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May 2010 MONTHLY

BRADY UDALL AND ISABEL ALLENDE: TELLING STORIES AS THEY'VE NEVER BEEN TOLD

by Betsy Burton and Anne Holman

At the beginning of the year we wrote of the importance of story in the context of *Ransom*, David Malouf's brilliant retelling of an incident from *The Iliad*. This month, two novels possess such original and captivating stories that they practically redefine the word. The first, *The Lonely Polygamist* by Brady Udall, tells the tale of Golden Richards, a well-intentioned, likeable hulk of a man, his four wives, and their 28 children—most particularly Rusty, a boy impossible to forget. All are the opposite of typecast, none are sensationalized, each and every one lives and breathes on the page and is destined to live on indefinitely in the heads of readers—as is the setting that gave them birth.

The Lonely Polygamist is steeped in *local*—religiously, socially, and environmentally—yet somehow manages to be quintessentially and broadly American. Udall sets us squarely in the world of polygamy, telling us truth about religion, marriage, the lives of men and women (not to mention children) even while he enchants us with his storytelling, amuses us with humor that ranges from wry to laugh-out-loud, mesmerizes us with his narrative skill. He breaks our hearts more than once in this compassionate and compelling novel and, in the process, illuminates the odd, quixotic, hard-to-understand religious and social impulses that drive this nation and define its character. This young (to our admittedly aging eyes) genius is as good in person as he is on the page. Don't miss his reading at TKE on May 4.



Heather Udall



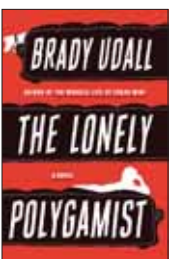
If *The Lonely Polygamist* is one of a handful of books that might be defined as “great American novels,” Isabel Allende has just completed a book that transcends nations. The tale that drives *Island Beneath the Sea* is rooted in the slave population of Haiti, the rebellion there, and the mass emigration of former slaves to New Orleans. Its varied and vivid cast of characters is led by Zarité, born into slavery but “lucky” enough to be chosen as a house slave—if you consider being the chattel of the plantation owner “lucky,” consider servicing him at night and being powerless to protect the children thus conceived as “lucky,” consider being the nursemaid to his wife and his children as “lucky.” And perhaps as compared to working in the cane fields, such a fate is lucky, but compared to the free existence Zarité longs for, her life is far afield from anyone's idea of good fortune. Telling tales within tales with the narrative zest she employed in *Zorro*, underlaying those tales with the pathos that was at the heart of *Paula*, the imagination of *House of the Spirits*, and the sense of history that is at the core of most of her fiction, this is Allende at her fierce and fulsome best. She's bearing witness in *Island Beneath the Sea*—to the subjugation of women, to the suffering of slaves and of emigrant populations, to the perils of motherhood, and to the longing for freedom and the things people will do to win it. But Allende is also telling a rapturous story, bewitching the reader on every page.

That two such world-class novelists have published new books this month is a happy reminder of how central story is to all of us. Read on!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What We See with Stephen Goldsmith

Saturday, May 1, 1 p.m. 15th & 15th "Jane's Walk" followed by a reading and discussion of *What We See: Advancing the Observations of Jane Jacobs* with editor Goldsmith.



Brady Udall

Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m. Celebrate the release of Udall's superb new novel, *The Lonely Polygamist*.

Read, Remember, Recommend

Saturday, May 8, 2 p.m. Rachele Rogers Knight will sign journals and answer questions.

Sandra Dallas

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m. *The New York Times* best-selling author returns to TKE with *Whiter Than Snow*.

Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Heather Lende will read from and sign *Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs*.

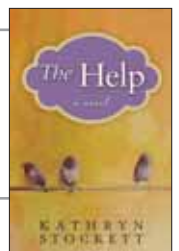


Christy Karras and Stephen Zusy

Saturday, May 1, 7 p.m. Karras and Zusy present their new book, *Motorcycle Touring in the Southwest*.

Kathryn Stockett

Thursday, May 6, 7 p.m. Kathryn Stockett will read from and sign her bestselling novel, *The Help*.



Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.

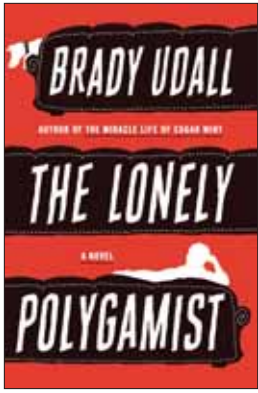
Local author Jacob Paul will discuss his new novel, *Sarah/Sara*.

Thursday, May 27, 7 p.m.

Salt Lake City native Adam Bradley will discuss his new book, *Ralph Ellison in Progress*.

FICTION

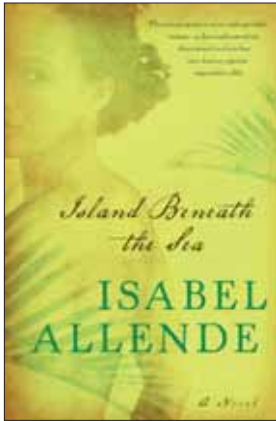
The Lonely Polygamist, Brady Udall



How can a man with four wives be lonely? The old adage, "Two's company, three's a crowd," has never been truer than in this uproarious and improbably touching tale of Golden Richards, construction boss, man of God, and bewildered soul. This hapless father of 28 is continually befuddled; he doesn't understand his kids, his wives, his boss, or his employees. And then he discovers Huila, who is kind, gentle, and, thank heavens, soft-spoken. She is also his boss's wife. Every chapter (sometimes every paragraph) is a vignette,

and each is by turns hilarious and moving. Truly, Brady Udall is our modern-day Charles Dickens. – Anne Holman, Norton, \$26.95
*Editor's note: Brady Udall will read from **The Lonely Polygamist** on Tuesday, May 4, 7 p.m. at TKE.*

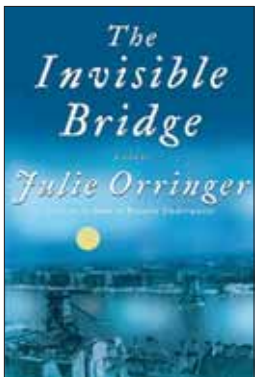
Island Beneath the Sea, Isabel Allende



The histories of Haiti and New Orleans, of colonialism, slavery, abolition and concubinage, bring together a society bent on subjugation, and a willingness to inflict untold abuse toward that end, with their victims, who long, above all, for freedom. A cast of characters as entwined and entrancing as those who peopled *House of the Spirits* includes, among many others, Zarité, born into slavery but a woman who never gives up her vision of freedom; Toulouse Valmorain, the French nobleman who owns the plantation,

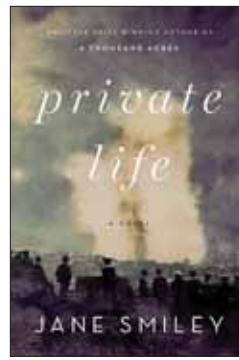
owns Zarité, owns her children; his Spanish wife and brother-in-law as well as Valmorain's children and lovers; Zarité's African lover; and, later, the mulattoes, quadroons, and French Creole friends and acquaintances in New Orleans. This is Allende at her fierce and fulsome best. – Betsy Burton, Harper Collins, \$26.99

The Invisible Bridge, Julie Orringer



Andras Lévi, an accomplished artist, wants to study architecture in Paris and wins a scholarship to do so. On the first day at the École Spéciale, he receives a note: All Hungarian scholarship monies destined for Jews are stopped—and at that moment Andras begins a journey through one of the most heinous periods in modern European history. He and his brother Tibor, who has just begun medical school in Italy, suffer the same restrictions. The systemic deprivation that will end in the near-eradication of Jews has begun.

Through the eyes of the brothers, the reader begins to comprehend the insidious creep of the Nazi machine across their homeland. Partly love story, partly family history, partly World War II history, all wrapped together in this brilliant novel, *The Invisible Bridge* is so good I hated to see it end. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, \$26.95

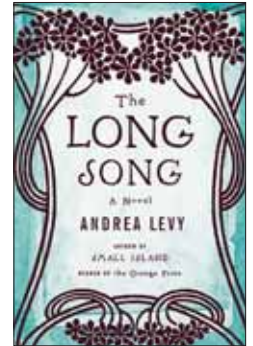


Private Life, Jane Smiley

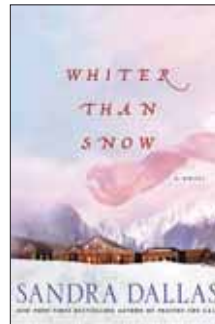
If you loved Kurt Anderson's *HeyDay*, you'll likely feel the same way about the panoramic scope and breadth of *Private Life*. Over the course of nearly half a century, from the early 1880s to the early years of WWII, this marvelous novel offers, in part, a treatise on the nature of genius; a portrait of an ordinary woman's marriage to a man who is convinced (wrongly, it turns out) he is a genius; and a depiction of Japanese arts of the 19th-century, wood-block prints and bonsai gardens. This is Jane Smiley at her best—I read it in one sitting. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, \$26.95

The Long Song, Andrea Levy

Slavery in 19th century Jamaica was brutal and degrading for those who were viewed as chattel by the plantation owners. The voice of Miss July gives us a particularly vital view of this terrible time. As an old lady she tells her story through the eyes of one who experienced the worst—torn from her mother as an infant, impregnated by a callous owner, eventually abandoned to starve when slavery was abolished. Through it all Miss July has an almost raucous voice and demeanor. She is truly a unique literary character, one that will stay with us for a long time. – Barbara Hoagland, Farrar Strauss Giroux, \$26



Whiter Than Snow, Sandra Dallas



Weaving together the lives of six families and the different paths that bring them to Colorado in 1920, Sandra Dallas creates a patchwork quilt of love and loss in this remote mining town on the day an avalanche buries nine children on their way home from school. Racism, poverty, women's rights and war are all touched on as these characters travel from all over the United States to end up in Swandyke on the fateful day that changes everyone's

lives forever. – Anne Holman, St. Martin's Press, \$24.99
Editor's note: Please join us on Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m. and meet the author!

Girl in Translation, Jean Kwok



Beautifully written, this coming-of-age tale offers a little of everything—an evil factory owner who is also Kimberly Chang's aunt, a life of hardship in a condemned tenement where there is no heat other than the oven, the mean public school teacher who makes every schoolroom task harder than it needs to be. This little immigrant girl overcomes all odds, ends up being best friends with a wealthy girl in her class, who, in turn, wangles Kimberly a full-ride scholarship

to one of the poshest prep schools in New York. Like *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, this is one of those stories that will warm the cockles of your heart. – Kathy Ashton, Riverhead, \$25.95

FICTION-NEW IN PAPER

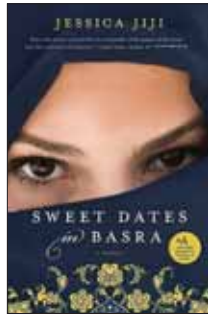
Sarah/Sara, Jacob Paul

Left spiritually and physically scarred by a suicide bomber in Jerusalem, Sarah retreats to the wilderness to rediscover faith. Tying a bottle of 12-year-old scotch to the bow like a mascot, she floats her kayak through the silent beautiful landscape, passing into a world that is increasingly cold and hostile. Every dip of her paddle in the icy waters of the Alaskan coastline, every painful step she takes on frozen, blackened feet, brings her, and us, a little bit closer to the truth that she seeks: how can we find meaning in a world that can lash out at us with no warning, and with such violence? – Aaron Cance, Ig Publishing, \$15.95 *Editor's note: Jacob Paul will visit TKE on Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.*



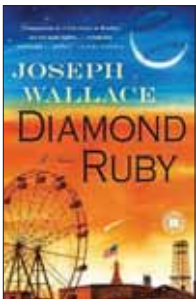
Sweet Dates in Basra, Jessica Jiji

Kathmiya Mahmoud, a 13-year-old Arab girl from the marshlands of Iraq, is sent from her home to work as a maid in the city of Basra. Exquisitely beautiful, Kathmiya attracts the attention of Shafiq, a Jewish Iraqi boy. During the tumultuous 1940s when the book is set, the tenuous brotherhood shared by the Muslim and Jewish communities begins to disintegrate due to the onset of World War II. Shafiq and Kathmiya's transcendent love develops against the backdrop of converging cultures and traditions, the rise of anti-Semitism and war, and the search for identity and self. This beautifully detailed story transports us into a world of friendship and alliances, betrayal and secrets. – Lisa Goldstein Kieda, Avon, \$14.99



Diamond Ruby, Joseph Wallace

Not, as one might expect given the title, a courtesan with a taste for bling, Ruby Thomas is a teenager with a passion for baseball and the throwing accuracy of a major league pitcher. Her dream is to be just that, but life has a way of squelching wishes. Instead, Ruby loses her home, her parents, her sister-in-law, and brother to the great flu epidemic of 1918. To feed her two young nieces, she stones squirrels off power lines for meat for their table. Ruby's solutions to her problems are ingenious, beginning with a job daring men to beat her fastball in a Coney Island sideshow. And it is there she meets America's heroes Babe Ruth and Jack Dempsey who come to see her pitch. Always a soft touch for a young lady in need, they eventually pave the way to fame, love, and prosperity for Ruby in this charming, heartwarming novel. I loved it. – Kathy Ashton, Touchstone (S&S), \$16



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NONFICTION

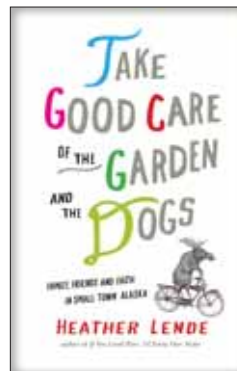
War, Sebastian Junger

Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm*, *Death in Belmont*, and *Fire*, now focuses his attention on our fighting forces in the remote tribal region of Afghanistan. Based on five trips to the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, in 2007 and 2008 as an imbedded reporter, this is a riveting portrayal of the men, the terrain, and the enemy Taliban that make this conflict one of the most difficult tests of the American military since the Pacific Theater of World War II. Despite Junger's effortless style, *War* is jam-packed with enough detail that you can almost smell the stench of battle and death. Junger stays out of politics and focuses on the fighting men, their weaponry, and strategy. He also delves into the psychology and physiology of the warrior. Great maps, a rich cast of characters, and a glossary of military terms enrich the text. If you want to understand what is happening in this remote corner of the world and why it is important, you must read this book.

– Patrick Fleming, TWELVE (Hachette), \$26.99



Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs, Heather Lende



In 2005 Heather Lende was riding her bike down a two-lane highway in Haines, Alaska. She was mentally preparing for her first book tour, enjoying a beautiful day when she was hit by a truck and suffered, among other things, a crushed pelvis. She recovered, miraculously, and was able to return to an active life. This new book, subtitled "Family, Friends, and Faith in Small-Town Alaska," weaves Lende's own story of injury and healing with those of the tribulations and victories of her fellow townspeople.

In a town of 2,400 people, you get to know each other pretty well; Lende not only knows her neighbors, she cares deeply about them and writes about each of them in a manner that leads you to believe you know them, and her, personally.

– Anne Holman, Algonquin, \$22.95 *Editor's note: Hear Lende tell her own story on Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m. at TKE.*



SLCC
Community Writing Center

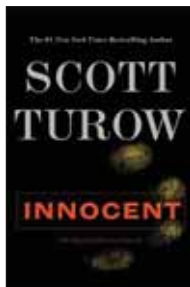
Love to write? Join us at the Community Writing Center where we can meet with you one-on-one for a coaching session. Or join one of our many writing groups and discuss your writing with writers like yourself. Or come to one of our workshops where you can learn about anything from basic writing to poetry to microfiction.

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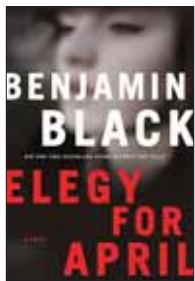
MYSTERY

Innocent, Scott Turow

Who can forget the way evidence and then testimony formed the links that slowly coiled a noose around the neck of Rusty Sabich in *Presumed Innocent*? And who could have imagined that the virtuoso Scott Turow would attempt—never mind succeed—in writing a sequel to *Presumed Innocent* that was even more compelling, not to mention frightening, than its predecessor? His success lies in his all-too-human—and believable—characters: Rusty Sabich, who has chosen the wrong way to atone for past sins; his wife, now dead; their son, now grown; the self-same Tommy Molto, as he vacillates between reluctance to roil his own life by going after his old enemy and his conviction that Rusty was and is guilty—of both crimes. No one writes better court scenes than Scott Turow and few can ratchet up tension the way he does. In *Innocent* he's outdone himself—yet again. – Betsy Burton, Grand Central, \$27.99

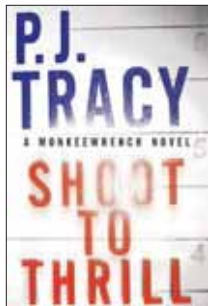


Elegy for April, Benjamin Black



Quirke, a pathologist who is waging a war on alcoholism, is asked by his daughter Phoebe to look into the disappearance of her close friend. No one has seen April for two weeks and although she is in some ways a mystery to her friends, this is unusual behavior. April's group of friends and her prominent Irish family are the suspects in a plot that combines mystery with the touching duet of love played out by the father and daughter, Quirke and Phoebe, both of whom fight demons and long for love neither seems able to give. Not just an intriguing mystery, this is a layered and moving novel as well, written under the pen name used by Booker prize-winning novelist John Banville. – Betsy Burton, Henry Holt, \$25

Shoot to Thrill, P.J. Tracy



The FBI and local police often wrangle over jurisdiction, but as the Minneapolis Police Department struggles to find a serial killer, having a tame FBI Cyber Crimes specialist on board doesn't seem so bad—especially because this particular serial killer posts on the Web the time and location of each murder he is going to commit. The cops also coerce the Monkeewrench hackers into working their computers like crazy to identify the killer/s in a thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the last page.

– Kathy Ashton, Putnam, \$25.95

The Hypnotist, M.J. Rose



Lucian Glass, in this life, is a rational FBI agent still haunted by a death he couldn't prevent. But while his current investigation takes him across the world, it seems his past lives in Persia and Ancient Greece have caught up with him. Since an unexplained mass hallucination and a near-death experience, both of which took place in Vienna, Agent Glass has the mother of all headaches and a constant need to

draw the faces of women he's never met. In an attempt to maintain

his sanity, he goes undercover at the Phoenix Foundation and allows himself to be hypnotized. In the meantime the modern-day Persians are determined to reclaim their property, a once magnificent statue bequeathed to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Agent Glass's cases are about to collide head on. – Paula Longhurst, Mira, \$24.95

GARDENING

365 Days of Garden Color, Sunset

Brand new this spring, Sunset's latest gives you ideas on everything from perennial borders to pots on porches and patios, pruning hedges to planning and planting whole yards. Compendious and colorful, this is my new gardening bible for flowers and foliage. – Betsy Burton, Sunset, \$27.95



Mini-Farming: Self Sufficiency on a 1/4 Acre, Brett L. Markham

If you'd rather eat the fruits of your labor, the equally compendious and eminently practical *Mini-Farming* tells you everything you'll ever need to know about growing your own food, from buying the seeds and chicks and rootstock to canning or freezing the crops. It's organic in perspective, detailed in execution, and makes the whole enterprise of backyard farming look not only possible but rewarding—a new way to live.... – Betsy Burton, Skyhorse Publishing, \$16.95



The Cook's Herb Garden Cookbook,

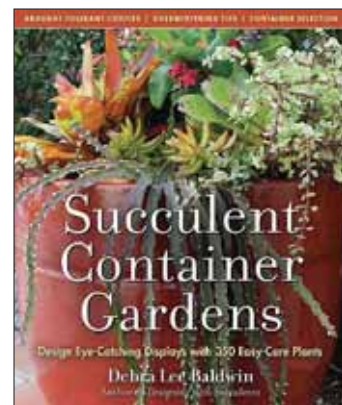
Jeff Cos and Marie-Pierre Moine



This lovely little book provides a way to look at those herbs that not only grace your garden in ways that shape and transform it but also transform your culinary efforts in ambrosial ways. There are tips on everything from freezing herbs in ice cube trays to hanging them to dry to making them into marinades. And the recipes, oh my. – Betsy Burton, DK, \$18

Succulent Container Gardens, Debra Lee Baldwin

For the arid climate here in Salt Lake, *Succulent Container Gardens* is chock-full of ideas for the use of a glorious variety of sedums and echeverias, agavas and grasses. There are tips for wintering too, but since the plants are for the most part in pots, just pick them up and bring them in this fall so you can putter over them the next time the snow starts to fall. – Betsy Burton, Timber Press, \$29.95



FROM THE KIDS' ROOM



chapter books

Turtle in Paradise, Jennifer L. Holm

Turtle is 11 years old and spunky. When her mom sends her to Key West to live with relatives, Turtle hardly bats an eyelash. After all, it's the Depression and everyone has to learn to roll with the punches, right? What she doesn't plan on is finding friends, adventure, and family in a strange world of sun, sand, and alligator pears! Young readers will love the story and learn a little history at the same time. – Anne Holman, Random House, \$16.99, (8 and up). *Editor's note: Jennifer and her brother Matthew (creators of the Babymouse series) will be at TKE on Sunday, May 16, 2 p.m.*



Out of My Mind, Sharon M. Draper

Melody wants to be "normal," but she is unable to dress herself, walk, or even talk. Inside she is aching to communicate with those around her until one day, through modern technology, she is finally able to let her family and friends know just how brilliant she is. Her classmates, who considered her "slow," now find that she may be the key to their class winning a local contest. This book captures

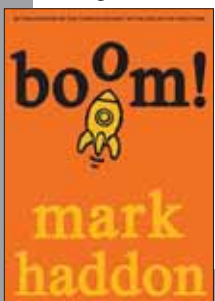


honestly the sorrows of a family who must deal with the prejudice and downright cruelty shown to those who are different, as well as the love and understanding given by family, friends, and neighbors. A wonderful story full of both pain and hope—I highly recommend it. – Lynda Cooley, Atheneum, \$16.99 (10 and up).

Boom! Mark Haddon

Spudvetch! Mark Haddon has truly outdone himself in this intergalactic science fiction adventure. **Boom!**'s hilarious

dialogue and plot are guaranteed to delight readers of all ages. This story of two schoolboys, some walkie-talkies, a crazy older sister, and a brigade of arachnid aliens is absolutely hysterical—my favorite book of the year so far. Enjoy! – Rachel Haisley, David Fickling Books (Random House), \$15.99

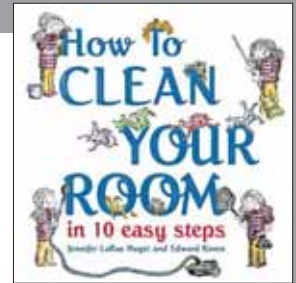


PICTURE books

By Anne Holman

How to Clean Your Room in 10 Easy Steps, Jennifer LaRue Huget & Edward Koren

A counting book with a theme that kids and adults will recognize, this very funny story begins with Step 1: Always wait until your mother hollers "GET UP THERE AND CLEAN YOUR ROOM—NOW!" using all three of your names. It includes useful advice like pulling everything out of your drawers and dumping it in the middle of the room and giving your little sister any pizza crusts that are more than a month old. Hilarious illustrations by *New Yorker* cartoonist Edward Koren will have you laughing out loud and turning the book over to start again as soon as you finish. – Schwartz & Wade Books, \$16.99 (4 and up)



Thumbelina, illustrated by Sylvia Long

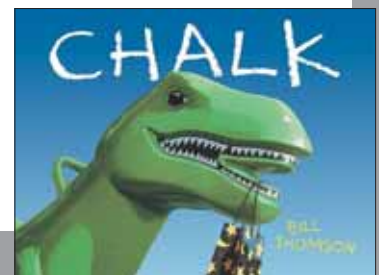


With incredible full-page watercolors by beloved artist Sylvia Long, this re-telling of the traditional Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale will delight children and collectors alike. They are all here: Swallow, Mrs. Field Mouse, even old Mole. The detail on each page will keep you returning to this book over and

over again even after your little ones are in bed! – Chronicle, \$17.99 (5 and up)

Chalk, Bill Thomson

What happens when three children find a bag of chalk at the playground? The sun comes out, butterflies appear, and suddenly, who should arrive but the dinosaur himself! Enjoy this wordless picture book that celebrates the power of imagination and ingenuity. Then grab some sidewalk chalk and head out to the park! – Marshall Cavendish, \$15.99 (5 and up)



Sign Up for Summer Reading Today!

The King's English is happy to announce the return of the **Summer Reading Program**. The book groups will meet once a week for four weeks. Our certified teachers (Emily Ericson, Pre-K and K; Jenny Hinchman, Grades 1-2; Sue Patillo, Grades 3-4; Sarah Button, Grades 5-6) return to lead their groups. We are also pleased to wel-

come TKE bookseller Rachel Haisley, who will lead our Young Adult readers group (Grade 7 and up). The cost will be \$40. Books can be purchased at a 10% discount. The meeting dates are June 16, 22, 29 and July 13, starting at 6 p.m. Please check our website for details, www.kingsenglish.com.

KIDS' events

MAY IS
ACTION-PACKED

April ynne Pike

Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Pike will read from and sign *Spells*, the sequel to her *New York Times* bestselling debut, *Wings*. *Spells* continues the story of Laurel as she is thrust into the midst of a centuries-old battle between faeries and trolls.

Friday Fun with Kids at the King's

May 14, 4 p.m.

A special storytime, with a take-home gardening project and a delicious snack! Registration is required, along with a \$5 fee. To register, call 801-484-9100 by Tuesday, May 11.

Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm

Sunday, May 16, 2 p.m.

Brother-and-sister creative team will read from and discuss their latest collaborations as well as Jennifer's new historical novel for younger readers, *Turtle in Paradise*. This power duo created the hugely-popular "Babymouse" graphic novel series for children.

Sean Connolly

Thursday, May 20, 7 p.m.

Connolly will present his all-new collection of amazing yet simple experiments that demonstrate key scientific principles, *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science*.

Kristen Chandler

Saturday, May 22, 2 p.m.

Join us for the launch Chandler's debut novel, *Wolves, Boys, and Other Things That Might Kill Me*, a coming-of-age story set in Yellowstone National Park.



STORYTIMES

Thursday, Friday &
Saturday at 11 a.m.

INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS

Kathy Ashton

Betsy Burton

Aaron Cance

Lynda Cooley

Patrick Fleming

Rachel Haisley

Deon Hilger

Barbara Hoagland

Anne Holman

Lisa Goldstein Kieda

Paula Longhurst

Jenny Lyons

15TH STREET GALLERY

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Lindsay Frei
May 14-June 16

Artist Reception | Gallery Stroll
May 21, 6pm—9pm

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