and resolving themselves. One speaker proclaims: “I’m like the fever / even after the fever broke.” We are often left with such residual impressions, afterimages sewn into the sonic fabric of each piece. This use of sound and its effects—be it a creaky door hinge or the sound of cotton tearing—is central to the collection's success. Barnett’s language is rife with sleight of mind and verbal feats, linguistic games that conceal the havoc and catastrophe of motherhood, of authorship. During a game of hangman, for instance, the speaker’s child calls vowels so fast it sounds almost like laughter.

By Joshua B. Freeman.

**History**


By Joshua B. Freeman.


An installment in the Penguin History of the United States series, Freeman’s narrative covers post–WWII America’s economic growth, extension of civil rights, and foreign policy during a time that also saw its population double, segregation end, and the federal government expand the welfare and regulatory state as it waged several hot wars and one cold war. Freeman’s accounts of these fundamental contours depict social and political trends that pushed one way or another, such as the baby boom and immigration, which yielded a higher census, and the economic and demographic impetus that pushed American power centers from the Rust Belt to the Sun Belt. While Freeman does not represent history as a process of anonymous forces at work, he does shorten the stature of influential individuals, especially presidents. While conceding their importance, especially presidents, forces at work, he does shorten the stature of influential individuals, especially presidents.

While conceding their importance, especially presidents.

Forced to work, he does shorten the stature of influential individuals, especially presidents.

**Diego Báez**

**Ring of Bone: Collected Poems. Rev. ed.**

By Lew Welch. Ed. by Donald Allen.


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**500 Days: Secrets and Lies in the Terror Wars. By Kurt Eichenwald.**


With the pacing of a suspense novel, award-winning journalist Eichenwald’s richly researched account of the 18 months following the 9/11 attacks draws on 600 hours of interviews and documents, many previously confidential. Eichenwald chronicles the Bush administration’s response to the terrorist attack and the delusions and deceptions that continue to impact U.S. relations around the globe. Among the revelations he uncovers: Britain’s Tony Blair allowed Bush to believe Britain would join the attack on Iraq when his own attorney general had declared the invasion to be illegal without UN backing; Bush’s assertion that the war on Iraq was God’s will led the French president to decide to stay out of the conflict; and the collapse of the subway walls at 9/11’s ground zero threatened to unleash a devastating flood. From the White House to Guantánamo Bay to Number 10 Downing Street, Eichenwald chronicles other moments of the lead-up to war, including internecine battles within an administration pondering the president’s legal authority on issues from shooting down commercial airplanes loaded with civilian passengers to suspending habeas corpus for suspected terrorists. Eichenwald, author of Conspiracy of Fools (2005), has rendered a breathtaking inspection of the war on terror that began on 9/11 and reverberates to this day. —Vanessa Bush

**The Damnation of John Donellan: A Mysterious Case of Death and Scandal in Georgian England. By Elizabeth Cooke.**


On the eve of his death, 20-year-old Theodosius Boughton was heir to the Boughton family estate as well as a notorious libertine. But on the morning of August 30, 1780, the young man, suffering from a litany of venereal diseases, including syphilis, and whose outlawish behaviors both at home and Eton caused much grief for his mother, Anna Maria, was poisoned by his brother-in-law John Donellan . . . or was he? Convicted by a preponderance of circumstantial evidence and the closing ranks of a society to which he had long sought access, Donellan was thought of as guilty simply from the fact that he had the most to gain. In this outrageous tale of bullies, rogues, rakes, and inept professionals, the only truly redeeming figure is medical-witness John Hunter, who, in the absence of any true evidence and much to the irritation of the “severe” and “cruel” Justice Buller, refused to infer fact from supposition. Noteworthy storyteller Cooke weaves a fast-paced, pre-forensic mystery that will both resonate with fans of cold-case/true-crime books and serve as a cautionary tale for those wishing to be transported to the time of Jane Austen. —Brian Odom

The Distance between Us. By Reyna Grande.


Grande revisits the themes of her acclaimed novels (Across a Hundred Mountains, 2006; Dancing with Butterflies, 2009) to tell the story of her life in this touching and enormously personal memoir. Raised in a small Mexican village after her parents journeyed illegally to the U.S. in search of work, Grande and her siblings were alternately raised by their abusive paternal grandparents and their poverty-stricken maternal grandmother. Filled with stories of hunger and sorrow, Grande’s recollections focus on the tension of the Mexican-American border through the eyes of those left behind, bringing a whole new definition to what it means to grow up in a “broken home.” The poignant yet triumphant tale she tells of her childhood and eventual illegal immigration puts a face on issues that stir vehement debate. Grande is affecting and sincere, but her use of dialogue in the chronicling of some of her very early memories can be disconcerting in terms of veracity. Still, the powerful emotions and important story will carry readers along. —Colleen Mondor

HD — HIGH DEMAND BACKSTORY: This explosive chronicle of the government’s response to 9/11, by a high-profile investigative journalist, is sure to be one of the highest titles of the fall season.