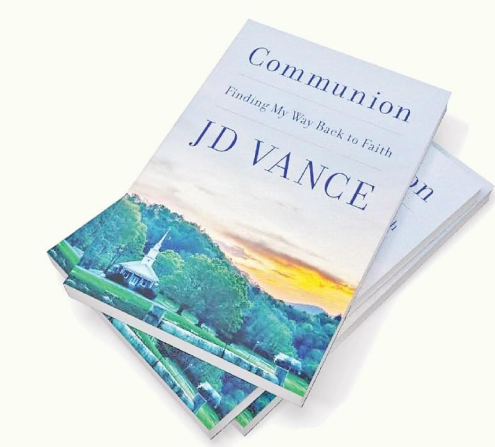
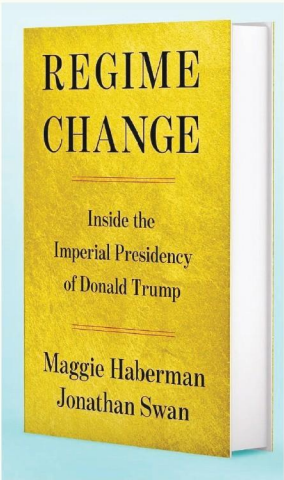


Communion: Finding My Way Back to Faith by **J.D. Vance**
Rating: (1/5) ★☆☆☆☆



J.D. Vance's memoir about rediscovering Christianity has drawn sharp criticism. Reviewer Ginny Hogan argues that while the book begins as a personal account of faith, it gradually shifts into a political defence of the author's views and his support for Donald Trump. According to the review, the religious reflections often take a back seat to ideological arguments, making the narrative feel less like a spiritual journey and more like a political manifesto. Readers interested in faith-based memoirs may find the personal sections engaging, but the book's overt political tone has divided critics.

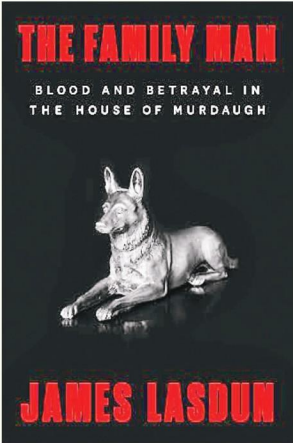
Regime Change: Inside the Imperial Presidency of Donald Trump by **Maggie Haberman and Jonathan Swan**
Rating: (5/5) ★★★★★



This political account explores Donald Trump's presidency and the growing concentration of executive power in the United States. Reviewer Fintan O'Toole praises the authors' extensive reporting and insider access, describing the book as a detailed examination of modern American politics. Rather than offering sensationalism, it presents a carefully documented account of decision-making inside the White House, making it valuable for readers interested in contemporary political history.

The Family Man by **James Lasdun**
Rating: (4/5) ★★★★★☆

James Lasdun revisits the infamous Murdaugh family murders in this true-crime narrative. Reviewer Kathryn Hughes appreciates the book's focus on the human and emotional dimensions of the tragedy instead of relying on courtroom drama alone. Through careful storytelling, Lasdun explores family loyalty, privilege, betrayal, and the devastating consequences of violence, resulting in a thoughtful and compelling account of one of America's most shocking criminal cases.



Book Reviews

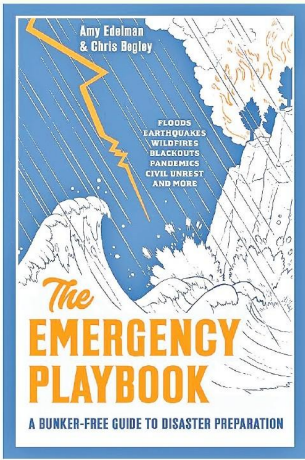
This Week's Picks

Book lovers had plenty to discuss this week, with critics examining memoirs, politics, true crime, family drama, social realities, and survival. Here is a concise roundup of five of the week's most talked-about reviews



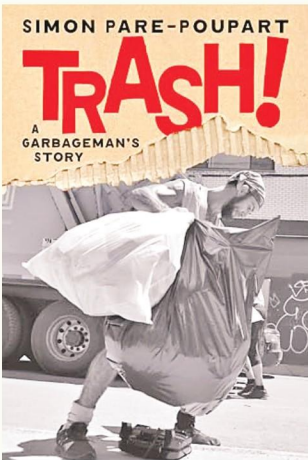
The Emergency Playbook by **Amy Edelman and Chris Begley**
Rating: (4/5) ★★★★★☆

This practical guide focuses on preparing for emergencies without encouraging fear or panic. Reviewer Dwight Garner commends the authors for offering realistic advice on handling disasters, medical crises, and unexpected situations. Instead of promoting extreme survivalism, the book emphasizes sensible planning, making it a useful resource for readers seeking practical preparedness strategies for everyday life. Together, these five books cover an impressive range of subjects—from politics and religion to true crime, social commentary, and emergency preparedness—reflecting the diversity of contemporary nonfiction and the conversations shaping today's literary world.



Trash! by **Simon Paré-Poupard**
Rating: (4/5) ★★★★★☆

In this unconventional memoir, Simon Paré-Poupard reflects on his experiences working as a garbage collector. Reviewer Lily Meyer highlights how the author transforms an everyday occupation into an insightful exploration of labour, dignity, and society's relationship with waste. The book combines humour, observation, and social commentary, offering readers a fresh perspective on often-overlooked work and the people who perform it.



Book Review

Disability: A History of Resistance

This study of the struggle for rights includes incredible personal stories that we should all be more familiar with

The Guardian (UK) Story

You could take two outwardly contradictory lessons from the historian David Turner's new book on disability in the UK. First, that alarmingly little has changed for disabled people since the beginning of the modern age (the book's first few stories, of 17th-century men and women having to prove they were disabled enough to receive parish support to avoid starvation, will be familiar to anyone who has tried to claim the personal independence payment). And second, that absolutely everything has changed - from the closing of asylums to the advent of prosthetics to the eventual, belated enshrining of disability rights in law. But the central argument of Disability helps to reconcile these two narratives into a coherent whole. Turner, a professor at Swansea University, shows that while public and political attitudes to disability have remained poor, disabled people have challenged them at every stage, wrestling progress out of even the most unpromising circumstances. This is not a story of rights and dignity bestowed from on high, but of

the people and communities clawing them into being. The sweeping perspective is anchored by incredible personal stories. We meet Duncan Campbell, an aristocrat who, at the turn of the 18th century, became a sensation as a deaf psychic, trading on myth and rumour relating to his disability to boost his fame and credibility at a time when deafness was equated with being childlike and ineducable. Or, two centuries later, May Billinghurst, the infamous "cripple suffragette" who used her bespoke hand-operated tricycle to break through police lines and commit acts of civil disobedience. Or, later still, Megan du Boisson, a 1960s housewife who campaigned for the first disability benefits awarded solely on the basis of impairment, when existing schemes only covered those injured at work or in war, leaving out almost all disabled women. What they, alongside many others in the book, have in common is that they not only resisted the material limitations society imposed on them, but also rejected the assumptions that went with them. The cumulative picture is therefore not of a downtrodden minority but one defined by ingenuity, determination and grit. This may

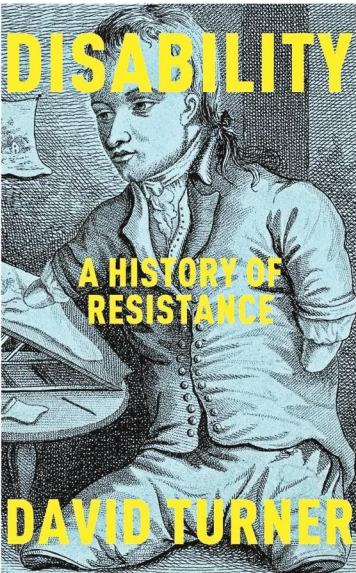


Suffragette Rosa May Billinghurst

be a new perspective for many nondisabled readers, but members of the community will find themselves recognising the attributes of they and their friends in people who lived hundreds of years ago. It is welcome to see this understanding of disability so well articulated in a book for a general audience. One sign of the devaluing of disability activism and history is the fact that none of the personalities in the book are household names. May Billinghurst surely deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as the Pankhursts, and we ought to know that it was Vic Finkelstein, an anti-apartheid

activist who applied what he had learned in South Africa to the UK disability rights movement, who first articulated what would become known as the social model of disability in the early 1970s, paving the way for activism that went far beyond calls for better financial support. We should know, too, the name of 18th-century MP William Hay, whom Turner describes as the first person to write about disability as a personal identity, just as we should know the names of Barbara Lisicki and Alan Holdsworth, the punk couple who kickstarted the successful 1980s and 90s campaign for the UK's first com-

prehensive disability rights law. All fought loud battles with governments and societies that wanted them to be quiet. Hopefully this book goes some way to giving them the status - and voice - they deserve. In showing how disabled people throughout history have rejected the narratives foisted upon them, Turner in turn rejects another false narrative: that disabled people are passive recipients of both discrimination and help. This book tells another, truer story: that we have always resisted and always fought to make things better.



Book: Disability: A History of Resistance
Author: David Turner
Rating: (5/5) ★★★★★