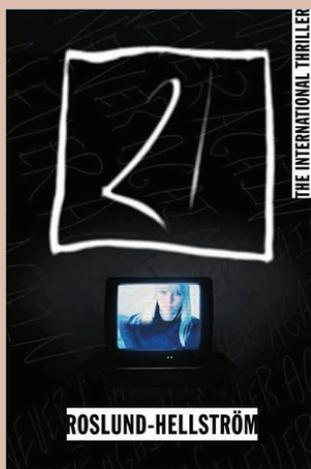


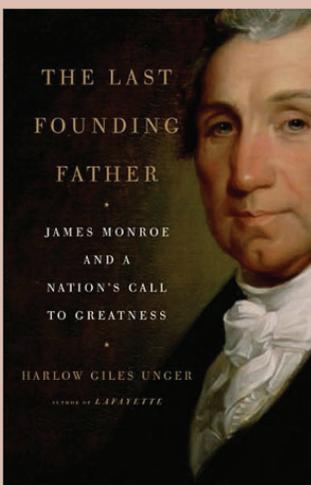
# Sacramento Book Review



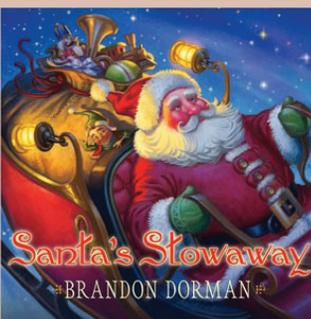
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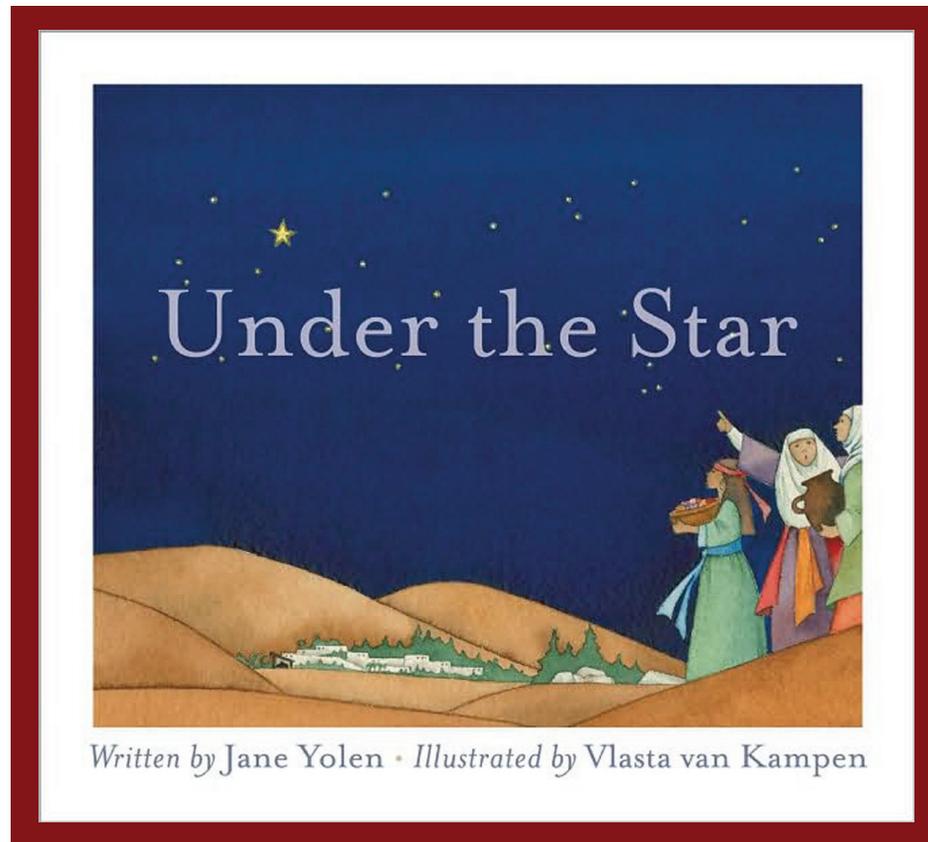
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## Following Yonder Star

By Jane Yolen

Key Porter Books, \$16.95, 24 pages

Jane Yolen is considered a modern-day Hans Christian Andersen, with dozens of books to her name as both an author and an anthology editor. (Even Wikipedia is reluctant to compile a complete list of her literary works.) Fantasy and folklore are her most recognized fields of stylistic expertise, but she has also contributed a great deal to the children's section of the library, and it's here that you'd most likely find her latest effort, *Under the Star: A Christmas Counting Story*.

With Vlasta Van Kampen's simple illustrations vividly enhanced by a rich, vibrant palette, Yolen seamlessly meshes a simple sequential counting activity from one to ten with a barebones look at the birth of Jesus Christ. The slow progression provides a sort of reverse countdown to the momentous event, even as the gathering people and animals herald the growing interest and knowledge of the importance of what's happening. The final image of the assembled masses

(fifty-five in all, if my addition skills haven't abandoned me, across a crowded two-page spread) highlights both the multitude of those affected and the magnitude of the event itself.

And trust me, all fifty-five are accounted for, as I confirmed with a brief and mildly frustrating *Where's Waldo?*-esque exercise of identifying each of the players featured.

The closing image of the animals and people all gazing with wonder into the tiny ramshackle manger, as two new parents look down upon their newborn, is an impressive one, both in scale and execution. (Though, admittedly, the familial trio are almost dwarfed by the size of the menagerie gathered around them.)

While the cynic in me would love to ask a few questions of the author -- Why are the sheep arriving separately from the shep-

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## NEW AND OF INTEREST

### Under the Dome

A psychology experiment run by Stephen King  
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### The Atlantis Revelation

World-saving astrologer  
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Comedic high-octane nightmare fuel  
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### Gift Guide

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### Extreme Cuisine

Bon appetit, if you dare!  
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### Green Metropolis

Go green gone wild  
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The magic behind Charm City Cakes  
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**INSIDE!**

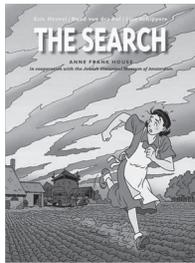
# Sequential Art

## The Search

By Eric Heuvel, Ruud van der Rol, Lies Schippers and Lorraine T. Miller  
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$9.99, 61 pages

*The Search* tells the story of the Holocaust from the perspective of Esther, a Jewish girl who escaped to southern Netherlands as her family was captured by the Nazis. Relying on the kindness of friends and strangers, she was able to avoid arrest, all the while searching for her parents. As she met an old neighbor in Amsterdam, she found out that they wouldn't be coming back. Grief-stricken, she didn't ask how it happened and tried to forget the experience.

Now in her old age, she decides to find out what really happened to her parents in Auschwitz ...and hears a revelation which not only affects her but her grandson as well.



Presented in the timeless comics format, this work is a simple yet powerful re-telling of the events leading to the Holocaust and the misery and confusion it caused the Jews and the world. The illustrations are reminiscent of Tintin comic books--clean lines, vivid colors, dynamic stills. The story is narrated as a series of recollections, further bringing home the point that the Holocaust is an experience too personal to be forgotten.

Reviewed by Donabel Beltran-Harms

## Sleeper Season Two

By Ed Brubaker  
Wildstorm, \$24.99, 286 pages

Ed Brubaker, the talent who brought readers "The Death of Captain America" and breathed new life into characters like Dare Devil and Iron Fist, in *Sleeper: Season Two* continues and concludes this superb noir tale of espionage. Readers who missed Season One will quickly come up to speed and doubtless enjoy this dark tale, perfectly suited to Brubaker's gifts for moral ambiguity and hard-boiled protagonists.

Holden Carver is a reluctant double agent without options, caught in the middle of an Oedipal labyrinthine battle between super-terrorist Tao and amoral spymaster John Lynch. Carver's power is his curse, unable to feel pain or pleasure but able to inflict it on others by the merest touch. Torn away from the woman he loves and bound to another he hopes to save, Carver struggles to survive and dreams of finding a path that will lead to freedom and, perhaps, a way to feel again. As complex and well crafted as any of Brubaker's work, readers will be unable to put down this collection as they pray that this tragic hero may find, if not redemption, at least peace.

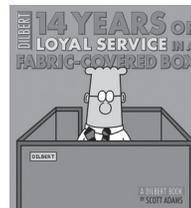


Reviewed by Jordan Magill

## 14 Years of Loyal Service in a Fabric Covered Box: A Dilbert Book

By Scott Adams  
Andrews McMeel Publishing, \$12.99, 128 pages

Honestly, how could anyone not love Dilbert? Whether you are yourself a denizen of a soul-sucking, fabric-covered box, or you simply like to giggle at cute little dogs as they roundly demean the human populace, this book is the latest of thirty-three volumes of surefire humor. Chronicling the adventures of our favorite mouthless office drone from late 2008 to mid 2009, *14 Years of Loyal Service in a Fabric-Covered Box* is full of that singular kind of zany humor that we've come to love throughout the past two decades. The office suffers the effects of the bad economy, desperation sets in on the staff, Dilbert loses his job, it's all ripe, comedic ground.



*"Being worthless at work is only hard for the first ten years. After that, it's a lifestyle." ~Wally*

Every strip is reproduced in full color, giving even the dailies the full vividness of the Sunday pages. Combine that with Scott Adams' usual hilarious introduction, and this collection truly offers something that you cannot get in the papers. A fine example of the best of office humor, and a definite must-have for any Dilbert library.

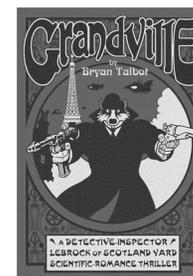
Reviewed by Micah Kolding

## Grandville

By Bryan Talbot  
Dark Horse, \$17.95, 108 pages

Inspired by the French artist Ignace-Isidore Grandville, Brian Talbot (*Adventures of Luther Arkwright*, *Sandman*) created an anthropomorphic world where France is the dominant power having won the Napoleonic Wars. With a steampunk setting, *Grandville* follows the investigation of Detective Inspector Archie LeBrock, a badger, and his assistant Detective Roderick Ratiz, a rat, as they pursue the killer of a British diplomat. Their investigation leads them to Paris and deep into international conspiracy. LeBrock pushes his way through the Parisian underworld, finding opium dealers, assassins and the Knights of Lyon, modern descendants of the Knights Templar.

Talbot's use of animals as characters follows Grandville's use of them in the 1800's for social satire and as illustration in many of the fantastical books being released at that time, including the Fables of La Fontaine and his own *Les Métamorphoses du jour*. *Grandville* not only references other literary sources - *Rupert Bear*, *Tintin* and Sherlock Holmes - but also modern events like September 11th and weapons of mass destruction. This is the first of two books, with more potentially planned. *Grandville* isn't a book friendly for children, with adult themes, situations and scenes, but excellent for older readers. Quite possibly what would have resulted had Arther Conan Doyle teamed up with Grandville to write a graphic novel for *The Strand Magazine*.

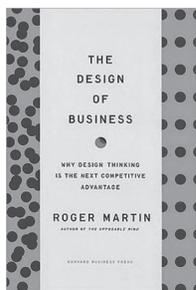


# Business & Investing

## The Design of Business

By Roger Martin  
Harvard Business Press, \$26.95, 208 pages

In order to win in business, today's companies need to latch on to the idea of design. This is at the heart of Roger Martin's *The Design of Business: Why Design Thinking Is The Next Competitive Advantage*, which focuses on a deep understanding of customers, creative resolution of tensions, collaborative prototyping, and continuous modification and enhancement of ideas and solutions. It falls somewhere between the exploration of new knowledge (or innovation) and the exploitation of current knowledge (or efficiency).



*"... the creative instinct--the unanalyzed flash of insight--is venerated as the source of true innovation. At the heart of this school is intuitive thinking--the art of knowing without reasoning. This is the world of originality and innovation."*

Design thinking is a way to push knowledge through stages in ways that produce breakthrough innovations and competitive advantage. *The Design of Business* maps the route followed by successful design thinkers in business, science, and the arts. Colorful stories and practical guidelines illustrate how to: combine proof-based analytical thinking with possibility-based "abductive thinking"; change structures and processes to move knowledge from one stage to the next; develop the key tools of design thinkers—observation, imagination and configuration; defend design thinking to employees,

boards, and investors; and revamp financial planning and reward systems to encourage bold ideas.

As a shift or departure to typical business thinking, Martin's *The Design of Business* can serve as the new foundation of profit and success.

Reviewed by Dominique James

## Your Next Move

By Michael D. Watkins  
Harvard Business Press, \$26.95, 220 pages

There was a time not too long ago when we didn't have to worry much about changing careers and status. Why? Because it didn't happen often enough. Of course we've all been through one transition period or another, but in those simpler and relatively "stable" times, we trudged through relatively unscathed.

Nowadays, however, when everything is in a state of constant flux and transition

periods are more the norm for everyone, we need to learn not just how to cope with it, but more importantly, how to make the most out of these turbulent transition periods that will make life for us and for others better.

In a time when professional careers are really a series of crucial transitions, Michael D. Watkins's *Your Next Move: A Leader's Guide to Navigating Major Career Transitions* shows us what to do with the changes we face on the road to success. The book offers beneficial wisdom, strategies, and tactics for dealing with the challenges of a promotion, leading former peers, adjusting to a new culture, and making everyone comfortable with change.

Based on research, there are eight perennial transitions that we will encounter at various career stages. Watkins's *Your Next*

See **BUSINESS**, page 23