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BookMarks

Theologian of Resistance: The Life and Thought of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

By Christiane Tietz; translated by Victoria J. Barnett
Fortress, 132 pp., \$23.99 paperback

This slim biography is concise and unemotional. It delves into the details of Bonhoeffer's thought alongside the basic narrative of his life, showing how he functioned as a theologian and ethicist during a time of unprecedented political and social crisis. Sparse attention is given to Bonhoeffer's personal relationships, and readers are discouraged from romanticized speculation. The book focuses instead on how he strove to connect faith, politics, and action. In a final chapter focused on Bonhoeffer's reception over the past decades, Tietz warns against appropriating him for contemporary political or social causes. Nevertheless, the witness of his life and thought speaks to our time.

Of Poetry and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin

Edited and compiled by Philip Cushway and Michael Warr
Norton, 224 pp., \$21.95 paperback

"There is no wound of exit. A black boy can fold his body around a bullet. The cartridge is a pinpoint of craving, a sort of little love, some slugs are warmer than mothers," writes Patricia Smith in her exegesis of the medical examiner's report for a black teenage boy whose body lies in the morgue. "The face is unremarkable. Correction: The black face is suppressed fireworks." The poems and essays in this anthology, written by 43 African-American poets, push against the assumptions that have built a culture of violence against black men. Full-page candid photographs of the poets are juxtaposed with their words and historic photos and artwork reflecting the history of black Americans' struggles. The result is a stunning collection of beauty and protest.



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