

**T**he child of devout atheists, **Barbara Ehrenreich**, scientist, author, and social advocate, recalls in *Living with a Wild God* (Twelve) how “mystical” occurrences in her teens sparked a life-altering quest for “cosmic knowledge.”

Fifty years ago, the Civil Rights Act triggered outrage and a ferocious debate before finally being adopted. *V.F.* contributing editor **Todd S. Purdum** relives the drama in *An Idea Whose Time Has Come* (Henry Holt). Duran Duran faces down *Destiny's Child* in **Eve Epstein** and **Leonora Epstein's** love letter, *X vs. Y* (Abrams Image). Nigerian **Teju Cole's** fiction-memoir-travelogue, *Every Day Is for the Thief* (Random House), is a testament to the country's power to inspire. **Adam Begley's** bio of *Updike* (Harper), master of the WASPY domestic novel, creates parallels between his personal life and the page. Family secrets are unearthed in **Julia Glass's** *And the Dark Sacred Night* (Pantheon) and are at the core of Norwegian novelist **Linn Ullmann's** chilly mystery *The Cold Song* (Other Press). **Akhil Sharma** finds catharsis in his autobiographical novel, *Family Life* (Norton). **Maureen Footer** and **Mario**

IN SHORT

**Carol Weston** plays with Ava and Pip (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky). **Bill White** takes a look at America's Fiscal Constitution (PublicAffairs). **Nicholas Kulich** and **Souad Meikhemel** hunt the German Nazi (Doubleday). **Nelson George** hops on the Soul Train in *The Hippest Trip in America* (Harper). Photographer **Johnny Moncada** snaps Veruschka (Rizzoli). **Galadrielle Altman** remembers daddy Duane in *Please Be with Me* (Spiegel & Grau). **Desmond Tutu** and **Ngige Tutu** seek to lead the world with *The Book of Forgiving* (HarperOne). **Arianna Huffington** exhorts readers to *Time* (Pantheon). Relish **Michael Gibney's** *Sous Chef* (Ballantine). **Judith Stonehill's** *Greenwich Village Jones* (Universe/Rizzoli) revisits the hotbed of creativity and cool. Graphic memoir **A. K. Summers's** *Pregnant Butch* (Soft Skull) is straight-up hilarious. Pop open **Holly George-Warren's** book *Alien Chilton, A Man Called Destruction* (Viking). **Bobbi Brown** outlines *Everything Eyes* (Chronicle). And *V.F.* special correspondent **Bob Colacello** brings back *Holy Terror* (Vintage). —E.S.



Hot Type

**Buatta** applaud the audacious decorator **George Stacey** and the creation of *American Chic* (Rizzoli). **Tony Dokoupil's** daddy rises from weed dealer to multi-ton drug smuggler in *The Last Pirate* (Doubleday). **Sara Barron**

plays humiliation for laughs in *The Harm in Asking* (Three Rivers). **Edward M. Strauss** translates the W.W. I notebooks of soldier Louis Barthas in *Poilu* (Yale). Artist **James McMullan** paints childhood memories of W.W. II in *Leaving China* (Algonquin). **Lynne Tillman's** essays on modern society are collected in *What Would Lynne Tillman Do?* (Red Lemonade). **Ayelet Waldman's** *Love and Treasure* (Knopf) is

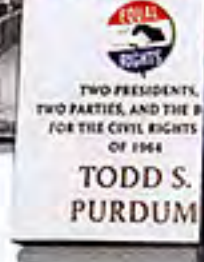
an intricately constructed puzzle box of a novel. **Katherine Schwarzenegger's** *I Just Graduated ... Now What?* (Crown Archetype) is a lifeline for new grads and their parents. **Tom Spanbauer**, gifted anatomist of messy emotions and rangy sexuality, returns with *I Loved You More* (Hawthorne). **Eliza Griswold** and **Seamus Murphy's** *I Am the Beggar of the World* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) presents oral folk couplets by contemporary Pashtun women. Sing praise. —ELISSA SCHAPELL

Known Quantity

**T**empt the gods with smug self-righteousness and they will deliver a windfall of tragedy, as witnessed in **Jean Hanff Korelitz's** rollickingly good literary thriller, *You Should Have Known* (Grand Central). **Grace Reinhart Sachs** is living her dream in the ivory-tower world of upper Manhattan. She's a celebrated couples therapist, married to the love of her life, **Jonathan**—a doctor—and has a son, who attends her elite private-school alma mater. (This pleases her, although she finds the other mothers tedious.) And she's about to publish a much-buzzed-about self-help book, *You Should Have Known*, that says women who delude themselves about their man's true nature are to blame for the destruction of their relationships. When **Grace** begins lecturing a female reporter, the clouds of misfortune start gathering. Once the mother of a scholarship student is murdered, and **Jonathan**, away at a medical conference, is suddenly unreachable, **Grace** is forced to recognize a truth she doesn't want to know. **Korelitz** writes intimately and engagingly about a social strata few are privy to, but the ugliness is very familiar. —E.S.



AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME



BOOKS, LEFT, PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN MANNING; CENTER, BY LOMBARDINO-BODI/THE CONDÉ NAST ARCHIVE; FOR DETAILS, GO TO VF.COM/CREDITS