

## The Liberation Of Jerusalem (Oxford World's Classics)

Ralph Nash, in his approach to *Gerusalemme Liberata*, concluded that a close, fluent translation in prose of Tasso's epic would offer the most successful rendering of this important chivalric romance.

### Publisher description

Tasso's epic poem concerns the capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders in 1099, and combines the theme of war with romantic and magical tales of love between pagan and Christian. This is the first modern translation that faithfully reflects the sense and verse form of Tasso's hugely influential masterpiece.

The military and medical liberation and British government and British population response to the disclosure of what occurred at Belsen.

### Lascivious Poets

### The Struggle for Jerusalem's Holy Places

### Jerusalem Delivered

### A New English Verse Translation with Facing Italian Text

### Historical Dictionary of the Crusades

### Selected Writings

The story of the Holy Land, encompassing the three millennia that saw the birth of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each chapter is written by a leading scholar and is highly illustrated with paintings, photographs, and ancient texts.

Poetry. "These ionized pellets came to me over a span of years, in no particular order, according to no preconceived plan, except for their 6-5-6 syllable count.... In arranging them for print, I arbitrarily grouped them, more or less, by the personal pronoun sequence: me-you-him/her/it-us-you-them. What do you know! They turn out to sound like a kooky confession-cum-diatribes. But a completely random arrangement might have suited them as well or better.... Consider cutting up this book, baking each snippet of text into a fortune cookie, heaping the cookies into a bowl next to a microphone, and inviting a crowd to line up for the recital."—from the author's introduction

This book examines the production of collective "Venetian-ness" in early modern representation before turning to the portrayal of populations in Venetian Dalmatia's borderlands, where those in metropolitan Venice began to perceive difference and imaginings of belonging began to break down.

"A brilliant look into the psyche of combat. Where he once took us into the Spartan line of battle at Thermopylae, Steven Pressfield now takes us into the sands of the Sinai, the alleys of Old Jerusalem, and into the hearts and souls of soldiers winning a spectacularly improbable victory against daunting odds." —General Stanley McChrystal, U.S. Army, ret.; author of *My Share of the Task June 5, 1967*. The nineteen-year-old state of Israel is surrounded by enemies who want nothing less than her utter extinction. The Soviet-equipped Egyptian Army has massed a thousand tanks on the nation's southern border. Syrian heavy guns are shelling her from the north. To the east, Jordan and Iraq are moving mechanized brigades and fighter squadrons into position to attack. Egypt's President Nasser has declared that the Arab force's objective is "the destruction of Israel." The rest of the world turns a blind eye to the new nation's desperate peril. June 10, 1967. The Arab armies have been routed, ground divisions wiped out, air forces totally destroyed. Israel's citizen-soldiers have seized the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan. The land under Israeli control has tripled. Her charismatic defense minister, Moshe Dayan, has entered the Lion's Gate of the Old City of Jerusalem to stand with the paratroopers who have liberated Judaism's holiest site—the Western Wall, part of the ruins of Solomon's temple, which has not been in Jewish hands for nineteen hundred years. It is one of the most unlikely and astonishing military victories in history. Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews with veterans of the war—fighter and helicopter pilots, tank commanders and Recon soldiers, paratroopers, as well as women soldiers, wives, and others—bestselling author Steven Pressfield tells the story of the Six Day War as you've never experienced it before: in the voices of the young men and women who battled not only for their lives but for the survival of a Jewish state, and for the dreams of their ancestors. By turns inspiring, thrilling, and heartbreaking, *The Lion's Gate* is both a true tale of military courage under fire and a journey into the heart of what it means to fight for one's people.

### On the Front Lines of the Six Day War

### The Lion's Gate

### Belsen

### All the Weight of the Still Midnight

### Landscape and the Visual Hermeneutics of Place, 1500–1700

### Reveries of the Solitary Walker

*The Knight, the Cross, and the Song* offers a new perspective on the driving forces of crusading in the period 1100-1400. Although religious devotion has long been identified as the primary motivation of those who took the cross, Stefan Vander Elst argues that it was by no means the only focus of the texts written to convince the warriors of Western Christianity to participate in the holy war. Vander Elst examines how, across three centuries, historiographical works that served as exhortations for the Crusade sought specifically to appeal to aristocratic interests beyond piety. They did so by appropriating the formal and thematic characteristics of literary genres favored by the knightly class, the *chansons de geste* and chivalric romance. By using the structure, commonplaces, and traditions of chivalric literature, propagandists associated the Crusade with the decidedly secular matters to which arms-bearers were drawn. This allowed them to introduce the mutual obligation between lord and vassal, family honor, the thirst for adventure, and even the desire for women as parallel and complementary motivations for Crusade, making chivalric and literary concerns an indelible part of the ideology and practice of holy war. Examining English, Latin, French, and German texts, ranging from the twelfth-century *Gesta*

*Francorum and Chanson d'Antioche to the fourteenth-century Krônike von Prûzinlant and La Prise d'Alixandre, The Knight, the Cross, and the Song traces the historical development and geographical spread of this innovative use of secular chivalric fiction both to shape the memory and interpretation of past events and to ensure the continuation of the holy war.*

*Remembering the Crusades and Crusading examines the diverse contexts in which crusading was memorialised and commemorated in the medieval world and beyond. The collection not only shows how the crusades were commemorated in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, but also considers the longer-term remembrance of the crusades into the modern era. This collection is divided into three sections, the first of which deals with the textual, material and visual sources used to remember. Each contributor introduces a particular body of source material and presents case studies using those sources in their own research. The second section contains four chapters examining specific communities active in commemorating the crusades, including religious communities, family groups and royal courts. Finally, the third section examines the cultural memory of crusading in the Byzantine, Iberian and Baltic regions beyond the early years, as well as the trajectory of crusading memory in the Muslim Middle East. This book draws together and extends the current debates in the history of the crusades and the history of memory and in so doing offers a fresh synthesis of material in both fields. It will be essential reading for students of the crusades and memory.*

*Medieval Islamic Civilization examines the socio-cultural history of the regions where Islam took hold between the seventh and sixteenth century. This important two-volume work contains over 700 alphabetically arranged entries, contributed and signed by international scholars and experts in fields such as Arabic languages, Arabic literature, architecture, art history, history, history of science, Islamic arts, Islamic studies, Middle Eastern studies, Near Eastern studies, politics, religion, Semitic studies, theology, and more. This reference provides an exhaustive and vivid portrait of Islamic civilization including the many scientific, artistic, and religious developments as well as all aspects of daily life and culture. For a full list of entries, contributors, and more, visit [www.routledge-ny.com/middleages/Islamic](http://www.routledge-ny.com/middleages/Islamic).*

*This one-volume overview provides an accessible reference work for scholars, students, and general readers on the period with numerous entries on key persons, places, events, battles and sieges, use of weapons and armor, and the deeper issues of the political and cultural background. Complete with a detailed chronology and a bibliography, this work allows readers to learn how Europe was changed forever by these battles with Islam.*

*The Mysteries of Religion*

*Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies*

*Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History.*

*Tasso's art and afterlives*

*The Routledge Research Companion to Anglo-Italian Renaissance Literature and Culture*

*Volume 6. Western Europe (1500-1600)*

Charlemagne never traveled farther east than Italy, but by the mid-tenth century a story had begun to circulate about the friendly alliances that the emperor had forged between Jerusalem and Constantinople. This story gained wide currency throughout the Middle Ages, appearing frequently in chronicles, histories, imperial decrees, and hagiography, stained-glass windows and vernacular verse and prose. In *Emperor of the World*, Anne A. Latowsky traces the curious history of this myth, revealing how the memory of Charlemagne's imperial journey to the East was manipulated to shape the institutions of kingship and empire in the High Middle Ages. The legend incorporates apocalyptic themes such as the succession of monarchies at the End of Days and the prophecy of the Last Roman Emperor. Charlemagne's apocryphal journey to the East increasingly resembled the eschatological journey of the Last Emperor, who was expected to end his reign in Jerusalem after reuniting the Roman Empire prior to the Last Judgment. Instead of relinquishing his imperial diadem and handing the rule of a united Christendom over to God as predicted, this Charlemagne returns to the West to commence his reign. Latowsky finds that the writers who created the legend did so to support, or in certain cases to criticize, the imperial pretensions of the regimes under which they wrote. New versions of the myth would resurface again and during periods marked by strong assertions of Roman-style imperial authority and conflict with the papacy, most notably during the reigns of Henry IV and Frederick II. Latowsky removes Charlemagne's encounters with the East from their long-presumed Crusading context and shows how a story that began as a rhetorical commonplace of imperial praise evolved over the centuries as an expression of Christian Roman universalism.

Showcases a descriptive theory of translation based on pragmatics, describing all processes and products of translation on the performative, interpersonal and locative levels. A recent surge of interest in network approaches to the study of the ancient world has enabled scholars of the Roman Empire to move beyond traditional narratives of resistance, integration and fragmentation. This relational turn has not only offers tools to identify, map, visualize and, in some cases, even quantify interaction based on ancient source material, but also provides a terminology to deal with the everyday ties of power, trade, and ideology that operated within, below, and beyond the superimposed imperial rule. Thirteen contributions employ a range of quantitative, qualitative and descriptive network approaches in order to provide new perspectives on trade, communication, administration, technology, religion and municipal life in the Roman Near East and adjacent regions.

Examines Crusader Art of the thirteenth century in its historical, social, and religious context.

Latin Erotic Elegy and the Shaping of Sixteenth-Century English Love Poetry

Identity, Ideology and the Future of Jerusalem

The Liberation of a Concentration Camp

The Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies

The Oxford Illustrated History of the Holy Land

Liturgy and Devotion in the Crusader States

*Interdisciplinary in approach and methodologically sophisticated, this book explores the dynamic reception of Latin erotic elegy in Renaissance love poetry.*

*Using recalled personal history to examine the crucial place that Jerusalem has occupied in the identity and ideology core of fourteen key Palestinian and Jewish/Israeli leaders in the Arab-Zionist impasse, this fascinating study explores the roles of identity and ideology in preventing or promoting a resolution between Israel and the Palestinians.*

*Examining liturgy as historical evidence has, in recent years, developed into a flourishing field of research. The chapters in this volume offer innovative discussion of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem from the perspective of 'liturgy in history'. They demonstrate how the total liturgical experience, which was visual, emotional, motile, olfactory, and aural, can be analysed to understand the messages that liturgy was intended to convey. The chapters reveal how combining narrative sources with liturgical documents can help decode political circumstances and inter-group relations and decipher the core ideals of the community of Outremer. Moreover, understanding the Latins' liturgical activities in the Holy Land has much to contribute to our understanding of the crusade as an institution, how crusade spirituality was practised on the ground in the Latin East, and how people engaged with the crusading movement. This volume brings together eight original studies, forwarded by the editors' introduction, on the liturgy of Jerusalem, spanning the immediate pre-Crusade and Crusade period (11th-13th centuries). It demonstrates the richness of a focus on the liturgy in illuminating the social, religious, and intellectual history of this critical period of ecclesiastical self-assertion, as well as conceptions of the sacred in this time and place. This book was originally published as a special issue of the Journal of Medieval History.*

*The Struggle for Jerusalem's Holy Places investigates the role of architecture and urban identity in relation to the political economy of the city and its wider state context seen through the lens of the holy places. Reflecting the broad disciplinary backgrounds of the authors, this book provides perspectives from architecture, urbanism, and politics, and provides in-depth investigations of historical, ethnographic and policy-related case studies. The research is substantiated by fieldwork carried out in Jerusalem over the past ten years as part of the ESRC Large Grants project 'Conflict in Cities'. By analysing new dynamics of radicalisation through land seizure, the politicisation of parklands and tourism, the strategic manipulation of archaeological and historical narratives and material culture, and through examination of general appropriation of Jerusalem's varied rituals, memories and symbolism for factional uses, the book reveals how possibilities of co-existence are seriously threatened in Jerusalem. Shedding new light on the key role played by everyday urban life and its spatial settings for any future political agreements about the city and its religious sites, this book is a useful reference work for students and scholars of Middle East Studies, Architecture, Religion and Urban Studies.*

*Charlemagne and the Construction of Imperial Authority, 800-1229*

*The Gerusalemme liberata in England*

*Reading Old Books*

*The Limits of Identity: Early Modern Venice, Dalmatia, and the Representation of Difference*

*An Encyclopedia*

*The Crash, Captivity and Comeback of an Ace Fighter Pilot*

Adam Smith, in his *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, largely left his readers to develop his argument's full implications. Many philosophers famously did so, including Mary Wollstonecraft, Thomas Paine, and others, but less known are Sophie de Grouchy's own contributions, presented here alone in translation. Grouchy (1764-1822) published her *Letters on Sympathy* in 1798 together with her French translation of *Moral Sentiments*. While Grouchy's *Letters* mainly engage critically with Smith's philosophical analysis of sympathy, they offer valuable perspectives and original thoughts about the relationship of sympathy to development to legal, economic, and political reform. In particular, Grouchy sought to understand how the mechanisms of sympathy could help the development of new social and political institutions. *Letters* further contain profound reflections on the dangers of demagoguery, the nature of tragedy, and the roles of love and friendship. Though ostensibly a commentary on Smith, the *Letters* stand as original contributions to political philosophy. This new translation by Sandrine Bergès of a text by a forgotten female philosopher illuminates new inroads to Enlightenment and feminist thought far ahead of their time. The volume includes a critical introduction, explanatory notes, and a glossary of terms to provide critical and historical analysis for the novice reader.

*The Uses of the Bible in Crusader Sources* seeks to understand the ideology and spirituality of crusading by exploring the biblical imagery and exegetical interpretations that were woven together in the literature of the period. Many have wondered why the works of Shakespeare and other early modern writers are so filled with violence, with murder and mayhem. This work explains how and why, putting the literature of the period in the context of the history of violence. Personal violence was on the decline in Europe beginning in the fifteenth century, but warfare became much deadlier and the stakes of war became much higher as the quest for hegemony and the New World became a target of a shattering invasion. There are times when Renaissance writers seem to celebrate violence, but more commonly they anatomized it and were as well as warriors on the horrors of violence as well as the need for force to protect national security and justice. In Renaissance writing, violence has lost its innocence.

A wide-ranging exploration of the creative power of literary tradition, from Chaucer to the present In literary and cultural studies, "tradition" is a word everyone uses but few address critically. In *Reading Old Books* Mack offers a wide-ranging exploration of the creative power of literary tradition, from the middle ages to the twenty-first century, revealing in new ways how it helps writers and readers make sense of the past. *Old Books* argues that the best way to understand tradition is by examining the moments when a writer takes up an old text and writes something new out of a dialogue with that text and the

The book examines Petrarch as a user, instigator, and victim of tradition. It shows how Chaucer became the first great English writer by translating and adapting a minor poem by Boccaccio. It in and Spenser made new epic meanings by playing with assumptions, episodes, and phrases translated from their predecessors. It analyzes how the Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell drew on tradition of urban deprivation in *Mary Barton*. And, finally, it looks at how the Kenyan writer Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, in his 2004 novel *Wizard of the Crow*, reflects on biblical, English literary, and African traditions. Theorists, critics, historians, and sociologists, and stressing the international character of literary tradition, *Reading Old Books* illuminates the not entirely free choices readers and writers make to collaborate and compete with their models.

Emperor of the World

An Introduction to Philosophy through Religion

Medieval Islamic Civilization

Sophie de Grouchy's Letters on Sympathy

Rinaldo

Encyclopaedia of Islam

Poetry. Expanded second edition. A first, much shorter edition of *ALL THE WEIGHT OF THE STILL MIDNIGHT* was published as an Outriders Poetry Project chapbook in 1972 and consisted of selections from three sequences: "Departures," "Nocturnes" and "Serenades." This second edition restores the poems omitted from the chapbook and adds a previously unpublished "Elegy."

This Encyclopedia covers the full range of Islamic thought. It takes substantial note of contemporary trends across the Muslim world, and the material on historical Islam has contemporary reference.

'These hours of solitude and meditation are the only time of the day when I am completely myself' *Reveries of the Solitary Walker* is Rousseau's last great work, the product of his final years of exile from the society that condemned his political and religious views. Returning to Paris the philosopher determines to keep a faithful record of the thoughts and ideas that come to him on his perambulations. Part reminiscence, part reflection, enlivened by anecdote and encounters, the *Reveries* form a kind of sequel to his *Confessions*, but they are more introspective and less defensive: Rousseau finds happiness in solitude, walks in nature, botanizing, and meditation. Writing an account of his walks becomes a means of achieving self-knowledge and safeguarding for himself the pleasure that others, he is convinced, seek to deny him. The *Reveries*, shaped by the unmediated nature of Rousseau's thought processes, give powerfully lyrical expression to a painfully tortured soul in search of peace. This new translation is accompanied by an introduction and notes that explore the nature of the work and its historical, literary, and intellectual contexts. ABOUT THE SERIES: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

This interdisciplinary study examines the literary, artistic and biographical afterlives in England of the great sixteenth-century Italian poet Torquato Tasso, from before his death to the end of the nineteenth century. Focusing on the lasting impact of his once famous poem *Gerusalemme liberata* across a spectrum of arts, it aims to stimulate a revival of interest in a neglected poetic masterpiece and its author, some fifty years after the last account of the poet in English. The influence of Tasso's poem is traced and analysed in the literary works of Spenser, Milton, Shakespeare and Daniel, and consideration is also given to its impact on the visual and musical arts in England, in works by Van Dyck, Poussin and Handel. A second strand focuses on English responses to Tasso's troubled life in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, exemplified in Byron's memorable impersonation of the poet's voice in *The Lament of Tasso*.  
Solitary

The A to Z of the Crusades

An English Prose Version

Crusade Propaganda and Chivalric Literature, 1100-1400

The Pragmatic Translator

"A dual language, facing-page, English-Italian edition of Torquato Tasso's early epic romance from the Italian Renaissance, with preface, introduction, plot summary, chronology of Tasso's life, glossary, bibliography, index and notes"--

The second edition of *Historical Dictionary of the Crusades* is an accessible one-volume overview of the medieval crusades to the Middle East between 1095 and 1291, with substantial information on crusades in southern France, Italy, Spain, and the Baltics that take the timeline into the 14th century.

Philosophy of religion too often confines itself to a few well-worn philosophical puzzles, such as the proof of God's existence, and overworked examples which are usually drawn from Western Christianity. This book considers religion practice and expression in a number of cultural contexts, both familiar and exotic, from sacred texts to rites of passage, from the British Israel movement to spiritism and Aztec devil-worship. The author argues that, although there are many points on which religious persons disagree and no definite way of settling these disagreements, Neoplatonic theory about the world and our place in it does at least provide the context for debate. Is religion an irrational human attempt to disguise an essentially meaningless universe? Or is irreligion itself unreasonable and a spiritual universe the best explanation? Using a wide range of examples, *The Mysteries of Religion* provides an invaluable philosophical background for a discussion of such fundamental questions.

This volume examines the image-based methods of interpretation that pictorial and literary landscapists employed between 1500 and 1700.

An Integral Theory of Translation

Moral Passion and Christian Ethics  
The Knight, the Cross, and the Song  
The Liberation of Jerusalem  
The Briennes

The Rise and Fall of a Champenois Dynasty in the Age of the Crusades, c. 950-1356

**'Philosophy is written in this great book which is continually open before our eyes - I mean the universe...'** Galileo's astronomical discoveries changed the way we look at the world, and our place in the universe. Threatened by the Inquisition for daring to contradict the literal truth of the Bible, Galileo ignited a scientific revolution when he asserted that the Earth moves. This generous selection from his writings contains all the essential texts for a reader to appreciate his lasting significance. Mark Davie's new translation renders Galileo's vigorous Italian prose into clear modern English, while William R. Shea's version of the Latin Sidereal Message makes accessible the book that created a sensation in 1610 with its account of Galileo's observations using the newly invented telescope. All Galileo's contributions to the debate on science and religion are included, as well as key documents from his trial before the Inquisition in 1633. A lively introduction and clear notes give an overview of Galileo's career and explain the scientific and philosophical background to the texts. **ABOUT THE SERIES:** For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the widest range of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, helpful notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more. Using a range of disciplines, this book explores the relationship between moral passion and rational ethical deliberation.

**The Liberation of Jerusalem**Oxford University Press

(CMR 6) covers all the works on Christian-Muslim relations in the years 1500-1600. The essays and detailed entries it contains give descriptions, evaluations and comprehensive bibliographical details of nearly 300 works from this century.

**Remembering the Crusades and Crusading**

**No Cartoons (fortune Cookie Version)**

**The Uses of the Bible in Crusader Sources**

**Sinews of Empire**

**Crusader Art in the Holy Land, From the Third Crusade to the Fall of Acre**

**Medieval Islamic Civilization: A-K, index**

The aim of this Companion volume is to provide scholars and advanced graduate students with a comprehensive and authoritative state-of-the-art review of current research work on Anglo-Italian Renaissance studies. Written by a team of international scholars and experts in the field, the chapters are grouped into two large areas of influence and intertextuality, corresponding to the dual way in which early modern England looked upon the Italian world from the English perspective – Part 1: "Italian literature and culture" and Part 2: "Appropriations and ideologies". In the first part, prominent Italian authors, artists, and thinkers are examined as a direct source of inspiration, imitation, and divergence. The variegated English response to the cultural, ideological, and political implications of pervasive Italian intertextuality, in interrelated aspects of artistic and generic production, is dealt with in the second part. Constructed on the basis of a largely interdisciplinary approach, the volume offers an in-depth and wide-ranging treatment of the multifaceted ways in which Italy's material world and its iconologies are represented, appropriated, and exploited in the literary and cultural domain of early modern England. For this reason, contributors were asked to write essays that not only reflect current thinking but also point to directions for future research and scholarship, while a purposefully conceived bibliography of primary and secondary sources and a detailed index round off the volume.

The first comprehensive study of the Brienne dynasty, a fascinating example of the international aristocracy in the central Middle Ages.

"Fighter pilots tell the greatest stories and the great ones tell the best stories of all..." —PAT CONROY, bestselling author of *The Great Santini* and *The Death of Santini* "This book is not only among the finest war writing ever but, like Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*, *Solitary* sits alongside the most profound reflections on the resilience and capacity of the human soul." —STEVEN PRESSFIELD, bestselling author of *The Lion's Gate* and *The War of Art* "Solitary is a gutsy story of one man's survival, endurance, and strength of will..." —LARRY ALEXANDER, bestselling co-author of *A Higher Call* "I anxiously await the day my own sons are old enough to read it." —RICH COHEN, bestselling author of *Tough Jews* "You will tear through this book..." —RYAN HOLLIDAY, bestselling author of *The Obstacle is the Way* "It grabs you immediately, and doesn't let go until you're finished." —TUCKER MAX, bestselling author of *I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell* "A magnificent triumph of the human spirit...I was captivated from the first page to the last." —SEAN PARNELL, bestselling author of *Outlaw Platoon* Giora Romm was the Israeli Air Force's first fighter ace. As a twenty-two-year-old lieutenant he shot down five MiGs during the Six Day War of 1967. Fourteen months later over the Nile Delta, an Egyptian missile exploded beneath the tail of his Mirage IIIC. Within moments Romm found himself hanging by the straps of his parachute, with a broken arm and a leg shattered in a dozen places, looking down from 10,000 feet. Streams of farmers and field workers converged below onto the spot toward which his chute was descending, with the intention, he was certain, of hacking him to death as soon as his feet touched the earth. No other Israeli pilot had survived capture in Egypt or in any other Arab state. *Solitary* is Romm's story of his imprisonment, torture, interrogation, release, and return to service. *Solitary* is not a "war

book." It's not a tale of heroism, though if anyone ever qualified for that distinction, it is this story's author. Solitary is not even, in its deepest parts, about captivity or imprisonment. Solitary is about Romm's inner war. It's the story, in his phrase, "of a fall from a great height," not only literally but metaphorically. Romm could not tell his captors the truth about who he was or what he had done. He had to invent an entire fictional biography and keep it straight in his head through months of beatings and interrogations, all the while being held in solitary confinement with his body sheathed from chest to toe in a plaster cast. Solitary is not a grim book. It's full of wry humor, keen self-observations and revelations. An ordeal such as Romm endured is a sojourn in hell, but it is also a passage. Romm fell, and he came back. Solitary is his indelible account of confronting, as few of us ever will, his own fears and limitations, and discovering, ultimately, his capacity to survive and to prevail. —From the Introduction by Steven Pressfield

The Renaissance Discovery of Violence, from Boccaccio to Shakespeare