

books



Leadership and the Links

Krissi and Dan Barr help business leaders get un-Plugged

By CRAIG J. HEIMBUCH

Krissi Barr is a business leadership coach. Her husband, Dan, is an executive at Cintas and their experiences in the world of upper-level management combine with their mutual love of golf to create a true-to-life business fable in their new book *Plugged* (Clerisy Press, September 2009, www.clerisypress.com).

Golf, it turns out, is not only the sport most commonly associated with business executives, it is also the perfect training ground and litmus test for executive priorities.

"Golf has always been a major source of ethics in our family," Krissi says. "If you cheat in golf, do you cheat in business? If you read the greens, are you paying attention to the details and reading your business?"

This line of thinking, which aligns the necessary elements of success on the golf course with those that allow for success in the boardroom, are the basis for *Plugged*. Patience, priorities, planning and an understanding that success is in the hands of each executive are common to both arenas.

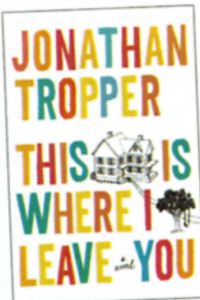
"In golf, too often people are reactive," she says. "That causes frustration. We'd like

people to understand just how much control they have over the outcome of every situation... It's about helping people to prioritize and learn to adapt to change."

Krissi says she and Dan had been thinking about writing a book for a long time before they started sitting down at the kitchen table on Sunday mornings to write *Plugged*. The two-year project is the culmination of their experiences in business, providing, in one slim "cross-country flight length" volume, key questions for business people to ask themselves in order to differentiate between success and survival in their careers, companies and lives.

The writing process proved rewarding for the Barrs. Krissi says they already have two more books planned, though she won't say if golf will feature prominently in either.

"You'll just have to wait and see." CP



This Is Where I Leave You

Jonathan Tropper
Dutton Books,
August 2009,
Hardcover, \$25.95

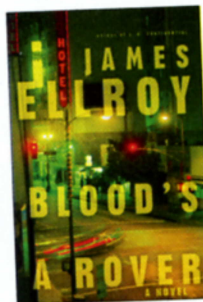
By RON JONES

Those who have already read Jonathan Tropper refer to his work as both funny

and emotional. *This Is Where I Leave You* opens with the death of Judd Foxman's father. This results in the Foxman family—mother, brothers, sisters and Judd—being together in the same house for an extended period for the first time in more than 10 years. Absent from the gathering is Judd's wife who has been involved in a 14-month affair with Judd's boss.

The normal Foxman family reunion is uncomfortable and ends badly. This time they are honoring their father's dying request: that they spend the seven days following his funeral together, in the same house, like a normal family.

The week sets Judd to dealing with his father's death, his failed marriage and the mess his life has become amidst a never-ending onslaught of people he never thought he would see again, and his wife's final insult—on the day his father died, she announces she's pregnant.



Blood's A Rover

James Ellroy
Knopf,
September 2009,
hardcover, \$28.95

By RON JONES

With Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy both dead and the assassination conspiracies unravel-

ing, the summer of 1968 finds a dirty-tricks squad getting ready to set up at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. At the same time black militants are battling on the south side of L.A. and the feds, read J. Edgar Hoover, have their fingers in all of it.

This is political *noir* as only James Ellroy writes it, the third book of his trilogy, which includes *American Tabloid* and *The Cold Six Thousand*, and is an immense tale of corruption, payback, war and love.



The American Civil War: A Military History

John Keegan
Knopf Publishing,
Hard cover,
October 2009,
\$35.00

By RON JONES

Military historian John Keegan has

spent 50 years exploring the Civil War's unanswered questions: how did two vastly mismatched sides fight for more than four years? Why were troops so poorly trained, ill-equipped, and under fed? Where were the decisive battles?

He examines these and other questions with a well-honed understanding of warfare, uncovering dimensions of the war that have received little attention.

Offering new insights into the psychology, ideology, demographics and economics of the struggle Keegan reveals the war's elusive shape, the cost of leadership, the growth of strategic logic, and geography—the Rosetta Stone of what he views as the decisive factor of all great battles.

A must for Civil War buffs and those who enjoy military history. CP