

# BOOK REVIEWS

## Gift Giving & more

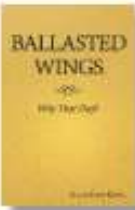
### As the Crow Flies - the Redemption of an International Drug Smuggler

By Ed Hudson  
978-943106-55-4  
How can an officer of the law befriend an international drug smuggler? Read Ed Hudson's memoir to learn how, after apprehending Freddie Crow, and getting to know the thrill seeker, their deep bond developed. This quick, captivating book shares why the retired officer still thinks fondly of a man his office pursued for years. It's a fascinating story and easy to read.



### Ballasted Wings - Why that Day?

By Susan Knox Kopta  
978-1-6834-2952-6  
Kudos to that author of this poignant memoir! Grief over the loss of a child, for any reason, comes in many forms and takes many shapes. This mother chose to open her wounded heart and share her pain, hoping to alert others to the risks when someone diagnosed with bipolar doesn't receive adequate follow-up and medical supervision. This is a short book, easy to read and serves as a warning for others about the preciousness of life. Tune in to blunke UnScripted on March 24, 2021, when we talk with the author about mental health issues.



### Hannah's War

By Ian Eisenberg  
978-0-316-53744-5  
This spellbinding page-turner transfers the reader into the story through superbly written historical fiction that was inspired by Dr. Lise Meitner, the Jewish Woman who discovered nuclear fission.



This book offers homage to Dr. Meitner, a woman prevented from receiving the honors she deserved, due to her gender, race and the political climate of World War II. Hannah's War is skillfully told and leaves readers wanting more. It's a story of intrigue and romance with a respectful nod toward the injustices that occurred during the holocaust.



### My Pinewood Kitchen, a Southern Culinary Cure

By Mae McCormick  
978-075732352  
With a Southern twist to comfort food staples, the author has more than 130 recipes that heal your gut, reduce inflammation, and reverse chronic autoimmune diseases with recipes that are easily adaptable for different dietary needs. However beautiful and well-written, it may not be so much a cookbook as a collection of recipes with a backstory. We feel this could have easily been written as a memoir that included recipes.



### Parkinson's Blues



By John J. Clayton  
978-1-55778-943-3  
An award-winning novelist artfully crafted his memoir while dealing with active Parkinson's disease in his 80s and successfully created a most interesting book about his desire to "become a three-legged dog" that adapts to a new situation easily. This book is prayerful, grateful, and insightful as well as humorous. He reminds us that "All of us are broken," and offers valuable lessons for the readers.

### Scavengers of Beauty

By Philippe Sibaud  
978-1-78904-476-4  
This "personal, cultural, and symbolic exploration of the moon landing" started with a 13-page introduction and ended with a 13-page epilogue. It is rich with symbolism, poetry, mythology and science fiction references. The author expresses his deep concern that the moon lost much of its mystic: the moment mankind stepped onto its surface, relegating it to nothing more than real estate. This book is part memoir, part essay, and all interesting.



### The Numbers on my Parents' Arms

By Jerry Bagel  
978-1-5320-9768-9  
The Numbers on my Parent's Arms is a delightfully somber story of the author's parents who survived not one, but several Nazi death camps where they endured inhumane torture, yet survived, met and started a family. Jerry Bagel expertly takes readers on a journey through not only his childhood but that of both of his parents and then drops us in the heart of hatred. In the end, we can rejoice and celebrate life, just as his parents taught him to do, despite the untold deaths they were forced to witness.



### The Protectors

By Julynn Angelini  
978-1-5320-6351-6  
Although the review team feels the author could benefit from professional editing to eliminate an overuse of clichés, filtering and POV switches, we found the overall story filled our need for a suspenseful thriller that ends in an acceptable, if predictable way. We understand the work that goes into publishing a book and applaud the author's efforts. We'd love to read more from her as she improves her craft.



### The Simple Solution

By Raman K. Pothik  
978-1-5043-3061-9  
This book truly is about a simple solution and reads like a how-to find the life most people seek. With stories and quotes from some of the world's greatest minds, the book is filled with black and white illustrations and mental health statistics. The author tells readers about breathing awareness and offers advice that can lead to a more blissful existence. This book is an excellent resource for anyone just starting on a journey to enlightenment.



### The Happy Planner

We reviewed a planner that made us happy from the moment it arrived in sustainable packaging. The planners can be customized and pages can easily be swapped out. This planner uses a big grid for each day of the week. Every tabbed divider between each month is filled with motivation and inspiration. The Happy Planner supports three talented BPOC artists and profits from the sale of their covers going to NextGen Artist Program. Products start at \$4.99.  
[thehappyplanner.com](http://thehappyplanner.com)  
10 out of 10 blunke points.

