

BOOK DESCRIPTIONS—2009

Jan 4

- *Women of Mystery* includes 15 stories of women sleuths authored by authors such as Mary Higgins Clark, Sara Paretsky, and others. (813 Man)
- Madeleine L'Engle and Luci Shaw offer prayers in two voices, for reading aloud together in *A Prayerbook for Spiritual Friends*. (242.8 L'E)
- *Ecotherapy: Healing Ourselves, Healing the Earth* “sheds light on humankind's most serious health challenge ever--how to save our precious planet--describes the strategic opportunities available to help the endangered human species cope constructively, and demonstrates the importance of hope, humor, and love in the process.” (333.7 Cli)
- Warm, humorous, and witty is a fair description of Lois Wyse's *Funny, You Don't Look Like a Grandmother*. See it for yourself. (818.54 Wys)

Jan 11

- In *Humility: The Quiet Virtue* Everett Worthington, Jr. describes humility with words and examples. This little book can provide “inspiration that will fortify your life choices.” (179.9 Wor)
- Julie Andrews tells her story in *Home: A Memoir of My Early Years*. (791.93 And)
- Lauren F. Winner describes her longing for Shabbat (Sabbath) as a Jew who converted to Christianity in *Mudhouse Sabbath: An Invitation to a Life of Spiritual Discipline*, pp. 1-13. (248.4 Win)
- Dorothy C. Bass talks about unwrapping the gift of Sabbath keeping in *Practicing Our Faith*, pp. 75-89. (248.4 Bas)

Jan 18

- In *The Red Hat Society: Fun and Friendship after Fifty*, Sue Ellen Cooper recommends this organization “as an antidote to the serious loss of self-esteem many aging women face as they deal with their children leaving home, caring for elderly parents, widowhood, health crises and altered body image.” (305.24 Co)
- Chris Bohjalian's novel, *Midwives* tells the story of a respected Vermont midwife accused and brought to trial for manslaughter. (813 Boh)
- Marva J. Dawn invites readers “to experience the wholeness and joy that come from observing God's order for life” in *Keeping the Sabbath Wholly: Ceasing, Resting, Embracing, Feasting*. (248.4 Dav)
- *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives* by Wayne Muller contains numerous practical suggestions about these topics. (248.4 Mul)

Jan 25

- One reviewer says that *Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible* “provides a good summary of the different positions regarding immigration in the United States and helps readers discover God’s heart for immigrants.” (261.8 Car)
- *The Gathering*, Anne Enright’s novel about a large Irish family haunted by the past “traces the line of betrayal and redemption through three generations.” (813 Enr)
- Randy Pausch’s *The Last Lecture* is not about dying, rather it’s “about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment....” (158.1 Pau)
- In *The Flame Trees of Thika* Elspeth Huxley recounts her early life growing up in Kenya during the early twentieth century. (916.76 Hux)

Feb 1

- Robert J. Wicks shows how “a solid spiritual life is within everyone’s reach...right where we are—in the midst of all the craziness” in *Everyday Simplicity: A Guide to Spiritual Growth*. (291.4 Wic)
- *The Strength of His Hand* by Lynn Austin is a fictional account of the life of Hezekiah who ruled the Biblical kingdom of Judah from 716 to 687 BC. (813 Aus)
- In *Beckham: Both Feet on the Ground* the world famous soccer star tells his life story. (796.33 Bec)
- Malcolm Gladwell provides several explanations for the success of individuals, both well-known and less well known, in *Outliers*. One of these is the 10,000 hours of practice requirement. (302 Gla)

Feb 8

- Beth Moore introduces you to *Jesus: The One and Only* in a close-up and personal way. (232.21 Moo)
- *1491*, by Charles C. Mann, “radically alters our understanding of the Americas before the arrival of Columbus in 1492.” (970.01 Man)
- *Liars and Thieves* is Stephen Coonts’ novel about conspiracy at high levels of American government. (813 Coo)
- *Leonardo: Art and Science* displays the artist’s pictorial masterpieces, manuscripts, scientific and technological studies. (709 Cri)

Feb 15

- In *Presidents: Every Question Answered* Carter Smith provides details about each person who has served at chief executive of the United States along with multiple photographs and illustrations. (973.09 Smi)
- *The Pillars of the Earth* is Ken Follett’s historical novel set in medieval England full of mystery and intrigue. (823 Fol)
- “In *The Misunderstood Jew*, scholar Amy-Jill Levine helps Christians and Jews understand the ‘Jewishness’ of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue can take place.” (261.2 Lev)

- *No More Shacks*, by Millard Fuller, tells the story of the “daring vision of Habitat for Humanity.” (363.5 Ful)

Feb 22

- In *Living Faith: How Faith Inspires Social Justice* Curtiss DeYoung “profiles three of the most dynamic and influential religious activists of the twentieth century: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Malcolm X, and Aung San Suu KyiHis portraits show how their mystic faith drove them to justice commitments....” (201.7 DeY)
- *The Last Promise* is Richard Paul Evans’ novel about whether to love a child or seek romantic love. (813 Eva)
- *The Gifts of the Jews*, by Thomas Cahill, describes “how a tribe of desert nomads changed the way everyone thinks and feels.” (909.04 Cah)
- *Small is Beautiful* by E. F. Schumacher, “is a landmark set of essays on humanistic economics,” stated briefly, “economics as if people mattered.” (330.1 Sch)

Mar 15

- *The Society of Salty Saints* by Micheal Elliott “is a revealing portrait of an inner-city congregation whose salty saints are the cement o caring that builds and bonds the church.” (286.17 Ell)
- *Wisdom Hunter* is Randall Arthur’s novel about a pastor who loses everything then encounters a serious crisis of faith and ultimately discovers answers to his deepest questions. (813 Art)
- John C. Bogle’s book, *The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism*, “tells it like it is, like it was, and, most important, tells what needs to be done to restore the values of faith, integrity, and trust that were once hallmarks of corporate America and the financial sectors” (from the *Wall Street Journal* review). (330.13 Bog)
- Wanna go to Italy, but can’t? *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a travel book with great recipes, makes a worthwhile substitute. (945.5 May)

Mar 22

- In *Quiet Mind* David Kundtz provides one-minute retreats from a busy world through meditations with titles such as these: “Learning to Stop,” “Glitz,” and “You’ve Gotta Have Art!” (158 Kun)
- Marcus Borg discusses an understanding of God that modern atheists have not considered in *Beyond Atheism: The Truth and Limits of the Atheist Critique*. This is a DVD of the lecture Borg presented at Church of the Beatitudes on January 29, 2009. (210 Bor)
- Thomas P. M. Barnett asks and answers probing questions in *Great Powers: America and the World after Bush*. The questions include, “Where’s the world going now, and how do we not only rejoin it, but become a leader again...?” (973.93 Bar)
- *The Dragons of the Rhine* is Diana Paxon’s novel retelling a mythic and timeless love story of Sigfrid Sigmundson and Brunahild. (813 Pax)

Mar 29

- In his book *Who Needs God* Rabbi Harold Kushner contends “that there is a kind of nourishment our souls crave, even as our bodies need the right foods, sunshine, and exercise. Without that spiritual nourishment, our souls remain stunted and undeveloped.” (296.7 Kus)
- “You’ll never think about teenagers the same way again,” says Ron Taffel in *The Second Family: How Adolescent Power is Challenging the American Family*. (306.87 Taf)
- *Glendale: Century of Diversity* is the history of Arizona’s fourth largest city in words and plentiful photographs, both color and black and white. (979.17 Smi)
- *A Wedding in December* is Anita Shreve’s novel in which “seven former schoolmates gather to celebrate a wedding.” (813 Shr)