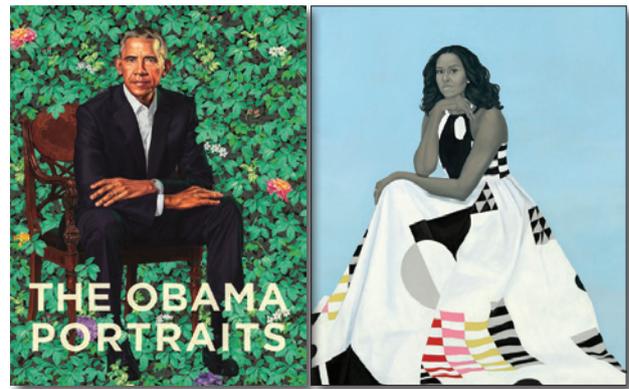


Books



As we point out elsewhere in this issue, reading rocks! Most of us have had more time to devote to it during the lockdown. When the clamp-down lifts (during May and June?) it's a habit that many of us will surely maintain. Here are some standout recent books.

The Obama Portraits

By Taina Caragol, Dorothy Moss, Richard Powell & Kim Sajet
Princeton University Press
ISBN 978-0-691-203287

The portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama, painted after the President left office, were warmly received by many. This small format (7 x 9 in.) art-quality book's 137 pages contain 76 color images that explore not just the making of the artworks, but the backgrounds, inspirations and previous works of the artists, Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald. Notable too are the intimate, personal images of the unveiling ceremony by former White House photographer Pete Souza. The authors are the Director and two Curators at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC, and a Professor of Art and Art History.

Working with Americans

By Allyson Stewart-Allen & Lanie Denslow
Routledge (UK and USA)
ISBN 978-0-367-18670-7

The authors, experienced advisors on business practices and cultures around the world, have produced

the first-ever manual aimed at helping professionals improve relationships with American business partners, bosses and colleagues. As you're reading this magazine, chances are you're an American, so it's not aimed directly at you, but you can still pick up a lot of tips and second-guess what your foreign acquaintances are thinking of you and your fellow countrymen. And if you have any dealings with Brits or other nationalities (again, highly likely) you should get a copy to give to your colleagues, friends or loved ones. Full of clearly written advice and humorous examples, it could improve your relationships, especially in the business field.

No Fixed Line

By Dana Stabenow
Head of Zeus
ISBN 978-1-788-549110

Stabenow fans will be delighted to read the 22nd thriller in her series featuring Kate Sugak, the first nation Aleut Private Investigator whose beat is the wilderness of Alaska and whose best friend is the half-wolf, half-husky Mutt. Sugak is as different a protagonist to most

fictional detectives as her Alaskan mountains are to most crime settings. It all has the ring of truth - Stabenow was raised on an Alaskan fishing boat, and her character and plot development over the series is engaging and believable.

House on Fire

By Joseph Finder
Head of Zeus
ISBN 978-1-838-030530

Nick Heller - former Special Forces Ops soldier, wounded veteran and now a gritty, no nonsense but principled PI - is back. Joseph Finder updates the tough, Chanderesque detective trope into the 21st century as he gets embroiled with a pharmaceutical-owning billionaire family whose opioid products are killing people across America - including his own army buddy. Twists aplenty, a good solid read.

The Bramble and the Rose

By Tom Bouman
Faber & Faber
ISBN 978-0-571-358168

In an era when thrillers are reaching 400 and more pages, it's a surprise to find a small

format paperback that fails to scrape the 200 mark. Could such a short book, almost a novelette by today's standard, possibly contain enough to interest the reader? Unquestionably, yes. This reader was immediately immersed in the northeastern Pennsylvanian world of Henry Farrell, a small-town cop and widower with his own secrets. Managing to blend detective work, animal hunting and startling violence with a poetic, literary, lilt, its distinctive world of local dialect, sprawling woods and hills, firetracks, rivers, errant bears and even more errant neighbors has a keener sense of place than most other crime thrillers.

Dark Towers

By David Enrich
Custom House
ISBN 978-0-063-045439

The never-before-told saga of how Deutsche Bank became the global face of financial recklessness and criminality. Written by award-winning David Enrich, the Finance Editor of The New York Times, the book starts with a man's death, and follows the son's search for the secrets he kept. This is an unputdownable good read, charting Deutsche Bank's fateful decision to pursue Wall Street riches. It follows the principal characters in their careers, interactions and actions, as they careen out of control, flouting ethics and the law - manipulating markets, scamming investors, defrauding regulators and laundering money for Russian oligarchs. Oh, and it details its dealings with one Donald Trump, the Kushner family and an array of 'scandal tarred' clients. ★

