

Books

History of a Suicide

by Jill Bialosky | ★★★★★

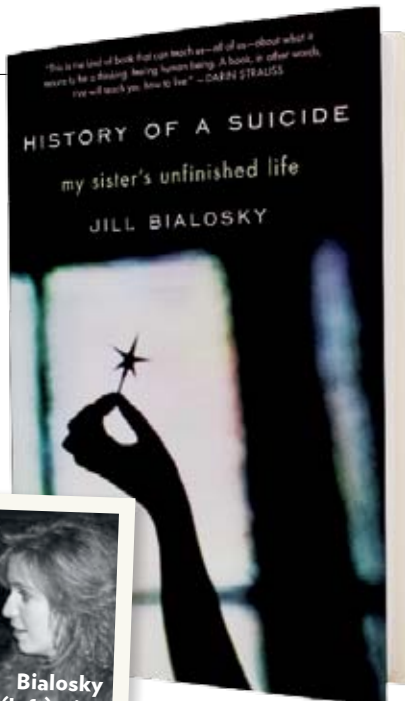
REVIEWED BY MEREDITH MARAN

MEMOIR

Could the aftermath of a suicide be depicted any more poignantly than this? “Everyone . . . at the grave site must have wondered what he or she might have said or done that may have affected Kim’s act, and our responsibility left us speechless.” So writes poet and novelist Bialosky of her sister’s decision to end her life at age 21. Bialosky was as much mother as sister to Kim, and her death, even two decades later, remains as devastating as the loss of a child. This searing elegy is the



Bialosky (left) with Kim in '88.



author’s release from speechlessness and an encouragement to other suicide survivors to find such release. Studded with Kim’s writings and informed by the latest research, this memoir reads like butter and cuts like a knife.

WHIP UP A PUP

Want a pet—without the mess and hassle? Check out Joanna Osborne and Sally Muir’s *Knit Your Own Dog*.



WHOM ARE THESE INTENDED FOR? People who love dogs and knitting.

ARE THEY HARD TO MAKE? You don’t have to be hugely skilled.

DID YOU CREATE THE PATTERNS? We had a lot of prototypes. The first ones looked ridiculous, like knitted slugs.

—DANIEL S. LEVY



The book includes patterns for 25 breeds, including (left to right) French bulldog, dalmatian and English bulldog.

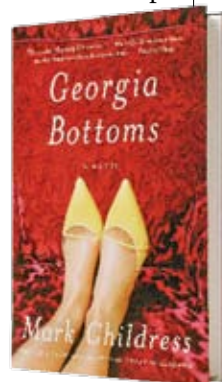
Georgia Bottoms

by Mark Childress | ★★★★★

REVIEWED BY JOANNA POWELL

NOVEL

In this hilarious southern-fried novel, belle Georgia Bottoms cuts a sassy swath through the Alabama town her family has occupied for generations. Though the clan was once prosperous, gorgeous Georgia now makes ends meet with help from a round-robin of lovers. Riffs on small-town hypocrisy and racial tensions enliven the plot, but it’s the unsinkable Georgia who makes the book delicious.

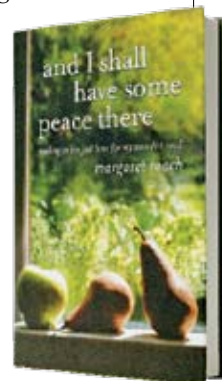


And I Shall Have Some Peace There

by Margaret Roach | ★★★★★

MEMOIR

In 2008 Roach, then an exec at *Martha Stewart Living*, ditched Manhattan and moved upstate to launch a “vigil for my self, a one-woman sit-in in the woods.” Though some elements of her memoir rankle—she never quite acknowledges the affluence that funded her escape—her writing is witty and elegant, proof that despite her seemingly perfect fast-lane life, she was indeed meant for more artistic pursuits. —M.M.



FROM TOP: COURTESY JILL BIALOSKY; HOLLY JOUFFE