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Orchard's "Another day, Another Dali: A Serena Jones mystery" (Book Review)

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five addresses how Romans would have reacted to Paul's Letter to the Romans. Bird argues that the Letter to the Romans may have been a challenge directed at the Roman governmental claim by its emperors of being gods and requiring worship since they had provided for the welfare of the Roman and subjugated people. Paul's teachings about Jesus as the Savior would be seen by the political powers as strongly undermining this idea despite Paul's instructions to be law abiding in the same letter.

In an interesting conundrum Paul, the Roman citizen, who uses his Roman citizenship to avoid being theocratically tried by the Jerusalem Jews is seen by the Romans as disruptive to their system of government where all are required to acknowledge the Roman emperor as god, savior of the people, and the source of all good things. His fellow Christians, whom he has persecuted at one time, are now divided in their view of him. Those of Gentile origins are not comfortable with his Jewishness while those of Jewish origins are not willing to accept Paul's requirement that non-Jewish Christians be not only seen as equal in Christ, but that fellowship with them is required for all Christians – even those who would wish to keep Jewish traditions. Greeks see Paul as not rational enough and too bound by a Jewish past, while non-Greeks are not comfortable with Paul's rationality. Bird argues that it is from this confused situation that Paul would have been seen as anomalous, since he fits everywhere, yet nowhere.

This book does not plow any new ground in the debates about Paul. It does discuss the issues involved in the debate in a thorough manner with numerous references and an excellent bibliography. The writing is too dense for leisurely inspirational reading and not original enough for serious academic study. The book's main value is as a bibliographical resource and an overview regarding some of the Paul debates.

Reviewer

Joseph Baumstarck, Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Orchard, S. (2016). *Another day, Another Dali: A Serena Jones mystery*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 333 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9780800726713

Sandra Orchard has produced another exciting and entertaining adventure for FBI agent, Serena Jones, who is part of the Art Crime Team. Serena finds herself in the middle of another art theft – no surprise there. But wait, there's more! This time, Serena needs to figure out if the stolen art was the real thing, or a forgery. Certainly, the art that is hanging in the owner's home, is a counterfeit, but perhaps the original had been replaced more than once. By the time Serena begins to examine the theft, a well-known artist and friend of the forgery's owner, Truman Capone, who makes "reproductions" is found dead in his studio.

Serena's two would be suitors, Nate and Tanner return in this episode. Quirky Aunt Martha and her Mafioso-friend, Carmen Malgucci add their unique talents to this adventure. Sandra Orchard introduces the reader to Serena's grandmother, Nana; Mrs. Gladys Hoffemeier, who owns a now forged Dali painting; Gladys's two adult children; a very talented inner city high school artist, named Tyrone; and others. The by-play and interaction of all the characters is fast paced and very natural feeling.

For libraries that offer recreational reading, the Serena Jones mysteries provide good quality entertainment. For mystery readers, this series (two titles thus far) offers a mental sleight-of-hand of challenge issued by an accomplished and dexterous magician. This book is recommended.

Reviewer

Kathleen F. Kempa, Southeastern University

Qureshi, N. (2016). *Answering jihad: A better way forward*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 173 pp. \$14.99. ISBN 9780310531388

In this short book, former Muslim turned Christian apologist Nabeel Qureshi answers eighteen questions he is frequently asked about jihad. The questions are grouped in three sections: "The origins of jihad," "Jihad today," and "Jihad in Judeo-Christian context." In the concluding chapter, Qureshi proposes an initial direction for a Christian response to jihad.

The appendices include a historical timeline of jihad, selected passages on jihad from one of the major collections of hadith (sayings of Muhammad), and a brief explanation of the caliphate. The appendix on the Ahmadi sect of Islam is largely recycled from Qureshi's autobiographical book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*. A short glossary of Islamic/Arabic terms is included, but there is no index or bibliography.

Qureshi acknowledges this book's indebtedness to the work of Rice University professor of Islamic studies David Cook, and in particular, to Cook's book, *Understanding Jihad*. Several other works and authors are mentioned at various points in the book. A bibliography or further reading list would have aided the reader in pursuing these recommended works.

Qureshi mainly avoids policy level discussions of jihad and radical Islam. The book is best suited for Christians who want a better understanding of jihad to inform their interactions with and their witness to their Muslim neighbors. Several of the book's chapters address biblical passages on war, war in Christian history, and Jesus' teachings