

BOOK REVIEW DIGEST 2023

THE 1940S. a decade of modern British fiction; 368 p. 2022
Bloomsbury Academic

1. British history
 2. English fiction
 3. English literature
 4. Literature & society
 5. Nineteen forties
- ISBN 1350143014; 1350280615; 9781350143012
Hardcover; 9781350280618 Paperback

SUMMARY: “[T]his volume [in the Decades Series, edited by Philip Tew and Glyn White,] surveys and analyses...[1940s] fascinating diversity, from novels of the Blitz and the Navy to the rise of important new voices with its contributors exploring the work of influential women, Commonwealth, exiled, genre, avant-garde and queer writers.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Choice* v60 no8 p785 Ap 2023 M. E. Burstein

“The 1940s: A Decade of Modern British Fiction.” “This outstanding collection challenges the received view of the 1940s as ‘a self-contained decade’ (p. 5), a mere midway point. It grounds this period’s fiction in events such as the blitz...and in wartime publishing, transnational markets, and emigration. The editors provide socioeconomic context in their introduction, and ten essays follow. In the first, Ashley Maher surveys literary production, noting WW I-era modernism’s death and ‘the generative literary exchanges between metropolitan and late colonial authors’ (p. 49)... These richly detailed essays are followed by several useful time lines.”

50 YEARS OF MS. the best of the pathfinding magazine that ignited a revolution; 544 p. 2023 Alfred A. Knopf

1. Feminism—United States—History—20th century
2. Historical literature
3. Periodicals
4. Women—United States—History—20th century

ISBN 9780593321560 (hardcover)
LC 2022-017588

SUMMARY: Edited by Katherine Spillar, “here is the best reporting, fiction, and advertising, decade by decade, as well as the best photographs and features that reveal and reflect the changes set in motion by ‘Ms.’, along with the iconic covers that galvanized readers. Here are essays, profiles, conversations with and features by: Alice Walker, Cynthia Enloe, Pauli Murray,...and Joy Harjo, as well as fiction and poetry by Toni Morrison, Joyce Carol Oates,...and many others.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v120 no1 p4-6 S 1 2023 Donna Seaman

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no4 p82 Ap 2023 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no8 p99 Ag 2023 Rebekah Kati

REVIEW: *N Y Times Book Rev* p11 S 17 2023 ANNA HOLMES

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no30 p65 J1 24 2023

“50 Years of Ms.: The Best of the Pathfinding Magazine That Ignited a Revolution.” “[Katherine] Spillar, the executive editor of Ms. magazine, takes a lively and inspiring look at the pioneering feminist periodical. Debating in 1972 after a preview issue in New York magazine, Ms. ‘emerged to fill a gap between a determined, vibrant movement and the continued curtailment of women’s rights in virtually every aspect of American life.’ Each chapter of the book is devoted to one decade of the magazine’s existence, with short introductory essays contextualizing the periodical’s challenges and accomplishments.”

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ABBAS, FATIN. Ghost season; a novel; [by] Fatin Abbas 320 p. 2023 W W Norton & Co Inc

1. Historical fiction
 2. Man-woman relationships
 3. Sudanese Civil War, Sudan, 1983-2005
 4. Translators in literature
 5. Women filmmakers
- ISBN 1324001747; 9781324001744 Hardcover

SUMMARY: In this novel, by Fatin Abbas, “a mysterious burnt corpse appears one morning in Saraaya, a remote border town between northern and southern Sudan. For five strangers on an NGO compound, the discovery foreshadows trouble to come.... Amid the paradoxes of identity, art, humanitarian aid, and a territory riven by conflict, William, Layla, Dena, Alex, and Mustafa must forge bonds stronger than blood or identity.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no5/6 p44 N 1-15 2022 Michael Cart

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no15 p77 Ap 1 2023 Vanessa Denby

REVIEW: *Libr J* v147 no8 p63 Ag 2022 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no1 p81 Ja 2023 Sally Bissell

“Ghost Season: A Novel.” “The Second Sudanese Civil War forms the backdrop for this disturbing debut novel from Fatin Abbas, soon to be a professor of creative writing at MIT. Five disparate characters meet on an NGO compound in Saraaya, a village uneasily straddling north and south.... American surveyor Alex is remapping the area to reflect changes in grazing and agricultural landscapes, a result of global warming. William, a multilingual member of the southern Nilote tribe, serves as guide and translator, while Layla, from an impoverished family of northern nomads, cooks for the group and mothers 11-year-old Mustafa.... Prickly Sudanese American filmmaker Dena completes this motley crew, each searching for fulfillment in one of the most volatile areas on the continent.”

REVIEW: *N Y Times Book Rev* p18 F 5 2023 SULAIMAN ADDONIA

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v269 no46 p64-5 N 7 2022

ABBO, HANNAH. il. The airport. See Walton, John

ABBOTT, MEGAN E., 1971-. Beware the woman; [by] Megan E. Abbott 304 p. 2023 G.P. Putnam’s Sons

1. Families
 2. Pregnancy
 3. Pregnant women
 4. Suspense fiction
 5. Upper Peninsula (Mich.)
 6. Women teachers
- ISBN 0593084934; 9780593084939 Hardcover

SUMMARY: In this book, by Megan Abbott, “Honey, I just want you to have everything you ever wanted. That’s what Jacy’s mom always told her. And Jacy felt like she finally did. Newly married and with a baby on the way, Jacy and her new husband, Jed, embark on their first road trip together to visit his father, Dr. Ash, in Michigan’s far-flung Upper Peninsula. The moment they arrive at the cottage snug within the lush woods, Jacy feels bathed in love by the warm and hospitable Dr. Ash.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no9/10 p5 Ja 1-15 2023 Susan Maguire

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no16 p22-3 Ap 15 2023 David Pitt

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no7 Ap 1 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no13 p40 Mr 27 2023

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REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no10 p35 Mr 6 2023

"Beware the Woman." "In this spine-tingling suspense yarn from Edgar Award winner [Megan] Abbott..., pregnant second grade teacher Jacy learns there's plenty she still doesn't know about her taciturn artist husband Jed or the family he rarely mentions—maybe a dangerous amount. The action unfolds during the couple's summer road trip from New York City to visit Jed's father, a retired physician, at his cottage on Michigan's remote Upper Peninsula. At first, Jacy feels transported by the surroundings and her father-in-law's near-courtly solicitousness. (His brusque caretaker, Mrs. Brandt, is a different story.) But things shift when Jacy has a miscarriage scare and, in the aftermath, Jed aligns with his father's alarmingly old-school notions about women and pregnancy."

ABBOTT, ZOEY. Banana; [by] Zoey Abbott 40 p. 2023 Tundra Books

1. Bananas 2. Children's stories 3. Distraction 4. Father-daughter relationship—Fiction 5. Picture books for children

ISBN 9780735271418 (hardcover)

LC 2022-932690

SUMMARY: In this picture book, by Zoey Abbott, "my dad is the best. We love hanging out together. Recently, he got this banana. At first, we had a great time with the banana—it does cool stuff and it's really fun. But lately he's spending too much time with the banana. He's distracted, and he's not enjoying the things he used to enjoy, like hanging out with me. I don't think this banana is good for him. It's time to take action." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v90 no24 D 15 2022

"Banana." "A child and their father are a perfect pair: 'I love my dad. He's the best at the pool. He rates my handstands. I rate his dives. We play shark games. When it's time to go home, I do Dad's hair.' But things change when the pair walk by a Banana store. Dad is transfixed by his new, seemingly magical Banana.... The acquisition changes the father, taking up more of his time. Finally frustrated, the child acts...by eating the banana. Dad throws a bit of a fit, but after some family time, the duo get back to the important things in life.... As an allegory for modern technology, the story is strong, reminding readers of all ages that useful electronic gadgets shouldn't take priority over daily social interactions."

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no4 p70 Ja 23 2023

"Banana." "What happens when a single father's obsession comes between him and his child? In a metaphorical picture book by [Zoey] Abbott..., the item is a growing oblong fruit. As the pages open, the white-presenting parent and child share wonderful times. After a swim at the pool, 'I do Dad's hair. Then he makes me into a burrito.' Loose pencil drawings and risograph printing tinted in reds, yellows, and blues give the pages a hand-crafted feel. When the two stop at a banana store one day and Dad 'cannot resist' a purchase, things are good for a while: 'We take the Banana everywhere,' the child says, as the two are shown feeding it a sandwich. But as the banana balloons to alarming proportions, Dad's attention is consumed by it."

ABDUL-AHAD, GHAITH. A stranger in your own city; travels in the Middle East's long war; [by] Ghaith Abdul-Ahad 320 p. 2023 Knopf

1. Factionalism (Politics) 2. History of Iraq
3. Shā'ah—Relations—Sunrites 4. Social science literature 5. War

ISBN 0593536886; 9780593536889 Hardcover

SUMMARY: This book, by Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, is the "journalist's powerful portrait of his native Baghdad, the people of Iraq, and twenty years of war.... This is the tale of a people who once lived under the rule of a megalomaniacal leader who shaped the state in his own image; a people who watched a foreign army invade, topple that leader, demolish the state, and then invent a new country; who experienced the horror of having their home fragmented into a hundred different cities." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no11 p15 F 1 2023 Brendan Driscoll

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no2 Ja 15 2023

"A Stranger in Your Own City: Travels in the Middle East's Long War." "A 'Guardian' correspondent and Iraqi native travels through the Middle East to attempt to make sense of an endless bloodbath. [Ghaith] Abdul-Ahad's account begins on a poignant note as he evokes a school photograph taken in 1991, just before the first Gulf War, that captures a group of early adolescent friends.... None live in Baghdad, so none are able to help in the author's quest to travel among contending groups. Nothing is quite as it seems, and certainly nothing is as pat as the Western experts tucked away in the Green Zone would have it. Many of Iraq's divisions are the result of European intrusions, but it goes much deeper.... The author also shows his people's astonishing capacity for suffering."

REVIEW: *Libr J* v147 no10 p113 O 2022 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *New Yorker* v99 no18 p59 Je 26 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no3 p65 Ja 16 2023

"A Stranger in Your Own City: Travels in the Middle East's Long War." "Journalist [Ghaith] Abdul-Ahad's kaleidoscopic and incisive debut recounts the 20 years since U.S.-led coalition forces took control of Baghdad. He begins with his childhood memories of Saddam Hussein ('the embodiment of our national narrative') pinning medals on the chests of his generals during the 1980s Iran-Iraq War and charts how sanctions imposed after the First Gulf War, combined with Hussein's corrupt patronage system, turned Iraq into 'a nation of hustlers.' In scenes of the chaotic 2003 takeover and its aftermath, Abdul-Ahad describes how Hussein's toppling unleashed sectarian wars between Iraq's Sunni and Shia factions, weakened democracy in the Middle East, and emboldened other dictators in the region."

REVIEW: *TLS. Times Lit Suppl* no6270 p24 Je 2 2023 Rasha Al Aqeedi

ABDULLAH, KIA. Perfectly nice neighbors; [by] Kia Abdullah 352 p. 2023 G.P. Putnam's Sons

1. Families 2. Mystery fiction 3. Neighbors 4. Racism
5. Suspense fiction

ISBN 0593713818; 9780593713815 Paperback

SUMMARY: In this book, by Kia Abdullah, "Salma Khatun is hopeful about Blenheim, the suburban development into which she, her husband, and their son have just moved. The Bangladeshi family needs a fresh start.... Soon after they move in, Salma spots her White neighbor, Tom Hutton, ripping out the anti-racist banner her son put in the front garden.... As racial and social tensions escalate and the stakes rise, it's clear that a reckoning is coming." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no22 p30-1 Ag 1 2023 Nanette Donohue

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no13 JI 1 2023

"Perfectly Nice Neighbors." "When the Bangladeshi Khatun family moves to [Blenheim,] a new London suburb, an incident with their white next-door neighbors escalates into tragedy and

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catastrophe.... Salma and Bilal Khatun have moved there out of concern for their 18-year-old son, Zain, who's gotten into trouble at school. At a May Day barbecue..., there are undertones of discomfort in the words of their mostly white neighbors... [T]hen Salma sees her next-door neighbor Tom Hutton deliberately knock over the Black Lives Matter banner they've displayed in their yard. She brings it inside and hangs it in the window—only to find the next morning that the pane has been painted over. When she confronts Tom and his pregnant wife, Willa,...things quickly get out of hand.”

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no4 p78 Ap 2023 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *N Y Times Book Rev* p24 S 17 2023 SHREYA CHATTOPADHYAY

ABDURRAQIB, HANIF, 1983-. tr. Motherfield. *See* Cimafiejeva, J.

ABE, JULIE. The charmed list; [by] Julie Abe 304 p. 2022 Wednesday Books

1. Automobile travel—Fiction 2. Fantasy 3. Fantasy fiction 4. Friendship—Fiction 5. Interpersonal relations—Fiction 6. Magic—Fiction

ISBN 9781250830098 (hardcover)
LC 2022-003292

SUMMARY: In this book, by Julie Abe, “Ellie Kobata...is part of a secret magical community.... The only person Ellie could fully relate to was Jack Yasuda—her childhood friend.... But before senior year, Ellie is ready to take some risks and have a life-changing summer, starting with her Anti-Wallflower List... [But i]nstead of spending her summer with Lia, Ellie finds herself stuck in a car with Jack driving to a magical convention.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *SLJ* v68 no8 p89-90 Ag 2022 Emma Carbone

“The Charmed List: A Novel.” “Ellie Kobata has been looking forward to her road trip for months, driving from Palo Alto to the California Magical Retailers’ Convention where magical merchants like Ellie’s parents can showcase their wares. Traveling with non-magic-aware best friend Lia poses some challenges, but Ellie is used to keeping magical secrets. She is excited to have Lia’s help knocking items off her Anti-Wallflower List which Ellie hopes will be able to change her quiet girl persona at school into someone more interesting to her classmates and herself. Ellie’s high hopes for the trip are dashed when item four—getting revenge on her ex-best-friend Jack Yasuda—goes horribly wrong, leaving Ellie grounded for the foreseeable future, in a fight with Lia.”

ABE, MOMOKO. il. The blue umbrella. *See* Davison, Emily Ann

ABEILLE, GIOVANNI. il. Rose spoke out. *See* Berne, Emma Carlson

ABEL, BARBARA. Mothers’ instinct; a novel of suspense; [by] Barbara Abel 304 p. 2023 HarperVia, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

1. Accidents 2. Children 3. Domestic fiction 4. Mother-son relationship 5. Neighbors 6. Revenge 7. Suspense fiction

ISBN 9780063306318 (trade paperback)
LC 2023-002213

SUMMARY: This book, by Barbara Abel, translated by Susan Pickford, “a dark, twisty domestic thriller in which the bond between two couples—best friends and next-door neighbors—mutates in dangerous and deadly ways in the wake of a tragic accident.... . Abel plunges into the deepest, darkest corners of her characters’ hearts and minds to explore the limits of friendship, the overwhelming power of maternal love, and how far hate, fear, and vengeance can drive us.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no8 Ap 15 2023

“Mothers’ Instinct.” “Next-door neighbors in a quiet French suburb, David and Laetitia Brunelle and Sylvain and Tiphaine Geniot are also inseparable friends. Both couples find out they are expecting within a few months of each other, and their children, Milo and Maxime, become best friends, too. Then, years later, a tragedy occurs and entirely destroys their lives and friendship. Maxime dies in an accident, causing resentment and tension between the families. When Milo begins to suffer from a series of mysterious accidents,...things begin to escalate, with each couple blaming the other for their misfortunes.... Though the premise is intriguing, the book lacks the tension and character development to hold a reader’s interest.”

ABEL, JENNY. Recalibrate your life; navigating transitions with purpose and hope; [by] Jenny Abel 256 p. 2023 IVP

1. Christian life 2. Christian literature 3. God 4. Life 5. Life cycle, Human—Religious aspects—Christianity 6. Religious literature

ISBN 9781514000724 (print)
LC 2022-038613

SUMMARY: In this book, “Ken Boa and Jenny Abel give us the perspective and practical tools needed to evaluate our God-given gifts, talents, skills, wisdom, knowledge, resources, and opportunities so we can use them to the full extent God desires. It involves an intentional recalibration and envisioning of one’s life based on God’s universal and unique purposes for each person as we move from the demands of our careers into a deeper sense of calling.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v269 no51 p124 D 5 2022

“Recalibrate Your Life: Navigating Transitions With Purpose and Hope.” “In this enlightening entry, [Kenneth] Boa...and [Jenny] Abel...offer Christians tools to assess and realign their lives. They contend that in order to reorient one’s life, one must view it from an ‘eternal perspective’ by recognizing the relative brevity of one’s time on Earth and thinking beyond “temporal” matters (which house to buy, which social group to join). This process can be intentional or spurred by an unanticipated life change, the authors note, but both involve considering long-term priorities and aligning one’s perspective to Godly principles.”

ABERG-RIGER, ARIEL. America redux; visual stories from our dynamic history; [by] Ariel Aberg-Riger 304 p. 2023 Balzer + Bray

1. Cultural history 2. Cultural identity 3. Culture 4. Historical literature 5. Young adult literature
- ISBN 9780063057531 (hardcover)
LC 2022-946682

SUMMARY: This book, by Ariel Aberg-Riger, “explores the themes that create our shared sense of American identity and interrogates the myths we’ve been telling ourselves for centuries.... Fully illustrated with collaged archival photographs, maps, documents, graphic elements, and handwritten text, this book is a dazzling, immersive experience that jumps around in

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time and will make you view history in a whole different light.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no17 p36 My 1 2023 Angela Leeper
“America Redux: Visual Stories from Our Dynamic History.”
“In this...[book, Ariel] Aberg-Riger assembles some of the stories U.S. history textbooks typically leave out. Iconic American catchphrases and myths give titles to 21 thematic chapters. ‘Traditional Family Values,’...begins with the Kansas Free Fair of 1920, which showcased livestock, washing machines, and Ferris wheels—in addition to holding best-families contests in the eugenics building. A candid overview of the American eugenics movement follows, highlighting how it targeted women of color and in poverty, especially through illegal sterilizations.... [T]he author...centers her discussions on the events’ effects on marginalized people and makes connections between familiar stories and often-untold truths.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no8 Ap 15 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no14 p72 Ap 3 2023

REVIEW: *SLJ* v69 no7 p83 Jl 2023 Karen T. Bilton

ABERG-RIGER, ARIEL. *il. America redux.* See Aberg-Riger, A.

ABINALES, PATRICIO N. *Modern Philippines*; [by] Patricio N. Abinales xviii, 401 p. 2022 ABC-CLIO, an imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC

1. Anthropology 2. Asian history 3. Geography 4. Social science literature

ISBN 9781440860041 (hardcover)
LC 2022-008079

SUMMARY: This book in the Understanding Modern Nations series, by Patricio N. Abinales, “explores the geography, history, and society of...[the Philippines, an] island nation. Thematic chapters examine topics such as government and politics, history, food, etiquette, education, gender, marriage and sexuality, media and popular culture, music, art, and more.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Choice* v60 no8 p776 Ap 2023 D. Ettinger
“Modern Philippines.” “Conceived of as an introductory text to the Philippines, this reference work sets out to cover a wide array of topics from history to social identities to food in enough detail for readers to gain a basic understanding of the country and begin further research on topics of interest. Though a weighty task, this text nevertheless succeeds at covering a large amount of information in a fairly brief amount of space. Chapters are structured thematically—e.g., ‘Government and Politics,’ ‘Languages,’ ‘Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality’—and are further subdivided into more focused topics of interest. Chapters can be read independently from one another, and individual subsections within chapters can also be referenced on their own.”

ABOULELA, LEILA. *River spirit*; [by] Leila Aboulela 400 p. 2023 Grove Press

1. Bildungsromans 2. Coming of age 3. Corruption in literature 4. Historical fiction 5. Young women

ISBN 9780802160669 (hardcover)
LC 2022-044365

SUMMARY: In this book, by Leila Aboulela, “when Akuany and her brother Bol are orphaned in a village raid in South Sudan, they’re taken in by a young merchant Yaseen who promises to care for them, a vow that tethers him to Akuany through their

adulthood. As a revolutionary leader rises to power—the self-proclaimed Mahdi, prophesied redeemer of Islam—Sudan begins to slip from the grasp of Ottoman rule, and everyone must choose a side.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no9/10 p38 Ja 1-15 2023 Shoba Viswanathan

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no18 p63 My 15 2023 Shellie Zeigler

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no2 Ja 15 2023

“River Spirit.” “Akuany is a child when her Sudanese village is raided, her father killed. She is able to survive when Yaseen, a young merchant who had been visiting from Khartoum, takes her along with him, thereby tying their fates irrevocably together. [Leila] Aboulela’s latest novel is set in the late 1800s, when Sudan was still under Ottoman rule, though the cracks in that empire were beginning to show. A leader springs up, quickly gathering followers; he has proclaimed himself the Mahdi, or redeemer, prophesied in Islam. But Yaseen, who gives up his inheritance as a merchant to study the Quran, has little faith in this leader. Aboulela’s nuanced descriptions of Sudan’s history—colonial, social, and religious—are the best parts of this rich and moving novel.”

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no2 p14-23 F 2023 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no2 p65 F 2023 Christine DeZelar-Tiedman

REVIEW: *Libr J* v147 no10 p110 O 2022 Barbara Hoffert

REVIEW: *N Y Times Book Rev* p19 Mr 26 2023

REVIEW: *N Y Times Book Rev* p9 Mr 19 2023 MEGHA MAJUMDAR

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no1 p30 Ja 2 2023

ABOUNADER, MICHELE. *ed. The color of always.* See The color of always

ABRAHAM, DANIEL. *Blade of dream*; [by] Daniel Abraham 464 p. 2023 Orbit

1. Family-owned business enterprises 2. Fantasy fiction
3. Imaginary places 4. Man-woman relationships 5. Secrecy 6. Strangers

ISBN 9780316421898 (hardback)
LC 2022-042303

SUMMARY: In this book in the Kithamar Trilogy, by Daniel Abraham, “Garreth Left is heir to one of Kithamar’s most prominent merchant families. The path of his life was paved long before he was born... But to Garreth, a life chosen for him is no life at all. In one night, a chance meeting with an enigmatic stranger changes everything. He falls in love with a woman whose name he doesn’t even know, and he will do anything to find her again.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no13 Jl 1 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no18 p55-6 My 1 2023

“Blade of Dream.” “Bestseller [Daniel] Abraham’s rich second Kithamar epic fantasy...takes an unexpected path; rather than directly continuing the prior volume’s complex tale, Abraham instead provides a parallel narrative, making this clever outing equally accessible as a standalone. The opening is almost identical in both books, introducing the autonomous city of Kithamar, which is at a turning point following the mysterious death of its ruler, Byrn a Sal, who reigned for less than a year. His death gives citizens hope ‘that the season of darkness will end

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and something new begin,' even as some wonder whether his daughter and heir, Elaine a Sal, committed patricide.”

ABRAHAMS, PETER, 1947-, Mrs. Plansky's revenge; [by] Peter Abrahams 304 p. 2023 Forge, Tor Publishing Group
1. Cozy mystery stories 2. Florida 3. Fraud investigation
4. Mystery fiction 5. Rich people 6. Swindlers & swindling 7. Swindlers and swindling—Fiction 8. Widows
ISBN 9781250843333 (hardcover)
LC 2023-007718

SUMMARY: In this book, by Spencer Quinn, “Mrs. Loretta Plansky, a recent widow in her seventies, is settling into retirement in Florida while dealing with her 98-year-old father and fielding requests for money from her beloved children and grandchildren.... One night Mrs. Plansky is startled awake by a phone call from a voice claiming to be her grandson Will, who desperately needs ten thousand dollars to get out of a jam.... By morning, Mrs. Plansky has lost everything.” (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no21 p25 J1 1 2023 Susan Maguire

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no4 p85 Ap 2023 Lesa Holstine

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no19 p48 My 8 2023

“Mrs. Plansky's Revenge.” “Edgar winner [Spencer] Quinn...launches a new series with this sprightly adventure featuring 71-year-old Loretta Plansky, a rich Florida widow. She and her husband, Norm, made millions by inventing the toaster knife (a device that toasts bread as it slices), and she now spends her days playing tennis, dealing with the expensive rest home that cares for her 98-year-old father, and shrewdly sidestepping investment pitches from her grown children. Late one night, Loretta receives a phone call from someone claiming to be her beloved grandson, who says he's been arrested for driving while intoxicated and needs bail money. Loretta turns over her bank details, and the following morning, discovers that all of her accounts have been cleaned out.”

ABRAMS, STACEY, 1973-, Rogue justice; a novel; [by] Stacey Abrams 368 p. 2023 Doubleday
1. Clerks 2. Constitutional court officials & employees
3. Legal stories 4. Murder investigation 5. Suspense fiction
ISBN 038554832X; 0593744225; 9780385548328
(hardcover); 9780593744222 Paperback
LC 2022-059012

SUMMARY: In this book in the Avery Keene series, by Stacey Abrams, “as the sparks of Congressional hearings and political skirmishes swirl around her, Avery [Keene] is approached...by Preston Davies,...[a] fellow law clerk to a federal judge in Idaho. Davies believes his boss, Judge Francesca Whitner, was being blackmailed in the days before she died.... [H]e gives Avery a file, a burner phone, and a fearful warning that there are highly dangerous people involved.” (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no15 p30-1 Ap 1 2023 Lesley Williams

“Rogue Justice.” “Plucky, indefatigable Supreme Court clerk Avery Keene...is back, and none too soon, as a disaster beyond our wildest imagination is about to be unleashed. Despite Avery's exposure of his corruption, President Brandon Stokes is back in power and intent on shredding her reputation. While laying low at a judicial conference, Avery is handed a mysterious file and burner phone by a troubled FISA Court clerk who has a tragically short lifespan. Soon Avery is feverishly decoding a conspiracy involving judges on the Foreign Intelligence Surveil-

lance Court and finds herself battling Stokes, the FBI, and the NSA to uncover a deadly plot to wreak revenge at the highest levels of U.S. government.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no10 My 15 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no13 p64-5 Mr 27 2023

“Rogue Justice: A Thriller.” “Former Georgia representative [Stacey] Abrams parlays her political knowledge into a complex and highly entertaining thriller in this second pacey adventure featuring 27-year-old D.C. law clerk Avery Keene.... The action picks up after Avery's testimony regarding the impeachment of President Brandon Stokes has made her a target for the beleaguered politician's conservative allies. At a judicial conference, she's approached by Preston Davies, a career clerk for a recently deceased federal judge, who tells Avery that his boss was being blackmailed with a deepfake video, which drove her to suicide. Minutes later, Preston himself is assassinated before Avery's eyes.”

ABRAMSKAYA, ANNA. il. Worst love spell ever. *See* Coven, Wanda

ABRAR, TAHIR. Magic has no borders. *See* Dasgupta, S.

ABREGO, RII. il. Grace needs space! *See* Wilgus, Benjamin A.

AB(SOLUTELY) NORMAL: short stories that smash mental health stereotypes; 336 p. 2023 Candlewick Press
1. Mental depression 2. Mental illness 3. Self-esteem
4. Short story collections 5. Young adult fiction
ISBN 1536224146; 1536232955; 9781536224146
Hardcover; 9781536232950 Paperback
LC 2022-915220

SUMMARY: In this book, edited by Nora Shalaway Carpenter and Rocky Callen, “sixteen exceptional authors subvert mental health stereotypes in a powerful and uplifting collection of fiction.... Through powerful prose, verse, and graphics, the characters in this anthology defy stereotypes as they remind readers that living with a mental health condition doesn't mean that you're defined by it.” (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no16 p47 Ap 15 2023 Marija Lukic

REVIEW: *Bull Cent Child Books* v76 no8 p251-2 Ap 2023 April Spisak

“Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories that Smash Mental Health Stereotypes.” “In this uniquely informed collection, sixteen authors with personal experiences with mental health conditions and struggles offer short fiction that challenges stereotypes of what it means to be ‘normal’ in an unforgiving world that still stigmatizes people being, for example, anxious, depressed, or isolated while trying to navigate it. There is remarkable diversity within and beyond that shared theme: gender identity, sexuality, race, cultural identity, diagnoses and treatment, and varying access to support and resources are all elements that impact mental health.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no3 F 1 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no10 p59 Mr 6 2023

REVIEW: *SLJ* v69 no5 p83-4 My 2023 Alicia Abdul

“Ab(solutely) Normal: Short Stories That Smash Mental Health Stereotypes.” “Using mental health as the unifying theme of these short stories is a strong fit as reading for teens, their trusted adults, and community. The 16 short stories, while fic-

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tional, were all carefully chosen based on the contributing authors' own experiences related to mental health challenges either as a lived experience or similar experience that is noted in the introduction by the editors. Authors in this collection were given the autonomy to write the stories in their preferred format, whether it be verse or graphic, with results such as Nikki Grimes's verse approach to 'Avalanche' that are worthy of celebration.

ABUEVA, JOBERT. Boy wander; a coming of age memoir; [by] Jobert Abueva 216 p. 2023 Rattling Good Yarns Press
1. Autobiography 2. Filipino Americans 3. Gay men
4. Life writing 5. Memoirs
ISBN 9781955826273 (trade paperback)
LC 2022-950888

SUMMARY: "'Boy Wander' is an intimate coming-of-age portrait of [Jobert E. Abueva's] sexuality as seen through the eyes of a child of the 1960s and 70s and a teenager before the advent of AIDS and finally as a young man arriving in America. From Manila, Kathmandu, Bangkok, and Tokyo to New York, Chicago, and San Francisco, the author navigates denial and acceptance, erotic and unconditional love, transience, and transnationalism." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no13 p79 Mr 27 2023

"Boy Wander: A Coming of Age Memoir." "[Jobert] Abueva explores in this intriguing if cumbersome debut the dual roles he played in his adolescence as the golden boy of a prominent Filipino family and a sex worker. The first son of a renowned academic and a political scientist, Abueva was aware of his charmed status early on: 'I was a boy being groomed to expectations and destined to land somewhere good in life.' Creative and personable, he became a child TV star in the Philippines. Beneath his outward joviality, though, he was roiled by major struggles, including being the victim of childhood sexual abuse. He was also terrified to come out as gay in his Catholic community, fearing he'd be rendered 'unrecognizable, if not diabolic, for having these yearnings society didn't tolerate.'"

THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY IN THE UNITED STATES. historical perspectives; xi, 282 p. 2022 McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
1. Academic libraries—United States—History 2. Essay collections 3. Historical literature 4. History of libraries 5. Libraries
ISBN 9780786495870 (paperback)
LC 2022-017882

SUMMARY: Edited by Mark L. McCallon and John Mark Tucker, "this book advances the belief that the library—more than any other cultural institution—collects, curates and distributes the results of human thought. Essays broaden the debate about academic libraries beyond only professional circles, promoting the library as a vital resource for the whole of higher education. Topics range from library histories to explorations of changing media." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Libr J* v148 no2 p100 F 2023 James Rhoades

"The Academic Library in the United States: Historical Perspectives." "Sharing a deep concern over how librarians interact in academia, editors [Mark L.] McCallon...and [John Mark] Tucker...have compiled a reference of historical scholarship covering academic libraries, highlighting 14 works originally published from 1953 to 2015. These pieces, written by an array of prominent historians, form a cogent examination detailing the evolution of the academic library in the United States from 1638

to 2015, with sections on early book collections, professional education, university formations, diversity, and digital expansion.... This well-researched book demonstrates impressive scholarship from beginning to end."

ACEVEDO, CHANTEL. The curse on Spectacle Key; [by] Chantel Acevedo 256 p. 2022 Balzer + Bray
1. Cuban Americans—Fiction 2. Families—Fiction
3. Lighthouses—Fiction 4. Memory—Fiction 5. Missing children—Fiction 6. Mystery and detective stories
ISBN 9780063134812 (hardcover)
LC 2022-000113

SUMMARY: In this book, by Chantel Acevedo, "Frank Fernandez's family never stays in one place for long. His parents renovate unusual buildings and turn them into homes, which means the family moves—a lot.... So when his parents announce they're moving to Spectacle Key, Florida, to live in a lighthouse—this time for good!—Frank is thrilled. But Spectacle Key isn't the perfect forever home they'd imagined." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no2 p52 S 15 2022 Stephanie Cohen

REVIEW: *Bull Cent Child Books* v76 no1 p4 S 2022 April Spisak

"The Curse on Spectacle Key." "Frank is tired of following his renovator parents from house to house, so when they purchase a lighthouse in Florida, he dares to hope that their promise of this being their last move is solid. The lighthouse, on the other hand, is far from solid, and the endless repair list that grows with each day taxes his parents' patience and sets them fighting about the smallest thing.... He is glad to be distracted by Connie, a mysterious girl who is invisible to everyone but Frank and who can't remember anything about her past. Their growing bond helps Frank see what true friendship is, and he resolves to help Connie recover her memories while also helping an angry ghost find peace."

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v90 no15 2022

REVIEW: *SLJ* v68 no9 p108 S 2022 Nancy Nadig

ACEVEDO, ELIZABETH. Inheritance; a visual poem; [by] Elizabeth Acevedo 48 p. 2022 Quill Tree Books
1. African Americans 2. Hair 3. Hairstyles 4. Poetry collections 5. Visual poetry
ISBN 0062931946; 9780062931948 Hardcover

SUMMARY: "In her most famous spoken-word poem, author of the Pura Belpré-winning novel-in-verse 'The Poet X' Elizabeth Acevedo embraces all the complexities of Black hair and Afro-Latinidad—the history, pain, pride, and powerful love of that inheritance. Paired with full-color illustrations by artist Andrea Pippins..., this poem can now be read in a vibrant package, making it the ideal gift, treasure, or inspiration for readers of any age." (Publisher's note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v118 no15 p29 Ap 1 2022 Kristina Pino

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v90 no6 Mr 15 2022

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v269 no49 p93-4 N 23 2022 Amanda Bruns Emma Kantor Amanda Ramirez Diane Roback

"Inheritance: A Visual Poem." "In spoken-word lines that explicate the tension between what people say and what they mean, [Elizabeth] Acevedo...confronts the cultural specter of hair-related prejudice through the lens of colonial history and Afro-Dominican identity. 'Some people tell me to 'fix' my hair. And by fix, they mean straighten; they mean whiten'—but, the poem's

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speaker intones, ‘how do you fix this shipwrecked history of hair?’ Centering figures with brown skin of varying tones, [Andrea] Pippins’s...bold-hued, unlined art portrays curls, coils, and elaborate road map cornrows, including a design with a ship at its center. A subsequent spread centers a salon offering blow-outs and roller sets: ‘We’re told Dominicans do the best hair.’”

ACEVEDO, LINDA J. *Breaking to the beat!*; [by] Linda J. Acevedo 32 p. 2023 Lee & Low Books Inc.
1. Break dancing—Fiction 2. Children’s stories 3. Picture books for children
ISBN 9781643796390 (hardcover)
LC 2022-049919

SUMMARY: “Debut author Linda J. Acevedo was inspired to write this story from the many b-boys and b-girls whose love of dance propelled them to create an innovative and groundbreaking new form of dance. Coupled with award-winning illustrator Frank Morrison’s sinuous and pulsating art, ‘Breaking to the Beat!’ is an energizing ode to the Boogie Down Bronx and to Hip Hop—a movement that would forever change the course of music, art, and culture.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no21 p63 J1 1 2023 Ronny Khuri

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no17 p49 My 1 2023 Kathleen McBroom

REVIEW: *Booklist* v120 no4 p48 O 15 2023 Sarah Hunter

REVIEW: *Bull Cent Child Books* v76 no10 p318-9 Je 2023 Kate Quealy-Gainer

“Breaking to the Beat!” “In the 1970s, when people ‘said the Bronx was nothing but rubble,’ Manolo, a young Puerto Rican boy, immersed himself in the rich music that saturated his neighborhood. Eventually finding his passion among the b-boys and b-girls, dancing ‘with a mix of splits, twists, and shuffles,’ he honed his breaking skills and joined a neighborhood crew. In the 1980s, Henry Chalfant, a photographer on the Hip-Hop scene, pushed breaking into the mainstream; soon Manolo—now known as Kid Flex—and his crew were crushing it around the globe, but Manolo still held true to the music of his home in ‘the Boogie Down Bronx. The place where Hip-Hop rose from the rubble.’”

REVIEW: *Horn Book Magazine* v99 no4 p4-5 J1/Ag 2023

REVIEW: *Horn Book Magazine* v99 no4 p81-2 J1/Ag 2023 MICHELLE H. MARTIN

“Breaking to the Beat!” “[Linda J.] Acevedo and [Frank] Morrison provide an engaging, gritty, urban retrospective on the role young people played in establishing break dancing and hip-hop. Set in the Bronx in the 1970s, the story follows Manolo, a ‘shy Puerto Rican boy who soaked up every bold beat of the conga.’...This lusciously illustrated picture book, with Morrison’s signature images of characters with elongated arms and legs, effectively captures Manolo’s initial hesitancy and later verve, bravado, and dizzyingly bodacious moves. A wonderful story of an important artistic form that, like jazz, emerged from Black and Brown communities.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no11 2023

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v270 no42 p59 O 16 2023

ACEVEDO, MARIO. *The bane of Yoto*; [by] Mario Acevedo 478 p. 2022 Hex Publishers LLC
1. Brothers—Fiction 2. Extraterrestrial beings in literature 3. Extraterrestrial life in literature 4. Science fiction 5. Slavery in literature

ISBN 97898986219431 Paperback; 97898986219448 Hardcover

SUMMARY: In this book, by Joshua Viola, Mario Acevedo and Nicholas Karpuk, “[the Arbitrators] destroyed the world of the gentle numah and the combative olokun.... General Vega and his vile olokun warriors enslaved the remaining numah and relocated them to a thriving moon.... When an alien witch dispatches a minion to bury a mystical dagger in Eon’s heart, thereby granting him the Arbitrators’ power and the ability to defeat Vega, it is [his brother] Yoto who is stabbed.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Booklist* v119 no9/10 p42 Ja 1-15 2023

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v90 no24 D 15 2022

“The Bane of Yoto.” “The peaceful, blue-furred numah are enslaved on Neos, a moon that can no longer be called a moon given the destruction of its planet by the Arbitrators, an all-powerful celestial race. Under the oversight of the physically dominant, bloodthirsty olokun, they work in the mines, digging up aegis ore to construct a giant shield in space. Some among the numah dream of rebellion. Others, like Yoto, seek merely to survive.... Though it is his heroic brother, Eon, who is singled out by the alien witch Lagaia to wield a dagger that will overthrow the olokun and maybe the Arbitrators, it is Yoto who becomes entangled with the weapon. It transforms him into a creature of gargantuan size and strength.... The novel’s greatest strength lies in its epic nature.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v90 no21 N 1 2022

REVIEW: *Publ Wkly* v269 no44 p105 O 24 2022

ACHTMAN, LINDSAY. *My proudest moment*; [by] Lindsay Achtman 32 p. 2023 For the Love of Literacy
1. Ballet 2. Children’s stories 3. Football 4. Performance in children 5. Picture books for children
ISBN 1733525025; 9781733525022 Hardcover

SUMMARY: This book, by Lindsay Achtman, illustrated by Andra Pana, “follows two characters side by side as they grow up following their passions. The strength, perseverance, dedication and heart that is highlighted through the book comes with a special surprise that shatters gender norms and stereotypes. By sharing this story with your family, friends, and students you will be helping to build a more inclusive world where all children are encouraged to chase after their dreams.” (Publisher’s note)

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no6 Mr 15 2023

“My Proudest Moment.” “One unnamed child sees a ballet, and another watches a football game, and each is inspired to pursue that activity. Each follows their new passion with their whole heart—practicing their moves among stuffed animals, stretching on the dance floor or on a football field, and learning what they need to know that will lead them to success. As the day of a ballet performance and a football game arrives—after years are implied to have passed—both kids take a moment to breathe... [Lindsay] Achtman’s spare text works beautifully for both main characters, and the side-by-side pairing of two highly athletic activities that aren’t usually compared shines new light on both.”

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no4 F 15 2023

REVIEW: *Kirkus Rev* v91 no3 F 1 2023

ACKER, MALEEA. ed. *Energies beyond the state. See Energies beyond the state*