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June 2020

We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books

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June 2020

Table of Contents

[Art & Photography / Biographies & Memoirs / Musicians / Women](#)

[Rosalyn Tureck: A Life with Bach by Rosalyn Tureck, edited by Rebecca Paller \(Women in Music Series, No. 1: Pendragon Press\)](#)

[Art & Photography / Lighting / Techniques](#)

[Photographic Lighting for Everybody: Techniques for Mastering Light with Any Camera – Including iPhone by Steven H. Begleiter \(Pro Photo Series: Amherst Media\)](#)

[Art & Photography / Musical](#)

[Hamilton: Portraits of the Revolution by Josh Lehrer, with a preface by Thomas Kail \(Universe: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.\)](#)

[Audio / Literature & Fiction / Mystery](#)

[Rose Gold: An Easy Rawlins Mystery \(2014\) Audible Audiobook – Unabridged, 9 CDs \(11 hours\) – by Walter Mosley, narrated by J.D. Jackson \(Random House Audio\)](#)

[Children's Books / Age Range: 9-12 / Grade Level: 4-7](#)

[Stagestruck: Curtain Up \(2015\) by Lisa Fiedler & Anya Wallach \(Stagestruck Series, Book 1: Sleeping Bear Press\)](#)

[Education & Learning / Pre-K](#)

[Building on Emergent Curriculum: The Power of Play for School Readiness by Sarah Taylor Vanover \(Gryphon House\)](#)

[History / Steamboats / Gold Rush / Alaska / Canada](#)

[The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers: A History of Yukon River Steam Navigation by Robert D. Turner \(Harbour Publishing\)](#)

[Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / History / Quilting / Women's Rights](#)

[Deeds Not Words: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage by Sandra Sider & Pamela Weeks \(Schiffer Publishing Ltd.\)](#)

[Home & Garden / Crafts & Hobbies / Sketching](#)

[Observational Sketching: Hone Your Artistic Skills by Learning How to Observe and Sketch Everyday Objects by Mariko Higaki \(Rockport Publishers\)](#)

[Literature & Fiction / Mysteries / Cozies](#)

[The Patterdale Plot by Rebecca Tope \(Lake District Mysteries Series: Allison & Busby\)](#)

[Philosophy / Biographies & Memoirs](#)

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely \(2019\) by Andrew S. Curran \(Other Press\)](#)

[Politics / Communication](#)

[Beyond Contempt: How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide \(2020\) by Erica Etelson \(New Society Publishers\)](#)

[Psychology / Counseling / Relationship-Building](#)

[What Works with Teens: A Professional's Guide to Engaging Authentically with Adolescents to Achieve Lasting Change \(2015\) by Britt H. Rathbone MSSW LCSW-C & Julie B. Baron MSW LCSW-C, with a foreword by Rosalind Wiseman \(New Harbinger Publications, Inc.\)](#)

[Religion & Spirituality / Consciousness Studies](#)

[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife: A Doctor Reviews the Case for Consciousness after Death, 1st edition \(2012\) by Jean Jacques Charbonier \(Inner Traditions\)](#)

[Science / Physics / Biographies & Memoirs](#)

[Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn: A Father, a Daughter, the Meaning of Nothing, and the Beginning of Everything \(2014\) by Amanda Geffer \(Bantam Books\)](#)

[Science / Physics / Gravity](#)

[Topics on Strong Gravity: A Modern View on Theories and Experiments edited by Cesar Augusto Zen Vasconcellos \(World Scientific Publishing Co. Ptc. Ltd.\)](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Art & Photography / Biographies & Memoirs / Musicians / Women

[Rosalyn Tureck](#): A Life with Bach by Rosalyn Tureck, edited by Rebecca Paller (Women in Music Series, No. 1: Pendragon Press)

Rosalyn Tureck was the first twentieth-century artist to make the Goldberg Variations and all-Bach recitals popular, earning recognition and praise for bringing Bach to the world. Now we have an autobiography by Tureck (1913-2003), the renowned keyboard artist and scholar who dedicated her life to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

[Rosalyn Tureck](#) recounts her childhood in Chicago as a piano prodigy; her years at Juilliard – where the seventeen-year-old Tureck blacked out in a rehearsal room and came round with a revelation that she needed to create a new and different type of keyboard technique geared specifically to the playing of Bach; her 1932 Carnegie Hall debut (performing Bach on a theremin!) and remarkable 1937 all-Bach Town Hall concerts. She describes her studies with Arnold Schoenberg and her galvanic career performing and lecturing on Bach in far-flung cities, along with her founding of several musical and research societies including the Tureck Bach Research Institute. Also in **[Rosalyn Tureck](#)** are vivid travelogues about her extensive work in Great Britain and tours to Russia, South Africa, and India, and richly rendered tales of her friendships with Myra Hess, Robert Oppenheimer, James T. Farrell, Saul Bellow, Dylan Thomas, Bertrand Russell, and Arnold Schoenberg.

In **[Rosalyn Tureck](#)** Tureck says the incentive for writing her autobiography originated in repeated requests from professional musicians and students, as well as creative people in the arts and sciences, that she record the course of her comparatively unusual career. She writes the memoir, not as a personal memoir or as a record of her professional and personal triumphs and trials on the world stage but, rather, as the history of a mind and sensibility born into the environment of the twentieth century and developing throughout this century, with its turbulent spirit of revolt and exuberant creativity in all areas of science, art, and life relationships.

She says she writes [Rosalyn Tureck](#), also, to trace the growth and productivity of an individual in the face of twentieth-century values regarding 'success' and the inevitable volatile circumstances endemic in a life involved, inextricably, and from virtually its very beginning, with the responses of the public and the press. She asks, within a monolithic, materialistic view of achievement, characteristic of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, how does a person develop and fulfill an individual inner vision that is fueled, not by reigning approved fashion, but rather by simple wonder, curiosity, and passion? How does an individual walk through the fire of society's values and emerge with wonder, passion, and integrity unharmed and with a harvest, nevertheless, evolved and clearly articulated? This effort and life experience form the story of [Rosalyn Tureck](#).

Written with intelligence, candor, and wit, Tureck's story may give courage to young people who aspire beyond conventional temporal fashions, and strength to retain their individual integrity and clarity of vision. And for those outside the world of music who are concerned about the contemporary state of art, styles of thought, and societal values, [Rosalyn Tureck](#) may help to draw aside the web that obscures the relation of the art of performance to a wider spectrum. <>

Art & Photography / Lighting / Techniques

[Photographic Lighting for Everybody](#): Techniques for Mastering Light with Any Camera – Including iPhone by Steven H. Begleiter (Pro Photo Series: Amherst Media)

The best camera is the one you have with you. Whether that's a high-tech DSLR, a consumer point-and-shoot, or simply your SmartPhone, there's a common denominator that will determine the visual impact of the images you create: the light. Identifying beautiful light (or creating/modifying the light) takes experience, observation, and a knowledge of the fundamentals of lighting. – from the book

Learning how to visualize the intended image in the mind's eye and translate that vision onto a two-dimensional plane is, as [Photographic Lighting for Everybody](#) shows, far more important than what device readers actually use to record that image. If people have ever looked at an amazing scene or subject but been disappointed by the photos of it – this is the book that will help. Through examples and exercises, Steven H. Begleiter challenges readers creatively, starting with the basics of lighting and building a knowledge base that they can apply to their growth as photographers at any stage, and with any camera.

Begleiter began his professional career in New York City as first photo assistant to Annie Leibovitz and the late Mary Ellen Mark. He maintained a commercial photography studio in New York until 1997 when he moved to Philadelphia to become a professor of photography at the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2007, he was recruited by the Rocky Mountain School of Photography in Missoula, MT, to teach lighting and studio photography techniques. He recently relocated again to Denver, where he is continuing his commercial photography business and teaches photography at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (RMCAD).

According to Begleiter, identifying or creating/modifying beautiful light takes experience, observation, and knowledge.

With [Photographic Lighting for Everybody](#) readers:

- Master the fundamentals of all photographic lighting.
- Identify, modify, or create lighting to suit their vision.
- Amplify the visual appeal of their portraits, product shots, landscapes, and street photography.

Begleiter says that as he mastered his craft, he came to understand that a predominant concern – even before he snapped the first frame – had to be the quality of light, the color of light, and how to create the light he envisioned.

Learning how to evaluate the light and find or create the right light for the images takes experience, observation, and a knowledge of the fundamentals of photographic lighting. Knowing which piece of equipment will serve one's purposes is invaluable, but it's far more important to train one's mind and eyes to translate one's vision onto a two-dimensional plane. That's how readers can begin to capture images that live up to their expectations.

The information in [Photographic Lighting for Everybody](#) is general enough to apply to almost anything readers choose to photograph – portraits, architecture, landscapes, wildlife, etc. The primary tools are iPhone, Lume Cube, Canon cameras and flashes, Adobe Lightroom, and Adobe Photoshop.

Along the way, Begleiter asks readers to apply what they learned in assignments designed to make their learning process more meaningful.

Choosing your path in photography is not one easily found. Steven understands the steps for growth as a photographer and this book will help you easily navigate your own course. – Chris Crisman, Chris Crisman Photography LLC

Steven is a wealth of information when it comes to lighting for photography. This book is well worth reading for the pro photographer as well as the beginner. – Bill Bernstein, Bill Bernstein Photography

This book is both comprehensive and inspiring. I wish I had read it 20 years ago so I didn't have to learn all these lessons the hard way. – Bob Sacha, director, cinematographer, and photographer

The book shares what Begleiter have learned over the last 35 years of professional photography with regard to lighting. Readers learn the secrets of making every subject or scene look amazing – on any camera. After completing [Photographic Lighting for Everybody](#), they will have a strong foundation to walk into any scenario with a DSLR or smartphone and create the photo they envisioned, with natural light or with auxiliary lights. <>

Art & Photography / Musical

[Hamilton](#): Portraits of the Revolution by Josh Lehrer, with a preface by Thomas Kail (Universe: Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.)

[Hamilton](#) is photographer John Lehrer's up-close-and-personal document of the evolution and revolution that is *Hamilton: An American Musical*.

With book, music, and lyrics by Lin-Manuel Miranda, direction by Thomas Kail, and choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, *Hamilton* is the story of an immigrant who became George Washington's right-hand man and the new nation's first treasury secretary.

The author of [Hamilton](#), Josh Lehrer is an advertising, lifestyle, and portrait photographer who has photographed for the *New York Times*, *Elle*, and many Broadway and theatrical projects. Miranda, who wrote the foreword, is the Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of *Hamilton: An American Musical*. Kail, who wrote the preface, is the director of the Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning *Hamilton: An American Musical*.

[Hamilton: Portraits of the Revolution](#) invites fans to experience the award-winning show in an intimate way through more than 100 portraits of the cast, including Miranda as Alexander Hamilton, Leslie Odom Jr. as Aaron Burr, Daveed Diggs as Lafayette, Phillipa Soo as Eliza Schuyler Hamilton, and Renée Elise Goldsberry as Angelica Schuyler, along with personal commentary by the cast about *Hamilton*.

This intimate opportunity to experience the award winning musical *Hamilton: An American Musical* contains more than one hundred of Lehrer's portraits of the original and recent Broadway casts as well as those from touring and London productions.

Only the second official book, [Hamilton: Portraits of the Revolution](#) invites Hamifans to experience the award-winning show in a brand-new and intimate way through more than 100 portraits of the cast, including Lin-Manuel Miranda (Alexander Hamilton), Leslie Odom Jr. (Aaron Burr), Daveed Diggs (Lafayette), Phillipa Soo (Eliza Schuyler Hamilton), and Renée Elise Goldsberry (Angelica Schuyler), along with personal commentary by the cast about Hamilton, their experiences, and the show's impact on them and the world. It includes contributions by creator Lin-Manuel Miranda and director Thomas Kail, as well as a curated collection of ephemera and original writings from the historical figures who served as the inspiration for their stage characters. – Broadway World

From "Broadway Babies" to history buffs to anyone who appreciates photography, [Hamilton](#) is the perfect book for the millions who have been moved by, and want to re-experience, the extraordinary theatrical and musical experience. <>

Audio / Literature & Fiction / Mystery

[Rose Gold](#): An Easy Rawlins Mystery (2014) Audible Audiobook – Unabridged, 9 CDs (11 hours) – by Walter Mosley, narrated by J.D. Jackson (Random House Audio)

In [Rose Gold](#), a mystery set in the Patty Hearst era of radical black nationalism and political abductions and epidemic police corruption, Easy's case pulls him – unrelentingly and inevitably – into the darkest underbelly of Los Angeles. A black ex-boxer self-named Uhuru Nolica, the leader of a revolutionary cell called Scorched Earth, has kidnapped Rosemary Goldsmith, the daughter of a weapons manufacturer, from her dorm at UC Santa Barbara. If they don't receive the money, weapons, and apology they demand, 'Rose Gold' will die – horribly and publicly.

So in [Rose Gold](#) the FBI, the State Department, and the LAPD turn to Easy Rawlins, the one man who can cross the necessary borders to resolve this dangerous standoff and find Rose Gold before it's too late.

Author of [Rose Gold](#), Walter Mosley, is the author of more than fifty books, most notably thirteen Easy Rawlins mysteries, the first of which, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, was made into an acclaimed film starring Denzel Washington. *Always Outnumbered*, adapted from his first Socrates Fortlow novel, was an HBO film starring Laurence Fishburne. Mosley is the winner of numerous awards, including an O. Henry Award, a Grammy Award, a PEN America Lifetime Achievement Award, a Langston Hughes Medal, and a Mystery

Writers of America Grand Master Award. Reader of the audio version, J.D. Jackson is an educator, actor and audiobook narrator.

You know Mosley will bring things to a satisfactory conclusion, so you can let the story fall away in favor of its rich social fabric, rendered in well-observed details of skin color, speech, dress and, of course, neighborhoods. This is the triumph of each Easy Rawlins story – documenting this changing panorama of a city where the migration of Southern blacks, eager to claim it as their new world, is constantly remaking the city as it remakes them. Every Rawlins novel can be read on its own, but it's a far richer experience to read them in sequence and follow Easy's complex evolution as well as that of his ad hoc family and tight circle of friends. These are the folks who provide a fascinating set of roadside attractions as Easy's case rolls on. – Los Angeles Times

When it comes to naming names, Walter Mosley knows no peer. A cop called Frisk, a guru who goes by Vandal, a boxer known as Hardcase Tommy Latour and a black militant with the excellent moniker of Most Grand all figure in [Rose Gold](#), Mosley's endlessly entertaining new Easy Rawlins mystery. – The New York Times Book Review

Set in L.A. during the height of the Vietnam War, Mosley's impressive 13th Easy Rawlins mystery (after 2013's Little Green) finds Roger Frisk, special assistant to the police chief, calling on Easy with a job... Easy's experiences and insights perfectly mirror the turbulent '60s. – Publishers Weekly, starred

Mosley has few peers when it comes to crafting sentences, and he's woven some beauties into this swift-moving yet philosophical story that does more for illustrating an iconic period than hours of documentary film could. This Easy Rawlins novel harks back to the great early days of the series. – Booklist, starred

...The most quotable of all contemporary detectives stirs up enough trouble for scene after memorable scene. – Kirkus Reviews

With twelve previous adventures since 1990, Easy Rawlins is one of the small handful of private eyes in contemporary crime fiction who can be called immortal. [Rose Gold](#) continued his ongoing and unique achievement in 2014 in combining the mystery/PI genre form with a rich social history of postwar Los Angeles – and not just the black parts of that sprawling city. <>

Stagestruck: [Curtain Up](#) (2015) by Lisa Fiedler & Anya Wallach (Stagestruck Series, Book 1: Sleeping Bear Press)

When I was growing up, I wasn't the smartest or the fastest or the most popular. I didn't have any special skills, besides just really loving theater. I just made stuff up as I went along, even when people thought I was kind of crazy or told me it was impossible. – from the introduction to the book

After 12-year-old Anya is cut from her middle school soccer team in **Stagestruck: [Curtain Up](#)** (2015), she decides to pursue her true passion. Anya is a self-professed theater geek, but there isn't much opportunity for middle schoolers in suburban Chappaqua to flex their drama muscles. Then she overhears Austin asking a teacher why the school doesn't have a drama club. No funding! So Anya decides to start a summer musical theater program herself in the neighborhood clubhouse, an old barn.

With the help of her sister and new friend Austin, a cute and talented aspiring composer/playwright, Anya in [Curtain Up](#) puts together a kids' summer theater troupe (The Random Farms Kids' Theater), recruiting area kids as actors and crew members. Anya learns about theater, as well as friendship, as she leads her all-kids cast and crew through auditions and rehearsals. Acting as director, Anya has to navigate the ups and downs of a showbiz life, including preparing scripts, finding a venue, and handling ticket sales, not to mention calming the actors' insecurities and settling conflicts. It's a lot of responsibility for a 12-year-old.

Will their first show ever get off the ground?

This *Stagestruck* series is closely based on the real-life experience of Anya Wallach, who began a summer theater 'camp' in her parents' basement when she was just sixteen years old. Today, Random Farms has launched the careers of many of today's youngest stars on Broadway.

This fun romp, based on a concept by Wallach, founder of the actual RFKT in 1995, is a modern day 'let's-put-on-a-show' story updated to include social media and texting. Although the plot is formulaic and the characters only broadly developed, the story is full of heart, making it appealing to High School Musical fans. The text is riddled with musical theater references, and aspiring actors will enjoy the theater tips and lingo, even if they sound unbelievably mature when delivered by middle schoolers. First in a series, this book ends with Anya and Austin planning their next show.... recommended for general purchase by public and school libraries, especially those with a thriving theater geek scene. – Amy Seto Forrester, Denver Public Library

Book 1 in the new Stagestruck Series will give the young theater lover a fun read. Full of musical and Broadway references, these kids are sophisticated actors and directors, wise beyond their years, and real kids. Based on the real life story of the Random Farm Kids theater company in New York. – ADVISABLE – Lisa Librarian

Imaginative and inspiring! Just goes to show you don't have to wait until you're grown up to live your dreams. – Laurisa White Reyes, Editor-in-Chief, Middle Shelf Magazine

Stagestruck: [Curtain Up](#) is the perfect read for all kids who love musical theater and dream of a life in the spotlight. – Jennifer Damiano, TONY-nominated actress and alum of the Random Farms Kids' Theater

Young readers of **Stagestruck: [Curtain Up](#)** will be inspired – inspired to do whatever it is that they imagine. Tween fans of hit television shows *Glee* and *American Idol* will find a kindred spirit in Anya as she works to make her theatrical dream come true. <>

Education & Learning / Pre-K

[Building on Emergent Curriculum](#): The Power of Play for School Readiness by Sarah Taylor Vanover (Gryphon House)

Children are expected to read, write, count, and sit still at younger and younger ages. As these unrealistic expectations mount, family members and teachers alike continue to believe that these activities will prepare young children for school. But there is a better way – one that helps children build school readiness through developmentally appropriate activities. Best of all? The children can have fun!

[Building on Emergent Curriculum](#) guides preschool teachers to tap into young children's natural inclination for play to build their skills, promote their development, and, ultimately, prepare them for elementary school. Author Sarah Taylor Vanover demonstrates that playtime is full of rich, interdisciplinary opportunities to teach children new ideas and help them develop new skills.

Vanover, currently the director of the Division of Child Care for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, has over 20 years of experience in early childhood as an assistant teacher, lead teacher, program administrator, trainer, and classroom teaching coach. She has worked at the state level to assist with policy development and to supervise early childhood trainers throughout Kentucky.

Readers discover key early learning concepts in **[Building on Emergent Curriculum](#)**, including:

- How to incorporate social responsibility.
- Why traditional theme-based units don't work.
- What school readiness really looks like.
- How to recognize and capitalize on the many teachable moments that arise during play.
- Ways to train teachers and involve families in emergent curriculum.
- Tips to help children develop crucial social-emotional, handwriting and problem-solving skills – all while having fun.

Vanover says her goal is to show readers how to teach. They learn how to use emergent curriculum to create project-based activities that use play as the primary classroom learning tool. They find out how both teachers and students benefit from following the children's interests when creating lesson plans and setting up classroom environments. They discover how to observe, learn about, and plan according to students' interests and abilities instead of merely reusing the same lesson plans and materials every school year.

[**Building on Emergent Curriculum**](#) shows readers how children can experience deep learning in the classroom without creating physical products. They explore new ways to document children's learning and how to help families develop new expectations for that learning. When adults make these changes, preschoolers can experience deep learning that will help them develop into curious, motivated, and articulate thinkers who are ready for kindergarten.

So play and learning aren't mutually exclusive. [**Building on Emergent Curriculum**](#) helps readers give preschoolers a solid foundation for elementary school while they do what children do best: play. <>

History / Steamboats / Gold Rush / Alaska / Canada

[**The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers**](#): A History of Yukon River Steam Navigation by Robert D. Turner (Harbour Publishing)

[**The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers**](#) is a meticulously researched and illustrated volume of Yukon and Alaska history, from Alaska's Bering Sea to the Yukon's Klondike and the headwaters of the Yukon River in British Columbia. Based on countless hours of field and archival research and packed with over six hundred outstanding photographs, the book presents the fascinating history of the Yukon River's steamers from the pioneer days of the fur trade to the 1950s.

Author Robert D. Turner tells the dramatic story of these amazing steamboats, the people who built and ran them and the services they provided to a sometimes frenzied and always challenging frontier. Turner is a retired heritage consultant and a curator emeritus at the Royal British Columbia Museum. He has traveled widely around the

world photographing the last steam railways and early industries while documenting the people, places and stories of this disappearing history and culture.

As told in [The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers](#), for about 60 years, steamers were the most important form of transportation for the vast region along the course of the Yukon River, through parts of Alaska, the Yukon, and all the way to the headwaters in distant British Columbia. The first steamer made its appearance on the Yukon River in 1866 or 1867, but their heyday didn't come until the great Klondike Gold Rush began in 1896. Within two years, thousands of prospectors, speculators and people from countless walks of life descended on the Klondike from far and wide, seeking their fortunes. Some miners came by steamer all the way up the Yukon River through Alaska from St. Michael. Others climbed the famed Chilkoot Pass or White Pass to the headwaters of the Yukon and took a steamer downstream to the Klondike. From Dawson City and the Klondike in the Yukon, then on to Nome and Fairbanks in Alaska, the gold rush stampede came.

Over 250 steamboats ran on the Yukon River and its tributaries, and they, as well as their crews and owners, became some of the enduring personalities from those exciting years on the great river. The steamboats were well-designed for their task: they would have to operate through shallow and fast-flowing waters, and avoid getting stuck for days at a time, if the waters got too low, with luck and a skillful crew.

After the rushes, most were part of the fleets of the White Pass & Yukon Route or the Alaska Railroad and they carried hundreds of tourists and many tons of wartime supplies. The last ones were retired in the mid-1950s. Many were wrecked, while others were simply abandoned and left to rot away.

*This book is a master work and the definitive resource for the subject.
Highly recommended. – David Rahn and David R. Conn, Western Mariner
Magazine*

While only the Klondike, Keno and Nenana have been preserved, [The Klondike Gold Rush Steamers](#) tells the dramatic story of many of these amazing steamboats, their builders and crew, and the services they provided to a vast, lonely frontier. Featuring over 600 photos and based on countless hours of field and archival research, the book provides the full history of the Yukon River steamers. <>

Deeds Not Words: Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage by Sandra Sider & Pamela Weeks (Schiffer Publishing Ltd.)

Deeds Not Words is an unusually creative honoring of the 19th Amendment's centennial – it was ratified August 18, 1920. Twenty-nine award-winning textile artists from across the United States each crafted a quilt celebrating women's suffrage.

Authors are Sandra Sider and Pamela Weeks. Sider is the editor of *Art Quilt Quarterly* and is curator of the Texas Quilt Museum. Weeks is curator of the New England Quilt Museum and a quilter, fiber artist, and quilt historian.

The dazzlingly varied, sometimes troubling, always inspiring artworks in **Deeds Not Words** reflect the long and continuing fight for equal rights for all. Introductions summarize the history of women's suffrage, a more complicated subject than one might think; then dozens of art quilts continue the learning. Male artists are included to acknowledge the support of many men for women's suffrage, and African American artists and suffragists are recognized as well.

After considering a juried exhibition, Sider and Weeks say they decided instead to invite award-winning artists from across the United States, each to make a quilt celebrating women's suffrage. The artists chose their own topics, without any censorship; Sider and Weeks asked only that no two artists honor the same suffragist. The **Deeds Not Words** exhibition presents twenty-eight art quilts by twenty-nine artists (the Pixeladies being a collaborative duo). Included are two essays, one on the quilts and the other on women's suffrage.

By quoting their words and reproducing their portraits, approximately half of the **Deeds Not Words** quilts honor a specific suffragist, some more famous than others and some quite controversial, with the portraits ranging from actual photographic reproductions to Sojourner Truth interpreted by Therese May as a dynamic twenty-first-century figure. The suffragists were revolutionaries, occasionally sacrificing their reputations and freedom. They were the original 'nasty' women, with the *New York Times* in 1906 derisively commenting, "Suffragette (Strix Flagitans): A woman who ought to have more sense." That Latin phrase, coined by a male journalist, means 'demanding screecher.' Because 'suffragette' was meant to be a demeaning term at the time, Weeks and Sider are using the term 'suffragist' throughout **Deeds Not Words**.

Several of the artists chose to celebrate a suffragist whose name they remembered from history lessons, while others felt a more personal relationship with their subjects. Arturo Alonzo Sandoval, for example, was inspired by a friend who is the daughter of an

African-American suffragist; Martha Wolfe studied Sara Bard Field, who road-tripped from San Francisco to Washington, DC, collecting signatures for women's suffrage; North Carolina artist Hollis Chatelain honors Gertrude Neil; Chicago artist Laura Wasilowski celebrates Jane Addams; Alice Beasley's quilt depicts the courageous Ida B. Wells; Robin Schwalb was drawn to Amelia Bloomer and her fashion radicalism; and Jill Kerttula's multipart quilt reminds readers that Belva Lockwood in 1884 ran for president, even though she herself was not permitted to vote.

Other artists in [Deeds Not Words](#) focus on group activities and issues involving women's rights, such as Jayne Gaskins's piece about the road to legislation, with a nod to #MeToo, and suffragist demonstrations depicted by Patricia Kennedy-Zafred. The two-part quilt by Caryl Bryer Fallert-Gentry includes a fabric panel that can be lifted to reveal a list of notable 'first ladies' and their achievements, of which Sider's personal favorite is Sally Ride, the first American woman in outer space and a role model to girls everywhere. Teresa Barkley references suffragist activities during the Boston Tea Party centennial, an example of how suffragists were successfully publicizing their cause.

While the majority of quilts in [Deeds Not Words](#) are two-dimensional wall art, three works are more sculptural. Susan Lenz created a folding diptych for Lucy Stone, inspired by her image in daguerreotype and impressed by the fact that she refused to relinquish her surname upon marriage – for which she and her husband wrote their own vows. John Lefelhocz's mixed-media quilt with backlighting stands approximately 3 inches deep, with an interactive feature allowing viewers to change the lighting by the 'deed' of moving around – Clara Foltz is interpreted by Maria Billings as a pillar of her community, and the entire quilt can be curved outward from the wall to create a semicolumnar form.

Except for Adrienne Yorinks, all the artists created original quilts specifically for this exhibition. Yorinks graciously allowed Sider and Weeks to include her 1995 quilt Resistance to Tyranny Is Obedience to God, which was juried into the 1997 Quilt National exhibition. She made this quilt to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of women's suffrage after visiting Women's Rights National Park in Seneca Falls, New York, the location of the first Woman's Rights Convention and the 1848 signing of the Declaration of Sentiments supporting women's suffrage. Yorinks reproduced that historic text in her photomontage quilt.

[Deeds Not Words](#) is a creative honoring of the 19th Amendment's centennial that everyone interested in equal rights for all is sure to find intriguing. Each quilt rewards readers upon close inspection with pictorial and textual messages occasionally embedded in the stitching. <>

Observational Sketching: Hone Your Artistic Skills by Learning How to Observe and Sketch Everyday Objects by Mariko Higaki (Rockport Publishers)

Readers can learn to draw by sketching what surrounds them everyday. In

Observational Sketching, author Mariko Higaki – an ISDA Gold Award-winning industrial designer based in Japan – teaches readers how to practice and learn to sketch by using well-established observational techniques.

Perspective, proportion, lines, shapes, shading, and many other techniques can be learned through everyday practice and observation of the items readers come in contact with everyday, from a backpack to their sunglasses. This book addresses how to approach sketching a range of shapes and materials and how to disassemble each object to accurately capture its unique design elements. Inspiration and examples from Higaki and other well-known artists accompany various projects that readers can try right away. **Observational Sketching** includes:

- An introduction to observational sketching.
- The basic concepts and tools used in observational sketching.
- Observation techniques.
- Illustrated step-by-step instructions for creating observational sketches of 20 common objects, from a alarm clock to a wooden stool.

Organized into four key chapters, **Observational Sketching** addresses how to visually deconstruct each object in order to accurately capture its unique design elements, and presents a variety of skill-building projects that readers can use to strengthen their ability. The four chapters are:

- The Appeal of Observational Sketching. Readers gain insights and inspiration from examples by noted designers and artists who use the featured techniques in their everyday drawing practice.
- Fundamentals of Sketching You Can Use Right Away. Readers discover the basics of drawing – such as line, shape, proportion, and perspective – along with strategic advice for making the process enjoyable, even if they are just getting started.
- How to Observe. Readers learn about the methods and materials that are used to make everyday objects, including detailed guidelines on evaluating and depicting plastic, glass, wood, metal, and fabric.
- Let's Do Some Observational Sketching. Readers consider the basic flow of steps – finding subject matter, making notes, rough sketching, and finishing – and follow illustrated step-by-step instructions and tips for creating observational sketches of common objects.

Readers sharpen their drawing skills and explore the design, structure, and a range of shapes and materials for all kinds of objects with **Observational Sketching**. The book

helps readers communicate the joys they find in their everyday surroundings. They learn to hone their artistic skills with daily sketching practice. Whether they are urban sketchers or industrial designers, this book should be part of their reference collection.

<>

Literature & Fiction / Mysteries / Cozies

[The Patterdale Plot](#) by Rebecca Tope (Lake District Mysteries Series: Allison & Busby)

Rebecca Tope is the author of three bestselling crime series, set in the stunning Cotswolds, Lake District and West Country. She lives on a smallholding in rural Herefordshire, where she enjoys the silence and plants a lot of trees, but also manages to travel the world and enjoy civilization from time to time. Many of her varied experiences and activities find their way into her books, sooner or later.

In [The Patterdale Plot](#) Persimmon 'Simmy' Brown had hoped that her autumn would be less frantic than usual to give her a chance to enjoy her pregnancy, her upcoming nuptials, and some time looking for a new house in the Patterdale area of the Lake District. But it is not to be ...

Simmy's ideas of a quiet run-up to Christmas are dashed when one of the lodgers at her parents' Bed and Breakfast dies in her arms after seemingly being poisoned. It is clear the victim had some connection to a controversial new building project near Patterdale. In [The Patterdale Plot](#) Simmy soon becomes embroiled in a complex investigation, headed up by her friend DI Moxon, as the nights grow darker and a killer roams free.

Other books in the **Lake District Mysteries Series** include:

- *The Windermere Witness*
- *The Ambleside Alibi*
- *The Coniston Case*
- *The Troutbeck Testimony*
- *The Hawkshead Hostage*
- *The Bowness Bequest*
- *The Staveley Suspect*
- *The Grasmere Grudge*

Other series by Tope include:

- **The Cotswold Mysteries**
- **The West Country Mysteries**

Bringing characters to life is clearly one of the author's great strengths ... beautiful and well-evoked surroundings, emphasis on solving a puzzle, characters it's easy to warm to ... a cracking good read – Mystery People

A good plot with oodles of atmosphere makes this a real page-turner – Bookbag

Rich in psychological insight ... Tope is particularly skilled in creating interesting and unique characters – Deadly Pleasures

With evocative settings, sympathetic characters and a mystery to solve, what's not to love in [The Patterdale Plot?](#) <>

Philosophy / Biographies & Memoirs / History

[Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) (2019) by Andrew S. Curran (Other Press)

Named Best Book of the Year by Kirkus Reviews in 2019, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) is a spirited biography of the prophetic and sympathetic philosopher who helped build the foundations of the modern world.

Denis Diderot (1713-1784) is often associated with the decades-long battle to bring the world's first comprehensive *Encyclopédie* into existence. But his most daring writing took place in the shadows. Thrown into prison for his atheism in 1749, Diderot decided to reserve his best books for posterity – for us, in fact. In the astonishing cache of unpublished writings left behind after his death, Diderot challenged virtually all of his century's accepted truths, from the sanctity of monarchy, to the racial justification of the slave trade, to the norms of human sexuality. One of Diderot's most attentive readers during his lifetime was Catherine the Great, who not only supported him financially, but invited him to St. Petersburg to talk about the possibility of democratizing the Russian empire.

In this thematically organized biography, Andrew S. Curran vividly describes Diderot's tormented relationship with Rousseau, his curious correspondence with Voltaire, his passionate affairs, and his often iconoclastic stands on art, theater, morality, politics, and religion. But what [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) brings out most brilliantly is how the writer's personal turmoil was an essential part of his genius and his ability to flout taboos, dogma, and convention.

Curran is the William Armstrong Professor of the Humanities at Wesleyan University, and a Fellow in the history of medicine at the New York Academy of Medicine and a Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

Although he had many followers, including Catherine the Great, Diderot chose, probably wisely, to record some of his most provocative thoughts in unpublished novels. Author Curran uncovers these writings for us, sifting through Diderot's thoughts and arguments, adding context, and sweeping us up in Diderot's words, his times, and his ideas. It is a relatively fun read and a fascinating journey. For a philosopher living during the Enlightenment, Denis Diderot sure was a Renaissance man. – Chris Schluep, Amazon Book Review

Engrossing... a narrative sustained with appealing clarity and energy... readers of this biography are likely to be impressed by the scope of Diderot's thought and by his courage. – Washington Post

Making sense of these mercurial works is not easy, and situating them in such a life as Diderot's is even more challenging, so it is remarkable that... Curran succeeds admirably in both regards... the most accessible version of the life and work of this protean figure... excellent. – New York Review of Books

Curran does a terrific job of sorting through the crazily complicated history of the Encyclopédie's publication... [a] revivifying new book. – The New Yorker

[The Encyclopédie's] publication history is elegantly untangled by Mr. Curran, whose clear style and interest in the psychology of it all transforms it into a lively narrative... you are bound to be exhilarated by [Diderot's] creativity. – Wall Street Journal

A clear and compelling account of this magnificent but mercurial thinker... With confidence and care, Curran traces Diderot's breathtaking intellectual itinerary... cogent and insightful. – Los Angeles Review of Books

[A] marvelous account of the philosophe's life and work. But this is much more than a biography, as Curran renders in vivid detail the social and intellectual life of eighteenth-century France... Readers will be left with a new appreciation for Diderot. – Publishers Weekly, starred review

A lively biography... An intellectually dense and well-researched yet brisk journey into one of history's most persuasive dissenters. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Absorbing... In this extremely well-written biography, Curran vividly portrays Diderot as a brilliant man filled with contradictions and passions who acted as a central figure in the advancement of intellectual freedom. – BookPage, starred review

This enjoyable biography of French philosopher Denis Diderot (1713-1784) engages with the life of this man who was imprisoned for his atheism – and

with his ideas, which brashly challenged beliefs about religion, race, royalty, sex and morality. – Newsday

As befits the biography of an author who labored to make his treatment of ponderous philosophical questions as amusing as possible, [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) entertains... More than a biography, it constitutes a stepping stone into the French Enlightenment. – History Today

*One of the most creative and intriguing thinkers of eighteenth-century France comes to life in Andrew Curran's new biography of Denis Diderot. In this bibliographical tour de force, Curran shows us a protean writer who stands for the French Enlightenment, an age whose greatest writers took up the challenge – and embraced the pleasure – of 'thinking freely.' Rigorously researched and engagingly written, Curran's book deftly paints the vivid picture of a multi-faceted and daring thinker who constantly raised essential questions about what it means to be human. – Daniel Brewer, author of *The Enlightenment Past: Reconstructing Eighteenth-Century French Thought**

*A thrilling narrative that grants the reader an intimate look at Diderot's life and intellectual development. Its impish tone and conversational quality remind us of those 'fireplace conversations' that Diderot saw as one of life's greatest pleasures. – Elena Russo, author of *Styles of Enlightenment**

Thoroughly researched, this fascinating, lucid, and entertaining biography paints a vivid picture of the daring free thinker, Denis Diderot. Readers of [Diderot and the Art of Thinking Freely](#) are taken on a journey through the intellectual life of 18th century France by one of its most persuasive dissenters – a central figure in the advancement of intellectual freedom. <>

Politics / Communication

[Beyond Contempt](#): How Liberals Can Communicate Across the Great Divide (2020) by Erica Etelson (New Society Publishers)

[Beyond Contempt](#) is for liberals and progressives who want to be able to communicate with the tens of millions of Americans who approve of Donald Trump and some or all of the views he represents. If readers have been avoiding Trump supporters since 2016 or have an outrage hangover, this book is for them.

Liberal and progressive frustration, grief, and alarm over Trump's destructive political agenda and behavior have prompted mounting disdain for Trump supporters and other conservatives. This reaction is contributing to political polarization and unwittingly serving to strengthen Trump's hand as he sows divisiveness and hatred. [Beyond Contempt](#) teaches liberals how they can talk with, and listen to, Trump supporters without blowing a fuse.

Author Erica Etelson shows readers how to communicate respectfully, passionately, and effectively across the political divide without soft-pedaling their beliefs. Etelson is a writer, community activist, and certified Powerful Non-Defensive Communication (PNDC) facilitator. A former human rights attorney, she has advocated in support of welfare recipients, prisoners, indigenous peoples, immigrants, and environmental activists.

Using PNDC skill sets, readers can express themselves in ways that inspire open-minded consideration instead of triggering defensive reaction. Providing detailed instruction and dozens of examples of how to discuss hot button topics, [Beyond Contempt](#) is a guide to productive dialogue that can defuse hostility, build trust, and open hearts and minds in unexpected ways.

Etelson says that [Beyond Contempt](#) represents her personal choice in how to communicate with people whose beliefs she views as harmful, dangerous, or irrational. As an able-bodied, white, straight, financially secure, native-born, Jewish woman, she says she is safe from many of the threats Trump has ramped up. This book is an invitation, not a prescription.

The first half of the book delves into the dynamics of contempt, how and why it arises, and how people respond to being treated with contempt. Etelson shows how contempt toward Trump voters often goes hand in hand with indifference toward the well-being of faltering white working-class communities. If, after reading the first three chapters of [Beyond Contempt](#), readers believe that scolding and scolding Trump supporters is counterproductive, then the second half of the book invites them to try a different mode of expression.

Several years ago, Etelson says she chanced upon the work of Sharon Strand Ellison, creator of a novel communication approach called Powerful Non-Defensive Communication (PNDC). Ellison has trained thousands of educators, attorneys, government officials, and corporate and nonprofit leaders. She has worked extensively with Ellison to apply PNDC to the current political divide. Much of the material in the second half of the book comes courtesy of Ellison's genius in phrasing questions and statements in ways that can open hearts and minds or, at least, not seal them shut.

Beyond Contempt is not a call for genteel manners or meekness. It's an invitation to reclaim and reimagine a democratic notion of civility that facilitates public discourse through listening, understanding, and deliberating.

Whether you're debating a talk show host, co-worker, or "Fox addicted" Uncle Ralph at Thanksgiving, this book will teach you how to reach people's minds and hearts without wounding them in ways that produce the opposite result you wanted. Brilliant!! – Thom Hartmann, NY Times bestselling author and America's #1 progressive talk show host

*Read this book! Connection is the deep strategy for winning in politics... and in life. **Beyond Contempt** shows us ways to align our communication style with our values of inclusion, open-mindedness, and kindness.* – Joan Blades, co-founder, Living Room Conversations, MomsRising, and MoveOn.org

*... The extremely illustrative and practical suggestions in the second half of the book about what folks can do is wonderful. The book helped improve both my thinking about the divide and the language that I will use when trying to nudge other progressives toward greater compassion and effectiveness. **Beyond Contempt** is an excellent resource for any liberal who wants to heal our divided nation or to pursue the goal of becoming more persuasive with conservatives.* – David Campt, principal, The White Ally Toolkit, an initiative of The Dialogue Company

Beyond Contempt carries a profound message that is beyond the scope of any brand of partisan politics. It is a map for how to create sustainable societal change from a place of integrity that aligns with the kind of world we want to create. – Fareen Jamal, lawyer, accredited mediator, past chair, Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Family Law Section, 2014 OBA Heather MacArthur Memorial Young Lawyers Award

Erica Etelson has the courage to hold up the mirror – first, to look at herself with unflinching honesty, and then to invite the rest of us to see how our disdain exacerbates the divide. She does not stop there, thankfully, but goes on to offer us a solution – a tool for changing our attitude so that we can be curious, direct, true to ourselves, and kinder to others. Erica Etelson can be our guide back to humanity. I hope you will take the mirror, and then follow her lead. – Carolyn Wilkes Kaas, associate dean, Experiential Education, co-director, Center on Dispute Resolution, Quinnipiac University School of Law

In a political environment marred by Trump's extreme impropriety, it's easy for progressives to lose sight of our own role in deepening the divide.

[Beyond Contempt](#) shows us why treating all people with respect is essential to our democracy and the key to building a winning coalition for 2020 and beyond. – Karin Tamerius, MD, founder, Smart Politics

A must-have guide to productive dialogue, [Beyond Contempt](#) is an invitation to learn how to communicate across the great divide with integrity, passion, and compassion. It shows readers how to imbue their words with the power to defuse hostility, build connection, and, just maybe, discover that somewhere in the great divide there exists an island of common ground where they can break bread together as fallible, complicated humans. <>

Psychology / Counseling / Relationship-Building

[What Works with Teens](#): A Professional's Guide to Engaging Authentically with Adolescents to Achieve Lasting Change (2015) by Britt H. Rathbone MSSW LCSW-C & Julie B. Baron MSW LCSW-C, with a foreword by Rosalind Wiseman (New Harbinger Publications, Inc.)

In [What Works with Teens](#) two clinical social workers offer clinicians, educators, coaches, and other youth counselors the first professional book that focuses on engaging authentically with teens in order to create lasting change.

If readers are clinicians working with teens, they know teens are notoriously challenging to communicate with. And when they are resistant to help, they may respond by acting defiant, guarded, defensive, rude, or even outright hostile. In turn, clinicians may respond by reasserting their authority – resulting in an endless power struggle. So how can they break the cycle and start connecting?

Authors of [What Works with Teens](#) are Britt H. Rathbone and Julie B. Barron. Rathbone, MSSW, LCSW-C, is an expert in adolescent mental health, and has worked exclusively with adolescents and their families. He has worked in many settings, including urban programs for at-risk youth, nonprofit agencies, juvenile justice, and schools. Rathbone is currently the director of a private practice specializing in adolescent mental health issues. Baron, MSW, LCSW-C, is a licensed clinical social worker with expertise in treating adolescents and their families. As a school counselor, she developed and implemented comprehensive programming toward creating and maintaining safe and respectful learning communities. Baron provides individual, group, and family therapy – as well as school advocacy services at Rathbone and Associates in Rockville, MD.

In [**What Works with Teens**](#), readers discover the core skills that research shows underlie all effective work with teens. They learn how to engage authentically with teens, create an atmosphere of mutual respect, and use humor to establish a deeper connection. Many books offer evidence-based approaches to treating teens, but very little information on how to establish and maintain a productive working relationship. This is the first trans-therapeutic book (2015) to provide real tools for creating a positive relationship with teens to help bolster effective treatment.

Rathbone and Baron are exceedingly talented clinicians who really ‘get’ teens, and who are well grounded in current thinking about the adolescent brain and teen development. This outstanding book artfully presents their knowledge and clinical wisdom to professionals who work with adolescents. The strong emphasis the authors place on trust, authenticity, acceptance, and respect in dealing with teens is equally relevant to teachers, therapists, counselors, and physicians, all of whose work with young people will be elevated if they study this book. – William R. Stixrud, PhD, director of The Stixrud Group, and assistant professor of psychiatry, behavioral sciences, and pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

*[**What Works with Teens**](#) is a gift to clinicians – simply a must-read! Offering tremendous insight into the world of the adolescent and adolescent brain, it invites clinicians to thoughtfully approach their work with teens and, in particular, how to facilitate a meaningful and effective relationship. Based on science and the authors’ clear mastery of treating teens, this book provides a comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of what is needed for successful work with teenagers. Presented in a clear and engaging manner, [**What Works with Teens**](#) will leave the clinician prepared and inspired. – Bonnie Zucker, PhD, psychologist, author of *Anxiety-Free Kids* and *Take Control of OCD*, and coauthor of *Resilience Builder Program for Children and Adolescents**

*[**What Works with Teens**](#) is a must-read for most any adult working with adolescents in the course of his or her day. Supported by both recent research literature and a variety of real-life examples, the essential ingredients and necessary frame of mind required to work successfully with adolescents is clearly laid out. Although I have been in clinical practice for nearly thirty years, I relearned important lessons and gained new perspective on my work with teens when reading this book. I will keep my copy close at hand, as it will remain a valuable reference for years to come. – Lance D. Clawson, MD, child and adolescent psychiatrist*

and distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

*Baron and Rathbone illustrate a profound understanding of one of our most misunderstood clinical populations – adolescents. [What Works with Teens](#) provides the field of youth service workers with poignant insights into the transforming physical, neurological, social, and cognitive world of teens, providing us a firm foundation and effective tools with which to build our support given our unique roles. The authors' candid, realistic engagement strategies will empower all of us to feel the inspiration and passion to join adolescents along this tumultuous and exciting journey of self-exploration and identity development. When in doubt, pull this book from your shelf, and stay engaged! – Debbie B. Riley LCMFT, CEO, Center for Adoption Support and Education, and coauthor of *Beneath the Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens**

*Rathbone and Baron have written an eminently readable and practical guide for working compassionately and mindfully with troubled teens. In this book, you will find a toolbox overflowing with wonderful, evidence-based strategies for establishing – and maintaining – an authentic and transformative connection with even the most challenging adolescents. – Martha B. Straus, PhD, professor of clinical psychology at Antioch University New England and author of *Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Intervention and Hope**

Anyone who works with teens should read [What Works with Teens](#). Whether readers have a background in cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), psychotherapy, or any other treatment background, if they are looking for more effective ways to connect with teens and are ready for a program that really works, [What Works with Teens](#) is a vital addition to their professional libraries. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Consciousness Studies

[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife](#): A Doctor Reviews the Case for Consciousness after Death, 1st edition (2012) by Jean Jacques Charbonier (Inner Traditions)

[[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife](#)] will change your life! In the long term, it brings laughter, love, and joy to everyday life. And in facing life, it is easier to relax when you know that it will continue after the death of the

body. Only that which is essential – our consciousness, our knowledge, our capacity to love, and our loving connections – is carried over into the hereafter. – Oliver Chambon, psychiatrist and psychotherapist, from the preface

[**7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife**](#), (2012) is an uplifting study of the scientific evidence for the afterlife from an experienced anesthesiologist/intensive care physician.

Over the course of his 25-year career as an anesthesiologist and intensive care physician, Jean Jacques Charbonier, M.D., gathered hundreds of accounts of patients who returned from clinical death. Across all of these accounts – from patients with vastly different backgrounds – Charbonier found striking similarities as well as indisputable proof that these experiences were more than hallucinations.

He surveyed other physicians, nurses, and professional caregivers and discovered that their patients described the same experiences as well as exhibited the same positive life transformations afterward. Igniting a scientific quest to learn more, he collected more accounts of near-death experiences as well as out-of-body experiences, attended dozens of sessions with mediums, experimented successfully with electronic communication with the deceased (EVP), interviewed hundreds of people who have cared for the dying, and gathered countless inexplicable stories of 'signs' from the afterlife. With each experience he studied, he found himself more firmly believing in the survival of consciousness beyond death.

In [**7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife**](#) Charbonier distills his findings into 7 reasons to believe in the afterlife, beginning with the more than 60 million people worldwide who have reported a transcendent afterlife experience. He refutes the standard objections of doubters and materialists point by point, citing scientific research on NDEs and the work of pioneers in the field of consciousness studies such as Raymond Moody and Pim van Lommel.

Oliver Chambon in the preface says Charbonier, writing in a lively, easy-to-read style, and taking into account the latest scientific discoveries, shows readers just how important it is to reconsider their point of view about death. In [**7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife**](#), readers learn that the best reason for believing in the hereafter arises from the fact that the hypothesis of life after death is now much more valid than the opposite materialist view that affirms that after death there is nothing. The good doctor bases his position on data collected from numerous scientific studies carried out over the last thirty-five years.

At last, a summary of NDE research and phenomena from someone on the front line of life and death, an intensive care physician. This book is fascinating and scientifically sound while also being easy to read, personable, and humorous. It should become a classic. – Manjir Samanta-

Laughton, M.D., award-winning international speaker and author of *Punk Science* and *The Genius Groove*

*It is very refreshing to see such an important subject as NDEs and end-of-life experiences being taken seriously by a very experienced intensive care doctor. This is an interesting book that highlights the need to acknowledge and incorporate spiritual aspects of life into patient care as well as the need for a new understanding of consciousness. – Penny Sartori, Ph.D., author of *The Wisdom of Near-Death Experiences**

[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife](#) presents seven perfect reasons to believe and to know that you are more than your body. Charbonier's book should be compulsory reading for every poor skeptic who still believes that he disappears when his brain stops. – Ervin Laszlo, author of *The Immortal Mind* and *Science and the Akashic Field*

*This wonderful book provides detailed accounts of a wide variety of diverse phenomena that all point in one direction – toward the survival of the mind, with its personality and memories intact, after the change called death. – Chris Carter, author of *Science and the Afterlife Experience**

*As a researcher in the field of near-death studies since 1978, I can say without hesitation that **[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife](#)** is exceptional. There is nothing else in the field quite like it. – P. M. H. Atwater, L.H.D., author of 11 books on her research findings including *Near-Death Experiences: The Rest of the Story*; *Future Memory*; *Dying to Know You*; *Proof of God in the Near-Death Experience**

[7 Reasons to Believe in the Afterlife](#) is lively, clear and convincing. It will become a reference work that will open minds and touch hearts in the public at large. Charbonier sets forth the facts as well as beautiful firsthand accounts, and he unravels the arguments of materialist detractors. <>

Science / Physics / Biographies & Memoirs

[Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#): A Father, a Daughter, the Meaning of Nothing, and the Beginning of Everything (2014) by Amanda Geffer (Bantam Books)

At a Chinese restaurant outside of Philadelphia, a father asks his fifteen-year-old daughter a deceptively simple question: "How would you define nothing?" With that,

the girl who once tried to fail geometry as a conscientious objector starts reading up on general relativity and quantum mechanics, as she and her dad embark on a life-altering quest for the answers to the universe's greatest mysteries.

As told in [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#), before Amanda Geffer became an accomplished science writer, she was a twenty-one-year-old magazine assistant willing to sneak her and her father, Warren, into a conference devoted to their physics hero, John Wheeler. Posing as journalists, the Geffers met Wheeler, who offered them cryptic clues to the nature of reality: The universe is a self-excited circuit, he said. And, the boundary of a boundary is zero. Baffled, Amanda and Warren vowed to decode the phrases – and with them, the enigmas of existence. When we solve all that, they agreed, we'll write a book.

Published in 2014, [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#) is that book, a memoir of the impassioned hunt that takes Amanda and her father from New York to London to Los Alamos. Along the way, they bump up against quirky science and even quirrier personalities, including Leonard Susskind, the former Bronx plumber who invented string theory; Ed Witten, the soft-spoken genius who coined the enigmatic M-theory; even Stephen Hawking.

What they discover is extraordinary: the beginnings of a monumental paradigm shift in cosmology, from a single universe we all share to a splintered reality in which each observer has her own. Reality, the Geffers learn, is radically observer-dependent, far beyond anything of which Einstein or the founders of quantum mechanics ever dreamed – with shattering consequences for our understanding of the universe's origin. And somehow it all ties back to that conversation, to that Chinese restaurant, and to the true meaning of nothing.

Geffer is a physics and cosmology writer and a consultant for *New Scientist* magazine, where she formerly served as books and arts editor and founded CultureLab. Geffer studied the history and philosophy of science at the London School of Economics and was a 2012-13 Knight Science Journalism Fellow at MIT.

Throughout their journey in [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#), Geffer struggles to make sense of her own life – as her journalism career transforms from illusion to reality, as she searches for her voice as a writer, as she steps from a universe shared with her father to at last carve out one of her own. It's a paradigm shift one might call growing up.

Nothing quite prepared me for this book. Wow. Reading it, I alternated between depression – how could the rest of us science writers ever match this? – and exhilaration. – Scientific American

A zany superposition of genres... It's at once a coming-of-age chronicle and a father-daughter road trip to the far reaches of this universe and 10,500 others. – The Philadelphia Inquirer

Geffer's wit, audacity, intelligence and irreverence, her wonderful relationship with her father, and fan photos of the two of them with famous physicists give the book heart. What gives it heft is Geffer's gift for reducing mind-blowing concepts... into plain English.... Try [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#). Geffer will take you on an outsider's tour of the universe's inside story, and you'll learn – and understand – more than you imagined you could. – Concord Monitor

In this mix of memoir and science, Geffer chronicles her quest to understand the big conundrums through study of the physics literature and meetings with remarkable theoreticians from John Archibald Wheeler to Lisa Randall. – Nature

Part science writing and part memoir, this adventurous fact-finding romp takes readers across the landscape of ideas about the universe.... [Geffer] is a crafty storyteller and journalist.... [She] makes even the most esoteric concepts – and there are a lot of them in this book – lucid and approachable.... What she discovered about the new frontier of quantum cosmology and the importance of the role of the individual observer is astonishing and awesome, and Geffer's book is a useful presentation of this thrilling ontological shift for a general audience. Beautifully written and hugely entertaining, this book is a heartfelt introduction to the many mind-bending theories in contemporary physics. – Kirkus Reviews, starred review This is the most charming book ever written about the fundamental nature of reality. Amanda Geffer sounds like your best friend telling you a captivating story, but really she's teaching you about some of the deepest ideas in modern physics and cosmology. [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#) is a delight from start to finish. – Sean Carroll, theoretical physicist and author of *The Particle at the End of the Universe*

Amanda Geffer is a remarkable explorer, and [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#) takes the reader on a journey into the unexpected. Follow this beautifully written quest as it leads you through the terrain of physics, of family, of history, and you will find yourself pondering all the roads that lead to a richer understanding of ourselves and our place in this endlessly strange and beautiful universe. – Deborah Blum, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York*

I devoured [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#) in a weekend, marveling at how the author went from being a coat-check girl at a Manhattan nightclub to going up against some of the greatest physicists alive and explaining their wild and deep ideas often better than they could – and wittily, too. – Jim Holt, New York Times bestselling author of *Why Does the World Exist?*

In a memoir of family bonding and cutting-edge physics, Geffer tells the story of how she conned her way into a career as a science journalist – and wound up hanging out, talking shop, and butting heads with the world's most brilliant minds.

Beautifully written and by turns hilarious, moving, irreverent, and profound, [Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn](#) weaves together story and science in remarkable ways. By the end, readers will never look at the universe the same way again. <>

Science / Physics / Gravity

[Topics on Strong Gravity](#): A Modern View on Theories and Experiments edited by Cesar Augusto Zen Vasconcellos (World Scientific Publishing Co. Ptc. Ltd.)

Albert Einstein's theory of General Relativity (GR) is the most successful and profound theoretical description of the gravitational interaction. For more than a century, our understanding of gravitational physics was based on it, as it fundamentally changed our understanding of the Universe, its origin, and its evolutionary process. General Relativity accurately describes a large number of phenomena on very different scales. As such, it has been very well tested and its remarkable predictions are compatible with most experimental and observational data. However, the observational and experimental results compatible with General Relativity fall in its vast majority under the weak gravitational field regime. In recent years, discrepancies between the data and the corresponding predictions of General Relativity have been observed and have generated intense research activity. One of the most critical aspects of General Relativity is the presence of singularities in extreme physical situations. These discrepancies indicate that either the parameters of the theory must be modified in the regime of strong field gravity/high energy and large space-time curvature, or the theory itself should be modified. [Topics on Strong Gravity](#), focuses its attention on extended alternative gravity theories and the best astrophysical laboratories to probe the strong field regime: black holes, pulsars, and neutron stars.

The editor of [Topics on Strong Gravity](#) is Cesar Augusto Zen Vasconcellos of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and the International Center for Relativistic Astrophysics Network Coordinating Center (ICRANet), Italy. The book has 15 contributors. <>

[Topics on Strong Gravity](#) concentrates attention on extended alternative theories of gravity and on the best astrophysical laboratories to probe the strong gravity-field regime: black holes, pulsars and neutron stars.

In Chapter 1, a few formal aspects about the main motivation of the book are presented. As stressed by C. Will, "General Relativity works very well for gravity of ordinary strength, the variety experienced by humans on Earth or by planets as they orbit the sun. But it's never been tested in extremely strong fields, regions that lie at the boundaries of physics." In this regime, General Relativity may exhibit a space-time singularity, i.e., a point in the fabric of space-time in which all physical laws are indistinguishable from one another and where space and time are no longer interrelated realities, but merge indistinguishably and cease to have any independent meaning.

In writing Chapter 2, Daniela Perez and Gustavo E. Romero outline predictions of two families of theories that deviate from General Relativity in different aspects: $f(R)$ -gravity and scalar-tensor-vector gravity (STVG). They discuss astrophysical effects in models based upon both matter and vacuum solutions. They also review black hole solutions and several astrophysical consequences of them, including accretion disks and jets. Finally, they report on the implications of the detection of various gravitational wave events for these theories.

Chapter 3, the contribution of Peter O. Hess and Thomas Boller, contains a review on the pseudo-complex General Relativity (pcGR) and its observational consequences. As an important aspect of their analysis, robust differences between the predictions of GR and pcGR are related to the description of structures formed by diffused material in orbital motion around a massive central body (accretion disks). The authors bring to [Topics on Strong Gravity](#) an interesting discussion about extremely relevant stellar objects in the study of the effects of strong gravity on matter, i.e., black holes.

In Chapter 4, William M. Spinella and Fridolin Weber focus their attention to other relevant stellar objects in the study of the effects of strong gravity on matter: neutron stars. In the first part of their contribution they present a review on the relativistic mean-field approximation for determining the equation of state of hadronic matter along with a number of associated nuclear parameterizations. Then, constraints on the neutron star equation of state from nuclear physics and neutron star observations are discussed and used to eliminate several popular nuclear parameterizations. Finally, the authors determine the hadronic equation of state with the inclusion of hyperons and systematically investigate the parameter space range of the meson-hyperon coupling constants.

In Chapter 5, Tomaso M. Belloni discusses important aspects about black holes binaries. Belloni presents a review about the current standpoint of black hole binaries from both

the observational and theoretical points of view. As a result of his analysis, black hole binaries emerge as the most promising laboratories for testing GR and the observations available today suggest that the next observational facilities can lead to a great development in this area of research.

In Chapter 6, Jose Antonio de Fheitas Pacheco approaches the topic of supermassive black holes, that is, the regime of extreme super-strong gravity. Two evolutionary scenarios are considered. The first one concerns massive black holes in the local universe, which in a large majority have been formed by the growth of seeds as their host galaxies are assembled in accordance with the hierarchical picture. In the second scenario, seeds with masses around 100-150 Mc grow by accretion of gas forming a non-steady massive disk, whose existence is supported by the detection of huge amounts of gas and dust in high-z quasars. These models of non-steady self-gravitating disks explain quite well the observed luminosity-mass relation of quasars at high-z, indicating also that these objects do not radiate at the so-called Eddington limit.

In Chapter 7, David Blaschke, David Edwin Alvarez-Castillo, Alexander Ayriyan, Hovik Grigorian, Noshad Khosravi Largani, and Fridolin Weber introduce an effective equation of state (EoS) model based on polytropes, which serves to study the so-called 'mass twins' scenario, where two compact stars have approximately the same mass but (significant for observation) quite different radii. Stellar mass twin configurations are obtained if a strong first-order phase transition occurs in the interior of a compact star. In the mass-radius diagram of compact stars, this leads to a third branch of gravitationally stable stars with features that are very distinctive from those of white dwarfs and neutron stars. This scenario opens a new door in the study of compact stars.

These chapters can contribute to broadening readers' vision on the central theme of [Topics on Strong Gravity](#). Readers will likely share the satisfaction the editor and contributors say they experienced as they organized the book. <>

Sports & Entertainment / Business & Economics / Organization & Management

Understanding Sport Organizations: Applications for Sport Managers, 3rd edition edited by Trevor Slack, with Terri Byers & Alex Thurston (Human Kinetics)

The classic groundbreaking text for understanding organizational theory in the sport industry is back in an extensively revised new edition. With an added emphasis on organizational behavior and practical applications of the theory, [Understanding Sport Organizations: Applications for Sport Managers, 3rd edition](#) provides a logical progression to understanding the many components of and processes in sport

organizations. Readers gain a strong theoretical foundation while learning how it applies within the context of the ever-changing field of sport management. In this *third edition* of [Understanding Sport Organizations](#), new chapters incorporate critical concepts that sport managers in the current era must be familiar with:

- Different policy types and the responses of sport organizations to policy
- Perspectives of marketing of sport and marketing through sport
- Control in sport organizations
- Sex and gender in sport organizations
- Volunteer management in sport
- Dimensions and assessment of governance in sport organizations
- Mental health difficulties and management strategies within sport environments
- Applying statistical analysis to support analytic decision making in sport
- Corporate social responsibility
- Procurement and sport organizations

To facilitate comprehension and application, each chapter opens with a list of key concepts and a real-world, contemporary scenario to demonstrate the relevance of theory and behavior in the sport industry. Time Out sidebars offer accounts from actual sport organization situations or from research findings to further illustrate issues being discussed. Chapter summaries and review questions are provided to stimulate discussion about the central issues from each chapter. Key Issues for Sport Managers boxes highlight how chapter content is applied at the level of sport manager, and closing Case for Analysis examples allow readers to directly apply information from each chapter.

Real-world examples throughout [Understanding Sport Organizations](#) provide opportunities for additional exploration and application of relevant concepts. Every chapter references key articles that build on the foundational framework presented and includes suggestions for further reading within general management and sport management literature.

Editor Trevor Slack was the Canada research chair of the International Institute for the Study of Sport Management at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He was editor of the *Journal of Sport Management* and the *European Journal of Sport Management*. Slack passed away in January 2016. Co-editors are Terri Byers and Alex Thurston. Byers is an associate professor at the University of New Brunswick, Canada. Alex Thurston completed his PhD in analysis of sport policy implementation and is currently teaching several modules across the sport management degrees at Loughborough University in the UK. The book has 19 contributors.

The purpose of the *first edition* of [Understanding Sport Organizations](#) was a modest attempt to demonstrate the importance of how the field of sport management should be informed by work in the broader field of management studies. The *first* and *second editions* of [Understanding Sport Organizations](#) became internationally recognized as the best sport management textbook by the scholarly community and beyond.

This *third edition* once again presents seminal works on various topics applicable to sport management, which are relevant to the field. In this edition, countless updated examples are presented to illustrate the relevance of those seminal theories in this much expanded field and an interdisciplinary approach – rather than a sole focus on organizational theory – is now required to make sense of a rapidly developing sport industry.

The backstory to this *third edition* of [Understanding Sport Organizations](#) is that Slack wanted to write a *third edition* of his groundbreaking textbook. The publisher wanted to produce a *third edition*. Students, academics, and practitioners alike, from all over the globe, frequently asked, "When's the next edition coming out? It's my go-to textbook." With the clear demand, the process of publishing a *third edition* commenced.

To maintain the quality and rigor of the previous two editions, Slack decided that it was best to make his third edition an edited textbook, bringing together experts to write several new chapters, while he updated those chapters that remained from the *second edition*. Once this *third edition* project was in motion, sadly, Slack's health rapidly deteriorated and he passed away. One of Slack's last wishes was that Byers and Thurston would see this project through to publication. In Slack's final keynote, his take-home message was, "Today, people who study the management of sport require knowledge in one or more of the following areas: political science, history, economics, gender studies, technology, and other subjects.... [We] must apply our knowledge and, in turn, help the field progress!" Readers will see in the table of contents of this *third edition* that these areas are covered. Readers will also notice that the book no longer places primary focus on organizational theory (as the first two editions did), because Slack recognized the importance of interdisciplinary research and how they should broaden the literature base they use. Since coming on board as coeditors, Byers and Thurston say they have found this a particularly difficult and complicated process in finalizing this *third edition* of [Understanding Sport Organizations](#).

This thorough presentation of subject matter guides readers to a greater and more practical understanding of core issues. Synthesizing modern conceptual and empirical research from many fields of management into a practical, engaging look at the sport management field, [Understanding Sport Organizations](#) is an invaluable resource for students and current practitioners alike. <>

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