

NOTED

BY AMANDA QUINTENZ-FIEDLER

SURVIVOR: A PORTRAIT OF THE SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST

By Harry Borden. Cassell. 276 pp. \$39.99 hardcover.

Many books have been written on the Holocaust, its survivors, their stories — and even their pictures — but portrait photographer Harry Borden has created something remarkable with this new work. Composed primarily of environmental portraits, the book's images each demonstrate a life lived. The photos offer intimate portrayals of people who have experienced “the fires of hell,” as one sitter put it, yet are willing to open their homes, stories and lives to the remembrance of a horrific time in human history. The subjects in these portraits urge us to never forget — and also demonstrate the power of the will to survive. These are people with couches, pictures on walls, houseplants and colorful clothes. Each image is also accompanied by a handwritten note by the sitter or a relative. Biographies of all the subjects, with terrifying and tragic details, are included at the end of the book, putting the whole body of work — and the lives of the subjects — into humble perspective.

TIDAL RHYTHMS: CHANGE AND RESILIENCE AT THE EDGE OF THE SEA

By Stephen Strom and Barbara Hurd. George F. Thompson Publishing. 176 pp. \$50 hardcover.

Seaweed, when strewn along sand, can resemble calligraphy strokes. Winding, repeating lines carved in rock can be the size of your palm — or a desert. A thousand mussels pressed together look like scales forming the complicated pattern on a lizard's skin. The beauty of abstract photography is that the mind can run away with what an image suggests before realizing what is being pictured. Though the book includes descriptive essays by Barbara Hurd, Strom's photos themselves

vividly capture the imagination. The book's square format enhances the abstraction as well as the fun of flipping through the pages — and rewards repeat readings. This is a great book for anyone who loves abstract photography or the ocean, as every image includes a little of both.

EDDIE ADAMS: BIGGER THAN THE FRAME By Eddie Adams and Anne Wilkes Tucker. University of Texas Press. 360 pp. \$60 hardcover.

You don't need to know that the photograph “Saigon Execution” was created by Eddie Adams for the image to immediately appear in your mind's eye. The moment that he captured — a gun raised to the skull of a man squinting his eyes shut at the moment preceding his death — placed Adams among the best war photographers ever, making the gruesome reality of war visceral to the consuming public — and winning him the Pulitzer Prize. When a photographer becomes associated with such a powerful image, it can be difficult to also recognize the brilliance of the rest of his career. But Adams is an astounding talent, and this book is a magnificent retrospective of his life — told through essays, in pictures of mementos and, of course, in Adams's own photography. It underscores the point that if you know only a photographer's most amazing image, it's because there is a trove of experience, courage, risk and raw talent holding it up.

STORM CHASER By Mike Olbinski. Pen & Sword Books. 192 pp. \$39.95 hardcover.

There's a line that most people tend not to cross, where the object of your desire is abandoned to save your own skin. Photographer and storm chaser Mike Olbinski likes to dance right up to that edge and pull out his camera. A self-

described storm enthusiast all his life, Olbinski has learned not only how and when the storms are coming but also how to get the right perspectives and settings to capture some truly powerful natural events. The resulting images are stunning: lightning skittering along the undersides of tumultuous clouds in Arizona, or the perfect symmetry of a tornado touching down in Oklahoma, or even the materialization of what's provocatively called a supercell thunderstorm forming over farmland. Each image or set of images is accompanied by Olbinski's memory of that day, that storm, giving hints of how he captures them. It's something of a guide for those who want to follow in his footsteps (though without camera settings or equipment details). The rest of us, meanwhile, can sit inside our comfortable homes and admire nature's power through his work in the glossy pages of this collection. ▲

