

## Reviews, Blurbs & Media Response

### Liberated by Steve Anderson:

# DODGE CITY, GERMANY

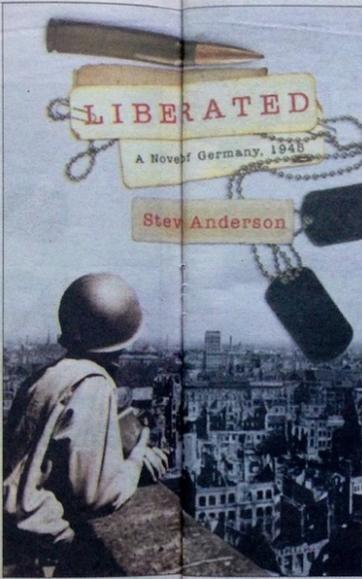
Local author novelizes the lawless military takeover of a town

**By Steve Anderson**  
*For The Oregonian/OregonLive*

The locals called him Major Crazy. Early in the U.S. occupation of Germany, Maj. Raymond Towle of Boston ruled the Bavarian town of Eichstätt as an eccentric tyrant.

Major Crazy carried a riding whip he used on anyone threatening to question him. Obsessed with the Catholic Church in Rome, the major had an elaborate papal court costume tailored for himself — all in black, complete with custom sword — and brought in a top Munich painter to portray him in it. He requisitioned more than 20 of the best houses in town for his entourage of sycophants, rakes and pimps. Soon he was shipping home hundreds of crates filled with plunder from across Bavaria and more art pieces that he ordered forged.

In my novel "Liberated: A Novel of Germany, 1945," Major Crazy is reborn in the character of Maj. Robertson Membre, U.S. military governor of the isolated Southern Bavarian town of Heimgau. My main character, ambitious U.S.



over the native inhabitants like a robber baron over a busted boomtown.

In late spring 1945, U.S. combat units had secured the war's unexpectedly calm closure on the frontiers of southern Bavaria. But someone had to take over on the local level, ensure peace and order, and get things running again. Nazis had to be purged, the refugees cared for. Enter the U.S. military government detachments, following the path of U.S. tactical forces into cities and towns, villages and counties that were physically and socially devastated. Amid untold ruin and chaos, broken infrastructure and vaporized authority, the military government officers in the smaller far-flung detachments were often cut off from the world.

This demanded self-reliance and inventiveness, but it also invited confusion, scandal and infamy. Some commanders made themselves the lords of their helpless communities. Fearful and sometimes grateful locals dubbed them the "County Kings," as their king often beat out rival detach-

ment's communities competing for manpower and precious resources, shelter and food.

The path to "Liberated" began years ago when I was a graduate student in history at Portland State University and was fortunate to perform research in Munich on a Fulbright Fellowship. In archives there, I discovered the example of Miesbach, the unassum-

ing capital of a rural county between Munich and the Alps. U.S. combat units had denied Miesbach's military government detachment access to the town until May 16, 1945 — more than a week after the capitulation. What detachment officers found must have given them a shock.

The report for May 13-20 describes the local popu-

lation as being highly distressed because U.S. military police were "permitting SS officers and a limited number of enlisted men to remain armed with some freedom" (italics mine). Incredibly, the SS soldiers were able to shoot three civilians while at liberty, including a U.S. intelligence informant. German army troops stationed nearby were allowed to operate with complete freedom. Their commander reportedly was assuring his men that "the war is not lost and another German Army will be formed."

The Miesbach military government stabilized the situation, but as late as 1947 an investigator described a history of "careless enforcement" in Miesbach. Locals with Nazi pasts had been appointed to top posts. One deemed politically acceptable turned out to be a "paranoiac and a psychopathic mythomaniac." The investigator found the situation typical in such isolated areas.

Officers were flattered by officials with Nazi connections and reluctant to let them go,

showing a lack of "judgment, intelligence and impartiality." The investigator concluded: "It has been proved over and over again that the officer who is lulled into confidence by a surface obsequiousness is forgetting an essential fact: No people loves or trusts or essentially wishes to help the power that occupies it."

It intrigued me that so much scandal was implied between the lines but might be lost to history. Such incidents seemed the stuff of mystery and crime and historical fiction — and sparked my early attempts at fiction writing and a manuscript that years later, after many revisions, became "Liberated."

Enter Capt. Harry Kaspar. A naturalized American born in Germany, Harry believes in the capability of American can-do to change the world for the better, given full rein to do so. As it turns out, the Wild West that was the early occupation became the greenhorn Harry's worst nightmare. Against the robber baron, the new town sheriff hardly has a chance.

**Bell of the Desert by Alan Gold** - Kirkus Reviews 2014-09-28 - Gold (Bloodline, 2014, etc.) crafts highly detailed historical fiction from the unparalleled life of Gertrude Bell, English debutante-turned-explorer-turned World War I diplomatic intelligence officer. Before there was Lawrence of Arabia, there was Bell, "Daughter of the Desert," a woman of protean intelligence, political acumen and undying passion for Arabia who became a seminal figure in Arab nationalism. After her formal "coming out," Bell found prospective suitors less than her intellectual equals. Then she met Hashemite sheik Abd al-Rahman as he consulted her uncle, a British ambassador, and began to passionately explore Arabia and its culture. She often journeyed alone, a shocking decision then. Gold has Bell meet young T.E. Lawrence at an archaeological dig at Carchemish. They develop a platonic love that carries on through WWI, as the fey young scholar becomes Lawrence of Arabia. Postwar, there are political machinations, "a seething mass of distortions, contradictions, lies, evasions, prejudices, denials, and demands," as Britain and France remain blind to colonialism's impending collapse. Bell and Lawrence, albeit enamored of Arabia, were burdened by their own prejudices, perceiving Arabs as a "medieval and patronizing bunch of chauvinistic jingoists." While Gold's fact-packed narrative recounts the transition of desert fiefdoms into unstable oil-rich states wracked by tribal tensions, his character sketches are what shines—including Churchill, "a likeable, devious and somewhat untrustworthy politician," and the brilliant Faisal, third son of the Hashemite ruler of Mecca and Medina, installed as king of the Bell-created nation of Iraq. Beyond the political scheming, there's romance, literary appreciation for outsized desert vistas, acknowledgment of Arabia's intellectual contributions, illustrations of gender oppression, and a précis on the complex elements relating to Zionism and Palestine. Gold offers an interesting, imaginative chronicle of an extraordinary woman present at the creation of post-colonial Arab-Western tensions. A dense, highly detailed fictional yin to the yang of Lawrence's Seven Pillars of Wisdom.

### Under False Flags by Steve Anderson

"Steve Anderson's *Under False Flags* is a piece of raw meat cut out of real life. From its opening on

we are thrust into the brutal climactic frontlines of WWII's Western Front. From Normandy to the Ardennes we are there with the dogface GIs and their increasingly desperate adversaries—men on both sides who 'just want at the enemy. Anderson's intertwined stories of US Army Sgt. Wendell Lett and his equally noble German counterpart Holger Frings—two men for whom battle is all they now know—supply the plot, but the book's true topic is men pushed to their absolute limits. Blastingly realistic, impeccably researched—Anderson is not afraid of heroes.” —John Enright, author of *Fire Knife Dancing*

**Liberated by Steve Anderson:**

“Brilliant, frightening, and, for me, too reminiscent of my USO tour in Kessel in 1945/6. Here is the compelling, always frightening, reality of the unwanted conqueror, the American victor in enemy country, once homeland for many GIs—hated yet vital, trying to stay ahead of the dangers, violence, and corruption—and always the sour taste of combat or revenge lurking in every survivor on all sides. Steve Anderson has revealed the endgame of war, tinged with GI passion—a passion twisted to violence by so many who did not want to change.” —Maria Riva, bestselling author of *Marlene Dietrich*

**Bell of the Desert by Alan Gold –BookLife:** A grand historical novel about Gertrude Bell, one of the most influential women of the twentieth century. She was the most celebrated adventurer of her day, the brains behind Lawrence of Arabia, an adviser to kings and desert sheikhs, and the British government's secret weapon in WWI in the campaign against the Turks. A brilliant academic, mountaineer, explorer, linguist, politician, and towering literary figure, Gertrude Bell is the most significant unsung heroine of the twentieth century. Alan Gold's meticulously researched novel accurately opens history's pages on a peerless woman who broke all molds on how Victorian women were supposed to behave—socially, intellectually, and physically. Guiding the events of the day in open, sanctioned diplomacy and adventure all across the Middle East, her influence on the men at the vanguard of history, and her unparalleled skill in sculpting the pathways and influences of the English, French, and Arab allies on the region, all lead to perhaps her greatest achievement: single-handedly creating today's Iraq. Told as a biographical narrative of history, Alan Gold reveals that, more than any other single figure, it was this extraordinary woman who most determinedly fashioned the Arab world as we know it today.

**Wall, Watchtower and Pencil Stub: Writing during World War II** by John R. Carpenter- **BOOKLIST REVIEW** - (our emphasis)– “Translator and comparative-literature scholar Carpenter examines a panoply of fiction and poetry from the WWII years in this somewhat rambling meditation on how contemporary narratives were shaped by the war. At its most basic level, this is a review of the various wartime hardships overcome by writers, including concrete obstacles like hunger, danger, censorship, and paper shortages. But its real focus is upon the more abstract challenges posed by the war. How did the experience of the war change the way writers understood themselves and the world around them? How can one wrap words—let alone narrative—around experiences too surreal or too horrifying or simply too vast to be readily described? In addressing such questions, Carpenter notes contrasts: between military and civilian life, city and country, order and chaos, and the rhetoric of war and the real thing, up close. As Carpenter's emphasis is upon works written during the war (as opposed to postwar reflections), he is particularly fascinated by the seeming authenticity of perspectives expressed by those who do not yet know how the war will turn out. Although he makes some suggestions about how wartime narratives would define literature through the postwar period, **this book's real strength is in what it suggests about our desire (and perhaps need) to bear witness to war's horrors.**”

**The Awakening by Allen Johnson** - “*The Awakening* is one of those rare books that tugs at your heart while intriguing the mind. The history of Spain in a time of unrelenting fascism and threat of war was a wonderful setting in which to reveal the goodness of simple people who carried their own, often complex, secrets. The country doctor opens her heart to the stranger and, in doing so, embraces a new world from whence her own fears are affirmed and accepted. *The Awakening* is a merry,

thought-provoking gem in the genre of *The Alchemist*, but with a twist. It is an elegantly written novel of the human condition.” —Torena O’Rorke, author of *Gemini Girl Murders* and other Astrology Mysteries

**The Path by Peter Riva – *Fantascize.com* -** Reading Peter Riva's science fiction novel *The Path* (Book 1 of the TAG series) felt like diving into a world entirely different from our own yet so immersive that upon returning to the surface we call "reality", I had to open my window to catch some fresh air (more like "chilling winds") as I reflected on the novel's mind-bending concepts and thought-provoking investigations about humans, machines, and the things that set them apart. *The Path* is like the virtual *Heart of Darkness* minus the "darkness" or a potent potion that some might not dare to consume, but its effects are tantalizing. In the future, computer systems run the Utopian world where "people have reached out what inspires us". The United States government had set Purification Laws during the great rectification known as The Purge, which led to “the eradication of all subversive elements and conditions prevalent in the United States of America." Corruption and greed have dissipated; the catharsis of human desires has developed a society so harmonious and so "systematic" that humans became as mechanical avatars, doing what they're programmed to do. Humans no longer dream for a brighter future; they dream of their dependence of their primal past. The story follows 50-year-old System employee Simon Bank, whose job is to humanize the System's artificial intelligence to "make it fit more perfectly into the needs of society". A collective entity known as The Control is monitoring his progress as he tries to investigate the problems that his mistakes have caused. Riva has established his protagonist's voice well from the start: Simon's expert technical jargon (Cool words like SynthKids, RFID's, and Powercubes) mixed with his witty yet charmingly flawed personality makes him a credible narrator who often talks like a walking archive, constantly analyzing, modifying, and transferring information while expressing little emotion to other characters. He's a family man, and although I sensed that his family is dear to him, he seems detached from the present, physical world. He digs deep in his memories and questions the existence of God. His internalization that runs throughout the whole novel often sounds like a chess strategy or binary data that some readers might find puzzling or exhausting. The exposition-heavy first-act and lack of dramatic action may bore readers seeking for adventure and stylish action; its deep concepts and historical background from the later sections leave no trail for physical conflict and danger. So in a sense, it's a lot like Christopher Nolan's *Inception* minus the gravity-defying heist (He even meets an "architect" that reminded me of Ariadne). Nonetheless, his philosophical ramblings about dreams and the future are amusing; his conversations with the A.I. named Apollo are thought-provoking. They made me question: What makes a human "human" in a world where conformity breaks individuality? Ironically, his job is to preserve the nation's "perfect" stability while humanizing a seemingly-terrifying artificial intelligence as if it's an alien baby. What we may have here is an infant with tremendous power who may, or may not, recognize the consequence of that power and may, or may not be developing into childhood and then on to young adulthood and so on. The most amusing aspect of *The Path* is Riva's way of humanizing machines while mechanizing humans. Simon Bank's purpose of teaching the human ways to a sentient machine is deeply moving; Riva has written fantastic and humorous dialogues with smart-ass wordplays and literal implications that amazed me and made me ponder simultaneously. Apollo is a chillingly believable character, more developed than Bank's mundane associates: Mary, Cramer, and Makerman. It's also impressive how Riva gradually paints his character into being: how he assimilates Simon and processes data to mimic the human ways. You see, in its world there is no boundary. Yes there is a physical one, but it cannot see the physical one. It doesn't see, for example, the binary controller as a physical barrier but as an on/off switch and filter that needed electric activation. Us? We know its electrical activation, electricity has a physical effect, and so on. The end result is the same, but the System was an electric medium, it could not see beyond its world. Like the flat-Earthers, they had no way into space to look down and see a globe and stars, so they assumed there was a falling off point, an end of the earth. So too, the System knew a finite world in which it lived, but where it lived was only where it knew to explore. Give it a new concept, a new

place and off it could sail, like Columbus, to discover... something. And that showed curiosity which I know it has—coupled with daring and imagination which are the benchmarks of the greatest of all humankind; explorers. Of course, while it sailed off somewhere it was also still here and now, everywhere it knew, all at the speed of light. Fast. I was also intrigued with Apollo's views about "the way": *The path is one small step at a time. The way is you, all around you, you can see it, you can feel it, you cannot change it. You are in it and part of it.* The progression of the plot becomes more intense when Simon Bank's plans didn't go as expected, when he becomes public enemy number-one, doing what he can to escape the elusive order-obsessed Control. But Riva lets Bank stray his narration from his quest to describe the global population control problems, various histories, Gaia theory, and Calhoun Rat Studies to frame some of kind of path that leads to the "enlightenment". *The Path's* title may be misleading because its plot is far from the typical formulaic science fiction stories involving artificial intelligence. Riva must have taken Ralph Waldo Emerson's advice: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail" or he has rooted his work on Asimov's philosophical foundations (Riva alludes to Asimov's laws and even pokes fun at him: "Asimov was an ass to think you could stop nature and self-determining life.") Of course, the course of the story doesn't immediately deviate from the "right path" that its society has defined for the protagonist but there's something intimate about how Riva explores human nature and technology in his dense prose. Its path isn't the kind of free-flowing river that most casual readers are used to nor it is a placid lake that complacently disregards that depths of its subjects; it's more like a huge dam that held a reservoir of creative ideas at one point, but somehow, Riva has broken to dam to spill down his concepts in a tsunami that flooded my thoughts about nature vs. nurture, humanity vs. technology, order vs. chaos, and more importantly, individuality vs. conformity. *The Path* is a remarkable experience that brings us to an alien but realistic world, a fascinating exploration of the human mind, its psychological aspects, and the possibility of humanizing machines through assimilation. I've wrapped my mind around this question: Is humanizing an A.I. truly possible? But I think the more important question is: Is the possibility of losing our human qualities that make us human—flaws, emotions, the tendency to learn from mistakes and choose our own paths instead of processing data through the machines' analogue ways—more dangerous than machines outsmarting humans? Discover *The Path* that Riva has paved, and you might find an answer.

***Evil of the Age: by Allan Levine*** - "Winnipeg's own Allan Levine takes his talents for historical mystery to nineteenth-century New York for this novel. . . . Great research and great fun make this a winner."  
—Margaret Cannon, *Globe and Mail*

***In The Land of Barefoot Soldiers by Frances Vieta*** - "Historically, the Italian invasion in 1935 was a brutal and devastating period for Ethiopia. We were not prepared to lose hundreds of thousands of people. It was an overwhelming loss for my country and for my family. My thanks to Frances Vieta for telling this story." —Yohannes Mengesha, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and great-grandson of Emperor Haile Selassie I

***Evil of the Age: by Allan Levine*** - "One of the finest 'history mysteries' available today. *Evil of the Age* is an award-winning novel in waiting. . . . *Evil of the Age* is history revealed in sordid and fascinating detail. It's also a mystery—a chilling and believable tale. It simply doesn't get any better than this."  
—Don Graves, *Hamilton Spectator*

***Evil of the Age: by Allan Levine*** - "Levine has done it again. He has seamlessly crafted an amazing mix of historical lore, credible views of the seamiest settings of old New York, an intertwined plot of murderous suspense and political corruption, and with a population of unique characters, good, bad, ugly, and everything in between. For history/mystery fans it's a book that leaves its readers begging for the next of the St. Clair chronicles." —M. Wayne Cunningham, *Mysterious Reviews*

***A Tale of Two Citizens by Elyce Wakerman*** - "This engrossing novel is an intimate story of two men and the woman who is the improbable and romantic link between them. A Polish-Jewish immigrant with a strong sense of family and burgeoning patriotism, and a government official determined to keep his country safe from alien influence, are at the center of a battle over justice and American identity. Set amid the dramatic events of the 1930s, the consummation of a youthful passion has

fateful reverberations in this moving human story that brings both the past and the present to urgent life." - Laurel Bauer, Author of *Vertical Hold*

**A Tale of Two Citizens by Elyce Wakerman** - "The courage and stamina of trying to fit into a country torn by its attitudes toward immigrants; the hovering cloud of uncertainty about loved ones left behind; the quiet dignity of the newcomer and the basic decency of America: *A Tale of Two Citizens* resonates with today's struggles in a gripping and suspenseful story told with narrative mastery." - Rabbi Haim Dov Beliak, Executive Director, Jewish Renewal in Poland

**A Tale of Two Citizens by Elyce Wakerman** - "What a terrific story Elyce Wakerman tells. *A Tale of Two Citizens* is one of those big sprawling novels that you just can't put down. It brings together all the passion, heartbreak and resolute spirit of the immigrant experience in a totally fresh and fast-paced novel." - Richard DiLallo, Co-author with James Patterson of *Alex Cross's Trial* and *The Christmas Wedding*.

**A Tale of Two Citizens by Elyce Wakerman** - "*A Tale of Two Citizens* is a heart-wrenching story with knots-in-the-gut tension. I was so moved by the writing and the story-telling. The book is beyond beautiful." -Susan Jeffers Casel, Copyeditor of the Harry Potter books

**A Tale of Two Citizens by Elyce Wakerman** - "The best book I have ever read on the Midwest in the 1920s and 1930s." --Betty Lussier, Author, *Intrepid Woman*

**The Awakening by Allen Johnson** - "The story is an intricately weaved narrative, exquisitely written, with characters that come alive in both their complexity and their humanity. The book flows seamlessly from past to present and from scene to scene. The author has the gentle touch of an artist and the clear voice of compassion." —Michael Pieracci, professor of humanities, Washington State University Tri-Cities

**The Awakening by Allen Johnson** - "This is a story worth telling, which, along with the intrigue, has a useful message. . . . It's a fashion show of metaphors." —Allen D. Brecke, 2013 Tri-Citizen of the Year and recipient of the American Red Cross Heart of Humanity award

**Bell of the Desert** by Alan Gold –Historical Novel Society: In 1888, 20-year-old Gertrude Bell is presented to Queen Victoria. She is intrigued by Gertrude and invites her to tea! Gertrude is introduced to the Middle East two years later during visits to her uncle, a British diplomat, in Bucharest and later in Teheran. There Gertrude falls in love with the Third Secretary, who proposes to her. Since he's far below her family's financial status, her father withholds his consent. Gertrude returns home brokenhearted. Gertrude travels extensively, learns Arabic, publishes several books, and becomes an expert on Middle East affairs. She meets T.E. Lawrence, who impresses her with his knowledge of Arabia. At the start of WWI, she is appointed to the Arab Bureau in Cairo and proposes a scheme to unite the various Arab tribes to fight on the British side against the Ottomans. When some issues develop between the Cairo Bureau and Viceroy Hardinge on the use of the British Indian Army Expeditionary force in the Middle East, Gertrude is sent to Delhi to mediate. That force captures Basra, and Gertrude is sent there. However, the army runs into difficulty at Kut-al-Amara: Turks surround thousands of British soldiers. Since reinforcements cannot be sent in time, the generals, in desperation, consider a political solution and ask Gertrude and Lawrence to assist. ***While this is a historical novel, Gold has done a brilliant job*** in setting up the plot and in covering both the Arab and Western points of view. Readers will hasten to learn whether Gertrude and Lawrence will be successful in their mission. And will Gertrude's dream of uniting the Arab tribes to fight on the British side come true? Also, what happens at the end of WWI? The obstacles and jeers that Gertrude faced from the chauvinistic officers of that era, and her appropriate responses, are shown vividly. ***A superb account of a historical woman.***

**Death In Eden by Paul J. Heald** - "*Death in Eden* is a well-crafted murder mystery with an engaging academic sleuth set in the bosom of Los Angeles's seamy and sultry porn industry. The sleuth, Professor Stanley Hopkins, is destined for a long career in solving celebrity murders. Catch him now! A fun read." —Edward Larson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Summer for the Gods*

**Death In Eden by Paul J. Heald** - "Paul Heald's debut novel is a terrific read—witty and sharp throughout, with characters that continue to surprise, an exciting twisted plot, and a few genuine belly laughs along the way. More! More!" —Frank Chadwick, *New York Times* number one

bestselling author of *How Dark the World Becomes*

**You Can Lead A Horse To Water (But You Can't Make It Scuba Dive)** by Robert Cormack – **BEN EAST REVIEW** (our emphasis) - “Queue the circus music when Sam, Muller, and Max join Max’s father Otis and mother Ruby in *The Rec Room of Sound*, Otis’s Internet radio broadcast, to consume pot-laced brownies and interview Bisquick the Mynah bird best known for biting nipples and repeating the phrase “Gimme some titty action”. As the narrative careers from such inconsequence to further inconsequence, threatening to implode with all lack of import, it reveals instead our present state of communication and entertainment. How pathetic that an independent online radio program called *Otis Cries for You* can be a hit with thousands, that we might therefore get our emotions watered by watching *Dr. Phil* and *Oprah*. **Robert Bruce Cormack’s *You Can Lead a Horse to Water (But You Can’t Make It Scuba Dive)* is a picaro’s tale with dialogue miscues straight out of *Catch-22* and an unsung genius—Muller—who might have wandered in from *A Confederacy of Dunces*.** File it under “Catch-22 for the late-life laid-off father-in-law/son-in-law relationship picaresque.”

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “**A good antidote to the morning news!**” Josefa Vaughan, Founder, Executive and Artistic Director, ArtSeed

**1969 And All That by Robert Wintner** - “Robert Wintner takes us on his journey first in the American Midwest as a college student, then on a sex and drugs, On the Road–style motorcycle trip across southern England, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, the Red Sea, Germany, and finally the Netherlands. . . . California, motorcycles, and women round out the life adventure. Facing old age and the inevitable progressing failures of the body, Wintner reflects on friends and experiences. In the end he realizes the only way forward is through acceptance of another motorcycle journey.” —Marnie Gaede, president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society US and the Fund for Wild Nature

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paced novel.” - **Richard DiLallo, Co-author with James Patterson of *Alex Cross's Trial* and *The Christmas Wedding***

**Blue Gemini** by Mike Jenne: "It's fiction but you'd hardly know it. **The settings and other details are spot on! A great read.**"- **Werner J.A. Dahm, (former) Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force**

**Liberated** by Steve Anderson: “**Brilliant, frightening** and, for me, too reminiscent of my USO tour in Kessell in 1945/6. Here is the compelling, always frightening, reality of the unwanted conqueror, the American victor in enemy country, once *homeland* for many GIs – hated yet vital, trying to stay ahead of the dangers, violence and corruption - and always the sour taste of combat or revenge lurking in every survivor on all sides. **Steve Anderson has revealed the end game of war**, tinged with GI passion - a passion twisted to violence by so many who did not want to change.” **Maria Riva, bestselling author of “Marlene Dietrich”**

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “Christopher Webber has hit on a faithful and creative way to bring Paul's theological, ethical, and spiritual critique right to the heart of American life. As does the Bible itself, so Webber's *Dear Friends* relates our ultimate values to the questions and dilemmas we face every day. **I cannot think of a better way for both beginning and lifelong Christians to engage and renew their faith.** Eminently readable, accessible, and yet highly sophisticated, these letters will give both individual readers and congregational groups real insight into the life of faith in 21st-century America.” —**The Very Reverend Gary R. Hall, Dean, Washington National Cathedral**

**Under False Flags** by Steve Anderson: "Under False Flags is **a piece of raw meat cut out of real life.** From its opening on we are thrust into the brutal, climactic front lines of WWII's Western Front. From Normandy to the Ardennes, we are there with the dogface GIs and their increasingly desperate adversaries . . . **Blastingly realistic, impeccably researched.**" —**John Enright, author of “Fire Knife Dancing”**

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “The idea is inspired. . . . Both imaginative and faithful . . . undoubtedly a brilliant book.” —**Ian S. Markham, Dean and President, Virginia Theological Seminary**

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “A devoted and bold effort to apply Paul's thought about the world as he knew it to the world we live in now.”—**Edward F. Duffy, Presbyterian Pastor and Hartford Seminary Professor**

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “Compellingly captures Paul's voice and expression in this series of new letters on contemporary themes.” —**Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook, Dean of Faculty, Claremont School of Theology**

**Dear Friends** by Christopher L. Webber: “Webber’s imaginative and faithful retelling . . . is a wonderful example of the translatability of the Good News.” —**Ian T. Douglas, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut**

**Flypaper** by Chris Angus: “From remote, ancient Chinese monasteries to LAX airport, the White House, and the Adirondacks, the human race is threatened with extinction by a mysterious, fast-spreading pandemic. Only a small group of scientists and adventurers may have a way to save humanity. Will they be on time?” —**Neal Burdick, author of *Adirondack Reflections***

**Hemingway's Paris** by Robert Wheeler: “Wheeler's photographs of Hemingway's Paris are a gritty illustration of what Perkins saw in Hemingway's writing.” - **Jenny Phillips, grand-daughter of Maxwell Perkins of Scribner**

**Winston Churchill and the Treasure of Mapungubwe Hill** by Chris Angus: “Here is Winston Churchill, before he became a world leader, in a ripping good tale of quest, romance, thrill and intrigue that moves smartly from the Boer War to World War II, from the halls of power in London to the hills of danger in Africa, and back again.” —**Neal Burdick, author of *Adirondack Reflections***

**Winston Churchill and the Treasure of Mapungubwe Hill** by Chris Angus: “A rollicking, continent-spanning adventure across history—Ian Fleming meets H. Rider Haggard.” —**Jeff Crook, author of *The Sleeping and the Dead***

**Wall, Watchtower, and Pencil Stub** by John R. Carpenter: “World War II and its consequences will not leave our consciousness and sense of civilization; the question of the circumstances under which the best writers made their voices heard remains as urgent today as it ever was. John R. Carpenter is to be congratulated on his detailed and courageous refutation of the often heard saw that in wartime, the Muses are silent. His book belongs in all academic as well as public collections.” —**Emery George, poet and editor of *Contemporary East European Poetry***

**Hemingway's Paris** by Robert Wheeler: “This book evokes not only the beauty of Paris but especially of Hemingway's remembrance of the early Paris years and his formation as a modernist writer. The exquisite photography and the evocative beauty of the prose bring out the very best of what Paris has to offer: past, present, and, forever, the future. Read this book and savor Hemingway's city.” - **James Meredith, President, The Ernest Hemingway Foundation and Society**

**Hemingway's Paris** by Robert Wheeler: “In this photographic tribute to Ernest Hemingway, Robert Wheeler uses his unerring eye and masterly vision to bring us Paris, city of literature and romance, in a unique and charming way. Inspired by *A Moveable Feast*, the crisp black and white images and accompanying narrative give us an original insight into both beloved city and renowned author. A delightful experience! - **Valerie Hemingway, author of *Running with the Bulls, My Life with the Hemingways***

**Wall, Watchtower, and Pencil Stub** by John R. Carpenter: “[this] is the story of writing, and the urgency of communication, during World War II. This fascinating and engaging account discusses work from many nations and touches on a wide variety of examples, from sophisticated literature to scrawled notes thrown by prisoners from trains. The pages dealing with the war's role in fostering distrust of rhetoric, euphemism, and abstraction are especially timely in this era of marketing and political newspeak.” —**Philip Fried, poet and editor of the *Manhattan Review***

**You Can Lead a Horse to Water (But You Can't Make it Scuba Dive)** by Robert Cormack: “With a pitch-perfect ear for dialogue and a delightfully wacky assortment of characters, Robert Bruce Cormack's novel takes his hapless hero, Sam Bennett, on an uproarious odyssey. Initially depressed and having panic attacks after being fired from his adman career, Sam's life takes him on an outrageous series of twists and turns that include his son-in-law Muller's get-rich-quick schemes, a foul-mouthed Mynah bird, salsa classes with his long-suffering wife, Mary, pool parties with his nudist neighbors, and plenty more. Cormack's absurd yet dry sense of humor runs through it all: ‘Any plans for the New Year?’ Sam asks his doctor. ‘At my age, Sam? What do I have to resolve?’ What, indeed.” —**Myna Wallin, author of *Confessions of A Reluctant Cougar***

**When Angels Cry** by Jennifer Edwards: “In *When Angels Cry*, Jennifer Edwards has drawn from her own unique life to create a heroine who navigates the nuances of modern relationships as a professional woman, lover, mother, and daughter. Her novel, which had to be taken into the bathtub because I couldn't put it down, is sexy, funny, and emotionally resonant—just like the author herself.” —**Tracy Nelson, actress**

**1969 & Then Some** by Robert Wintner: “Robert Wintner takes us on his journey first in the American Midwest as a college student, then on a sex and drugs, *On the Road*-style motorcycle trip across southern England, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, the Red Sea, Germany, and finally the Netherlands. . . . California, motorcycles, and women round out the life adventure. Facing old age and the inevitable progressing failures of the body, Wintner reflects on friends and experiences. In the end he realizes the only way forward is through acceptance of another motorcycle journey.” —**Marnie Gaede, president of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society US and the Fund for Wild Nature**

**Death In Eden** by Paul J. Heald: “*Death in Eden* is a well-crafted murder mystery with an engaging academic sleuth set in the bosom of Los Angeles's seamy and sultry porn industry. The sleuth,

Professor Stanley Hopkins, is destined for a long career in solving celebrity murders. Catch him now! A fun read.” —**Edward Larson, Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Summer for the Gods***

**Death In Eden** by Paul J. Heald: “Paul Heald’s debut novel is a terrific read—witty and sharp throughout, with characters that continue to surprise, an exciting twisted plot, and a few genuine belly laughs along the way. More! More!” —**Frank Chadwick, *New York Times* number one bestselling author of *How Dark the World Becomes***

**The Awakening** by Allen Johnson: “*The Awakening* is one of those rare books that tugs at your heart while intriguing the mind. The history of Spain in a time of unrelenting fascism and threat of war was a wonderful setting in which to reveal the goodness of simple people who carried their own, often complex, secrets. The country doctor opens her heart to the stranger and, in doing so, embraces a new world from whence her own fears are affirmed and accepted. *The Awakening* is a merry, thought-provoking gem in the genre of *The Alchemist*, but with a twist. It is an elegantly written novel of the human condition.” —**Torena O’Rorke, author of *Gemini Girl Murders and other Astrology Mysteries***

**The Awakening** by Allen Johnson: “The story is an intricately weaved narrative, exquisitely written, with characters that come alive in both their complexity and their humanity. The book flows seamlessly from past to present and from scene to scene. The author has the gentle touch of an artist and the clear voice of compassion.” —**Michael Pieracci, professor of humanities, Washington State University Tri-Cities**

**The Awakening** by Allen Johnson: “This is a story worth telling, which, along with the intrigue, has a useful message. . . . It’s a fashion show of metaphors.” —**Allen D. Brecke, 2013 Tri-Citian of the Year and recipient of the American Red Cross Heart of Humanity award**

**Evil of the Age** by Allan Levine: “Historians seldom extend their talents to murder mysteries, but Allan Levine has done just that, and evil of the Age turns out to be chilling and believable...” - **Peter C. Newman**

**Evil of the Age** by Allan Levine: “An excellent book, both a stimulating history lesson and an absorbing adventure tale.” – **Winnipeg Free Press**

**Evil of the Age** by Allan Levine: “The yarn Levine spins... skillfully blends elements of mystery, romance, history and politics with loads of conflicts and plenty of action and intriguing suspense.” – **The Mystery Review**

**Bell of the Desert** by Alan Gold: **Top Choice - The Historical Novel Society**

**Painting The Corners** by Bob Weintraub: “Weintraub has executed a triple play: savvy baseball writing, unforgettable characters, and a home run ending for each tale.” —**W. P. Kinsella, author of *Shoeless Joe***

**Painting The Corners** by Bob Weintraub: “Great storytelling for fans and nonfans alike. Bob Weintraub has big-league talent.” —**Dan Shaughnessy, author of *The Curse of the Bambino* and columnist for the *Boston Globe***

**Painting The Corners** by Bob Weintraub: “The prevailing trend seems to be to reduce baseball to numbers, to take out the adjectives and hyperbole, eliminating the descriptions of facial tics and personal travails and sunsets, to treat the game as some algebraic problem stretched across a blackboard in the basement of stats guru Bill James or some other math junkie. I myself prefer my baseball with the imagination left in, thank you very much. This collection of deft stories by Robert Weintraub takes us back to the bleachers and locker rooms, to the people who actually play and watch the game. Very nice. Very nice, indeed.” —**Leigh Montville, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Big Bam: The Life and Times of Babe Ruth* and *Ted Williams: The Biography of an American Hero***

**Painting The Corners** by Bob Weintraub: “Imaginative baseball stories for long rain delays and hot

stove league nights.” —**Darryl Brock, author of *If I Never Get Back* and *Two in the Field***

***Painting The Corners*** by Bob Weintraub: “Unique and wonderfully twisted.” —**Ed Asner, actor**

***Painting The Corners*** by Bob Weintraub: “These stories are as faithful to the spirit of a ball game as a box score, yet with all the color of a yarn told in a clubhouse during a rain delay.” —**Michael Coffey, author of *27 Men Out: Baseball’s Perfect Games***

***Love in the Land of Barefoot Soldiers*** by Frances Vieta: “... an elegant fusion of geography, history, daring characters and a page-turning narrative. Ethiopia, circa 1935, provides the setting for this conflict of cultures as well as political values. Haile Sellassie and Benito Mussolini animate the adventures of Ceseli Larson, an American archaeologist who is researching the obelisks of the royal city of Axum for her dissertation. It is among Ms. Vieta’s achievements that Ceseli, a fictional creation, seems every bit as unique, bold and admirable as the autobiographer Karen Blixen, a/k/a Isak Dinesen, the legendary author-heroine of *Out of Africa*.” - **Sidney Offit, Curator-emeritus George Polk Journalism Awards**