





## ESCAPE, ENTERTAINMENT, ENLIGHTENMENT: BOOKS TO LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAY LANDSCAPE

by Betsy Burton, Kathy Ashton, and All the Merry Booksellers at The King's English

As we sail into the wine-dark sea of the holidays, even those souls hearty enough to search for joy among the shoals of our shipwrecked economy seem more engaged by story than by the hard lessons of history and the headlines, perhaps driven by the need for connection to one another and to our common plight. The swelling hope that the tides are once more moving our way brings comfort to the optimists among us, but even for those still mired in debt and gloom, help is on the way—in the form of humor. After all, what better way than laughter to pull someone out of the doldrums? And after laughter, what better escape than the tales that take us away from ourselves, the glittery gossip of high society's doings, the music and art that lift our hearts? So match gifts to needs this holiday season, and whether it's a yen for humor or escape, for enlightenment or entertainment, look to your loved one, diagnose his or her maladies and cure them with the gift of the right book. As we are wont to say at The King's English, the right book at the right time is more than a gift, it's a life changer, a life saver. Here are some lively lifesavers to pass on to your family and friends whether to bring a bit of cheer, to elicit chortles or to chase away the blues altogether.

**⊢** Ebooks coming to TKE! See page 16

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**



Buy Local First Week 2010 Friday, November 26 - Saturday, December 4 Take 10, Tell 10, Shift 10! (Minutes, Friends, & Dollars, that is...) For more information, visit the Local First Utah website: www.localfirst.org.

Annual Holiday Party! Thursday, December 2, 5–7 p.m. Don't miss TKE's Annual Holiday Party! Authors, hors d'oeuvres and beverages! Add an additional 10% to the 10% discount for Buy Local First Week to get 20% off!



## **Wasatch Hollow Social**

Wednesday, December 1, 7 p.m. Meet your neighbors for refreshments and conversation. The 15th Street Gallery, site of the event, The King's English, and Caputo's, will offer discounts on purchases made that evening.

## Holidays on 15th & 15th

**Saturday, December 11, 3 - 5 p.m.** Catch the spirit of the holidays in our Neighborhood Business District! Caroling, hot cider, storytimes, and a special surprise guest (Ho, Ho, Ho!).

## **Books and Bagels!**

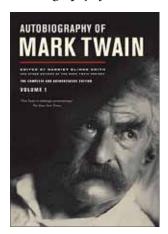
**Sunday, December 5, 9 – 11 a.m.** Enjoy a nosh while King's English booksellers present books for holiday giving. We'll wrap and mail for you, too! Receive 20% off all purchases.



## The Glitter of Laughter



Autobiography of Mark Twain, edited by Harriet Elinor Smith

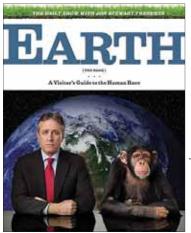


Many of us have our favorite
American humorist, whether James
Thurber, Will Rogers or modern-day
P.J. O'Rourke but—maybe because
he's utterly irreverent—for my money
no one's funnier than Mark Twain. In
1905, Samuel Clemens decided, "as
a last ditch effort" to pen his autobiography on the condition that it not
be made public for 100 years after
his death. The work is divided into
four parts and includes Twain's own
notes and lengthy editorial explanations, but it is the third section.

where Twain dictated his life story randomly, that the meandering thoughts and musings bring this quintessential observer of America to life. No one, including Twain himself, is safe from his fierce analysis of the foibles of his fellow human beings both at home and abroad. Upon turning the last page you will know for sure that Mark Twain was anything but an "innocent abroad." – Anne Holman, University of California, \$34.95

#### Earth: A Visitor's Guide to the Human Race, Jon Stewart

Ever wonder what aliens will think of humans if they arrive on our

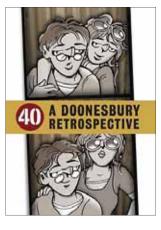


planet in the next few eons? Who better than Jon Stewart to create a Visitor's Guide to the Human Race? Divided into helpful chapters such as The Life Cycle (Half of all marriages ended in divorce. The most common reasons were infidelity, money woes and the desire to follow Jimmy Buffet on tour.), Commerce (Some people made a living peddling made-up financial instruments so complex and abstruse that they themselves had no idea what they were or how

they worked. They were the most successful people in the history of our species.), Culture (Romance novels were the only books that took less time to write than they did to read. They taught lonely women about passionate love, maritime history and 18th century undergarments. SPOILER ALERT: They totally wind up doing it.), etc. Ask any one of the booksellers at TKE what their favorite page is in this new book and you will get a different answer. This book has been endorsed by Larry King (see page 38). If Stewart is, in fact, the new de facto leader of the free world, sign me up! – Anne Holman, Grand Central, \$27.99

**40:** A Doonesbury Retrospective, G. B. Trudeau

Over 40 major characters spanning the 40 years of the comic strip "Doonesbury" offer us the brand of humor sure to sustain (and endlessly entertain) the cynic in your life. Replete with Trudeau's trademark irony, these characters consider war and its many (too many) incarnations over the years, the unending battle of politics, the culture wars, the wars between the sexes and between the weak and the powerful. Chip Kidd, in a recent *Rolling Stone* 



article, says the collected Doonesbury reads less like 14,000-plus reasons to chuckle over your morning coffee and more like this era's *War and Peace*. A four-page foldout annotates and charts the relationships among the maze of unforgettable characters that 18 essays elucidate. Both this volume and the original art in *Doonesbury and the Art of G. B. Trudeau* (Yale, \$49.95) are perfect for those on your list who view the world according to Doonesbury. – Betsy Burton, Andrews McMeel, \$100



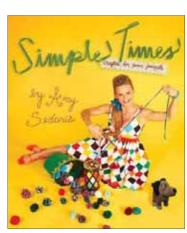
### Skippy Dies, Paul Murray

Life with a raucous scrum of 14-year-old boys in a Dublin private school does not sound on the surface like a promising read, but Paul Murray takes the reader on a narrative romp through the school that is both hilarious and deeply touching. Tangled in the center of testosterone, video games, quantum physics and drug-fueled escapades is the fragile and sensitive Daniel "Skippy" Juster himself, who dies of an overdose in the first chapter and comes to life in a flashback.

Skippy is the victim of a girlfriend who uses him as a decoy while she carries on a more scandalous affair with a student who is unacceptable to her parents. Skippy's hopelessness is paralleled by that of his history teacher Howard Fullon who has also fallen in love. As these characters klutz their way through the stresses, torments, and fireworks ignited by their fellow students and the principal, Murray's energetic narrative, albeit underlain with tragedy, is so hilarious it's hard to keep a straight face while reading it. *Skippy Dies* was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize, and in our estimation should have won it. – Robert Morreall and Jerry Delaney, Faber & Faber, \$28

## Simple Times: Crafts for Poor People, Amy Sedaris

Simple times call for simple measures (and googly eyes) which means that during a recession, sometimes one must improvise. Like roasting hot dogs on a rake over an open fire, making completely nonreturnable Christmas gifts, and crafting your very own set of rusty nail wind chimes. Make a few milk carton tenements



or a ghetto for the basement mice in order to feel more fortunate. Full to bursting with wacky, surprisingly practical and easy craft ideas, this book will keep you in stitches (literally and figuratively) for days. The book's dust jacket also doubles as a fabulous hat, which is always a hit at parties. – Rachel Haisley, Hachette, \$27.99



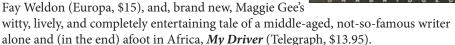
## And to Stock Those Stockings...

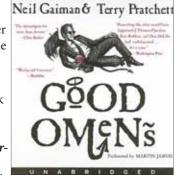
Line for line, one of the most hilarious, irreverent, outrageous books we've ever read, *Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett is newly out on audio (Harper), brilliantly read by Martin Jarvis. At \$39.99 it may not be the cheapest stocking stuffer you'll buy but the 12 1/2 hours of gut-wrenching hilarity are more than worth the price. If ever there were a cure for

the winter blahs, this wackedout tale of the apocalypse is it—and for those who'd rather

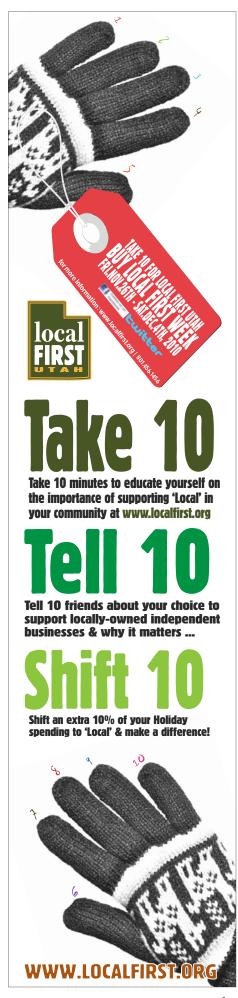
read than listen, it's in paperback in trade and mass sizes for \$14.99 and \$7.99 respectively.

Three other paperbacks reviewed in former *Inkslingers* in their hard-cover incarnations, along with a paperback original, are all sure to cheer the darkest hearts, turn scowls to grins, and groans to gleeful cackles: *This Is Where I Leave You*, Jonathan Tropper (Plume, \$15), *Border Songs*, Jim Lynch (Vintage, \$15), *Chalcot Crescent*,









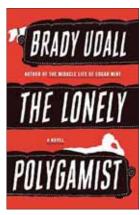


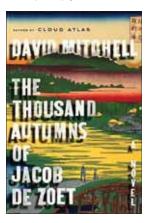


## **Glittering Literati**



For those interested in answers, whether to serious questions posed by the vagaries of the human condition, the root of our despair, or of our joy, there are, in every given year, books that address such topics brilliantly. We've already dwelt on fiction of this nature in the *Inkslinger* this year, from David Malouf's *Ransom* and Annabel Lyon's *The Golden Mean*—both of which mine the classical world of the Greeks to brilliant effect—to such big and bracing novels as Brady Udall's *The Lonely Polygamist* and David Mitchell's

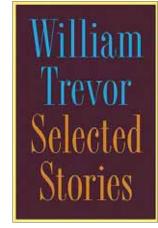




The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet to a couple of world-class literary thrillers, John Lawton's layered and music-steeped WWII thriller A Lily of the Field (Atlantic Monthly, \$24), and John Le Carré's masterful contemporary British/Russian thriller Our Kind of Traitor (Viking, \$27.95). This season there's even more brilliant fiction perfect for the questioning mind and the questing spirit, along with two wonderful anthologies, a collection of letters, and several lively literary memoirs perfect for the passionate readers in your life.

#### Collected Stories, Volume Two, William Trevor

Trevor, one of the most insightful observers of the human race, is also one of the best practitioners of the art of the short story alive in the world today. Quiet, Chekovian, at once ironic and compassionate, he is equally brilliant on the subjects of evil and of love, whether new or re-kindled. He addresses faith and adultery, loneliness and regret, kindness and the withholding of affection as he examines lives on the fringes, the ties that bind us together, the choices that tear us apart. Creating situations which not only change the lives of his characters

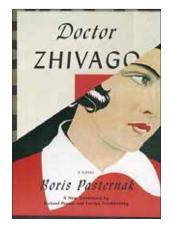


but also bring them into sharp focus, Trevor treats the worst of them with compassion and an absolute understanding of the aching pain that our mistakes engender, establishing an empathy that bestows mercy on us all. This volume, which brings together the tales of the last 15 years, is, for lovers of fiction in general and the short story in particular, the single best gift I can imagine. – Betsy Burton, Viking, \$35



Doctor Zhivago, Boris Pasternak, translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky

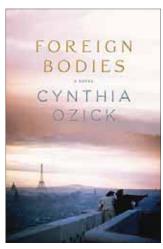
Pevear and Volokhonsky, who for years have been providing the English-speaking world with translations of Russian literature that are richly textured and intimately connected to the source material, finally apply their abundant talents to Boris Pasternak's masterpiece. This new translation, by way of both its exquisite attention to language and its focus on the heretofore unexplored spiritual nature of the original text, has surpassed Max Hayward and Manya Harari's canonized 1958 effort (which has stood,



untouched, on its own merits for half a century). If you haven't yet read this sprawling, timeless epic about love, poetry, and the human experience, there's never been a better time! - Aaron J. Cance, Random House, \$30 Editor's note: other ideal gifts from the hands of these translators are gorgeous paperback versions of classic Russian novels by Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Bulgakov, and Chekov.

## Foreign Bodies, Cynthia Ozick

One can ignore one's family, move a country or a continent away, but in the end the bonds of kinship are hard to shake off. Beatrice Nightingale, who teaches English in New York, has a brother she has seen exactly once in her adult life, a niece she's likewise seen only once-on that same occasion—and a nephew she's never laid eyes on. She's not fond of her brother Martin—he's a bully. But when he writes to suggest that she track down her nephew in Paris, she grudgingly gives it a try. The Paris Bea travels to is the Paris



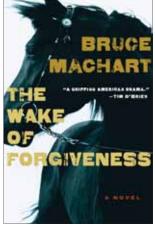
of the 1950s, home of Hemingway hangers-on and Sartre-inspired café philosophers. And as first Bea's nephew and then her niece both the progeny of a U.S. father, himself only a generation from Eastern Europe—encounter Europe, it's shadowed, tragic history, its sophistication, its fraudulent side, the fraudulent nature of its American inhabitants, they begin to change. Ozick swings her magical literary net wide and catches a clutch of characters and cultures on both sides of the Atlantic, characters that pull you willy-nilly into her tale, snagging your interest to the point that you're turning the pages breathlessly, entranced and in thrall to her sparkling, wicked humor—not to mention her literary genius. - Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$26

### The Wake of Forgiveness, Bruce Machart

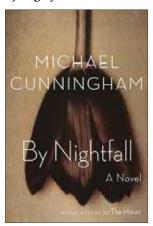
In highly distilled prose that could make even Cormac McCarthy envious, newcomer Bruce Machart tells the rich, engaging tale of immigrant Texas landowner Vaclav Skala and his four sons. One high-stakes, torch-lit horse race tears an irreparable rift in the Skala family, and, even as they are left reeling in the wake of their lost



gamble, Karel, the youngest, and his brothers must each decide what they value most. Luminescent and haunting, The Wake of Forgiveness heralds the arrival of an important new voice in Western fiction. - Aaron J. Cance, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$26 Editor's note: this first novel has taken the staff at TKE by storm-we all love it. Even better, we have signed first editions available-as we do of another brilliant Western novel reviewed here just last month, **Driving** on the Rim, by Tom McGuane.



By Nightfall, Michael Cunningham



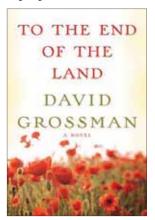
In his latest novel, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Michael Cunningham has created a story of moods and epiphanies that vividly evokes the melancholy of middle age. Told through the eyes of Peter, a Manhattan art-gallery owner, the tale centers around a visit from his young brother-in-law, Mizzy, who has come to New York to do "Something in the Arts." Mizzy's visit prompts Peter to question his carefully constructed view of himself, and in the process the reader is drawn into an exquisite exploration of art, culture, beauty, love,

marriage, sexuality, and grace. - DawnAnn Owens, FSG, \$25

## To the End of the Land, David Grossman

I first picked up Grossman's book after reading a glowing review in The New York Times by Colm Toibin, whose books I love. Set in Israel, To the End of the Land is about three people whose lives are

intermeshed—Ora and the two men whom she loves or is loved by, Avram and Ilan. Although she marries Ilan and bears him a son, Adam, her other son, Ofer, was fathered by Avram. After her boys are grown, Ilan leaves her, taking Adam with him. When Ofer joins the Israeli army, Ora cannot face waiting at home for that fateful knock on her door; she heads into the desert, coercing Avram to come with her. Thus begins a "conversation" about the past, relationships, childraising, loss and the fear of loss. The death of Grossman's



own son in the Second Lebanon War, which occurred as the book was almost finished, gives the novel even greater poignancy and power. - Sally Larkin, Knopf, \$26.95

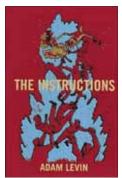
#### The Instructions, Adam Levin

Adam Levin's debut covers four days in the life of 10-year-old Gurion Maccabee—a Jewish boy-scholar whose intellect combined with his youth ends up landing him in a behavioral institution for troubled kids called the Cage. His leadership among his classmates

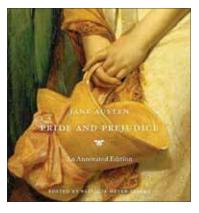
## Glittering Literati, continued



transforms them into an army that engages the school system by which they feel they are oppressed. Gurion's difference from his peers and school faculty resonates within the narrative's depiction of isolation and heroism. But among these deeply personal and provocative insights are scenes of humor as well. Levin's debut is enthralling and makes this 1,000-page wonder hard to put down. – Robert Morreall, McSweeney's, \$29



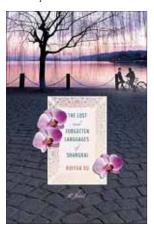
## **Pride and Prejudice: An Annotated Edition**, Jane Austen, edited by Patricia Meyer Spacks



Austen lovers rejoice: this gorgeous edition of one of the most beloved classics in the English language is resplendent with annotation, with analysis, and with color illustrations that make it the perfect gift for lovers of *Pride and Prejudice* (and our numbers are legion). At once erudite and entertaining, the commentary that accompanies the tale provides notes on everything from literary

allusions to historical context, and Spacks' analysis is light and lively. In short, perfect for a reader in search of her ideal book.

- Betsy Burton, Harvard, \$35



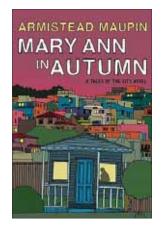
## The Lost and Forgotten Languages of Shanghai, Ruiyan Xu

When The Swan Hotel in Shanghai explodes, successful Chinese businessman Li Jing survives but wakes up speaking his first language, English, instead of his dominant language, Chinese. When his family enlists the help of an American doctor, this simply creates another problem as the doctor searches for her place in this foreign culture. How does a family communicate in a world where the leader can no longer share ideas? How does a

business survive when its leader can't lead? What happens in a world where individuals talk, and others can't understand? Ruiyan Xu creates a world where the people must live with the emotional, personal confusion of "lost and forgotten" languages. – Wendy Foster Leigh, St. Martin's Press, \$24.99

#### MaryAnn in Autumn, Armistead Maupin

Many of the original cast of beloved characters are back, coping with middle age and change. MaryAnn Singleton, our original small-town-girl-meets-the-City, has come back to San Francisco for some personal healing. In a successful effort to draw younger fans, Mr. Maupin allows major parts of the story to be told by younger

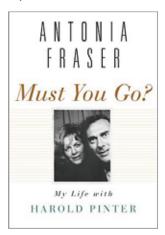


characters, including Jake Greenleaf, bio-guy and gardener; Shawna Hawkins, blogger-media personality; and Ben, the younger and more sensible husband of Michael "Mouse" Tolliver. Maupin is a master at creating connections, not only the unlikely connections between his characters but also the cultural connections he provides us, his audience. He places me directly in the path of my own cultural curiosities, whether it is Facebook, a sexually-confused Mormon missionary who has a crush on a bio-man, or what to do

with cremains. He makes me feel worldlier by association as I am led along the winding roads that his characters walk as they move in and out of each other's lives. With more twists than San Francisco's famed Lombard Street, this book is a triumph, sending us on a ride that only Maupin can offer, ending in a most unusual and satisfying finale. Finally, there are some classic, quotable lines that are sure to become part of our literary lexicon. – Robert Eckman, Harper, \$25.99

#### Must You Go? My Life with Harold Pinter, Antonia Fraser

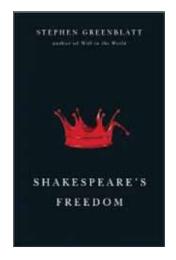
They met after a dinner party and talked until 2 a.m., carried on an affair even though they were both married to others. Eventually, they fessed up to their respective mates and began their life together. Madly in love until the day Pinter died of cancer, theirs was a life focused on the theater, their respective children, and each other. They traveled the world, lived cushioned by luxury, and met and entertained everyone from royals to radicals. Charming, funny, sad, fascinating, and beautifully writ-



ten, this tale will keep you wishing for just such a relationship.

– Kathy Ashton, Nan A.Talese/Doubleday, \$28.95

## Shakespeare's Freedom, Stephen Greenblatt

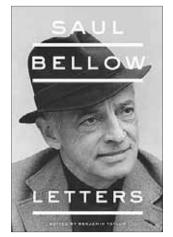


The Harvard University author of Will in the World, Hamlet in Purgatory, and Renaissance Self Fashioning is back with another treatment of everyone's favorite bard. Both erudite and readable, Greenblatt focuses on Shakespeare's resistance within the field of his works to Renaissance notions of "featureless perfection," "murderous hatred," "ethical ambiguity" (particularly where power is concentrated), and contemplates his own authorial autonomy. Moving effortlessly throughout Shakespeare's lifetime of work for textual support, this new exploration of the dramas

and sonnets is illuminating and will enhance the reading experiences of the academic and layperson alike. – Aaron J. Cance, University of Chicago Press, \$24



Letters, Saul Bellow, edited by Benjamin Taylor

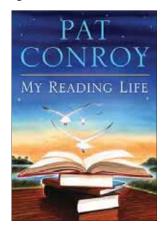


Anyone who remembers the unsent letters of *Herzog* will seize eagerly on Bellow's epistles—and they won't be disappointed. From discursive to philosophical, literary to poisonous (particularly those sent to his exwives), slangy to incisive to elegiac, they show a man strikingly similar to the characters he created, one who fights despair with humor, alternately praises the talent of or wages war against the intellectual dishonesty of his peers, and whose life and work are at bottom an attempt to pull meaning out of the shallows in which

we all seem to exist. - Betsy Burton, Viking, \$35

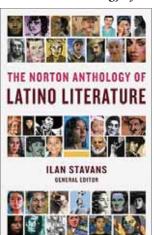
#### My Reading Life, Pat Conroy

Reading Pat Conroy talking about books feels like having an intimate conversation with him; he speaks of the thousands of books in his library as though we and all those lovingly acquired volumes are old friends. All the while he is telling us how he came to love books and literature, he weaves into that narrative the tale of his beloved high school English teacher Gene Norris. The two traveled the back roads and byways of the low country, visiting bookstores, meet-



ing local writers, Conroy acquiring Norris' friends as his own. The friendship between the two men lasted more than 40 years until Norris died of cancer. More than just a book about books, this is a fascinating love story—for the world of literature, for the writers and booksellers who inhabit that world, and for the men and women who inspire new generations of young people to want to travel there. - Kathy Ashton, Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, \$25

The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature, Ilan Stavans, general editor



Norton Anthologies are known on and off campuses as the definitive compendia of the world's literature. The latest is a groundbreaking addition and includes the work of 184 Latino writers from Spanishspeaking countries worldwide. From letters to the Spanish crown by 16th century conquistadors to the work of Juno Diaz, this sweeping volume encompasses all genres and provides a clear picture of the vital Latino literary traditions valuable not just to scholars but to passionate readers of

the world's great literature as well. - Betsy Burton, Norton, \$59.95



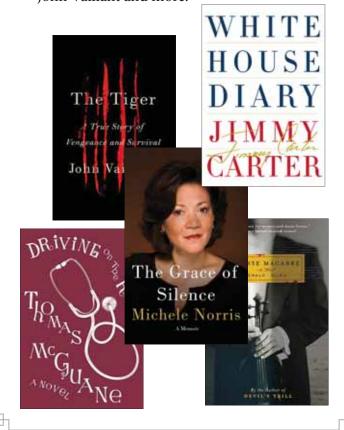
The Poets Laureate Anthology, edited by Elizabeth Hum Schmidt with a foreward by Billy Collins

The first anthology to gather poems by the 43 poets laureate of the U.S., this is the ideal gift for the poet in your house and your life. The poets anthologized range from William Carlos Williams and Elizabeth Bishop to Charles Simic, Mark Strand, and Rita Dove. The introduction places the poets and their work in historical and literary context, while the poems themselves track the course of poetry over the past century. No bookshelf should be without it. (Kit, are you listening?) - Betsy Burton, Norton, \$39.95



## Signed Copies Make Great Gifts

We have limited quantities of signed books by Jimmy Carter, Gerald Elias, Anne Germanacos, Jennifer Jordan, Bruce Machart, Tom McGuane, Michele Norris, Ann Torrence, John Vaillant and more.

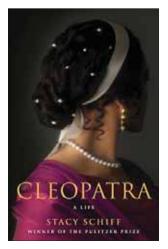




## All That Glitters



Reading about the lives of wealthy aristocrats, whatever era they hail from, amuses most of us—surely there is a bit of the voyeur in those who subscribe to *The New York Times* and eagerly await the latest issue of the paper's society section, who subscribe to *Vogue* or *Harper's Bazaar*, or who read their memoirs more in search of sex and scandal than of the lessons of history. Perhaps the best-reviewed book of this season manages to satiate in terms of scandal and impart the lessons of history as well, while others dwell on the mendacious, the salacious, the merely titillating. Whatever their focus, the lives of the glitterati make for entertaining reading, no question, while the best of them rock our world, one way or another.



### Cleopatra, Stacy Schiff

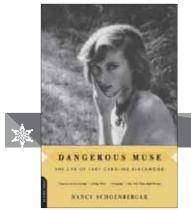
Perhaps no woman has marked history as decisively as did Cleopatra. Ruler of the most sophisticated country in ancient times, mistress to Julius Caesar and Mark Antony, as well as a brilliant tactician, she was ruthless in her pursuit of the riches that sustained her country. For all this she has been vilified through the ages by misanthropic historians and assorted mythmakers, including Shakespeare. Schiff sifts through the misconceptions and legends that surround this fascinating woman and,

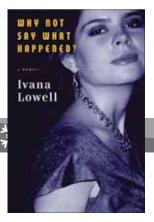
in the process, reveals a nuanced and boldly resolute individual who rocked the very foundations of the civilized world of two thousand years ago. – Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, \$29.99

The New York Times (Fall Fashion Issue 2010, pp 168-170) matched Lady Caroline Blackwood of the fabulously wealthy Irish family, the Guinesses, with two books: one of her own novels *Great Granny Webster* (NYRB Classics, \$14), purportedly about her own grandmother, the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, a great chum of the late Queen Mother, and the biography *Dangerous Muse* by Nancy Schoenberger (Da Capo Press, \$10). And indeed Blackwood was dangerous—very, very, dangerous—marrying and discarding famous husbands



like the artist Lucien Freud, famous (or infamous) for painting penises in lifelike detail. Her last husband was the American poet Robert Lowell, by all accounts talented but grumpy and occasionally psychotic. Unfortunately, during one of his manic episodes, Lowell flew to Boston where he died in a taxi, clutching Blackwood's portrait *Woman in Bed* by Lucien Freud (of course). Lowell's role in Ivana Lowell's life was as a loving and protective figure, as she

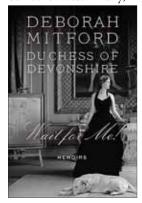




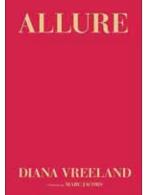
reveals in her fascinating memoir of life with Lady Blackwood *Why Not Say What Happened* (Knopf, \$27.95), a line from one of Robert Lowell's poems. Vanna adored her mother, who died of alcoholism before she revealed who her daughter's real father was. Finally,

genetic testing revealed her actual father was a screenwriter named Ivan Moffat, not one of the founders of NYRB, Robert Silver, who acted like he was.

And then there were duchesses of Windsor and Devonshire. Deborah, the youngest of the renowned Mitford sisters and wife of Andrew Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire, was mistress of one of the largest and most beautiful stately homes in England, Chatsworth, which she saved almost singlehandedly by writing books about life in general, about her home, and

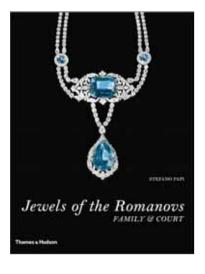


most famously, about her chickens. Her new memoir was co-written by one of her granddaughters, Charlotte Mosley, and *Wait for Me! Memoirs* (FSG, \$20) promises to be as entertaining as her others.



is hugely entertaining and in paperback now. And you'll be positively dazzled by *Jewels of the Romanovs* by Stefano Papi (Thames Hudson, \$75) which depicts the extravagant taste of one of the most extravagant dynasties in the world, the tsars of Russia. Replete with stories of the jewels, aglow with color and colorful lore this is lush, lavish, and fascinating as well.

If the lives and times of the fabulously wealthy and semi-royal bore you, you might be interested in the world of fashion as espoused by Diana Vreeland in her book *Allure*, co-written by Christopher Hemphill and Marc Jacobs, (Chronicle, \$35) in which the Empress Emeritus of *Vogue* issues opinions on what constitutes allure—and, believe it or not, beauty is not one of the criteria. If you love this, her autobiography, *DV*,



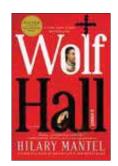


## And to Stock Those Stockings...

Along with two huge and hugely wonderful novels new in paper earlier this year, Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese and The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski, consider two of equal heft, brand new this fall:

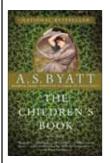
#### Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel

Most of us are familiar with tales from the reign of the English King Henry VIII and his multiple wives (women sequentially, and what he considered to be legally, acquired). In Wolf Hall, Mantel offers a new view: from inside the head of Thomas Cromwell as he ponders ways to increase the size of Henry's exchequer and aid the king's efforts to get Anne Boleyn into his bed through



the sanctity of marriage—Henry needs a son in order to assure his succession. But Cromwell's worries don't stop there; Mantel exposes his thoughts as he frets over his family, his friends, even his enemies. His genius extends to his own wealth as well as the king's as he amasses fame and fortune, and of course enemies, in this brilliant novel that encapsulates the Tudor era in the lushest of evocative prose. - Kathy Ashton, Picador, \$16

### The Children's Book, A. S. Byatt



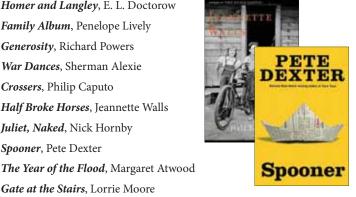
Enter the magical world of famed fairytale author Olive Wellwood. The time is the seemingly enchanted turn of the last century. The setting is, for the most part, Todefright, a lovely if eccentric English country house. The cast of characters is made up of the family and friends of Olive Wellwood: her husband, her sister, her vast brood of children, her fellowartists. But enchantment has its dark side, and as Olive writes and her children grow, the

woods in which they wander take on an ever darker hue in this brilliant and seductive tale of love and romance, secrets and betrayal, culture and politics, art and war and life. This is a big book, nearly 700 dense pages, and each page is a revelation, erudite, intense, frightening, enlightening. - Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$16.95

## Smaller in size but fully as fabulous!

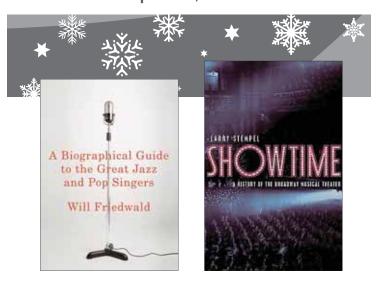
Homer and Langley, E. L. Doctorow Family Album, Penelope Lively Generosity, Richard Powers War Dances, Sherman Alexie Crossers, Philip Caputo Half Broke Horses, Jeannette Walls Juliet, Naked, Nick Hornby Spooner, Pete Dexter

Gate at the Stairs, Lorrie Moore



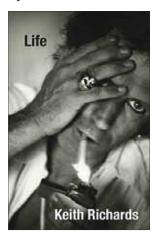


## Music of the Spheres, Music to Our Ears



Whether your taste runs to Classical or Rock, Jazz (A Biographical Guide to the Great Jazz and Pop Singers, Will Friedwald, Pantheon, \$27.50) or Broadway tunes (Showtime: A History of Broadway Musical Theater, Larry Stempel, Norton, \$39.95); whether your heart sings to the music of Mozart or Keith Richards, the songs of Noel Coward, Stephen Sondheim, or Bob Dylan, music lights us up from the inside out and manages to unite us at gut level as nothing else can. This year there's something for each of us.

Life, Keith Richards and Jamie Fox



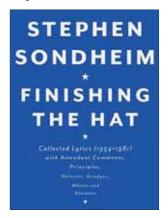
"I can't untie the threads of how much I played up to the part that was written for me," writes Keith Richards in his new autobiography, and this acknowledgment brings to mind the observer effect, the idea that the very act of observation changes that which is being observed—which means that all of these threads he refers to perhaps strangled him, even as they were embracing him, creating him, extending his reach. I am less familiar with The Rolling Stones than most people I know—I grew up more on The Beach Boys and ABBA and Barry Manilow-

but I've always been aware of the legend of Keith Richards and Mick Jagger, as I suspect everyone has. Their complicated friendship is addressed head-on here, as is the composition of several of their most famous songs, and it's riveting stuff. The drugs and the women are here, too—all of it told beautifully. This was one of those books I intended to peruse before actually diving in and reading it, but each section I skimmed, without exception, ended up pulling me in, and there I'd be, two hours later. The writing is smart and funny, satisfying and blunt. "It's impossible not to end up being a parody of what you thought you were," he writes, and it's these self-examinations that charm me. He somehow manages to balance the navel-gazing with humor and a sense of scope, a sense of place. This book made me a full-fledged fan. - Kimberly Snow, Little Brown, \$29.99 Editor's note: for Richards' fans, the perfect stocking stuffer would be the audio version of Life (Hachette, \$34.98)

## Music of the Spheres, continued



Finishing the Hat: Collected Lyrics (1954–1981) with Attendant Comments, Principles, Heresies, Grudges, Shines, and Anecdotes, Stephen Sondheim



If ever a title said it all...this very personal peek into a life is as brilliant, biting, poignant and funny as are any of the wonderful lyrics he wrote. From West Side Story to A Little Night Music to Sweeney Todd, Sondheim, winner of seven Tonys, seven Grammys, an Oscar, and a Pulitzer Prize, is a genius across fields who knows or has known everyone (literally) in the world of musical theater and film. His insights into songwriting are worth the price, but so are the tales in this

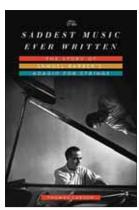
oh-so entertaining book. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$39.95

#### Bob Dylan in America, Sean Wilentz

In a book that follows Dylan from 1961 on, Wilentz not only places the famous artist in the context of his time and his culture, but also brings that time and culture to vivid life. Folk and Rock, America across decades, artistry and the making of music are all here in a book that is as erudite as it is amusing, as spellbinding as it is informative. For any lover of Dylan—or any student of American culture over the past five decades—*Bob Dylan in America* is ideal. – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, \$28.95

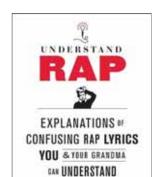


The Saddest Music Ever Written: The Story of Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, Thomas Larson



Arguably one of the most beautiful pieces of music of the last century, and also one of the most heartbreaking, Barber's masterpiece is familiar not just to lovers of classical music but to those who viewed the antiwar film *Platoon*, or the funerals of such luminaries as Presidents Roosevelt and Kennedy, scientist Albert Einstein, and actor Grace Kelly. It was played at the memorial to the victims of 9/11, and as a choral work it's known as "Agnus Dei." The tale of its creation, and of the melancholic who composed it, is

also an examination of the way music can fuse with emotion and extend what is highly personal to the universal. Anyone who's listened to "Adagio for Strings" knows this to be true. Larson attempts to show us how and why. – Betsy Burton, Pegasus, \$26.95



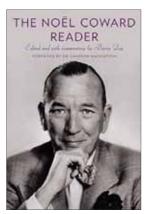
Understand Rap: Explanations of Confusing Rap Lyrics You & Your Grandma Can Understand, William Buckholz

Sometimes it is really, really difficult to understand exactly what today's rappers are saying; to the point where I think most of us are just nodding along, pretending to know what it means to be "ridin' dirty" or "packin' vests." Well, pretend no more! The definitive guide to understanding those strange,

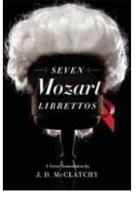
befuddling rap lyrics is finally here! Now I can be "smooth in my underroos" just like Biggie Smalls. Magnificently tongue-in-cheek, this guidebook is a great laugh for any hip-hop fan, and a helpful reference guide for anyone wondering what the heck those kids are listening to today. – Rachel Haisley, Abrams Image, \$12.95

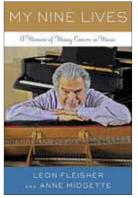
*The Noël Coward Reader*, edited and with commentary by Barry Day

The music isn't here but the lyrics are—and not just the songs but the plays, along with Coward's fiction and verse, all in a carefully chosen compendium that will cheer the hearts of Noël Coward fans everywhere. Sophistication and wit sing from every line and instead of dreary analysis there's one zinging singing phrase after another. The only thing that might keep me from putting it by my husband's bedside is the thought of his chuckles and



hums late at night when I'm trying to sleep. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$39.95





**Seven Mozart Librettos**, A Verse Translation by J. D. McClatchy

Says poet Richard Wilbur, "Mozart and Da Ponte will be smiling down on this volume." At once sparkling and lyrical, the librettos match the extraordinary music in this work of poetic translation. "The Magic Flute," "The Marriage of Figaro," "Don Giovanni," "Cosi Fan Tutte..." Not just the lively words but also illuminating histories, casts of characters, and dramatic recaps of each opera make this tour de force a must-have for poets and opera buffs alike. – Betsy Burton, Norton, \$50

And if all of the above fail to intrigue, a memoir by Leon Fleisher and Anne Midgette, *My Nine Lives: A Memoir of Many Careers in Music*, relates, among other things, the terror Fleisher felt as a successful concert pianist at the height of his career when two of the fingers on his right hand failed to function.

- Rachel Haisley, Doubleday, \$26



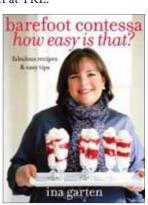
## Bliss in the Kitchen

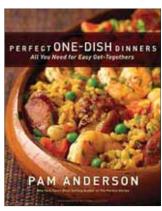


Whether simple or simply lavish, the cookbooks bowing our shelves are positively salivatory (is that a word?). There's *The Essential Thomas Keller* (*Ad Hoc at Home* and *The French Laundry Cookbook* boxed together by Artisan for a mere \$100), as dazzling and award-lavished pair of cookbooks as is imaginable, and on the other end of the spectrum Ina Garten's



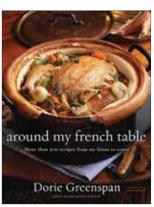
Barefoot Contessa: How Easy Is That? (answer, very—and good, too) (Potter, \$35), or Pam Anderson's simple (there are actually "instant" alternatives contained herein) compilation, Perfect One-Dish Dinners (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$32), to name just two. What follows are a few more of our favorites, all tested with zeal by the staff at TKE.





#### Around My French Table, Dorie Greenspan

Every year one cookbook seems to capture the imagination of people who love to cook and to eat: this year it's James Beard Award winner, Dorie Greenspan's lavish yet simple book on the subject that terrifies us all: French cooking. Greenspan's message seems to be that it needn't be complicated to be good. Everything from a thrown-together grapefruit and lump crab salad to cit-



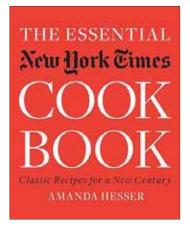
rus berry terrine, veal chop with rosemary to Moules Marinère will not only make any mouth water but also give the reader the courage to try a recipe or two. Greenspan demystifies mousses, clarifies soup techniques and generally brings French home cooking into the realm of possibility for the average American home cook. Large, lush, and filled with colorful stories, tips and photographs, if there is a single



cookbook that stands out this holiday season, *Around My French Table* is that one. – Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$40

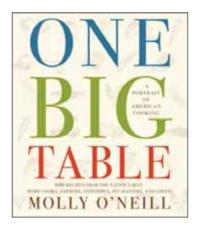
The Essential New York Times Cookbook: Classic Recipes for a New Century, Amanda Hesser

For the novice cook or the veteran, this cookbook will make a great gift. Six years in the making and 1400 recipes tested, the book includes the most noteworthy recipes all the way from the 1850s when the newspaper began covering food to today. Each recipe starts with a story, which makes for fun reading while educating you as well. The book includes both classic and modern recipes all of which look accessible, even for beginners. This is sure to



become a classic. - Sarah Ray, Norton, \$40

One Big Table: 600 Recipes from the Nation's Best Home Cooks, Farmers, Fishermen, Pit Masters and Chefs, Molly O'Neill

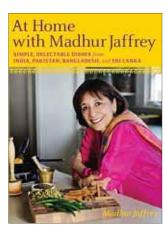


If we are what we eat, then there can't be a more glorious eclectic country than this one, our dishes inspired by traditions from around the world and spiced with flavors from everywhere. And nowhere is our ethnic and culinary diversity more evident than in *The New York Times* writer O'Neill's traveling odyssey of a cookbook. O'Neill follows the highways and byways of this country to find recipes for everything from Chipotle Tartare

Sauce, to Pennsylvania Dutch Red Cabbage, Barbequed Matzo Balls to Tidewater Peanut Soup. A culinary tapestry, this is also a colorful compilation of tales and memorabilia sautéd into one of the most intriguing collections of recipes imaginable. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, \$50

At Home with Madhur Jaffrey: Simple Delectable Dishes from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, Madhur Jaffrey

In what appears to be the theme of the year in kitchens, simplicity, the doyenne of Indian cuisine here makes her previously complicated recipes look easy. Fewer steps, simpler methods, accessible seasoning make Indian and South Asian cooking not just delectable but doable. From chick peas to coconut sauce to curry, stir-fried shrimp to lamb shanks to peanut chutney the exotic looks familiar, appetizing, approachable. I just might try a recipe myself. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$35



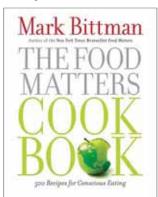
## Bliss in the Kitchen, continued



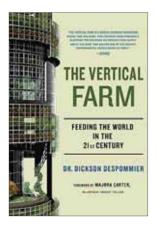
The Food Matters Cookbook: 500 Recipes for Better Living, Mark Bittman

Last year he provided the credo, this year he gives us the means: Eat sustainably by eating seasonally and eating fresh. Cut the meats

down and up the flavor quotient, shed fats and shed your *own* fat, thus sustaining your own life as well as the earth's. These are the lessons Bittman teaches, along with wonderful and creative recipes, tips on everything from pickling to pantry stocking, making ahead and making easy—easy to change the way we cook and eat. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, \$35



#### The Vertical Farm, Dickson Despommier

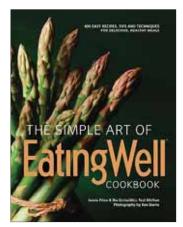


Despommier, a professor of microbiology and public health at Columbia University, has developed an ingenious idea for food production. Imagine a building, even an abandoned one, with floors dedicated to growing fruits and vegetables 365 days a year. Crops are protected from inclement weather, water is reused, jobs are available for local residents, no pesticides or herbicides are employed, use of fossil fuel is reduced, transport and storage eliminated. Imagine such a contained system in non-arable environments, in

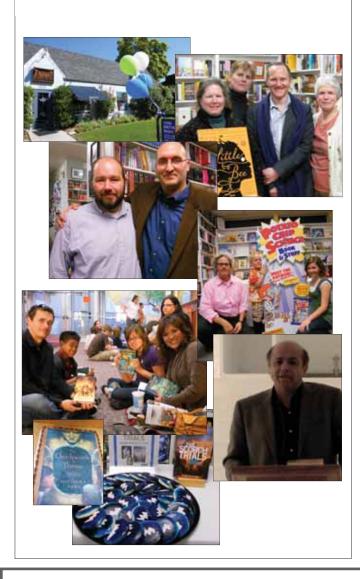
countries that struggle to farm. His original ideas are far-reaching and stimulate thought of what can be, how to feed the world in the 21st century and beyond. – Sue Fleming, Thomas Dunn, \$25.99

The Simple Art of "EatingWell": 400 Easy Recipes, Tips and Techniques for Delicious, Healthy Meals, Jessie Price and the editors of EatingWell

Techniques, recipes (more than 365 of them, most under 45 minutes) full-color photos and quick-cooking guides for seasonal food and vegetables, along with ideas for healthier cooking methods (baking instead of deep-frying, rubs to vanquish salt) chase away the "health food" demons and make eating well synonymous with eating healthy. – Betsy Burton, Countryman, \$35







## SLCC Community Writing Center DECEMBER EVENTS

#### **Radio Essays Workshop**

Thursdays, December 2 & 9, 6-8 p.m. *Cost:* \$30 and registration is required.

Through the Looking Glass: Using Imagination to Write a "Memor" Saturday, December 4, 12-2 p.m. *Cost: Free but registration is requested.* 



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## Art and Life



### Trevor Southey: Reconciliation

Words are important in this retrospective of the works of Trevor Southey. Secret words are etched into the inner cover and into the paintings and etchings themselves. Trevor's own poetry introduces

the sections of a book which is autobiographical as well as a catalogue of his works The essay by fellow Utahn and former student, Mitchell Snow, creates a time-line of Trevor's life and work. Mitchell guides the viewer through Trevor's time in Africa, England, Utah and



California. He paints a word picture of Trevor's spiritual and secular lives. Other essays analyze the art in terms of technique and beauty, but Mitchell's essay explains the works in terms of Trevor's growth as a human being who loves his family, his faith, and his art, discussing the pieces of art individually and as a part of Trevor's spiritualality. Trevor's time spent with the paintings of the Pre-Raphaelites is reflected in his creation of the human form and the ethereal and symbolic nature of his subjects. He searches for community and family through figurative art. I must admit to a personal bias



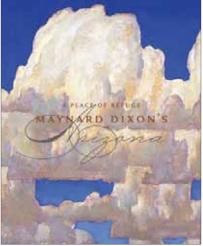


Shell and Shell, 2003, oil on canvas

toward Trevor's works as I sit writing this under an etching given to me on my 65th birthday. The works are uplifting and inspiring. It doesn't matter whether it is the face of an African woman or the modern portraits of Trevor's family, the self portraits or the etchings of rose-hips, the subject matter is peaceful in spite of the upheavals in Trevor's life. This book is a memoir and journey from Africa to California where he is now surrounded by children, grandchildren and good friends in his transplanted English garden.

- Wendy Foster Leigh, Signature, \$80

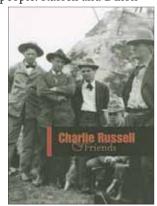
A Place of Refuge: Maynard Dixon's Arizona, Tucson Museum of Art and History, Thomas Brent Smith



Charlie Russell was dean of Western artists in the early 20th century. He gathered around him reputable and disreputable friends but not many of his fellow illustrators or artists. The Denver Art Museum's publication (Charlie Russell and *Friends*, The Petrie Institute of Western American Art, University of Oklahoma Press, \$10.95) ) is comprised of essays targeting his relationship to his protégés and friends. It is

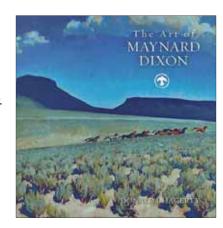
a history of Western expansion and man's relationship with Native Americans and the land. Essay #4 by Thomas Brent Smith is entitled "Old Timer" and "Friend Dixon." Russell is the old-timer and Maynard Dixon is the friend. Smith is a link between these two books. In *A Place of Refuge* he defines the difference between the action painters of horses, battles, dust and guns and the quiet view of landscape, light, weather, and strong people. Russell and Dixon

met at various points in Dixon's career and were not the closest of friends yet their correspondence was folksy and casual. They probably discussed art; however, no record remains of those personal discussions. Dixon lived 20 years after Russell's death and in his final years moved into a new world of Modernism which varied from Russell's works. *A Place of Refuge* shows the maturing of a painter from an illustrator for magazines and billboards to the simplified forms filled with



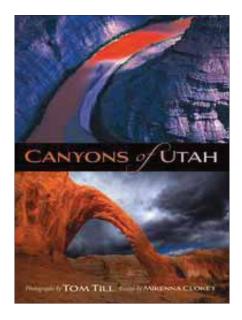
muted colors which we now recognize as specific to Dixon. His life in Arizona is illustrated through his sketches of Native Americans and their world which he experienced in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Dixon's work came alive after leaving the cities for the flat desserts and mesas of the Southwest. His work reflected his desire to be part of the Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures of the Southwest. These two books are a perfect set: Russell's book looks at his relationship to his protégés and fellow artists while Dixon's

book looks at his relationship to both art and the land. A third volume, one both lavish and lovely, is *The Art of Maynard Dixon* (Gibbs Smith, \$75) by Don Hagerty, Dixon's biographer. All three of these books belong on the shelves of anyone in love with American art in general, Western art in particular. – Wendy Foster Leigh, University of Oklahoma Press. \$49.95

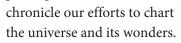


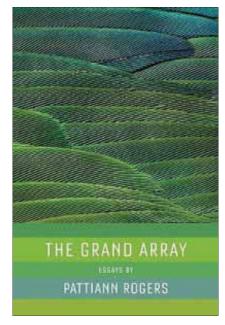
## To The Ends of the Earth

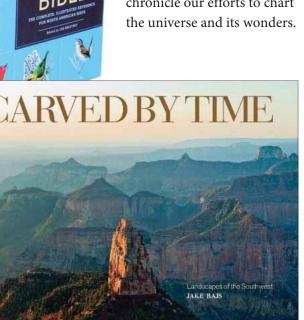




Restless, curious, adventurous, scientists and explorers prod, poke, and pry, examining and testing the limits of this world and perhaps the next as well. In the process, they change the way we view the earth, humankind, and life itself. From Great Migrations by Karen Kostyal (Random, \$50) which details the epic journeys of animals and Bird Songs Bible: The Complete, Illustrated Reference for North American Birds by Les Beletsky (Chronicle \$125) to The Grand Array: Writings on Nature, Science, and Spirit by Pattiann Rogers with essays and reviews on the "grand array of the cosmos;" the breathtaking Canyons of Utah (Fable Valley, \$30) by our own Tom Till; and Jake Rajs' and Hampton Sides' equally glorious *Carved by Time*: Landscapes of the Southwest (Monacelli, \$75), all of these writers and photographers, poets, naturalists, and scientists









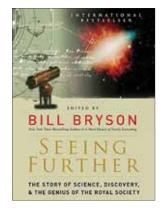
From Great Migrations

BIRD SONGS BIB



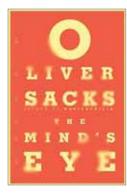
Seeing Further: The Story of Science, Discovery, and the Genius of the Royal Society, edited by Bill Bryson

As eclectic a group of writers as one could wish for—from Richard Dawkins to Margaret Atwood, Neal Stephenson to Stephen Hawking examines the work of members of the Royal Society, among them Darwin, Newton, Einstein, Boyle, Hooke, and Locke. Gravity, the double helix, theorems, the electron, computers.... the stories are as varied as our world



is wide, and the writers fully as interesting—and informative—as the scientists about whom they write. - Betsy Burton, Morrow, \$35

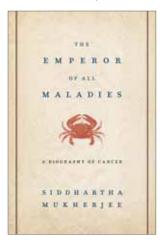
The Mind's Eye, Oliver Sacks



A person can lose a limb and compensate with prosthetics, but what if what you lose—or gain—comes from your brain? Sacks gives us a neurological casebook of his patients and one case that's very personal—a melanoma in his right eye. We have the female concert pianist who can't recognize objects anymore, but with her eyes closed can reproduce past performances; the vital woman whom a stroke rendered speechless (the experience, while frustrating, has enhanced her life); the writer who

overnight lost the ability to read, yet can still write; and Stereo Sue, who's seen in mono all her life—until suddenly the whole world is like a magic eye picture. Every one of these patients is inspiring. They don't have physical scars, but they've lost mental processes that we take for granted. - Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$25.95

The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer, Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee

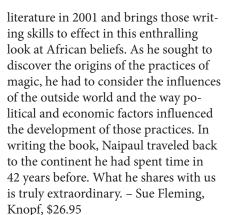


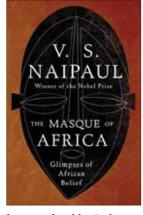
The claim in the title is no exaggeration: this is the thoroughgoing examination of a disease that has existed through history, alternately feared, ignored, diagnosed, chronicled, and treated over and over again. The book is huge—as big as its subject covering the origins, the treatments, the history, and the science of cancer and also the practice of medicine, the relationships between doctors and their patients, the brilliant researchers who are on a hunt for cures. It may be titled a biography but it has the narrative drive and cohesion of a thriller,

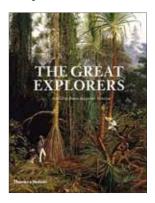
the heft of an epic novel, and is every bit as enthralling as either. - Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$30

The Masque of Africa: Glimpses of African Belief, V. S. Naipaul

For anyone interested in traveling to Africa either by plane or by armchair, this book is a treasure. Naipaul won the Nobel Prize for







The Great Explorers, edited by Robin Hanbury-Tenison

Firsthand accounts, paintings, engravings, and photographs, organized thematically, along with biographies penned by historians and travel writers, chronicle the journeys of the world's great explorers, from Vasco da Gama to Gertrude Bell, Richard Burton to Jacques-Yves Cousteau. The armchair adventurer in your life will sit enchanted over this lavish, heavily illustrated

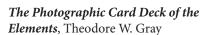
book which takes us through history and across the world with those who discovered and mapped its unknown parts.

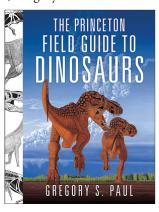
- Betsy Burton, Thames & Hudson \$39.95

The Princeton Field Guide to Dinosaurs, Gregory S. Paul

In field-guide form, 735 dinosaur species are illustrated, described, placed in the context of paleontology by world renowned researcher Paul. For those curious about the creatures that preceded birds on our planet and who thrill to the idea of the latest research on the subject of the dinosaur, this is the gift of a lifetime.

- Betsy Burton, Princeton, \$35





Possibly the coolest way ever to learn chemistry, this full-color deck of the elements can make a seven-foot periodic table (and for those who can't remember how it is arranged, a guide is included). Each card includes a full description of each element, from hydrogen to ununoctium, as well as a brief synopsis of the element's his-

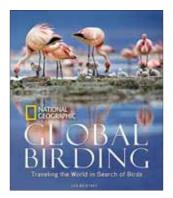


tory. Learn to play Element Scrabble or spell your name with elements (I'm RaCHeLi—radium, carbon, helium, lithium), for good, clean, scientific fun. Color-coded for radioactivity and in a sleek storage box, this is the perfect gift for students, teachers, and anyone who isn't quite sure what boron is. - Rachel Haisley, Wolfram Research, \$24.95

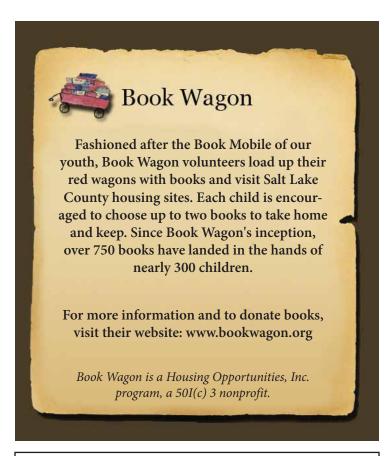
## To The Ends of the Earth, continued



### Global Birding: Traveling the World in Seach of Birds, Les Beletsky



Novices and experienced birders alike will take joy in what is the first of its kind—an international primer for birders, one which describes each continent in terms of its birds and the ways to seek them out, whether via contacts or guides. Filled with sidebars and illustrations, this is, along with Beletsky's *Bird Songs Bible*, the perfect choice for the birders in your life. – Betsy Burton, National Geographic, \$35



## **E-xciting news!**

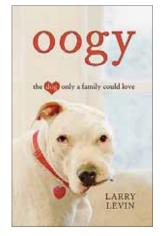
Before the holidays, The King's English will be selling ebooks. Look for an email soon explaining how you can make your e-purchases with us either online or at the bookstore. We're excited to enter this arena, A) because we want to give you everything you want to read and B) because we will be able to offer competitive prices.

## Man's Best Friend



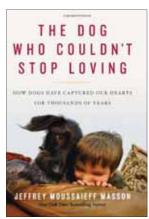
#### Oogy, Larry Levin

When the Levin family went to put their terminally ill cat to sleep, they left the veterinary office with the ugliest dog they had ever seen—a rescued "bait dog" with a mangled, scarred face and only one ear. Barely three months old and with a horrific history, having been saved from a dogfighting ring in Philadelphia, Oogy (an affectionate way of saying "ugly") lacked any malice or resentment. His personality was a stark contrast to his face: gentle, loving, and essentially perfect. This tale of one dog's unconditional, guileless love is full of happy tears, sad tears and angry



tears, as well as the complete sincerity of an innocent creature's affection. A warm, beautiful story of hope and redemption, *Oogy* is a must-read this holiday season. – Rachel Haisley, Hachette, \$19.99

## The Dog Who Couldn't Stop Loving: How Dogs Have Captured Our Hearts for Thousands of Years, Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson



Jeffrey Masson's story begins with Benjy, a yellow Labrador who obeyed exactly four commands (sit, lay down, stay, up). He had been extensively trained, first as a service dog for the blind, then as a seizure alert dog, but Benjy failed to want to do anything except lick the faces of—and play with—any living creature in his vicinity. He won over Masson's family easily with his ordinary, yet extraordinary, affection, sleeping in the same bed as the family's youngest son to ward off the boy's nightmares, joining the family

in morning cuddle sessions, and greeting every new acquaintance as though a long-lost friend. As Masson experienced the strong bond between his family and Benjy, he began to wonder; what makes dogs love us the way they do? Part heartwarming memoir

and part riveting history of the domestication of our closest companion, Masson's book describes the boundless, guileless love of dogs. You'll want to read it only in the company of one. – Rachel Haisley, HarperCollins, \$25.99



Masson and Benjy



## The Rest Is History

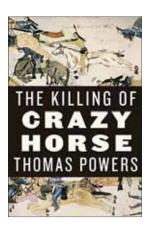


Whether your history comes from nonfiction or fiction, those interested in the past have an abundance to choose from. Last month we reviewed Ron Chernow's *Washington* (Penguin, \$40) and Joseph Ellis' *First Family* (Knopf, \$27.95) as well as Leslie Brod's sparkling *Irrepressible: The Life and Times of Jessica Mitford* (Counterpoint, \$28). Also on the shelves at TKE are a couple of novels that will illuminate the past as only fiction can along with some histories that read like novels and will engage readers of both.



#### The Killing of Crazy Horse, Thomas Powers

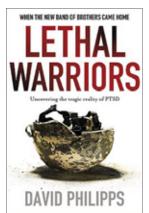
Crazy Horse is perhaps best known as one of the leaders of the Native Americans who vanquished General Custer and the 7th Calvary at the Battle of Little Big Horn. His story is framed against the history of the Plains Indians, and the ever-expanding boundaries of the United States during the middle- and late-1800s. Powers'



exploration of the intricacies of Native American society reveals the complex dynamic and rich cultural history of these tribes and the tragic consequences of the settlement of the Plains by the whites. That Crazy Horse was ultimately betrayed by people he was at one time close to is at the heart of the ultimate betrayal of all the tribes living on the Plains. Powers' book is huge, detailed and illuminating—a glimpse into a past not that far removed from our world today. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, \$30

#### Lethal Warriors, David Philipps

Known 60 years ago as the Band of Brothers, this army unit from Fort Carson, Colorado, has renamed itself the Lethal Warriors and has experienced the worst of the violence in Iraq. Fatalities from war have ranged from one in three wounded during the Civil War and World War I to today's deaths of 1 in 15 in Iraq and Afghanistan. The relatively lower rate indicates better personal protection



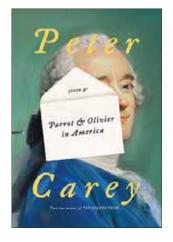
and smaller skirmishes compared to open combat in large battles. What is emerging, however, is the high rate of suicide and of aggressive behavior by returning soldiers, along with the lack of preparedness for their re-entry into civilian life. Philipps takes us close to four soldiers returning to Fort Carson, to their leaders, and to the unbelievable crime rate in the adjoining town, Colorado Springs. Reading this account is helpful in understanding the problem of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as well as the solu-

tions offered for the military, the soldiers, and the families involved.

– Sue Fleming, Palgrave, \$25

#### Parrot & Olivier in America, Peter Carey

Olivier is an aristocratic orphan escaping his fate in France by ostensibly investigating the penal system in America. Parrot is a ragamuffin English orphan with the skill of a printer's devil. Mathilde, artist, prostitute, wife, orphan, represents female survival in this revolutionary time. The new world opens up opportunity for Parrot and Mathilde, while Olivier views the new world through French eyes, taking notes and writing his observations, but unwilling to surrender wholeheartedly to "traders and woodsmen." Carey has captured

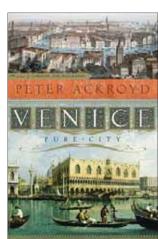


the open nature of early America as viewed from both sides of the Atlantic. Alexis de Tocqueville is the counterpoint to Olivier and Carey pays homage to him in his acknowledgment. However, I suggest readers find *Domestic Manners of the Americans* by Fanny Trollope, who was writing in the 1840s about the rough-and-tumble world of Ohio, for a closer and more irreverent view of the American frontier. Her picture of tobacco-spitting, crude Americans made even Dickens and Mark Twain laugh. She was reviled by American readers and became a best seller in England. Perhaps Peter Carey should think of a sequel to Parrot and Olivier.

- Wendy Foster Leigh, Alfred A. Knopf, \$26.95

### Venice: Pure City, Peter Ackroyd

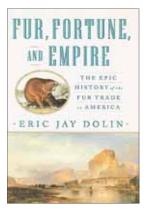
As in Peter Ackroyd's *London*, his new book *Venice* is organized around themes such as "city as origin" and "city as refuge" rather than chronologically. History and context are provided in each chapter and Ackroyd serves as the ultimate guide. He leads us through the history of the city, from the first refugees arriving in the mists of the lagoon in the 4th century to the rise of a great mercantile state and its trading empire, the wars against Napoleon, and the tourist invasions of today. He explores the



future of this sinking city, making the reader consider visiting beautiful Venice before it is too late!— Sue Fleming, Knopf, \$40

## The Rest Is History, continued





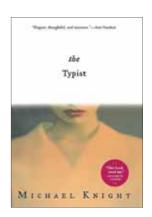
Fur, Fortune, and Empire, Eric Jay Dolin

In 1609 Henry Hudson, sailing up the river that would bear his name, worried that he had not found the Orient and would disappoint those supporting his explorations. As it turned out, he discovered a different kind of wealth and trade—furs. Such began the epic history of fur trade in North America. Dolin traces the rise and fall of the American fur industry from the first Dutch encounters with the Indians to the rise of the conservation movement in the late

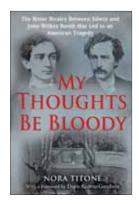
19th century. Like his earlier book, *Leviathan*, Dolin writes with a scholarly grace linking American history and natural history and fills his book with a cast of eccentric Western-type characters. A wonderful read. – Sue Fleming, Norton, \$29.95

### The Typist, Michael Knight

Richard Howorth of Square Books in Oxford, Mississippi, recently told me that this lovely little book was possessed of the depth and breadth of a much larger novel. He was right. Set in Japan and peopled with a handful of characters—mostly American soldiers and the Japanese women with whom they interact—its small dramas manage to convey military service, occupation, the political movements sweeping the postwar world, and the anguish occasioned by the disruptions of war's aftermath.



Van is a typist and thus privy to the correspondence of characters who moved the world during those years. His roommate becomes involved with a young Japanese woman while Van himself becomes friends with the 8-year-old son of General MacArthur. Van's narrative voice is thoughtful, his state that dreamlike condition that the young experience when they believe they're marking time, little realizing that they're not merely waiting but living through time that will mark them forever. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly, \$20



My Thoughts Be Bloody, Nora Titone

So why did he do it? What was behind John Wilkes Booth in his drive to assassinate President Lincoln? Titone has uncovered, through letters, private diaries and reminiscences of the Booth family, a startling personal story of what drove Booth to the crime, in addition to his rage against Union victory and possible black citizenship. The tale becomes almost Shakespearean in nature in its exposure of a father's and brothers' turmoil, uncover-

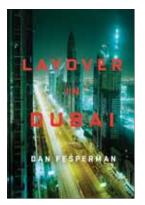
ing new reasons why John Wilkes Booth became this country's most notorious assassin. A must-read for those who love Civil War history. – Sue Fleming, Free Press, \$30



## The Greatest Escape: Mysteries, Thrillers, Great Reads and Speculative Fiction



Layover in Dubai, Dan Fesperman

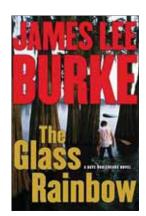


Dubai... oasis in the desert, business hub, stopover destination for bean counter, Sam Keller. Sam was given the task of reining in loose cannon Charlie Hatcher, but now Charlie's dead. For reasons he can't fathom, Sam is wanted not only by the Dubai authorities but also by his own people. Aided by Sharaf, an Emirati policeman, Keller is dangled as bait in front of Russian mobsters, American officials, and even his own boss. For his protection he's thrust into a culture which keeps family close and runs on wasta (favours).

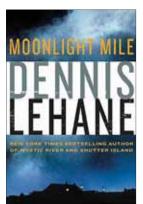
As Charlie Hatcher's deadline for 'atonement' approaches, Sam and Sharaf are up against a group that wants all the players off the board before their big score. – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$25.95

#### The Glass Rainbow, James Lee Burke

Dave Robicheaux and Clete Percel are faced with the brutal murders of seven young women. The last one killed, a high school honor student, doesn't fit the profile of the other victims which leads Robicheaux to suspect there is more than one killer on the loose. To complicate matters, Clete appears to have gone off the edge and is accused of murdering a local crack dealer. Dave's adopted daughter, Alafair, has taken up with a famed novelist and his protégé who has recently been



released from prison, which only adds to Dave's anxiety. Burke is at his overwrought best in this nuanced and gripping installment in the Louisiana series of which he is the master. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon&Schuster, \$25.99



#### Moonlight Mile, Dennis Lehane

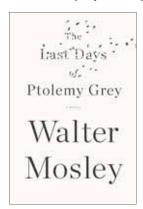
Twelve years have brought many changes in the lives of Patrick Kenzie and Angie Gennaro. Marriage, a baby girl, a less-than-successful PI business, and lingering uneasiness over their last case together. On the one hand, they found missing Amanda McCready, but, on the other hand, returning her to her unsuitable mother was not a desirable end. When Amanda again goes missing, Patrick and Angie must once again face the conse-



quences of that decision. Lehane is at the top of his form in this newest installment of his Boston-based mystery series.

– Barbara Hoagland, Morrow, \$26.99

#### The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey, Walter Mosley

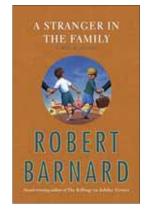


Walter Mosley is an accomplished mystery writer, best known for his fictional character Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins. And not surprisingly there is a mystery to be solved in Mosley's new book about an elderly black man living in squalor on the fringes of dementia—who killed Ptolemy Grey's great nephew and why? But the action on that front feels incidental to the story's main deeply felt focus, which is a meditation on the dignity and indignities of old age, as well as the transforming power of love. As Grey's past and pres-

ent lives interface, the reader is caught up in his personal drama of living out his long days as an African-American man. While the manner in which Ptolemy Grey attempts to retrieve his memories isn't entirely believable (think *Flowers for Algernon*), the memories themselves are heartbreakingly beautiful. Give Mosley his due for turning a phrase like this: "her yellow dress made its own party." – Ann Cannon, Riverhead, 25.95

#### A Stranger in the Family, Robert Barnard

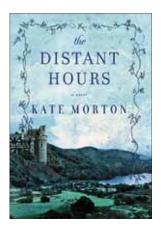
Kit Philipson, who has lived with a loving family, learns that he was adopted as a child. After the death of the only parents he has known, he not only meets his birth family but also learns that a child was abducted in Sicily around the time of his adoption. Vague memories come to him, but it takes newspaper research, his real family, and the acquaintance of a Mafia don to put the pieces together. Family relationships are never simple, and Kit ponders over the duty of parents to children and children to whomever they



think their parents are. Who is his true mother? Father? Where does he belong? The mystery reflects on family values minus any sentimentality or preaching. It made me want to reread early Barnard mysteries. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Scribner, \$24 Editor's note: they're all terrific!

#### The Distant Hours, Kate Morton

Kate Morton has created a novel within a novel in this rich family saga. When a letter written in 1941 arrives at the Burchill home 70 years late, it begins a series of events leading to Milderhurst Castle. Edie Burchill discovers her own mother's connection to the castle and the writing of *The True History of the Mud Man* by Raymond Blythe. Blythe's daughters now govern the castle and hide the secrets of the book, a wartime romance, along with family skeletons.

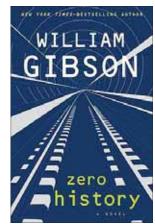




They live in genteel poverty hiding behind the covered mote, concealing the family warts behind closed doors. Edie Burchill is about to dig into those secrets and find connections with her own mother. This is a thick book, perfect for cold winter nights. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Atria Books, \$26

### Zero History, William Gibson

Containing elements of industrial espionage and replete with shadowy arms dealers, *Zero History* is futuristic, yet is set in a world easily recognizable through reading the business section of any national paper. Hubertus Bigend operates a global marketing firm. Three characters work with or for him in the quest for domination of denim. Denim—think government contracts—is the concrete product that opens up a world of arms dealers. Bigend, as powerful as he may be in



the private world, finds danger in international conspiracies. Hollis, Milgrim, and Garreth have worked for Bigend before, and each has his/her own foibles and has come close to obliteration more than once in the quest for defense department contracts. Gibson's novels are speculative fiction in the true sense of the word. Not only do they speculate about the future of science and commerce, they ring true to current newspaper headlines. – Wendy Foster Leigh, G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$26.95



We had many, many wonderful customers come by to say hello to President Carter and get their copy of *White House Diary* signed, but this little darling was our favorite by far.



## Children's Books for the Holidays

by Ann Edwards Cannon



Fletcher and the Snowflake Christmas, Julia Rawlinson, illustrated by Tiphanie Beeke

Several of the staff here at TKE have commented that Fletcher is their favorite new book of the 2010 holiday season. It's easy to see why. This winning story about a fox who worries that Santa won't find a family of rabbits who've moved to a new burrow is beautifully complemented by Beeke's

textured illustrations. A real gem. - Greenwillow, \$16.99



*Jackie's Gift*, Sharon Robinson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis

Another favorite, *Jackie's Gift*, is the true story of the lifelong friendship that develops between a Jewish family and Jackie Robinson when the legendary ball player makes a generous but misguided gesture by giving them a Christmas tree. Heartwarming without being schmaltzy in the least,

this special book deserves more attention than it will probably receive. Lovely. – Viking, \$16.99

## Santa Duck and his Merry Helpers, David Milgrim

Time to flap your wings and quack for joy because Nicholas (a.k.a. Santa Duck) is back and busier than ever as he helps collect wish lists for the Big Red-Suited One. Only problem is Nicholas' little brothers and sister want to join in



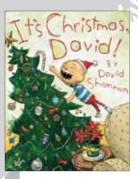
all the reindeer games. What's a (Santa) duck to do with a paddling of meddling ducklings? Happy holiday fun!

- Putnam, \$12.99



#### The Christmas Giant, Steve Light

When Santa asks Humphrey (a giant) and Leetree (an elf) to grow a fir for Christmastown's favorite celebration, the merry pair is all over it. But when disaster strikes—as disaster inevitably does—Humphrey and Leetree must improvise in a very BIG way. We love the cartoony woodcut feel of this book's illustrations. – Candlewick Press. \$15.99

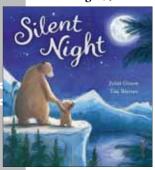


It's Christmas, David!, David Shannon

Christmas is coming, and David knows he better watch out, he better not cry, he better not pout, (obviously you know why). But David? Dude. Just. Cannot. Help. Himself. Wherever David goes, trouble follows. Will Santa pay the poor kid a visit? Shannon's newest book is guaranteed to resonate with the

5-year-old boy in each of us. - Blue Sky Press, \$16.99

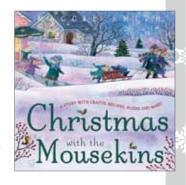
Silent Night, Juliet Groom, illustrated by Tim Warnes



A contemporary variation on the beloved carol, *Silent Night* invites us to view the beauties of the natural world through the eyes of a mother bear and her cub. Good will and the wish for peace on earth infuse each page of this handsome, sweetnatured book. – Good Books, \$16.99

*Christmas with the Mousekins*, Maggie Smith

The subtitle of this happy new picture book says it all: "A Story with Crafts, Recipes, Poems, and More!" The story itself is mainly an excuse for the rest of the book. Which is just fine. Families will enjoy poring over Mousekins' busy illustrations, as well as trying out suggestions for holiday activities. – Knopf, \$15.99



**Snowmen at Christmas**, Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner

Huzzah! Here come the Buehners' world-famous famous snowmen straight from the *New York Times* Bestseller List! Now appearing in board book! – Dial, \$6.99

**Snowmen All Year**, Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner

Finally a snowman book I can leave out all year! The Buehners team up again to create magic. The narrator wants a snowman to hang out with all year long. This wishful thinking is cleverly worded and the illustrations are perfect. A must-have for picture book fanatics!

- Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$16.99







## Middle Reader

by Margaret Brennan Neville

### Virals, Kathy Reichs

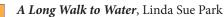
Reichs, well known in the adult world for her Temperance Brennan mysteries, has given Dr. Brennan a niece! Tory is smart, intuitive and psyched to get to the bottom of the mystery surrounding Coop the Wolf-dog. And, when the kids start manifesting some dog-like tendencies the race for answers gets even scarier. This fast-paced adventure takes some unusual turns, keeping the reader turning the pages. It has something for everyone. Penguin, \$17.99 (10 and up)

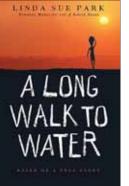
### Hero, Mike Lupica

Sports novelist Mike Lupica is taking up superheroes! Billy's dad dies in a mysterious plane accident, and he quickly realizes that there are a lot of gaps in what he thinks he knew about his dad. It turns out his father was a superhero, and now Billy is supposed to take up the cape. The same people that wanted his dad dead are desperate to keep Billy alive. Fair warning: the ending is a real cliffhanger! - Penguin \$17.99 (9 and up)









When Linda Sue Park met Salva Dut, she knew his was a story she wanted to share. Salva has to flee his destroyed village to find his family and safety, literally walking across Africa to find a refuge. Nya has to walk more than eight hours a day to fetch water for her family. Their stories are both rooted in the ethnic violence of Sudan. Park's powerful narrative will make many readers question how we exist in the world. This is a small book that has a large

impact, a book worth reading and talking about. - HMH, \$16 (10 and up)

#### Sugar and Ice, Kate Messner

The Brilliant Fall of Giana Z introduced us to Kate Messner, so we were eager to see her new book. Kate loves ice skating, and when she is offered a scholarship to an elite school in Lake Placid, it is an opportunity she cannot pass up. But competition is everything, and mean girls rule in her new school. Kate can't even seek comfort. from her old friends because she is never home anymore, and her dream is turning

into a nightmare. Messner creates characters that we would like to get know better. - Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (9 and up)



## Pop-Ups



by Margaret Brennan Neville

### Beauty and the Beast, Robert Sabuda

Paper art genius Sabuda turns his attention to the much-loved fairy tale, Beauty and the Beast. All of his trademark details are present in this absolutely amazing book. Pop-ups do not get any better than this. - S&S, \$29.99 (any age)

Villains: A Pop-up Storybook (Star Wars: The Clone Wars), Michael Caputo (paper artist)

Last year it was heroes, and this

year the other side! The villians are using the power of the dark side to make their evil selves pop out in this perfect gift for the Stars Wars groupie in your life. – Penguin, \$24.99 (any age)



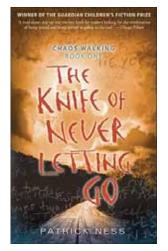
#### DC Super Heroes, Matthew Reinhart

Reinhart, following in Sabuda's footsteps, has created a tribute to comic book heroes. This pop-up is just like the iconic heroes in the book: colorful, unique (light-up Bat signal) and sure to save the day because it is a perfect holiday gift! There are over 25 "pop-ups" in this special edition created to honor the 75th anniversary of DC comics. - Little Brown, \$29.99 (any age)



## Young Adult





The Knife of Never Letting Go: Chaos Walking: Book One, Patrick Ness

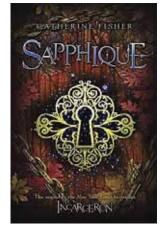
Todd lives in a world where everything that every man is thinking can be heard all the time. This everpresent view of every male is called the "Noise." When Todd figures out that there are holes in the "Noise," he realizes that his world is not what he thought. His society has gone bad, and it will be complicated for Todd to make the right choices. While the story is violent and disturbing (think The Hunger Games) it is also creative, exciting. The ending will kill you, but

you will not have to wait to find out what happens next; books two and three in the series are on our shelves as well.

- Margaret Brennan Neville, Candlewick, \$9.99 (14 and up)

### Sapphique, Catherine Fisher

Finn and Claudia finally made it out of the prison that is Incarceron and Claudia is beginning to question whether Finn is really her long-lost prince. Back in the living prison, Keiro is frantically looking for the way out, as the battle for the hearts and minds of the people continues. Fisher is one of the most creative writers publishing today. This compelling story, set in such an unusual environment and peopled with complex characters, gives even her youngest readers something to think about.



- Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$17.99 (12 and up)



Mindblind, Jennifer Roy



Nathaniel is a highly-functioning "Aspie," a 14-year-old with Asperger's syndrome. He read somewhere that to be a true genius (Nathaniel's IQ is a staggering 182!) you have to make a contribution to the world. He has an interesting array of friends, a loving mother, and a father who does not believe in autism. When his dad forces Nathaniel to go to a party, things spiral out of control. But math, music, and a good therapist save the day. Roy (Yellow Star) has created a character

that you will never forget. From a reader's point of view, Nathaniel's best contribution is simply being in the world!

- Margaret Brennan Neville, Cavendish, \$15.99 (14 and up)



Jenna and Jonah's Fauxmance, Emily Franklin and Brendan Halpin

The teen lit team Emily Franklin and Brendan Halpin are just getting started as the next big thing in the young adult world. Their latest novel tells the story of Charlie and Fielding who play two hopelessly-in-love teenagers on a corny, family-friendly TV show. The only problem is that they can't stand each other in real life—although that doesn't stop their devoted fans or, for that matter, the paparazzi, from obsessively scrutinizing their every move. When

their cover is finally blown, what will happen to their careers, their families, and their pretend romance? Told in Franklin and Halpin's trademark alternating voices, this fast-paced, original tale of Hollywood love, loathing, and redemption will have you snorting with laughter just in time for Valentine's Day. - Rachel Haisley. Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (14 and up)











The Kingfisher Illustrated Horse and Pony Encyclopedia, Sandy Ransford

This fully illustrated guide to all things equine is a must-have for any horse enthusiast. Covering everything from equestrian history and biology to the care and riding of beautiful horses, it is chock-full of practical hands-on advice. A visually enticing encyclopedia, it provides a fun learning experience for readers of all ages. And why do you never look a gift horse in the mouth? Check page 8. It's awesome. Also, see page 17 to learn the definition of "Piebald." - Rachel Haisley, Kingfisher, \$24.99

## **Events for Children & Young Adults**

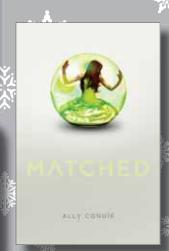


## R.E.A.D. Dogs Storytime

**Saturday, December 4, 11 a.m.** Join us the first Saturday of every month for a special storytime with R.E.A.D. dogs from Intermountain Therapy Animals. These friendly dogs love to snuggle and be cuddled while someone is reading to them.



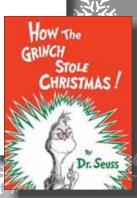
**Saturday, December 4, 2 p.m.** Celebrate the publication of *Matched* by Ally Condie. Condie, one of our talented local authors, will read from and sign her new novel for young adults—the first in a highly anticipated trilogy—about Cassia, a 17-year-old girl who's spent her life waiting to learn who "The Society" will select as her ideal mate, only to find herself falling in love with someone else.



## A Seussical Afternoon

Thursday, December 9, 4-6 p.m.

Rob Eckman, our resident storyteller extraordinaire, will present a collection of classic Dr. Seuss stories, capping it off with *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*.



## Friday Fun for Kids at the King's! Friday, December 10, 4 p.m. Children, ages 3-8,

will create their own *No-Bake Gingerbread House* with author
Lisa Anderson and enjoy a
gingerbread-y storytime. *Registration is required, along*with a \$5 fee to cover materials.





## **Urban Fantasy Author Richelle Mead**

**Wednesday, December 15, 7 p.m.** *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of urban fantasy books for adults and teens, Mead will read from and sign the epic finale in her #1 international bestselling "Vampire Academy" series, *Last Sacrifice*. *This event is free and open to the public. The first 100 customers who pre-order Last Sacrifice from The King's English will receive one (1) V.I.P. wristband. At the Salt Lake City Main Library.* 



**Tuesday, December 28, 7 p.m.** Join us for the launch of *The Lost Saint*, the second book in "The Dark Divine" series by Salt Lake author Bree Despain. Having already won the hearts of readers in Despain's first book, paranormal couple Grace and Daniel return with exciting new challenges and hardships to overcome.





### INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS

Kathy Ashton
Betsy Burton
Anne Brillinger
Aaron Cance
Ann Cannon
Jerry Delaney
Rob Eckman

Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Wendy Foster Leigh
Sally Larkin
Paula Longhurst

Jenny Lyons
Robert Morreall
Margaret Brennan
Neville
DawnAnn Owens
Sarah Ray
Kimberly Snow

L

## Signed Copies Make Great Gifts



We have limited quantities of signed books by Caralyn & Mark Buehner, Ann Cannon, Kristen Chandler, James Dashner, Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, Jessica Day George, Shannon Hale, Jennifer and Matthew Holm, Matthew Kirby, Leslie Lammle, Rick Riordan, Sarah Deford Williams, Sara Zarr and more!



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## Shop with us for the holidays!



# Gifts Framing Christmas decorations

Visit us after stopping by King's English

Gallery open Monday thru Saturday 10am-6pm