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Open Article

Review_NONFICTION

tion or observe positive changes in procedures, but most of the useful suggestions—such as how police departments and courts can better protect victims don't appear until the end. It's clear that books like this are needed to raise awareness; whether many readers will be able to persevere through its disturbing contents remains to be seen. (June)

Warren Zevon

George Plasketes. Rowman & Littlefield, \$45 (260p) ISBN 978-1-4422-3456-7

Warren Zevon (1947-2003) was one of the most innovative songwriters in recent popular music history, and Plasketes (Russell Banks: In Search of Freedom) captures the full range of Zevon's skills in the first full-length biography of the artist. Plasketes provides a comprehensive analysis of Zevon's entire body of work—from his self-titled debut in 1976 to The Wind. recorded and released during his last year alive-that serves as an almost definitive look at his "legacy of tortured brilliance," which still attracts new admirers today. Especially fascinating is Plasketes's look at how Zevon's debut "endures as one of the most delightfully dark visions of Southern California culture, demystifying the Hollywood scene, its desperation and decadence." Also good are his in-depth looks at some works that critics overlooked at the time of their release, such as "Transverse City" ("Zevon's most ambitious record") and "Life'll Kill Ya" ("a gem, a modest masterpiece"). Plasketes admits his reliance on "I'll Sleep When I'm Dead: The Dirty Life and Times of Warren Zevon"-the exhaustive posthumous oral history compiled in 2007 by Zevon's ex-wife, Crystal-but he adds plenty of original work to fully illuminate the art behind the wild stories from Zevon's alcohol and drug binges. (May)

Dave Hill Doesn't Live Here Anymore

Dave Hill. Blue Rider, \$27 (288p) ISBN <u>978-0-</u> 399-16675-4

The very enjoyable second collection of essays by comedian and performer Hill (Tasteful Nudes) centers around his experiences after the death of his mother, with whom he'd been "weirdly inseparable." Her absence allowed him the opportunity to get better acquainted with his dad,

"this mysterious man I'd been running into down in the basement all these years." Hill's stories include very a funny account of helping his father move to a retirement home from the Cleveland house he had been living in for more than 40 years and sorting through the "crap" that Hill had been storing there since the early 1990s, including "a stack of charcoal sketches from the 100 percent awesome nude-figure drawing course" he'd taken after college. He also bonds with his dad after the elder Hill learns "Stairway to Heaven" on the piano, and then takes him on his first ride in an 18-wheeler truck. Other essays describe Hill's childhood, a failed experiment with boxing, and his current life in New York City, including a wonderful look at the difficulties of adopting a rescue dog ("I can't stay mad at her, though-once I forget about all the biting") and a recent job writing ringtone messages for a surprisingly pleased Donald Trump ("It was a weird kind of trust to have earned"). (May)

Paul McCartney: The Life Philip Norman. Little, Brown \$32 (602p) ISBN 978-0-316-32796-1

Norman, following up on his bestselling biography of John Lennon (John Lennon: A Life), interviews hundreds of Paul McCartney's family, friends, and associates to draw the most complete picture of the former Beatle; however, the book's thoroughness renders it a tiresome march through scores of facts and familiar details that will appeal primarily to ardent McCartney fans. Proceeding in a ear-by-year fashion, Norman ranges over McCartney's childhood; the death of his mother, which he later used as the basis of "Let It Be": his early days with his mates-John and George-as the Quarrymen; and the Beatles' squalid living conditions in Hamburg. No stone is left unturned as Norman proceeds to the infamous last days of the Beatles, the early days of Wings, McCartney's mar riage to musician and photographer Linda Eastman and the effect her death had on him, his short-lived and controversial marriage to model Heather Mills, and his relationship with his father. As Norman happily points out, while many stories of musical superstars end tragically, McCartney has enjoyed a prolonged era of

happiness, especially since his 2011 marriage to trucking executive Nancy Shevell. Norman succeeds in drawing a familiar picture of a restless musician who's always seeking to make himself over again, and who still gets a thrill when he hears someone whistling one of his songs. Thanks to Norman's access to McCartney and his associates, this will become the musician's definitive and authoritative biography. (May)

The Art of Fact Investigation: Creative Thinking in the Age of Information Overload

Philip Segal. Ignaz, \$22.95 (130p) ISBN 978-0-9969079-1-0

Attorney Segal gives a primer for litigators on discovering facts that the opposition may be actively (or passively) concealing, and specifically on finding hidden assets. This brief work is aimed mainly at civil litigators, but it has tips for anyone who needs to gather information on anyone else. Segal draws interesting parallels and contrasts with modern art, cryptanalysis, and Sherlock Holmes. He shows how to think outside the simple Google search, which is often inaccurate and always incomplete, and points out that, given the constraints of time and money in any investigation, a healthy imagination is a useful sorting tool in going through the limitless data returned by any search these days. He offers guidance on how to find the best people to interview, with some suggestions on how to approach them. There are cautions about legal and ethical behavior and the possible consequences of stepping out of bounds. The appendices give suggestions on how and where to start gathering information from both free and paid services. This is a useful book for the ultra-inquisitive reader. (BookLife)

Religion/Spirituality

The End of White Christian America

Robert P. Jones. Simon & Schuster, \$28 (320p) ISBN 978-1-5011-2229-3

Providing an obituary of "white Christian America," a eulogy, and a look at stages of grief over its death, Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research

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