

Recently Reviewed Online

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Nonfiction

A Presidency in Peril: The Inside Story of Obama's Promise, Wall Street's Power, and the Struggle to Control Our Economic Future *Robert Kuttner*. Chelsea Green, May

Chasing Goldman Sachs: How the Masters of the Universe Melted Wall Street Down... and Why They'll Take Us to the Brink Again *Suzanne McGee*. Crown Business, June

Colorblind: The Rise of Post-Racial Politics and the Retreat from Racial "Equity" *Tim Wise*. City Lights, July

Curveball: The Remarkable Story of Toni Stone, the First Woman to Play Professional Baseball in the Negro League *Martha Ackmann*. Lawrence Hill, June

Get Rid of the Performance Review! How Companies Can Stop Intimidating, Start Managing, and Focus on What Really Matters *Samuel A. Culbert*. Grand Central/Business Plus, Apr.

Goodbye Gordon Gekko: How to Find Your Fortune Without Losing Your Soul *Anthony Scaramucci*. Wiley, May

Lyndon B. Johnson *Charles Peters*. Times, June

More Than Just a Game—Soccer vs. Apartheid: The Most Important Soccer Story Ever Told *Chuck Korr and Marvin Close*. St. Martin's/Dunne, May

The Price of Altruism: George Price and the Search for the Origins of Kindness *Oren Harman*. Norton, June

Saddled: How a Spirited Horse Reined Me In and Set Me Free *Susan Richards*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, May

Theodore Roosevelt's History of the United States *Daniel Ruddy, foreword by Edmund Morris*. Collins/Smithsonian, May

Illustrated

BB Wolf and the 3 LPS *J.D. Arnold and Rich Koslowski*. Top Shelf, May

Codename Knockout, Vol. 1: The Devil You Say *Robert Rodi, Louis Small Jr., Mark Farmer, and Amanda Conner*. Vertigo, May

★ **The Search for Smilin' Ed!** *Kim Deitch*. Fantagraphics, June

Viking: The Long Cold Fire *Ivan Brandon and Nic Klein*. Image, May

Lifestyle

★ **The Art and Craft of Coffee: An Enthusiast's Guide to Selecting, Roasting, and Brewing Exquisite Coffee** *Kevin Sinnott*. Quarry (Quayside, dist.), June

Muffins and Mayhem: Recipes for a Happy (if Disorderly) Life *Suzanne Beecher*. Touchstone, June

Fiction

A Groom of One's Own *Maya Rodale*. Avon, July

Black Magic *Cherry Adair*. Pocket Star, July

Song of the Dragon *Tracy Hickman*. DAW, July

American Terroir: Savoring the Flavor of Our Woods, Waters and Fields

Rowan Jacobsen. Bloomsbury, \$25 (272p) ISBN 978-1-59691-648-7

Terroir, a French term usually associated with wine, is what James Beard Award-winning author Jacobsen (*Fruitless Fall*) defines as "foods that are what they are because of where they come from." In a dozen informative and often funny essays spanning breakfast to dinner, Jacobsen deploys an open mind as he travels across North America and Mexico to demystify such curiosities as why the Yakima Valley in eastern Washington State produces a superior apple, how the red earth and algae-filled waters of Prince Edward Island in Canada conspire to create the delicious *terroir*-driven local dish of mussels and fries, and what makes chocolate "our most complex food." In each case, the answer is ecological and involves the specific interplay of biological, chemical, and geological factors that make an environment and, in turn, its food unique. To underscore that thought, each essay ends with recipes and a resource list. Throughout, Jacobsen cites fellow food writers, including Richard Manning, Michael Pollan, and Hugh Johnson. But beyond issues of slow food and sustainability, Jacobsen's affable, nerdy DIY spirit (he brewed his own mead for his wedding) challenges readers to rethink their relationship to food. (Sept.)

The Blueberry Years: A Memoir of Farm and Family

Jim Minick. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$27.99 (352p) ISBN 978-0-3125-7142-9

Minick, a columnist for the *Roanoke Times New River Current*, chronicles how he and his wife, Sarah, pursued their dream of starting an organic, pick-your-own blueberry farm in Virginia. They hope that the experiment in new millennial homesteading will make them independent of their "off-farm" teaching jobs and lead to a simpler and environmentally responsible life that gives them the time to practice their

arts (Jim writing, Sarah basket weaving). The chapters narrating their 12 years of farming are separated by interludes on the scientific and cultural history of the blueberry and the benefits of organic farming. Minick also expands the story beyond his personal experience to tell a larger story of the extreme financial challenges facing the independent American farmer, as well as exploring the negative effects of agrobusiness on American diets and health. Despite the headaches, loneliness, and unglamorous aspects of farming, Minick sees the farm as a holy place of fellowship between humans and the land. The narrative benefits from the charming stories of people who visit the farm, many driving hundreds of miles to pick blueberries, concluding with a collection of enticing blueberry recipes. (Sept.)

Financial Serial Killers

Tom Ajamie and Bruce Kelly. Skyhorse, \$24.95 (320p) ISBN 978-1-61608-031-0

Ajamie, a top securities lawyer, and Kelly, news editor for *Investment News*, team up to recount true tales of financial frauds throughout history, which make for addictive if depressing reading. Ajamie's expertise in commercial litigation gives the reader an inside look at the complex strategies financial advisers, insurance agents, and even family members employ to fleece hapless individuals, focusing on the false emotional bonds con artists create with their victims in order to take advantage of them. For those who can wade through occasionally disjointed prose with some very jarring changes in tone, there are valuable lessons for readers who want to protect themselves from being swindled. In the wake of the Madoff scandal and the financial excesses that led to the recession of the past two years, this book will appeal to many readers angered by the financial services industry, the failures of the regulatory authorities, and rogue advisers. (Aug.)



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