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"Bell has written a brisk and readable account of copyright policy, arguing that progress in this area depends on trimming authors' rights back to the level they had reached in 1790, under the first Copyright Act. His simple and compelling thesis is that intellectual property rights, being born of statute, are always in tension with individuals' natural rights to think and speak as they will—and thus must meet a high burden of proof before being included in the law. Bell's fresh perspective makes a distinctive contribution to a field in which fundamental political theory too often takes a back seat to more overt utilitarian calculations." Richard A. Epstein, Laurence A. Tisch Professor, New York University School of Law, and Senior Fellow, The Hoover Institution