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THE Inkslinger

Late Winter 2011



THE WASHINGTON ADVENTURES OF AN INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLER or How I Met the President Not Once but Twice (it's true!)

by Betsy Burton

Putting the final touches on the *Inkslinger* and including the dates for our **February Sale**, which falls on Presidents' Day Weekend this year, reminded me of my own President's Day not long ago—two of them actually, incredible as that might seem. It happened like this: One day last fall when I was deep in a book, the phone rang. As I'd already fielded calls from two political campaigns soliciting money, my tone was testy as I barked, "Hello?"

"Is this Elizabeth Burton?" a spritely female voice inquired.

I knew it, another solicitor. "Yes, this is BETSY Burton."

"This is the White House calling." She sounded young, really young—about 12.

As my mind searched through friends' voices for the identity of the one who had decided this would be a fine day for a practical joke, I almost said, "Sure, and I'm Michelle Obama." But something stopped me—some instinct for caution—and I echoed the words I had just heard. "The White House?"

There was incredulity in my tone and reassurance in hers as she told me her name and the reason for her call. She wanted to know whether I'd be interested (INTERESTED? I thought hysterically) in flying to Washington the next day to participate in a "backyard discussion" with President Obama.

Now, I'm not normally a groupie. Hollywood stars (with the possible exception of Robert Redford) don't make my heart race, and I've met enough authors over the years that only the mightiest (Margaret

Atwood, E. L. Doctorow, for instance) send me into fibrillation. But the mere thought of actually MEETING Barack Obama was enough to make me swoon. Some combination of lofty intelligence and wry humor, gravitas and that teasing smile

you sometimes see on TV, not to mention the hope he offers to a beleaguered nation (and, of course, his good looks) just does me in. "Backyard discussion?" I parroted, thinking, if I can't do better than to repeat everything the caller says to me, she'll rescind the invitation.

She didn't rescind it and I was among 14 participants who went to Washington for a backyard colloquium—some mothers of children with medical conditions, some uninsurable adults from different walks of life, some medical and law students, and one other small business owner. We gathered at Health and Human Services at 7 a.m., did interviews alongside Kathleen Sebelius (down-to-earth, intelligent, kind), and then were bused off to Virginia—where we met with President Obama. He spoke about health care and then asked us questions, took questions from us about our particular

Continued on page 2



UPCOMING EVENTS

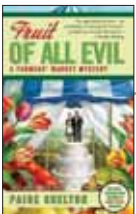
**SALE!
SALE!
SALE!**

Semi-Annual Sale and Friday on 15th!

Thursday through Sunday, February 17-20 Hardcover books are 30% off; 40% off for three or more. Everything else is 10% off. Plus, on Friday, enjoy special discounts with 15th & 15th merchants.

West of Here

Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m. Jonathan Evison will present his epic new novel.



Paige Shelton

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m. Local mystery writer Shelton will read

from and sign her latest book, *Fruit of All Evil*.

* See page 5 for more spring events



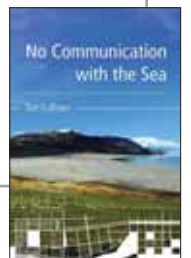
Rita Mae Brown

Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.

Bestselling author Rita Mae Brown presents her new mystery, *Hiss of Death*.

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.

Salt Lake City native and urban planner Tim Sullivan will read from and sign his book, *No Communication with the Sea*. Sullivan has reported for several Western newspapers and magazines, including *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *High Country News*. He currently lives in Oakland, California. See our review on page 8 and meet the author March 31.



See Kids' Events,
page 17 & 20

Event details at www.kingsenglish.com

THE WASHINGTON ADVENTURES OF AN INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLER (continued)

Continued from page 1

issues with health care, and about the bill he was proposing. I spoke for a couple of minutes about the importance of providing health care for the employees of small businesses and the economic impossibility of doing so, the ways the Affordable Health Care Act would help. I wondered aloud why the media was presenting such a biased, negative view of the act. President Obama asked me questions and I answered. Friends who saw the subsequent video said I appeared calm; apparently it wasn't obvious to viewers that my pulse was beating in my throat and the blood thrumming in my ears. Afterward he posed for a picture with me, and I nearly handed him the book I'd brought to give him (*Ransom*, by David Malouf, my favorite book of the year at that point, one that reimagines *The Iliad's* tale of Priam's determination to rescue the body of his son from Achilles, thus looking at the human price of war—something I knew he'd believe to be important). But I just didn't have the guts. After he moved on I gave it to an aide who promised to make sure he received it, and he did—I received a thank you note from him not long ago which is framed and hanging on my wall. End of adventure—or so I believed.

Fast-forward four months. I'm back in Washington, this time to attend a January board meeting of the American Booksellers Association, to be followed by Winter Institute, the annual educational meeting of independent booksellers. We board members have been alerted to the fact that there's a slim possibility we'll be asked to present books to the White House library. Tradition has it that during Herbert Hoover's first night in the White House, restless and unable to sleep, he searched high and low for a good book to read. Unsuccessful and frustrated, he finally asked a guard if he could borrow one.



From left to right: Sarah Bagby, ABA President Michael Tucker, Ken White, ABA Vice President Becky Anderson, Barbara Meade, Beth Puffer, President Obama, Tom Campbell, Betsy Burton, Dan Chartrand, and ABA CEO Oren Teicher at the presentation to the White House Library.

I received an e-mail from our CEO, Oren Teicher, late one night. There was a growing possibility that we'd be invited to the White House the next day. He needed our full legal names, Social Security numbers, and DOBs along with our picks for books to present personally to the President. I responded with my information and my book choices: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and *Foreign Bodies* by Cynthia Ozick.

Needless to say, I didn't sleep much that night. None of us did. We were whisked to the White House in cabs and waited nervously in the West Wing, looking around in disbelief as if we had been set down in Antarctica or Versailles. Finally, we were summoned down the hall, and there was President Obama at the door to the Oval Office, hand outstretched to greet us. One by one we shook his hand and when it was my turn he cocked his head and said, "Hey, I know you." He waited a beat, and when I was too tongue-tied to respond (a 64-year-old blushing teenager), he added with that same teasing smile, "But you might not remember me."

A sudden hot flash turned my blush beet red as I laughed and told him that I DID remember him.



If you'd like to see more of my backyard adventure ...

There's a photo on page 1 and a video link: **The Affordable Care Act & The Patient's Bill of Rights** | **The White House** <http://bit.ly/fHU34v>

Or just type in "Backyard Discussion on Health Care Reform Falls Church," play the video, or, if you just want proof I actually spoke to President Obama, play minutes 31-32 (I do it every night before bed).

Continued on page 3

or How I Met the President Not Once but Twice (it's true!) (continued)

Continued from page 2

We lined up in the Oval Office and one by one presented him with the books we'd brought. When Barbara Meade from Politics & Prose (a fabulous independent bookstore in DC), gave him the new Edmund Morris biography of *Roosevelt*, he said, "Loved the first two; I can't wait to read this one."

A president who READS, I breathed to myself, and exchanged looks of joy with one of my colleagues. Michael Tucker, the ABA Board President, gave him *Atlantic* by Simon Winchester, two other board members presented books, and then it was my turn. I handed him *Cutting for Stone*. "Tell me about it," he said.

I began to do so, saying it was one of my favorite books of the decade, and that it had been chosen by our association's Indie Next List as the best novel of the past year. I talked about the setting (Ethiopia and inner-city New York), the colorful, sprawling cast of characters, the fact that it involved the world of medicine. I mean, there I was, hand-selling a book to the President of the United States.

He said it sounded great, and that he'd like nothing more than to take an afternoon off to read it (it sounded like a heartfelt wish and I'll bet it was). He conversed with each of us, was charming, erudite, interesting and interested. But it was when Becky Anderson (Anderson's Bookshop in Naperville, IL) and Beth Puffer (Bank Street Books in New York) gave him books for Sasha and Malia that



he really came to life. He asked intent questions and followed us to the door, telling them how much he needed good recommendations for his daughters, how important he felt it was to keep them reading at or above their grade level. "I've been reading *The Life of Pi* with Sasha," he told us, and when asked if the philosophical bits put her off, answered that no, she had asked questions and seemed interested. We all sighed like the animated teapots in Disney movies. What a father. What a smart man. What a President.

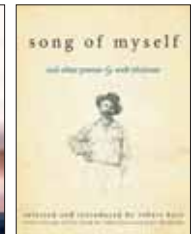
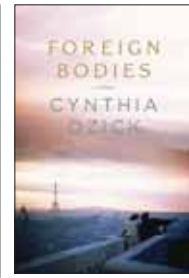
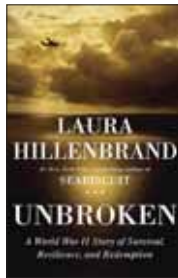
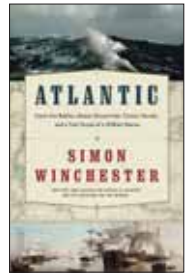
The rest of Winter Institute was a blur. Oh, it was great to talk to colleagues, and I learned a lot as I always do at book meetings. But it was hard to focus. It still is. I manage to talk to customers about books and to read at night, to converse with my friends and family with some modicum of attention, but a part of me is still somewhere else. In Washington D.C. where I had the adventure of a lifetime—at least a bookseller's lifetime.

Here is the list of books we presented to the President and the booksellers who recommended them:

Atlantic by Simon Winchester (Michael Tucker, Books, Inc., San Francisco, CA)

Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (Dan Chartrand, Water Street Books, Exeter, NH)

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese and *Foreign Bodies* by Cynthia Ozick (Betsy Burton, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT)



Song of Myself, poems of Walt Whitman by Robert Hass (Ken White, San Francisco State University Bookstore, San Francisco, CA)



The Storyteller by Patricia Reilly Giff and *The Danger Box* by Blue Balliett (Beth Buffer, Bank Street Books, New York, NY)

A Nest for Celeste by Henry Cole, *The Candy-makers* by Wendy Mass, and *Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper (Becky Anderson, Anderson's Bookshops, Naperville, IL)



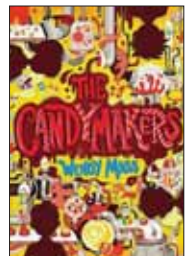
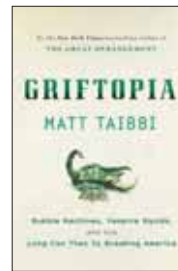
Griftpia by Matt Taibbi (Tom Campbell, The Regulator Bookshop, Durham, NC)

Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak, new translation by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky (Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS)



Washington by Ron Chernow (Oren Teicher, ABA CEO, Tarrytown, NY)

Colonel Roosevelt by Edmund Morris (Barbara Meade, Politics and Prose, Washington, D.C.)

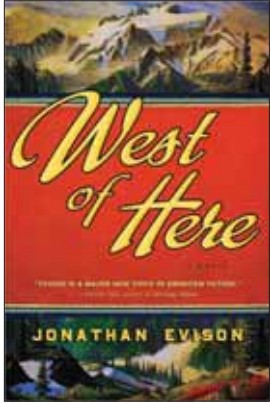


CURRENT TITLES

FICTION

West of Here, Jonathan Evison

1890 Washington: a cast of characters, white and Native American, populate a town and the surrounding wilderness, envisioning the creation of a new Seattle. 2006 Washington: descendants of the

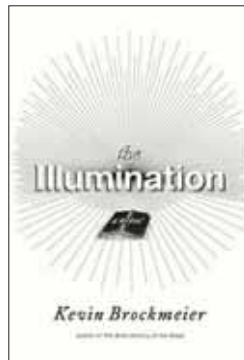


original settlers live out their lives on the landscape created by their forebears, lives that at first glance seem petty, despairing. History and high adventure abound, but human comedy is the fulcrum on which *West of Here* balances as we watch people's dreams turn to dust while redemption lurks in unexpected places. The words creation and destruction take on new meaning as we watch a dam become reality, see the outcome of that reality, watch what people assumed to be progress turn into a new wilderness— that of shopping malls and parking

lots. Evison has created a saga of the American dream with a vengeance in *West of Here*—and has managed to make us laugh and cry in the process. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin, \$24.95 *Editor's note: Jonathan Evison will read from his book on Thursday, March 3, 7 p.m.*

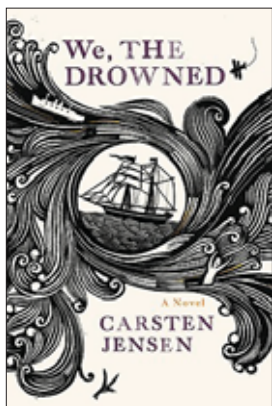
The Illumination, Kevin Brockmeier

Brockmeier brings his unusual and imaginative style to us again to ask the question, *What if the most beautiful thing about us was our pain?* Pain in both people and animals is illuminated, secrecy removed, as Brockmeier presents six stories of characters connected by a diary of love notes written by a husband to his young wife. Each of the recipients—a data analyst, a photojournalist, a schoolchild, a missionary, an author and a street vendor—inhabit a universe where wounds glitter, fluoresce and blaze with light. An interesting read for book clubs with contemporary and ethical interests. – Sue Fleming, Pantheon, \$24.95



We, the Drowned, Carsten Jensen

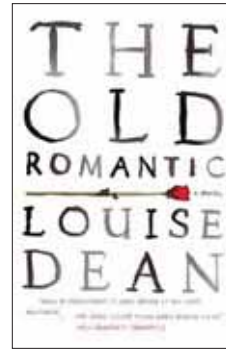
This gorgeously written novel follows the lives of the men who set sail from Marstal—a sleepy Danish fishing village when the book opens—and spans the century from the conflicts of 1848 to World Wars I and II. Following events through the eyes of Laurids, who vanishes; his son Albert, who searches the world for his father; and Knud Erik, the boy Albert mentors *We, the Drowned* chronicles not just the adventures of these men on the high seas, but also



the changing reality of the community from which they set sail. Violence is omnipresent as men travel to strange ports, fight wars, and struggle to survive. Captain Cook's shrunken head plays a part in the tale and so does a man trading pearls for the flesh of natives

in order to feed cannibals. Strange, almost magical vignettes, dreams that presage dark reality, exotic settings all create drama, but the central drama in the novel is the fate of the community that unites the characters. Jensen has managed to at once involve us in particular lives and a breathless tale while delivering a stunning picture of the grand sweep of history and the particular fate of a single community. – Kit and Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$28

The Old Romantic, Louise Dean



The Family-Reunion-from-Hell sums up the tone of *The Old Romantic*. An irascible father decides that his time is up on this earth and attempts to bring together a family that includes a self-made country gentleman and his upper-class wife, the son who stayed at home, plus his wife and children, his current lover, and his former wife. Each character is peculiarly eccentric and guaranteed to irritate others. The old romantic, enthralled with the female undertaker, belittles the current wife and returns to the former wife...

sort-of. The sons argue with him, feel guilt, and just can't escape his control. For readers who enjoy dark English humor mixed with a little pathos, this is a good read. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Riverhead Books, \$25.95

IN MEMORIAM



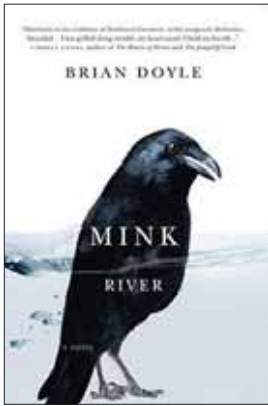
Olive Ghiselin, with her husband, Brewster

All of the booksellers at The King's English mourn the passing on January 6th of Olive Ghiselin. English professor and accomplished writer, she published two exquisite collections of short stories lauded by authors like Peter Taylor and Wallace Stegner—*The Testimony of Mr. Bones* and *In Dust and Water*.

Married to poet Brewster Ghiselin, Olive was known and loved throughout not only our community but the larger literary community as well. Her mordant wit and acute perceptions made her both a luminous writer and an extraordinary person. She lives on in the hearts of all us who knew her at the King's English.

CURRENT TITLES

FICTION—NEW IN PAPER



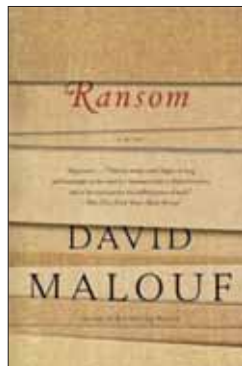
***Mink River*, Brian Doyle**

Words dance and sing across the pages of this wondrous new novel, coming together and separating, delineating the characters' voices by sound as much as meaning. Moses the crow is the most unusual, rescued by an elderly nun who taught him to speak. Moses prefers to concatenate with his human brothers, as opposed to his winged friends. His humans are rooted in the soil of Neawakana, their tiny Oregon town, connected to the forests from which it was forged

and the waters that form its borders and are its life's blood: a friend, a guardian, a philosopher, finder of those lost, like Worried Man who feels the pain, mental and physical, of those who are suffering; or Maple Hair, who teaches the town's children including her grandson Daniel who flies across the ground on his bike, noticing almost as many details as Moses does from the air. *Mink River* is one of those rare and magical books that haunt the reader's thoughts long after the last page is turned—it made me laugh and cry and wish that I possessed a modicum of Brian Doyle's talent. – Kathy Ashton, University of Oregon Press, \$18.95

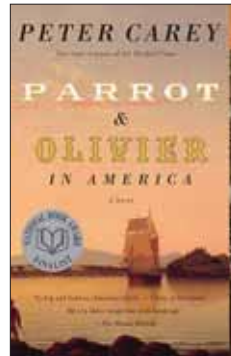
***Ransom*, David Malouf**

The retelling of the story of the death of Hector and of the brutalizing of his body by Achilles, of King Priam and his journey out of Troy and into the enemy camp to rescue his son's battered body, *Ransom* is a tale of men and Gods, of fate and chance, bringing to vivid life the sweat and blood and stench of battle, the fears and sorrows of men and women, and also the overarching forces that pull us toward the heavens, pitch us into the depths of hell. One such force is the telling of tales, the discovery of new ways of seeing what we thought we knew. At once a retelling of a piece of *The Iliad*, it is a tale in its own right—one in which the two main characters, Priam and Achilles, discover, however briefly, new ways of looking at the world, new ways of experiencing their own pain. Malouf's prose, always possessed of lyricism and power, here takes on an authority—and beauty—of Homeric proportions. The sentences literally make the hair on the back of your neck stand up. And the revelations make you reconsider things you thought you knew. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$14.95



***Parrot and Olivier in America*, Peter Carey**

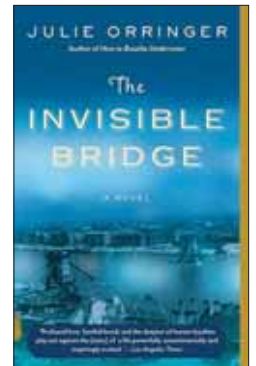
Two-time Booker prize winner Peter Carey has given us yet another entertaining and thoughtful story—one that reimagines Alexis de Tocqueville's famous journey, brilliantly, evoking the Old World along with the New. Olivier is an aristocrat, one of an endangered species born in France just after the Revolution. Parrot, the son of an itinerant English printer and twice Olivier's age, always wanted to be an artist but has ended up a servant. Their lives will be permanently joined by an enigmatic, one-armed Marquis. When Olivier



sets sail for the New World—ostensibly to study its prisons, but in reality to avoid yet another revolution—Parrot is sent with him, as spy, protector, foe and foil. Above all, this is a wildly funny and deeply tender portrait of two men who come to form an almost impossible friendship and a completely improbable work of art. – Sue Fleming, Vintage, \$15.95

***The Invisible Bridge*, Julie Orringer**

Andras Lévi, an accomplished artist, wants to study architecture in Paris and wins a scholarship to do so. On the first day at the École Spéciale, he receives a note: All Hungarian scholarship monies destined for Jews are stopped—and at that moment Andras begins a journey through one of the most heinous periods in modern European history. He and his brother Tibor, who has just begun medical school in Italy, suffer the same restrictions. The systemic deprivation that will end in the near-eradication of Jews has begun. Through the eyes of the brothers, the reader begins to comprehend the insidious creep of the Nazi machine across their homeland. Partly love story, partly family history, partly World War II history, all wrapped together in this brilliant novel, *The Invisible Bridge* is so good I hated to see it end. – Kathy Ashton, Vintage, \$15.95



Upcoming Author Events

Jacqueline Osherow, *Whitethorn*

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 7 P.M.

Holly Tucker, *Blood Work*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 7 P.M.

Jennifer Adams, *Y is for Yorick*

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 7 P.M.

Rita Mae Brown, *Hiss of Death*

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 7 P.M.

Manuel Muñoz, *What You See in the Dark*

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 7 P.M.

Karl Marlantes, *Matterhorn*

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 7 P.M.

Craig Johnson, *Hell Is Empty*

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 7 P.M.

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(THURSDAY-SUNDAY)**

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SPECIAL DISCOUNTS AT 15TH & 15TH MERCHANTS



THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP

FORTHCOMING TITLES

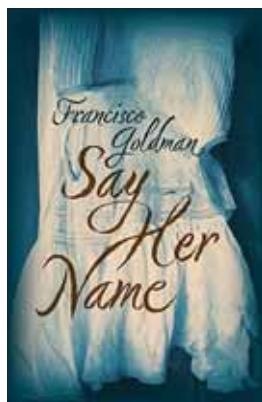
FICTION

The Tiger's Wife, Téa Obreht (March)

If you believe every story has already been told, you definitely won't after reading *The Tiger's Wife*. Leading readers on a quest to find out what happened to Natalia's beloved grandfather, Obreht weaves intricately detailed tales of the past with a present in which Natalia and her grandfather share not only their profession, medicine, but also a secret. Set in a Balkan country still reeling from years of conflict, this novel captivated me. Obreht was just named one of *The New Yorker's* 20 best American fiction writers under 40, and the youngest one at that. This is a novel you don't want to miss. – Jenny Lyons, Random House, \$25



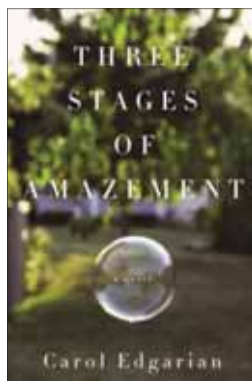
Say Her Name, Francisco Goldman (April)



Francisco Goldman, the author of three brilliant novels and a work of nonfiction, has melded those two genres into a stunning work that is true to both forms and to neither. We are first told a few brief facts: that his young wife, Aura, is dead; that her parents believe him to be responsible for her death; and that, two years later, he is still consumed by grief. Then, as he tugs the reader in and out of the vortex of that grief; back and forth between Brooklyn, where they lived, and Mexico City, where she grew to adult-

hood; in and out of the mystery of her death and the greater mystery of who she was, who they were together, an awful illumination occurs—that madness is the natural outcome of such loss. Memory functions as the detective in this remarkable book, uncovering, detail by detail, the sweet daidyness that coalesced into their passionate and loving life together, and her complicated relationship with her mother. By throwing those lives into bold relief, he reveals in raw, stripped-bare form what love and its loss mean—not the stuff of fact but of the very best fiction. – Betsy Burton, Grove, \$24

Three Stages of Amazement, Carol Edgarian (March)



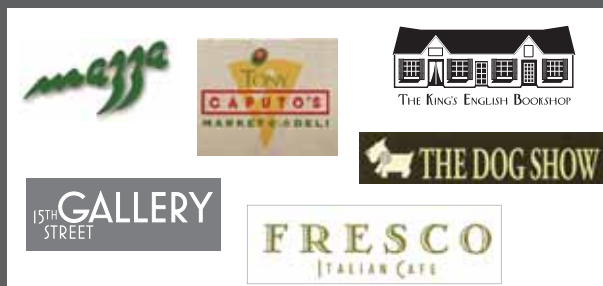
This novel of a marriage and of lives in flux tells the tale of Lena and Charlie Pepper, who believe they can have it all: love, marriage, and careers. Then life intervenes. A stillborn baby, another baby fighting for life, career upsets, old ghosts and old lovers all take their toll. "The modern marriage has two states, plateau and precipice..." A beautifully told story of a marriage's tragedies and triumphs interlaced with Lena's quest for grace. Believable and vividly drawn characters, a compelling story, and amazing writing make this

novel well worth reading. I loved it. – Sally Larkin, Scribner, \$25

FRIDAYS ON 15TH & 15TH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**GALLERY STROLL | BOOK SALE
MERCHANT DISCOUNTS**



FORTHCOMING TITLES

FICTION—COMING IN PAPER

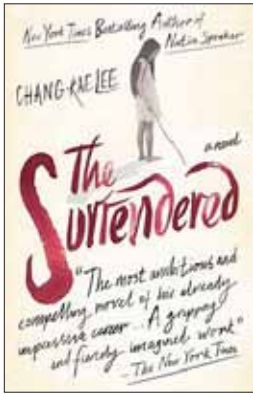


***Bone Fire*, Mark Spragg**

The relationship between 19-year-old Griff and her aging grandfather anchors a story that involves brothers and sisters, children and step-children, spouses and exes, marriages frayed to nothing, bonds stronger than bone built from love and loyalty. There's the sheriff, a dying man who longs for an old love; Kenneth, a boy who longs not for his blood father but for the man who loves him as a father would; Paul, the young man who loves Griff;

Marin, the sister who might again love Einer—and, at the novel's heart, there are Griff and Einer, granddaughter and grandfather. These interrelated people, portrayed with unsentimental honesty and entwined by blissfully good writing, make ***Bone Fire*** the elegant, heartfelt, and incandescent novel that it is. Spragg is a wonder. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15

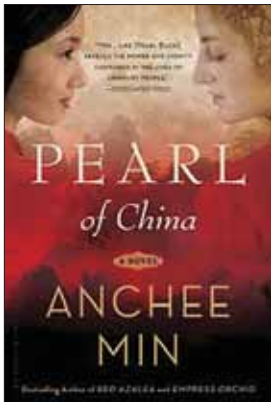
***The Surrendered*, Chang-rae Lee (March)**



An orphanage struggling to exist in the aftermath of the Korean War is the landing place for an American GI who fought in that war, a young girl who has lost her family to war's carnage, and a missionary's wife who carries scars from the horrors of 1930s Manchuria. Using the orphanage where they came together as fulcrum, Lee moves us back in time to the pasts that brought each character to that orphanage and the emotional conflagration that occurred there, and forward to the present in America 30 years later. Combining the

brilliant language of ***A Gesture Life*** and the narrative sweep and historical accuracy of ***Time of Our Singing*** or ***A Chain of Voices***, Lee has created a profound book about war, yes, but also about love. – Betsy Burton, Riverhead, \$16

***Pearl of China*, Anchee Min (April)**



Anchee Min creates a story of friendship and politics in this fictionalized account of Pearl Buck and Willow. The street urchin and the daughter of an American missionary share the simplicity of childhood and the conflict of the Chinese Revolution. Pearl, often more Chinese than American, encourages Willow to become a community leader and journalist. With the rise of Mao, Willow is punished for her friendship with Pearl who is now writing about China. The two are destined to be separated by

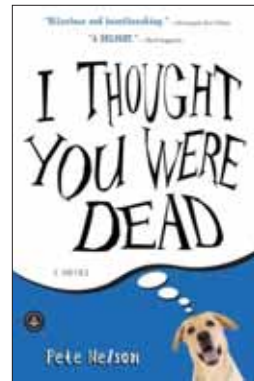
politics; however their friendship never falters and lives on in the writings of Pearl S. Buck. This touching story of a powerful friendship caught in violent times makes a turbulent time period human. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Bloomsbury, \$15

***A Week in December*, Sebastian Faulks (March)**

While viciously (and often hilariously) skewering everyone from hedge funders to book reviewers to militant Islamists, high society doyens to drug society dropouts, politicians to footballers, Faulks manages to lampoon such urban marvels as reality TV, installation art, literary prizes, stock market derivatives, Internet gaming, and the Tube (as in the Underground, not TV). In so doing, he has produced a work of satirical genius akin to (but funnier than) Jonathan Franzen's

The Corrections. The characters each represent one of the above-mentioned worlds, and most have been invited to a dinner party outside London one Saturday evening. In the days leading up to said party, we follow them as, by turns, they wend their way toward destruction or salvation. Some are likeable, others fun to hate, but all are brilliantly etched and intriguing. Even better, the narrative speeds like a freight train through the streets and underground tunnels of London, leading the reader into one of the best (and funniest) reads of the new year. Fasten your seatbelts! – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15

***I Thought You Were Dead*, Pete Nelson**



A self-pitying, sort-of-successful hack writer who drinks too much, is estranged from his family, and talks to his dog? A dog who talks back? What's to like? What's to like is Stella. She's old. Very old in dog years. And she knows her master, Paul, well enough to tell him what's what. Which she does with frequency and perspicuity. Paul himself is not without wit, at least when he's sober, and before you're aware of it you'll start to like him, too, even if he is sort of immature. You'll positively warm to him as he tries to relate via e-mail to his stroked-out father. If

all of this sounds hokey, it's not. Funny? Yes. Touching? Absolutely. Hokey, not in the least. In fact, Nelson's pitch-perfect dialogue and keen wit turn a plot with enormous potential for hokum into a wryly affecting novel. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin, \$13.95

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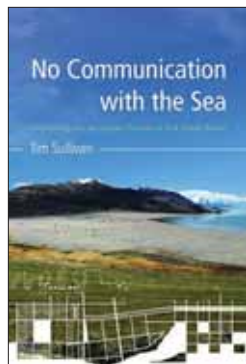
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CURRENT TITLES

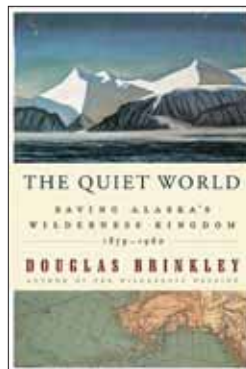
NONFICTION

No Communication with the Sea, Tim Sullivan



Salt Lake City native and urban planner Tim Sullivan has written an authoritative and highly readable book about the Great Basin of Utah and Nevada. By focusing on the two great cities of this region, Salt Lake City and Reno, and their immediate surroundings, Sullivan, through lively narrative, fascinating characters and personal reflection, as well as in-depth research, paints a realistic picture of our high, dry, yet very urban interior West—past, present and future. The contrast-

ing images of Reno's gaming industry and Salt Lake's LDS church headquarters are among the topics examined by Sullivan in what is sure to be a book much-read and enjoyed by anyone who cares about the future of this rapidly growing "New American Heartland." A creative take on an increasingly topical subject: population growth and urban planning. – Jenny Lyons, University of Arizona Press, \$19.95 *Editor's note: Tim Sullivan will read from his book on Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.*



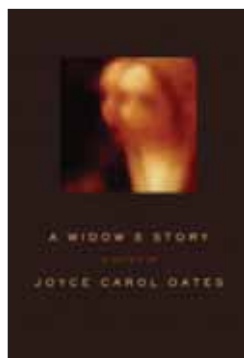
The Quiet World, Douglas Brinkley

This stunning portrayal of our 49th state is possessed of the majesty due such an expanse of wilderness. Brinkley documents the heroic fight waged by the federal government from 1879 to 1960 to save wild Alaska from the extraction industries—including, among the many treasured landscapes threatened, Mount McKinley, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, Gates of the Arctic, Glacier Bay, Lake Clark,

and the Coastal Plain of the Beaufort. Stories of John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Ansel Adams and Rachel Carson unfold for the reader as Brinkley shows how a colorful band of determined environmentalists created the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge just before John F. Kennedy became president. Thoroughly accessible, this is a must-read for those interested in or traveling to or through this beautiful state. – Sue Fleming, Harper, \$29.99

A Widow's Story: A Memoir, Joyce Carol Oates

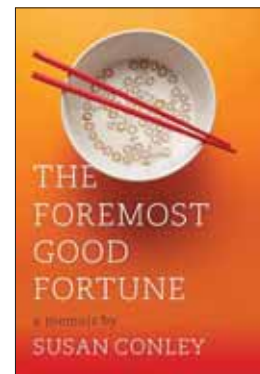
This book details not only a siege, as Oates puts it, but also a pilgrimage—one that tracks the author's journey through the minute and complicated stages of her grief. It is an intimate, unflinching portrait of a woman who has remained somewhat of an enigma, though a prolific and respected one. So to read such a revealing and personal memoir is, well, revelatory. Raymond Smith, her husband, editor of the *Ontario Review*, died unexpectedly in February of 2008. In a literary and yet wrenching account, Oates leaves nothing out as we readers stumble



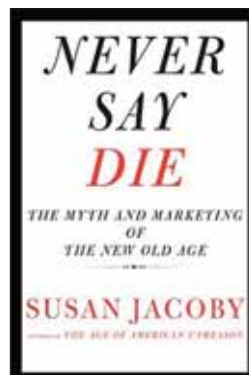
along with her, discovering what it means to be a "widow." Incredibly, because I do not have a physical connection to this book—I am not a widow—I was very moved by Joyce Carol Oates' extreme honesty and I could not put it down. – Jenny Lyons, Ecco, \$25.95

The Foremost Good Fortune, Susan Conley

When Portland, Maine writer Conley moves to China with her two sons and husband, she expects to feel some sense of dislocation. What she isn't prepared for is a country of street signs she can't read, eye-watering pollution, and an almost claustrophobic sense of not being able to communicate. Just as she is beginning to come to terms with the country, she is diagnosed with breast cancer. Her memoir of that time is insightful, funny, heartwarming and beguiling in its honesty. At the end of their two-year sojourn her family is closer, wiser, and more aware of the vastness of the world. Brilliant. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, \$25.95



Never Say Die, Susan Jacoby



"Boomers," along with those of us headed that way, are subjected to a continuous barrage of psychobabble and pharmaceutical promises of "successful aging." Jacoby, in her forthright and unapologetic style, lays out her concerns for those marketers of longevity who suggest that soon there will be a "cure" for the "disease" of aging. If only those over the age of 60 (the new 40) will take the right pill, lose weight, think more positively, exercise faithfully, work on complicated computer games or

crossword puzzles, the "forever young" appearance and bright mind will last until one drops dead on a golf course. This promise, or probable myth, is exposed by Jacoby in a thoughtful and personal way. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wonders about or is worried by the notion that as we grow older, our bodies and minds do change, and unexpected events do occur. – Sue Fleming, Pantheon, \$26.95



Neighborhood
Business Conference

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011

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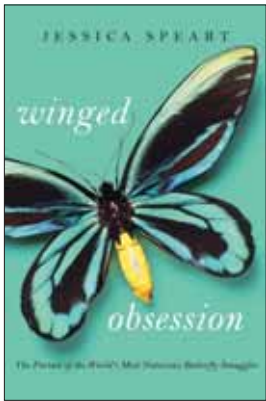
FORTHCOMING TITLES

NONFICTION

A Covert Affair: The Adventures of Julia and Paul Child in the OSS, Jennet Conant (April)

The subtitle of this fascinating and thoroughly readable book should include Jane Foster, since the arc of the tale follows the relationship of the famous gourmand Julia and her husband Paul Child to Jane as all three move in and out of the OSS and into the postwar world of McCarthyism. But it is history itself that is the true protagonist as Conant gathers together the young Americans who worked under wild Bill Donovan and sets the stage: WWII in Asia, postwar Europe, and America under the sway of McCarthyism. Conant's eye for the details that bring history to life, for the tales of derring-do that keep the reader riveted to the page, the quirks of character that fascinate, make the experience of reading *A Covert Affair* a lively one. Yet the lessons of history that she quietly imparts leave us wondering how it is that politicians have such flawed memories and such impossibly short attention spans concerning the patterns of betrayal and their lingering consequences in the world. – Betsy Burton, Simon and Schuster, \$28

Winged Obsession: The Pursuit of the World's Most Notorious Butterfly Smuggler, Jessica Speart (April)

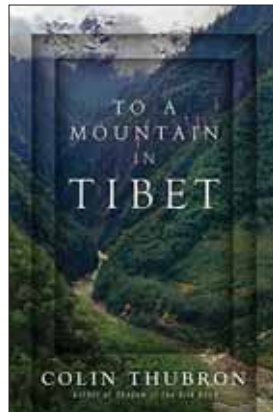


Rookie fish and wildlife agent Ed Newcomer is on the trail of the world's most notorious butterfly smuggler in this strangely gripping true story from author Jessica Speart. Newcomer becomes obsessed with catching Yoshi Kojima and, having blown his first and second chances due to Kojima's almost supernatural ability to detect when he's being hunted, Newcomer goes undercover once again. This time he's not the one obsessed as the case takes a decidedly odd turn. Will he get his man? Speart also has a personal

angle to this story. She befriended the smuggler in the course of her research and felt guilty for doing so, but Kojima was getting ready to set her up too. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$25.99

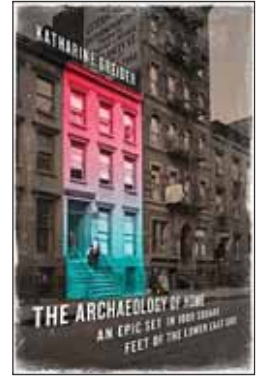
To a Mountain in Tibet, Colin Thubron (March)

Colin Thubron's trek to one of the holiest places on the planet was both a journey of exploration and a journey of the soul. Kailas, one of the highest mountains in Tibet, is a site of great reverence to both Hindus and Buddhists, even though it is controlled politically by Communist China. Thubron vividly portrays pilgrims coming to this stark and mysterious place on a spiritual odyssey, presenting a magical world of mystics and ancient rites as well as terrible poverty and loss. In this brilliant look at a part of the world rarely seen by Westerners, he conveys his own internal quest as well as that of the pilgrims. – Barbara Hoagland, Harper Collins, \$25.99



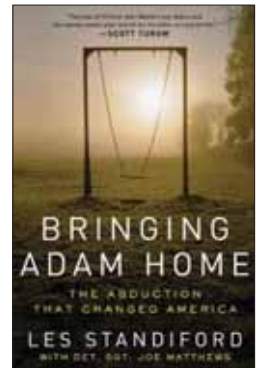
The Archaeology of Home: An Epic Set in 1000 Square Feet of the Lower East Side, Katharine Greider

The subtitle gives readers some idea of the epic journey they are about to embark on and the very close and particular nature of that journey. Katharine Greider and her husband David had, like many of us, invested more than mere money in their home at 239 7th St. When the building—which unbeknownst to them had originally been erected over a river and a salt grass swamp—was condemned, they were shocked, unbelieving, unable to accept that nothing could be done. Greider, with a poet's sensibility and a scholar's mind, begins to examine the patch of ground they'd put so much of themselves into. She burrows deep into layers of history and prehistory—only to surface in the present like a prairie dog popping up to view the terrain. From archaeology to city planning, anthropology to sociology to philosophy, she views the 1000 square feet of ground on which her co-op apartment sits from every angle. In the process she examines the concept of “home,” at once widening its meaning and striking at the heart of why home matters to all of us. – Betsy Burton, Public Affairs, \$26



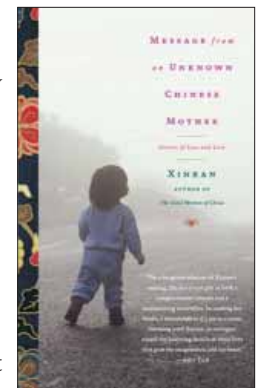
Bringing Adam Home, Les Standiford with Joe Matthews (March)

In 1981, a mom wouldn't hesitate to leave her child alone in a store for just a few moments while she looked for something on the next aisle. Then 6-year-old Adam Walsh disappeared from a Sear's toy department and the world and the way parents monitored their children changed forever. Standiford and Matthews document the horrifying case that riveted the world and catapulted Adam's parents, John and Reve, into the forefront of a movement to track down missing children. Repeated missteps by the local police ensured that the murderer of their son was never indicted for that crime. Their two-decade search for justice is vividly recounted by Standiford and Matthews. – Barbara Hoagland, HarperCollins, \$24.99



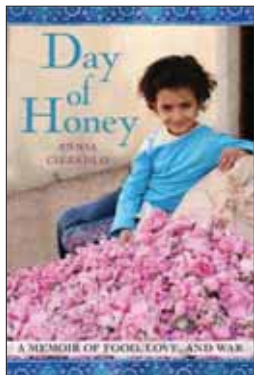
Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother: Stories of Loss and Love, Xinran

Xinran first caught readers' attention with *The Good Women of China*. She continues to be a voice for the poor and struggling women of China in her new book, sharing stories that range from horrendous to overwhelmingly sad. This narrative is one heartbreak after another. It is about mothers, the loss of children, the negative societal view of baby girls, and the political structure where orphans are used as tools. Xinran gives us a broad view of a very restrictive, punitive environment through these individual and deeply personal tragedies. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Scribner, \$25



CURRENT TITLES

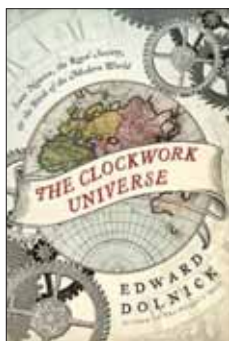
NON-FICTION



Day of Honey, Annia Ciezadlo

This is a story of love, war, and food. Annia met Mohammed Bazzi in New York, they fell in love, and moved to the Middle East. Annia's descriptions of everyday life, first in Beirut, then Baghdad during a tension-filled peace, make the people and places come alive. She ponders the role of food as ambassador, comforter and peace-maker and Iraqi cuisine—although other journalists tell her Iraq has no cuisine!

When Baghdad comes under attack, she and Mohammed return to Beirut just before Israel begins shell-ing the city. This isn't just a memoir containing recipes, it's also an insightful slice of Middle Eastern politics where not choosing a side is not an option. – Paula Longhurst, Free Press, \$26



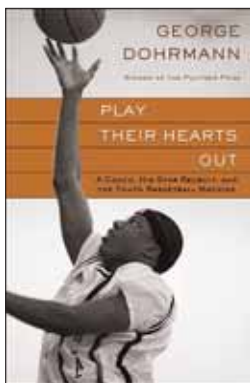
The Clockwork Universe, Edward Dolnick

By the 17th century, it seemed the world was ordered by rules established during ancient times. Although disease ran rampant and natural calamities occurred with no apparent reason, everything was deemed to have happened under the auspices of a wrathful creator. Into this turbulence, the Royal Society was formed by a group of brilliant men who vowed to look at the world in a different way. Initially their beliefs were an amalgam

of ancient superstitions and the earliest definitions of mathematical law. Dolnick's examination of these men and the upheaval they caused in the world of science and mathematics is marvelous to behold. – Barbara Hoagland, HarperCollins, \$27.99

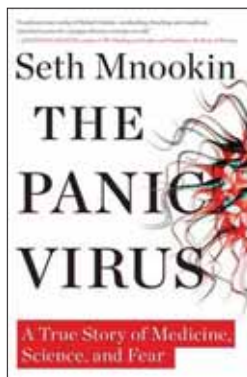
Play Their Hearts Out, George Dohrmann

Dohrmann, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, takes on the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union). Basketball fans (or junkies) will love this in-depth look at the AAU machine. Every coach is looking for that big contract with Adidas or Nike, and is also searching for the next great star. And all of this starts in elementary school! Joe Keller, an aspiring wanna-be coach, and his "find," a kid named Demetrius Walker, are at the center of Dohrmann's tale. Eight years of access and investigation have produced a story that sheds some light on the AAU and its production (or destruction) of those they peg as future basketball stars. This book is a must-read for all of those aforementioned fans. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, \$26



The Panic Virus: a True Story of Medicine, Science, and Fear, Seth Mnookin

This *Vanity Fair* contributor takes direct aim at the media and others who have sparked the "no vaccine" vogue among parents. In many areas of the country, cases of measles and pertussis, once



considered virtually eradicated, have been reported, along with some deaths due to a refusal to inoculate based on the fear that vaccines cause autism. The entire debate is complicated, but Mnookin does an excellent job of explaining what has caused this about-face on the need for vaccines. His is a book every parent should read before making a crucial decision to refuse inoculations for their children. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, \$26.99

Bird Cloud, Annie Proulx



Bird Cloud doesn't soar to the heights of Proulx's previous books. It covers a period of time when she planned and built a house in Wyoming and is not just the story of that house but is also a sifting through layers of time, life, and geography. Proulx *begins* at 64,000 feet, metaphorically speaking, and then brings her tale down to the personal as she depicts her hunt for the piece of harsh wilderness that resides so clearly in her dreams. She then addresses the practical: her architect, their collaboration with

the so-called James Gang as they design and then build a house, plot its relationship to the land, make necessary changes. As she moves restlessly across the landscape on foot and on skis, we see through her eyes the flora and fauna, the geography and geology. Finally, as the house is completed, we look skyward with her to witness the clouds of birds that she always knew would make this the house she imagined. Proulx's writing is evocative, her love of the land present on every page, her knowledge of the natural world prodigious. Perhaps it is her lack of *self*-knowledge that is troubling. Her usually uncanny eye for human foibles seems strangely clouded in **Bird Cloud** and, for this reader at least, her latest book doesn't reach the imaginative heights of which Annie Proulx is capable. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$26

NONFICTION-NEW IN PAPER

Just Kids, Patti Smith

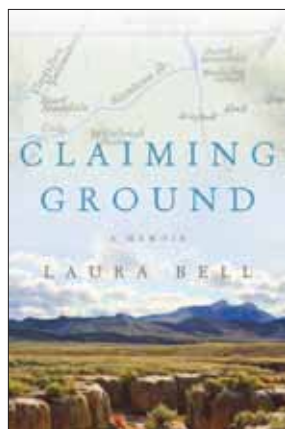
Patti Smith's recent literary outing follows the paths of two young lovers, Robert Mapplethorpe and herself, meeting them at a crossroads in New York where both are employed at bookstores. It is here their friendship and love begin, guiding them through sojourns at the Chelsea Hotel where they come upon the likes of Janis Joplin, Allen Ginsburg, Andy Warhol and many others. Although full of beautiful and laughable snippets from a variety of intimate exchanges with an array of artists, the moments when Robert and Patti come together in a space that only they occupy makes this book soar. With their young ambitions—Robert always creating art and Patti feverishly writing poems—these two turn to each other for encouragement in a world constantly crowded with experienced mu-



CURRENT TITLES

NONFICTION-NEW IN PAPER

sicians and artists coming and going in transit and in death. As the two lovers struggle through their early twenties and confront their passions and youth, Smith brings to life their mutual fondness, using a variety of allusions to Genet and Rimbaud as well as her own voice. Personally, I like to ignore that this is a National Book Award winner and think of it rather as the perfect read for a camping trip or a hike in the woods. This is a light, warm and delightful read with a sandwich and a canteen of your choosing. – Robert Morreall, Ecco, \$16



Claiming Ground, Laura Bell

Any good memoir is a search—for answers, for peace, or perhaps for a place to belong. **Claiming Ground** is all three. It begins with Laura Bell's improbable decision to leave the East and academia to move to Wyoming and herd sheep. What she finds is a land of staggering beauty peopled by a cast of oddballs and eccentrics, and a blissful and terrifying solitude that is perhaps the defining characteristic of that land. Bell conveys the beauty and the terror, the loneliness and the oddly satisfying

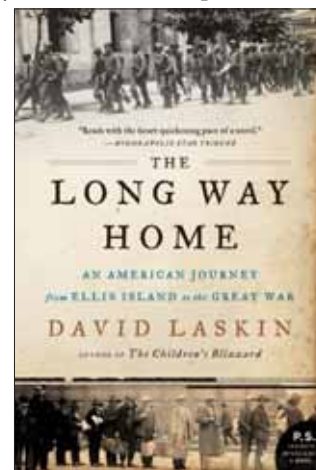
connections she manages to make, the pleasure she finds in doing for herself and in doing a job as well as any man, making this an unforgettable memoir, evocative in terms of the landscape of the human heart. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15

FORTHCOMING

NONFICTION-COMING IN PAPER

The Long Way Home: An American Journey from Ellis Island to the Great War, David Laskin (March)

Twelve young men—immigrants—escaping from the poverty-stricken war-torn countries of Russia, Germany, Italy, Norway, Ireland, Poland, Ukraine and Austria-Hungary, were not welcomed to the United States by those already here and were taunted for their customs and attempts to speak English. Joining family members, they lived in small colonies much like “home” and just tried to exist, hoping for a better life. Who knew they would be conscripted into the military to serve in one of the most horrendous wars known to mankind, often having to choose to fight against their original homeland? The melting-pot experiences they and other citizen-soldiers endured are told with honesty and candor. Laskin, known also for **The Children's Blizzard**, offers us a glimpse back into events that formed those who became Americans, providing us with a better appreciation for all who served. – Sue Fleming, Harper Perennial, \$15.99



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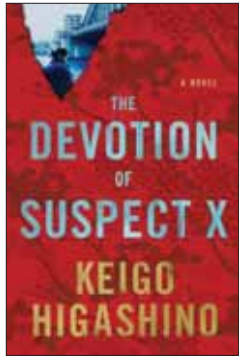
Wallace Stegner Center
for Land, Resources and the Environment

CURRENT TITLES

MYSTERY/THRILLER

The Devotion of Suspect X, Keigo Higashino

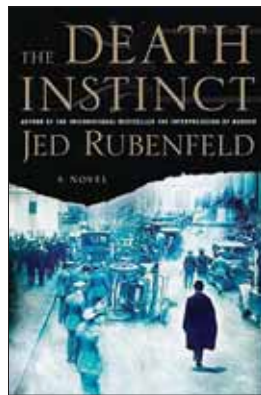
Devotion begins with a simple premise...an abused wife and her daughter kill the former husband. A neighbor, hearing the entire episode, comes to their aid. A brilliant mathematician, the neighbor approaches the incident with a mathematical mind and choreographs the disposal of the body and the alibis for all concerned. But very soon the reader realizes that there is more to this story. The mathematician comes up against an old university acquaintance, a brilliant physicist, who suspects, but cannot prove, what has happened. The book is cool, collected, and quiet. Nothing is obvious



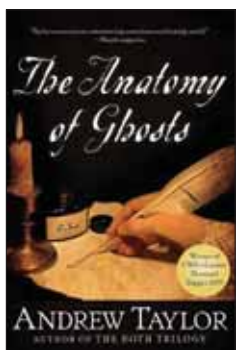
as the mathematician protects the woman and daughter out of love or obsession. The police are willing to search for answers, but they are simply caught in the middle of the discussions of mathematics and physics. Higashino has created complicated characters who reveal little but leave a sense of discomfort. The book is a piece of music leading up to a crescendo of an ending, a can't-put-it-down book with a touch of Dostoyevsky in the characters. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur Books, \$24.99

The Death Instinct, Jed Rubenfeld

In 1920, a catastrophic event occurred on Wall Street— someone tried to blow up the U.S. Treasury Building on lower Wall Street, a building which contained this country's gold reserve. When the smoke and ash and broken glass and bodies were cleared, four million dollars-worth of gold bars were missing. NYPD Detective Captain James Littlemore is assigned to solve the case, ably assisted by Stratham Younger, a brilliant young physician, still recovering from the psychic damage inflicted by WWI; a lovely young French woman; and her little brother, also war-damaged.



Action shifts from New York to Paris to the killing fields of the war to Vienna. Machiavellian machinations involving Washington political heavyweights, the odd Balkan terrorist or two, Mme. Marie Curie, and J.P. Morgan's second-in-command come and go, cleverly worked into the plot. Even Sigmund Freud pops up occasionally. Fiendishly well-plotted, this is the best thriller I've read in years. I loved it—and can't wait to get my hands on Rubenfeld's first book,



The Interpretation of Murder.
– Kathy Ashton, Riverhead, \$26.95

Anatomy of Ghosts, Andrew Taylor

Bookseller John Holdsworth has fallen on hard times, his home, family and business swept away in a matter of months. Then he receives a proposition—travel from London to Jerusalem College, Cambridge as Lady Oldershaw's ambassador to lay a ghost that has turned the late Bishop of Oldershaw's

heir from a strapping young buck to a gibbering idiot. Holdsworth takes on the job of getting young Mr. Oldershaw out of the mental institution the college has placed him into. But there are many interests at work in Jerusalem, and most of them would prefer that the young man remain mad. – Paula Longhurst, Hyperion, \$24.99

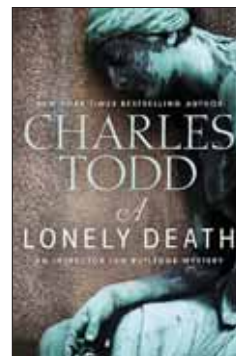
Heartstone, C. J. Sansom

Anyone who read the first of the Shardlake novels knows that it is impossible to read just one in the series. Mathew Shardlake lives in treacherous times and practices law in the politically dangerous world of Henry VIII. He finds himself caught between the worlds of Henry and Henry's wife, Queen Catherine, facing not only the French fleet in the French/English war of 1545, but the even more dangerous world of Richard Rich, his nemesis from previous books. He is juggling two cases—one for the Queen in the Court of Wards and one for himself concerning a woman living in Bedlam. Sansom's research is thorough and reveals details of the sea battles, the role of women and children, and the paranoia prevalent in this land led by a powerful king and his ambitious cohorts. These are thick books filled with color and heat; in fact, they can be read over and over and are perfect for cold winter nights, a fire, and a cat on the knee. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Viking, \$27.95

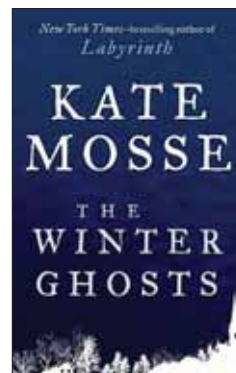


A Lonely Death, Charles Todd

Inspector Ian Rutledge juggles his personal ghosts and demons with the concrete evil in the world. A Charles Todd novel is an intricate dance involving Rutledge's invisible conscience, battles with the Yard, and killers loose in the neighborhood. Rutledge calls his work, "tracking down connections between the living and the dead." A



Lonely Death involves the murders of three veterans, each killed on a dark and lonely road, garroted quickly and efficiently and left with an identity disc on his tongue. Retired Inspector Cummins listens to Ian's dilemma and adds his own old unfinished case for Rutledge to ruminate on. The Inspector's family, friends, and the local villagers are part of the story. Each character, no matter how small, is fully developed. By the final page each piece of the puzzle fits, yet Rutledge is never satisfied; readers can eagerly await the next episode in his life.
– Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$24.99



The Winter Ghosts, Kate Mosse

I am the last. The others have slipped away into darkness... Englishman Freddie Watson comes to on the floor of his room in the tiny French village of Nulle, high in the Pyrenees. It's winter, 1928, and he's convinced that he spent the night in the company of the towns-

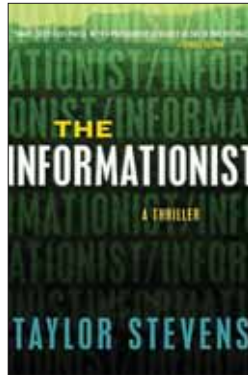
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FORTHCOMING TITLES

MYSTERY/THRILLER

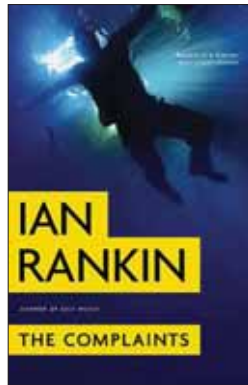
The Informationist, Taylor Stevens (March)

Vanessa Michael Munroe, an androgynous blend of strategist and street fighter, was born to missionary parents in Cameroon. She can conjure information seemingly from thin air, and corporations are willing to pay for her services. Oil billionaire Richard Burbank offers Munroe a massive payday to find his daughter, Emily, who vanished in Africa four years ago, reasoning that if Munroe can't find her, no one can. Burbank's only condition: that security consultant Miles Bradford watches Munroe's back. As her efforts start to pay off, it becomes clear that someone doesn't want Emily's fate to get out. Munroe finds herself double-crossed, injured and running towards a past she fled nine years ago deep in the Cameroonian jungle. – Paula Longhurst, Crown, \$23



The Complaints, Ian Rankin (March)

Malcolm Fox is low-key, thoughtful, attentive to his family, a serious man who doesn't even have a drinking problem—a departure for Rankin, creator of the tormented and hard-drinking Rebus. Fox works in the department that everyone hates: The Complaints, where investigating colleagues is part of the job along with (naturally) the contempt of said colleagues. He's an intriguing character, particularly when he becomes the fall guy in a conspiracy involving child porn. Lovers of the Rebus novels needn't mourn; Ian Rankin still evokes an Edinburgh that is gritty and interesting, his writing is first-rate, and his plots have moral dimensions that cause his characters to take on gravitas. Indeed, Fox might just overtake Rebus as the most intriguing detective that city has produced—at least fictionally speaking. – Kit and Betsy Burton, Reagan Arthur/Little Brown, \$24.99

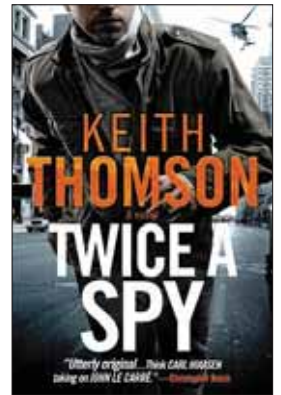


Daniel O'Thunder, Ian Weir

Weir is a virtuoso, a writer whose imagination is only outstripped by his humor and whose characters are as indelibly etched in the mind of the reader as are the London streets he depicts. From the evangelistic pugilist of the title to his crooked trainer, from the teenage whore to the evil Lord who holds her captive, and the bit players who inhabit the theaters and brothels, this mishmash of the fanciful, the colorful, the macabre is guaranteed not only to amaze and amuse, but to surprise as well—the Victorian thriller at its best. – Betsy Burton, Douglas & McIntyre (PGW), \$16.95

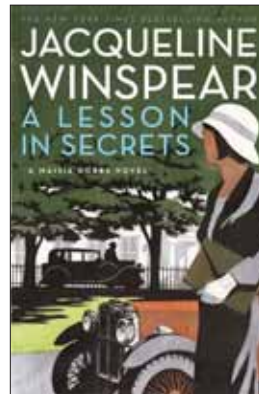
Twice a Spy, Keith Thompson (March)

Fathered by a spy who masqueraded as an appliance salesman and is now afflicted with Alzheimer's, in love with the beautiful but deadly NSA agent Alice, Charlie Drummond, who spent (or rather misspent) his youth indulging in an addiction to gambling, has been forced to come of age quickly. In the hilarious *Once a Spy*, son had to rescue (and occasionally be rescued by) his once-deadly father as CIA agents—determined to kill him before his slip-sliding mind could let slip some secrets—gave chase. Now in Switzerland to find medical help, the duo is forced into action again when the lovely Alice is kidnapped. As innocent couples morph into spooks, and appliances take on deadly dimensions, Charlie tries to cut through the thicket of Alzheimer's-based confusion to discover what past secrets are propelling the rain of violence. The elder Drummond has startling, often deadly, moments of clarity, Charlie begins to learn a bit of tradecraft, and the beautiful Alice has a trick or two up her sleeve as well in a book that, like its predecessor, is at once hilarious and touching. – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, \$25



A Lesson in Secrets, Jacqueline Winspear (April)

Maisie Dobbs is now an old friend to thousands of readers so a new adventure is a good reason for hot cup of tea with a little martini on the side. It is 1932; Maisie has lived through the battlefields of WWI and the prejudices of class and gender. She has settled into a routine of work, family, and friends. Maurice has left her his fortune and property which gives her a freedom other women do not have. She uses that freedom to care for her employees and the unfortunate. Now comes the spanner in the works as she receives a visit from the British Secret Service with a command to infiltrate a Cambridge "peace college" and investigate foreign influences on English students. Hitler is gaining power, and the English are flirting with Nazi philosophy. Not only does Maisie become involved with political intrigue but also with a common, run-of-the-mill campus murder. Winspear has created a strong woman who reflects the changes taking place in Europe during the early part of the 20th century. Her books can be read individually; however, long-time fans recommend reading the first book in order to know just how Maisie became as kind and smart as she is. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Harper Collins, \$25.99



The Priest, Gerard O'Donovan (March)

Inspector Mike Mulcahy returns to Dublin from the lofty heights of Europol in Madrid. Due to budget cuts, he is now the Garda equivalent of a supply teacher, never owning a case. Seconded to the case of a horrific midnight attack on a foreign language student, Mulcahy

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CURRENT TITLES

MYSTERY/THRILLER

Continued from page 12

people and the lovely Fabrissa, but Mme. Galy swears that he did not attend the celebration. Freddie, still recovering from the combined effects of six months in a sanatorium and his car going off a lonely mountain road, begins to doubt his sanity. He clings to the promise he made to Fabrissa that he'd find her and bring her home. His promise will free the winter ghosts. – Paul Longhurst, Putnam, \$24.95

Agent X, Noah Boyd

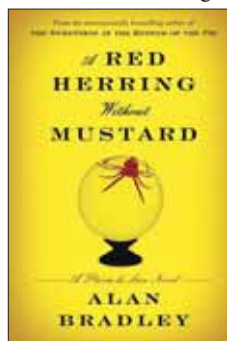
Steve Vail, aka The Bricklayer, is back. The FBI, in the guise of Assistant Director Kate Bannon, needs his unique talents in Washington D.C. The FBI was offered a list identifying a series of Russian mini moles, but the seller has been recalled to Moscow, and the bureau wants Vail to track down the moles before the Russians wipe them out. Vail has a hidden agenda, however; he's out to restore a good friend's reputation. But as he follows 'Ariadne's thread,' he can't help feeling that he and Bannon are being outplayed. The Russians are always one bloodstained step ahead. Vail is determined to unmask Agent X but the price to the Bureau may be too high. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$24.99

Panopticon, David Bajo

In one week, Aaron Klinsman will have no job. *The Review*, a cross-border news sheet has seven days of life left and the editor—the mysterious Gina—sends Aaron and his fellow journalists out to cover stories personal to them. Who was the woman who imprinted the sheets in room 9 at the San Ysidro motel? Why send Aaron to revisit a piece on park surveillance? Why does Rita Valdez hate salamanders or mozos? Are they pale, gifted artists, or voyeurs, editing the most intimate facets of another person's life before posting it on the internet. The story of Aaron, Rita and Oscar Medem will stay with you long after you've put down the book. Bajo's writing is lush, erotic, and will make you think, even disturb you a little. There's a camera in your computer. Is it watching you right now? – Paula Longhurst, Unbridled, \$25.95

A Red Herring Without Mustard, Alan Bradley

Volume three in Flavia De Luce's adventures begins with a gypsy fortune teller being bashed over the head after Flavia accidentally



burned down her tent. Things are bad at Buckshaw with Father muttering about the end of an era and selling off the family silver and his precious stamp collections to hang onto the house. Flavia disturbs local layabout Brookie Harewood, seeming in the act of theft, and the following morning he too has been attacked. Ignoring the advice of Inspector Hewitt, Flavia's investigations lead her to a warehouse full of stolen antiques, a homicidal rooster, a missing child, gypsies and a murderer who reeks of fish. Flavia continues her journey to super sleuth—or super villain—with plenty of science, sisterly hate, some ruined dresses and an unexpected sighting of Harriet, her beloved mother. – Paula Longhurst, Delacorte Press, \$23

FORTHCOMING TITLES

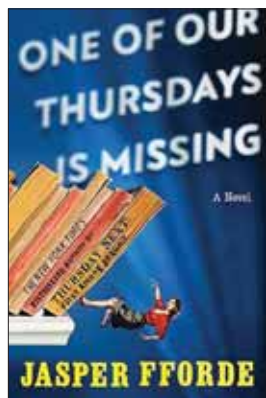
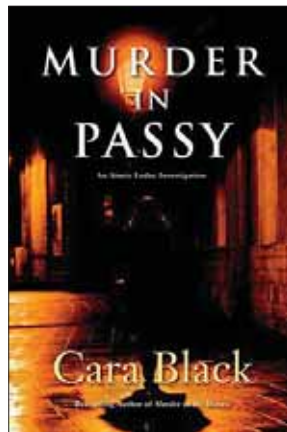
MYSTERY/THRILLER

Continued from page 13

taps some old contacts and invites one of them into his bed. As the attacks escalate, he is sidelined, suspected of leaking information to the bewitching Siobhan Fallon, star reporter for *The Herald*. When Fallon steals a lead and then disappears, Mulcahy falls back on the real leak to help him defrock a serial killer. With so many sinuous twists and turns, it's hard to believe this is a first novel. – Paula Longhurst, Scribner, \$25

***Murder in Passy*, Cara Black (March)**

Once more, Cara Black takes us into the mysterious subcultures of Paris as Aimee LeDuc comes to the aid of her godfather, Morbier. He has found the love of his life in Xavierre d'Esly, a grande dame of the Basque community, only to be accused of her murder. Due to internal machinations and external goings-on, he finds himself in the violent world of a Parisian prison, and Aimee loyally works to free him. While searching for the murderer, she meets Basque separatists, frees a kidnapped princess, and faces corrupt police while attending a soiree in her "vintage Chanel," drinking kir royal, and running through the dark streets of Paris in pursuit of killers and kidnappers. She is her usual feisty self—loyal to her friends and family and perpetually curious about her own family history. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$25

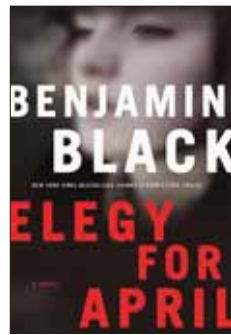


***One of Our Thursdays Is Missing*, Jasper Fforde (March)**

Fforde's brand of literary lunacy continues. In the real world—Swindon to be exact—Thursday Next has been missing for a month. She's crossed over to bookworld, working undercover on 'something big,' but with a week to go before peace talks that could avert a genre war, the real Thursday vanishes without a trace. In bookworld the fictional version of Thursday suddenly becomes very popular, and the council of genres wanst

to use her as a mute stand-in at the peace talks suffering from 'irritable vowel syndrome.' The Men in Plaid keep trying to kill her and Red Herring from accident investigation is chasing her for a report on an obscure trans-genre taxi accident. Does Thursday have the answers, did her understudy Scarlet get hyphenated and sleep with a gnome, who is Adrian Dorsett and why was the ISBN scrubbed off his book? Does she really need a butler? Are Thursday and the peace delegation sailing up the river without a paddle, and most importantly is Harry Potter annoyed that he'll always look like Daniel Radcliffe? Long-time Fforde fans can dive right in to this brew of literary puns and witty world play. If you are new to Thursday's adventures, you might want to start with *The Eyre Affair*. – Paula Longhurst, Viking \$25.95

MYSTERY-NEW IN PAPER

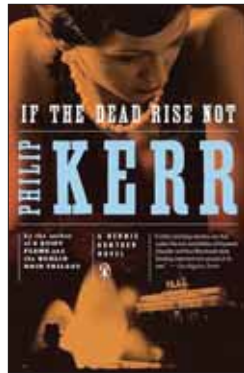


***Elegy for April*, Benjamin Black (April)**

Quirke, a pathologist who is waging a war on alcoholism, is asked by his daughter Phoebe to look into the disappearance of her close friend. No one has seen April for two weeks and although she is in some ways a mystery to her friends, this is unusual behavior. April's group of friends and her prominent Irish family are the suspects in a plot that combines mystery with the touching duet of love played out by the father and daughter, Quirke and

Phoebe, both of whom fight demons and long for love neither seems able to give. Not just an intriguing mystery, this is a layered and moving novel as well, written under the pen name used by Booker prize-winning novelist John Banville. – Betsy Burton, Picador, \$15

***If the Dead Rise Not*, Philip Kerr (April)**



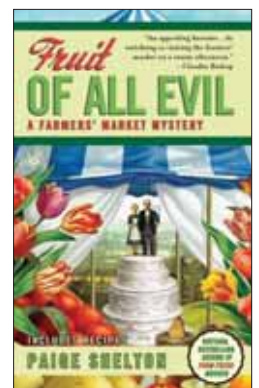
Philip Kerr reintroduces readers to Bernie Gunther, flawed hero of five novels set in Berlin between the wars. It is 1934, Berlin, and Americans preparing for the 1936 Olympics are aware of the Nazi treatment of the Jews, yet overlook it in hopes of glory and money. Gunther, former police officer and current hotel detective, becomes involved with an American journalist whose investigation reveals the corruption of both Germans and Americans. Berlin and grand hotels are the perfect setting for

murder, and 1934 a perfect time period for demonstrating the cruelty and decadence of Nazi power. But the novel doesn't end in 1934; in 1950s Havana, a richer Gunther meets the same cast of characters and the same intrigue he thought he had left years before. The ending is as exciting and unexpected as any Le Carré, the dialogue as blunt as Chandler's. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Penguin, \$15

***Fruit of All Evil*, Paige Shelton (March)**

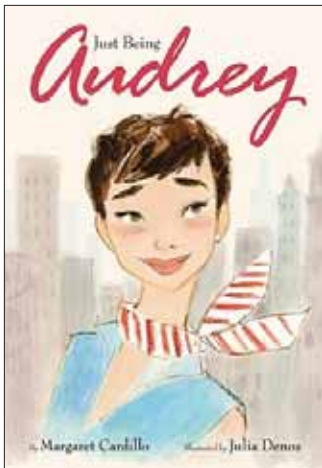
Becca Robins, purveyor of jams in the farmers' market, is to be maid of honor at her best friend's wedding. Linda is to marry a wealthy Navy Seal before he leaves for his assignment. His mother, an important real estate agent, is causing anxiety among the farmers with threats of foreclosures; she is murdered before the wedding can take place. Shelton's characters are simple, kind people who prepare a wedding for Linda by making cakes and pies and playing the fiddle—true members of a market community. And they are a community in the traditional sense of the word, caring for each other and for the land and its harvest. It must have been hard for Shelton to decide just who should be the murderer since each character appears to have a redeeming feature—except, of course, for that one with evil hidden inside. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Berkley Prime Crime, \$7.99 *Editor's note:*

Paige Shelton will read from her new mystery, Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.



From the Children's Room

Picture Books



***Just Being Audrey*,**
Margaret Cardillo

Iconic Audrey Hepburn lights up this picture book. Her life as a child was not beautiful or easy, but she learned and grew and became a force in our world. Beautiful illustrations make this brief bio a treasure. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, \$16.99 (all ages)

***Madeline at the White House*,** John Bemelmans Marciano

This story was actually started by the original *Madeline* author, Ludwig Bemelmans, and his grandson has stayed true to all the things we loved about the wonderful series.

On a magic carpet of cherry blossoms, Madeline and her friends tour Washington, D.C. They are invited to the White House for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and adventures abound. Readers will fall in love with Madeline all over again. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$16.99 (all ages)



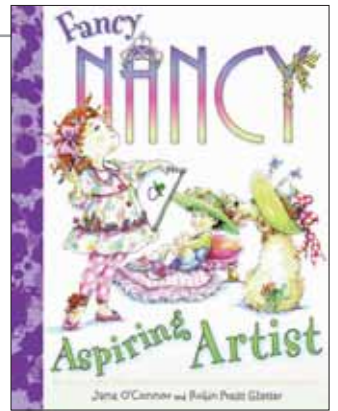
***Fancy Nancy Marvelous Mother's Day Brunch*,**
Jane O'Connor

Fantastic Fancy Nancy is back to ring in the most indispensably fabulous holiday of the year: Mother's Day! Nancy is going to give her mother the most unforgettable, stupendous day in this lift-the-flap book, but will everything go as planned? – Rachel Haisley, HarperCollins, \$8.99 (all ages)



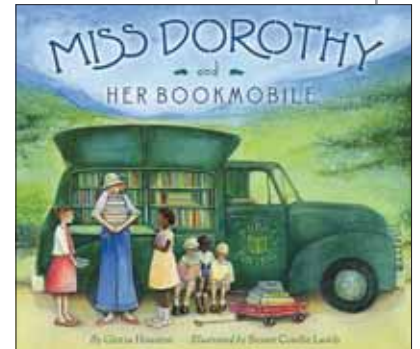
***Fancy Nancy Aspiring Artist*,**
Jane O'Connor

Nancy's best friend Bree is out of town and to break the loneliness, Nancy's mom has brought out art supplies! Glitter pens and sparkle stickers are feeding Nancy's aspirations to become a tres bon artiste! Includes an art project, or as Nancy puts it, art masterpiece instructions. – Rachel Haisley, HarperCollins, \$12.99 (all ages)



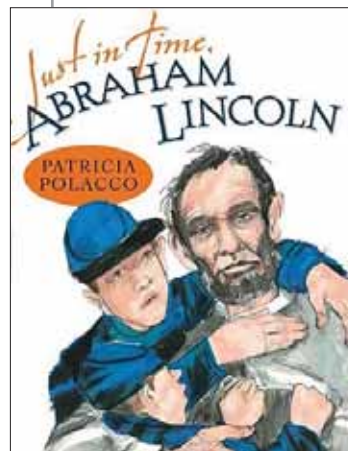
***Miss Dorothy and Her Bookmobile*,** Gloria Houston, illustrated by Susan Condie Lamb

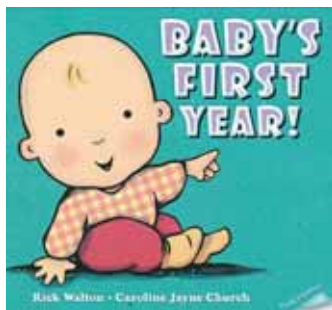
Booksellers LOVE books about books (*It's A Book, Dog Loves Books!*), and Miss Dorothy fits right in. Dorothy grew up knowing she wanted to be a librarian, but in her new home in rural North Carolina, there is no library. When everyone in town chips in and buys a bookmobile, Dorothy makes her old dream come true. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$16.99 (all ages)



***Just In Time, Mr. Lincoln*,** Patricia Polacco

Polacco opens the history door again (*January's Sparrow, The Butterfly*) with her new Civil War book. When Michael and Derek go to the Harper's Ferry Museum with their grandmother, the museum director invites them to play a game. Before they know it, they are at Antietam shortly after the terrible battle in 1862. When they meet Mr. Lincoln, the seriousness of the country's situation becomes clear. Polacco reminds readers that museums are still portals to our past, another way to time-travel! She brings characters, history to life. This would make a great read-aloud for any young reader interested in the Civil War. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$17.99 (4 and up)





Baby's First Year, Rick Walton

A beautiful, sincere celebration of milestones, from gurgles to smiles to sit-ups to steps, this is the perfect gift for any new parents. – Rachel Haisley, Penguin, \$15.99 (all ages)

Ladybug Girl and The Bug Squad, David Soman

Ladybug Girl is back and to the rescue! When Lulu and The Bug Squad's playdate doesn't go as planned and feelings are hurt, Ladybug Girl arrives and teaches us how to say sorry and be brave, even when it's really, really hard.

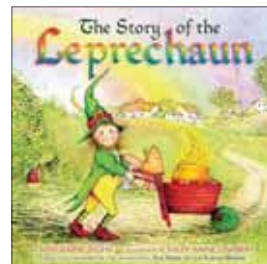
– Rachel Haisley, Penguin, \$16.99 (all ages)



St. Patrick's Day

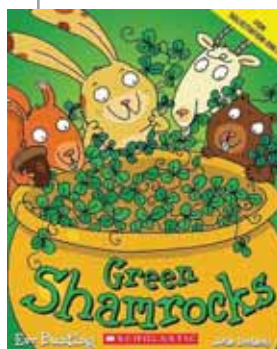
The Story of the Leprechaun, Katherine Tegen, illustrated by Sally Anne Lambert

The wee leprechaun fixes shoes under the great oak tree. When Tim stops by, the leprechaun realizes that he wants more than a new pair of shoes. Why *do* leprechauns use a rainbow to hide their gold? Tegen and Lambert team up to tell the story with charm. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, \$12.99 (all ages)



Green Shamrocks, Eve Bunting, illustrated by Joelle Dreidemy

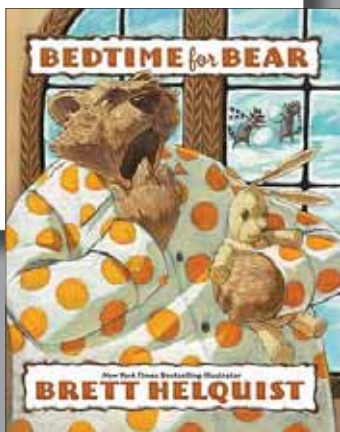
Rabbit is going to grow shamrocks for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. His golden pot produces shamrocks, but when they disappear the day before the parade, Rabbit must go to great lengths to find them. This adventure is about getting ready and getting along. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Scholastic, \$6.99 (all ages)



Events for Kids to Young Adults

Brett Helquist

Saturday, February 19, 11 a.m. Join us for a special storytime with author/illustrator Brett Helquist. He will be reading from and signing his new picture book, ***Bedtime for Bear***. Helquist, illustrator of Lemony Snicket's *Series of Unfortunate Events*, follows Bear and his friends through a playful day of snowy fun.



A Dog's Way Home

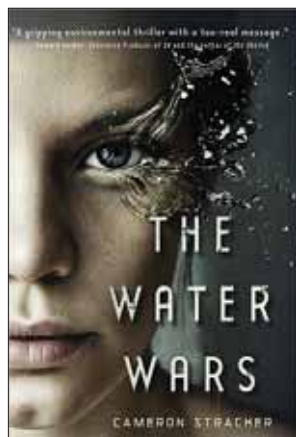
Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m. Local author Bobbie Pyron will read from and sign her new book, ***A Dog's Way Home***. Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, it's an unforgettable tale of the many miles, months, and mountains that divide two loyal friends but that can't keep them apart.

Haunted

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m. Young adult author Joy Preble will be reading from and signing copies of her new book, ***Haunted***, the sequel to her first book, ***Dreaming Anastasia***. Picking up right where the first book left off, we follow Anna as she continues on her paranormal way.



Young Adult



***The Water Wars*, Cameron Stracher**

Water is hoarded; if you are not thirsty, you are rich in this world. Vera and Will are thirsty, dry and dusty, and when their new friend Kai disappears, they know they must find him. Fast-paced, and gripping, this environmental thriller supposes a world readers hope they'll never witness. – Margaret Brennan Neville, SourceBooks, \$16.99 (12 and up)

***Sean Griswold's Head*, Lindsey Leavitt**

How does a 15-year-old girl gain control of a life that is spinning out of control? According to Payton Gritas' guidance counselor, she needs to focus on one thing. That thing inevitably becomes the head of the boy who sits in front of her. A hilarious, insightful take on the meaning of friendship, Sean Griswold's head holds more than meets the eye. – Rachel Haisley, Bloomsbury, \$16.99 (12 and up)

***Black Radishes*, Susan Lynn Meyer**

Gustave and his friends don't think the Nazis will ever get to Paris, but his parents do not feel the same. When Gustave and his mom and dad move to the small village of Saint-Georges, Gustave, along with Nicole, a local Catholic girl, have to find a way to smuggle his aunt and cousin into the free part of France. Meyer, using her own family's history, sheds light on another story of WWII. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, \$16.99 (10 and up)

***Kick*, Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman**

Meyers continues to buck the "fantasy/futuristic" trend and succeeds again with the help of teenage writer Ross Workman. Kevin is a star soccer player, but when he gets into trouble and ends up in juvie, his life could be radically changed. Up steps Sergeant Brown as Kevin's new mentor, but building a relationship is as difficult as staying out of trouble. Myers and Workman have crafted a believable, sympathetic duo and a compelling story. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, \$16.99 (12 and up)

***Back When You Were Easier to Love*, Emily Wing Smith**

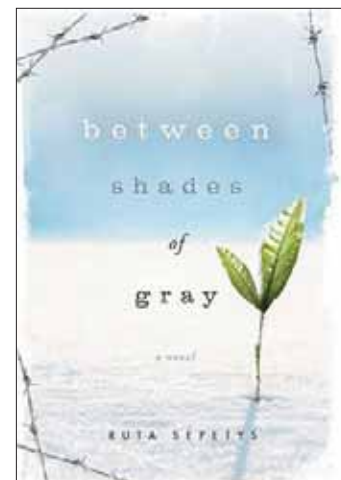
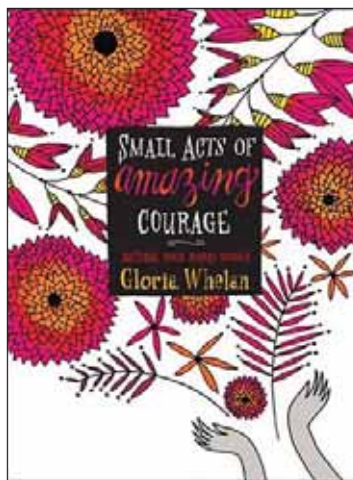
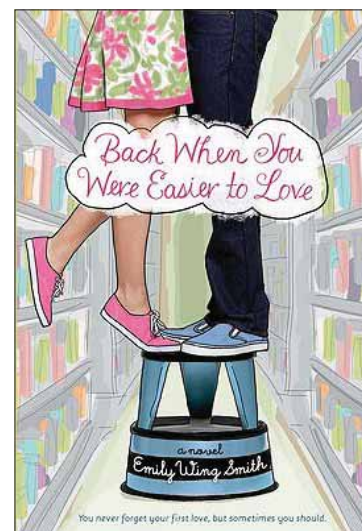
TKE favorite Emily Wing Smith has come out with her second novel! It is the story of being dumped—without even realizing you've been dumped. Original, lyrical and moving, the novel follows Joy, a teenage girl struggling to move through her confusion through flashbacks and wit. It is utterly moving. Don't miss! – Rachel Haisley, Random House, \$16.00 (12 and up)

***Small Acts of Amazing Courage*, Gloria Whelan**

It's been over half a year since the end of World War I and Rosalind's father has yet to return. Rosalind is a British girl living with her family in India during an era when most girls her age are sent to attend boarding school in England. Cataloging Indian culture, the rise of Ghandi, and Rosalind's coming of age, this fresh, touching tale teaches as well as entertains. – Rachel Haisley, Simon and Schuster, \$15.99 (12 and up)

***Between Shades of Grey*, Ruta Sepetys (April)**

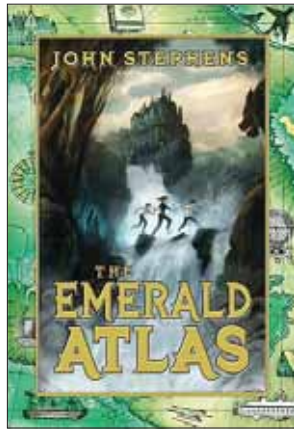
The horrors of WWII were not confined to mainland Europe and the concentration camps. Ruta Sepetys sheds light on another piece of terrible history in a tale based on the life of a young Lithuanian girl and her family. They are brutally ripped from their home, put on a cattle car, and shipped to Siberia. Lina's struggles to survive this savage, new reality is at the heart of this story. Her art gives her solace and saves her. Her journey covers many years and thousands of miles, but ultimately her survival is rooted in hope. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Penguin, \$17.99 (12 and up)



Chapter Books

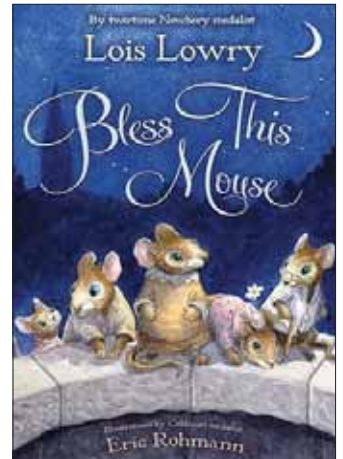
***Emerald Atlas*, John Stephens**

Three children, taken from their home on a cold, snowy night, bounce from orphanage to orphanage. Kate, the oldest, vaguely remembers that sad moment and is forever trying to figure out what really happened. When they end up at Dr. Pym's institution in Cambridge Falls, they realize that their world is not all that it appears to be. Michael discovers a mysterious dungeon room and, by opening a door, sends our three heroes into a magical world. All these kids are trying to do is find their family, but they discover they must save the world too. This book is an example of what is best about middle readers: interesting characters, a good story and fun to read! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, \$17.99 (9 and up)

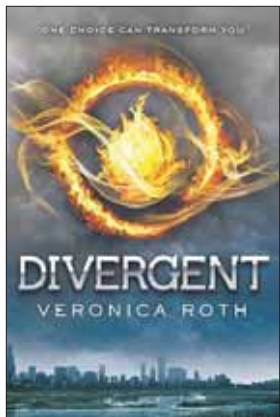


***Bless This Mouse*, Lois Lowry, illustrated by Eric Rohman (April)**

Prolific Newbery-winning author Lois Lowry has a new treat for young readers. Church mouse Hildegard is in charge of all the mice in Saint Bartholemew's. But she fears the cat, and to make matters more complicated, the church will soon be full of animals for the annual blessing. Hildegard has to find the courage and the patience to take care of her flock. The illustrations are terrific. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$15.99 (8 and up)



***Divergent*, Veronica Roth**



Another disturbing dystopian vision plays out in Roth's view of what used to be Chicago. Beatrice does not know who she is; she is not even allowed to look at herself in the mirror. When the coming-of-age ritual called the "Choosing Ceremony" occurs, Beatrice has to decide between family or "faction." She chooses "faction" and has to prove to her new community and herself that she can survive all of the tests. More questions and challenges drive this novel to an ending that leaves the reader wanting more. New author Roth has set up a

fascinating storyline that has something for everyone. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, \$16.99 (12 and up)

***True (...sort of)*, Katherine Hannigan**

Readers love Hannigan's portrayal of little girls (think *Ida B* and *Emmaline!*), and she lives up to that in her new book. Delly is a little girl born to get into trouble, and she struggles mightily against the urge. But she recognizes good when she sees it and is willing to risk a lot for those she loves. When a new girl moves into town, Delly is curious. Being curious can get someone into a lot of trouble. Readers will love Delly and "Delly-isms." Her story is quirky, funny, and full of courage. In Delly's world, love wins. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, \$16.99 (8 and up)



Fans of *Percy Jackson*, *Fablehaven*, and *Ranger's Apprentice* start cheering now. Jason Walker lives a predictable life full of ordinary things until one day during a totally normal visit to the zoo, he is transported to another world. Lyrian is a land ruled by a fascist wizard emperor, Maldor, who has changed a once-peaceful land into one ruled by fear and suspicion. Jason and his friend Rachel must destroy Maldor and save Lyrian in this new trilogy. – Rachel Haisley, Simon and Schuster, \$19.99 (8 and up)

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

2011

The King's English is happy to announce the return of the SUMMER READING PROGRAM. The book groups will meet once a week for four weeks. The majority of the leaders are certified teachers. You must sign up for the entire four-week package and pre-pay when you enroll your child. There is a 10% discount on books but book purchase is NOT required to participate. All groups meet at the store.

Note: Space is limited in the program and sign-ups will start in May. Please stay tuned for the date sign-ups begin.

More Upcoming Children's Author Events

Carol Lynch Williams

Saturday, April 16, 2 p.m.

Marc Brown

Monday, April 18

Carrie Ryan

Tuesday, April 26



STORYTIMES

Thursday, Friday & Saturday at 11 a.m.

INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS

Kathy Ashton

Anne Holman

Anne Brillinger

Sally Larkin

Betsy Burton

Wendy Foster Leigh

Kit Burton

Paula Longhurst

Sue Fleming

Jenny Lyons

Rachel Haisley

Robert Morreall

Alison Hilger

Margaret Brennan Neville

Deon Hilger

Kimberly Snow

Barbara Hoagland

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