

social sciences

BIOGRAPHY

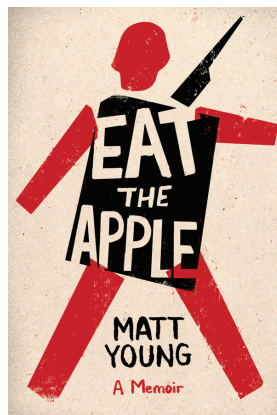
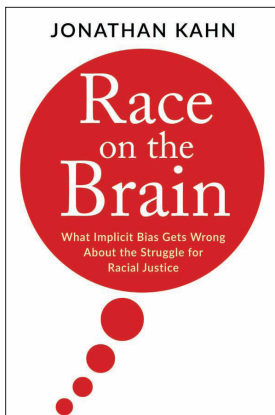
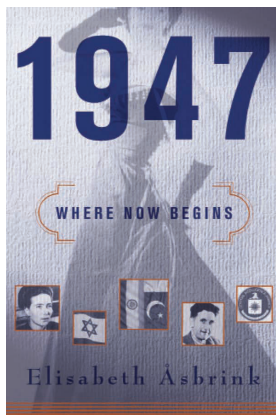
Jones, Jacqueline. *Goddess of Anarchy: The Life and Times of Lucy Parsons, American Radical.* Basic: Perseus. Dec. 2017. 480p. notes. index. ISBN 9780465078998. \$32; ebk. ISBN 9781541697263. **BIOG**

Jones (women's history, Southern History, Univ. of Texas at Austin; *Labor of Love, Labor of Sorrow*) explores the life of Lucy Parsons (1853–1942), an advocate of anarchism and labor rights. Born into slavery in Texas before the Civil War, Parsons first achieved notoriety when her husband, Albert Parsons, was hanged for his involvement in the 1886 Haymarket Affair. Jones is at her best when describing the burgeoning city of Chicago, where the couple moved in the early 1870s. Parsons became a propagandist; speaking, writing, and publishing on behalf of various social issues, including the right to free speech and justice for workers. In the early 20th cen-

Antarctica. S. & S. Jan. 2018. 256p. photos. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781476753867. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9781476753881. **BIOG**

Shapiro, in her first full-length work of nonfiction, deftly tells the story of Billy Gawronski, a young boy determined to seek adventure. Through reading novels and following the events of real-life explorers, Gawronski cultivated a knowledge of and insatiable desire for risk-taking. In 1928, at the age of 17, Gawronski's ambition was fulfilled. During the height of the Jazz Age, Richard Byrd, a famous American explorer and idol to Gawronski, led an expedition to Antarctica. Byrd intended to be the first person to fly over the South Pole. At this point, the United States had largely been absent from Antarctic exploration. Byrd was already a household name and the country was excited. One night, Gawronski swam across New York's Hudson

Those enamored of the Kennedy mystique will enjoy this intimate look into the intertwined lives of the Bouvier, Auchincloss, Kennedy, and Radziwill families. Taraborrelli, a prolific author of popular biographies including the best-selling *After Camelot*, creates a tabloid-style story of money, power, politics, and family—a voyeuristic look into a world of patrician privilege. While Jackie Kennedy Onassis has been the subject of countless chronicles, less is known about details of her relationship with her mother, Janet Auchincloss, and sister Lee Radziwill. This sweeping account traces their relationships over the decades, including familiar events such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and obscure ones such as how Jackie's mother shared her “formula for good living” with her daughter. Relying on interviews, oral histories, original documents, and published sources, the author reveals personal details of the lives of these three women: the competitive tension between the sisters; poignant accounts of troubled marriages; and the tangled web that linked Lee, Jackie, and Aristotle Onassis. Readers are also introduced to the “other side of Camelot;” the lives of Jackie's half brother and half sister, for example. **VERDICT** Engrossing for general readers. Historians may challenge some of the anecdotes and interpretations presented.—*Marie M. Mullaney, Caldwell Coll., NJ*



Love and art in wartime; a call to action against racial injustice; a young marine shares his story

ture, Parsons allied herself with the militant unionism of the International Workers of the World, which rejected negotiation or political solutions and organized mass labor protests. In her role as organizer and speaker, Parsons associated with some of the major figures of her time. Jones's book persuasively explains both the causes for which Parsons fought as well as inconsistencies apparent in her character and actions. **VERDICT** This readable biography will appeal to readers with many interests, including the history of women's studies, radicalism, labor, race relations, urbanism, and especially Chicago.—*Charles K. Piehl, Minnesota State Univ., Mankato*

Shapiro, Laurie Gwen. *The Stowaway: A Young Man's Extraordinary Adventure to*

River and climbed on board Byrd's ship. He was found with two other stowaways and sent home. After several more of these kinds of attempts, Gawronski won the respect of Byrd and was hired on as part of the crew. **VERDICT** This fascinating and exciting story contrasts the optimism and sense of progress of the 1920s with the devastation of the 1930s. Readers of popular history and biographies will find much to delight in here.—*Timothy Berge, SUNY Oswego Lib.*

Taraborrelli, J. Randy. *Jackie, Janet & Lee: The Secret Lives of Janet Auchincloss and Her Daughters, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Lee Radziwill.* St. Martin's. Jan. 2018. 528p. notes. index. ISBN 9781250128010. \$29.99; ebk. ISBN 9781250128034. **BIOG**

★ **Tong, Scott.** *A Village with My Name: A Family History of China's Opening to the World.* Univ. of Chicago. Nov. 2017. 272p. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9780226338866. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9780226339054. **BIOG**

Discovering and understanding one's family history is never an easy journey, but that road is even bumpier for those who have lost touch with relatives or who have family on the “wrong side of history.” Such is the story of Tong, a correspondent for the American Public Media radio program *Marketplace*, who sets out to learn more about his heritage in modern China. Focusing on the stories of five relatives through five generations, Tong uncovers the lives of those with connections outside of China, who were later considered enemies of the state and suffered for it. In talking to family members who didn't want certain family secrets to be told, the author finds a recording of his grandmother, who received a Western education. This personal narrative could easily become one of

bitterness; instead, Tong tells his story with humor, a little snark, lots of love, and a determination to show the dignity of his people and others he meets along the way. **VERDICT** A charming book about a second-generation American's search for his family (past and present) and for himself in contemporary China. Highly recommended, especially for those interested in Chinese history and family journeys.—**Melissa Aho, Univ. of Minnesota Bio-Medical Lib., Minneapolis**

★**Young, Matt. *Eat the Apple*. Bloomsbury Pr. Feb. 2018. 272p. illus. ISBN 9781632869500. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9781408888261. MEMOIR**

Young, a fellow at the Carey Institute for Global Good and creative writing professor at Centralia College, WA, tells of being a U.S. marine and serving three tours in Iraq in the mid-to-late 2000s. He does not sugarcoat the details of war or ask for forgiveness; in fact, he is not sure that he wants readers to thank him for his service. Each chapter is brief, three to four pages, and presented in varying formats, such as a screenplay and thoughts in first, second, and third person. Some chapters are written to the author's past self from his future self and one section is an apology letter to a cabbie he punched after his third tour. The difficulty of basic training is contrasted with the boredom and brutality of combat. Young's actions—cheating on his fiancé, surviving an IED explosion, holding a severed head—may cause revulsion among readers or may lead to sympathy. **VERDICT** This honest war memoir will shock and horrify, will cause readers to tear up, and will make them wish they could tell a 19-year-old marine that everything will be okay. Highly recommended for all collections.—**Jason L. Steagall, Gateway Technical Coll. Lib., Elkhorn, WI**

ECONOMICS

Mecham, Jesse. *You Need a Budget: The Proven System for Breaking the Paycheck-to-Paycheck Cycle, Getting Out of Debt, and Living the Life You Want*. Harper. Dec. 2017. 224p. illus. index. ISBN 9780062567581. \$23.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062567604. BUS

Fans of "You Need a Budget" (or "YNABbers") will be happy that creator Mecham has authored a companion guide to expand on the doctrines of the popular online financial platform and app. The takeaways are Mecham's four simple rules for effective money management: giving every dollar a job, embracing your "true" expenses, rolling with the punches, and "aging" your money. Mecham rounds out the book with specific advice regarding relational budgeting, tackling debt, staying focused, and even includes a simplified adaptation of his rules for teaching youth to budget. Readers won't

find excruciating worksheets, or heavy-handed shaming advice, just relational and realistic anecdotes and encouragement, as well as actionable ideas at the end of each chapter. Mecham doesn't promote shady money tricks. The debt-averse principals are similar to those in Dave Ramsey's perennial best seller, *The Total Money Makeover*. While the book might appeal to existing YNABbers, a subscription is not required to benefit from this book. **VERDICT** Readers seeking tips for financial resolutions will appreciate Mecham's fresh and proven approach to budgeting.—**Jennifer Clifton, Indiana State Lib., Indianapolis**

EDUCATION

Cast, Carter. *The Right—and Wrong—Stuff: How Brilliant Careers Are Made and Unmade*. PublicAffairs. Jan. 2018. 288p. illus. notes. index. ISBN 9781610397094. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9781610397100. CAREERS

Cast, former CEO of Walmart.com, now a professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and partner at Pritzker Group Venture Capital, estimates more than half of competent executives will derail and never understand why their careers did not go as they envisioned. Cast contends many executives have the "right stuff," however; it is more likely they cannot see their own blind spots. Cast developed five archetypes to enable an executive or manager to see their career derailers or the "wrong stuff": Captain Fantastic, The Solo Flier, Version 1.0, The One-Trick Pony, and The Whirling Dervish. Cast addresses the sidetracking behaviors of each archetype, and the necessary corrective action. Likewise, he profiles the framework of competencies required for success including specific job skills; industry knowledge; ability to prioritize; and the personal strengths of initiative, perseverance, and working well with others. Cast asserts that a good job fit and continual skill development are essential as well. **VERDICT** Insightful and practical guidance based on solid research, experience, and industry knowledge with wide appeal for midlevel managers and executives, recent graduates, and students of management.—**Jane Scott, Clark Lib., Univ. of Portland, OR**

HISTORY

★**Asbrink, Elisabeth. *1947: Where Now Begins*. Other Pr. Jan. 2018. 288p. tr. from German by Fiona Graham. notes. bibliog. ISBN 9781590518960. \$25.95; ebk. ISBN 9781590518977. HIST**

When journalist Asbrink was ten, her father left her a letter that was 19 lines long. The first 18 expressed his love; the last sentence said never to pity yourself. When Asbrink writes about 1947, she honors her father

and others who disappeared under Nazi rule. Clocks are a preoccupation for the author—they're missing or they don't work or they give contradictory times. During this year, writer Simone de Beauvoir went to the United States and had a passionate affair with writer Nelson Algren. A Swedish fascist created escape routes for Nazi friends. Nelly Sachs and Paul Celan wrote poetry about ultimate loss. Primo Levi's memoirs were accepted by a publisher. George Orwell began work on his masterpiece, *1984*. The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem opposed the creation of a Jewish state. For the first time, genocide is recognized as a crime. Asbrink weaves personal and historical stories to show how people migrated across the world, unaccepted in their homelands and unwelcome in their adopted countries. **VERDICT** This superb book deserves a wide audience. In telling history through disparate voices, Asbrink effectively describes the seas of change, as times change quicker than people do.—**David Keymer, Cleveland**

Bacon, John U. *The Great Halifax Explosion: A World War I Story of Treachery, Tragedy, and Extraordinary Heroism*. Morrow.

Nov. 2017. 432p. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780062666536. \$29.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062666550. HIST

Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1917, was a major stopping place and reshipment point for war supplies shipped to Europe. Thousands of ships carrying war material passed safely through the harbor on their way to France and Great Britain. On December 6, 1917, two cargo ships collided in the narrow channel that connects the harbor basin to the Atlantic. One ship, the *Mont-Blanc*, was heavily laden with aviation fuel, picric acid (a high explosive), guncotton, and dynamite. The result was the largest explosion in history, until that time, which devastated Halifax and much of the port infrastructure. Some 2,000 Haligonians died and 9,000 were wounded. Bacon (*Three and Out; Endzone*) treads familiar territory, as there are several books on the subject, but his respectable narrative, drawn from well-documented stories, details the lapses in procedure and judgment that led up to the catastrophe, describing both the victims' accounts and the enormous outpouring of aid from both Canada and America. **VERDICT** An accessible narrative useful to all World War I collections in which the event is not otherwise covered.—**Edwin Burgess, Kansas City, KS**

★**Boot, Max. *The Road Not Taken: Edward Lansdale and the American Tragedy in Vietnam*. Liveright: Norton. Jan. 2018. 784p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780871409416. \$35;**

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