

Read Book Migratory Animals Mary Helen Specht Free Download Pdf

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Last Dance on the Starlight Pier Aug 17 2021 Set during the Great Depression, Sarah Bird's Last Dance on the Starlight Pier is a novel about one woman—and a nation—struggling to be reborn from the ashes. July 3. 1932. Shivering and in shock, Evie Grace Devlin watches the Starlite Palace burn into the sea and wonders how she became a person who would cause a man to kill himself. She'd come to Galveston to escape a dark past in vaudeville and become a good person, a nurse. When that dream is cruelly thwarted, Evie is swept into the alien world of dance marathons. All that she has been denied—a family, a purpose, even love—waits for her there in the place she dreads most: the spotlight. Last Dance on the Starlight Pier is a sweeping novel that brings to spectacular life the enthralling worlds of both dance marathons and the family-run empire of vice that was Galveston in the Thirties. Unforgettable characters tell a story that is still deeply resonant today as America learns what Evie learns, that there truly isn't anything this country can't do when we do it together. That indomitable spirit powers a story that is a testament to the deep well of resilience in us all that allows us to not only survive the hardest of hard times, but to find joy, friends, and even family, in them.

Michigan Quarterly Review Jan 10 2021

The Lifeguards Jul 16 2021 "A book that is at once riveting and relevant as it unpeels the various meanings of motherhood, family, and loyalty. I tore through it."—Miranda Cowley Heller, author of *The Paper Palace* The bonds between three picture-perfect—but viciously protective—mothers and their close-knit sons are tested during one unforgettable summer in a gripping novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Jetsetters*. Austin's Zilker Park neighborhood is a wonderland of greenbelt trails, live music, and moms who drink a few too many margaritas. Whitney, Annette, and Liza have grown thick as thieves as they have raised their children together for fifteen years, believing that they can shelter them their children from an increasingly dangerous world. Their friendship is unbreakable—as safe as the neighborhood where they've raised their sweet little boys. Or so they think. One night, the three women have been enjoying happy hour when their boys, lifeguards for the summer, come back on bicycles from a late-night dip in their favorite swimming hole. The boys share a secret—news that will shatter the perfect world their mothers have so painstakingly created. Combining three mothers' points of view in a powerful narrative tale with commentary from entertaining neighborhood listservs, secret text messages, and police reports, *The Lifeguards* is both a story about the secrets we tell to protect the ones we love and a riveting novel of suspense filled with half-truths and betrayals, fierce love and complicated friendships, and the loss of innocence on one hot summer night.

The Jetsetters Oct 19 2021 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK • Named One of the Best Beach Reads of the Year by Parade, O: The Oprah Magazine, and Good Housekeeping "The exuberant activity aboard the Splendido Marveloso is no match for the fireworks set off as the lies explode. Full of wicked humor and delicious destination details."—People (Book of the Week) NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY ESQUIRE When seventy-year-old Charlotte Perkins submits a sexy essay to the Become a Jetsetter contest, she dreams of reuniting her estranged children: Lee, an almost-famous actress; Cord, a handsome Manhattan venture capitalist who can't seem to find a partner; and Regan, a harried mother who took it all wrong when Charlotte bought her a Weight Watchers gift certificate for her birthday. Charlotte yearns for the years when her children were young, when she was a single mother who meant everything to them. When she wins the contest, the family packs their baggage—both literal and figurative—and spends ten days traveling from sun-drenched Athens through glorious Rome to tapas-laden Barcelona on an over-the-top cruise ship, the Splendido Marveloso. As lovers new and old join the adventure, long-buried secrets are revealed and old wounds are reopened, forcing the Perkins family to confront the forces that drove them apart and the defining choices of their lives. Can four lost adults find the peace they've been seeking by reconciling their childhood aches and coming back together? In the vein of *The Nest* and *The Vacationers*, *The Jetsetters* is a delicious and intelligent novel about the courage it takes to reveal our true selves, the pleasures and perils of family, and how we navigate the seas of adulthood.

As Told By Herself Jan 22 2022 *As Told by Herself* offers the first systematic study of women's autobiographical writing about childhood. More than 175 works—primarily from English-speaking countries and France, as well as other European countries—are presented here in historical sequence, allowing Lorna Martens to discern and reveal patterns as they emerge and change over time. What do the authors divulge, conceal, and emphasize? How do they understand the experience of growing up as girls? How do they understand themselves as parts of family or social groups, and what role do other individuals play in their recollections? To what extent do they concern themselves with issues of memory, truth, and fictionalization? Stopping just before second-wave feminism brought an explosion in women's childhood autobiographical writing, *As Told by Herself* explores the genre's roots and development from the mid-nineteenth century, and recovers many works that have been neglected or forgotten. The result illustrates how previous generations of women—in a variety of places and circumstances—understood themselves and their upbringing, and how they thought to present themselves to contemporary and future readers.

Northwestern High School, 1914-1939, a History Jan 28 2020

Tori Amos's Boys for Pele May 14 2021 It's hard to think of a solo female recording artist who has been as revered or as reviled over the course of her career as Tori Amos. Amy Gentry argues that these violent aesthetic responses to Amos's performance, both positive and negative, are organized around disgust—the disgust that women are taught to feel, not only for their own bodies, but for their taste in music. Released in 1996, Amos's third album, *Boys for Pele*, represents the height of Amos's willingness to explore the ugly qualities that make all of her music, even her more conventionally beautiful albums, so uncomfortably, and so wonderfully, strange. Using a blend of memoir, criticism, and aesthetic theory, Gentry argues that the aesthetics of disgust are useful for thinking in a broader way about women's experience of all art forms.

Heaven, My Home Feb 08 2021 In this "captivating" crime novel (*People*), Texas Ranger Darren Mathews is on the hunt for a missing child -- but it's the boy's family of white supremacists who are his real target. 9-year-old Levi King knew he should have left for home sooner; now he's alone in the darkness of vast Caddo Lake, in a boat whose motor just died. A sudden noise distracts him - and all goes dark. Darren Mathews is trying to emerge from another kind of darkness; after the events of his previous investigation, his marriage is in a precarious state of re-building, and his career and reputation lie in the hands of his mother, who's never exactly had his best interests at heart. Now she holds the key to his freedom, and she's not above a little maternal blackmail to press her advantage. An unlikely possibility of rescue arrives in the form of a case down Highway

59, in a small lakeside town where the local economy thrives on nostalgia for ante-bellum Texas - and some of the era's racial attitudes still thrive as well. Levi's disappearance has links to Darren's last case, and to a wealthy businesswoman, the boy's grandmother, who seems more concerned about the fate of her business than that of her grandson. Darren has to battle centuries-old suspicions and prejudices, as well as threats that have been reignited in the current political climate, as he races to find the boy, and to save himself. A Best Book of the Year New York Times Houston Chronicle NPR Wall Street Journal Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Book Page Financial Times Kirkus She Reads Sunday Times LitHub Guardian Book Riot South Florida Sun Sentinel Longlisted for the Orwell Political Fiction Book Prize

The Writer's Field Guide to the Craft of Fiction Sep 29 2022 The Writers Field Guide to the Craft of Fiction offers a refreshing approach to the craft of fiction writing. It takes a single page from forty contemporary novels and short stories, identifies techniques used by the writers, and presents approachable exercises and prompts that allow anyone to put those techniques to immediate use in their own work. Encompassing everything from micro (how to "write pretty") to macro (how to "move through time space"), and even how to put all together on page one, this a field guide for anyone who wants to start writing now (or get some shiny new gear for their fiction toolbox.)

The Spectators Apr 12 2021 A shocking crime triggers a media firestorm for a controversial talk show host in this provocative novel—a story of redemption, a nostalgic portrait of New York City, and a searing indictment of our culture of spectacle. One of the The New York Times's "10 Books to Watch for in April" • "Jennifer duBois is a brilliant writer."—Karen Russell, author of *Vampires in the Lemon Grove* Talk show host Matthew Miller has made his fame by shining a spotlight on the most unlikely and bizarre secrets of society, exposing them on live television in front of millions of gawking viewers. However, the man behind The Mattie M Show remains a mystery—both to his enormous audience and to those who work alongside him every day. But when the high school students responsible for a mass shooting are found to be devoted fans, Mattie is thrust into the glare of public scrutiny, seen as the wry, detached herald of a culture going downhill and going way too far. Soon, the secrets of Mattie's past as a brilliant young politician in a crime-ridden New York City begin to push their way to the surface. In her most daring and multidimensional novel yet, Jennifer duBois vividly portrays the heyday of gay liberation in the seventies and the grip of the AIDS crisis in the eighties, alongside a backstage view of nineties television in an age of moral panic. DuBois explores an enigmatic man's downfall through the perspectives of two spectators—Cel, Mattie's skeptical publicist, and Semi, the disillusioned lover from his past. With wit, heart, and crackling intelligence, *The Spectators* examines the human capacity for reinvention—and forces us to ask ourselves what we choose to look at, and why. Praise for *The Spectators* With *The Spectators*, duBois is staking out larger literary territory. The new novel is full of small pleasures that accumulate as proof that this writer knows her stuff. . . . DuBois's mastery of . . . details earns our trust as she expands *The Spectators* into a billowing meditation on the responsibility of public figures to contribute something worthwhile to the culture. Although her book takes place decades ago, duBois's message has a contemporary urgency as well.—The New York Times "Heart-rending and visceral . . . DuBois's language is dexterous, and her pacing impressive. . . . *The Spectators* is a treatise on the media's power and a finely wrought example of intimate pain."—USA Today

Migratory Animals Aug 29 2022 Winner of the Texas Institute of Letters Award and the Writer's League of Texas Fiction Award A February 2015 Indie Next Selection A January Apple iBook Selection An Austin American-Statesman Selects Book A powerful debut novel about a group of 30-somethings struggling for connection and belonging, *Migratory Animals* centers on a protagonist who finds herself torn between love and duty. When Flannery, a young scientist, is forced to return to Austin from five years of research in Nigeria, she becomes split between her two homes. Having left behind her loving fiancé without knowing when she can return, Flan learns that her sister, Molly, has begun to show signs of the genetic disease that slowly killed their mother. As their close-knit circle of friends struggles with Molly's diagnosis, Flannery must grapple with what her future will hold: an ambitious life of love and the pursuit of scientific discovery in West Africa, or the pull of a life surrounded by old friends, the comfort of an old flame, family obligations, and the home she's always known. But she is not the only one wrestling with uncertainty. Since their college days, each of her friends has faced unexpected challenges that make them reevaluate the lives they'd always planned for themselves. A mesmerizing debut from an exciting young writer, *Migratory Animals* is a moving, thought-provoking novel, told from shifting viewpoints, about the meaning of home and what we owe each other—and ourselves.

Register of Officers and Agents, Civil, Military and Naval Jun 22 2019

Detroit City Directories Jul 28 2022

Bad Habits Mar 12 2021 A whip-smart psychological thriller from the author of *Good as Gone* (a New York Times Notable Book) in which a grad student becomes embroiled in a deadly rivalry that changes her into someone unrecognizable to her struggling family, her ambitious academic friends, and even herself

Directory of Music Faculties in Colleges and Universities, U. S. and Canada Oct 26 2019

Internationale Bibliographie der Bibliographien 1959-1988 (IBB). Dec 29 2019 Grundlage der vorliegenden Bibliographie sind die 29 Bände der Bibliographischen Berichte, die als universaler Nachweis von Bibliographien von 1959 bis 1987 erschienen sind. Ziel der Internationalen Bibliographie der Bibliographien 1959-1988 ist es, den Gesamtdatenbestand in kumulierter Form leicht zugänglich zu machen. Die Titel sind in einer einheitlichen Systematik nach Themengebieten zusammengefasst. Insgesamt werden ca. 176.000 Titel erschlossen. Bibliothekaren, Dokumentaren und Informationsvermittlern wird mit den Bibliographien der zweiten Stufe ein wichtiges Hilfsmittel für die Selektion und Wertung von Bibliographien an die Hand gegeben.

Tartts 5 Sep 05 2020 Nine stories from the finalists in the Tartt First Fiction Award. At time of writing, these include Tara Mantel, CB Anderson, Betty Jean Tucker, Charles Boyer, Dan Pope, Gregg Cusick, Mary Helen Specht, and Patricia Mayer.

Jahco News Mar 31 2020

The Gap Year Sep 17 2021 Cam has raised her daughter Aubrey alone ever since her ex left to join a cult. But now the bond between mother and daughter seems to have disappeared. While Cam is frantic to see Aubrey, a straight-A student, at the perfect college, on a path that Cam is sure will provide her daughter success and happiness, Aubrey suddenly shows no interest in her mother's plans. Even the promise of an exciting gap year saving baby seals or bringing clean water to remote villages hasn't tempted her. She prefers pursuing a life with her wrong-side-of-the-tracks football-hero boyfriend and her own secret hopes. Both mourn the gap that has grown between them, but Cam and Aubrey seem locked in a fight without a winner. Can they both learn how to hold onto dreams . . . and when to let go to grasp something better? Sarah Bird's trademark laugh-out-loud humor joins with the tears that accompany love in a combination that reveals the fragile yet tough bonds of mother and daughter.

Official Register of the United States Aug 05 2020

Barefoot Dogs Nov 19 2021 Winner of the Jesse H. Jones Award for Best Work of Fiction from the Texas Institute of Letters * A San Francisco Chronicle Recommended Book of 2015 * Fiction Finalist for the 2015 Writers' League of Texas Book Awards * A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2015 * One of the Texas Observer's "Five Books We Loved in 2015" * One of PRI's "The World's Five Books You Should Read in 2016" "Profound and wrenching...A deeply moving chronicle of one family's collective devastation, full of remarkable wisdom and humor" (The New York Times Book Review) that follows the members of a wealthy Mexican family after their patriarch is kidnapped. On an unremarkable night, José Victoriano Arteaga—the head of a thriving Mexico City family—vanishes on his way home from work. The Arteagas find few answers; the full truth of what happened to Arteaga is lost to the shadows of Mexico's vast underworld. But soon packages arrive to the family house, offering horrifying clues. Fear, guilt, and the prospect of financial ruin fracture the once-proud

family and scatter them across the globe, yet delicate threads still hold them together: in a swimming pool in Palo Alto, Arteaga's grandson struggles to make sense of the grief that has hobbled his family; in Mexico City, Arteaga's mistress alternates between rage and heartbreak as she waits, in growing panic, for her lover's return; in Austin, the Arteagas' housekeeper tries to piece together a second life in an alienating new land; in Madrid, Arteaga's son takes his dog through the hot and unforgiving streets, in search of his father's ghost. A stunningly original exploration of the wages of a hidden war, *Barefoot Dogs* is a heartfelt elegy to the stolen innocence of every family struck by tragedy. Urgent and vital fiction, "these powerful stories are worthy of rereading in order to fully digest the far-reaching implications of one man's disappearance...this singular book affords the reader the chance to step inside a world of privilege and loss, and understand how the two are inextricably intertwined" (San Francisco Chronicle).

Country of Origin Jun 14 2021 Seventeen-year-old Halah Ibrahim has always known a privileged life and never had cause to question it until Cairo goes up in flames. Not only does she start to doubt her father and his role in the new military-backed government—but she ultimately decides to flee to America with a young soldier she hardly knows, an impulsive act that has far-reaching consequences on both sides of the ocean. A powerful and universal debut novel about family, identity, and independence, *Country of Origin* is as much about a nation's coming-of-age as it is about secrets and lies, love and truth.

Austin to ATX Mar 24 2022 In this gonzo history of the "City of the Violet Crown," author and journalist Joe Nick Patoski chronicles the modern evolution of the quirky, bustling, funky, self-contradictory place known as Austin, Texas. Patoski describes the series of cosmic accidents that tossed together a mashup of outsiders, free spirits, thinkers, educators, writers, musicians, entrepreneurs, artists, and politicians who would foster the atmosphere, the vibe, the slightly off-kilter zeitgeist that allowed Austin to become the home of both Armadillo World Headquarters and Dell Technologies. Patoski's raucous, rollicking romp through Austin's recent past and hipster present connects the dots that lead from places like Scholz Garten—Texas' oldest continuously operating business—to places like the Armadillo, where Willie Nelson and Darrell Royal brought hippies and rednecks together around music. He shows how misfits like William Sydney Porter—the embezzler who became famous under his pen name, O. Henry—served as precursors for iconoclasts like J. Frank Dobie, Bud Shrake, and Molly Ivins. He describes the journey, beginning with the search for an old girlfriend, that eventually brought Louis Black, Nick Barbaro, and Roland Swenson to the founding of the South by Southwest music, film, and technology festival. As one Austinite, who in typical fashion is simultaneously pursuing degrees in medicine and cinematography, says, "Austin is very different from the rest of Texas." Many readers of *Austin to ATX* will have already realized that. Now they will know why.

Index to Marriages and Deaths in the New York Herald: 1871-1876 Feb 29 2020

Poets & Writers Dec 09 2020

The Trident of Delta Delta Delta Nov 27 2019

Snapshots and Short Notes May 26 2022 *Snapshots and Short Notes* examines the photographic postcards exchanged during the first half of the twentieth century as illustrated, first-hand accounts of American life. Almost immediately after the introduction of the generic postcard at the turn of the century, innovations in small, accessible cameras added black and white photographs to the cards. The resulting combination of image and text emerged as a communication device tantamount to social media today. Postcard messages and photographs tell the stories of ordinary lives during a time of far-reaching technological, demographic, and social changes: a family's new combine harvester that could cut 40 acres a day; a young woman trying to find work in a man's world; the sight of an airplane in flight. However, postcards also chronicled and shared hardship and tragedy—the glaring reality of homesteading on the High Plains, natural disasters, preparations for war, and the struggles for racial and gender equality. With a meticulous eye for detail, painstaking research, and astute commentary, Wilson surveys more than 160 photographic postcards, reproduced in full color, that provide insights into every aspect of life in a time not far removed from our own.

Official Register of the United States Aug 24 2019

Colorado Review Oct 07 2020

Gopsill's Jersey City, Hoboken, Union Hill and West Hoboken Directory May 02 2020

On Home Sep 25 2019 When tragedy strikes, Cassidy, a cam girl living in Southern California, must return to the small West Virginia town she left behind. Cassidy likes her job getting naked for men on camera, though she prefers sex with women. She never came out to her family or friends back in her home state—not about her sexuality and certainly not about her sex work. Now, she must figure out how to hold on to the life she's built for herself while picking up the pieces of her fractured family. As Cassidy's story unfolds, we glimpse into the lives of the strong, complicated women who came before her: Jane, the sheltered daughter of farmers, escapes West Virginia for Washington, DC to work as a Government Girl for the FBI during World War II, until a fateful mistake threatens her future. Paloma, a Fulbright Scholar, journeys to newly Westernized Prague—only to fall for an idealistic but safe man from West Virginia. Though worlds and generations apart, all three search for meaning as they face impending motherhood and the pull to return home to rural Appalachia.

A Fire to Light Our Tongues Jun 26 2022 *A Fire to Light Our Tongues: Texas Writers on Spirituality* brings together the works of writers in Texas. The title is taken, with permission, from Naomi Shihab Nye's introduction to *Salting the Ocean: 100 Poems by Young Poets*, where she states the role of poetry serves as "a fire to light our tongues." This view describes the role that creative writers, encountering the challenges of this past decade, face as they grapple with shifting views of spirituality. While the project started before COVID-19, given the current worldwide pandemic, a book of creative work responding to writers' spirituality could not be more timely. This anthology offers readers creative works by Texas writers as they wrestle with evolving systems of belief or nonbelief.

Lexikon deutsch-jüdischer Autoren Jul 24 2019 The authors described in Volume 20 include Margarete Susman, Max Tau, Felix Aron Theilhaber, Ernst Toller, Kurt Tucholsky, Regina Ullmann, Hermann Ungar, Berthold Viertel, Jakob Wassermann, Felix Weltsch, Carl Zuckmayer and Stefan Zweig.

Die Urlauber Oct 31 2022 Sommer, Sonne und dann noch ein Hauptgewinn: 10 Tage Kreuzfahrt. Nur mit der Familie. Was kann da schon schiefgehen? Die siebzigjährige Charlotte Perkins fasst sich ein Herz und nimmt an einem Schreibwettbewerb teil, denn der Hauptgewinn, eine Kreuzfahrt mit ihren Lieben, wäre eine Chance, die Mitglieder ihrer Familie, die sich allesamt fremd geworden sind, wieder zusammenzubringen. Da ist zum einen Tochter Lee, eine mäßig bekannte Schauspielerin, Sohn Cord, ein attraktiver Unternehmer, der aus irgendeinem Grund keine Frau zu finden scheint, und zu guter Letzt Regan, ihres Zeichens gestresste Mutter, der es Charlotte einfach nicht recht machen kann, ganz egal, was sie auch versucht. Als sie den Wettbewerb tatsächlich gewinnt, packt die Familie ihre Koffer und verbringt die nächsten zehn Tage auf einem luxuriösen Kreuzfahrtdampfer, der sie von Athen über Rom nach Barcelona bringt. Und während sich ihnen auf den Zwischenstopps alte und neue Liebschaften anschließen, brechen Konflikte auf und Geheimnisse kommen ans Licht ...

The Alcalde Nov 07 2020 As the magazine of the Texas Exes, *The Alcalde* has united alumni and friends of The University of Texas at Austin for nearly 100 years. The *Alcalde* serves as an intellectual crossroads where UT's luminaries - artists, engineers, executives, musicians, attorneys, journalists, lawmakers, and professors among them - meet bimonthly to exchange ideas. Its pages also offer a place for Texas Exes to swap stories and share memories of Austin and their alma mater. The magazine's unique name is Spanish for "mayor" or "chief magistrate"; the nickname of the governor who signed UT into existence was "The Old Alcalde."

Columbus City Directory Jun 02 2020

Stories from the St. Louis Cemeteries of New Orleans Apr 24 2022 The tombs and graves of the St. Louis Cemeteries rise from the ground, creating labyrinthine memorials aptly dubbed "cities of the dead." Most

are in even rows with quaint street names. Some are of crumbling brick and broken marble. Others are miniature mansions clad in decorative ironwork with angelic guardians. Grand or humble, each is a relic of the story of New Orleans. Politicians, pirates, Mardi Gras Indian chiefs and one voodoo queen rest below. In an unprecedented inquiry, author Sally Asher reveals the lives within the mysterious and majestic tombs of the St. Louis Cemeteries.

Trow's New York City Directory Jul 04 2020

The Same Sky Dec 21 2021 From the acclaimed author of *How to Be Lost and Close Your Eyes* comes a beautiful and heartrending novel about motherhood, resilience, and faith—a ripped-from-the-headlines story of two families on both sides of the American border. Alice and her husband, Jake, own a barbecue restaurant in Austin, Texas. Hardworking and popular in their community, they have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing, lying just beyond reach. Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother Junior. Years ago, her mother left the family behind in Honduras to make the arduous, illegal journey to Texas. But when Carla's grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her own hands—and with Junior, she joins the thousands of children making their way across Mexico to America, facing great peril for the chance at a better life. In this elegant novel, the lives of Alice and Carla will intersect in a profound and surprising way. Poignant and arresting, *The Same Sky* is about finding courage through struggle, hope amid heartache, and summoning the strength—no matter what dangers await—to find the place where you belong. Praise for *The Same Sky* “The Same Sky is the timeliest book you will read this year—a wrenching, honest, painstakingly researched novel that puts a human face to the story of undocumented youth desperately seeking their dreams in America. This one's going to haunt me for a long time—and it's going to define the brilliant Amanda Eyre Ward as a leading author of socially conscious fiction.”—Jodi Picoult, author of *Leaving Time* “Riveting, heartrending, and beautifully written, *The Same Sky* pulled me in on the first page and held my attention all the way to its perfect conclusion. I devoured this book.”—Christina Baker Kline, author of *Orphan Train* “Ward is deeply sympathetic to her characters, and this affecting novel is sure to provoke conversations about immigration and adoption.”—The New York Times Book Review “A deeply affecting look at the contrast between middle-class U.S. life and the brutal reality of Central American children so desperate they'll risk everything.”—People “Amanda Eyre Ward's novel of the migrant journey, *The Same Sky*, is the most important book to come out of Austin this year.”—The Austin Chronicle

Boom or Bust Feb 20 2022 A vast number of studies have documented the economic and geological effects of oil production, but the impact of boom-and-bust cycles on individuals and communities has received less attention. *Boom or Bust* remedies this gap by highlighting the personal experiences of those directly affected in an economy dominated by oil and natural gas production. The Permian Basin is one of the largest oil-producing regions in the United States. People who live there have benefited from explosive growth, only to see opportunities vanish with sudden industry downturns. In 2016, the National Endowment for the Humanities funded a grant for the study and collection of energy narratives in this economically volatile region. *Boom or Bust* derives from that community initiative and offers a unique contribution to the developing field of energy humanities. The oil-field industry may seem to be all about numbers, but as *Boom or Bust* demonstrates, residents of oil-and-gas country, whether they work in the oil field or not, are at the mercy of an ever-shifting economy. When the price of oil rises, companies move in and newcomers flood the area, expanding the employment force. And as the population booms, so does the infrastructure of cities. When prices drop, though, families must make difficult choices: whether to stay put or follow the oil to another location. With the ensuing declines in population, small businesses close their doors and unemployment levels rise. Despite the inevitable declines and despite the increase in alternative energy resources, many West Texans feel a sense of pride that borders on patriotism. *Boom or Bust* reveals the full complexity of boomtown culture.