Christian lives – namely, they are sub-Christian! This book demonstrates how faith in Christ can more nearly attain its God-intended goal of a 24/7 immersion in Christ and expression

of Christ-like love. Integrating the cross with the resurrection in an unusually graphic and encouraging fashion, this book is sure to not only challenge but also change many lives. – Robert W. Yarbrought, Professor of New Testament, Covenant Theological Seminary

[J-Curve](#) is a book with the practical, real-world focus that Miller captures powerfully. The examples he uses from everyday life and from his own life make it easy to envision what these gospel truths look like in practice. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[The Making of Stanley Hauerwas: Bridging Barth and Postliberalism](#) by David B. Hunsicker, with a foreword by Stanley Hauerwas (**New Explorations in Theology Series: IVP Academic**)

To be put up against Barth, if only to suggest there is something to be said for my claim to be a Barthian, is profoundly humbling.... Why should anyone care if I am a Barthian? Little seems to hang on an answer to that question. Yet the care with which Hunsicker pursues that question means that it might matter not because there is a definitive answer but because the pursuit of an answer can tell us something about how theology needs to be done. In short, theology is best done in conversation with other theologians. – From the foreword by Stanley Hauerwas, Gilbert T. Rowe Professor Emeritus of Theological Ethics at Duke Divinity School

In the past half-century, few theologians have shaped the landscape of American belief and practice as much as Stanley Hauerwas. His work in social ethics, political theology, and ecclesiology has had a tremendous influence on the church and society. But have we understood Hauerwas's theology, his influences, and his place among the theologians correctly?

Hauerwas is often associated – and rightly so – with the postliberal theological movement and its emphasis on a narrative interpretation of Scripture. Yet he also claims to stand within the theological tradition of Karl Barth, who strongly affirmed the priority of Jesus Christ in all matters and famously rejected Protestant liberalism. These are two rivers that seem to flow in different directions.

In [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#) within IVP Academic's **New Explorations in Theology** (NET) series, theologian David Hunsicker offers a reevaluation of Hauerwas's theology, arguing that he is both a postliberal and a Barthian theologian. In so doing, Hunsicker helps readers to understand better both the formation and the ongoing significance of one of America's great theologians. Hunsicker is associate pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Huntsville. He taught theology at Azusa Pacific University and served as a youth pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood.

Hunsicker says in the introduction to [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#) that the case against Hauerwas's claim to be a Barthian unfolds in two parts. First, Hauerwas's theology is obviously ecclesiocentric. Second, this ecclesiocentrism repeats the basic habits of Protestant liberalism. Therefore, Hauerwas's work actually represents a retrieval of the type of theology that Barth rejected when he broke with Protestant liberalism. Ergo, Hauerwas is not a Barthian. The Ritschl thesis overstates its case when its advocates suggest that Hauerwas is not concerned with metaphysics, but he admits that there is something to the suggestion that Hauerwas resembles Ritschl to the extent that he attends to the social dimension of the Christian faith, particularly as it relates to Scripture and salvation. In general, the Schleiermacher thesis has more explanatory power, arguing that Hauerwas's theology is 'liberal' because it replaces divine agency with human agency and/or collapses the two in his ecclesiology.

He argues, over and against Healy and others, that Hauerwas is Barthian exactly to the extent that he learns from Barth to reject Protestant liberalism.

In part one he develops his argument that Hauerwas is a Barthian postliberal. He does this primarily by attending to Hauerwas's biography, with special attention to Hauerwas's intellectual influences. In chapter one he provides an overview of Barth's influence on Hauerwas, from Hauerwas's first encounters with Barth's theology to his mature application of Barthian themes in his own theological ethics. He pays attention to two narratives that shape Hauerwas's theological ethics: the story of how ethics became divorced from doctrine and the story of how Christian ethics in America became about America instead of Christianity. These are the basic narratives of Protestant liberalism and how Hauerwas learns to reject it by attending to Barth's claim that dogmatics and ethics are inseparable.

In chapter two of [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#) Hunsicker sympathetically introduces Hauerwas's claim to be a Barthian by attending to Hauerwas's self-understanding of Barth's influence on his work. He argues that the basic theological lesson Hauerwas learns from Barth is to reject Protestant liberalism. For Hauerwas, learning this lesson means repeating this move in his own American Protestant context, a move that requires Hauerwas to go 'beyond' Barth in some ways. In chapter three he uses abortion to demonstrate how Hauerwas's theological ethics are both dependent on and go beyond Barth.

Chapter four picks the story back up at this point: that Hauerwas sees his own work as an attempt to 'fix' deficiencies in Barth's ecclesiology. Where Hauerwas appears to break with Barth's own understanding of theological ethics by attending to the church's centrality as a community of moral formation, Hauerwas understands himself to be improving on Barth by reading him in a postliberal trajectory. He takes Hauerwas to be more than 'indirectly influenced' by Barth, warranting an expanded understanding of

what it means to be a Barthian beyond McCormack's narrow definition. Thus the story of how Hauerwas became a Barthian postliberal concludes.

Part two of [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#) is the first of two parts that raise important counterarguments to the story that Hunsicker tells in part one. Specifically, in parts two and three he continues the line of criticism developed by those who claim Hauerwas is a Protestant liberal. In part two he develops the argument raised by the Schleiermacher thesis, interrogating Hauerwas's claim that he learns to keep dogmatics and ethics together from Barth. In chapter six, he argues that for Barth, keeping dogmatics and ethics together obtains in his reversal of the priority of the relationship between the law and the gospel and his rejection of casuistry, or the application of abstract ethical principles to concrete cases. In chapter seven he then demonstrates that Hauerwas's theology, to the contrary, holds the connection between dogmatics and ethics to obtain in ecclesiology, in particular through a revised use of casuistry. On the surface, then, Hauerwas's theology seems anti-Barthian. Finally, in chapter eight, he shows how Hauerwas's postliberalism allows him to sidestep this criticism in a way that both honors Barth's theology and goes beyond it.

In part three he attends to the argument made by advocates of the Ritschl thesis, namely, that Hauerwas's use of Scripture is sociological in nature while Barth's is theological. He tests this thesis by attending, in chapter nine, to the formal relationship between Scripture and the church in Barth and Hauerwas and, in chapter ten, to the manner in which each theologian actually reads Scripture. He argues that the Ritschl thesis holds to the extent that where Barth talks about God, Hauerwas talks about the church. In chapter eleven, he again shows how Hauerwas's postliberalism sidesteps the problem by moving in a manner that is not contrary to Barth. In this case, Hauerwas's ecclesiocentrism is not contrary to Barth's rejection of liberalism because Hauerwas's turn to the church is a return to the church from a Barthian perspective.

In the conclusion to [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#), Hunsicker suggests a few ways that Hauerwas could make his Barthian influence more transparent. The result is an affirmation of Hauerwas's diagnosis of the problems facing the church and an alternative construal of the solution that is more obviously Barthian.

This is an exceptional piece of scholarship. Extremely well researched yet written in an accessible and inviting voice, it represents a real contribution to the field. While David Hunsicker admits that numerous books about Hauerwas have already been written, he is right that Hauerwas' relationship to Barth has not been sufficiently addressed – and it matters. This book ought to be widely read by Barthians and Hauerwasians, as well as anyone interested in the landscape and contours of theology and ethics in the last century. – Kristen Deede Johnson, professor of theology and Christian formation at Western Theological

In mellifluous prose, Hunsicker makes the case that Hauerwas is not, as some scholars have recently charged, unconsciously an exponent of Protestant liberalism. But in making this case, Hunsicker gives us something even more valuable: a reckoning with Hauerwas's main sources that offers a new way of understanding the history of the past century of Protestant theology in America, with Hauerwas performing Barth's theology in a Yoderian mode in response to American idolatries. This book helps us to understand what Hauerwas's witness has meant and means. – Matthew Levering, James N. and Mary D. Perry Jr. Chair of Theology, Mundelein Seminary

Hunsicker's book is thoroughly academic, well researched, and clearly organized. Carefully guiding his readers through his argument, he convincingly submits that Hauerwas is thoroughly Barthian in his rejection of Protestant liberalism in the American context. He effectively highlights the pragmatism of postliberal theology vis-à-vis Hauerwas's ecclesiocentric Christology under the influence of Barth, showing his readers how Barth's theology for the church is picked up, adapted, and applied by Hauerwas. This book is a must-read for understanding how these two important theologians affect contemporary discussions in missional ecclesiology. – Ronald T. Michener, professor and chair, department systematic theology, Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven, Belgium

David Hunsicker ends his delightfully lucid account of Hauerwas's theology with the assurance that his will not be the last word. But his book has definitively raised the standard for all future treatments of the main sources and impulses of Hauerwas's theological ethic. – Brian Brock, professor of moral and practical theology, school of divinity, history and philosophy, University of Aberdeen

An excellent contribution to the field. Well researched and accessible, [The Making of Stanley Hauerwas](#) helps readers understand Hauerwas's work and its significance. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[The Story of Creeds and Confessions: Tracing the Development of the Christian Faith](#) by Donald Fairbairn & Ryan M. Reeves (Baker Academic)

Creeds and confessions throughout Christian history provide a unique vantage point from which to study the Christian faith. To this end, Donald Fairbairn and Ryan Reeves in [The Story of Creeds and Confessions](#) construct a story that captures both the central importance of creeds and confessions over the centuries and their unrealized potential

to introduce readers to the overall sweep of church history. The book features texts of classic creeds and confessions as well as informational sidebars.

Fairbairn is the Robert E. Cooley Professor of Early Christianity at the Charlotte, North Carolina, campus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Reeves has taught at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, and the University of Cambridge.

While the effort to confess in whom and what we believe has gone on throughout the entire two millennia of Christian history, that effort has been concentrated in two major time periods. The first is the patristic period, the several hundred years after the end of the New Testament. For purposes of [The Story of Creeds and Confessions](#), Fairbairn and Reeves consider the patristic period – what they call the era of the creeds – to have extended until about 500, by which time all the ancient creeds were near their final form.

The second period of intense confessional activity was the time of the Reformation. This period began in the early sixteenth century, and Martin Luther's alleged nailing of his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Schlosskirche in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517, serves as a nice symbolic starting point. A convenient ending date for the Reformation is 1647, after the last of the great Reformation-era confessions, the Westminster Confession of Faith, was ratified. The Reformation period extends from around 1500 to 1650.

As a result, the chronological arrangement of [The Story of Creeds and Confessions](#) is as follows: Part 1 deals with the ancient creeds and covers approximately the years 100-500. Part 2 deals with the way both the East and the West explored the theology of the creeds, as well as the role of creeds in the split between East and West. It thus covers the period of roughly 500-900. Part 3 turns to medieval Europe and concerns the movement from creedal to confessional theology in the period 900-1500. Part 4 considers the Reformation from 1500 to 1650, and the writing of the great confessions by Protestants, as well as the reactions from Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox. Finally, part 5 deals with confession writing in the modern world, from 1650 to the present but especially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, again dealing with all three branches of the church. Because creed writing was concentrated in the patristic period, and confession writing occurred principally at the time of the Reformation, parts 1 and 4 are by far the longest.

This welcome study combines detailed attention to the foundation of creedal Christianity (especially Nicaea and Chalcedon) with authoritative accounts of later confessional traditions. It is especially effective in showing how early Christian worship of one name, Christ the Lord, led over the centuries and in different local contexts to elaborate accounts of

Christian faith. A good book for beginning theologians and an excellent review for those who have traversed this ground before. – Mark A. Noll, editor of Confessions and Catechisms of the Reformation

This lovely book takes an inspired idea – telling the story of the Christian churches and their theological convictions through the history of the creeds and confessions – and executes it brilliantly. The result is an informed, thoughtful, and highly readable tour of the ideas and events that continue to shape the Christian faith today. – Simeon Zahl, University of Cambridge

A wonderful introduction to the creeds and confessions of the Christian church. Fairbairn and Reeves witness to the desirability of taking these documents seriously not only as historical artifacts but also as ongoing witnesses, insisting that what binds Christians together is of much greater significance than what separates them. – Paul T. Nimmo, University of Aberdeen

For theology to be ecclesiastically and historically responsible, a knowledge of the creeds and confessions of the church is vital. Yet those unfamiliar with church history often find the field confusing and intimidating. It is therefore a pleasure to recommend this book, which is both a fine guide to creeds and confessions and an engaging narrative of church history from the perspective of doctrinal development. – Carl R. Trueman, Grove City College

In a remarkable accomplishment not witnessed since Jaroslav Pelikan's Credo more than fifteen years ago, Fairbairn and Reeves trace in readable fashion the entire history of the church's creeds and confessions. Uniting Protestant convictions, ecumenical sensitivity, and scholarly acumen, this book is a solid introduction to the common heritage of the church. – Hans Boersma, Nashotah House, Wisconsin

Fairbairn and Reeves clearly and thoughtfully tell the story of the form, substance, and significance of Christian belief as this has been set forth in creeds and confessions. An excellent guidebook. – W. David Buschart, Denver Seminary

A fine guide to the creeds and confessions. Fairbairn and Reeves have written with a single voice throughout [The Story of Creeds and Confessions](#) and the consistency of the story shines through in the midst of the many tensions between East and West, between Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christianity and between different Protestant traditions. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Judaism

[Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism \(After Finally Choosing to Look There\)](#) by Sarah Hurwitz (Spiegel & Grau)

A renowned political speechwriter rediscovers Judaism, finding timeless wisdom and spiritual connection in its age-old practices and traditions in [Here All Along](#).

Sarah Hurwitz was Michelle Obama's head speechwriter, and with this book she becomes Judaism's speechwriter. – Adam Grant, New York Times bestselling author of Give and Take, Originals, and co-author of Option B

After a decade as a political speechwriter – serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama and a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama – (Prior to working in government, Hurwitz was the chief speechwriter for Hillary Clinton on her 2008 campaign for president and a speechwriter for Senator John Kerry and General Wesley Clark during the 2004 presidential election.) – Sarah Hurwitz decided to apply her skills as a communicator to writing a book... about Judaism. And no one is more surprised than she is.

Hurwitz says in [Here All Along](#) that she was the quintessential lapsed Jew – until, at age thirty-six, after a tough breakup, she happened upon an advertisement for an introductory class on Judaism. She attended on a whim, but was blown away by what she found: beautiful rituals, helpful guidance on living an ethical life, conceptions of God beyond the judgy bearded man in the sky – none of which she had learned in Hebrew school or during the two synagogue services she grudgingly attended each year. That class led to a years-long journey during which Hurwitz visited the offices of rabbis, attended Jewish meditation retreats, sat at the Shabbat tables of Orthodox families, and read hundreds of books about Judaism – all in dogged pursuit of answers to her biggest questions. What she found transformed her life, and she wondered: How could there be such a gap between the richness of what Judaism offers and the way so many Jews like her understand and experience it?

Hurwitz is on a mission to close this gap by sharing the profound insights she discovered on everything from Jewish holidays, ethics, and prayer to Jewish conceptions of God, death, and social justice. In [Here All Along](#) she shows readers why Judaism matters and how its message is more relevant than ever, and she inspires Jews to do the learning, questioning, and debating required to make this religion their own.

Searching for meaning in the ancient scripture and traditions of Judaism, Sarah Hurwitz takes us along on an enriching journey of discovery. In [Here All Along](#), she explores her birthright as a Jew and finds timeless and valuable life lessons. – David Axelrod, director of the University of Chicago Institute of Politics and former senior advisor to President Barack Obama

Sarah Hurwitz writes beautifully about her journey from Hebrew school dropout to thoughtful commentator on her heritage. She shows how this system of thought, founded in the time of shepherds, can be surprisingly relevant to modern life, with wisdom on such contemporary topics as mindfulness, gratitude, work/life balance, and politics. I recommend this book to all, no matter where you lie on the religious spectrum. – A. J. Jacobs, New York Times bestselling co-author of The Year of Living Biblically

[Here All Along](#) is exactly the introduction to Judaism that smart, thoughtful readers need: Not a how-to guide to these incredibly rich and relevant traditions, but a why-to guide that illuminates – boldly, bravely, and beautifully – why Judaism matters and how its wisdom can transform us. It's been here all along, but now it's here in the book in your hands, waiting for you. Open it, and discover what you've been missing. – Dara Horn, author of *Eternal Life*

What an achievement – to have found a way to make every aspect of Judaism utterly accessible, digestible, and emotional all at once, in one riveting volume. This is an uncanny primer for anyone wanting to understand Judaism, and also a revealing portrait of one famous speechwriter who couldn't believe what she'd been missing all along. – Abigail Pogrebin, author of My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew

Repeatedly drawing on her life experiences, Sarah Hurwitz paints a vision of a Judaism that is wise, intellectually rigorous, experiential, accessible – and, frankly, exciting. Even when I disagree with her, she invites me into her world. This is a book we have been waiting for, and Hurwitz is an important new voice on the Jewish scene. – Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of Words That Hurt, Words That Heal and Jewish Literacy

[Here All Along](#), an entertaining and accessible book, inspires Jews to do the learning, questioning, and debating required to make this religion their own. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Psalms

[Remembering the Covenants in Song: An Intertextual Study of the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants in Psalm 105](#) by Young-Sam Won (Wipf & Stock)

In biblical and theological studies, fresh perspectives and novel approaches can breathe new life into familiar subjects. [Remembering the Covenants in Song](#) reconsiders the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant relationship through the unique biblical and canonical lens of a postexilic song. In Psalm 105, the psalmist's intriguing intertextual engagement with both of Israel's great covenant traditions provides a rare glimpse into the covenant-understanding of a postexilic biblical writer interacting with the Torah.

[Remembering the Covenants in Song](#) entails an intertextual study of Psalm 105 that brings the psalmist's rhetorical design and covenant references into a dialogue with the Torah's seminal covenant texts. The examination of the psalmist's use of covenant references and allusions represents an innovative approach to assessing the rhetorical significance of intertextuality in biblical writings.

Author Young-Sam Won, who serves as a teaching pastor and elder at the Bridge Church, has been a pastor, a missionary to Russia, and still occasionally fills in as an oncology pharmacist.

Psalm 105 is a postexilic song that recalls Israel's history in terms of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants. Within the psalm's historical narration are multiple intertextual references to the Abrahamic promise of land as well as the laws and statutes that define the Mosaic covenant. This unique confluence of historical narration that addresses both covenants only occurs in one other text, Nehemiah 9-10. Won says that he undertook the exploration in [Remembering the Covenants in Song](#) in the hopes that the psalmist's understanding of the Abrahamic promises and the Mosaic covenant obligations might yield fresh insights on the relationship between these two defining covenants.

The confluence of both covenants in the historical narration of Psalm 105 presented a promising opportunity to discern the psalmist's understanding of the two covenants and perhaps gain some insight into the covenant-theology of the postexilic remnant. Since the psalmist refers back to the Abrahamic promise of land and the Mosaic law, it seemed fitting to undertake an intertextual study of this postexilic song in light of the seminal covenant-making narratives and covenant texts in the Pentateuch.

Though the two chapters of historical survey and methodological discussion are rather hefty, his aim was to provide readers with a fuller sense of the scholarship that precedes and informs this work. These discussions of backgrounds and method are designed to serve as a useful introduction and bibliographic resource regarding the study of biblical covenants and intertextuality in biblical writings. While these introductory chapters provide useful context for [Remembering the Covenants in Song](#), the introductory chapters and the investigation at the core of this work can be read and engaged as distinct units.

There are very few texts where the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants are referenced together and the fact that Psalm 105 is a postexilic historical psalm adds to the value of this biblical witness. Being a member of the postexilic covenant community, the psalmist is a unique biblical voice with valuable historical perspective. The psalmist's historical narration offers an untapped insider's perspective on the way the Abrahamic promises were understood in relation to the nation-defining Mosaic covenant.

[Remembering the Covenants in Song](#) entails an intertextual study of Psalm 105 and the psalmist's understanding of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants in light of the foundational covenant texts in the Pentateuch. As such, it represents an attempt to bring the psalmist into a conversation with the writers of the Pentateuch regarding the relationship between these covenants. As it turns out, the psalmist is an especially clever and insightful composer of songs. The psalm features a sophisticated rhetorical structure that juxtaposes the unfailing covenant faithfulness of Yahweh with the covenant failure of his people which resulted in the exile. In doing so, the psalmist addresses a major theological question troubling his community: why has the postexilic return to the land not been accompanied by the unprecedented blessing anticipated in the Mosaic writings?

Psalm 105 weaves a historical narrative that attributes possession of the land to the unfailing Abrahamic covenant while reminding readers that blessing in the land only comes in accordance with the Mosaic covenant.

This intertextual study of the psalmist's Abrahamic covenant references and Mosaic covenant allusions reveals a brilliant rhetorical strategy in which a text emphasizing Yahweh's covenant faithfulness is intertwined with a subtext that highlights Israel's covenant failures. This rhetorical interplay brings readers to the conclusion that the postexilic remnant must renew and keep the Mosaic covenant. By rehearsing this covenant-shaped history, the psalmist uses the past as prelude. Just as the conquest generation had to keep the Mosaic covenant to experience blessing in the land, the postexilic generation must now renew and observe this same covenant to experience God's blessings anew.

The psalmist's skillful retelling of history reminds the postexilic remnant that Yahweh's covenant faithfulness to Abraham and his descendants need not be questioned. However, Psalm 105 also argues that blessing and flourishing depends on the restoration of the Mosaic covenant relationship. This biblical voice from the past manifests a wholistic view of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants as cohesive, complementary, and continuous. This perspective has the potential to serve as a helpful corrective against the modern tendency to overemphasize the differences between the form and function of these covenants.

Interpreters often view the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants as unconditional and conditional, respectively. But the matter is not this simple. Grounding his thesis in an exegetical-rhetorical analysis of Psalm 105, which refers to both covenants, Young-Sam Won shows they are complementary. In tandem they define Yahweh's relationship to the covenant community as having both promissory and obligatory dimensions. Won's fresh approach makes a significant advance in our

understanding of these foundational covenants. – Robert B. Chisholm Jr.,
Dallas Theological Seminary

This is an important book on an important topic. Young-Sam Won has helped us understand the relationship between the Abrahamic and Mosaic Covenants, and its significance for biblical theology overall. His intertextual, exegetical, and theological analysis of Psalm 105 shows how these covenants work together in an ongoing way to give shape to God's redemptive work in history and in our lives today. – Richard E. Averbeck,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

In this volume, Won has provided an academically rigorous study employing covenant studies, redemptive history, and biblical hermeneutics. Those who are interested in how these disciplines intersect within the context of the Book of Psalms should consult it. – John J. Yeo,
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

The psalmist's song of covenants provides modern readers with a unique perspective on the covenant-theology of Israel. [Remembering the Covenants in Song](#) adds a useful introduction and bibliographic resource regarding the study of biblical covenants and intertextuality in biblical writings. The investigation, with its fresh insights, can be read and engaged as a distinct unit, and readers may find it fruitful to proceed to the intertextual study of the covenant references regarding Psalm 105. <>

Sports & Entertainment / Football

[NFL 100: The Greatest Moments of the NFL's Century](#) by Craig Ellenport, with a foreword by Troy Aikman (Triumph Books)

The National Football League is more than a professional sports league. What began with representatives from four teams meeting in a Canton, OH automobile showroom in 1920 has evolved into a global phenomenon. The transformation was fueled by the remarkable talent on the field and the innovative minds who understood how to grow the league into a worldwide sensation.

As the NFL celebrates its monumental 100th season, [NFL 100](#) is a vivid retrospective paying tribute to America's game in spectacular fashion. The superstars, the dynasties, and the most heart-stopping, unbelievable moments are all here. With incisive writing and hundreds of the finest historical photos, readers relive a century's worth of the greatest games and personalities that have captivated football fans everywhere.

[NFL 100](#) takes readers on a journey through the 100 most essential, influential, and amazing moments in the league's history in breathtaking fashion.

Author Craig Ellenport is a veteran sportswriter who has covered the NFL for more than 30 years. He has written several books about the NFL for children and young adults. During his 12 years as senior editor at NFL.com and director of NFL Publishing, he oversaw production of all NFL publications, serving as co-editor for *The Super Bowl: An Official Retrospective*.

In [NFL 100: The Greatest Moments of the NFL's Century](#), Ellenport combines his knowledge and passion for the sport to celebrate the NFL's centennial season. The result is a thoughtfully ranked and extensively illustrated collection of the most memorable moments and biggest personalities that have shaped the identity of league. Highlights include:

- A heartfelt foreword from Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman explaining the impact and importance of NFL memories in people's lives.
- Career profiles of the athletes and coaches who changed the game, including Barry Sanders, George Halas, Jerry Rice and other fan favorites.
- Hundreds of stunning photographs capturing generations of iconic moments on and off the gridiron.
- Remembering the teams that defined their eras, from Lombardi's Packers to Shula's Dolphins up through Belichick's Patriots.
- The unforgettable plays that exhilarated fans over the decades, including the Catch, the Drive, the Immaculate Reception, the Philly Special.

A vivid retrospective with incisive writing, brilliantly illustrated, [NFL 100](#) does justice to its subject, honoring the league that has been at the center of American sports for a century. Fans of all ages will find value in the pages of this must-have commemorative keepsake. <>

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