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Spring 2013



BENEDICTION: AN INTERVIEW WITH KENT HARUF

by Betsy Burton

Kent Haruf, who's coming to The King's English Bookshop on March 20 to read from and discuss his new novel as a fundraiser for the Environmental Humanities Graduate Program at the U of U (see page 3), spoke with me over the phone recently. His voice was measured, thoughtful, kind and occasionally laced with humor—just like his fiction.

Betsy Burton: Just to set the scene for those who haven't yet read your brilliant new novel: the fulcrum of *Benediction* is "Dad," who is and isn't a dad to two grown children and is dying of cancer. He's a fascinating character—so implacable and so guarded in one sense, sometimes narrow-minded to the point of cruelty, yet so loving in another. In a way he's like the town itself, kind and open in a daily, neighborly way, yet often oblivious to an individual's pain and occasionally cruel, especially to those who think or behave outside the town's "norm."

You make no bones about the resultant suffering, either. And

yet there are so many kinds of love in this book: between man and woman, boy and boy, husband and wife, parent and child, friend and friend, woman and child, neighbors and friends. It seems hopeful to think of so many possibilities. And at least part of that richness of possibility has to do with rural life—with the connections that exist when people do know one another in so many ways. Can you talk about this dichotomy—about the yin and yang of rural life and close communities?

There are no real antagonists in my novel: the antagonist is the divided self...

Kent Haruf: I hope you're right in what you're suggesting, that that is the subtext. Dad does personify the town and maybe humanity. I think there are things we can feel critical about—his treatment of his son, Frank. We wish he were more open with him and certainly more understanding. But with the people around him outside his family, he's maybe slow on the uptake yet does the right thing, finally. Or tries to. After Clayton commits suicide and Dad realizes what he's done, he tries to make amends to Clayton's wife. And to his son, Frank, in the last scenes of visitation, when the people Dad's harmed, or thinks he has, appear. He's rethought some of what he's done and he tries to



Kent Haruf will read at TKE Weds., March 20.

redeem himself—in mind and spirit. In the last paragraph of the second visitation he asks for forgiveness, and then asks his son to take his revenge, and finally asks his son to take his hand. To my mind these are attempts at

redemption. He doesn't achieve redemption but his effort is genuine.

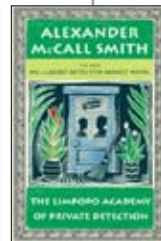
As to the town, who knows whether they'll ever be more accepting, but some are already. My intention was to portray the Lewis family and those around them as capable of generosity and also as being close-minded. In this book I wanted to give a more complicated picture of the town and the people in it than I have before. There are no real antagonists in my novel: the antagonist is the divided self—that and death.

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A FEW OF OUR UPCOMING EVENTS...

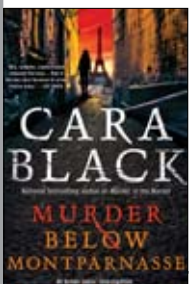
Catherine & Tobias Wolff

Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m. Editor and contributor will lead a panel discussion concerning this new anthology of the world's best contemporary Catholic writers, *Not Less Than Everything*, see page 8 for book review.



Alexander McCall Smith

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m. Meet Alexander McCall Smith, bestselling author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. At the Main Branch, SLC Public Library 210 E. 400 S.



Cara Black

Tuesday, March 26, 7 p.m. The bestselling mystery author will read from and sign *Murder Below Montparnasse*, see page 11. And you could "Win a Killer Trip to Paris."



Lucinda Scala Quinn

Tuesday, April 23, 2 p.m. Lucinda Scala Quinn, executive food editor of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, will share recipes and stories from her new book, *Mad Hungry Cravings*.



Peter Rock

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m. Award-winning local author Peter Rock will read from and sign *The Shelter Cycle* (see page 12).

Kent Haruf (March 20), Kathy Reichs & Brendan Reichs (March 18), and Loren Long (March 24). See also pages 3 & 15.



Farmhouse, Yuma, Colorado, 2004

BB: I loved your new novel the first time through, but I was pulled along so strongly by the story—by all the crossing story lines as well as by the central tale—that I hurtled my way through. Then, the second time I read it, I was so taken by your vision of humanity I almost felt I was having multiple epiphanies, since so many chapters are exactly that—epiphanies. In scene after scene characters grope their way toward some kind of truth. Not religious truth, and not anything to do with tidy rules, but still moral truth, it seems to me. Is it fair to say that that’s what they’re looking for? Truth? Or is it love? Both?

KH: Both. They are looking for love and they are looking for truth and those things aren’t mutually exclusive. Alene is looking for love and feels she’s missed her chance because of what happened with the principal. Alice [the child] is bewildered by what’s happened to her. She’s suspicious of the women around her but recognizes finally that they want to love her. And the women feel promise in what Alice represents.

Alice is a counterpart to Dad. The two stand side by side. Dad is looking at his failures because he’s looking for truth—and in the end he sees it. Alice is looking for love.

Reverend Lyle is seeking truth but even if we agree with the sermon he gives, he isn’t able to connect it to the community; it’s all academic with him. While I can’t fault him for his vision, he seems disconnected. He does have a very strong belief in principle that includes loving your enemy—he was removed from his place in Denver for supporting someone who was homosexual in the church there. But what he says *is* academic, and he’s disengaged on an emotional level from his family and from the community. I admire people of principle enormously, but nevertheless there’s a need to be connected for it to mean anything. There’s a kind of suggestion that in the end he does recognize he’s been disconnected. If he ends up connecting with Lorraine he might learn what he needs.

And the women—all the women are looking for balance. A way of balancing the deaths and losses in their lives with the need for daily joy and hopefulness.

BB: In more than one scene a child comments on the lack of attention of a parent. And that failure has consequences on more than one life. Can you talk about that inattention in terms of parents and their children in the book and in life?

KH: That’s one of the most difficult and painful things in all our lives—separation from parents and lack of attention when we need attention—NOTHING is more painful. I worry about that with my own children. I was a good parent but I know there was neglect, there always are those times when we’re too busy. In the case of Frank it’s gone beyond neglect to cruelty—a great deal of it on the part of his father. Even after Frank has left home, when his parents visit him in Denver, Dad shows a lack of affection. A lack of attention.

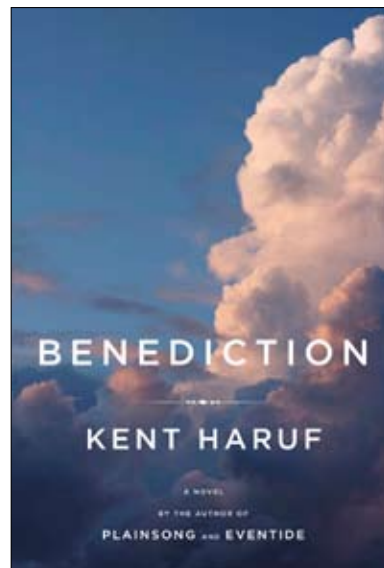
With Alice it’s the most extreme kind of neglect—her mother has actually died. Losing a parent is the worst lack of attention there can be. In Dad’s own life he suffered the same kind of neglect and ran away from it. Knowing that helps to explain how he is who he is.

BB: This book is about a lifetime. When Dad talks about the number of times he’s gone in and out the back door of the hardware store and asks what it comes to, his wife’s answer is precisely that—a lifetime. So while he’s haunted by particular mistakes, the main ingredient of life is still its dailiness, which he calls nothing but Mary calls everything and Reverend Lyle describes as “that precious ordinary.” Can you talk about how you see that mix of drama and the daily and what the balance is between those crucial moments when, in an instant, we make a decision that has unthinkable consequences and the ongoing day-to-day way we live—which also has consequences?

KH: I do think this book is about the dailiness of life, and what we’re focusing on in *Benediction* is the dailiness at the END of Dad’s life. In many ways he lived a good daily life, at least outside of his family. It was hard for him to be conscious of how good that life was—Mary helps him to understand that. Mary does understand it and maybe Willa, too, but the others all expect something major to come along and change them.

It’s an idea that’s important to me. I’m happiest when I’m in the middle of a long project like a novel. Right now, with the new book coming out—it’s exciting, but you get caught up in waiting for the next thing to happen. I don’t want to live like that—waiting for the next thing to happen. I feel strongly that it’s not a centered way of living.

BB: One of my favorite scenes in the book occurs when the son, Frank, is riding a horse bareback in the barn with his friend. They’re just kids and they’ve dressed up in his big sister’s lingerie and summer dresses. There’s something so childlike, innocent, and joyous about them and, then, as his father sees them, takes in the gender implications, his reaction is like a slap in the



face—to the reader as well as to the boys. I couldn’t quit thinking about it. There’s something so elemental in the scene about bigotry being in the eye of the beholder. Please discuss that scene and what it means to you as well as the characters.

KH: It’s a pivotal point in the story. It had to be there. One of the difficulties in writing the book was how to get in the scenes from the past that help us to understand the present. I’d thought of cluing in the reader by using italics, but then I decided that the reader is smart enough—smarter than I am, maybe—and would probably understand what was happening. Besides, the scenes from the past are set in winter and the present takes place in the summer. That helps make it clear. About that scene, it’s innocent and elemental—almost archetypal. Two kids in winter in a barn with the sun slanting in, catching motes, the boys dressed up in a celebratory way. If you looked at it without prejudice it’s celebratory, but if you don’t, if all you see is boys in the clothes of the sister, then what you see if you do have prejudice is horrific. My intention was to suggest to the reader what the problem was in 1950s America where things were looked at in only one way and where there were no other ways to react than violence. If you react violently to what you see it does so much harm to others and ultimately to yourself and leaves lasting bitterness and anger and hatred with little chance of understanding.

BB: On the face of it Dad’s a pragmatist and a hard man and yet he clearly believes in love, is a faithful and loving husband if occasionally blind enough to be cruel, while a couple of the women—Lyle’s wife and Alene’s mother, to name two, say almost shockingly cynical things about love and life. And little Alice learns all manner of practical things in the company of women—to ride a bike, to float, to swear being the least of them. Also, most of the women seem to be far more capable than the men of having a good time and of truly sharing with one another—capable of spinning webs of community and building happy lives from the thread. Can you talk a bit about your view of women? Are they more pragmatic than men, do you think, and what other strengths do you see in them that might be different than men’s?

KH: I think women do know how to have more fun with one another. And when they’re having fun, they require fewer trappings than men need. Women have fun just being. Men need to be doing. For women, being together, just sitting around talking is enough.

But men need to be doing something when they’re together. They don’t share emotions with other men easily, either. They can share them with women but not with other men. Women can and do. I want to suggest that women have an ability to form a circle and that

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The King’s English Bookshop and The University of Utah Environmental Humanities Graduate Program Present


AN EVENING WITH NOVELIST KENT HARUF

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES GRADUATE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

KING’S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP
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5:00 PM - VIP RECEPTION
7:00 PM - READING, SIGNING TO FOLLOW



The evening will include a VIP reception, reading and signing. At 5 p.m., join award-winning novelist Kent Haruf for an hour-long private reception. At 7 p.m., Haruf will read from, discuss, and sign *Benediction*, his first novel in eight years. TKE’s Betsy Burton says “Kent Haruf has crafted a tale that is as riveting, as shot with joy, anger, fear, love, regret, as life itself—one that, in its compassionate and profoundly honest view of humanity, really does feel like a kind of benediction.” The novel has been selected as the #1 Indie Next Pick for the Month of March and is one of the most important books of the year or perhaps the decade.

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Photo: Kelly O’Lay

men can't. And that women project a way of being that society could model itself on if only we were wise enough.

I think there's a suggestion in that scene where the women are together picnicking and they swim in the stock tank that they're bringing this little girl, Alice, into their adult circle in an almost ritualistic baptismal way, accepting her and teaching her—to keep your head above water for one thing. Then the cows come up to the tank and they echo the whole scene in a way. There's no bull, just cows and their calves gathering—they're a community of females and their young.

BB: I want to ask a few questions that involve the art of writing and maybe the structure behind the intention and ideas. First, Dad was so named, at least according to him, when his daughter was born. Used like that, as a name rather than a term of kinship inside one family, that universal word, Dad, made him into a kind of every-man for me—the Dad in every family who loves and withholds love, feeds and clothes and exercises authority and/or ignores in ways that aren't always fair. I don't mean to imply that this particular Dad isn't alive on the page because he is—intensely so. But was the use of the name Dad and the resultant broadening to the universal simply my reading or was it your intention and if so, why?

KH: I had the name from the first time I thought of him—for several reasons. First as you suggest, Dad is all dads with all their faults and virtues. Also I just like that name, Dad Lewis. In Denver there's a street, Dad Clark Blvd. It's kind of an honorary term like calling someone Doc. Then in blues music some men are called Dad and it's affectionate. My editor wanted me to explain the name to readers, and I finally agreed to do it—it's in that conversation where it's explained to Alice—but I really didn't want to.

BB: Every time I read your work I'm struck anew by the power of understatement, of spare dialogue in which the silences say more than the words, of scenes created in lean language that are intensely vivid. Do you have to write and rewrite, pare and pare again, to achieve that—or—and I know this will sound simplistic and I do know you edit and re-edit, but still—is this more how you actually think so that it comes out with such—I don't know how else to say this—vivid simplicity?

KH: It's both. The first draft comes out simply, the consequence of trying for 40-some years to learn how to write fiction. If I were able to write like James Agee, so lyrically that it takes your breath away, I would do that—but my way is to be straightforward. It's my contention that if you can write so it's brand new and fresh, every word minted this morning, never sloppy, being very careful about each word you use, then that kind of writing can be eloquent too. I'm not saying I've done that, but that's the hope: simple clean clear sentences without being simple-minded or simplistic. I do edit though, and pare, and I've learned more about doing that over the years. When you do it right, there are fewer and fewer words so you end up putting more and more pressure on each word. Then every word has to be the right word. In the right place. Exact. Simple. Evocative—all at once.

You might have noticed that I rarely use metaphors. I present the thing itself. I don't compare it to anything but try to get it, that one thing, right.

BB: The specters that gather around Dad's bedside at two different times near the end—shades of his long-dead parents, his lost son, his employees, a woman he'd wronged—lend a startling context to his life. Given the hallucinatory nature of near-death, their appearance is altogether believable, but they add to his knowledge and to ours. Can you talk a bit about that time in a slow death like Dad's when memory begins to merge with reality and shades really do gather?

KH: I have been involved with hospice, and I'm aware that these kinds of moments are common in slow deaths. I've seen it and I've heard people talk about it and I know it happens frequently. Dad has entered into this realm of connection. His impulse is to try to fix his life in the time he has. He's not shunning what he's done, he's very aware of the past. His memory is more present to him than the actual present.

In terms of the structure, in the first visitation I wanted those who appeared to him to be a little confusing to the reader until Mary asks him who he's talking to, making it evident that no one really is there. The second time I didn't think the reader needed that cue. Also I tried to create awareness through the quality of the light in that scene. It's dim and even darker where they're sitting.

You're finding out the rest of the story in those scenes, too. His memory of his parents helps us and helps him and his son as well—to understand.



PETER BROWN

Wheat and Cloud, Wray, Colorado, 2005

BB: Dad had hospice care and the combination of dead honesty and beneficent care that is its trademark made his death seem a natural part of life rather than a traumatic departure. I know how important a role hospice plays in your life since you volunteer with them, and your wife has made it her life's work. Can you talk just for a minute about the possibility for dignity in death—particularly hospice and what it allows for—that hospital deaths don't?

KH: At its best, hospice is a wonderful service to someone who's dying, and to the family, too. But hospice caregivers sometimes get even more out of this than the family does—they feel so privileged to be allowed into that very private space when someone is dying, to give care, to help wash the body. These kinds of intense moments

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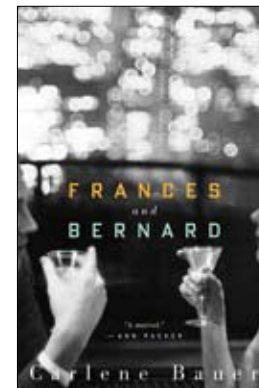
Benediction, Kent Haruf

Without ever slipping into sentimentality Kent Haruf has laid bare the hearts of a dying man, Dad Lewis, a sort of Every-man, and the family and friends of his present life, along with the memories and ghosts from his past. A more painfully “human” character than Dad Lewis is hard to imagine—someone whose refusal to bend results in tragedy for more than one person; someone chary of open emotion; someone who, paradoxically, is capable of the deepest kind of love. The rest of the cast consists of his wife of many years; the daughter who has come home to help care for him; an estranged son who visits him in memory and in dying dreams; assorted neighbors, children and adult alike; the Pastor and his family—all with troubles of their own. For all its rural grace, the high plains town of Holt, Colorado, is no Eden. Bigotry and violence are as much a reality there as they are everywhere. But there is also a wealth of caring that seems to be part of Holt's rural character—or more accurately, part of the character of humanity as Haruf sees it, sees us. He seems to see in each of us the capability for hope as well as pain, the capacity for redemption as well as sin. Kent Haruf has crafted a tale that is as riveting, as shot with joy, anger, fear, love, regret, as life itself—and one that, in its compassionate and profoundly honest view of humanity, really does feel like a kind of benediction. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$25.95



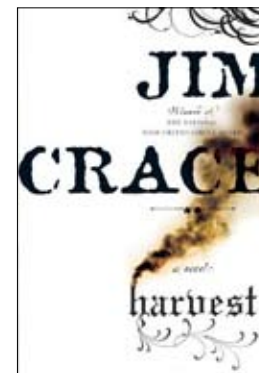
Frances and Bernard, Carlene Bauer

They meet at a writers' conference and have the most scintillating conversation either has had, there or anywhere else. Since he lives in Boston and she in Philadelphia, he asks if they can continue their talk via letters. Both committed Catholics, their letters at first reflect their spirituality, but as time goes on, the content of those letters begins to change, focusing on their burgeoning relationship. Neither of them really wants this; their priorities belong to their writing, but they cannot deny the sparks of love. Elegant, beautifully written, loosely based on the friendship between poet Robert Lowell and short story writer Flannery O'Connor, this is the perfect book to curl up with on a quiet afternoon. – Kathy Ashton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$23



Harvest, Jim Crace

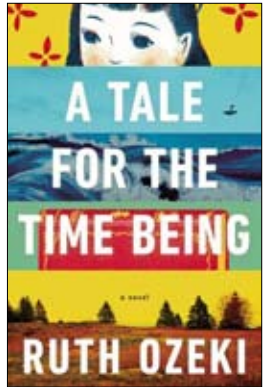
Jim Crace captures the heaven and the hell of rural reality perfectly in this bewitched and bewildering tale of Walter Thrisk, a sturdy, steady man, a widower who suddenly finds himself on the outside in a medieval village where he has lived and worked for decades. Two young men high on mushrooms begin the trouble, and three strangers, two men and an enchanting woman, appear just in time to take the blame. The real tremors



beneath the surface of village life are caused by relentless currents of change and, although said change is from crops to sheep, the results are every bit as pervasive as when, centuries later, motors replaced oxen—and just as unsettling. The word unsettling defines much of Crace's work. He digs beneath the surface not just of society but of character in a tale that is by turns blissful, dangerous, surprising, and timeless. – Betsy Burton, Nan Talese, \$24.95

A Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki

After a series of misfortunes and tortuous bullying at school, 16-year-old Nao decides to kill herself; but first, she decides to write the history of her 104-year-old great-grandmother's life in a journal. A number of years later, when the diary washes up on a beach in a Hello Kitty lunchbox, an American writer named Ruth discovers it and sets about reading it. The novel follows the developments in these stories as they suddenly begin to intertwine. I normally dislike using the word "weave" in regards to a novel, but the nonchalant efficiency with which it is handled here leaves the reader spinning. Nao's tale is heartbreaking yet her somehow-cheerful attitude throughout the whole ordeal makes the reader, just like Ruth, reluctant to turn the last page. – Meagan Gonsalves, Viking, \$27.95

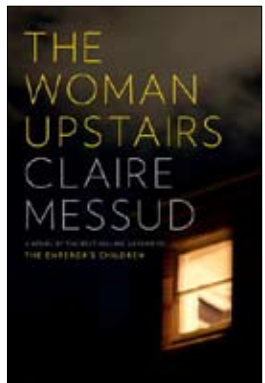
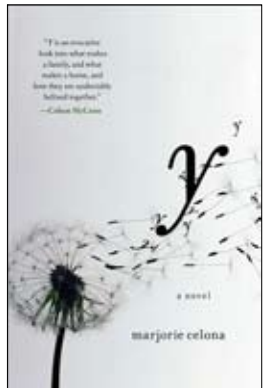


Y, Marjorie Celona

A baby girl is left on the steps of the YMCA and a young man asks, "Why?" The story then set in motion is that of a life lost and found on the streets of Victoria, British Columbia. Shannon is adopted into one foster family after another until she finds that, sometimes, life gives you the mother you need even when you are searching for the mother you missed. Don't miss this heart-wrenching novel of looking for love in all the wrong places and then, suddenly, finding—love. – Anne Holman, Free Press, \$24.99

The Woman Upstairs, Claire Messud

With deft precision, Messud exposes the very heart of Nora Eldridge, an almost middle-aged, unmarried, childless woman who has fallen in love with a family—an artistic, worldly, blithe family of three—mother, father, son. She believes this is a returned love, but as the novel progresses, the reader discovers she may be deluding herself. At times brutally honest, this is ultimately a terrifically accurate examination of a person's deepest thoughts, fears and motivations. It is truly astonishing how true-to-life Nora appears, at turns vulnerable, giving, yet selfish and misguided. The story caught me up in its excitement, and as it ran its course, I felt as deeply betrayed as Nora herself did, which is quite an accomplishment for an author to achieve. – Jenny Lyons, Knopf, \$25.95





Al's Service, Orchard, Colorado, 1994

PETER BROWN

Continued from page 4

don't come along that often in life, but with hospice they come all the time. I've experienced them and others have told me their experiences. I don't know how good I've been at helping but Cathy has always made such a difference.

It's all kind of a mystery and a miracle. Not dying in pain is important in hospice. Morphine is a part of hospice care—the doctors prescribe morphine so that people can die without being so distracted by pain. Families sometimes worry about addiction but if someone is dying...if a person can have a pain-free death then that person can do the kind of work that needs to be done at the end of life.

BB: There are lots of characters in *Benediction* who revolve around Dad—his immediate family, his friends, and neighbors, the people he works with. And one of the great beauties of the book is the sharply etched scenes from their lives that are as immediate and visual as the images you see at night when you drive by lit houses, the way Lyle does at one point in the book. These scenes gain in power as more and more occur and as they connect and string together like houses on a road—like community, which has always been one of the commonalities among your books. Can you talk about community and what it means to an individual's life?

KH: You make your own community. But in my view in a place like Holt you can't ignore anyone; everyone is part of the fabric of the town; you know their relatives, their history. They all form a wonderful mesh if you like—a mesh that makes life richer. And more immediate. What's happening is happening right here at this place at this time. Communities are also a kind of measure for yourself—of how your life is going. They can be boring and constrictive, too. Frank has to get out of Holt. He can't live there. But for Berta May it does work. And community is the life Dad wants. He has a significant position on Main Street. His hardware business is where people gather—it's one of the four posts of his community, along with the grocery store and the church and the school. And he is someone important there. He's necessary. His role is necessary, even spiritual for the town.

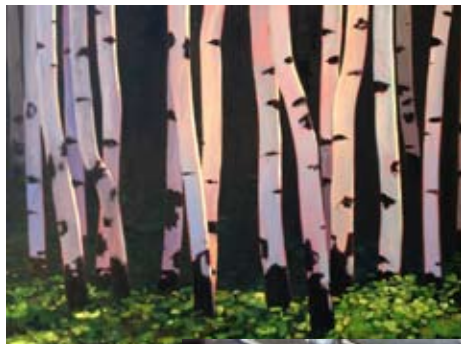
BB: Finally, and this isn't a question, I know you're about to turn 70 and therefore deserve a birthday present. I also know the independent booksellers across the country chose *Benediction* as their number one pick for March. I further believe, not to be sappy, as many accolades as *Plainsong* won, this will win even more; that it will be one of the most important books of the year—perhaps the decade. You've given all of us a benediction. So I just wanted to give you one back. Happy Birthday and long may you write.

The interview was officially over, but Kent Haruf gave something back in reply to my good wishes—something I like to think of as a benediction. He said that after being sick for a while, when he was out walking the other day he realized how important it is to just learn to enjoy the walk. This particular walk. On this particular day. Important not to compare it to other walks on other days but to enjoy it for what it is. It's sort of a Buddhist practice I guess, he told me. To learn to be in the moment. Take today for what it is—be a part of it.

Amen to that.

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Finding Camlann, Sean Pidgeon

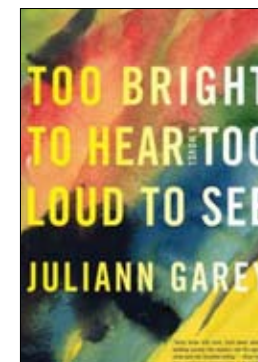
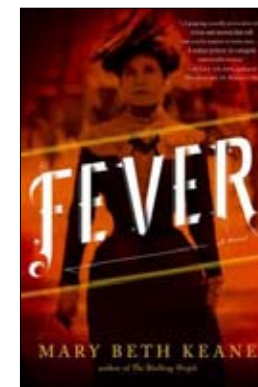
Oh, no, not another book about King Arthur! *This* author's point exactly. His protagonist, archeologist Donald Gladstone, is determined to unearth the real source of Arthurian legends in this compelling if scholarly book. Gladstone is a flawed yet likeable character, as is linguist Julie Llewellyn; they make an appealing pair as they parse through an old Welsh epic poem searching for clues to the location of Arthur's final battle and his final resting place, while at the same time they parse their own pasts for what has brought them each to this point in their lives. The poem might or might not have historic precedent, just as their pasts might or might not illuminate their present in this riveting literary detective story with such obvious antecedents as *Possession*. Like that antecedent, it is also an affecting and believable love story. But Pidgeon's true concern is with history itself: its schools of thought, its methodology, its mistakes, the truth it does—and does not—tell. I loved every page. – Betsy Burton, W. W. Norton, \$26.95

Fever, Mary Beth Keane

Someone sneezes, someone coughs, someone snorts—we cringe and try to get away and invariably, someone makes the comment, "Boy, she's a real Typhoid Mary." In fact, there really was a Typhoid Mary—a poor Irish immigrant whose cooking ability took her into the kitchens of many wealthy families in late 19th century New York City. That some of these family members soon succumbed to typhoid fever seemed a coincidence until an investigation by the city's sanitation department focused on Mary. Their conclusion was that she was a carrier of typhoid and, therefore, should be isolated from society. Her tragic story and the creation of the legend of Typhoid Mary are skillfully told in this story of a time and place where much of disease and its transmission was still a mystery. Keane manages to uncover the indomitable spirit of the woman who has been demonized as a carrier of typhoid fever and portray her life as an immigrant in New York City more than a century ago as a life of promise before she was quarantined and held for three years on an island off the coast. One of the young fiction writers chosen as the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35," Keane is a superb writer—Barbara Hoagland, Jenny Lyons, and Patrick Fleming, Scribner, \$26

Too Bright To Hear Too Loud To See, Juliann Garey

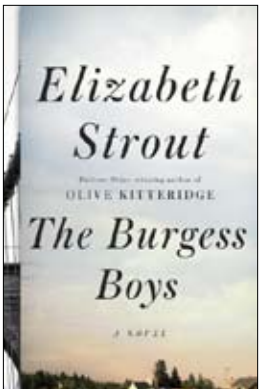
Studio executive Greyson Todd is bipolar, a fact he's successfully managed to hide from the industry because they don't let people with 'that disease' run multi-million dollar movie studios. Greyson recounts his life before and after the night he left his wife and child and embarked on an odyssey that gave full rein to his



bipolar nature—an odyssey that led to the ECT treatment he's currently undergoing, a 12-shock program that might make him whole again or burn what remains of him away completely. – Paula Longhurst, Soho, \$25

The Burgess Boys, Elizabeth Strout

Three siblings are running from the tragedy of their father's death. Jim and Bob live in NYC, and sister Susan still lives in the family home in Maine. When Susan's son (socially awkward and lonely Zach) commits a "hate" crime, she desperately needs her brothers to help. They're all forced to revisit the past, and recognize how the choices they made have shaped their lives. Strout (*Olive Kitteridge*) once again gives readers insight into the deep parts of family, how we are bound by the history of those relationships, for better or worse. As in *Olive Kitteridge*, the minor characters are as interesting as the protagonists, and the current events in the novel illustrate the difficulty in acclimating to American society. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, \$26



FICTION NEW IN PAPER

Philida, André Brink

It's 1832—the year before slaves are to be granted their freedom in South Africa. A young woman, Philida, has long been promised her freedom by the son of her master who is father to her children, but that promise has been broken. It is not in Philida's nature to quit, however, and her voice, added to those of the people she is determined to face, gives a framework to this harrowing tale, each voice a chapter, each chapter cast onto the cable of story,

all knit together by South Africa's most brilliant storyteller. The fact that the characters spring from Brink's own past, are pieces of actual Brink family history, lend his story a patina of reality that makes it all the more powerful, Philida's journey all the more miraculous.

– Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15



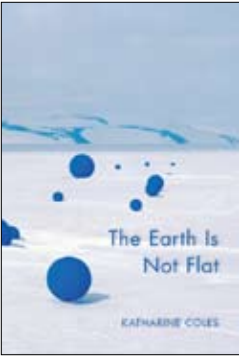
Theft, BK Loren

Although this fiction debut landed last June, it may have flown below the radar, and really deserves another look. Not a terribly long novel, *Theft* is full of moderately distilled and beautiful language that casts sensitive descriptions of both its characters and the landscape of the American West. A master tracker who has been working to reintroduce the Mexican wolf to wilderness areas, the book's primary character Willa, is contracted to track her renegade

brother. But pursuing him may lead her to physical and emotional ground she's not eager to cover again. A moving and endlessly interesting piece of fiction! – Aaron Cance, Counterpoint, \$16

POETRY

The Earth Is Not Flat, Katharine Coles



Katharine Coles recently wrote a grant that took her, as poet, along on a scientific expedition to Antarctica. The resultant poems, like most of Coles’ work, examine the intersecting boundaries of science, history, and literature. But her palette is more extravagant here, her interests more far-flung and there’s a zest for life, a joy, and a sense of adventure that strike the reader immediately. It’s as if the icy southern light has struck and changed her imagination. Poetry that is light-struck, awe-struck, joy-struck, often anecdotal in tone, evokes not only the natural world of Antarctica but its human history as well—the people who explored, examined, recorded the land. Coles takes us on voyages, across oceans and ice floes, places where penguins gather and where elephant seals calve. She employs humor as well as science, passion along with precision, and wonder blazes through each poem as she captures her reflection—and our own—in a mirrored world of ice. Ed Hirsch uses the word bedazzled to describe *The Earth Is Not Flat*. Terry Tempest Williams calls it searing and seering. All words that describe these poems exactly. – Betsy Burton, Red Hen Press, \$17.95

The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry Since 1945, Jennifer Ashton, editor

TKE alum Jennifer Ashton is Associate Professor of Literature at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she teaches literary theory and the history of poetry. This stunning compendium takes as its starting point the period after WWII when poetry, along with the rest of 20th century life, literally reinvented itself. Poets not only documented the profound cultural, political, economic, and social changes that took place over 60-plus years, they helped propel those changes. Including essays from 14 distinguished scholars, the volume guides us through not only the work of such seminal poets as Ashbery and Plath, but also academic poets, Beat poetry, and everything that came between, right up to the spoken word and Rap that is popular today. This belongs on the shelves of students and academics, yes, but also of anyone who has a love of and an interest in poetry. – Betsy Burton, Cambridge University Press, \$27.99 paper, \$95 hardback

THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP PRESENTS

An evening with

MARILYN BUSHMAN-CARLTON

featuring her book of poetry

Her Side of It

Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m.

NONFICTION

Not Less Than Everything, Catherine Wolff, editor



Religion drives most of us, whether we believe and belong or disagree and resist; one of the basic tenets of our constitution in America is the freedom to do either. That freedom is the subject of this amazing collection as authors from Ann Patchett to Alice McDermott, Colm Tóibín to Tobias Wolff, Patricia Hampl to Ron Hansen, Joan Chittister to Paul Elie pen essays on Catholic figures who have, in one way or another, been pivotal in their lives. Although the focus is Catholicism, the implications are worldwide and soul-deep. Where does authority reside? In the institution or within ourselves? What is truth? The words inscribed in holy documents or those we hear when we question? How does belonging differ from believing and when they’re at odds, what then? As we witness examples of stunning heroism, whether intellectual, spiritual, or physical, embodied in everyone from Ignatius to Joan of Arc, Montaigne (“Perhaps”...one of his favorite words) to Simone Weil, Mary Magdalene to Oscar Romero, we also watch writers respond to the stories they record, and their insights become our own. A truly remarkable book—even for an atheist such as I. – Betsy Burton, HarperOne, \$17.95 *Editor’s note: Catherine and Tobias Wolff will be at TKE on Tuesday, March 19, 7 p.m. including panelists Peggy Battin and Samuel Brown.*

Wave, Sonali Deraniyagala



It’s December 26, 2004. An academic Londoner, her husband, their 5- and 7-year-old boys who are bright, active, curious are enjoying a wonderful vacation in Sri Lanka along with a pair of doting grandparents. And then they’re gone, engulfed by the now-infamous tsunami that killed thousands. Only the mother is left, submerged, even as the water recedes, in a tide of grief. Drowning in sorrow, engulfed in memory, denial, pain, alcohol, despair, she wanders the devastated landscape where she lost everything, the devastated terrain of her own mind. She tries again and again to linger in the sunlit patches of the happiness she remembers, ironically bathing us in those same brief snatches of joy—before we disappear with her back into the dark shroud of the present. I’ve never read a piece of nonfiction like this. I nearly put it down after the second sentence, realizing where I was about to be taken. But I’m more than grateful that I didn’t put it down. Because *Wave* has become an indelible piece of my own memory—more so than most novels I’ve read. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$24

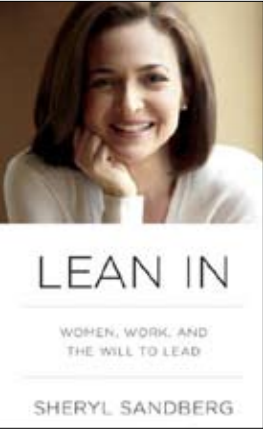
Carry On, Warrior: Thoughts on Life Unarmed, Glennon Doyle Melton

When the author found out she was pregnant in 2002, she was unwed, addicted and bulimic. Not really a recipe for success, is it? But something inside her clicked, and a decade later she’s married,

NONFICTION

sober, and raising not only that first baby boy but two more girls besides. The message that Glennon Doyle Melton, founder of the blog Momastery.com, wants us to understand is that great things can happen when we take off our armor and open ourselves up to the wonder that is being human on this earth, right now. Funny, self-deprecating, and unflinchingly honest, Melton holds up a mirror to her life as a mom, sister, daughter, and wife. Her journey is harder than some and easier than others but her point is that nobody’s life is easy and the universe will help us if we let it. I loved it! – Anne Holman, Scribner, \$25

Lean In, Sheryl Sandberg

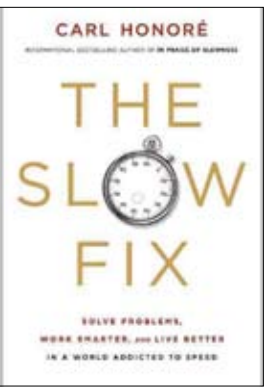


Sandberg is on a mission: she wants more female CEOs. Why is that such a hard thing to achieve with more smart women getting degrees in traditionally male-dominated fields? Sandberg uses her experiences working at Google and now tech giant Facebook to inform us how unconscious discrimination quietly reinforces the stereotypes that have women leaving the workforce after their first baby and never going back. Did you know that successful women are seen as pushy and unlikeable by both sexes? From Sandberg’s question that floored a venture capitalist, (“Where’s the ladies room?”) to the right way for a woman to negotiate to the changing dynamics of mentoring rising female stars and what male CEOs can do to bring out the best in their female employees, Sandberg examines the reasons we are stuck. In the movie “Zero Dark Thirty,” the female CIA agent (who has successfully located Bin Laden) is summoned to a meeting with her bosses’ bosses in Washington DC and when she goes to sit at the conference table is told, ‘you can’t sit there, go and sit on the chairs at the end of the room.’ This scene may or may not have been fictional but I wouldn’t have paid it any attention (casual discrimination) had I not read this book. The landscape needs to change because 80% of our boardrooms look like commercials for Viagra and Rogaine. – Paula Longhurst, Random, \$24.95



Gun Guys, Dan Baum

Baum, a Jewish Democrat who grew up in suburban New Jersey, is a lifelong gun guy. The reader is about to enter a world of guns— gun shows, gun stores, shooting ranges and festivals, contests and auctions. Baum leads you through this world as he slaps on an NRA cap, straps on a legally concealed handgun and gives us an America to which we have never before had access, though gun enthusiasts will nod and chuckle in recognition. The tour is candid and often hilarious, illuminating the power and appeal of guns. A must-read in today’s political climate. – Sue Fleming, Knopf, \$26.95



Slow Fix, Carl Honoré

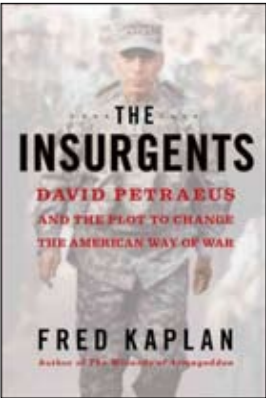
How many quick fixes have you performed today? And how many will actually work? In truth, not many. From the knee-jerk reaction of firing the coach when the football team is on a losing streak to miracle diet pills that promise instant weight loss, we are addicted to the siren song of the quick fix. In *Slow Fix* Honoré argues persuasively that long-term changes for the better can’t happen overnight. Among many examples, he visits an airbase in the UK where no one hides their mistakes and the place is a lot safer for it, and a lifeboat company in Norway that almost went to the wall but was saved by a slow recovery program. Honoré also looks at the creative potential of a mixture of disciplines working together in Paris and the benefits (and perils) of crowdsourcing. Throughout the book he sprinkles the ingredients you can use to perform your own ‘slow fixes.’ A copy of this book should be on the desk of every CEO and every politician in the world. – Paula Longhurst, Harper, \$25.99

The Insurgents, David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War, Fred Kaplan

The subtitle really says it all—a plot to change the way America wages its wars. Since Vietnam the American military establishment has known something was wrong: superior firepower and technology could not be counted on to beat a committed and determined adversary. Many of the new military leaders, who were in the American military academies in the early post-Vietnam years, felt the frustration of a conflict between the traditional military leadership dogma and the reality of the guerilla way of warfare. But to change an institution like the military called for an internal insurgency designed to change minds, ideas and methods. In steps David Petraeus, best of the best, and some like-minded officers, began the transition of America’s military strategy. Kaplan’s style is easy and flows well until you realize you have just witnessed the rise and fall of the most promising of America’s military leaders and thinkers. Anyone who has been paying attention to U.S. foreign policy and its most-often-used implement—the American military—will want to read this fascinating book. – Patrick Fleming, Simon and Schuster, \$28

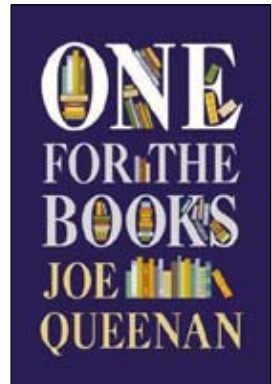
Weiwei-isms, Ai Weiwei, edited by Larry Warsh

Weiwei-isms are short reflections on philosophy, art, politics, and morality from the mind of China’s most controversial artist. The book is divided into six parts consisting of short aphorisms and thoughts from the artist. One quote seems to sum up his philosophy: “Everything is art; Everything is politics.” Whether he is commenting on morality, freedom, or our modern age, he paints pictures with his words. He comments that “Twitter is the people’s tool;” his thoughts are succinct



NONFICTION

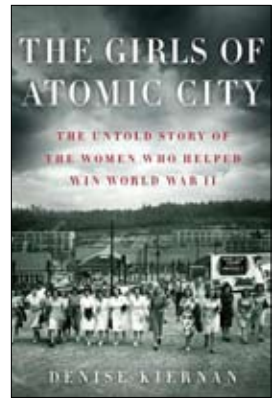
enough for Twitter and profound enough for a modern-day philosopher. The book is truly a “pocket book,” perfect for those moments in a waiting line, when the reader can reach into pocket or purse and find a line or paragraph to whet the curiosity and make the silence of thought a pleasure. Weiwei’s work is currently on display at the Hirshhorn Museum in DC while he is still in China under house arrest. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Princeton University Press, \$12.95



One for the Books, Joe Queenan

Joe Queenan not only loves books, he is passionate about them. He writes about books, he reads at least one hundred books a year, and he has written a book of essays about, what else, books. He explores the landscape of books today—from libraries, book stores and booksellers, what to read, how to read, and what not to read. He is opinionated, cynical, snarky, and funny. Book lovers will love this book. – Sally Larkin, Viking Adult,

\$24.95 *Editor’s note: come in and see our new shelf of books about books in the poetry room at TKE.*

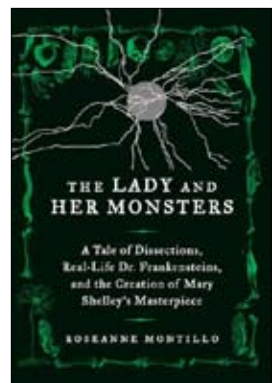


The Girls of Atomic City, Denise Kiernan

Ms. Kiernan has created a narrative history of the young women in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, who unwittingly played a role in the Manhattan Project that created the atomic bomb used to end our involvement in World War II. These young women, many fresh out of high school, were recruited to work in this small Appalachian town and were forbidden to talk about their work, even to each other. I highly recommend this book for book clubs and for those interested in

U.S. history, or more specifically, women’s history. – Sue Fleming, Touchstone, \$26

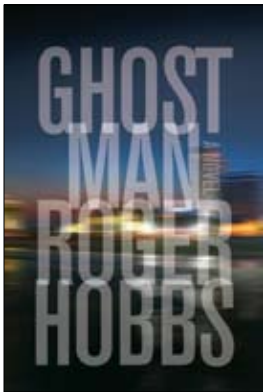
The Lady and Her Monsters, Roseane Montillo



The Lady is, of course, Mary Shelley, and her monsters range from Victor Frankenstein of literary fame to various and assorted grave robbers. Anyone who has read **Frankenstein** should read Montillo’s research into the origins of the novel. During a bizarre family trip to Switzerland, Victor Frankenstein sought out the writings of Paracelsus, the mystery of galvanism, and the horror of Burke and his grave digging. Shelley’s novel combined the story of those early investigations and the magic of medicine, fusing

the Romantic literary world with the Romantic scientific world. **The Lady and Her Monsters** is a nonfiction look at the “speculative fiction” of the 19th century when dreamers believed that through science anything was possible, including the reanimation of the human body. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$26.99

MYSTERY



Ghost Man, Roger Hobbs

In this corker of a debut novel Hobbs introduces us to ‘Jack’ (not his real name). Jack is a Ghost Man who has skills some of us would consider supernatural. He has never seen the inside of a prison because he is too good at his job for that. Jack has been carrying a Malaysian marker around for the last five years and it’s about to be called in. Sent to Atlantic City to untangle a casino heist gone sideways, Jack finds the FBI circling and a local crime boss who thinks he owns

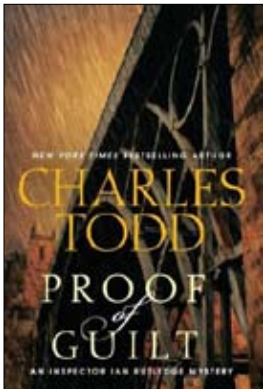
everything, including Jack. These are merely distractions because Jack’s got less than two days to find the stolen money before the job blows up in his face, literally. – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$24.95



Little Wolves, Thomas Maltman

The ultra-cool, and creepy **Little Wolves** is a cleanly written intellectual thriller and gives the gift that very few books in its genre can offer the contemporary reader, jaded as he or she might be by the gratuitous onslaught of sex and violence and the rudimentary plot repetition that plagues modern thrillers: something fresh. Maltman’s masterful blend of intelligent psychological suspense and Norse mythology, splashed across the agrarian Minnesota country-

side like spattered blood in the weeds, offers readers the delicious sensation of authentic fear as the story of a small town, teen-rage-fueled murder unfolds on both main street and dark corn field corners. – Aaron Cance, Soho Press, \$25



Proof of Guilt, Charles Todd

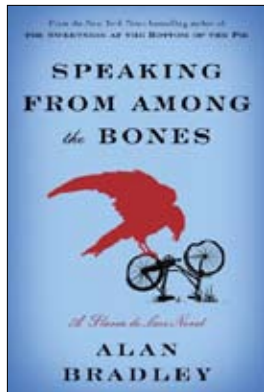
It’s 1920 and Inspector Rutledge and Hamish are in the midst of a puzzle that dates back to 1916 Madeira and the wine merchants of French, French and Traynor. Two men are missing and one unidentified body has been found. The investigation takes the inspector to the French family village and into the lives of three women who are a part of the missing men’s lives. When Rutledge discovers that an old enemy, Alfonzo Diaz, is now in England working as a gardener on the

estate of an altruistic woman employing ex-prisoners, he becomes Diaz’s nemesis. Hamish, conscience or ghost to Rutledge, provides a guiding voice and between them, Rutledge and Hamish solve the case. Charles Todd’s portrayal of the village and evil make the book a page-turner. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$25.99

Speaking from Among the Bones, Alan Bradley

The inhabitants of Bishop’s Lacey are divided by the vicar’s intention to raise the bones of Saint Tancred. The church organ is playing up, and the organist has vanished without a trace. Flavia’s world is about to be shaken to its foundations; she’ll witness miracles, raise the

MYSTERY



specter of her beloved mother and give the vicar’s wife a heart attack (or two) in the process. Flavia’s on the trail of an ‘adamas,’ but someone may have beaten her to it. – Paula Longhurst, Delacorte Press, \$23

Murder below Montparnasse, Cara Black

An elderly Russian, Yuri, hires Aimee to guard a painting (possibly a Modigliani), inherited from his father. When Yuri is murdered, Aimee becomes embroiled in the political exploits of the expatriate community and the violence of modern Russian and Serb crime cartels. Yuri has hinted at the involvement of Aimee’s mother who is on Interpol’s most-wanted list. With just the mention of her mother, Aimee is sucked into the case and all its dangers. She must face this challenge without the assistance of Rene, her closest friend and colleague, as he is in Silicon Valley supposedly making his fortune. Beneath Aimee’s frenetic pace is the story of a woman searching for her family; she is a sympathetic character who is a

confused mixture of American and French and who understands the world of the outsider in Paris. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$25.95 *Editor’s note: Cara Black will be at TKE on March 26.*

Dark Tide, Elizabeth Haynes

Genevieve longs to leave her high-pressure sales job. She’s been earning extra on the side pole dancing at The Barclay but things start to unravel when she sees her creep of a boss in the crowd. Months later she’s hidden away in Kent restoring a barge, her old life a distant memory, but London isn’t letting go that easily. The night of Gen’s boat-warming party a body washes up close to her barge... – Paula Longhurst, Harper, \$25.99

The Chalice, Nancy Bilyeau

Henry VIII hasn’t been as popular as he is now since the 1500s—although there weren’t too many Catholics who cared for him back then. Nancy Bilyeau creates a group of Catholics trying to hold on to

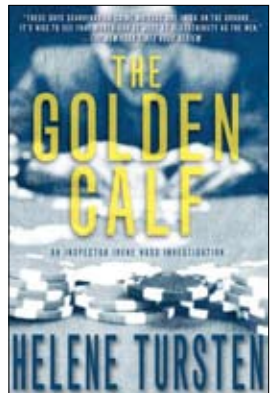


the old order but being replaced through the machinations of Henry and his court. A novice nun, Joanna Stafford sets out with an alienated group of monks and nuns to save what they can of their faith and its rituals. The book moves between the simple world of Joanna raising her young nephew and weaving tapestries in a village and the elegant court of Henry and her Stafford relatives. She does not belong in either place and must face the anger and suspicions of those around her.

Despite three prophecies of danger and all manner of conspiracies, Joanna searches for a chalice which will hold the key to the survival of Christendom. This is book two in in the conflict between Joanna and the king; book three will take her even further into the world of prophecy and conspiracy. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Touchstone, \$24.99

The Golden Calf, Helene Tursten

Irene Huss, Swedish detective, hides the inner turmoil that comes with exposure to violence beneath the cool veneer expected of a Scandinavian protagonist. In this fifth book in the Huss series she is growing older and more sensitive to the needs of her family and her coworkers. Her methodical investigation into the death of a wealthy restaurant owner reveals a web of interrelated murders and financial crimes as two other victims turn up in a nearby city and one man, who has been missing for three years, is found dead. The restaurateur’s widow has been part of a financial ponzi scheme with all four dead men and although she may be the next victim, she refuses to cooperate in finding the killers. The trail leads from Sweden to London to Paris, where Irene finds herself in trouble before returning to slowly piece together the connections. Irene Huss is part of a team and that team is her extended family in this series of violent but controlled police procedurals. Turston’s readers care about words and story-telling rather than overt violence. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$26.95



SCIENCE FICTION

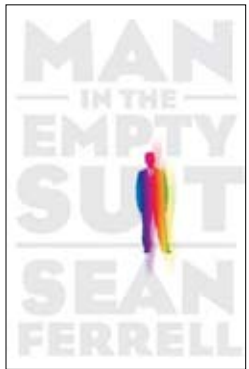
The Uninvited, Liz Jensen



In the near future, with sea levels rising, salinity increasing, and the scientific community on the verge of tearing up Einstein’s theories, a pandemic of sabotage breaks out. Hesketh Lock’s company gets involved because Hesketh, who has Asperger’s syndrome, is good at finding patterns. He soon realizes that the sabotage is just the tip of a very nasty iceberg. Domestic violence is spiking too, domestic violence caused by children. . . – Paula Longhurst, Bloomsbury, \$25

Man in the Empty Suit, Sean Ferrell

He is a nameless time traveler, a genius who at 18 built a time machine and went to observe history’s most important events. When history doesn’t match the hype, he decides to have a party for his various selves. These yearly booze-ridden affairs take a dark turn when version 39 (the suit) finds version 40 (the body) dead. There’s only one suspect, himself! Paradoxes and conspiracies abound as the suit tries to solve his own murder and hopefully prevent it. – Paula Longhurst, Soho, \$24.95



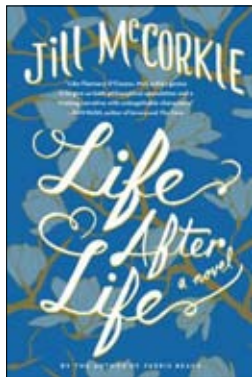
FICTION–FORTHCOMING IN APRIL



Life after Life, Kate Atkinson

The setting is a sprawling English country house, the time frame the early years of the last century. After a brief scene in 1930 in which Hitler appears, the reader is taken back in time to 1910 and the birth and immediate death of the infant Ursula. No sooner have we digested this than the clock is reset, and she is born again, this time to be saved by the arrival of the doctor. At age 5 Ursula is swallowed by a wave and then given back, and at age 16 an

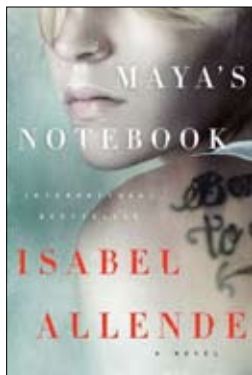
event takes her on still another path toward death—yet the course of her destiny is once more reversed. Confusing? A bit. But exhilarating too, as Kate Atkinson cants the earth on its axis for us, forcing us to consider the cataclysmic changes wrought by seemingly random events—in terms of our personal lives, and in the end, of world history. **Life after Life** is dazzling—wickedly funny, vastly entertaining, and utterly world-shaking. – Betsy Burton, Harper, \$27.95



Life after Life, Jill McCorkle

The residents of the Pine Haven retirement home in North Carolina are blessed in their last days with the presence of a volunteer named Joanna, who has come into their lives and brought them meticulous care, concern and compassion. McCorkle, author of eight previous books, five of which were *New York Times* Notable Books, including one of my all-time favorites, **July 7th**, is very adept at bringing engaging characters into the minds

and hearts of her readers. Her first novel in 17 years is peopled with connected lives and memories and histories. With telling insights into human nature, and the knowing certainty that comes with living in a small town, Joanna fills the residents’ days with hope and creates a lasting tribute to each of them in her notebook (each resident gets a page), promising to never let them disappear. I’d like to spend my last days at Pine Haven... – Jenny Lyons, Shannon Ravenel, \$24.95 *Editor’s note: It’s unusual, to say the least, for two books of the same title to be published in a given month. Even more unusual is the fact that these two splendid novels tied for IndieNext Book of the Month for April!*



Maya’s Notebook, Isabel Allende

Maya, newly ensconced in the home of Manuel, an old friend of her grandmother’s, now has plenty of time to contemplate—and record in her notebook—the events that have brought her to this small Chilean island. Although barely 19, Maya has experienced life far beyond what her age might suggest. She’s been raised in a rambling house in Berkeley by her grandmother Nini, a Chilean exile, and by her step-grandfather Popo, an astronomer

and academic, long a reliable source of love and stability for Maya. When he dies, she careens off the edge of childhood and into a teen-

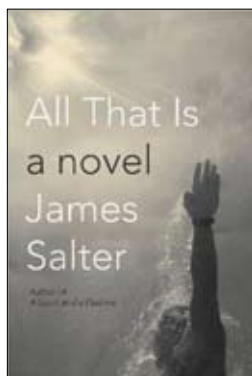
age vortex of drugs and alcohol. Now the FBI is after Maya and so is the mafia; the why of Maya’s troubles is the stuff of her gradually burgeoning notebook but as she begins to stitch together the narrative of her own disastrous past, she starts likewise to piece together Nini’s history and that of Manuel, the taciturn old man who has given Maya safe harbor. As Allende braids the tale of Maya’s past together with her investigation of Manuel’s and Nini’s history, the result is a breathtaking coming-of-age story—one in which Maya’s growing ability to face her own actions and her slowly increasing involvement with others nurture compassion and a passionate interest in life. Maya is as intriguing a character as was Clara Truaba; the novel **Maya’s Notebook** is as incandescent and ravishing as anything Allende has written. – Betsy Burton, Harper \$28.99 *Editor’s note: Maya’s Notebook will not be published until April 23.*



The Shelter Cycle, Peter Rock

The Shelter Cycle begins with two 10-year-olds who belong to a religious cult that hypothesizes the end of the world. Three pages in, we meet these same two characters as adults: Francine, married, pregnant, preoccupied with the search for a missing girl; Colville, who has come to see Francine for the first time since their shared childhood, and who is likewise obsessed by the missing girl. As memory reaches out for them, tugging them back

into the world of their childhood, the world of the “Messenger” and the “Elementals,” of the underground compound in which they were once housed, the reader is pulled willy-nilly in their wake. Rock’s language is a canny mix of narration and interiority, his dialogue juxtaposes the jargon of the sect with the ordinary chatter of kitchen tables and bedrooms, and the land is evoked subtly yet powerfully until all of this—land, home, past, beliefs, family—forms a present that seems at once inescapable and unexpectedly redemptive. Rock somehow manages to draw those characters in ways that make us understand what impels them from the inside, feel empathy as well as repugnance, understanding as well as dread. Never has this been more true than in his latest novel. I can’t quit thinking about it. – Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$23 *Editor’s note: Peter Rock will be at the bookstore Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m.*



All That Is, James Salter

From the time he returns home from WWII through his distinguished career in publishing—a job that fits him like a well-tailored suit—and through a succession of highly sexual but always failed affairs, Philip longs for love. As we watch him swim in the deep waters of passion, wholly unable to distinguish sex from love or indeed self-love from love of another, see his occasional lapses into outright cruelty as he navigates his way through the decades,

we sometimes laugh at him, sometimes writhe with him in anguish, occasionally draw back, shocked by his cruelty. This is a spellbinding journey through the last half of the last century; through the world of publishing in its heyday; through a fast-changing cultural milieu and the even more rapid transition of the mores surround-

FICTION–FORTHCOMING

ing sex, love, and all that they involve. Elegiac, often darkly comic, occasionally brutal, always brilliantly told, **All That Is** reminds us, hauntingly and yet with humor, of what might have been as we turn its last ravishing page. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$26.95

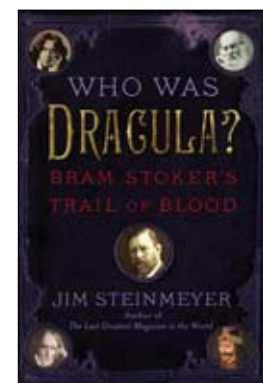
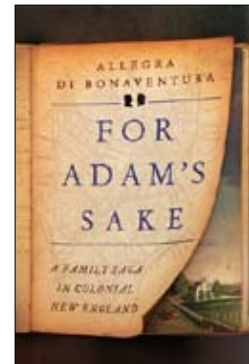
The Edge of the Earth, Christina Schwarz

Trudy is educated and accomplished—seemingly the ideal wife for the well-to-do Milwaukeean she’s to wed—until the fascinating inventor Oskar steps into her life. Already wondering what she’ll miss if she does the expected, Trudy marries in haste and is ensconced in an isolated lighthouse on the rugged coastline north of Big Sur, California, almost before she knows who her husband is. Although the more she does get to know him, the more she wonders at his erratic behavior and his short-lived bursts of enthusiasm, she has little choice but to go on with her new life. That she is sharing that life not just with Oskar but with the other inhabitants of the lighthouse, the Crawleys—husband, wife, brother, wild children—make for a great read that is historically fascinating, intriguing in terms of relationships, and compelling. But the love that takes hold and grows as Trudy spends time with the children is love for land and sea—a love that lifts **The Edge of the Earth** high above the traditional boundaries of historical fiction. – Betsy Burton, Atria, \$25

NONFICTION–FORTHCOMING

For Adam’s Sake: A Family Saga in Colonial New England, Allegra di Bonaventura

Joshua Hempstead, one of the founding fathers of New London, Connecticut, kept a diary for decades. Through his eyes, the world of colonial America is revealed, including the often-overlooked fact that slavery was ever-present in New England. That the master/slave relationship in colonial New England was vastly different than it was in the South is illuminated through the author’s scholarship and study of these diaries. Her work is on a par with that of Laurel Thatcher Ulrich’s **A Midwife’s Tale** and is sure to become a staple in the history of colonial America. – Barbara Hoagland, Liveright, \$29.95

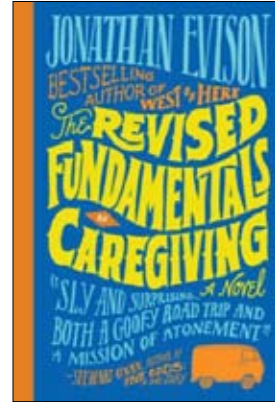


Who Was Dracula? Jim Steinmeyer (April, 2013)

Anyone who has thrilled to **Dracula**, whether in print or film, will be fascinated by this revelatory biography of Bram Stoker. Steinmeyer, wondering how Stoker developed his horrific character, researched archives and letters, literary and theatrical history, and the relationships and events that shaped Stoker’s life. Literary contemporaries Walt Whitman and Oscar Wilde were influential as was Jack the Ripper and the infamous 15th century prince Vlad Tepes. Even Stoker’s one-time boss, British star Henry Irving and Theodore Roosevelt’s uncle, Robert Roosevelt, have an effect in forming characters in Stoker’s masterpiece. A great read and wonderful for illuminating how **Dracula** was created. – Sue Fleming, Tarcher, \$28.50

FICTION–FORTHCOMING IN PAPER

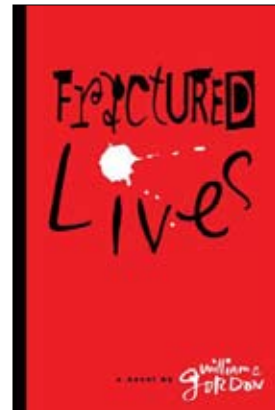
The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving, Jonathan Evison



Benjamin Benjamin has lost his entire family and is losing the will to live as well; Trev has lost his mobility and is suffering from a progressive disease that will eventually cost him his life. Hard to believe such a pair could be funny but they are—frequently and hysterically so. In a novel involving, among other things, split and splitting marriages, grief-stricken survivors, helping and helplessness, a road trip across the West, parents trying to cope with their teenage children,

adults trying to grow out of their teenage selves, Evison’s latest is both madcap and deeply moving. And his story-telling ability is nothing short of miraculous. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin, \$24.95

MYSTERY–FORTHCOMING



Fractured Lives, William C. Gordon

San Francisco reporter Samuel Hamilton has grown into his job, pursuing stories aggressively and following the research wherever it takes him—which in this case is the Middle East. The time is the 1960s, and the story that Samuel’s ostensibly chasing is the murder of an arms dealer in the basement of city hall. Turns out there’s a world-wide web of motives for the murder involving countries from Switzerland to Israel to Palestine, where the PLO is a nascent but growing force.

The FBI shows interest and so does the CIA, not to mention Mossad. To complicate matters further, there’s an unknown woman in the case, someone Samuel is determined to identify. He may have to borrow money from his favorite bartender to follow the trail in this lively noir period piece, but follow it he does, across oceans and into danger, giving the reader a fascinating look at the ever-fomenting cauldron of the Middle East circa 1963 in the process. I enjoyed every minute of **Fractured Lives**. – Betsy Burton, Bay Tree Publishing, \$14.95

Leaving Everything Most Loved, Jacqueline Winspear

When an intelligent and caring Indian woman is murdered in London and a young boy runs away from home, Maisie and her team are called upon to solve both cases. Maisie, who had intended to leave her life in London and travel, finds herself delving into the lives of Indian women brought to work in English homes and then abandoned to the dangers of the city. When the boy finds the body of a murdered Indian woman, he is drawn into this immigrant world. The murder is solved, but the conclusion is not a simple one, and Maisie is left with conflicting feelings of satisfaction and anxiety. **Leaving Everything Most Loved** is the perfect title for this transitional book in the Maisie Dobbs series and a must-read for all Winspear fans. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Harper Collins, \$26.99



Spring Cleaning? Spring Reading!

Why worry about housekeeping when you could be reading **Housekeeping**? Book clubs of all shapes and sizes meet at the store or other locations and we order books in at a modest discount for all of them. Now you can read your book club's selection on your KOBO and still support your local bookstore. Come in and we'll give you a demonstration.

Readers may be a solitary lot but quite often, a story will pull you in and either make you crazy, or angry, or you just fall in love. That's when you want to talk about it with other people who've read it. Anyway, who wants to clean when there are so many great books out there that need your time and attention?

So, start your own book club OR join one of these...

Armchair Travel Mystery

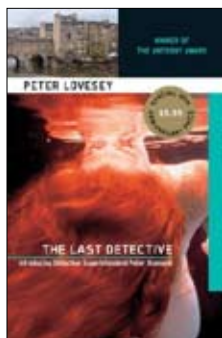
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE

March: *Love Songs from a Shallow Grave*, Colin Cotterill

April: *The Last Detective*, Peter Lovesey

May: *The Fourth Assassin*, Matt Beynon Rees

June: *City of Veils*, Zoe Ferraris



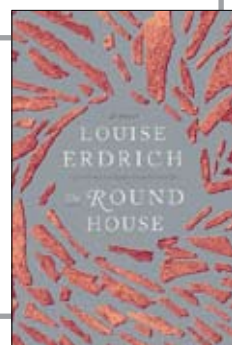
Roz Reads!

\$10 per evening paid to Roz, meets last Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at Roz's house

March 25, 26, 26: *Angle of Repose*, Wallace Stegner (Part I-IV)

April 22, 23, 24: *Angle of Repose*, Wallace Stegner (Part V-end)

May 28, 29: *The Round House*, Louise Erdrich

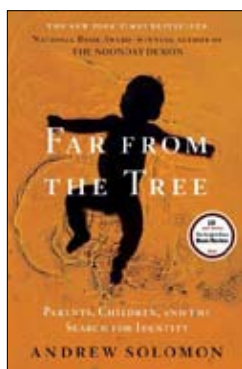


SLC Lesbian Book Club

Meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE

April: *Annie on My Mind*, Nancy Garden

May: *Far From the Tree*, Andrew Solomon



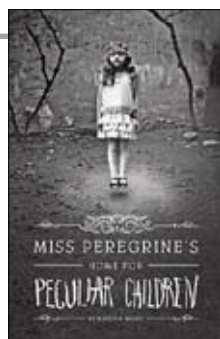
Teen-Parent Book Club

Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, 4-5 p.m. at TKE

March: *Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein

April: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, Sherman Alexie

May: *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs

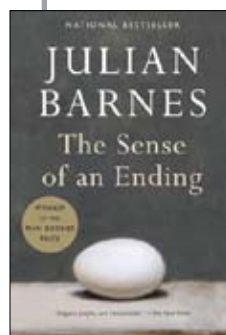


Margaret's Book Club

Meets 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE

March: *The Sense of an Ending*, Julian Barnes

April: *The Orphan Master's Son*, Adam Johnson



More details at
www.kingsenglish.com

Events for Children & Teens

Kathy Reichs and Brendan Reichs

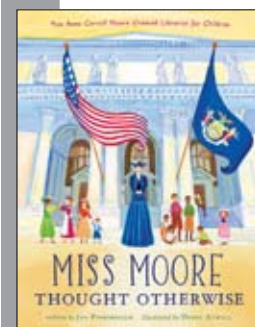
Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. *The New York Times* best-selling mother-son writing team will read from and sign *Code: A Virals Novel*. Presented with The Salt Lake City Public Library at the Main Branch, 210 East 400 South.



Miss Moore

Thought Otherwise

Saturday, March 23, 11 a.m. Jan Pinborough will read from and sign her new children's biography of Anne Carroll Moore, who created the Children's Room in the New York Public Library.



Loren Long

Monday, March 25, 4 p.m. *New York Times* bestselling author & illustrator Long will read and sign *Otis and the Puppy*, his third Otis picture book. Signing line tickets will be distributed to customers who purchase *Otis and the Puppy* from The King's English Bookshop. Those customers are also allowed to bring up to two books from home through the signing line. General admission to the event is free. Long also illustrated a bestselling edition of Watty Piper's classic, *The Little Engine That Could*, and President Barack Obama's book, *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*.



Liesl Shurtliff

Saturday, April 27, 2 p.m.

Debut author Liesl Shurtliff will present and sign her new book *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin*. In a land of magic, curses, gold and familiar fairytale characters, Rump is on a quest to learn his full name. With friendship, courage, and a bit of humor, he may just live to tell the tale.



MAGIC TREE HOUSE[®] ON STAGE

Now On Tour
PASSPORT
TO ADVENTURE

**Wednesday,
April 3, 4 p.m.**

Mary Pope Osborne's
Magic Tree House series
comes to life!

This live event will include
a performance by brother-sister
duo Jack and Annie, fun audience
participation, and original songs
followed by a "meet and greet"
book stamping.

In order for as many kids as possible to meet Jack and Annie, they will stamp only one book from home per child. Jack and Annie will also stamp all new books purchased at The King's English Bookshop.

Spring into March with...

Mark the upcoming March/April holidays with books: Start by celebrating the Irish, learn the meaning of Passover and end with an Easter basket full of books and bunnies!

Here are some of our favorites for each holiday:

For St. Patrick's Day, a pair of green socks and...

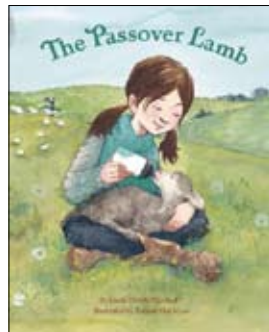
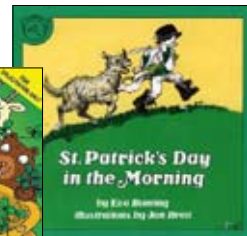
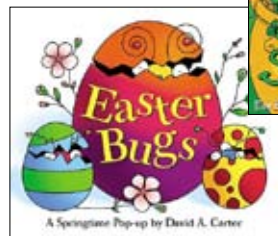
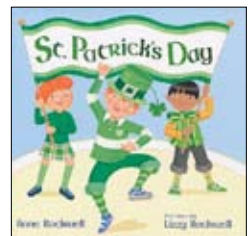
Too Many Leprechauns, Stephen Krensky

St. Patrick's Day, Anne Rockwell

Patrick, Tomie dePaola

Green Shamrocks, Eve Bunting

St. Patrick's Day in the Morning, Eve Bunting



Learn more about Passover with two lovely books,

The Longest Night, Laurel Snyder

The Passover Lamb, Linda Elovitz Marshall

And fill a grassy Easter basket with an egg or two and...

Easter Bunny on the Loose!, Wendy Max

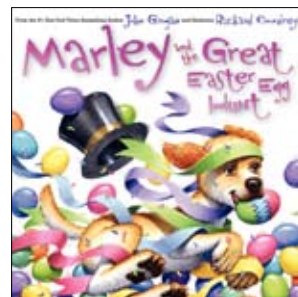
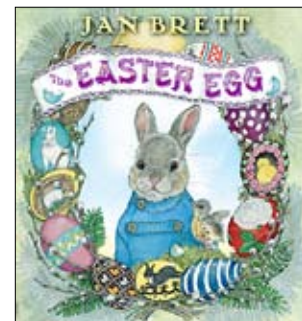
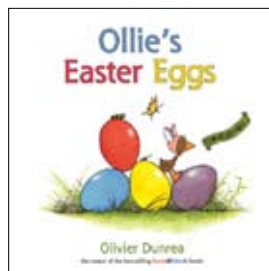
Marley and the Great Easter Egg Hunt, John Grogan

Easter Bugs, David A. Carter

Seven Little Rabbits, John Becker

The Easter Egg, Jan Brett

Ollie's Easter Eggs, Olivier Dunrea

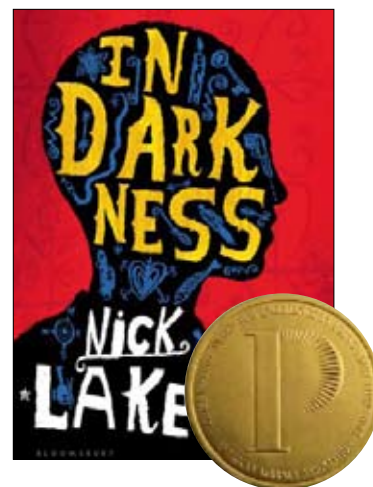
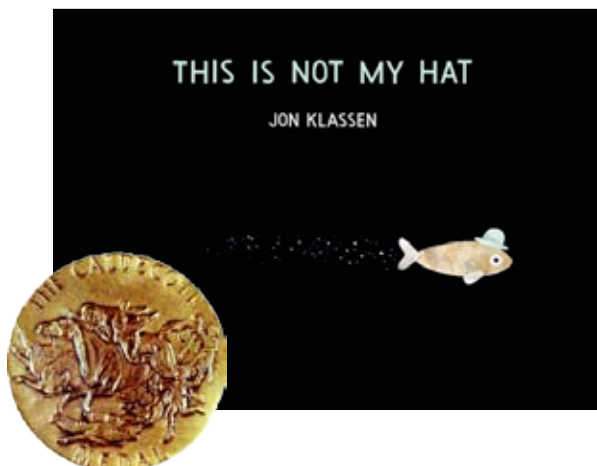


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013 ALA WINNERS!

NEWBERY

CALDECOTT

PRINTZ



...Children Books by Margaret Brennan Neville

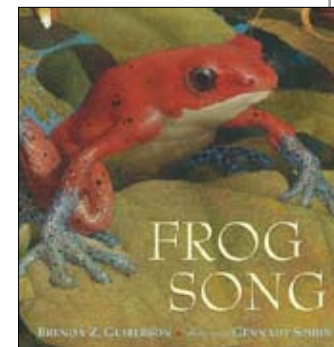


The Black Rabbit, Philippa Leathers

Rabbit can't get away from the dark mysterious stranger. Rabbit wonders, as he hides and dodges, why he is being so persistently followed. Then, when the big bad wolf wants to make Rabbit into a snack, the stranger surprises Rabbit and the reader! – Candlewick, \$14 (3 and up)

Frog Song, Brenda Z. Guiberson and Gennady Spirin

This beautiful book, combining poetic writing, amazing illustrations and an environmental plea, is a reminder of how important this small species is to the well-being of our planet. The nonfiction pages in the back identify all the frogs in a book that will fit well into school and classroom libraries. – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99 (4 and up)



Rose Red & Snow White, Ruth Sanderson

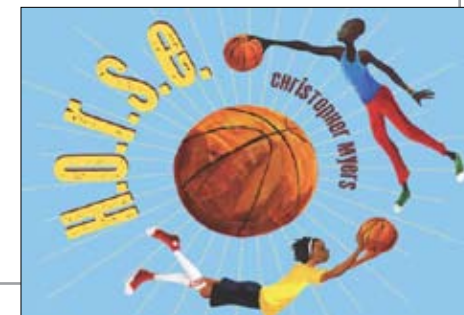


Readers will know the story, and fans of Sanderson's other fairy tales, *Cinderella* and *Twelve Dancing Princesses*, will immediately recognize her lush, rich illustrations. This is a terrific edition for any fairy tale section. – Interlink, \$16.95 (all ages)

H.O.R.S.E., Christopher Meyers

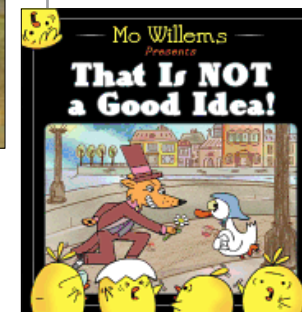
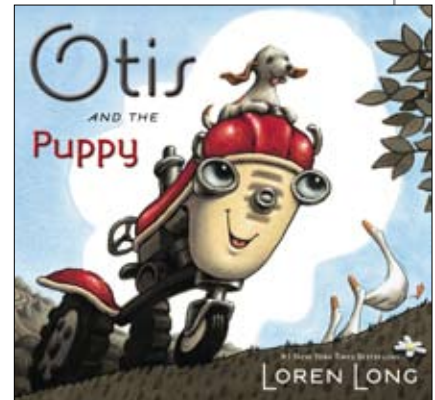
Who knew that math and science could go together so well with the classic playground game of H.O.R.S.E.? This version of

H.O.R.S.E. is an exercise in imagination in which the two players start off in a routine way, but talk themselves into a much larger game. This is the kind of book that can pull readers happily into subjects they didn't know they liked! – Egmont, \$18.99 (8 and up)



Otis and the Puppy, Loren Long

Otis and all his friends love playing hide and seek, but when the new puppy gets lost, Otis will have to be brave enough to go find him. Readers will love meeting Otis's new friend and cheering for him in this third book in the series in which Long continues the artistic traditions started in the first book. Striking art in tonal shades of black and gray with eye-catching flashes of red make the Otis books stand out on the shelf. – Penguin \$17.99 (all ages) *Editor's note: Loren Long will be at The King's English on March 25, 4 p.m. See our website for details.*



That Is Not a Good Idea!, Mo Willems

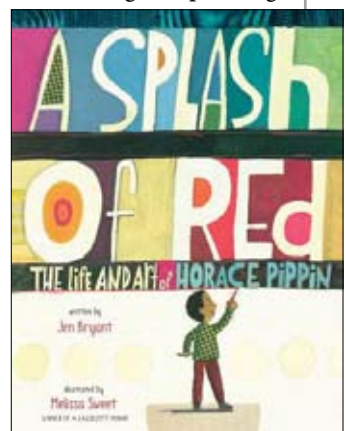
Oh so funny! Laugh out loud as Mo Willems shows readers "why that is not a good idea." The hungry fox is going to make the most of his afternoon stroll with the plump goose but the baby geese have something to say about every move. Willems'

artwork makes this a picture book that will stay on your shelves for a long time. – Harper, \$17.99 (all ages)

NONFICTION

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin, Jeff Bryant and Melissa Sweet

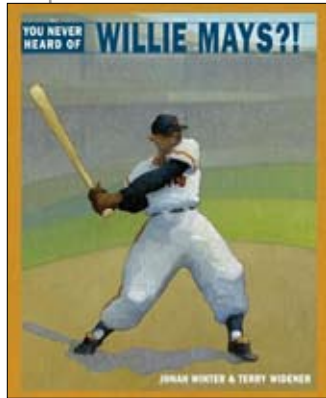
Even as a child Horace Pippin loved drawing and painting, but after he was severely injured in WWI, he thought he would never draw again. However his overwhelming desire to create pushed him back into the world of art. He began to use his left hand to move his right hand and after three painstaking years he finished that first painting. Horace Pippin is an American master and his art can be seen all over the country. Sweet's illustrations bring this story to life. – Random House, \$17.99 (5 and up)



Picture Books, cont.

You Never Heard of Willie Mays?!, Jonah Winter & Terry Widener

Willie Mays' dad knew that his son could play ball, and after five years in the Negro leagues (Willie started at age

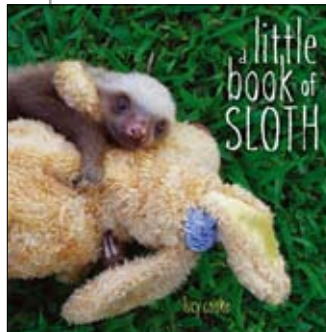


15) when he joined the mediocre NY Giants, at his first at-bat, Willie hit the ball out of the stadium! Mays could do it all, catch, throw and hit—all of sudden the Giants were in contention and Willie Mays was a star. He was tremendous athlete who worked hard at everything he did. This is the perfect biography for anyone interested in baseball or Mays. The artwork and material at

the end of the book bring Mays to life for young readers. – Random House, \$17.99 (4 and up)

A Little Book of Sloth, Lucy Cooke

Who knew that the sloth could be so cute, so endearing? Cooke, that's who, and readers will quickly feel the same



way. In her book, which is filled with photos and information about a baby sloth orphanage in Costa Rica, kids are introduced to some of the "superstar" sloths, like But-tercup, Mateo, and Ubu whose days are slow, filled with hugs, baths and, occasionally, medical treatments. This is what nonfiction for young readers

should look like. I loved it and now I love sloths. – Simon & Schuster, \$16.99 (all ages)



Come to a reception for Jennifer Adams

author of the BabyLit books!

**Thursday, April 4
6 – 8 p.m.**



MIDDLE READER

by Margaret Brennan Neville

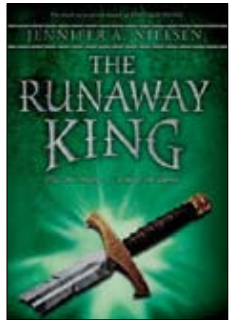


The Slither Sisters #2 Tales from Lovecraft Middle School, Charles Gilman

Robert and his friends defeated Professor Gargoyle and now must take on Sarah and Sylvia Price and their evil plan to kidnap the entire 7th grade class at Lovecraft Middle School. Glenn (the school bully), Pip and Squeak (rats) are all convinced that getting involved in this fight will be the end of everyone. They discover that the school

is full of gates to other places, some even worse than middle school. Adventure, a little bit of scary and an awesome "morphing" all add up to a fun read. – Quirk \$13.99 (8 and up)

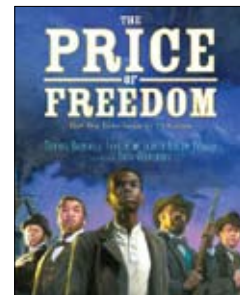
The Runaway King, Jennifer Nielsen



Jaron's story is an on-again off-again tale. When he is finally on the throne, the first thing that happens is an assassination attempt, and it looks as if the kingdom of Cathya will have to go to war. He realizes that his presence makes it more dangerous for the realm and that he must flee to save it. **The False Prince** was book one and as Nielsen continues to reveal Jaron's character in this fast-paced sequel, she will surprise readers with each of

his choices. This is adventure at its best. – Scholastic, \$17.99 (10 and up) *Editor's note: signed books are available.*

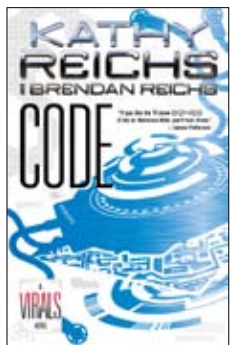
The Price of Freedom, Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin



John Price had fled from slavery and sought safety in Oberlin, Ohio. When slavers found him two years later, it was the townspeople who rose up to save him. This story is another great example of how a small group of people can make a difference. Powerful text and strong illustrations add up to a must-have piece of history. – St. Martin, \$16.99 (7 and up)

YOUNG ADULT

by Margaret Brennan Neville



Code: A Virals Novel, Kathy Reichs and Brandon Reichs

When Tory and her friends the Virals open the mysterious box they've found, they discover it is from the "Gamemaster." The first box turns out be a teaser; it is the second one that will wreak havoc, and the Virals will have to use all of their skills to avert disaster. Reichs (the "Bones" series) and her son create a tight story that keeps the pages flying by. The clues cleverly presented to both the characters and the readers make this book

a treat to read. – Penguin, \$17.99 (12 and up) *Editor's note: The Reichs will be at SLC Main Library on Monday, March 18 at 7 p.m.*

YOUNG ADULT

Out of the Easy, Ruta Sepetys

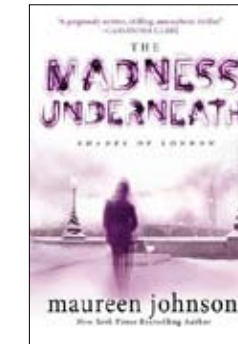
Sepetys (*Between Shades of Gray* was a staff favorite last year) offers dramatically different history in her new book, which is set in 1950s New Orleans. Josie Moraine is trying desperately to get away from her mother, who is a prostitute working for Willie, a local Madame in the French Quarter. While Josie is working and dreaming of going to Smith, her mom is involved in a murder that threatens everything Josie is striving for.

There is so much more than a murder mystery here. Madame Willie is a source of strength and love for Josie; the well-to-do father wants to help Josie, but for a very steep price. The reader learns what a powerful thing a dream can be as Sepetys draws a compelling picture of New Orleans and a main character possessed of an emotional and believable voice. I couldn't put it down! – Penguin, \$17.99 (14 and up)



The Madness Underneath, Maureen Johnson

After her brutal encounter with ghosts from the past (*The Name of the Star*), Rory is trying to recover and get on with her life. She isn't sure where she fits in, but she is pretty certain she can't go back to her old life. While she continues to explore her new-found abilities, others may want to take advantage of them. Ghosts still populate this world, adding to the creepy factor, but the humans are far scarier. Add a little romance, a surprise ending, and, you too will be looking forward to the next book. – Penguin, \$17.99 (13 and up) *Editor's note: we have a limited supply of signed book plates.*

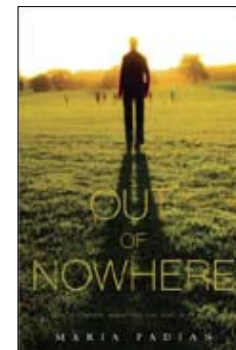


Dualed, Elise Chapman



West Grayer has one month to track down her genetic alternate, her twin, and kill her, in order to prove that she is the "worthy" one. This premise takes dystopia to another level of creepy. Chapman has written a fast-paced adventure with a very resourceful young girl at its heart. West knows she is ready for the challenge but is scared by her past and her future. Like readers, she is questioning the value of this system in a book that will inspire some interesting conversations! –Random House, \$16.99 (12 and up)

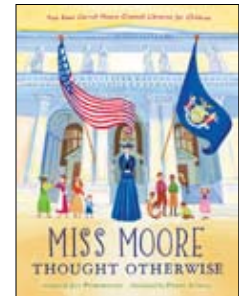
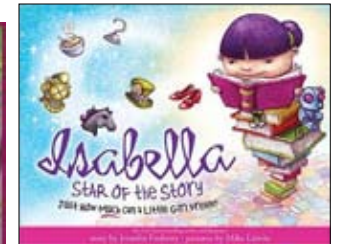
Out of Nowhere, Maria Padian



America is a country of immigrants; most of us started out that way. Padian shows readers a very clear picture of Somali wartime refugees who are trying to make it work in America. Tom is the captain of his soccer team in an old mill town in Vermont. When a group of refugees shows up and changes the soccer team, Tom and the rest of his commu-

nity are challenged not only to tolerate these kids, but to reexamine what acceptance means. Add all of the "normal" high school challenges, and you have a book that countless readers will love. – Random House, \$16.99 (12 and up)

Libraries Rock!



This spring we celebrate libraries with not one, but two children's books! Jennifer Fosberry returns with her loveable character, Isabella, and this time she is the *Star of the Story*. On a trip to the library, Isabella becomes the characters in the books she reads and has adventures with all kinds of interesting people, from Alice in Wonderland to Peter Pan. **Jennifer will be at the Anderson-Foothill library on Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m.** And did you know that children weren't always allowed in libraries? Hear the story in Jan Pinborough's new book, *Miss Moore Thought Otherwise: How Anne Carroll Moore Created Libraries for Children* and then **join us for story time on Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m.** and meet Jan in person.

YOUNG ADULT-FORTHCOMING

by Margaret Brennan Neville

If You Find Me, Emily Murdoch (April)

Carey and her little sister live deep in the forest in a run-down camper. When their mentally-ill mother fails to return, Carey knows that they are in trouble. Trouble comes in many shapes though, and when two strangers, one of them the dad they never knew, show up and take them back to the real world, Carey has a whole new set of problems. Jenessa is young and adjusting seems to be so much easier for her. Cary though, 15 years old, does not even know how to be with other teenagers, let alone her stepsister. Being introduced to high school is so much more than she thought. Mystery and family are all bound up together in this gripping story. – St. Martin's, \$9.99 (12 and up)



NOW
SERVING



TAPAS

dumplings. poached ricotta dumplings, served in red pepper sauce	\$6
smoked spiced almonds. smoked out back with our house spice blend	\$4
artisan cheese plate. locally crafted cheeses with almonds, dried fruit & baguette	\$9
sliders. 2 house formed beef & pork burgers with all the trimmings	\$6
olives. variety of mediterranean olives	\$5
duck & seeds. our own smoked duck with sesame seeds, dijon & baguette	\$10
pate. pork pate served with whole grain mustard, cornichons & baguette	\$8
meatballs. 6 smoked meatballs in marinara sauce, served with sliced baguette	\$8
fritters. potato fritters hot from the fryer	\$5
cucina kettle chips. hot out of the fryer, and worth the wait! served with dip	\$4
ravioli. 3 ravioli in a house made sauce. ask your server for today's selection	\$8
gravlax. mascarpone cream cheese, sliced red onion, capers & baguette	\$10

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More Upcoming Events for Adults

Kent Haruf, *Benediction*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 7 P.M.

Lev Grossman, *The Magician King*

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 7 P.M.

J. Kevin Morris, *Daddy's Diary*

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 7 P.M.

Alexander McCall Smith

SLC DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 7 P.M.

Brian Switek, *My Beloved Brontosaurus*

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 7 P.M.

Julia Corbett, *Seven Summers*

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 7 P.M.

Lucinda Scala Quinn, *Mad Hungry Cravings*

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 7 P.M.

Jonathan Evison, *The Revised Fundamentals of*

Caregiving | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 7 P.M.

Peter Rock, *The Shelter Cycle*

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 7 P.M.

dawn april lonsinger, *Whelm*

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 7 P.M.

Kevin T. Jones, *Shrinking Jungle*

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 7 P.M.

SEE ALSO CALENDARS ON PAGES 1 AND 15