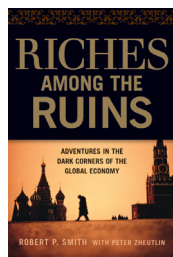


sorority dances. On the night of March 5, 1926, he went to Manhattan's Hotel McAlpin's ballroom where the Phi Lambda Tau sorority was having a party. The girls would see Edward and call out "Hi Daddy," the moniker earned from often being seen in the company of young girls. That evening he met Frances Belle Heenan, a tenth grader. She was described as buxom, with a peaches and cream complexion. "Peaches is the Cinderella of my heart," he said. Thirty-seven days later, on her sixteenth birthday, fifty-one-year-old Daddy married Peaches.

Daddy doted on Peaches, spoiling her with a four and one-half carat diamond ring and Fifth Avenue shopping rampages. There was much activity after their marriage, including social engagements and a stroll along the Long Beach boardwalk with their pet African Honking Gander on a red ribbon leash. But six months after the marriage, Peaches left Daddy, claiming abuse. "[T]he legal battle that would turn their domestic drama into a national scandal" followed.

Attorney Michael M. Greenburg, a former editor of the *Pepperdine Law Review*, unfolds a story told with the panache of a true crime writer. Greenberg divulges snaring court room details in the context of Peaches' assertions of Daddy's excessive eccentricity, including contact with the "Love Cult" High Priestess of Oom, sandpapering shoetrees at night, prowling and barking on all fours, and placing at the end of his lit cigar a white tablet that produced a large snowflake. This is a story worthy of inclusion in Ripley's *Believe it or Not*. Alex Moore



### Riches Among the Ruins: Adventures in the Dark Corners of the Global Economy

Robert P. Smith, with Peter Zheutlin  
AMACOM  
Hardcover \$24.95 (256pp)  
978-0-8144-1060-8

Smith spent a long, stressful career buying and trading government debts in emerging nations. This "financial Indiana Jones," as he was called by *Forbes* magazine, received death threats, placed his own life in jeopardy by trading in countries with repressive governments run by violent dictators, and loved every challenge. This memoir describes his adventures in such international cauldrons as El Salvador, Turkey, Guatemala, Panama, Nigeria, Russia, and Iraq.

Smith is the founder and managing director of the Turan Corporation, which trades in emerging markets, and is regarded as an authority on the debt of the developing world. As a young man with wanderlust he did not want to join his father's law firm, although he is a graduate of Bowdoin College and Boston University's Law School. To escape, Smith went to Vietnam in 1968 as a financial officer for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). There

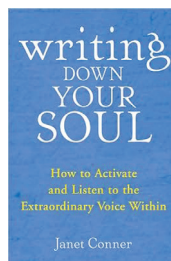
he learned one of his most valuable lessons: successful business depends on knowing and respecting your clients.

To his credit, the author explains patiently the intricacies of bond trading: the buying of government debts and then selling them at a higher cost to third parties brave enough to believe the debts will be paid. During the 1980s, Smith earned \$300–\$400 million and the nickname, "King of the Jungle Bonds," in war-torn Nigeria, by facilitating trading with Indian holders of Nigerian bonds.

Smith's most exciting and nerve-wracking venture was his debt-trading in Russia during the 1990s, when Russia made the arduous transition from communism to capitalism. Organized crime and political assassinations had eroded government stability to a level that the author calls, "the perfect conditions to do business." In one day, Smith's Russian holdings plummeted in value from \$20 million to \$5 million—a staggering loss which the author was able to more than recoup as the country became politically stable and oil prices rose.

Although the author does not envision the United States becoming a second- or third-world country, he offers some disturbing observations about a national decline caused primarily by the widening income gap between the rich and the poor. This crackling good yarn about a high roller in the age of globalism will appeal to financial specialists and to general readers—a good choice for public libraries. (March) *Karl Helicher*

## BODY, MIND & SPIRIT



### Writing Down Your Soul: How to Activate and Listen to the Extraordinary Voice Within

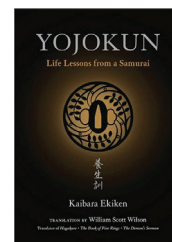
Janet Conner  
Conari Press  
Softcover \$16.95 (256pp)  
978-1-57324-356-8

After the traumas of an abusive marriage, Janet Conner began spilling her emotional turmoil and fear onto the page. Conner came to experience an inner voice of wisdom answering her questions on the page, supporting her in facing her fears, healing relationships, and trusting a divine connection. By sharing the founding moments of this amalgam of prayer, meditation, and psychotherapy, Conner embodies the possibilities that great good can come from deep grief and troubles.

It takes very little to begin the process, as she outlines in the section called "What Do I Need?" In the chapter, "Why Write," Conner shares current research that explores the connection between emotional release and the benefits of writing. The heart of the book is the section titled, "How Do I Write Down My Soul?" At more than 130 pages, it might benefit from additional demarcations to make more visible

chapter or section headers so readers can readily see where they are in the process. The four steps: "Show up; Open Up; Listen Up; Follow Up," are very simple. The key to their success is in the "Write Down Your Soul" boxed writing exercises throughout. These are starting points for sincere reflection. This section includes worksheets to create an "I Deserve" plan. Workshop participants' stories as well as the author's own journey add depth and richness.

The core of the process for those willing to put pen to paper, are the productive questions to initiate the listening process so critical to accessing that inner voice. Concluding, Conner notes, "...dialogue with the Voice is a joyful, soul-lifting, soul-expanding adventure." In closing, she includes favorite books and resources, a thirty-day writing log, and side-by-side comparison between her process and "journaling." For readers who resonate with the possibilities in Conner's question—"Did I tell you that questions are magic that activates the Voice?"—and the writing and spirituality sections that these readers haunt, all will welcome this fine and timely contribution. (January) *Bobbie Middendorf*



### Yojokun: Life Lessons from a Samurai

Kaibara Ekiken  
William Scott Wilson,  
translator  
Kodansha International  
Hardcover \$19.95 (256pp)  
978-4-7700-3077-1

Japanese is an extraordinarily challenging language for foreigners to speak, let alone read, yet William Scott Wilson has demonstrated an amazing gift for translating classical Japanese works into English in a way that holds true to the original work while finding modern relevance and meaning for the readers of today. The acclaimed translator of *Hagakure*, *The Unfettered Mind*, *The Book of Five Rings*, *The Demon's Sermon on Martial Arts*, *Taiko*, *The Life-Giving Sword*, and many other immortal volumes, Wilson has once again lived up to his stellar reputation with this latest book. Written by samurai physician Kaibara Ekiken (1630–1714), *Yojokun* means "Lessons on Nurturing Life." It is a very unique tome in feudal Japanese literature; rather than a martial compendium or Zen treatise, it is a compilation of precepts for living life to its fullest.

Ekiken, a prolific author, lived during the Takugawa Shogunate, an extraordinary era of peace in Japanese history where feudal samurai had to adjust to a world without constant warfare. Best known as a scholar of Confucianism, his diverse interests included agriculture, astrology, astronomy, biology, botany, linguistics, martial arts, mathematics, medicine, military strategy, topology, zoology, and more. He traveled extensively, meeting not only with some of the finest scholars of his day, but also with artisans and