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Brutus: the noble conspirator, Kathryn Tempest (book review)

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Thomas's *Robert Kennedy*, and Larry Tye's *Bobby Kennedy* are deeply researched, comprehensive biographies. Matthews's less substantial but more personal work will appeal to general readers who want to understand the spirit of the times.—**Karl Helicher, formerly with Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA**

Murad, Nadia. *The Last Girl: My Story of Captivity, and My Fight Against the Islamic State*. Tim Duggan: Crown. Nov. 2017. 320p. ISBN 9781524760434. \$27; ebk. ISBN 9781524760458. BI06

In 2014, ISIS swept through Iraq, bringing death and destruction to the Yazidis people, a Kurdish religious minority. In a matter of days, more than 10,000 people were killed while countless women were forced into sex slavery and conversion to Islam. Murad, a human rights activist and Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking of the United Nations, tells her story to help bring those responsible to justice, with the hope that education, compassion, and activism make her the last woman to have this experience. She was only 21 when Islamic State militants executed the men and older women in her village, taking her and others to Mosul to become *sabaya* or slaves. Continually beaten and raped, she ran at her first opportunity and by chance found the home of a Sunni Muslim family who risked their lives to smuggle her to safety. **VERDICT** Murad provides a rare glimpse into the rich culture of the Yazidi. Her memoir is powerful and heart-breaking and will inspire the world to action.—**Heidi Uphoff, Sandia National Laboratories, NM**

Sebestyen, Victor. *Lenin: The Man, the Dictator, and the Master of Terror*. Pantheon. Nov. 2017. 592p. illus. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781101871638. \$35; ebk. ISBN 9781101871645. BI06

Vladimir Lenin (1870–1924) had a populist style that helped him gain political advantage in many situations. Here, journalist Sebestyen (*Revolution 1989*) attempts to show that the Russian communist leader was not a revolutionary by definition; rather, he was someone who happened to be close to the revolution. To create the first comprehensive study of Lenin in two decades, the author has gathered sources from diaries, letters, and personal papers that provide extraordinary detail about Lenin's personal life, including his relationships with his wife and mistress. Also described are the momentous decisions of the 1917 Russian Revolution, such as the decision to murder Tsar Nicholas II and his family. Lenin later become known for his challenges to intellectual freedom and purging libraries of books that were considered unacceptable. **VERDICT** This well-

documented work will satisfy amateur and professional historians alike.—**Harry Willems, Great Bend P.L., KS**

Tempest, Kathryn. *Brutus: The Noble Conspirator*. Yale Univ. Nov. 2017. 336p. photos. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780300180091. \$28.50; ebk. ISBN 9780300231267. BI06

The assassination of Julius Caesar involved many conspirators, but for one—Marcus Junius Brutus—involvement in the act meant turning into a divisive figure: a traitor eternally chewed by Satan in *Dante's Inferno*, the complex “noblest Roman” in William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, and a topic of endless debate among historians. Tempest's (*Cicero*) study of Brutus thankfully eschews questions of morality regarding Brutus's actions and instead focuses on a biographical and historical examination. Acknowledging the lack of many primary sources by and about Brutus, the author relies on those which do exist as well as measured analysis of his times and environment to offer theories (not assertions) on his life and mind-set. Tempest also uses sources by other authors who give varying accounts of Brutus's character and actions to explore how these conflicting interpretations have been shaped by the opinions of chroniclers. **VERDICT** Thoughtful, clear, and with thorough references and appendixes, this should be a valuable resource for anyone interested in delving into Brutus the historical figure, and Brutus the person. It would also pair nicely with Kirsty Corrigan's *Brutus*.—**Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans**

COMMUNICATIONS

Fager, Jeff. *Fifty Years of 60 Minutes: The Inside Story of Television's Most Influential News Broadcast*. S. & S. Oct. 2017. 416p. photos. index. ISBN 9781501135804. \$35; ebk. ISBN 9781501135828. COMM

The longest-running, prime-time TV broadcast, *60 Minutes*, begins its 50th season this fall. Many Americans tune in every Sunday night to learn about the world and to be entertained. This lavishly illustrated retrospective look at the show highlights some of the major stories and personalities that have made it such a success. Fager, the current executive producer, opens this book with the decade 1988–98, when he joined the company as a producer. He then goes back to the show's beginning in 1968 and continues through 2018. This insider perspective gives a behind-the-scenes view of how stories were developed, along with the complex interactions of the talented and competitive staff. There's Mike Wallace, known for his tough interviews and prone

to stealing stories from colleagues, and Andy Rooney, who was suffering from dementia when he was tricked into retiring on-air and then didn't remember what he had done. Major politicians have been regular guests on the show, including Bill and Hillary Clinton and Nancy Reagan. **VERDICT** Longtime viewers of *60 Minutes* will appreciate this volume's pictures, story recaps, and the inside scoop on show personalities.—**Judy Solberg, Sacramento, CA**

Scofield, Sandra. *The Last Draft: A Novelist's Guide to Revision*. Penguin Pr. Dec. 2017. 272p. ISBN 9780143131359. pap. \$17; ebk. ISBN 9781524705084. COMM

Novelist Scofield (*Beyond Deserving*) invites writers to take a step back, slow down, and look at their manuscript in all its messy, first-draft glory. Opening with a review of the novel form, the author provides a summary of narrative structure and a series of exercises to engage writers in a deep reading of their work, alongside the titles of their favorite authors. Literature is presented as a tool for the development of the craft. Scofield provides a roadmap that includes how to read and deconstruct a finished manuscript critically, how to get to the heart of the story, and how to develop a plan and process for revision. This is not so much a handbook as a primer on writing and literary engagement that invites the writer to delve into their creation with pen in hand. This book is meant to be dissected and reviewed as needed throughout the revision process; the only requirement is a finished manuscript or a book to explore. **VERDICT** This title stands out from the crowd of others on the subject. For readers who are thinking about publishing their writing.—**Gricel Dominguez, Florida International Univ. Lib.**

★**What Editors Do: The Art, Craft, and Business of Book Editing**. Univ. of Chicago. Oct. 2017. 320p. ed. by Peter Ginna. index. ISBN 9780226299839. \$75; pap. ISBN 9780226299976. \$25. COMM

This useful, down-to-the-bedrock collection of essays from 27 industry leaders on the art, craft, and business of book editing might very well qualify as exhaustive. For the generally curious, and those earning all or even part of their livelihood in some editorial capacity, this is a sturdy guide through often-hazardous textual terrain—an *Art of War*, if you will, for professional and neophyte alike. Ginna's (Doctor Syntax blog) contributors might not be names familiar to the reading public, but “editing is an invisible art where the very best work goes undetected.” A little-known aspect of traditional publishing: best-selling authors often turn in manuscripts peppered with typos, poor

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