

grants and would-be immigrants every year. Hing does not confine his argument to cases whose central figures conform to the “good immigrant” stereotype, but instead welcomes readers to recognize the full humanity of immigrants with troubled pasts or criminal records. As a nation, he argues, we should aim for consistent, compassionate policy rather than allowing the continuation of a system governed by prejudice, timing, and judicial and prosecutorial whim. An appendix to the book offers a brief historical overview that emphasizes the racist foundations behind U.S. immigration policy. *Humanizing Immigration* is a stirring call to action, urging readers to act from a place of empathy, not fear. —*Jenny Hamilton*

★ A Light in the Dark: Surviving More Than Ted Bundy.

By **Kathy Kleiner Rubin and Emilie Luchesi.**
Oct. 2023. 304p. Chicago Review, \$28.99 (9781641608688). 364.15.

In this beautifully told portrait of courage, Rubin tells her story of being a survivor. She beat childhood lupus and grew into a confident college student, and then, after she married, she beat cancer. She also survived an infamous crime: while attending Florida State University in the late 1970s, Ted Bundy brutally bludgeoned her in the Chi Omega sorority house. Rubin illuminates many of the under-examined parts of her attack and the man who perpetrated it. She reminds readers that young girls of that era were taught to trust adult authority blindly, and explains how Bundy preyed upon the naivete of many of his victims. Police investigations into the victims’ personal lives were intrusive and misguided. Police officers probed female victims, interrogating them about their sexuality, religiosity, and alcohol use, clearly trying to suss out whether they were worthy of sympathy. Rubin’s story demonstrates the far-reaching ramifications of violent crime, showing how it destroys families and loved ones and leaves a wake of physical pain and emotional wreckage. Rubin was saved by a light in the dark on the night she was attacked, and her book shines a light on the heroic survivors of violence who bravely navigate the darkness every day. —*Courtney Eathorne*

The Loneliness Files.
By **Athena Dixon.**

Oct. 2023. 192p. Tin House, paper, \$17.95 (9781959030126). 302.

In this moving and lyrical collection, essayist and poet Dixon (*The Incredible Shrinking Woman*, 2020) reflects on what it means to be lonely. “I am someone in the background of a picture,” she writes, describing a life of disconnection and isolation. “I feel like a ghost.” Worried about dying alone, Dixon becomes transfixed by stories of women who

became “lonely corpses,” searching online for clues about their lives. She talks to her therapist about her desire for a romantic partner and considers whether she is missing out by not having children. As older members of her family die, she wonders whether she should move back to a hometown so changed as to be unrecognizable. She writes thoughtfully about grief, legacy, and connections with friends and family who live far away. Dixon is honest and vulnerable in these essays, and a sense of melancholy pervades the book. But she also finds moments of clarity and joy in relationships, her home, and in chosen solitude. This quiet, contemplative memoir will resonate with readers. —*Rebecca Hopman*

Naked: On Sex, Work, and Other Burlesques.

By **Fancy Feast.**

Oct. 2023. 256p. Algonquin, \$18.99 (9781643752372). 300.

Burlesque performer Fancy Feast fell in love with the stage during a high-school production of *Cabaret*. “Nuns are called to serve Christ,” she quips. “I was called to serve burlesque.” In this smart and engaging essay collection, she examines American cultural norms around sex, nudity, power, desire, and consent. People think Fancy Feast, as a fat woman, is “brave to strip in public,” but as with all burlesque, she notes, “their reaction undresses them, not me.” She documents her path to becoming a nightlife performer while working day jobs as a sex-toy store employee, phone sex line operator, and social worker. Along the way, she shares a rollicking series of adventures with readers, from performing at the most exclusive and lavish events to rough-and-ready motorcycle rallies to demonstrating sex toys and talking about consent at both bachelorette parties and conventions for cancer survivors. Honest, explicit, and sometimes vulnerable, this revealing debut offers much for readers to enjoy. —*Rebecca Hopman*

Secrets of Successful Women Inventors: How They Swam with the “Sharks” and Hundreds of Other Ways to Commercialize Your Own Inventions.
Ed. by **Edith G. Tolchin.**

Oct. 2023. 280p. illus. Square One, paper, \$19.95 (9780757005244); e-book (9780757055249). 305.43.

A series of 19 testimonials proves that America can indeed be the land of invention opportunities for women. Primarily selecting her subjects from episodes of *Shark Tank* (“Shark” Barbara Corcoran’s name appears prominently), editor-author Tolchin (*Secrets of Successful Inventing*, 2015) lets each individual tell her own entrepreneurial tale, ranging from Squid Socks (baby footies that actually stay on) to the Bug Bite Thing, a reusable tool that suction out the “poison” from mosquito and other insect bites. (Sadly, there are no photographs/illustrations of the inventions.) The inventors’ stories are remarkably similar, centering on the “eureka” moment, patent and manufacturing trials, marketing plans, and lessons learned. The profiles are followed

by a section that includes inventing how-to’s and remarks from experts on intellectual property, public relations, social media, funding resources, and the like. This inspirational tome on do-it-yourself inventing would make a great pairing with other related practicums. —*Barbara Jacobs*

While Idaho Slept: The Hunt for Answers in the Murders of Four College Students.

By **J. Reuben Appelman.**

Oct. 2023. 304p. Harper, paper, \$18.99 (9780063346697). 364.1523.

In November 2022, four University of Idaho students were stabbed to death in an off-campus house. A suspect was arrested a month and a half later. The new book by the author of *The Kill Jar* (2018) focuses on the investigation that led to his arrest and how these shocking murders upended Moscow, Idaho, and changed life in this small college town. When local police were hesitant to take on such a high-profile investigation, state police and the FBI jockeyed for position. Amateur investigators traded theories online, muddying the waters. Parents of the murdered students demanded answers and sometimes revealed information about the crimes that the investigators wanted to keep confidential. It was, in short, a mess. This is an extremely rigorous book. Appelman uses first-hand sources (police files and interviews with people involved in the case) whenever possible, and, while he rightly gives credit where credit is due, he also doesn’t shy away from revealing the investigation’s weaknesses, including the fact that the prosecution’s ongoing case isn’t airtight. A chilling, haunting work of crime nonfiction. —*David Pitt*

Language

For F*ck’s Sake: Why Swearing Is Shocking, Rude, and Fun.

By **Rebecca Roache.**

Nov. 2023. 264p. Oxford, \$21.95 (9780190665067). 410.1.

Roache, a philosopher at the University of London, examines swearing from linguistic, moral, philosophical, and social vantage points, showing how swearing is a trait of all cultures, and how its impact goes beyond the literal meaning of the words themselves. Depending on circumstances like context, tone, relationship between the swearer and the listener, race, gender, and ethnicity, swearing can empower, relieve tension, create tension, offend, set boundaries, and more; it can have personal and public consequences. Roache distinguishes between swear words and slurs, and discusses the way denigrating terms have been reclaimed by those against whom they were once used. She also considers the power of an asterisk to reduce a word’s offense, a controversial practice condemned as long ago as 1850 by Charlotte Brontë in her preface to her sister’s *Wuthering Heights*. Drawing from linguistics, social psychology, philosophy,