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Connecting November 25, 2020

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Connecting Book Issue

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 25th day of November 2020,

Today we bring you our annual listing of books published by our Connecting colleagues in the past year – ahead of Black Friday so you can get a head start on a purchase if you see a book that tickles your fancy.

There's a great variety to choose from, as you'll see in reading through the list. There is a link in each narrative to how you can purchase the book.

On the day before Thanksgiving Day, here are thoughts of colleague **Mike Holmes (Email)** -

What am I thankful for this Thanksgiving? Family, friends and health top the list, of course.

But this year, I also find myself thankful to have worked in journalism when it was seen (perhaps wishfully) as more public service than bottom-line business;

For editors who gave me better assignments than I deserved;

For bosses willing to spend money to get the news no matter what;

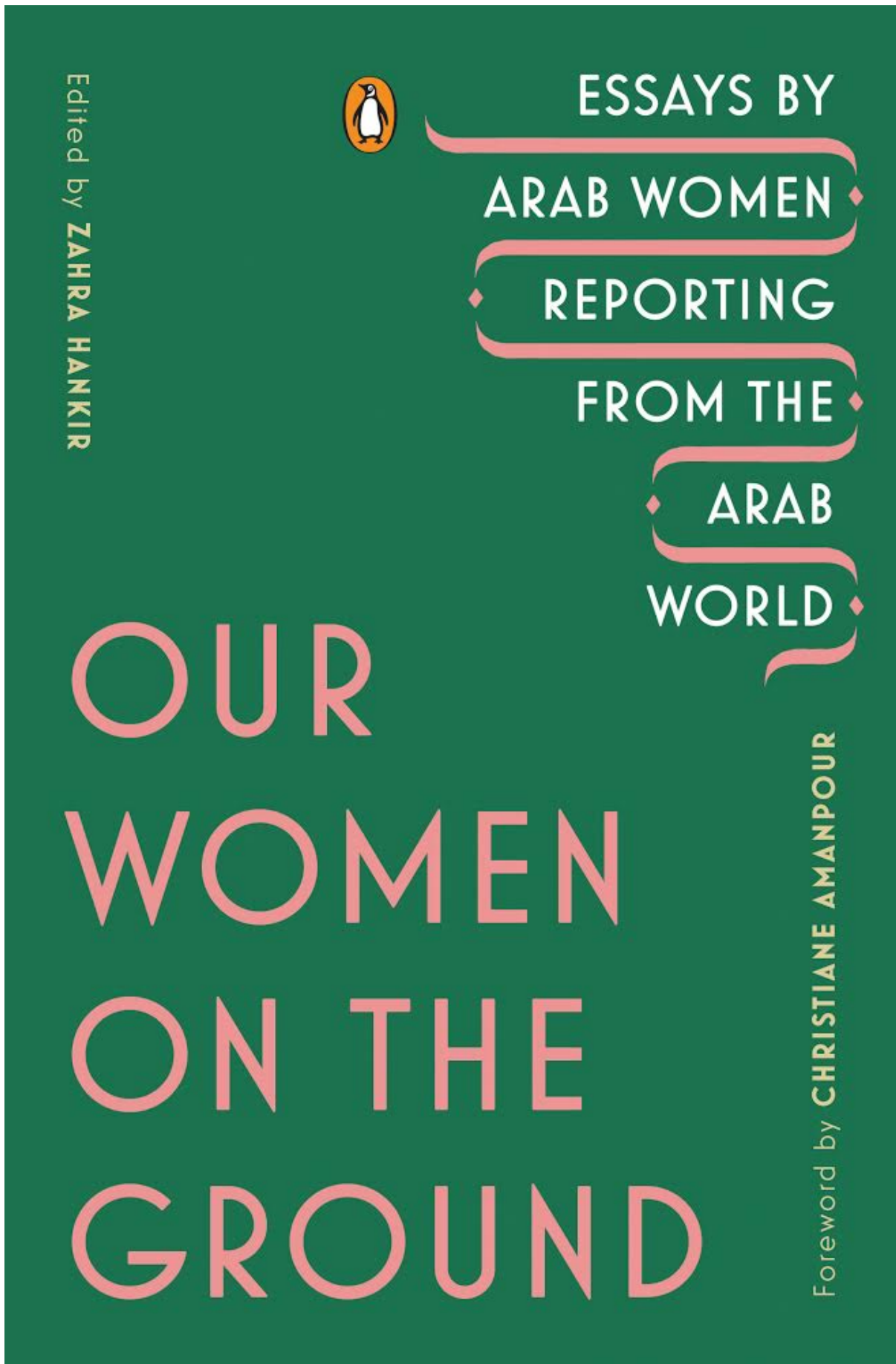
For sources who indulged my questions and shared their knowledge, perspective and feelings;

For readers who saw our work as informative, not cause to argue;

And for all my colleagues who work so hard every day to produce the best news report possible.

Here's to a great day ahead and to a **Happy and Safe Thanksgiving** to each of you. See you back in your Inboxes on Friday.

Paul



Donna Abu-Nasr ([Email](#)) - [“Our Women on the Ground”](#) is a collection of 19 essays written by 19 female Arab journalists,

including AP's Beirut news director Zeina Karam (pictured at right, below) and myself (right). We write about what it's like to report on conflicts and issues in the region and the challenges we have faced. It's the first of its kind essay collection, with a forward by Christiane Amanpour. In her essay, Syria Undone, Zeina reflects about her emotional connection to Syria as she knew it before



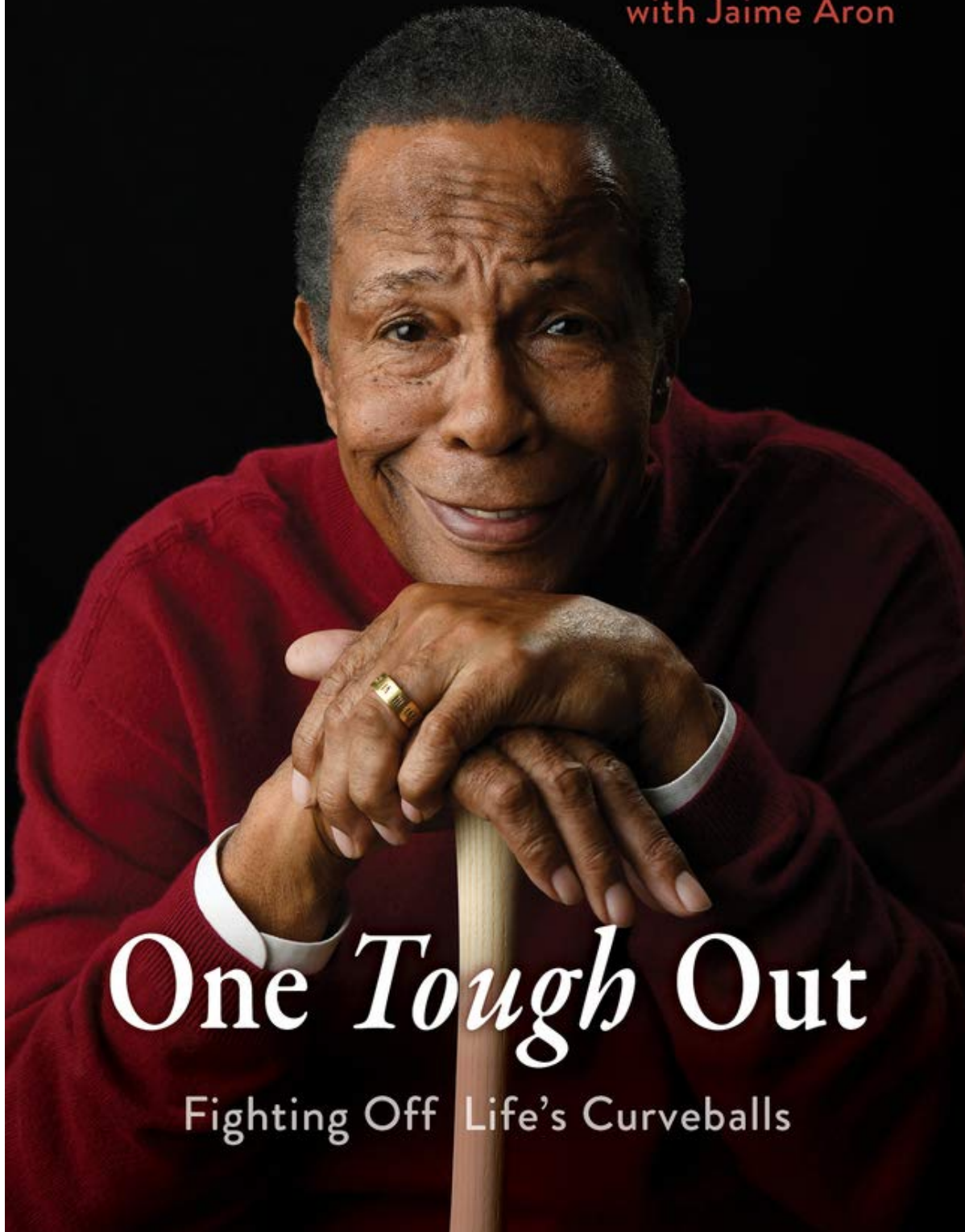
the war and covering it during the conflict, touching on the surreal disconnect of meeting President Bashar Assad at his palace while children were dying of bombs and malnutrition a short drive away. My chapter, An Orange Bra in Riyadh, focuses on life before 2015 to highlight how much Saudi Arabia has changed under the kingdom's crown prince and how Saudis feel about it. Writing the essays was a beautiful experience for both of us. The book was published by Penguin in the U.S.



"There's no quit in this man." –Hall of Fame slugger Reggie Jackson

ROD CAREW

with Jaime Aron



One Tough Out

Fighting Off Life's Curveballs

Jaime Aron (Email) - When I left the AP after

13 years as Texas Sports Editor to write for the American Heart Association, I figured I was done writing about famous athletes. Then Rod Carew had a heart attack and reached out to the AHA. We'd been working together for more than a year when something unbelievable happened: He got a new heart. From an NFL player. Whom he'd met when the donor was 11 and went to middle school with Rod's step-kids. (I was privileged to be there when the families met.)

Yet Rod's heart story is only part of his remarkable life. Born on a train in Panama, he grew up violently abused by his dad. He escaped to New York as a teen and was discovered by the Minnesota Twins while playing in a sandlot league. From his unique, crouched stance, he became a seven-time batting champion. Off the field, Rod was – in his words – a jerk. A lingering effect of his abuse was that he distrusted everyone. Then his daughter Michelle contracted leukemia at 17. Her dying wish was for him to promote the bone-marrow donor registry. He made such an impact that Be The Match named its lifetime achievement award in his honor. (It's also what prompted him to reach out to the AHA.) Michelle died at 18, yet she showed incredible grace throughout her struggle – so much that Rod decided to drop his anger and become a new person. This part of his life yielded the shortest section, but it's the most important and most powerful. I warn all parents to have tissues handy for Chapter 10. (Spoiler alert: Despite what Adam Sandler sang in "The Chanukah Song," Rod didn't convert. [The book](#) includes an anecdote about Rod breaking the news to Sandler.)



Devlin Barrett

How the FBI Tried to Save Itself
and Crashed an Election

I think she was extremely nervous.
OCTOBER

I think she was nervous so that I could establish.
SURPRISE

there is evidence to suggest...
used the private email server in a manner that was
grossly negligent with respect to... classified material

that is the...
necessary criminal intent.

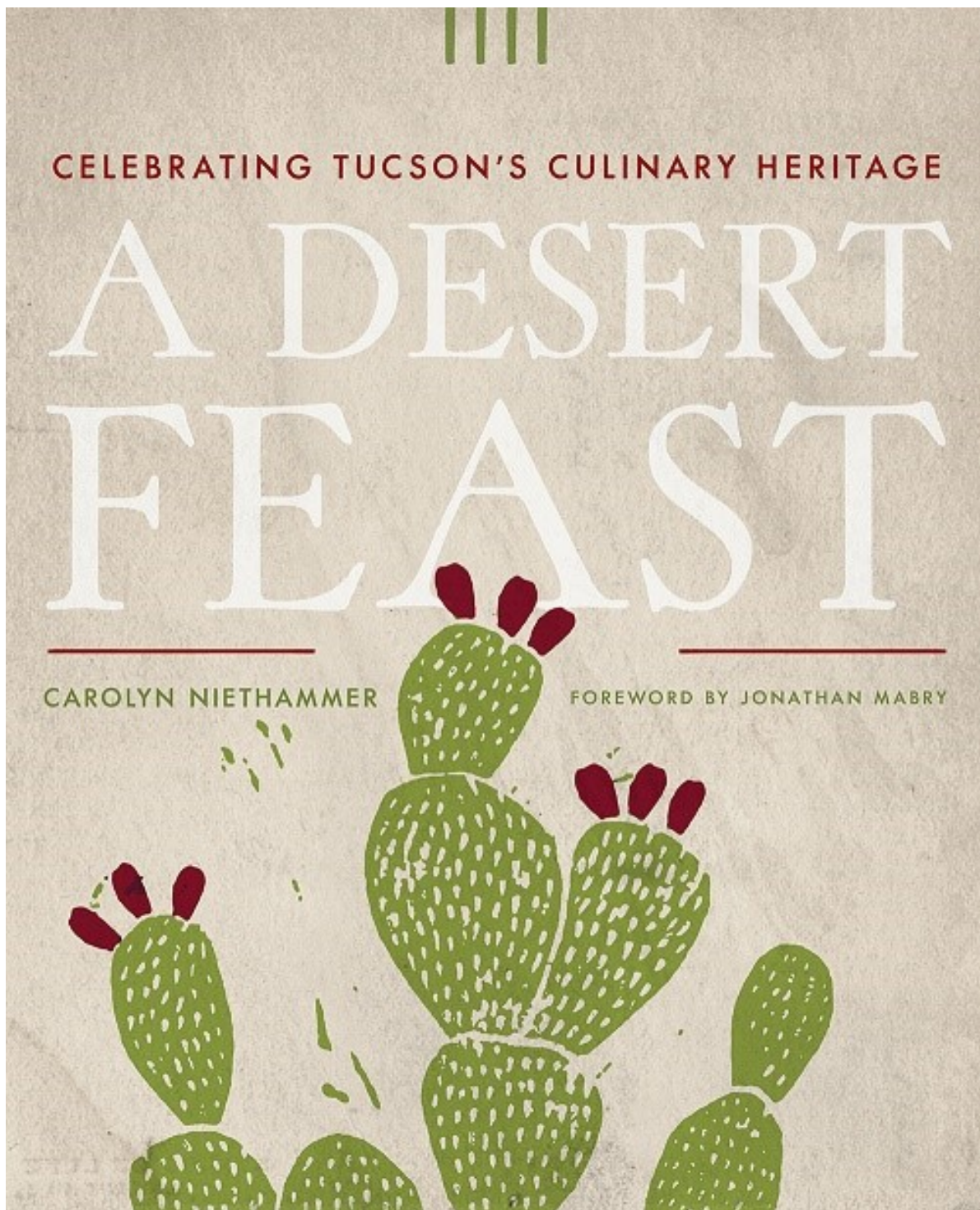


Devlin Barrett ([Email](#)) - I'm an ex-AP reporter

(2003-2010, covering NY federal courts, Congress, and DoJ) and my book about the FBI's impact on the 2016 race came out in September. ***"October Surprise: How the FBI Tried to Save Itself and Crashed an Election"*** tells the unvarnished inside story of how the pressures of the 2016 election led FBI leadership to make a series of fateful decisions in an effort to protect their own reputations that tipped the scales for Trump in just enough states during the final two weeks of the election. It also details how the FBI's growing obsession with leaks and leak investigations -- including a yearslong investigation into the sources of my 2016 reporting -- influenced many of those decisions, usually for the worse. The book also goes into the whole notion of what an

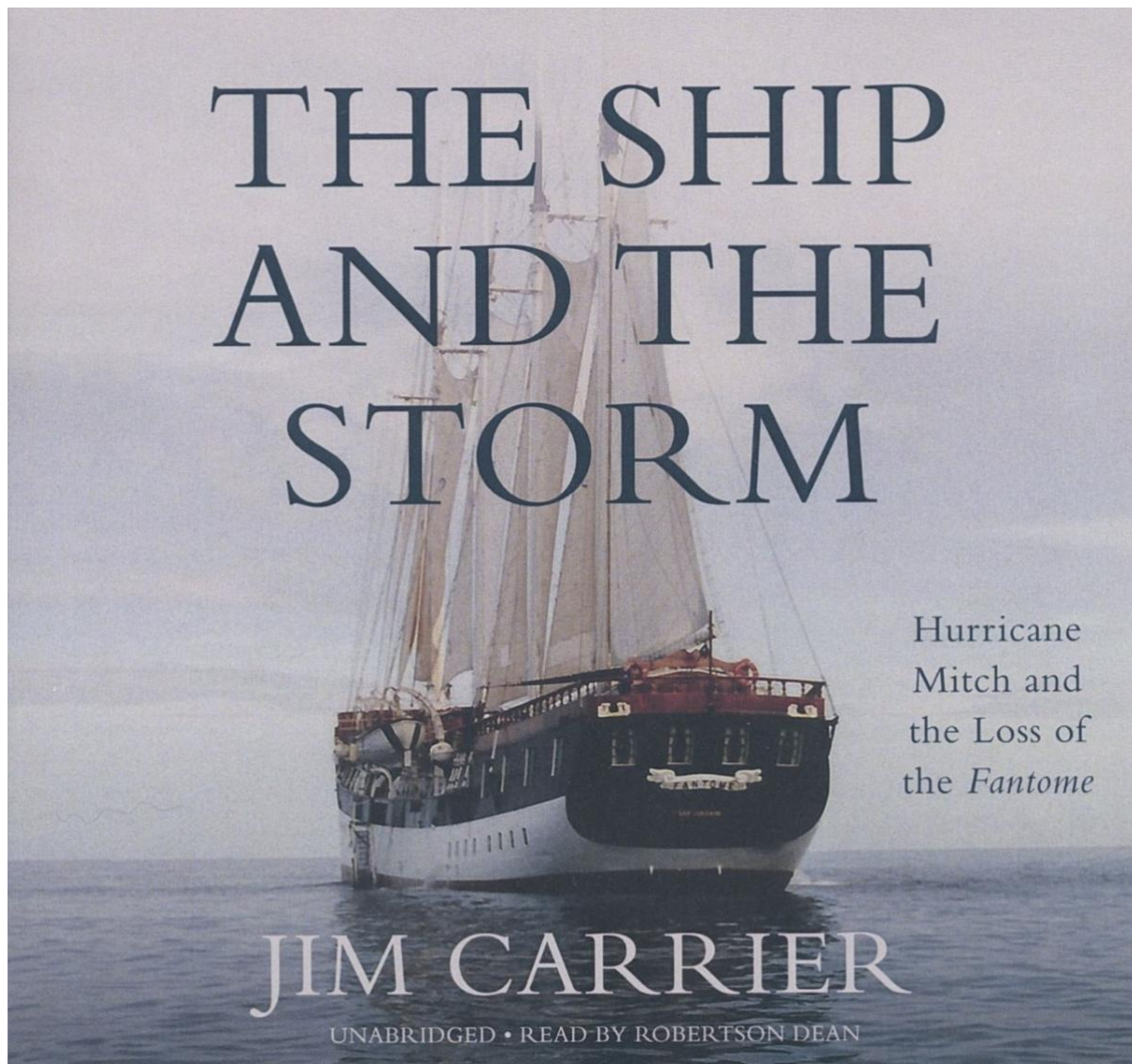


"October Surprise" is -- a concept that was first spelled out to me by Sandy Johnson when I joined the DC bureau. I started writing the book weekends in the Arlington Public Library, then when covid shut down DC we headed out for what we thought would be a week or two on our family farm in Virginia, where I finished the book surrounded by chickens, goats, dogs, and ducks. Also soybeans, which are much quieter. I now work at the Washington Post, still covering the Justice Department and FBI, albeit most days from a small town called Machipongo, a native American word for "dusty place," and I can tell you it is aptly named, but still beautiful.

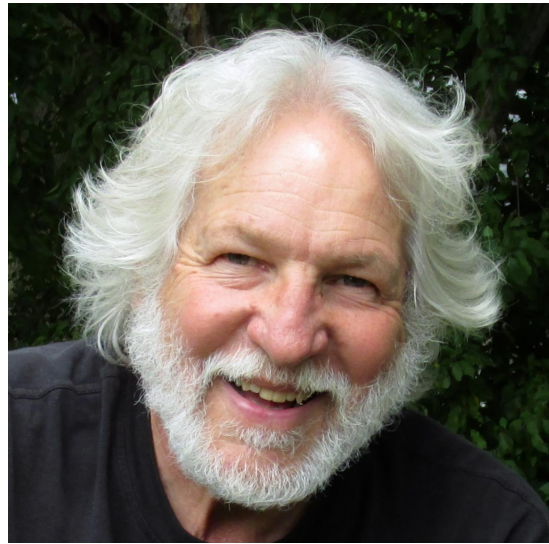


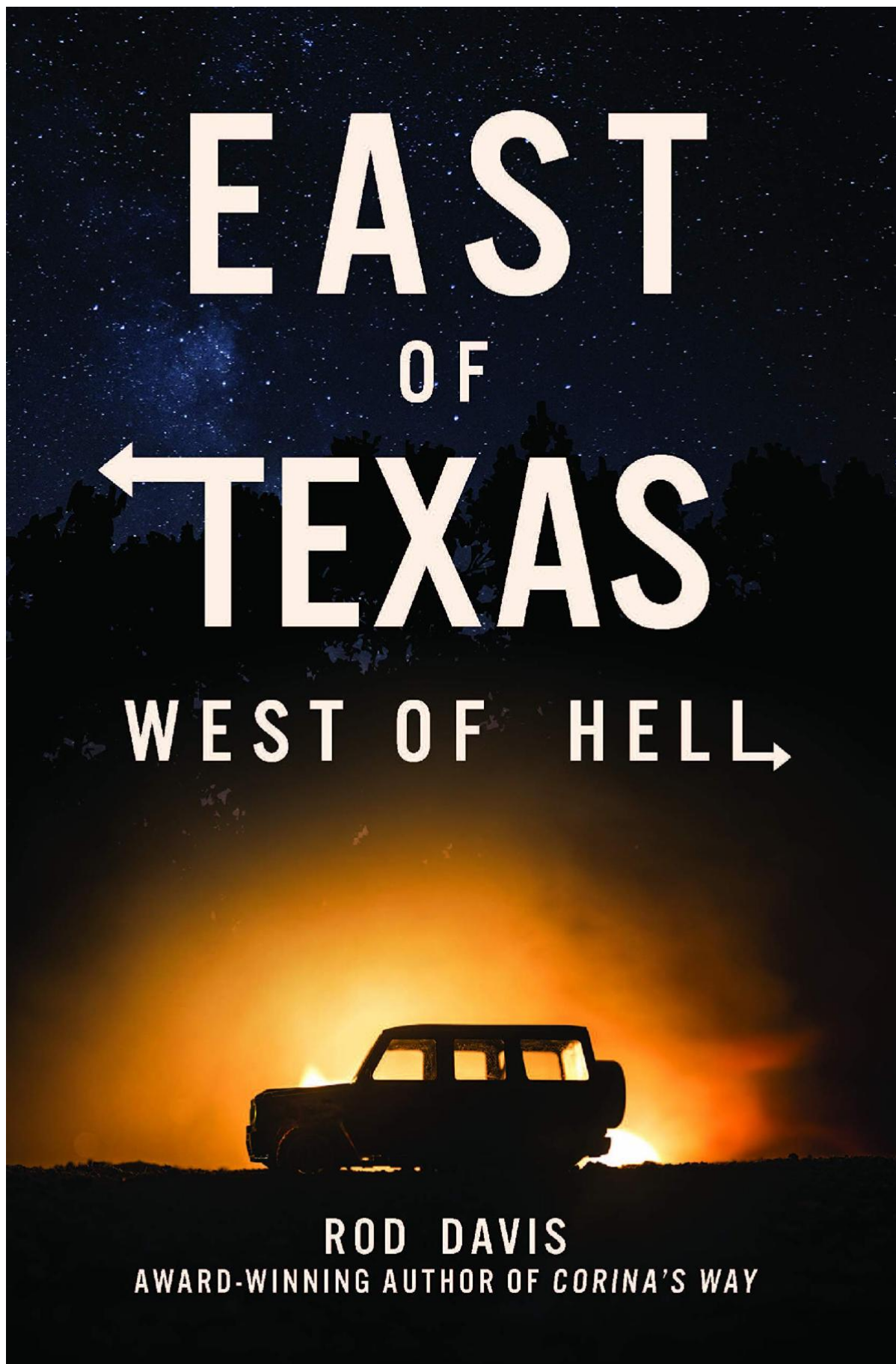
Ford Burkhart ([Email](#)) - I wrote about beer brewed with cactus (and mesquite, etc.) for *A Desert Feast*, my wife's new book on how and why Tucson received the first UNESCO World City of Gastronomy award in the US. The author, Carolyn Niethammer, says: That word "gastronomy," as defined by UNESCO, isn't about fancy restaurants but rather it refers to our region's entire food system. [A Desert Feast, Celebrating Tucson's Culinary History](#), published in October, is the

11th book by Carolyn, a veteran food writer. She draws on thousands of years of food history to explain the UNESCO designation. Readers will learn how the first agriculture in what is now the US began here around 2100 BC. She tells how the arrival of the Spanish in the 1590s changed everything foodwise in Southern Arizona. The book traces the influences of Native American, Mexican, mission-era Mediterranean, and ranch-style cowboy traditions, and how Southern Arizonans are still eating some of the same foods that sustained local inhabitants 4,000 years ago. This includes craft beer brewers who are using local wild foods to give popular flavors to their beer. "A Desert Feast" is available everywhere online, but consider asking your favorite independent bookstore to order for you. They'll love you for that! And click [here](#) for Carolyn's web site.



Jim Carrier (Email) - First published in 2001, [The Ship and The Storm](#) this year joined the Audible catalog, with 12 hours of narration by actor Robertson Dean. Blackstone Publishing created an electronic download, and a 10-CD boxed set. The book is still in “print” by the original publisher, International Marine/McGraw-Hill as an e-Book. While hardcover and paperbacks are readily available on the secondary market, none produce royalties for the author. I was living aboard my 35-foot yawl, “Ranger,” in 1998 when the remnants of Mitch blew across the Florida Keys. The next day the Miami Herald reported the search for the Fantome, the flagship of the notorious Windjammer Barefoot Cruise Line. I wrote a piece for the New York Times, which led to a \$50,000 contract for the book. The book tells the story of the rise and fall of the cruise line, its faux pirate-captain Mike Burke, and the loss of 31 men, mostly “hotel” workers from the Caribbean in a category-5 storm that devastated Central America. All the passengers were removed before the young captain and crew tried to hide behind Honduras’s Bay Islands. The story moves between the ship and the National Hurricane Center, which was vainly, and inaccurately, trying to forecast the storm’s track. The tragedy became a case study in understanding NHC’s limitations, and marine tradition. The book came out just as “The Perfect Storm” hit theaters, which eliminated my Hollywood dreams! Which made this blurb all the sweeter: “Utterly compulsive and unputdownable--the most exciting, authentic, and humanly moving of all the recent Storm books. Brilliantly paced and perfectly balanced. . .Carrier is a marvelously trustworthy narrator. . . A terrific book.” (Jonathan Raban)





Rod Davis ([Email](#)) - East of Texas, West of Hell, the latest from novelist Rod Davis,

expands the thrilling world of South, America in this Southern noir, rife with chaos, unexpected turns, and fascinating characters. A desperate call from heiress Elle Meridian shakes ex-Dallas TV anchor Jack Prine from his comfortable life in the Big Easy as he begins his long search for Meridian's missing teenage daughter. Instead of the girl, Jack discovers the savaged bodies of drug dealers and embarks on a journey of relentless violence and lethal betrayal across the South. As an intricate web of deception, extortion, and murder unwinds, Prine finds himself at odds with neo-Nazis, the cartel, and the Dixie Mafia. Even if Jack can save Elle's child, can he justify the blood on his hands? Order: At



www.newsouthbooks.com, or from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Google Books, or your favorite online bookseller or local bookstore. Paperback; 280 pages; \$18.95. Website and trailer: click [here](#).

JOSEPH GALLOWAY

New York Times bestselling author of *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*

AND MARVIN J. WOLF

A black and white photograph of a soldier in a military helmet, looking down at a folded American flag held in his hands. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the helmet and the stars and stripes of the flag.

THEY
WERE
SOLDIERS

THE SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
OF OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

Joseph Galloway ([Email](#)) – I co-authored
THEY WERE SOLDIERS with old friend Marvin J.
Wolf, a Vietnam veteran himself. Published by

Nelson Books/HarperCollins. Available thru Amazon.com. Contains 49 interviews/profiles of Vietnam veterans focusing less on war they fought and more on the lives they have lived and the good they have done for their communities and our country. Among those we profiled were some famous folks from Gen. Colin Powell to Fred Smith, founder of FedEx, to Diane Carlson Evans, the Army nurse who was the sparkplug behind Womens Vietnam Memorial -- to lesser known veterans who came home to do great things for their communities and our country. All of them came home to no welcome and little if any respect. We shine a light on these 49 individuals in hopes of correcting that national failure and debunking all the bull that for a time focused on crazed veterans shooting up post offices and the idea that all who fought in that war were somehow damaged goods. The overwhelming majority of Vietnam veterans are decent honorable people who came home and quietly resumed their lives, building families and businesses and doing good for those around them. **THEY WERE SOLDIERS** focuses on a few who represent the many.



WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

CHARLES J. HANLEY

GHOST FLAMES

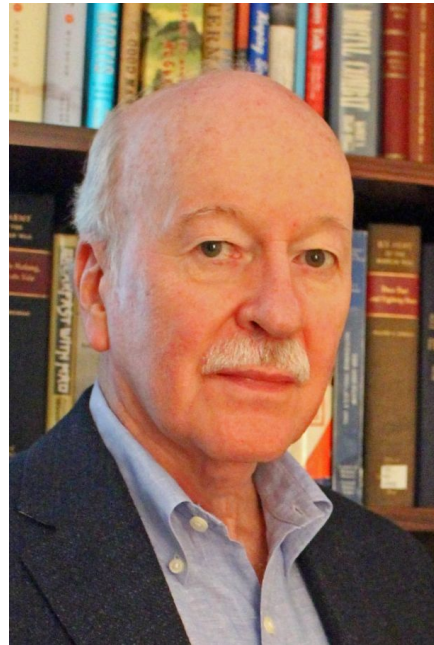
LIFE & DEATH IN A HIDDEN WAR,

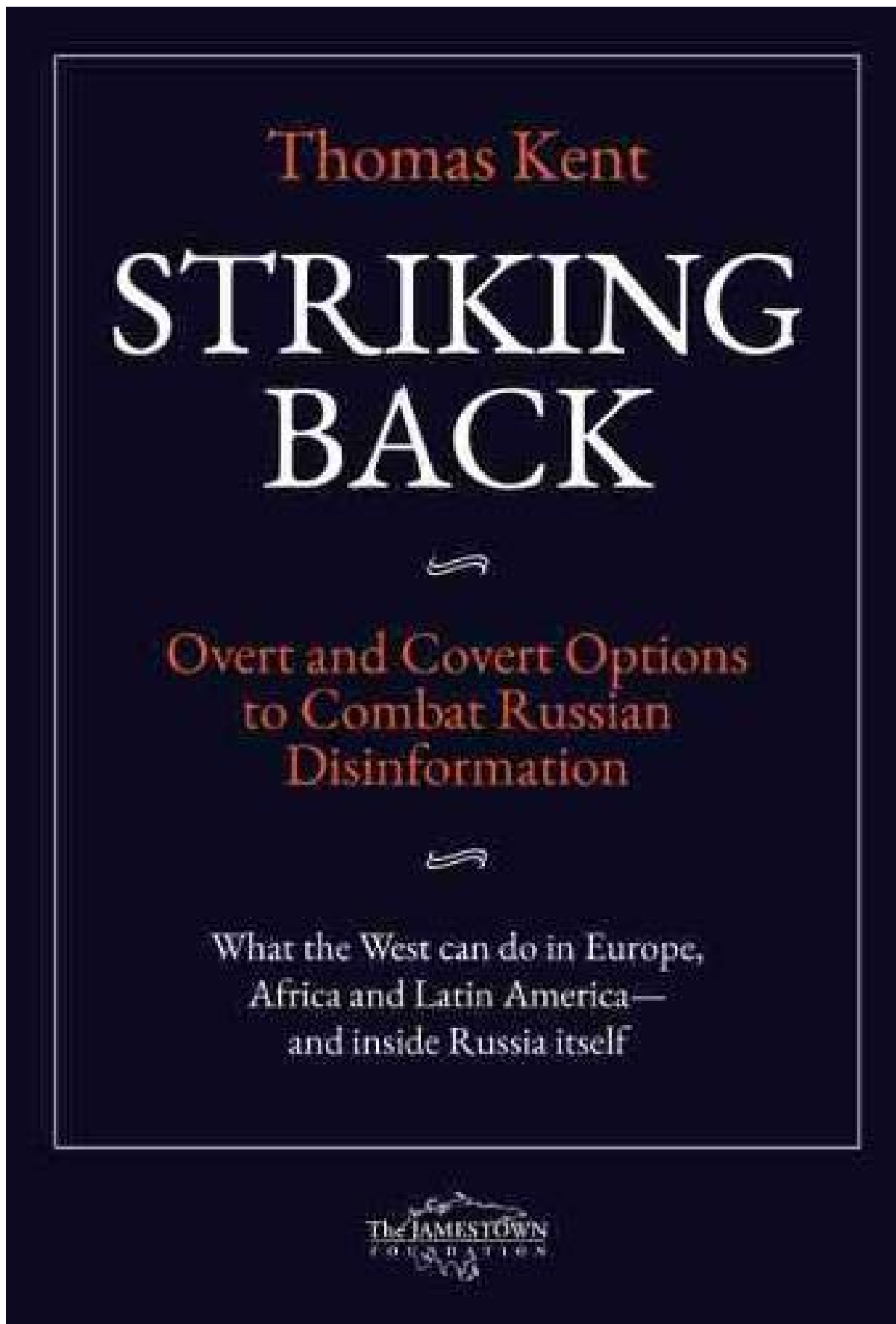
KOREA 1950-53



Charles Hanley (Email) - [Ghost Flames: Life and Death in a Hidden War, Korea 1950-1953](#).

"In unforgettable fashion, Hanley, a Pulitzer Prize winner, tells the story of the Korean War, one of the most savage conflicts in history," writes The New York Times Book Review's Gordon Chang. A "compelling and groundbreaking narrative history ... told via the experiences of 20 men and women who lived through the bloodshed," says Library Journal's Michael Rodriguez. The 20, soldiers and civilians of all ages and nationalities, include AP correspondent Bill "Scoop" Shinn. The war's dark underside of mass civilian killings is an underlying theme, much of it drawn from revelatory AP reporting of recent years. A "masterly" and "top-notch addition to the literature of the Korean War," concludes Kirkus Reviews. An "extraordinary portrait of the war's complexity and devastation," and "an essential account of America's 'forgotten war'," says Publishers Weekly. Aside from these "starred" reviews from the three major publishing trade magazines, here's what an ordinary reader says at the Goodreads booklovers' site: "Amazing book. ... I dare you to go a day without reading some of it. You will come to know many people and the different perspectives they experienced in this war. You will find there are some people you desperately want to know what happened next but you have to wait." Published by PublicAffairs/Perseus. Available at Amazon etc., and at your local bookstore (next to shelves groaning with a surfeit of WWII books). Excerpts are [here](#).





Tom Kent ([Email](#)) - Tom Kent, who served as AP bureau chief in Moscow and president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, proposes energetic new

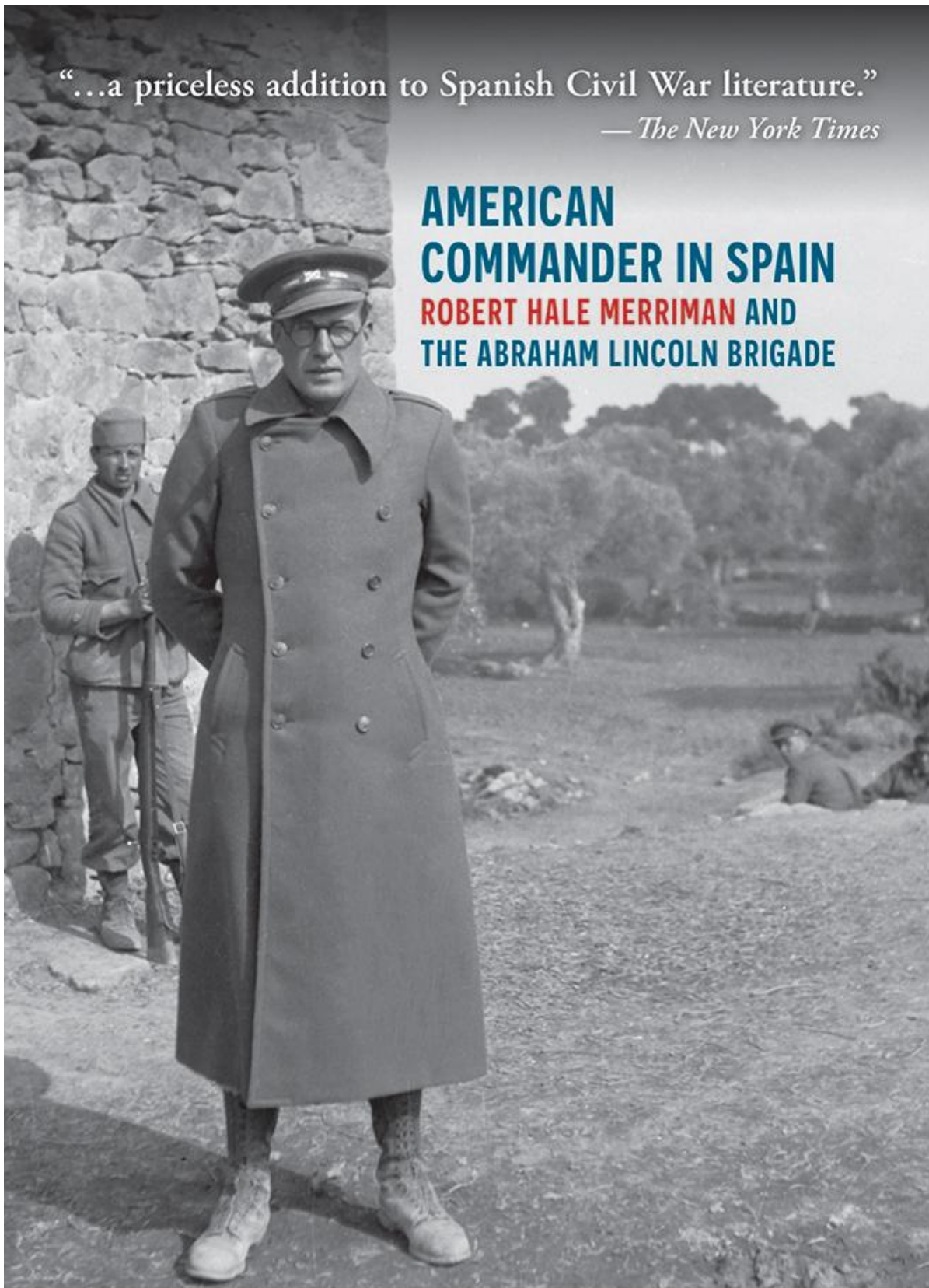
strategies to combat disinformation by Russia and its allies. He says Western responses so far have been weak due to lack of coordination by Western countries and, sometimes, a lack of faith in the West's own democratic ideals. Tom now teaches about disinformation at Columbia University and consults for governments, NGOs and contractors working on disinformation issues. **The book**, published by the Jamestown Foundation in Washington, is based on interviews with more than 150 specialists in a dozen countries and focuses mainly on Russian challenges in Europe, Africa and Latin America. In particular, the book describes the little-publicized army of anti-disinformation warriors, independent of governments, who are already at work confronting Russian trolls and even doxing Russian soldiers. Along with independent journalists and fact-checkers, these activists represent a significant potential threat to Russian disinformation. The groups are small and their funding is haphazard, but Tom presents a series of recommendations to strengthen their work.



“...a priceless addition to Spanish Civil War literature.”

— *The New York Times*

**AMERICAN
COMMANDER IN SPAIN**
**ROBERT HALE MERRIMAN AND
THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BRIGADE**



MARION MERRIMAN | WARREN LERUDE

Warren Lerude ([Email](#)) - Our book [American Commander in Spain](#) about the first combat commander

of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in the Spanish Civil War has just been re-published in paperback by the University of Nevada Press—34 years and a generation of readers after the original hardback. That’s a long time between publishing cycles for a book that was once rejected by about 20 New York publishing houses, then put into print by a small university press and eventually sought out for film rights by a flock of Hollywood studios and independent filmmakers. Long out of print, it now bounces back to life. Here’s this baffling story that may question F. Scott Fitzgerald’s theory that there are no second acts in American Life.



COLECCIÓN Cruzando el agua

R.H. Lola Koundakjian

The Moon in the Cusp of My Hand
La luna en la cúspide de mi mano



Lola Koundakjian ([Email](#)) - In 2020, Nueva York Poetry Press, published my third poetry collection, The Moon in the Cusp of my Hand. I

am told I have boundless ways of finding joy in the small things in life, such as orchids, long walks in the woods, where I watch the birds and say hello to various small mammals preparing for hibernation. What Covid-19 has done is make many of us aware that these are wonderful habits to go back to, that this new-normal is okay. As Flaubert famously wrote to Turgenev in 1877: *At times, it feels like I am being drained of blood from all limbs and that my death is imminent. And then I spring back, and off I go.* (translation from the French by yours truly).

These observations, and my passion for arts and culture, made me a poet after many years dedicated to the visual arts and they are evident in my third collection of poetry published earlier this year in English with Spanish translations. I have been nourished with a storyteller's spirit thanks to my parents Harry and Aida, who knew how to live, to travel, and especially, how to be curious. Our homes in Beirut, and later in New York City, were filled with books. In this collection's first section, *An Anthropology of Emotions*, I tackle Mum's Alzheimer's, the imprints of New York City, my neighborhood and the quotidian of my life. The second section, *Traveling around the Sun in the speed of Life*, is about my love of discovery of various cultures, the loss of my heritage -- which unfortunately continues to be pillaged with a war between the Republic of Armenia and its neighboring Azerbaijan -- and my activism for Peace. The book is dedicated to Teachers, Poets and Lovers, for we are nothing in this Life, without them." Click [here](#) for Amazon link.



BASEMENTALITY

How this entrepreneur drove his **FIGHT AGAINST BIG SUGAR** and rose from the basement to a \$1.7 billion brand

BEN WEISS
W/ ERIC QUIÑONES

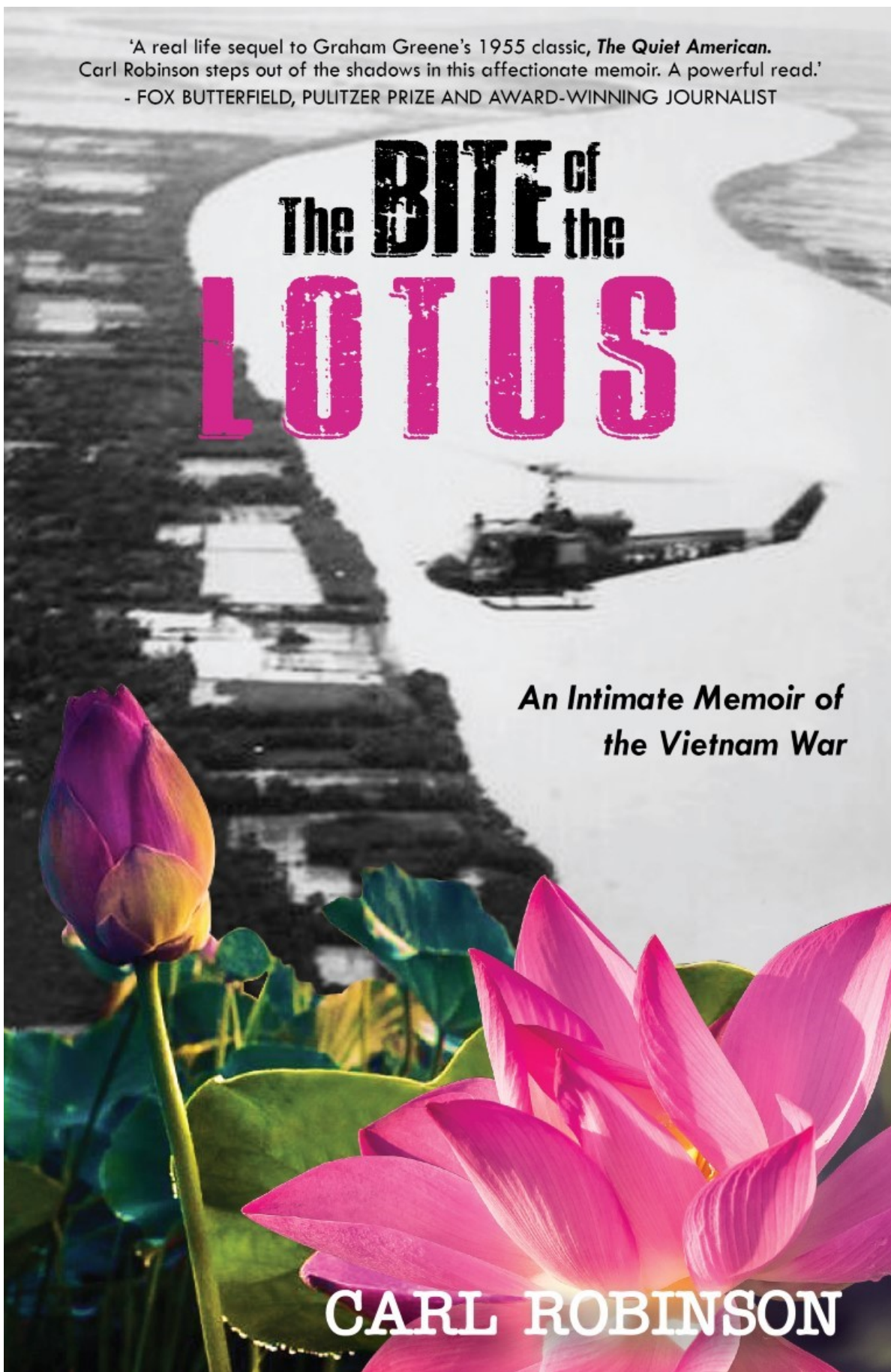


FOREWORD BY
ZAC BROWN

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to be 'Zac Brown'.

Eric Quiñones ([Email](#)) - I am the co-author of **Basementality**, the story of how my friend Ben Weiss, a lifelong beverage entrepreneur, built Bai Brands from a basement startup to a \$1.7 billion brand. **Basementality** explores how Ben's entrepreneurial journey set the stage for his greatest success. During the Great Recession in 2009, he launched Bai from the basement of his New Jersey home, disrupting the marketplace with a revolutionary blend of five calories, no artificial sweeteners and unprecedented taste. Bai quickly became the industry's fastest-growing brand by challenging the goliaths of the soda business, leading to its \$1.7 billion acquisition by Dr Pepper Snapple Group in 2017. Bai has been recognized for its growth and innovation by major media and industry organizations, but until now, the full story of this meteoric rise has never been told. **Basementality** is a story of old-fashioned door-to-door hustle, naive belief and the powerful mindset of a classic American entrepreneur. The book reveals details of how Ben launched and expanded his "bevolution," his decision to put Bai up for sale and his painful exit from his beloved brand. **Basementality** is available for sale on Amazon in hardcover, audiobook and eBook formats.





Carl Robinson ([Email](#)) - From its dramatic opening chapter as Saigon is falling, Carl

Robinson's "[The Bite of the Lotus: an intimate memoir of the Vietnam War](#)" is a fast-paced and stirring journey through the entirety of the Vietnam War, a personalised history lesson on how the US became increasingly and foolishly involved, and his role first as a player as a civilian advisor and then observer as a photographer and writer with The Associated Press. Full of astoundingly recalled details, many tragic and comedic, his story is colourful, evocative and shockingly honest. A true insider's view of this devastating war in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. But throughout, a deep affection glows for the people among whom he lived and witnessed the Americans come and go, learning nothing. Told in the candour and dark humour of his adopted Australia, US-born Robinson takes



readers from his enchanted arrival in a somnolent Saigon on a French ship in early 1964 as a university student on leave from Hong Kong through his days as a provincial pacification adviser in the Mekong Delta into the height of the Vietnam War during the Tet Offensive of 1968. His bitter disillusionment with the war effort coincided with finding the love of his life and quitting to embrace a journalist lifestyle of intense friendships, hard work, play and drugs until his run for those last US helicopters out of Saigon in April 1975. Published in Australia in late 2019, *The Bite of the Lotus* is now available on Amazon US.

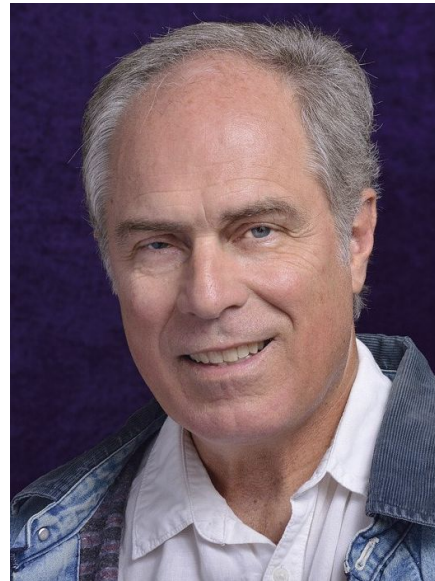
Reporting and Writing on Journalism's New Frontier



Jeff Rowe

Jeff Rowe (Email) – Reporting and Writing on Journalism's New Frontier is a complete, comprehensive online course that provides students with a solid foundation in basic researching, writing, speaking, and reporting techniques. This course offers contemporary information and modern adaptations to well prepare students for journalism's new frontier—

online, in broadcast, and via traditional ink-on-paper. The course emphasizes the practical skills a competent journalist must possess to be successful in the field. It walks students through a step-by-step explanation of the process of reporting, from identifying news-worthy stories to researching to interviewing to writing. The course provides clear guidelines for quality writing, including the importance of organizing a story before writing, purging clichés, redundancies, and euphemisms, creating great headlines, and writing with clarity. Individual modules are devoted to writing for radio, television, and the web. The course also contains practical advice on libel and slander laws, essential information for avoiding litigation. Reporting and Writing on Journalism's New Frontier is a current, engaging exploration of practical tools and techniques that writers can employ immediately and use every day. The content is designed to support journalism and multimedia curriculum. Click [here](#).





THE Potato Masher Murder

Death at the Hands of a Jealous Husband



Gary Sosniecki

Gary Sosniecki (Email) - *The Potato Masher Murder: Death at the Hands of a Jealous Husband*
by longtime Missouri editor and publisher Gary

Sosniecki tells the story of his great-grandmother's horrific murder. Cecilia Ludwig's second husband had caught his wife with other men several times. After secretly following Cecilia one evening in 1906, Albin was overcome with suspicion. Albin and Cecilia quarreled that night and again the next day. Prosecutors later claimed that the final quarrel ended when Albin knocked Cecilia unconscious with a wooden potato masher, doused her with a flammable liquid, lit her on fire, and left her to burn to death. Albin claimed self-defense, but he was convicted of second-degree murder. Newspaper coverage of the dramatic crime and trial was jarringly explicit and detailed, shocking readers in Indiana, where the crime occurred. Peter Young of the *South Bend Times* wrote that the murder's "horrors and its shocking features . . . have never before been witnessed in Mishawaka." The story was front-page news



throughout northern Indiana for much of a year. For several generations, the families of both Cecilia and Albin would be silent about the crime until Sosniecki uncovered the family's dark secret. Sosniecki began researching the murder in 1996 when he and his wife, Helen, owned the *Webster Citizen County* in Seymour, Mo. He stepped up his research when he was homebound after breaking his ankle shortly after retiring in 2016. When the trial transcript was discovered in early 2017 at the Indiana State Archives, Sosniecki knew he had enough material for a book. *The Potato Masher Murder: Death at the Hands of a Jealous Husband* can be ordered from The Kent State University Press bit.ly/3aQsAgE or wherever books are sold.



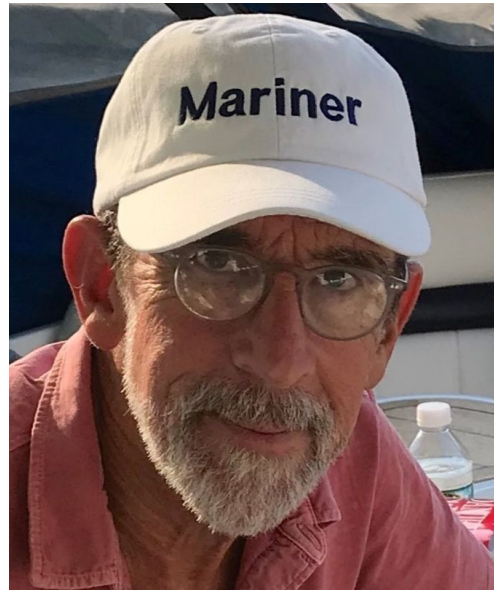
We're Not Drunk, We Have MS

A Toolkit for Living
With Multiple Sclerosis

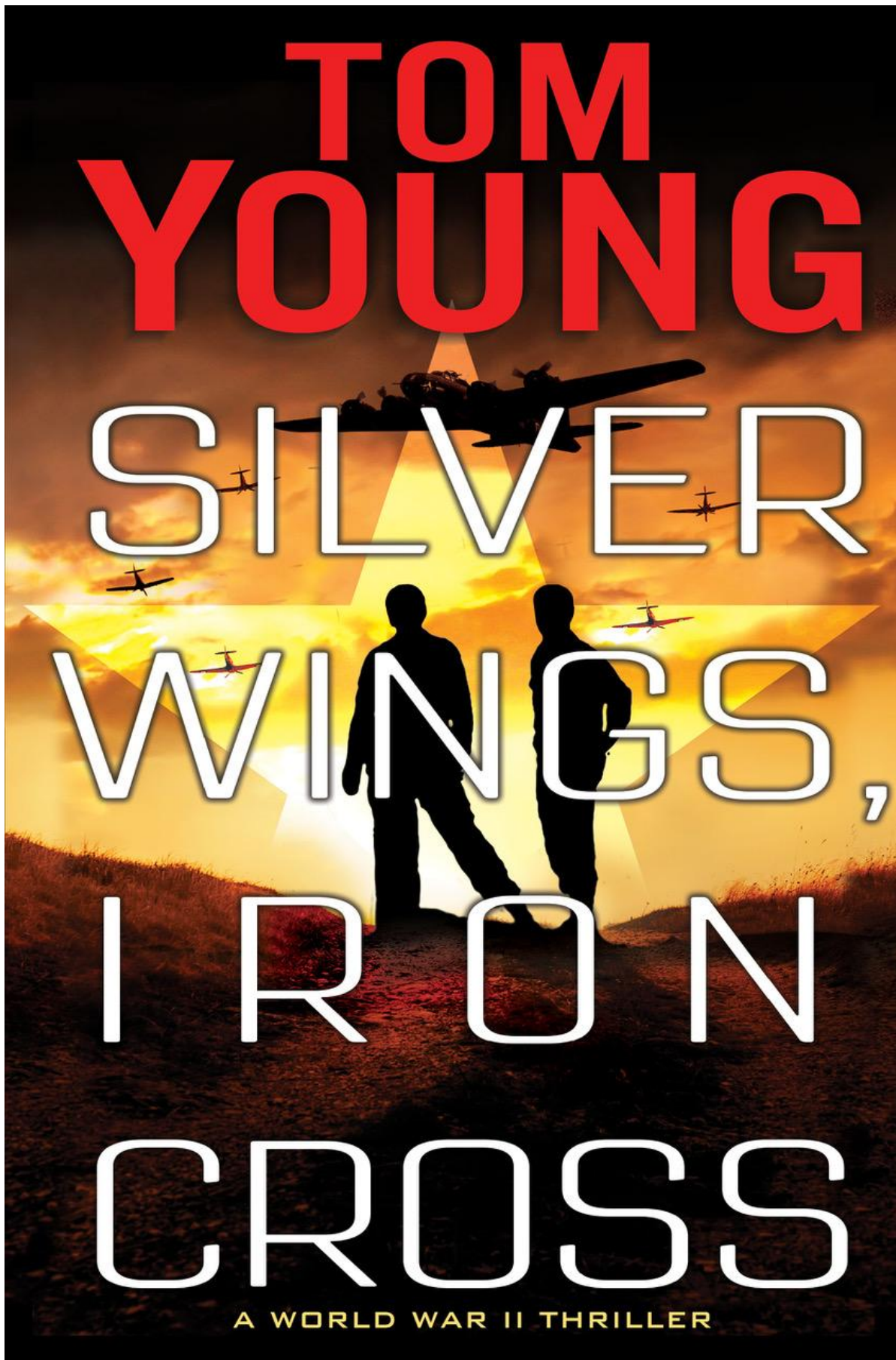
By Ed Tobias

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) - August marked the 40th anniversary of my multiple sclerosis diagnosis.

I never kept it a secret, but I'll bet for the first 20 years or so very few people knew I was living with the disease. Its symptoms come and go and some, such as fatigue, can be invisible. MS can be invisible to some physicians, too. Its symptoms are similar to other diseases, it affects people differently and there's no one-size-fits all diagnostic test. Unless a patient sees a neurologist who specializes in MS, someone seeking a diagnosis or who is newly diagnosed may wind up confused and frustrated. There may also be problems paying for treatments, getting a job or keeping one, or having a relationship. To try to fill this information need, I've written a little book. "We're Not



Drunk, We Have MS" is a tool kit for living with multiple sclerosis. In it I try to provide clear information about symptoms, tests, treatment and living with MS without any medical jargon, illustrating it with four decades of my own experiences. The book is available at Apple Books and other e-bookstores. **A paperback version** is available on Amazon.



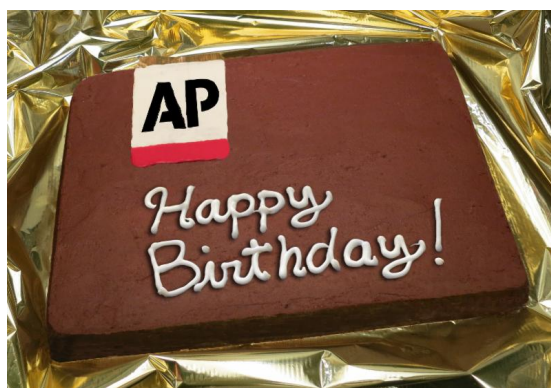
Tom Young ([Email](#)) - Near the end of World War II, a downed American pilot and a

deserting German officer try to survive together as the Third Reich collapses around them. This is the seventh novel by former AP Broadcast staffer and military veteran Tom Young. **SILVER WINGS, IRON CROSS** is structured as a three-act novel. Part One shows Lieutenant Karl Hagan and Oberleutnant Wilhelm Albrecht in their roles as military commanders: Karl in a B-17 Flying Fortress and Wilhelm aboard a deadly Type VII U-boat. In Part Two, fate forces them into a meeting--and an uneasy truce. Part Three brings the war's dangerous final days, when the two reluctant allies become friends. Young says two main inspirations led him to write SILVER WINGS. One was his grandfather's stories from World War II. "My grandfather served as a mechanic with the legendary



Eighth Air Force," Young said, "He talked of aircraft limping back to base with heavy battle damage. He described opening a B-17's waist door and watching blood run out." The other inspiration was Young's own military service. He flew as a flight engineer on the C-130 Hercules and the C-5 Galaxy with the Air National Guard. Young took part in several deployments for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Although the technology of my day was obviously different from World War II," Young said, "some things are timeless: The way a crew bonds and communicates, and that flush of heat you feel when you realize you're taking fire." The New York Journal of Books called SILVER WINGS "a Grade A historical novel." Published by Kensington, the book is available through Amazon and all major booksellers.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Joe Frazier - joebfrazier@yahoo.com

Charles Rice - csrice@usa.net

On Thursday to...

Bennett England - bengland913@gmail.com

Pierce Lehmbeck - lehmbeckj@bellsouth.net

Bill McCloskey - bmcclos325@aol.com

The Final Word



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
STYLEBOOK
55TH EDITION

2020-2022

This edition contains more than
200 new and revised entries

The 55th edition of [The Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law](#) includes more than 200 new or revised entries, with chapters covering data journalism, business, religion and sports terms, as well as media law, news values,

punctuation, social media and polls and surveys, plus a new chapter on digital security for journalists.

The AP Stylebook is widely used as a writing and editing reference in newsrooms, classrooms and corporate offices worldwide.

Today in History - Nov. 25, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Nov. 25, the 330th day of 2020. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 25, 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, was commissioned.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America's first combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2009, Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

In 2014, attorneys for Michael Brown's family vowed to push for federal charges against the Ferguson, Missouri, police officer who killed the Black 18-year-old, a day after a grand jury declined to indict Darren Wilson. (The Justice Department later declined to prosecute Wilson.) President Barack Obama sharply rebuked protesters for racially charged violence in Ferguson, saying there was no excuse for burning buildings, torching cars and destroying other property.

In 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

In 2018, U.S. border agents fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting near the border with Mexico after some of them tried to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries; U.S. authorities temporarily shut down the border crossing from Tijuana, Mexico, where thousands were waiting to apply for asylum.

Ten years ago: Incumbent Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee) cemented his grip on power, bringing an end to nearly nine months of political deadlock after he was asked to form the next government. South Korea's defense minister, Kim Tae-young, resigned amid intense criticism two days after a North Korean artillery attack killed four people on a small island near the Koreas' disputed frontier.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden attended an urgent summit of southeast European leaders in Zagreb, Croatia, focusing on tensions and security concerns over a surge of asylum-seekers and migrants crossing the region. Pope Francis arrived in Kenya on his first-ever trip to Africa and urged Kenyans to work for peace and forgiveness amid a wave of extremist violence on the continent that threatened to disrupt his trip.

One year ago: A federal judge said former White House counsel Donald McGahn would have to appear before Congress to testify in the impeachment investigation. (An appeals court later undid that ruling, finding that federal judges had no role to play in the subpoena fight.) Defense Secretary Mark Esper said President Donald Trump had ordered him to stop a disciplinary review of a Navy SEAL, Edward Gallagher, who was accused of battlefield misconduct. The Supreme Court rejected the bid of a Maryland man, Adnan Syed, for a new trial based on information uncovered by the hit podcast "Serial"; Syed had been sentenced to life in the strangling death of a high school classmate. Charles Schwab announced that it was buying rival TD Ameritrade, which would combine two of the biggest players in the online brokerage industry. London's transit authority refused to renew Uber's operating license over concerns about impostor drivers. (Uber appealed, and won an 18-month license with conditions.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Kathryn Crosby is 87. Actor Christopher Riordan is 83. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 80. Singer Bob Lind is 78. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 76. Actor John Larroquette is 73. Actor Tracey Walter is 73. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 73. Author Charlaine Harris is 69. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 69. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 65. Singer Amy Grant is 60. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 57. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 56. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 56. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 56. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 55. Actor Steve Harris is 55. Actor Billy Burke is 54. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 54. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 54. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 52. Actor Jill Hennessy is 51. Actor Christina Applegate is 49. Actor Eddie Steeples is 47. Actor Kristian Nairn is 45. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 44. Actor Jill Flint is 43. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 41. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 41. Actor Valerie Azlynn is 40. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 39. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 39. Actor Katie Cassidy is 34. Actor Stephanie Hsu is 30. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 29.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.



- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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