

climbed on a train in Hammond, La., with a few clothes in his suitcase, a reel-to-reel tape of a song he had cut, and his Les Paul Gibson guitar, and headed North. As mesmerizing a storyteller as a guitarist, Guy, writing with Ritz, regales readers with tales of growing up picking cotton in rural Alabama, of seeing his first guitar and standing transfixed in front of Lightning Slim for several hours just memorizing the movements of Slim's hands, of his father's friend buying his first guitar for him, and of his endless efforts to play the blues as he had heard and seen Slim and others play. In Chicago, Guy discovers the harsh realities of urban living, but it's not long before his guitar slinging earns him respect and a place to play on a regular basis, as Muddy Waters and B.B. King recognize Guy's transcendent talent. He shares stories of meeting Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin, and he recalls that some of the first white fans to come to Chicago's South Side were musicians like Mike Bloomfield and Paul Butterfield, who along with Eric Clapton, John Mayall, and the Stones often invited Guy and other black blues musicians to open for them, pointing out to the audiences that these guys were the real musicians. Guy's memoir is a joyous celebration of the blues, one of our greatest musical treasures. *Agent: Vigliano Associates.* (June)

Superman: The High-Flying History of America's Most Enduring Hero

Larry Tye. Random, \$27 (432p) ISBN 978-1-4000-6866-1

Tye offers this super-powered, well researched look into every aspect of the character in comics, radio, TV, films, and theater, muscling into such areas as insider editorial decisions, licensing, litigations, and mass comic book burnings. Following his bestselling Satchel Paige biography, Tye hits another home run with this overview. Tracing the Man of Steel through eight decades, he begins in Cleveland, where teenager Jerry Siegel created "The Super-Man" in 1932 and then teamed with artist Joe Shuster: "They agreed that Superman had to be everything they were not: strapping and dashing, fearless yet composed." After six years of rejections, their character

soared in 1938 to "quickly become the big brother every kid needed." With a \$130 contract, Siegel and Shuster had launched the multibillion-dollar industry of comic book superheroes. To document Siegel's anger and angst along with Superman's "loves and deaths, reinventions, resurrections and redemptions," Tye interviewed more than 250 writers, artists, editors, actors, filmmakers, and collectors, and he hired student researchers in four cities to do library and courthouse searches. The lengthy legal battles seeking fair compensation for Superman's creators fill pages. Anyone looking for truth, injustice, and the American way will find it in this comprehensive, definitive history. *Agent: Jill Kneerim.* (June 12)

Rather Outspoken: My Life in the News

Dan Rather with Digby Diehl. Grand Central, \$29.90 (320p) ISBN 978-1-4555-0241-7

Anchor of the *CBS Evening News* for 24 years, much-honored newsman Rather has been a working reporter for 64 years. He began his series of memoirs with *The Camera Never Blinks* (1977), a bestseller spanning his life from journalism study at Sam Houston State Teachers College to Watergate. He followed with *I Remember* (1991), recalling his Texas childhood, and *The Camera Never Blinks Twice* (1994) about TV journalism on location from Afghanistan to Vietnam. In this latest update to the series, his straight-arrow honesty is punctuated with occasional humor: "It was long said of me that I had the CBS Eye tattooed somewhere on my ass." For a blistering opening chapter, he details the "absence of executive backbone" during CBS News' investigation of Abu Ghraib: "The possibility that the financial and political interests of CBS corporate almost buried a story as compelling as Abu Ghraib was most unsettling." He's equally outspoken on the "journalistic meltdown" when CBS News was ordered to drop its investigation into Bush's experience with the Texas Air National Guard. Throughout the book, he delivers strong punches at those who stood in his way, but he also has much praise for the co-workers who joined him in his quest for the truth. With his usual conversational writing style, he main-

tains a personal connection with his readers in this riveting and revelatory autobiography that can also serve as a valuable textbook for anyone studying journalism. (June)

Before the Quagmire: American Intervention in Laos 1954–1961 William Rust. Univ. Press of Kentucky, \$40 (328p) ISBN 978-0-8131-3578-6

Journalist and historian Rust (*Kennedy in Vietnam: American Vietnam Policy, 1960–1963*) makes a major contribution to the literature on America's Southeast Asian involvement with this comprehensively researched, well-written study of a usually overlooked aspect. Dwight Eisenhower's presidential reputation rests in good part on his management of foreign policy crises. Rust makes a convincing case for Laos as a glaring exception. As early as 1954 Eisenhower's administration was seeking to counter a Communist insurgency in that newly independent state. The result was "[a] case study in transforming a small foreign-policy problem into a large one." Recognizing its taproots in cold war anxiety and groupthink, Rust describes a pattern of intervention in Laotian politics that only destabilized noncommunist elements. The CIA, State Department, and military held differing opinions and worked at cross purposes. Seeking a quick solution, the U.S. overemphasized military assistance. It supported would-be leaders more concerned with gaining power than fighting insurgents. Eventually the U.S. wound up supporting both the government and a faction seeking to overthrow it. The Soviet Union, perceiving itself challenged, became directly and diplomatically engaged in the conflict. As Rust ably demonstrates, Laos prefigured Vietnam. 26 photos, 2 maps. *Agent: John Ware, John A. Ware Literary Agency.* (June)

The Kissing Sailor: The Mystery Behind the Photo That Ended World War II

Lawrence Verria and George Galdorisi, foreword by David Hartman. Naval Institute, \$23.95 (224p) ISBN 978-1-61251-078-1

On V-J Day in 1945, famed *Life* photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt took the Times Square photo of a sailor's sponta-

neous kiss that became the single image many associate with the end of WWII. However, the couple's faces were covered, Eisenstaedt did not ask their names, and *Life* never pursued the couple's identity until decades later. When more than a few came forward, the mystery deepened. Even Eisenstaedt misidentified his subjects years later. Retired naval aviator Galdorisi (coauthor, *Act of Valor*) and Rhode Island history teacher Verria sought a solution by researching records, interviewing claimants, studying photos, and identifying others seen nearby. The book features photos, some of which enabled the authors to recreate plausible scenarios of how Eisenstaedt got the photo. With a team of photo analysis experts, forensic anthropologists, and facial recognition specialists, the final result reads like *Rashomon* in its comparisons of crucial discrepancies and conflicting memories. The authors deliver a convincing conclusion to their romantic detective tale about the last day of WWII and the photo that "savored what a long-sought peace feels like." 20 b&w photos. *Agent: John Silbersack, Trident Media Group.* (June)



**A Perfect Fit:
The Garment Industry and
American Jewry, 1860–1960**
Edited by Gabriel M. Goldstein and Elizabeth E. Greenberg. Texas Tech Univ., \$49.95 (272p) ISBN 978-0-89672-735-9

The curator (Goldstein) and assistant curator (Greenberg) of a 2005 exhibit at the Yeshiva University Museum in New York City bring together scholars of fashion, Jewish identity, and labor relations who illustrate how, as early as the 1820s, Jewish immigrants came to dominate the American fashion world—or "rag trade." Several contributors note how Jews pioneered mass-produced ready-made clothes. The volume also reveals how clothes manufacturing, first in small sweatshops, then in larger factories, spread from New York City to such mid-size cities as Rochester, N.Y., and Kansas City, Mo., where companies specialized in such post-WWII niche clothing as bowling shirts and maternity wear. One particularly valuable essay by Hasia Diner, a historian of American Jewry, explores the significant role the selling of clothes (of-

ten door-to-door) contributed to American Jewish identity and perceptions of Jews in the pre-Civil War era. Equally notable is labor historian Richard Greenwald's essay on how the 1910 "Protocol of Peace" ended a strike by men's garment industry workers and initiated a new paradigm for resolving labor disputes. The writing is generally succinct and informative, and this fine contribution to both fashion and American Jewish history is significantly enhanced by the number and variety of the 152 color illustrations. (June)



**Mathletics:
A Scientist Explains 100 Amazing
Things About the World of Sports**
John D. Barrow. Norton, \$26.95 (336p) ISBN 978-0-393-06341-7

Barrow delivers the math and science goods for every sports fan who's ever wondered how to "Bend It Like Beckham" or what the best positions are to reduce air resistance while sky-diving. The book contains 100 short essays explaining a variety of sports-related topics, such as various applications of statistics, the physics of wheelchair racing, how different scoring methods affect the outcome of multi-event sports like the decathlon, and how a new rule led to "the most bizarre soccer match ever played." There's no formal organization, so the two-to-five-page-long essays are perfect for dipping into at the reader's whim. One moment Barrow is elucidating how organizations use math to determine tournament seeds, the next he's calculating whether runner and double amputee Oscar Pistorius's artificial limbs give him an advantage in sprinting events. Not everything is about math, however. Essays on Olympic trivia reveal that the marathon's distance wasn't standardized until 1921. Barrow's writing is accessible and entertaining, just the thing for mathematically minded sports fans. 40 illus. (June)



Diamond in the Rough: A Memoir
Shawn Colvin. Morrow, \$25.99 (220p) ISBN 978-0-06-175959-8

Named for the breakthrough hit on her first Grammy Award-winning album of 1989 (*Steady On*) this charming, modest memoir tracks songwriter Colvin's roots solidly in the Midwest and the de-

termination to pursue the folksy, acoustic-guitar style that suited her. Born on the South Dakota prairie in 1956, she grew up singing in the church, moving around from Vermillion, S.D., to Carbondale, Ill., as her father pursued graduate studies in psychology and her mother eventually got a law degree. Seeing the Beatles on the *Ed Sullivan Show* galvanized her small world, and while prone to panic attacks and dread of school, she found that learning to play guitar, singing and songwriting, and sewing her own clothes were the only ways to motivate her. The 1970s blew in, and with it the magical folk songwriting of Judy Collins, James Taylor, and Joni Mitchell, among others; once graduated from high school, Colvin fronted bands from Austin, Tex., to New York City, and was nearly derailed by drinking until she went sober in 1983. By sticking with the community of folk writers and singers, such as those congregating at Cambridge, Mass.'s Passim coffeehouse, she toured as a backup singer for Suzanne Vega, whose managers introduced Colvin's original songs to Columbia Records—and she was signed. Colvin chronicles an impressive array of accompanists and backup, two husbands, and myriad awards such as her gold record with the 1997 hit "Sunny Came Home," all the while maintaining a low-key, sweet humility that is truly endearing. *Agent: David Vigianno.* (June)



**Call of the Mild:
Learning to Hunt My Own Dinner**
Lily Raff McCaulou. Grand Central, \$24.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-4555-0074-1

Despite what the title may imply, McCaulou and her writing are anything but mild. Her fortitude is obvious from the onset, when she takes a chance on herself by giving up her East Coast city life for a job writing for a small newspaper in Bend, Ore. Once there, she slowly embraces the outdoor lifestyle of her new home, first by skiing and fly-fishing, and later by exploring the hunting subculture that comes to fascinate her. Afraid of guns and wary of guts, her forays into hunting may be slow and sometimes timid, but the way she continually faces her fears is inspiring. With each new challenge—from purchasing a license and firearms safety to pulling the trigger or pulling out