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[March 2020](#)

*We Review the  
Best of the Latest  
Books*

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# March 2020

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**Death in Mycenaean Lakonia: A Silent Place** by Chrysanthi Gallou  
(Oxbow Books)

**Death in Mycenaean Lakonia**: A Silent Place is the first book-length systematic study of the Late Bronze Age (LBA) burial tradition in south-eastern Peloponnese, Greece, and the first to comprehensively present and discuss all Mycenaean tombs and funerary contexts excavated and/or simply reported in the region from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The book discusses and reconstructs the emergence and development of the Mycenaean mortuary tradition in Lakonia by examining the landscape of death, the burial architecture and the funerary and post-funerary customs and rituals, and offering patterns over a *longue durée*.

The author, Dr. Chrysanthi Gallou, is Assistant Professor in Aegean Archaeology and Director of the Centre for Spartan & Peloponnesian Studies, University of Nottingham.

Gallou proposes patterns of continuity from the Middle Bronze Age (even the Early Bronze Age in terms of burial architecture) to the LBA and, equally important, from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, and reconstructs diachronic processes of invention of tradition and identity in Mycenaean communities on the basis of tomb types and their material culture. **Death in Mycenaean Lakonia** highlights the social, political and economic history of Late Bronze Age Lakonia from the evolution of the Mycenaean civilization and the establishment of palatial administration in the Spartan vale, to the demise of Mycenaean culture and the turbulent post-collapse centuries, as reflected by the burial offerings.

**Death in Mycenaean Lakonia** also brings to publication the chamber tombs at Epidavros Limera that remained largely unpublished since their excavation in the 1930s and 1950s. Epidavros Limera was one of the most important prehistoric coastal sites in prehistoric southern Greece (early 3<sup>rd</sup>-late 4<sup>th</sup> millennium BC), and one of the main harbor towns of the Mycenaean administrative centers of central Lakonia. It is one of very few Mycenaean sites that flourished uninterruptedly from the emergence of the Mycenaean civilization until after the collapse of the palatial administration and into the transition to the Early Iron Age. This study of the funerary architecture and of the pottery from the tombs suggests that the site was responsible for the introduction of the chamber tomb type on the Greek mainland in the latest phase of the Middle Bronze Age (definitely no later than the transitional Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age period), and not in the early phase of the Late Bronze Age (Late Helladic I) as previously assumed.

**Death in Mycenaean Lakonia** assesses and reconstructs the emergence and development of the Mycenaean mortuary traditions in Laconia by examining the landscape of death and burial architecture, the funerary and post-funerary customs and rituals, and patterns of offering deposition over the *longue durée* – from the

transitional Middle Helladic/Late Helladic period to after the collapse of the Mycenaean palaces. It proposes patterns of continuity in local funerary traditions from the Early and Middle Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age, and challenges the traditional view that Laconia became *terra relicta* in the years of the deep crisis that followed the fall of the Mycenaean palaces. Through the concise presentation of funerary architecture and the material culture deposited therein, [Death in Mycenaean Lakonia](#) reconstructs diachronic processes of invention of tradition and identity in local communities and highlights the social, political and economic history of Late Bronze Age Laconia from the dawn of the Mycenaean culture and the establishment of palatial administration in the Spartan vale, to the turbulent post-collapse centuries. Contents of [Death in Mycenaean Lakonia](#) include

Introduction

The topographical and geological setting; Epidavros Limera: introducing a case study

1. Graves and burial contexts – The excavated tombs and funerary contexts; Mycenaean tombs and burials reported but not excavated on the Spartan Plain; Mycenaean tombs and burials reported but not excavated at West Parnon and the Lower Evrotas Valley; Mycenaean tombs and burials reported but not excavated on the Helos Plain; Mycenaean tombs and burials reported but not excavated at Vardounia and Mani; Mycenaean tombs and burials reported but not excavated on the Malea Peninsula
2. Burial architecture – Architectures of death
3. Burial customs and rites – Before the Mycenaean: Burial practices in Middle Helladic Laconia; Burying the dead in Mycenaean Laconia: from pre-liminal to post-liminal; Entering the tomb; Funerary offerings in primary burials; Second funeral rites
4. Pottery – Transitional MH III/LH I and LH I; LH I (decorated); LH IIA; LH IIB; LH IIIA1; LH IIIA2; H IIIA2 Unattributed fragments; LH IIIB; Transitional LH IIIB2/IIIC Early; LH IIIC Early; LH IIIC Middle; LH IIIC Late; Submycenaean and transitional Submycenaean/Early Protogeometric; Pottery unassignable or datable by context only; Pottery and tiles of later date (not illustrated)

[Death in Mycenaean Lakonia](#), a comprehensive study, is written primarily for academics, researchers and students working on/studying Aegean archaeology, Mediterranean prehistory, the archaeology of Sparta and Lakonia, the archaeology of death and ritual, and late Bronze Age material culture. It is also intended as a reference tool for archaeologists who excavate Mycenaean/Late Bronze Age sites in Greece, who have an interest in the archaeology of Lakonia and the Peloponnese, and/or who work with Mycenaean pottery corpora in the Aegean and the Mediterranean. The book will therefore have an international appeal. <>

Children's Books / Geography / Social Studies / Ages 4-8 / Interest Level: Grades 2-5 / Reading Level: Grade 3

[North Carolina](#) by Julie Murray (**Explore the United States Series: Big Buddy Books: ABDO Publishing**)

Young readers explore North Carolina in [North Carolina](#).

Informative, easy-to-read text and oversized photos showcase the beauty and diversity of this state. Readers learn about the state's history, cities, land features, animals, industries, sports, famous people, and more! A Tour Book spread highlights kid-friendly things to do in North Carolina. Other features include a table of contents, fun facts, a timeline, regional and state maps, a facts page with vital information, a glossary, and an index.

Contents of [North Carolina](#) include:

1. One Nation
2. North Carolina Up Close
3. Important Cities
4. North Carolina in History
5. Across the Land
6. Earning a Living
7. Natural Wonder
8. Hometown Heroes
9. A Great State

[North Carolina](#) is part of *Explore the United States* series.

All the states in the United States are represented in the series, plus Puerto Rico and Washington, DC. Like all the books in this series, [North Carolina](#) is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. <>

Children's Books / Graphic Novels / Ages 12-17 / Reading level: Grade 4 / Grades 4-12

[Stranger Things Six 3 – Library Binding](#) by Jody Houser (**Stranger Things Series: Spotlight, ABDO Publishing**)

This graphic novel has full color illustrations.

In [Stranger Things Six 3](#) it is 1978. America is still in the midst of the cold war and exploring dangerous scientific frontiers.

To what lengths will Dr. Brenner, head of the secretive MK ULTRA project, go to obtain the power he desires? Readers find out in [Stranger Things Six 3](#) a prequel to the hit Netflix show, *Stranger Things*.

Francine would have been an average seventies teenager if not for her psychic Powers, but instead of jamming out to groovy tunes with friends, she is locked away in Hawkins Lab. Under the watchful eye of Dr. Brenner and his staff, Francine feels exploited, like she is being turned into a weapon. The strain of the tests they put her through unlocks a dark vision of the future, a future she wants no part in, a future she hopes that she can change.

In [Stranger Things Six 3](#) Francine and her friends know they need to escape from Dr. Brenner's grueling experiments and Hawkins Laboratory before he can harness their collective powers, but they worry their opportunity to escape will arrive too late.

Books in the *Stranger Things* series include:

- **Stranger Things Six #1**
- **Stranger Things Six #2**
- [Stranger Things Six 3](#)
- **Stranger Things Six #4**

[Stranger Things Six 3](#), like all the books in this series, is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. <>

Children's Books / History / Social Studies / Ages: 9-13 / Interest Level: Grades 4-8 / Reading Level: Grade 4

[John Lewis](#): **Civil Rights Leader and Congressman** by Duchess Harris, with Tammy Gagne (**Freedom's Promise Series**: Core Library, ABDO Publishing)

John Lewis is an influential African American politician who played a key role in the civil rights movement. He raised awareness of racial discrimination and violence in the 1960s. [John Lewis](#): **Civil Rights Leader and Congressman** explores Lewis's activism and political career. Easy-to-read text, vivid images, and helpful back matter give readers a clear look at this subject. Features include a table of contents, infographics, a glossary, additional resources, and an index.

Chapters in [John Lewis](#) include:

1. Bloody Sunday
2. Sitting In and Speaking Out
3. Becoming a Leader
4. Still Making History

Author Duchess Harris is assisted by Tammy Gagne. Harris is a professor of American Studies at Macalester College and curator of the Duchess Harris Collection of ABDO books. Harris 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 Raza*, an interactive online journal covering race and the law. Tammy Gagne has written dozens of books for both adults and children.

[John Lewis](#) is a part of the **Freedom's Promise** series. History is shaped by people who work for change. Throughout history, those who have faced discrimination have made significant accomplishments while fighting to secure their rights. Some of these achievements have become well known, while others are more obscure. The books in the **Freedom's Promise** series detail many of these stories and perspectives.

Books in the **Freedom's Promise** set include:

- ***Aretha Franklin: Legendary Singer***
- ***Calvin Spann: Daring Fighter Pilot***
- ***The Chinese Exclusion Act and Its Relevance Today***
- ***Dennis Banks and Russell Means: Native American Activists***
- ***The Harlem Renaissance***
- ***The Impact of Black Churches on the Civil Rights Movement***
- ***The Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears***
- ***Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II***
- ***John Lewis: Civil Rights Leader and Congressman***
- ***March Fong Eu: Activist and Politician The Negro Leagues***
- ***The 1924 Immigration Act and Its Relevance Today***

Core Library is the must-have line of non-fiction books for supporting the Common Core Standards for grades 3-6. Like all books in this series, [John Lewis](#) is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards.

With the **Freedom's Promise** set readers discover important events and the people who have influenced society, science, culture, and the arts. <>

Children's Books / History / Social Studies / Race / Grades 6-12 /  
Reading Level: Grade 8

**[Voting, Race, and the Law](#) – Library Binding** by Duchess Harris, with Traci D. Johnson (**Race and American Law Series: Essential Library**, ABDO Publishing)

**[Voting, Race, and the Law](#)** delves into the struggles that people of color have faced when trying to gain the right to vote and exercise that right. This title discusses legislation that helped break down barriers to voting and looks at how people's voting rights are still at risk today. Features include essential facts, a glossary, references, websites, source notes, and an index.

Chapters in **[Voting, Race, and the Law](#)** include:

1. Native Americans and Voting Rights

2. The Long Path to the Black Man's Vote
3. Reconstruction and Black Voting Power
4. Voting Rights Rollback
5. The Voting Rights Act
6. The End of the Old VRA
7. New Obstacles
8. Gerrymandering and Political Power
9. The Trump Era

Author Duchess Harris is assisted by Traci D. Johnson. Harris is a professor of American Studies at Macalester College and curator of the Duchess Harris Collection of ABDO books. Harris authored several other books on the topics of race, culture, and American history. 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 Raze**. Johnson is an accomplished writer whose work has been featured on NPR and in literary journals. Johnson's work has been recognized by the MacDowell Colony and the Fine Arts Work Center.

[Voting, Race, and the Law](#) is part of the **Race and American Law** series. Racism has been written into the United States' laws and entrenched in its institutions for much of its history. Native Americans weren't granted citizenship until 1924. Before the mid-1900s, students of color were pushed into segregated schools. And many states maintained laws against interracial marriages until 1967. In the **Race and American Law** series, readers look at how court cases and government actions have moved toward more equality among races, even as systemic racism continues to affect people and communities today.

Books in this set include:

- ***Citizenship, Race, and the Law***
- ***Education, Race, and the Law***
- ***Employment, Race, and the Law***
- ***Housing, Race, and the Law***
- ***Marriage, Race, and the Law***
- [Voting, Race, and the Law](#)

Like all books in this series, [Voting, Race, and the Law](#) is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. <>

Children's Books / Outdoors & Nature / Ages 9-13 / Grades 4-8 /  
Reading Level: Grade 4

**Ecosystem Architects: Animals Building Incredible Structures** – Library Binding by Martha London (**Team Earth Series: Core Library, ABDO Publishing**)

Some animals burrow into the ground, letting air and water reach plants' roots. Others build nests in which to raise young. When they're grown, other animals can reuse the nest. **Ecosystem Architects: Animals Building Incredible Structures** looks at how animal builders make the world a better place, as well as the threats they face and how people can protect them. Easy-to-read text, vivid images, and helpful back matter give young readers a clear look at this subject. Features include a table of contents, infographics, a glossary, additional resources, and an index. The book has full color photographs.

Author Martha London is a writer and educator.

**Ecosystem Architects** is part of the **Team Earth** series. Around the world, animals work with other living things to create unique and balanced ecosystems. Bees help plants make seeds. Birds scatter seeds so plants can grow. Cleaner fish keep other fish healthy by eating parasites. But today, some of these systems are at risk of disappearing. The **Team Earth** series investigates the amazing ways that animals help their environments and humans, and shows what people can do to protect them.

Books in the **Team Earth** series include:

- ***Beneficial Insects: Bugs Helping Plants Survive***
- ***Decomposers and Scavengers: Nature's Recyclers***
- **Ecosystem Architects: Animals Building Incredible Structures**
- ***Pollinators: Animals Helping Plants Thrive***
- ***Seed Dispersers: Poop, Fur, and Other Ways Animals Scatter Seeds***
- ***Symbiotic Relationships: Animals and Plants Working Together***

The **Team Earth** series is part of Core Library. Core Library features:

- A wide variety of high-interest topics
- Well-researched, clearly written informational text
- Primary sources with accompanying questions
- Multiple prompts and activities for writing, reading, and critical thinking
- Charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, and maps

Core Library is the must-have line of nonfiction books for supporting the Common Core State Standards for grades 3-6. Like all books in this series, **Ecosystem Architects** is aligned to Common Core Standards and correlated to state standards. <>

## Cooking, Food & Wine / China / Reference

### **China: A Cookbook** by Terry Tan (Lorenz Books)

From bustling cosmopolitan cities to remote rural landscapes, [China](#) is a comprehensive volume exploring the varied food and cooking of China with fascinating background information on the local geography and culinary history. Bringing together classic dishes, from the old imperial kitchens of Beijing to the tea houses of southern China, expert Terry Tan opens up the diverse regions and introduces readers to local ingredients and cooking methods.

Tan has been involved with food since the age of 15 when he helped his mother to cook for paying guests in the family home. Starting as the food columnist for his local paper, he wrote his first book, then traveled to London to be a head chef and teach in cookery schools. An acknowledged expert on the cuisine of Southeast Asia and China, he was Editor in Chief of *Wine & Dine* and has given demonstrations around the world.

A culinary tour of China, [China: A Cookbook](#) spans the Mandarin cooking of the north, Cantonese dishes in the south, Sichuan food in the east and Shanghai cuisine in the west. An extensive introduction explores the history and traditions, the ingredients and how to prepare and use them, and step-by-step recipes guide cooks to success, with evocative images throughout. Recipes include all the classics – Beijing Duck, Crispy Chilli Beef, Pork Dumplings, Dan-Dan Noodles – as well as unusual local delicacies such as Lobster Noodles, Beggars' Chicken, Black Rice Porridge, and Red Beans in Syrup.

The mountainous Northern provinces thrive on simple stews and steamed breads; the west offers famously spiced Sichuan fare, contrasting with fragrant rice and noodle dishes from the lush land of plenty to the east. Then there is the food of Canton and the southern coastlines, where fish, seafood, and of course, dim sum, reign supreme. More than 300 classic recipes are fully illustrated with 1500 photographs.

The introduction to [China](#) explains how regional foods have been influenced by the diverse geography, local traditions and festivals, and migrant cultures. Author Tan then explores each region and its culinary highlights, journeying from bustling cosmopolitan cities to remote rural landscapes.

Tan says that when he first came to England to run a restaurant in the early 1980s, the public had not got their heads around the fact that he could be Chinese and yet not merely ladle out endless dishes slathered in sweet-and-sour sauce; his cooking instead incorporated many culinary influences and reflected decades of feasting on a wide range of dishes.

According to Tan, Chinese food is a catch-all term that glosses over the provincial distinctions and fine nuances to be found in this huge and diverse country. Particular dishes may be broadly described as belonging to the Cantonese, Sichuan, Beijing or

Shanghai schools of cooking – which in geographical terms can be described as being southern, western, northern and eastern respectively – and within these can be found smaller territories, each with their own identity, that feed into and draw upon the traditions of their neighbors. It is this regional cooking that in writing a cookbook, Tan says he wanted to explore, uncovering and examining both what makes an area's food unique but how it links to the rest of China, too, in terms of history, tradition and flavor.

[China](#) is an opportunity to pay delicious homage to the vast scope of this wonderful cuisine. Readers will not only find tantalizing recipes that may have them rushing to the kitchen, but also gain insights into their background. Most importantly readers will be inspired to create their own deliciously good Chinese food at home.

[China](#) is an impressive 624-page volume offering hundreds of recipes, background detail, and 1500 photographs. But the book is accessible too, the ingredients and stages of every recipe are clearly explained and shown, and authentic tastes are assured with clear and reassuring guidance. Vibrant and comprehensive, this beautiful volume is a must-have reference for anyone passionate about the food of China. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine

[Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) with Bonus Instant Pot Chapter by Shelly Marie Redmond (**Skinny Louisiana Series**: Pelican Publishing Company, Inc.)

The trusty slow cooker, and newcomer Instant Pot, stand by to help the home cook produce delicious yet healthy Louisiana dishes in a convenient way. Shelly Marie Redmond in [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) shares her foolproof recipes for shrimp chowder, muffuletta dip, roast beef po' boys, and Cajun queso. Nutritional information is provided for each dish.

Redmond, a registered culinary dietitian, TV media personality, and founder of the *Skinny Louisiana* brand, credits her two grandmothers for her culinary capabilities and influence. She is co-owner of Eberhardt Physical Therapy, where she counsels patients on a variety of food-related issues.

In [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#), a follow-up to her first cookbook, ***Skinny Louisiana ... in the Kitchen***, Redmond takes her low-net-carb, high-fiber, lower-sugar recipes to the slow cooker and Instant Pot. In her signature fashion, Redmond has done all the work to marry the delicious flavors of authentic Louisiana cooking with principles of healthy eating. An updated list of pantry essentials, including New Orleans-based sweetener Swerve, forms the cornerstone of her diabetic-friendly plan and offers substitutes for ingredients high in carbohydrates.

Her flavorful slow-cooker recipes include Get Your Crunch on Crawfish Dip, Rockin' Crockpot Red Bean and Turkey Chili, and Smokin' Sausage Cajun Cauliflower Rice Dressing. The bonus Instant Pot chapter includes Cheesy Shrimp, Tomato, and Cauliflower Grits; Maw Maw's Updated White Beans; and many more recipes designed to let readers enjoy the best of what Louisiana eats without compromising their health.

The recipes in [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) are not sugar, sodium, and fat free. Some readers may start to panic at the sight of sugar, light Cajun seasoning, and oil, but Redmond's goal is to reduce these amounts by one-third. The reason? She wants to keep the flavor as authentic as possible.

The basis of [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) is to embrace Louisiana living and cooking with a skinny twist. Redmond challenges health-conscious readers to bring Louisiana back to their table. She shows them how easy and tasty it is to celebrate Louisiana living and cooking with a low-sugar, low-net-carb twist.

*Redmond provides a short but helpful primer on what to stock in the Skinny Louisiana pantry.* – Thomas Witom, *Kane County Chronicles*

*This is one book you'll want in your kitchen; for sure!* – Mona Hayden, *Louisiana Road Trips*

If readers want to celebrate life, enjoy food, and live life with a low-sugar, skinny twist, [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) is for them. And for people struggling to incorporate a healthier eating, lifestyle change, [Skinny Louisiana... in the Slow Cooker](#) will probably seem like a miracle. <>

Health & Fitness / Sexuality

**[Why Good Sex Matters: Understanding the Neuroscience of Pleasure for a Smarter, Happier, and More Purpose-Filled Life](#)** by Nan Wise  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

In [Why Good Sex Matters](#) a sex therapist and neuroscientist describes *anhedonia*, the inability to feel a satisfactory amount of pleasure – and provides the pathway back to fully enjoying sex, food, time with family and friends, and other pastimes, while also staving off depression, anxiety, and addiction.

Author Dr. Nan Wise is a cognitive neuroscientist, professor, licensed psychotherapist, certified sex therapist, board-certified clinical hypnotherapist, and certified relationship specialist with three decades of experience. Wise is now Associate Research Professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey-Newark.

Assaulted with opportunities for pleasure everywhere – from sex to food or exotic escapes – the culture is becoming more depressed and anxious. Research has shown

that many people are having less sex, and that those who do have a lot enjoy it less. For more than thirty years, Wise has worked as a therapist helping people gain a satisfying sex life. In recent years, her work has shifted to the study of anhedonia – the inability to experience pleasure from activities usually found enjoyable – and why more people than ever suffer from it.

In [Why Good Sex Matters](#), Wise not only reveals the fundamental problem in how people think about sex and pleasure but also how they arrived at this problematic relationship to begin with. The book helps readers reclaim their innate capacity for joy, fun, exuberance, curiosity, and humor, while showing how reaching their sexual potential makes them smarter, happier, and more productive people. Ultimately, [Why Good Sex Matters](#) reveals how a new understanding of sex can lead to a more expansive experience of pleasure in all aspects of people's lives.

*Those looking for a more fulfilling sex life will benefit from this smoothly written ... look at how a person's mental state can elevate or sabotage their sexual experience. – Publishers Weekly*

*Featuring a harmonious blend of clinical research and relatable instruction... A rewarding text steeped in laboratory analysis and thought-provoking, motivating patient-based conclusions. – Kirkus Reviews*

*Lively, enriching, and eye-opening, [Why Good Sex Matters](#) will be the book all of your friends will be talking about. – Kayt Sukel, author of This Is Your Brain on Sex and The Art of Risk*

*Much more than about just sex, this is a book about Pleasure (with a capital P!) – where we seek it, when we crave it, how our brains process it – and, importantly, why we are in dire need of more of it. For anyone who is feeling burnt out, joyless, anxious, depressed – for anyone who is seeking yet somehow not feeling satisfied – this is essential reading to reclaim and revitalize yourself with the pleasure you need and deserve. – Ian Kerner, Ph.D., LMFT, author of She Comes First*

*Dr. Nan Wise brings a rare dual professional expertise in neuroscience research and clinical psychotherapy sexuality practice to this groundbreaking book. She explains how the 'core emotions' in our brain exert profound influence on our sexuality and our emotional functioning – and provides profound yet easy-to-read practical guidance to seek and attain happiness in sex and in life. – Barry R. Komisaruk, Ph.D., co-author of The Science of Orgasm*

*A relatable, no-holds-barred look at what's wrong with our dating and sexual culture and why, at any stage of life, we don't have to settle. Pleasure comes in many forms, and Nan Wise explains how and why to go for it. – Ashton Applewhite, author of This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism*

*Nan Wise had me at 'healthy hedonism' but sealed the deal with all of her fascinating research. In this informative and enlightening book, Wise shows us how to kick life up a*

*few notches.* – Mara Altman, author of *Gross Anatomy: Dispatches from the Front (and Back)* and *Thanks for Coming: One Young Woman's Quest for an Orgasm*  
*Read this book if you want to get the most out of your sex life and experience greater pleasure and satisfaction in your life overall.* – Beverly Whipple, Ph.D., co-author of *The G Spot* and *The Science of Orgasm*

[Why Good Sex Matters](#) helps us to get back in touch with the sensational side of life – and life is sensational when we focus on the sensations! – Brad Blanton, PhD, author of *Radical Honesty*

*Nan Wise helps readers understand how personal sex issues often reflect an overall negative emotional state and offers numerous ideas that can help them rebalance their emotional lives in ways that can revitalize their sensual pleasures.* – Kenneth L. Davis, coauthor of *The Emotional Foundations of Personality*

*An ambitious book, [Why Good Sex Matters](#) offers neuroscience that not only makes sense but can lead to practical life hacks and important healing.* – Margaret Nichols, PhD, Psychologist and Certified Sex

Wise with [Why Good Sex Matters](#) helps readers reclaim their innate capacity for joy, fun, exuberance, curiosity, and humor while showing how reaching their sexual potential can make them smarter, happier, and more productive. The book is fascinating and timely. <>

Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies

**[The Lathe Book](#), 3rd edition: A Complete Guide to the Machine and its Accessories** by Ernie Conover (The Taunton Press)

Completely revised and updated, [The Lathe Book](#), 3rd edition is the definitive guide to this essential turning machine written by legendary woodturning author, teacher, and lathe designer Ernie Conover. In the 17 years since the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition came out, there have been tremendous advances in lathes, accessories, and sharpening equipment. Conover brings this classic reference book up-to-date, incorporating the many recent innovations in the lathe and its accessories.

Conover is a veteran woodworking author with nine books, many videos, and hundreds of articles to his credit. His work has received numerous awards and been the subject of several one-man shows. Conover lectures widely for clubs, trade show groups, and woodworking stores and is frequently called upon as a consultant and expert witness in the woodworking field.

[The Lathe Book](#) covers every aspect of the lathe, including the expanded range of lathes now available, with invaluable information on choosing a lathe, new chucks for holding the work, and the groundbreaking developments in sharpening equipment. Also featured is essential information on lathe maintenance and repair, as well as basic techniques for bowl and spindle turning. The book offers comprehensive advice on

selecting turning tools, including the popular carbide-insert tools. And it emphasizes the importance of full-face shield protection, hearing protection, and dust collection.

Conover says that the wood lathe is among the oldest of machines, and woodturning has been a profession for millennia and a hobby since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. All readers need to start woodturning today is a lathe, a grinder, and a bandsaw, making it a great hobby from a cost and space perspective. Many pleasurable hours can be spent making interesting and useful items with just these three machines. The lathe is also a wonderful adjunct for the cabinetmaker, adding line, form, and function to furniture.

The *first edition* of [The Lathe Book](#) came out in 1993 and focused heavily on the craftsman woodturner. By the time Conover wrote the *second edition*, an industry had grown out of the many people who were devoting themselves exclusively to woodturning. The trend has continued, with entrepreneurs and companies coming up with new ideas every day. He says he grew up in a time when a shop denizen built whatever he could to save money, but today almost all tools and machines are turnkey. While the philosophical side of his personality laments this gentrification of woodturning, his tool junkie side can't wait to try the next cool gadget or machine.

In this *third edition* of [The Lathe Book](#), Conover speaks principally to those pursuing turning to the exclusion of other forms of woodworking, but he does not forsake furniture makers, architects, and builders because the information they need is in the narrative. Woodturning has grown additional branches since the *second edition*. Bowl turning has bifurcated into traditional faceplate-turned vessels and hollow forms, which are spindle-turned vessels. This *third edition* of [The Lathe Book](#) covers this new ground and throws light on the useful machines, tools, and gadgets that will make readers' time in the turning shop productive and fun.

Since 1993, Conover have taught thousands of people to turn and have put in thousands of hours at lathes of all descriptions. To that end, he has worked as a design and usability consultant for lathe and accessory manufacturers and has also made a huge number of architectural turnings for furniture makers, architects, and builders. This is all to say that he has put in his 10,000 hours at the lathe multiple times and understands lathes and turning techniques. He knows what the pitfalls are and how to get beginners beyond them.

*Conover has a wonderful way of taking his subject apart and putting it back together again in a way I can finally understand.* – David Ellsworth, master woodturner

With this *third edition* of [The Lathe Book](#) in hand, readers will be off to a great start as they learn about the tools and techniques they need to enjoy the craft. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries & Thrillers / India

**Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line: A Novel** by Deepa Anappara

(Random House)

A brilliant debut. – Ian McEwan

In [Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line](#) in a sprawling Indian city, three friends venture into the most dangerous corners to find their missing classmate....

Author Deepa Anappara grew up in Kerala, southern India, and worked as a journalist in cities including Mumbai and Delhi. Her reports on the impact of poverty and religious violence on the education of children won a Developing Asia Journalism Award, an Every Human has Rights Media Award, and a Sanskriti-Prabha Dutt Fellowship in Journalism.

Down market lanes crammed with too many people, dogs, and rickshaws, past stalls that smell of cardamom and sizzling oil, below a smoggy sky that doesn't let through a single blade of sunlight, and all the way at the end of the Purple metro line lies a jumble of tin-roofed homes where nine-year-old Jai lives with his family. From his doorway, he can spot the glittering lights of the city's fancy high-rises, and though his mother works as a maid in one, to him they seem a thousand miles away. [Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line](#) plunges readers deep into this neighborhood to trace the unfolding of a tragedy through the eyes of a child as he has his first perilous collisions with an unjust and complicated wider world.

Jai drools outside sweet shops, watches too many reality police shows, and considers himself to be smarter than his friends Pari (though she gets the best grades) and Faiz (though Faiz has an actual job). When a classmate goes missing, Jai decides to use the crime-solving skills he has picked up from TV to find him. He asks Pari and Faiz to be his assistants, and together they draw up lists of people to interview and places to visit. But what begins as a game turns sinister as other children start disappearing from their neighborhood. Jai, Pari, and Faiz have to confront terrified parents, an indifferent police force, and rumors of soul-snatching djinns. As the disappearances edge ever closer to home, the lives of Jai and his friends will never be the same again.

In [Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line](#), the voices of Jai, Pari, and Faiz lend an element of relatability and levity to a story with ominous undercurrents, allowing readers to recognize themselves on the page. Anappara says, "I hope that no matter who they are, or where they are, readers will see something of themselves in the children's determination to shape their own futures, and in the support they find in their friendships and their community."

Warning: If you begin reading the book in the morning, don't expect to get anything done the rest of the day.... In Jai, Anappara has created a boy vivid in his humanity, one whose voice somersaults on the page.... Her storytelling genius, it might be assumed, must be rooted in her reporter's eye for detail. But that handy formula misses

the heat and mystery of what Anappara creates. – The New York Times Book Review  
Storytelling at its best – not just sympathetic, vivid, and beautifully detailed, but completely assured and deft ... We care about these characters from the first page and our concern for them is richly repaid. – Anne Enright, Man Booker Prize-winning author of *The Gathering*

A stunningly original tale ... I stayed up late every night until I finished, reluctant to part from Deepa Anappara's heart-stealing characters. – Etaf Rum, New York Times bestselling author of *A Woman Is No Man*

[An] entrancing novel ... full of humor, warmth, and heartbreak ... Anappara paints all of her characters, even the lost ones, with deep empathy, and her prose is winningly exuberant... Engaging characters, bright wit, and compelling storytelling make a tale that's bleak at its core profoundly moving. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

A model of verisimilitude ... [Jai] comes to life on the page to live on in readers' memories. – Booklist

[Anappara's] bright, propulsive prose... only accentuates the seriousness of her subject: the disappearance of children from villages in India, a real-life issue given intimate treatment here. – Library Journal

[Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line](#) is a moving and confident novel about the preciousness of life. The storytelling is distinctive and immersive. – Nikesh Shukla, editor of *The Good Immigrant*

Deepa Anappara is a writer of considerable talent. This is a wonderful, energetic book filled with humour and pathos. Charming, sensitive and deeply moving. – Nathan Filer, Costa Book Award-winning author of *The Shock of the Fall*

The children at the heart of this story will stay with you long after you turn the last page ... A wonderful debut. – Christie Watson, bestselling author of *The Language of Kindness*

A magnificent achievement: the endeavours of the Djinn Patrol offer us a captivating world of wit, warmth and heartbreak, beautifully crafted through a child's unique perspective. – Mahesh Rao, author of *Polite Society*

Extraordinarily good, deeply moving and thought provoking with brilliant characterization ... A very important book. – Harriet Tyce, author of *Blood Orange*

A profoundly emphatic work of creative genius that will stay with you forever. – Sonia Faleiro, author of *Beautiful Thing*

A richly textured rendition of a world little seen in Indian literature ... There is no desire to smooth and tidy in fiction what is untidy in life, but instead there is a payoff for the reader in a story that is as quietly troubling as it is convincing. – Mridula Koshy, author of *If It Is Sweet*

Drawing on real incidents and a spate of disappearances in metropolitan India, [Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line](#) is extraordinarily moving, flawlessly imagined, and a triumph of suspense. It captures the fierce warmth, resilience, and bravery that can emerge in

times of trouble and carries readers headlong into a community that, once encountered, is impossible to forget. <>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries & Thrillers / Historical / Australia

**[Give the Devil His Due](#) (Rowland Sinclair Mysteries) by Sulari Gentill**  
(Poisoned Pen Press)

For fans of Rhys Bowen, Kerry Greenwood and Jacqueline Winspear comes an adventure-packed romp that threads 1934 Sydney's upper class and its seedy underworld. – Booklist

Rowland Sinclair in **[Give the Devil His Due](#)** is again hurtling toward disaster – with an artist, a poet, and a brazen sculptress along for the ride...

In **[Give the Devil His Due](#)** wealthy Rowland ('Rowly') Sinclair, an artist with leftist friends and a free-wheeling lifestyle, reluctantly agrees to a charity race. He'll drive his beloved yellow Mercedes on the Maroubra Speedway, renamed the Killer Track for the lives it has claimed. His teammates are a young Errol Flynn and the well-known driver Joan Richmond. It's all good fun. But then people start to die...

After setting out to study astrophysics, graduating in law and then abandoning her legal career to write books, author Sulari Gentill now grows French black truffles on her farm in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains of NSW. She is the author of **The Rowland Sinclair Mystery** series, historical crime fiction novels set in the 1930s.

The body of a journalist covering the race is found murdered in a House of Horrors. An English blueblood with Blackshirt affiliations dies in a Maroubra crash. Reporters stalk Rowly for dirt while bookmakers are after an edge. When someone takes a shot at him, it could be anyone. Then the police arrest one of Rowly's housemates for murder.

Meanwhile in **[Give the Devil His Due](#)**, the world is giving Hitler the benefit of the doubt, the Australian right rallies against Communists, and Rowly, fond of his German car and the German people, resolves to wake his world to the mounting horror of the Nazis he has experienced firsthand.

Other novels in **Rowland Sinclair Mysteries** series include:

- ***A Few Right Thinking Men***
- ***A Decline in Prophets***
- ***Miles off Course***
- ***Paving the New Road***
- ***A Murder Unmentioned***
- ***Gentlemen Formerly Dressed***

The relationships of Gentill's well-developed characters continue to evolve as this fine historical series takes a darker tone with the rise of fascism in Europe. – Publishers Weekly  
This is a great addition to a fun Australian mystery series... a fast-paced and captivating novel set during a turbulent period in Australia's history. Containing an intriguing mystery, a unique sense of humour and a range of historical characters, this is a highly recommended read for lovers of Australian fiction. – The Sydney Morning Herald  
[D]evil of a good read. – The Herald Sun

This 1930s Sydney is vibrant and authentic, and the inclusion of a relevant newspaper cutting at the beginning of each chapter is a neat touch... in order to get the best value out of this highly original series with its quirky characters... seek out the earlier titles and follow them in sequence. – Historical Novel Society

Australian author Gentill's seventh installment featuring Rowland Sinclair (after *A Murder Unmentioned*) is as fun and consuming as her previous novels. The writing is superb, providing fascinating historical context as well as depth in her characters. Highly recommended for fans of the series and historical crime mysteries. – Library Journal

Winner of the 2018 Ned Kelly Award for Best Mystery, [Give the Devil His Due](#) is a fun read with the added benefit of an interesting character to follow throughout the series. <>

Military / History / German / North Africa

[Operation Crusader: Tank Warfare in the Desert, Tobruk 1941](#) by Hermann Buschleb, translated by David Dorondo (**Die Wehrmacht im Kampf Series: Casemate**)

The port of Tobruk, Libya, was besieged by German and Italian forces in April 1941. Following an abortive attempt in June, the Allies tried to relieve the siege in late November, when the Eighth Army launched *Operation Crusader*, which aimed at destroying the Axis armored force then advancing. After a number of inconclusive engagements, the British 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division was defeated by the Afrika Korps at Sidi Rezegh. Erwin Rommel was then forced to withdraw his troops to the defensive line at Gazala, making the operation the first Allied victory over German land forces in World War II.

[Operation Crusader](#) is a detailed narrative of tank warfare during *Crusader* written by Herman Büschleb (1915-98), a highly successful staff officer who had fought in World War II and joined the Bundeswehr after the war. Büschleb joined the Bundeswehr on his return from captivity, retiring as a major general. He wrote a number of books on military history. Translator David Dorondo from 1984 to 1987 was a member of St. Antony's College, Oxford and gained a D.Phil. from the University of Oxford in 1988. Since 1987, he served as a member of the Department of History of Western Carolina University. He was a member of US Strategic Command's Deterrence and Assurance

Academic Alliance and served as a subject-matter expert for, and contributor to, the US Joint Staff J39 Strategic Multilayer Assessment (SMA).

Büschleb in [Operation Crusader](#) details the opposing forces' capabilities in detail and the parameters of the battle in a theatre where the terrain and weather were often as challenging to an army as the enemy. As well as examining the part of commanders, it discusses the parameters of the battle: the terrain, weather, visibility, logistics, intelligence, and the forces involved. He examines the importance of leadership during the battles of Operation *Crusader*, in particular the part of Erwin Rommel. He then narrates the course of the battle and the result of the battle.

Writing in the 1960s, Büschleb framed [Operation Crusader](#) as a case study, almost an instruction manual for the leadership and command of armored and mechanized warfare. [Operation Crusader](#) explores the importance of command and leadership in armored and mechanized warfare. Büschleb intended it to be of practical use to contemporary military personnel, who expected to fight a similar type of warfare against the Warsaw Pact.

[Operation Crusader](#) is part of the series **Die Wehrmacht im Kampf: Battles and Problems of the Second World War**, originally edited by Hermann Teske and published in German in the 1950s and 1960s. With most volumes written by former members of the German army in World War II, they provide valuable and historically significant information on the German army's perspective of many crucial campaigns and battles. Now published in English for the first time, each volume has a modern introduction by Matthias Strohn, Head of Historical Analysis at the British Army's strategic think tank CHACR, a Reader in Modern War Studies at the University of Buckingham, and an expert on the German army. <>

## Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) by Christopher West, with a foreword by Eric Metaxas (Brazos Press)

[A] much-needed and timely work.... [West makes] John Paul II's Theology of the Body accessible and relatable to the whole body of Christ. – from the foreword by Eric Metaxas

In this post-sexual-revolution world, people need to remember that their bodies tell a divine story and proclaim the gospel itself. As male and female and in the call to become 'one flesh,' bodies reveal a 'great mystery' that mirrors Christ's love for the church (Eph. 5:31-32).

Bestselling author, cultural commentator, and popular theologian Christopher West is one of the world's most recognized teachers of John Paul II's Theology of the Body. He

specializes in making this teaching accessible to all Christians, with particular attention to evangelicals.

As West in [Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) explains, from beginning to end the Bible tells a story of marriage. It begins with the marriage of man and woman in an earthly paradise and ends with the marriage of Christ and the church in an eternal paradise. [Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) provides a redemptive rather than repressive approach to sexual purity, explores the true meaning of sex and marriage, and offers a compelling vision of what it means to be created male and female.

In this time of sexual chaos, bestselling author, cultural commentator, and popular theologian West in [Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) makes John Paul II's life-changing teaching on human life, love, and sexuality accessible to all Christians.

No one has done as much to make the Theology of the Body accessible to ordinary people as Christopher West. [Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) presents John Paul II's biblical reflections in a way that Christians of all denominations and traditions will appreciate. This is the book Christians need to equip themselves with in order to respond to the sexual revolution. – Ryan T. Anderson, author of *When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment* and *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*

Protestants are long overdue for serious and substantial engagement with Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. West's valuable introduction to the work is the best sort of appetizer: it satisfies but does so by deepening the reader's interest in moving on to the main course. This clear and persuasive introduction should be read and wrestled with by evangelical pastors and laypeople everywhere. – Matthew Lee Anderson, founder and lead writer at [MereOrthodoxy.com](#); author of *Earthen Vessels: Why Our Bodies Matter to Our Faith*

For those wanting a Christian understanding of sex and God's wonderful creation of men and women, this very readable text is the place to start. It is an important book for Catholic, evangelical, and Orthodox Christians, especially those struggling with the confusion about such things that are embraced by post-Christian America. Our culture has become unmoored from the traditional faith, and West brings us back to those ancient paths by presenting a proper understanding of sex, gender, love, and marriage. – Thomas S. Buchanan, senior editor, Touchstone

In response to a world awash in sexual chaos and gender confusion, [Our Bodies Tell God's Story](#) offers a bold and thoroughly biblical look at the meaning of the body, sex, gender, and marriage. <>

Science / Mathematics

[Metric in Measure Spaces](#) by James J. Yeh (World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd.)

Measure and metric are two fundamental concepts in measuring the size of a mathematical object. Yet there has been no systematic investigation of this relation. [Metric in Measure Spaces](#) closes this gap.

Author James J. Yeh is at the University of California, Irvine.

The gap between metric and measure is filled by dealing with real analysis aspects of measure theory, integration, and differentiation, all in the context of metric spaces. Topics include metric, Borel, Radon and Lebesgue outer measures, Hausdorff measures, covering theorems, differentiation of measures and integrals, maximal functions, Lipschitz mappings, and theorems of Lusin and Egorov.

The material in [Metric in Measure Spaces](#) will be of interest to mathematicians and accessible to graduate students in mathematics. The book is highly mathematical. Nevertheless, for the first half of [Metric in Measure Spaces](#) (Chapters 1-7), which is concerned with measure theory, no knowledge of basic measure theory is assumed since what is needed is presented, with complete proofs.

As with Yeh's previous book *Real Analysis, Theory of Measure and Integration. Third Edition* (periodically referred to in the text) Chapters 1-6 has as prerequisite only advanced calculus, as found for example in R. C. Buck's book *Advanced Calculus*. On the other hand, for the second half of [Metric in Measure Spaces](#), (Chapters 7-14), which is concerned primarily with differentiation and integration, knowledge of the Lebesgue integral on a general measure space is assumed. <>

Sports & Entertainment / History / Biographies & Memoirs

[Race across America: Eddie Gardner and the Great Bunion Derbies \(Sports and Entertainment\)](#) by Charles B. Kastner (Syracuse University Press)

In two epic footraces across America in 1928 and 1929, an African American runner, Eddie 'The Sheik' Gardner withstood daily death threats and intimidation to compete at the highest levels of the new sports of trans-America racing, and became a symbol of hope and pride to Black America for his courage.

As told in [Race across America](#), on April 23, 1929, the second annual Transcontinental Foot Race across America, known as the Bunion Derby, was in its twenty-fifth day. Eddie "the Sheik" Gardner, an African American runner from Seattle, was leading the race

across the Free Bridge over the Mississippi River. Along with the signature outfit that earned him his nickname – a white towel tied around his head, white shorts, and a white shirt – Gardner wore an American flag, a reminder to all who saw him run through the Jim Crow South that he was an American and the leader of the greatest footrace in the world.

Author Charles B. Kastner is a long-distance runner and the author of *The 1929 Bunion Derby: Johnny Salo and the Great Footrace across America*.

Kastner in [Race across America](#) traces Gardner's remarkable journey from his birth in 1897 in Birmingham, Alabama, to his success in Seattle, Washington, as one of the top long-distance runners in the region, and finally to his participation in two transcontinental footraces where he risked his life, facing a barrage of harassment for having the audacity to compete with white runners. Kastner shows how Gardner's participation became a way to protest the endemic racism he faced, heralding the future of nonviolent efforts that would be instrumental to the civil rights movement.

[Race across America](#) documents Gardner's struggle to assert his right to participate in an integrated sporting event in three states, the price he had to pay to do so, and the example of courage he set for his fellow African Americans. Along the way, icons of the last century such as Booker T. Washington, Red Grange, Will Rogers, and Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson intersected with Eddie's journey along the dusty and mostly unpaved roads of America.

[Race across America](#) also provides a history of the two bunion derbies, unique events in this history of sports that challenged the traditional understanding of what a human being was capable of enduring.

*Life, it's said, is a marathon. But Charles Kastner shows us in vivid, historical detail that the life of runner Eddie Gardner was unique – a race that serves as an engrossing example of what it means to be resilient.* – Kevin Patrick Allen, Documentary Producer

*This powerful book has the potential of placing long distance running in its rightful place center stage in the history and struggle of the African-American athlete.... A must read for readers interested in sport history.* – Donald Spivey, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Miami

*Charles Kastner spotlights the heroics of a previously unappreciated athlete in Eddie Gardner, who participated in a bizarre sporting event many years ago that few people remember. I applaud his efforts to give the Bunion Derbies their due as a quintessential American footrace.* – David Davis, author of *Waterman: The Life and Times of Duke Kahanamoku*

*Kastner brilliantly delves into the phenomenon of transcontinental racing and the heroics of Eddie Gardner, an athlete on par with Jesse Owens and Joe Louis who combated Jim Crow laws while competing as a black person in a super-human challenge across America. I felt like I was right there beside him the whole way, a truly*

epic book! – Dave Warady, Winner of the 1992 Runner's World Trans America Footrace  
[Race across America](#) captures the magnitude of challenges faced by Eddie Gardner as he competed in the greatest race on earth: desert heat, hours of mental and physical strain, endless mountains, intense rain, and racial barriers; and the winning spirit it took for him to reach the finish line. – Lorna Michael 2018 Ultrarunner Hall of Fame  
Chuck Kastner masterfully brings to light the story of Eddie Gardner, the first great African American Ultramarathon runner of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and in doing so, provides a powerful lesson in American and Civil Rights history. – Gary Corbitt, National Black Marathoners Association

A fascinating look at the birth of transcontinental ultra-running, the courageous men who competed more than 90 years ago, and African American Eddie 'The Sheik' Gardner who ultimately endured the most. – Gary Theriault, ultra and adventure runner, ten-time Kona Ironman triathlon finisher  
This is a book worth reading! – Peace Corps Worldwide

Shining a bright light on his extraordinary athletic accomplishments and his heroism on the dusty roads of America in the 1920s, Kastner in [Race across America](#) gives Gardner and other black bunioneers the attention they so richly deserve. <>

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