Dead of Spring: An Alexa Williams Novel  
Sherry Knowlton  
Sunbury Press  
http://sunburypress.com  
9781620068434, $19.95, PB, 266pp, www.amazon.com

Dr. Alma H. Bond  
Reviewer

Dead of Spring is the latest in the series of Alexa Williams mysteries by Sherry Knowlton. The book is an intriguing, suspenseful story which grabs the attention of the reader from page one. Sherry Knowlton has knitted together the story of a small family struggling through the nuclear leak at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island in March and April, 1979, and a current energy related problem in the same area, with lawyer Alexa Williams and her dog Scout struggling against fracking* in principle and fact. Ms. Knowlton has done considerable research on the subject and shares with us a great deal of information both for and against hydraulic fracking, in plain language that is easily understood.

The book concerns the why and wherefore of several murders connected with the fracking controversy. Knowlton has investigated the subject in depth, and imparts a great deal of knowledge about the mechanics of fracking, as well as the crisis at Three Mile Island. Dead of Spring is an ideal book for those people who like to learn, along with their reading pleasure.

When Carmine Martinelli, a beloved state senator, plunged to his death at Alexa Williams' feet in the Capitol Rotunda of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the police suspected suicide. The powerful chair of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, the senator was at the center of a controversial new bill to expand hydraulic fracturing. It was speculated that he was ill, and killed himself to avoid pain. Alexa, deeply shaken, tried to move past the disturbing sight by concentrating on her work as the head of a senate commission on sex trafficking. She also was helping an old college roommate sue a natural gas company for their role in causing her daughter's rare cancer.

In researching the lawsuit, Alexa became embroiled in the high-stakes politics of fracking. As the relationship with John, her state trooper boyfriend, disintegrated, Alexa was attracted to a charming state legislator in charge of an anti-fracking crusade. Unfortunately for Alexa, he was a happily married family man. Alexa was shocked to learn that, as a witness to the senator's murder, not his suicide, she too could be in danger. When Alexa narrowly escaped a sniper's bullet, she knew she had to discover why she was a target and whom she should trust before another shot found its mark.

Dead of Spring is a highly readable book which captures the reader's interest immediately and swiftly carries him or her through a story which is always captivating and full of suspense. With Sherry Knowlton's distinguished mixture of feminism, romance, history, and fast-paced thrills, Dead of Spring ricochets from the fracking fields of the Marcellus Shale to the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster of 1979.
Revealing the bond between memory and moral formation, Professor Sims discovers the courage and hope inherent in the power of recall. By tending to the words of these witnesses, "Lynched" exposes not only a culture of fear and violence but the practice of story and memory, as well as the narrative of hope within a renewed possibility for justice.

Critique: Exhaustively researched, exceptionally well written, organized and presented, "Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror" is impressively informed and informative. A seminal work of outstanding scholarship, "Lynched" is unreservedly recommended, especially for community and academic library American History collections in general, and Black History supplemental studies reading lists in particular. It should be noted for students and non-specialist general readers with an interest in the subject that "Lynched" is also available in a Kindle edition ($28.45).

Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017
Leo Panitch & Greg Albo, editors
Monthly Review Press
134 W. 29th Street, Suite 706, New York, NY 10001
www.monthlyreview.org
9781583676332, $29.00, PB, 369pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: One hundred years ago, "October 1917" galvanized leftists and oppressed peoples around the globe, and became the lodestar for 20th century politics. Today, the left needs to reckon with this legacy and go on to transcend it. Social change, as it was understood in the 20th century, appears now to be as impossible as revolution, leaving the left to rethink the relationship between capitalist crises, as well as the conceptual tension between revolution and reform.

Comprised of contributions by an impressive array of passionate thinkers and thoughtful activists, "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" reappraises the historical effects of the Russian revolution, both positive and negative, on political, intellectual, and cultural life, and looks at consequent revolutions after 1917.

Change needs to be understood in relation to the distinct trajectories of radical politics in different regions. But the main purpose of this Socialist Register edition (one century after "Red October") is to look forward, to what might happen next.

Compiled and co-edited by Leo Panitch (Professor of Political Science, York University, Toronto, Canada) and Greg Albo (Professor, Department of Political Science at York University, Toronto, Canada) the eighteen articles anthologized in "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" interrogate and explore compelling issues, including: Greg Albo: New socialist strategies - or detours?; Jodi Dean: Are the multitudes communing? Revolutionary agency and political forms today; Adolph Reed: Are racial minorities revolutionary agents?; Zillah Eisenstein: Revolutionary feminisms today; Nina Power: Accelerated technology, decelerated revolution; David Schwartzman: Beyond global warming: Is solar communism possible?; and Andrea Malm: Revolution and counter-revolution in an era of climate change.

Critique: An erudite body of original and seminal scholarship, "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" is an exceptionally timely and unreservedly recommended addition to community, college, and academic library Political Science collections in general, and Contemporary Socialism supplemental studies reading lists in particular. For students and non-specialist general readers with an interest in the subject, it should be noted that "Rethinking Revolution: Socialist Register 2017" is also available in a Kindle format ($14.54).

Jack Mason
Reviewer

Moore's Bookshelf

SnowPoems
Ron Paul Speakes
Amazon Digital Services LLC
B01DHHW5RS,113 pp; $2.99/$0.00 on Kindle Unlimited, digital, www.amazon.com

There is poetry that warms and seduces. That is not the sort of charm you will find in Ron Paul Speakes' SnowPoems. These poems do not coddle. They cut through consciousness with cool logic. The absence of romanticized embellishment might lead a reader to miss the depth of feeling behind the thought. Beware. Feeling will surprise the unsuspecting, with the searing intensity of burning snow, as in

.........................................blossom by
Blossom, the alba-like world will flutter
To earth to be gathered in history's
Urns for the rites that can cut the ties
To Jack's scattered memory
To Ronnie's abandoned memory

Speakes explains in his preface that SnowPoems is about the post-WWII era and that the events described are intertwined with snow imagery. But this poetry is about more than snow, and a specific period in history. It is about time and human destiny.