

THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP MATCHING BOOKS TO READERS SINCE 1977

1511 South 1500 East Salt Lake City, UT 84105 801-484-9100

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A New Year and A New Era by Betsy Burton

The King's English has much to look forward to in 2015. To begin with, after a 15-year apprenticeship, first as bookseller, then as events coordinator, and, for the past eight years as store manager, Anne Holman has become a full partner in the bookshop. Putting the partnership on paper is really only a formality, though. Over those years she's taken enthusiastic ownership of every role she's played at TKE. She's demonstrated her competence in all aspects of this crazy, complex business of bookselling and has been my de facto partner in decision-making, both the tough and the creative ones, bringing her vast knowledge of bookselling and publishing (not to mention her outsized sense of humor) to bear on not only our store but our regional booksellers association, Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers Association. Anne's just been elected President of this group, which includes not just states in the Rockies and the Southwest, but in Texas and Oklahoma as well. Her investment in TKE and in the business of books is extraordinary. We not only love and value Anne, we're very proud of her.

There are books to look forward to in the coming year as well, of course. Those you'll read about in this issue, from the likes of Nick Hornby and Ali Smith to two amazing debut titles, *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth* and *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe*. Also, giving you a peek into the future, an astonishing new novel by Kazuo Ishiguro (the best he's ever done, in this reader's opinion) will be coming in March; a new Toni Morrison we're all eager to get our hands on will publish in April; and, perhaps best of all, a final and blissfully good novel by our beloved Kent Haruf, who died recently, will be out this May. What better gift could he have left us? (*Continued on page 2*)

Save the Date for These Events!

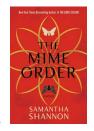


Monday, February 9, 7 p.m. Alexandra Fuller will read from and sign her new memoir, *Leaving Before the Rains Come*.

Thursday, February 12, 7 p.m. Samantha

Shannon will join us for *The Mime Order*, the next book in her fantasy series.

Thursday, February 12 – Sunday, February 15. It's our semi-annual sale! Bring your valentine! See details above.



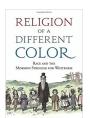


SALE! SALE! SALE!

Pick up gifts for all your Valentines at TKE's Semi-annual Sale! 30% off hardcovers, 40% off three or more, 10% off everything else*

Thursday, February 12th – Sunday, February 15th

*Excluding special orders, gift cards, fine art and KOBOs



Thursday, February 19, 7 p.m. U of U History professor W. Paul Reeve will join us to discuss his new book, *Religion of a Different Color*, which traces Mormonism's racial trajectory.

Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m. TKE turns into Island Books

when Gabrielle Zevin visits for the paperback of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*. See our Kids and YA Events on page 11!

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(Continued from page 1) We mourn Kent Haruf and we mourn Mark Strand, two literary icons who died within a day of one another last November. Each left a huge legacy. In Mark Strand's Collected Poems, that legacy is a stunning body of work to savor—the work of the lifetime of one of the major poets of our time—and in Kent's case, along with all of the other wonderful Holt, Colorado novels there was Benediction which not only foreshadowed his own death but illuminates both the process of death and the value of life in unforgettable ways. We are profoundly thankful to Mark and to Kent, both of whom loved TKE. Each shed light on our world, and we will miss them sorely—but will keep their work alive on our shelves and in our hearts and your hands.

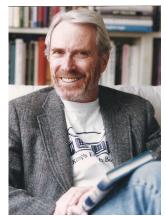
We are thankful for other things as well, chief among them the support of all of you. You've been steadfast through thick and thin over the years but never so whole-heartedly—or vocally—as this year. You've flocked into our store in droves,

communed with our booksellers, bought books by the stacks and touched our hearts with your visible love of and support for us and the community we all share—not to mention for books! You'll never know how much you mean to us or how grateful we are.

Speaking of grateful, we have been the recipient of a couple of astonishing acts of kindness, both highly visible, inside and outside our doors. The first was anonymous: noticing our rather shabby exterior (Pat Bagley's Mockingjays peeling off the walls along with flakes of paint and plaster) which we were saving (slowly) to repair, some bighearted soul hired a painter and put him to work. One day we were sliding from shabby gentility into just plain shabby, the next our exterior was crisp and clean and newly born as the new year. So, dear anonymous customer, a heartfelt thank you. One day when we can, we will pay your kindness forward.

And one more thank you to James Patterson whose grant for TKE's children's room has raised its ceiling, opened up old clear-story windows, and will soon give birth to an Aspen Tree (Utah's state tree, remember?) in the room's heart. After a deliberate work slow-down in December to make sure our construction didn't interfere with your browsing for books for all the kids on your holiday list, we're back at it; we expect the project will soon be finished—complete with wheels on our shelves and a drop-down projection screen on our wall to create a wonderful space for events.

We all have much to be thankful for in this too-often dark world. Books will continue to shine light in dark corners in 2015, just as Anthony Doerr's *All the Light We Cannot See* did last year (the 1,000+ copies TKE has sold, and similar enthusiastic support from independent bookstores all over the country, helped to propel it to #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list). We are thankful to Anthony Doerr and to all the other authors who have written and continue to write books that help us to see, to the publishers who have the vision to recognize the best of them, and to you the readers who hold us all in your hands.



Poet Mark Strand at TKE



Novelist Kent Haruf at home

In Our Poetry Room



One evening, sitting alone in The King's English literary/poetry room with a stack of books on my lap, Mark Strand's poetry simply fell to the floor behind me and presented itself—a lovely bilingual edition. I was smitten. **Anonymous**Note: 'Hard by' is colloquial for 'nearby' or 'local'

In the Hard By Bookshop

A pile of paper wrested
from the best room
Authors banished into proff
then bound to appear
for the appeal of purchase
Unwilling to succumb
I crumple and wilt
into an ill-fitting worn wicker chair

My futile search
for the sublime (and yet)

Un miracle unprovoked by human rumbling

'Presque invisible' flops
from a shelf to the floor

Translation of poet Strand
'par Fiona' --Vif Éditions

La séduction est fini Avec satisfaction et l'anticipation Je me lève, j'achète les papiers Et je porte le livre à l'air d'hiver

The seduction is finished
With satisfaction and anticipation
I rise up, purchase the papers
And carry the book into the winter air

Be It Resolved: Resolutions for 2015

Courtesy of TKE's booksellers and customers

Knit less, read more. **Connie Romboy** *Editor's note: Or, do both*—

Read at least five Anthony Trollope novels I've never read before instead of re-reading *The Chronicles of Barsetshire* yet again. **Betsy Burton**



Read more Charles Dickens, except not Little Dorrit. Anne Holman

Read more nonfiction so I can beat my dad at Trivial Pursuit. **Whitney Berger** *Editor's note: Like this compendium for example*—

Read fewer mysteries. Sleepless in Salt Lake

Begin every day with a book. Rachel Haisley

Read poetry. **Anne Zimmerman** *Editor's note: Where better to start than Mark Strand?*

Write something. Rob Eckman

Find agent for my 2nd book; write first draft of 3rd. **Aaron Cance**

Read some adult mysteries. **Becky Hall** *Editor's note: Read this one and you'll be hooked for life...*

Read what I want to read, not what I "should" read. **AB**

Write 500 words every day. Paula Longhurst

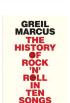
Read something funny—I'd rather be breathless with laughter than bad air! **Anonymous** *Editor's note: This one's guaranteed to make you choke with laughter!*

Read more fiction. Beatrice W.

Choose six genres: history, biography, mystery, poetry, nature, and cooking literature and read one book a week. Keep my fiction reading all pleasure! **Betsy Prouty**

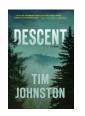
Stop whining and write some damn short stories. **A. E. Cannon**

Editor's note: Allow us to provide inspiration—

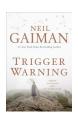












Saying Hello Means Saying Goodbye (but not really)



Barbara Hoagland, who became a full partner at TKE in 1987, was an invaluable part of the bookshop for many years. The fact that we were in many ways opposites made her presence all the more important. As an example, I would buy books from publishers with fervid enthusiasm, seldom considering their cost, while Barbara costed out every order we made, reminding me constantly

that bill-paying was an important part of the business. Although we both loved mysteries, fiction was and remains my first love. Barbara, on the other hand, read nonfiction—consumed it in fact. I wrote long complicated sometimes weepy blurbs. Hers were short and crisp and often funny. We were, in fact, perfect partners. Her status at TKE changed to silent partner a decade ago when her husband Skip retired and they began to travel, but she still reads voraciously and writes her crisp blurbs from afar. She will continue to do so, although Anne, who replaced her in the shop years ago (and who is likewise possessed of a wonderful, if slightly less wicked sense of humor), has officially acquired her stock in TKE. We're all family at the bookshop, and Barbara Hoagland's revered place in that family will never change. I'll always hear her voice reminding me (thank God) that bills need to be paid, and I still talk to her weekly—and invariably end up laughing.

My Funny Valentine by Anne Holman

Here at TKE we believe a good book makes a great Valentine. This year we have Nick Hornby's new novel *Funny Girl*. Witty and insightful, Hornby never fails to find the humor and the humanity in his characters. And if you loved *The Rosie Project*, you'll be happy to know Don and Rosie are back and baby makes three in *The Rosie*

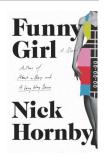


paby makes three in *The Rosie*Effect! On a contemplative
note, Thich Nhat Hanh has
a new series of short books

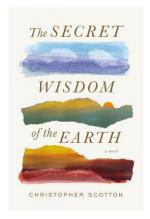
including *How to Love*. It can be complicated, love. Remember *The Transit of Venus*, *Possession*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, and *The House*

of the Spirits? And think of all the older titles we've loved over the years: Anna Karenina, The End of the Affair,

Madame Bovary, On Chesil Beach...oh wait, those may be better examples of love gone astray. How about Pride and Prejudice, A Room with a View, Cinnamon and Gunpowder, and of course my favorite love story of all time, Outlander. What's your favorite love story?



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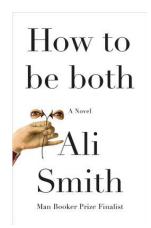
The Secret Wisdom of the Earth, Christopher Scotten

Seen through the eyes of 14-year-old Kevin, Medgar, Kentucky comes alive as a melting pot of the best and the worst of coal-dependent Appalachia in the late 1980s. Mountain top removal mining is dividing the town into those who need the jobs and those who recognize that mountains can't be rebuilt. Kevin and his mother have come "home" to live with his grandfather, Pops, and Audy Ray, Pop's housekeeper, in the wake of Kevin's little

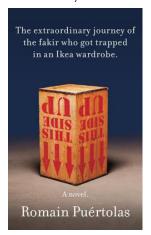
brother's death. While his mother spends the summer prostrate and grieving, Kevin accompanies Pops on his large animal veterinary appointments. With each new character he meets, Kevin learns hard, wonderful lessons about the nature of good and evil that can coexist in each person. *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth* is a coming-of-age story and so much more. – Anne Holman, Grand Central, \$26

How to Be Both, Ali Smith

George's mother exists only in the past tense. She's dead, and George's grief is all-consuming—except when she slips into the present tense and is suddenly reliving a witty, words-as-weapons confrontation: lippy teenage daughter versus sophisticated, highly-educated mom. Witticisms fly, sarcasm abounds, doors slam, and sometimes the whole scene melts into laughter. But then George is back in the present and her Mom is once again past tense. Gone. We slip-slide again into time past as George, her brother, and their



mother head for Italy in pursuit of a painting—the middle panel of a fresco by a 15th century Renaissance artist. Before long the reader is flung back to that time and to Francescho del Cossa, the artist whose painting George and her mother have been viewing. And then Francescho is visiting George, watching this strange young woman who's gazing at the painting. Layered? Absolutely. Puzzling? From time to time. And madcap and joyous and tender and fascinating and wildly inventive and gender-bending and time-traveling and post-modern in the most entertaining of ways—a quirky, quixotic wonder of a book. – Betsy Burton, Pantheon, \$25.95



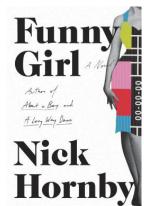
The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe, Romain Puértolas

Ajatashatru Oghash Rathod, the fakir, flies from Rajasthan, India, to Paris to purchase the Hertsyörbåk bed of nails advertised for a mere €99 by IKEA. Unfortunately (but fortunately for the reader), that model is out of stock until the next morning, and Aja opts to spend the night in the "bedroom" section of the giant store. And so our fakir's adventure begins. In a wild series of mistaken iden-

tities, misunderstandings, and pure mishaps, he ends up traveling all over Western Europe (and Africa!) in a variety of contraptions that include a hot air balloon. What could seem contrived in less capable hands is instead a fast-paced, satiric fable that makes us laugh out loud one minute, cheer the next. Guaranteed to light up the dark days of winter. – Anne Holman, Knopf, \$22

Funny Girl, Nick Hornby

Nick Hornby's *Funny Girl* is not sadfunny like the "Funny Girl" of Streisand fame but sunny funny. It's not just that Barbara, the protagonist, is funny, it's that she wants the world to know it. She's grown up listening to "I Love Lucy" on the tube and wants to be Lucille Ball. To make people laugh. The fact that most people—or at least most men—are only interested in Barbara's shape, which is statuesque, and her pretty face, makes her mad. But she's determined, and it comes



as no surprise to the reader when she lands her dream job. Two playwrights, one openly gay—or at least as open as anyone could be in 1964 London—and one uncertain about his sexuality, have penned a successful sitcom and are trying to write another. The highs and lows of said sitcom, which is the perfect vehicle for Barbara's talent, is the stuff of this often riotous and as often touching book. Hornby has a knack for softening us up with laughter and then delivering some home truths. No one escapes his scalpel in *Funny Girl*, but the reader walks away laughing nonetheless. And this time of year we can all use a laugh. – Betsy Burton, Riverside, \$27.95



If I Fall, If I Die, Michael Christie

A tangled skein of friendship and fear, boyhood, parenthood, humor, love and death are threaded together with gorgeous prose in this startling, soulrattling debut novel. Will has never been Outside. For as long as he can remember his life has consisted of meals his mother cooks in the slow cooker, laundry he does in the basement where she's afraid to venture, long hours spent painting what she deems his masterpieces. When, one day, he finally decides to brave the unknown

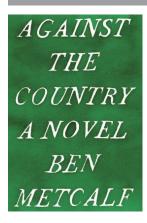
world beyond their front door, she is terrified, but he goes despite her pleas. His first foray into the wilderness of the unknown is brief and traumatic but also enticing. Before long, he goes again. And again. What he ultimately finds outside their walls, and what he discovers about his loving but agoraphobic mother, is the stuff of this wildly inventive, beautifully written, weird and wonderful tale.

- Betsy Burton, Hogarth, \$25

Against the Country, Ben Metcalf

A "loose, baggy monster" kind of novel in the Southern tradition, *Against the Country* recalls Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor in terms of atmosphere and milieu, yet the narrator's voice and willingness to play with concepts of narrative truth bring Metcalf's novel closer to the work of someone like Laurence Sterne. It is a novel

FICTION



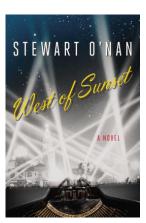
about style and voice rather than story and character, yet it is full of both stories and characters, and it manages to remain coherent and compelling though it lacks a traditional plotline to hold it together. (And yet, if there is a plot here, it is one of the oldest and most traditional: a man confronts his father.) There is no traditional dialogue either, so it reads like a long monologue with many false starts and even more false endings. Characters other than the narrator are similarly ghostlike—we come to know the narra-

tor's family throughout the novel, but only his father is named and even then but once. The novel may be a challenge to describe but it's a pleasure to read. Metcalf's writing possesses verve, especially in his metaphors, and a sense of humor that allow the narrative to remain buoyant atop the black water of its unique Southern existentialism.

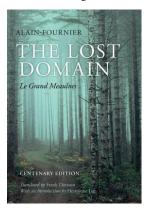
– Kenneth Loosli, Random House, \$26

West of Sunset, Stewart O'Nan

F. Scott Fitzgerald is tired. He's just been to visit Zelda and as usual it hasn't gone well. He needs to make money—to support her and their daughter Scottie. Now in Hollywood, one of his old haunts, he's trying to leave the past behind—and to stay on the wagon so he can get some work done, something hard to do in that particular town. Stewart O'Nan's compassionate and complex portrait of one of the greatest literary icons of our time manages to evoke Hollywood's glitter



and wit while at the same time bringing us inside the mind and heart of a man torn—torn between his sense of duty to his old love, his troubled wife Zelda, his blooming love for Sheila Graham, her love/hate relationship with him due to his love/hate relationship with alcohol, and perhaps most touching of all, his love for his daughter. What emerges from the stew of Fitzgerald's need is a masterful portrayal of a man of contradictions: weak yet utterly heroic, the ultimate insider who's at heart an outsider, a self-doubter who is, whatever his doubts, a writer through and through. – Betsy Burton, Viking, \$27.95



The Lost Domain, Henri Alain-Fournier

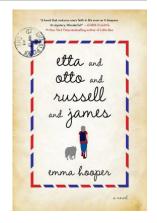
When Augustin Meaulnes highjacks a horse and wagon from his boarding school and roars off into the French countryside, he has no idea how he will be forever changed by what he finds. This little-known 1913 French classic chronicles the last (and lost) childhood days of two boys and their desperate and futile efforts to try to rediscover the mystical realms of youth. Delicately written, this heartbreaking rendering of how the fantasy of childhood slips slowly away from

us all is available again in a lovely cloth centenary edition.

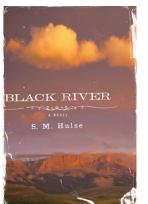
- Aaron Cance, Oxford University Press, \$19.95

Etta and Otto and Russell and James, Emma Hoop

During the Great Depression, Etta finds a job teaching in a one-room school in the middle of the Alberta prairie. Otto and Russell are two of her older students and the three form a single unit, indivisible by life's ups and downs, marriage, war, peace and old age in this wonderful novel that is part history, part personal journey, part love story, part fable. James, a talking coyote, accompanies Etta on her trek by foot, begun at the age of 83, to see the Atlantic



Ocean. The two find an easy companionship as they make their way across Canada to the ocean Etta has so longed to see, while Russell and Otto wait anxiously at home for her safe return. – Kathy Ashton, Simon & Schuster, \$26



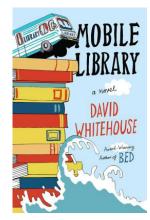
Black River, S. M. Hulse

Crippled by violence that had occurred in a prison riot years before, Wesley is returning home to Black River with his wife Claire's ashes. While there, Wesley, who had once worked as guard at the prison, has to decide whether to testify at a parole hearing against the man who tortured him for 39 agonizing hours, breaking his fingers one by one. Those fingers had connected Wesley to his fiddle and to the music that had fed his soul for most of his life. He pulls up at the house

of his stepson Dennis, uncertain of his welcome, and finds that the bad blood that had existed between the two is still on the boil. So begins an extraordinary novel that moves forward quietly, its language muted, its action mostly slipping along in a relatively calm stream of memory. That calm is surface-deep; beneath it a roil of tortured emotions surge and eddy, gathering into a current that threatens all in its wake. Hulse is clear about the strength of that current but also about the possibilities that love and forgiveness can offer. – Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$24

Mobile Library, David Whitehouse

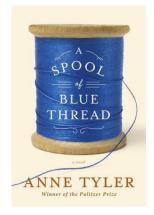
Val, mother of Rosa, cleans the town's mobile library for a living. Rosa has disabilities that make her the butt of bullying at school. She's befriended by Bobby who spends his time collecting artifacts that prove his mother really did exist, while co-existing with his abusive stepfather. Bobby is abused in the schoolyard as well as at home, which is the reason his friend Sunny is determined to turn himself into a cyborg; he wants to be invincible so that he can protect Bobby. What better refuge



could this ragtag group of outcasts have than a bookmobile, a place to escape the real world and to find solace and connection in the books that line the library shelves—and in each other? When, after far too many intentional accidents, Sunny is forced to move, Bobby lands in

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deep trouble. He flees to Val and Rosa, and all three end up on the run, an uninvited guest in tow. Their getaway vehicle? A 16-wheel bookmoblie. This is an odd tale, bizarre in terms of plot, full of eccentric characters, paced like a zany adventure story rather than so-called serious fiction, and yet unexpectedly moving—no doubt because it raises questions we all need answered: questions to do with the definition of family and the proper role of schools, the purpose of social services and the efficacy of the so-called social net, not to mention the legal system. All that and it makes us laugh on pretty much every page. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$25



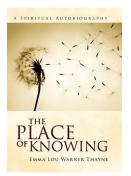
A Spool of Blue Thread, Anne Tyler

Anne Tyler is a master at showing us what lies just beneath the surface of a "typical" American family. As we weave back and forth between three generations of the Whitshank clan, it's in the small details where we learn who they are as opposed to who they think they are. We meet Junior (!) who has tried to escape his Appalachian childhood only to be pursued by Linnie Mae right into marriage. And his son Red, who is just Red, and comfortable in his skin. Red's wife Abby is a

central character, a keeper of secrets and promises. And of their four children. Denny seems the most secretive and detached, but why? Tyler's characters are like people I know in real life, their concerns and complexities addictively involving because they seem so true.

– Anne Holman, Knopf, \$25.95

My Friend, Our Friend: Emma Lou Thayne by Anne Holman



A beloved bookshop friend and author, Emma Lou Thayne passed away on December 6, 2014. We've sold her books ever since we opened our doors in 1977, most recently, *The Place of Knowing*. It's an engaging memoir of Emma Lou's life; filled with poetry and reflections. Although I'd only known Emma Lou for the past 10 years, she made me feel like I'd been a dear friend forever. I'd often

drive over to her house with a box of books for her to sign and

we would sit at her kitchen table and visit while she personalized books for her many, many friends and fans. She made people happy; she made all the booksellers at TKE happy; she made me happy.



NONFICTION



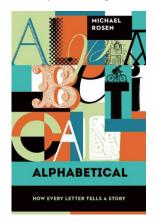
Leaving Before the Rains Come, Alexandra Fuller

A starred review in *Booklist* describes Ms. Fuller's newest book as, "powerful, raw and painful." It is all of that. Yet told with her inimitable humor, what could otherwise be unrelenting sadness is mitigated by her ability to laugh at some of the less-than-funny situations in which she found herself—both as a child growing up and later as an adult during the eventual dissolution of her marriage. Possessed of the same piercing observations apparent in her other nonfiction, Fuller's latest book is a much more personal look into her life

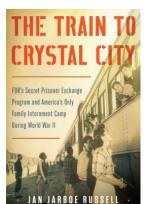
and those of her husband Charlie and their children. Her love of life and place is apparent on every page. – Jan Sloan, Penguin, \$26.95 *Editor's note: Alexandra Fuller will visit TKE Monday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.*

Alphabetical: How Every Letter Tells a Story, Michael Rosen

From whence did our alphabet come? Who had the bright idea that each sound could be codified in the form of a squiggle? And why is that squiggle different from culture to culture and continent to continent? Why do letters disappear? And what is all that about E? And then there is N which stimulated Rosen to write about nonsense poems, always a fascinating subject. Everything you ever wanted to know about the alphabet is riffed, de-



scribed, counted, sounded, rhymed and pondered in one of the most delightful books ever on the whys and wherefores of written language by the author of the multiple award-winning children's book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt.* – Kathy Ashton, Counterpoint/PGW, \$25



The Train to Crystal City, Jan Jarboe Russell

Crystal City, Texas was the site of the most unique American internment camp during World War II. Its inhabitants were families of interned Japanese, Italians and Germans who were essentially hostages for what was intended to be a prisoner exchange program. The majority of the children of the internees were American-born and yet they were by association deemed enemy aliens. As the war progressed and the prisoner exchange

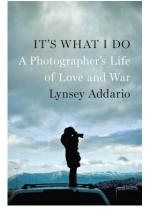
program was enacted, these families were "repatriated" to their country of origin in exchange for American prisoners. That many of those repatriated did not speak the language and had no association with Japan or Germany was of little concern as they were merely pawns in a chess game conceived and run by the U. S. Government. Russell has done a terrific job of personalizing the horrors of the internment system and the spirit of those who lived and flourished through it.

- Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, \$30

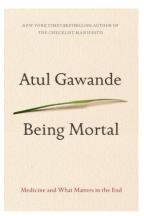
NONFICTION

It's What I Do, Lynsey Addario

Beginning in 2000, Addario has traveled the world over as a woman photojournalist, documenting the stories of people and their hardships. She has been witness to as well as recorder of the effects of war in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Pakistan, and Gaza to name a few. Her many courageous colleagues include Dexter Filbin, Stephen Farrell, Tyler Hicks and Tim Hetherington (now deceased). These professionals sacrifice dearly to bring to the public the effects of war on the military



and civilians alike. Addario regularly submits her work to *The New York Times* and *National Geographic*. I will be on the lookout for her work in the future with gratitude and will wish her safety throughout her endeavors. – Sue Fleming, Penguin, \$29.95



Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End, Atul Gawande

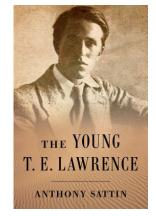
Although a book about death, *Being Mortal* is also a book about life—about recognizing illness for what it is, and then making informed decisions about its consequences on all our lives. Gawande, a surgeon, a writer and something of a philosopher, has learned to widen his focus beyond the medical view, recognizing that sometimes life at any cost is not life worth living. He begins first with the topic of aging, taking us on the historical arc from

dying at home in early society to the birth of hospitals and nursing homes, the gradual realization that such institutions can be prison-like and that people shouldn't be forced to live in rhythms that suit their caregivers. He takes us through the movement to assisted living establishments and then on to newer, smaller residences which are more intimate, more homelike—and more respectful of quality of life. Insisting that everyone should be the author of his or her own life, he gives us not only a rationale for making that happen but also the tools for at least beginning to do so. Moving on to the topic of death, he again gives us overview—not just of the mortal consequences of illness, but of the choices that occur as one travels in death's direction, the ways to make those choices clear—both to the patient and to his or her family. In the process he addresses not only the fear of death, but also the conversations that can defang that fear, replacing it with

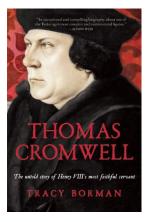
peace, with dignity, and with free will. *Being Mortal* is groundbreaking—like Kent's Haruf's *Benediction*, it's a book everyone should read. – Betsy Burton, Metropolitan Books, \$26

The Young T. E. Lawrence, Anthony Sattin

At 17 years of age, young Lawrence had finished his undergraduate studies and was working on a thesis to disprove the accepted notion at the time that the early crusaders were influenced in their build-



ing of military fortifications (castles) by buildings witnessed in the Middle East. He reasoned it was just the opposite and set out on foot to walk from Beirut south to the Sea of Galilee and as far north as Urfa, exploring and sketching castles along the way. The journey was adventurous and dangerous and created a lifelong yen to immerse himself totally in the Arab culture, its people and customs. Lawrence's passion for archeology and for Arabia was born during this period of his life—he was never to be the same again. – Sue Fleming, Norton, \$28.95



Thomas Cromwell: The Untold Story of Henry VIII's Most Faithful Servant, Tracy Borman

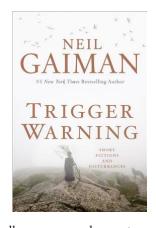
This is the biography for those of us who loved both *Wolf Hall* and *Bring Up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel. British historian Tracy Borman has left no stone unturned. Using primary sources, she deftly illustrates the man and the myth. Was he truly terrible and ambitious or was he faithful and even enlightened? Beginning with Thomas Cromwell's birth in or about 1485 in Putney, Borman guides us through-

Cromwell's life and times for better and for worse. – Anne Holman, Atlantic Monthly, \$30

SPECULATIVE FICTION

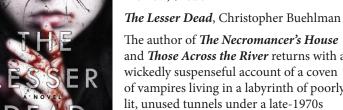
Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances, by Neil Gaiman

In his introduction to this new collection of short stories, Gaiman writes about the things that trigger our half-forgotten fears, thus forcing us to remember. "And what we learn about ourselves in those moments," he says, "where the trigger has been squeezed, is this: the past is not dead." Neither, it seems, are the shadowy figures that dog childhood nightmares. But in these narratives (spun darkly in a variety of forms, including fable, fairy



tale, and poem) those shadowy figures are all grown up and eager to haunt the adult reader. Whether writing about aliens or werewolves or imaginary girlfriends turned deadly or the slow slide into dementia, Gaiman joyfully displays his deep gifts as a raconteur of the

supernatural. – Ann Cannon, William Morrow, \$26.99

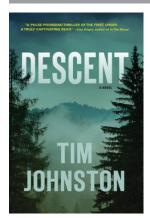


and *Those Across the River* returns with a wickedly suspenseful account of a coven of vampires living in a labyrinth of poorly lit, unused tunnels under a late-1970s New York City. The streets are alive at night with pulsing discotheques and swingers, and Joey Peacock feels as if he has the run of the city... until the night

SPECULATIVE FICTION

he notices something on the subway that is much older, and considerably more sinister, than the cadre of blood-drinkers he lives and moves with—and it isn't Robert Plant. Having written four books that are sure to keep you up way past your bedtime, Buehlman could very well be the best author in the horror genre that you've never heard of. – Aaron Cance, Berkley Books/Penguin, \$25.95

MYSTERY/THRILLER



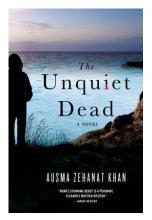
Descent, Tim Johnston

The disappearance of a child is every parent's worst nightmare. The Courtlands are a typical American family vacationing in Colorado before 18-year-old Caitlin leaves for college in Wisconsin on a full scholarship for track and field. The trip to the Rockies is her graduation gift and all she wants to do is run, at high altitude, to her heart's content. And then everything goes wrong. What's fascinating about this mystery is the way we get into each of the main characters' heads and feel his or her

pain and confusion. There are a few cracks in this outwardly happy family, and Caitlin's disappearance pushes each of them further inside themselves and away from one another. We follow them down their very separate paths and, at the same time, are privy to Caitlin's story as well. Once you get to the end of this frightening novel, you'll look up and realize you stayed up all night. It's that good. – Anne Holman, Algonquin, \$25.95

The Unquiet Dead, Ausma Zehanat Khan

The Unquiet Dead may at first glance appear to be a typical if well-written mystery. It begins with a death and a question: the death, a fatal plunge from a Canadian cliff-top, the question, was now-dead Christopher Drayton pushed, did he jump, or was his death an accident? And why has an old friend at the Justice Department asked Muslim detective Esa Khattak, whose division involves community relations, not homicide, to lead the investigation? Fragmentary clues



begin to appear in beheaded scraps of letters in Drayton's library—scraps of story that head each chapter of the book and that float through its text like faded memories. Amassing over the course of the novel, they gradually coalesce into the picture of war-torn Bosnia. And suddenly Esa's assignment begins to make sense as Drayton's real identity emerges from the shadows. Just as suddenly we realize this is far more than a mere piece of genre fiction. So skilled is Kahn in character development that we become intimate with the detectives and with the suspects they're investigating, know their private fears and failures, know the history they're becoming increasingly aware of, led on by the search for the truth that is at the heart of every good book. In the end, *The Unquiet Dead* brings the unimaginable to life, illuminating and personalizing the lives—and deaths—of those long buried. It can be hard to read, but, ironically, it is impossible to put down. It's a book I'll never forget. – Betsy Burton, Minotaur, \$25.99

MYSTERY/THRILLER

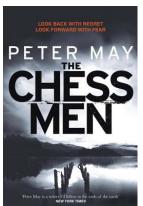
A Fine Summer's Day, Charles Todd

England is enjoying a fine summer day in 1914 and Ian Rutledge is beginning his career as an inspector with Scotland Yard. He is in love with a beautiful, young and flighty woman. The country is awash with rumors of war on the Continent, yet crime continues at its usual pace and Rutledge finds himself involved in a series of unexplained murders—murders he must solve before he reports to duty on the Western Front. Although the crimes take place in various towns, they



have a common thread—each victim once lived in Bristol. For fans of Charles Todd mysteries, this book takes place prior to Rutledge's time in France and prior to his meeting with the Scottish Highlander. Readers will have "ah ha" moments when they realize just how the pieces of all 16 previous mysteries relate to Rutledge's past.

- Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$26.99



The Chessmen, Peter May

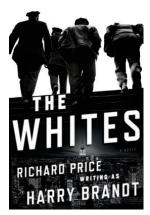
Inspector Fin Macleod is now settled on the Isle of Lewis making a new life out of an old one in the final volume of the Lewis trilogy. He finds his new position as head of security for a local landowner baffling when he's confronted with conflicts of landowner vs. poachers and the conflicts of a newly found son and lover. While renewing acquaintance with a repeat poacher who happens to be an old friend, a "bog burst" drains a loch of water exposing the skeleton of a

light aircraft containing the body of a man they both knew. Musician Roddy Mackenzie had disappeared over 17 years ago and, realizing this was not an accident, Macleod switches into his inspector mode only to discover that ancient rivalries and feuds which have been buried with the aircraft are now surfacing. The Chessmen are a group of 12th century chess pieces found on the island and now in the British Museum and the Museum of Scotland—chessmen of which Fin's old friend has carved replicas for an island celebration. They represent the emotions, jealousies, feuds of the islanders who readers of this trilogy by now know and care about. *The Chessmen* rounds out May's picture of island life with all its strengths and weaknesses. Read *The Blackhouse* and *The Lewis Man* first to fully realize the power of the Lewis trilogy. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Quercus, \$26.99

The Whites, Richard Price (writing as Harry Brandt)

A quality revenge thriller is always a confrontation with the limits of human forgiveness. What can you live with? What keeps you up at night? For Billy Graves and his friends, a tight group of mostly retired detectives who call themselves the Wild Geese, it's the Whites. The ones who got away. Every Goose has his or her own White, a slick perp who never paid for his crimes, and even decades after the first Goose retired they still talk about the Whites like fresh wounds when they go out for drinks. They represent a moral debt left unpaid to the victims and their families and to hear these cops tell it, no end would be too cruel for any one of the Whites. Which is why when they start

MYSTERY/THRILLER

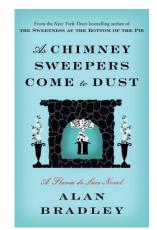


turning up dead, Billy—the only member of the Wild Geese still on the force—begins to suspect the worst of his best friends. At the same time, a violent stalker emerges and targets Billy's family in his quest to satisfy a lifetime vendetta against Billy's wife Carmen. As Graves uncovers the darkest secrets of his most intimate companions, he fights through a classically noir moral quandary: loyalty to family and friends, or loyalty to some higher law that would require you to sacrifice your family and friends? On the other side

of the fight, Billy Graves learns what everyone else in his life seems to already know—that some moral debts can never be cleared while others can never be claimed. – Kenneth Loosli, Henry Holt, \$28

As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust: A Flavia de Luce Novel, Alan Bradley

Flavia has been sent to an upper-crust Canadian finishing school where her mother's academic and leadership skills have secured her place on the school's wall of fame. The rooms are identified by the names of former students rather than numbers. On her first day, a mummified skeleton falls out of the fireplace and Flavia launches her first investigation on foreign soil. Mysteries abound, students appear and disappear, as Flavia slinks from the chemistry lab to the laundry to



the nearest grocery seeking clues, a task at which she is expert, while offering appropriate Shakespearean quotes, of course.

- Kathy Ashton, Delacorte, \$25



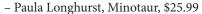
River of No Return, David Riley Bertsch

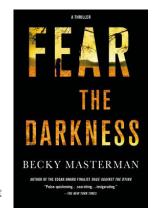
Jackson, Wyoming, in the heart of the High Rockies, may be the most beautiful place on the planet, and some of the wildest and wiliest trout lurk in its river. It takes a canny guide to lure those fish on to hooks and that's where Jake Trent (former high-powered lawyer/government agent/ now professional fishing guide) lives and works. In this second book in Bertsch's delightful series, Jake's former Washington boss needs his help to rescue Jackson's sheriff's wife from a Chinese

amusement park that is modeled after the Wyoming town. Why, you say? Because China's Security Chief (sole owner of said park) wants to make the U.S. government arrest his daughter, who lives and works in Jackson and has a legal right (visas, work permits, etc.) to stay there. Complex, yes, but great fun. – Kathy Ashton, Simon & Schuster, \$26

Fear the Darkness, Becky Masterman

In her world you're either an amusement, useful, or in her way. Retired FBI agent Brigid Quinn may be stalking 60 but she can still take down a man half her age. Brigid's Tucson-based PI business is humming along, as is her marriage to Carlo. The Quinns have just lost Brigid's sister, and Brigid made a promise to take in her niece, Gemma-Kate. That could be the worst mistake she ever made. Within days of the girl's arrival one of the family pets has fallen ill, and Brigid, investigating the case of a young man drowned in suspicious circumstances is concerned. She confides in her friend Mallory that the girl may have a little too much of the Quinn dark side about her, but Brigid isn't feeling quite like herself either.





ARIANA FRANKLIN

New York Times bestselling author of the Mistress of the Art of Death series

The Siege Clipter

SAMANTHA NORMAN

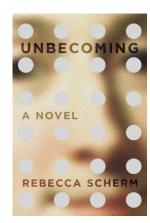
The Siege Winter, Ariana Franklin and Samantha Norman

In medieval Britain, mercenaries abound and the most skillful among them specialize in a particular weapon. Gwil the arbalest, master of bow and crossbow, is traveling through Britain's fens on foot, when he hears screams coming from a thick stand of rushes. He finds a tiny, red-headed girl, filthy, blood-soaked, shivering with bitter cold and terror, reeking with the foul stench of asafetida. Eventually she understands that Gwil

means her no harm. He moves on, his limp little bundle wrapped in his cloak, clutched close to his chest, and nurses her back to health. Once healed, she has no memory of her attack and Gwil raises her as his own son, coaches her to brilliance in archery, mothers her, teaches her the ways of boys, and calls her Penda. What happens next will break your heart, offer you hope, and make you wish for a sequel. – Kathy Ashton, HarperCollins, \$26.95

Unbecoming, Rebecca Scherm

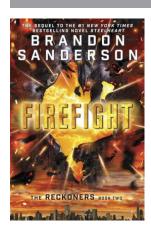
Julie is from California, scraping together a living restoring antiques in Paris. Grace is from Garland, Tennessee; she's a wife and a thief. Grace became Julie after her husband and lover were arrested for looting a local country estate—but it goes deeper than that. On the day that the boys are paroled, Grace is terrified that one of them will find her French bolthole and come to collect the treasure she absconded with, a treasure she no longer has. How far will she unravel before any



survival instinct kicks in? - Paula Longhurst, Viking, \$27.95



YOUNG ADULT



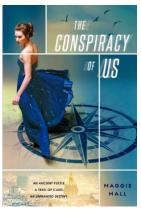
Firefight, Brandon Sanderson

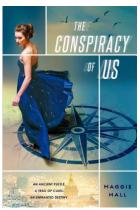
The sequel to Steelheart will make you wish for book three. Sanderson draws you into David's battle against the Epics: this time David is accompanying Prof to Babylon Restored to fight the High Epic Regalia. In his heart of hearts he also longs to find Megan in another page-turner, packed with adventure and mysteries. Sanderson is a great world-builder and that talent shines in this book. I couldn't put it down! If you loved Steelheart, you will love Firefight! - Random House,

\$18.99 (12 and up)

The Conspiracy of Us, Maggie Hall

When Avery met the family she didn't even know existed, her world started to tilt. And when she found out that they were part of an ancient secret society, The Circle of Twelve, things really began to spin. Avery is an important piece of a puzzle she doesn't really understand, and from Paris to Istanbul, from Jack to Stellan, from dead or alive, Avery has a lot of clues to unravel. This fast-paced thriller is Hall's first book; she is off to a good start. - Penguin, \$17.99 (12 and up)





MIDDLE READER



Princess Academy: The Forgotten Sisters, Shannon Hale

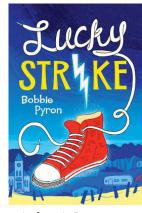
In this very satisfying conclusion to the Princess Academy trilogy, Miri finds herself, once more, unable to return to her beloved mountain home of Mount Eskel. The king of Asland has demanded that she journey to Lower Alva to become tutor to three sisters who are his Majesty's young cousins. This humid and swampy territory is filled with frightening things, including giant man-eating caimans! Miri's bravery and her skills are put to

the ultimate test in a battle that will mean the difference between saving the kingdom or losing her homeland forever. - Anne Holman, Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (10 and up)

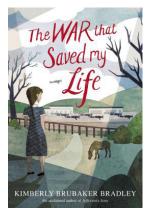
Lucky Strike, Bobbie Pyron

Nathaniel Harlow has never had an ounce of luck even though his logically-minded best friend, Genesis Beam, reminds him regularly that there is no such thing as luck. But when his eleventh birthday falls on a Saturday for the first time EVER, both Nate and Gen and everyone else in Paradise Beach are in for a big surprise—lots of

surprises in fact. A lightning strike during a game of miniature golf changes everything! Nate's grandpa suddenly gets a steady supply of customers wanting to charter him for fishing trips; Nate wins ALL the prizes at the carnival, and the always-last Bay Leaf comes in first in the annual regatta. But has Nate's luck gone too far? Folks in town start to question it and tempers run high. A big storm rolls into town and the events that follow set everyone straight about fear and friendship, and even a little bit of luck. Great



read for boys and girls alike! - Anne Holman, Arthur A. Levine, \$16.99 (8-12)



The War that Saved My Life, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

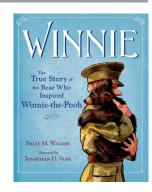
Ada, who lives with her little brother Jamie and their mother in a London slum, has never been outside because her mother does not want anyone to know about her club foot. When Jamie is sent away because of the German bombs, Ada, too, jumps at the chance to get away-and discovers that the world is a bigger and better place than she had ever imagined. Susan, the woman who is initially forced to take the kids, finds her world has

changed for the better, too. When the nasty mom shows up to reclaim the children, or at least their benefits, all of the characters have to figure out what is most important. Historical fiction, adventure, and family story all wrapped up together, this a book with a lot of heart. Penguin, \$16.99 (9 and up)

NONFICTION

Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh, Sally Walker

TKE staff loved this book the minute they laid eyes on it. The much-loved tale of Winnie-the-Pooh started when Harry Colebourn, a soldier in the Canadian Army, rescued a baby bear cub. Winnie traveled with Harry all the way to England for training, becoming the mascot of Harry's unit. When Harry was assigned to the battlefields on the continent, he



realized that Winnie would need a home—Winnie quickly became a London Zoo favorite. Readers can probably guess what happened next. The illustrations (Jonathan D. Voss) bring this charming story to life, as do the black and white photos on the end papers. This is a complete package! - Henry Holt, \$17.99 (all ages)

5 Elephants, Rob Laidlow

The challenges of elephants both in captivity and in the wild are explored in this book about five famous elephants. Their stories are intermingled with narrative about preservation, history, and the

NONFICTION

ELEPHANTS A

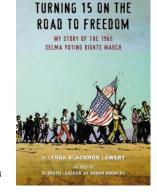
impact—both negative and positive—that humans have had on these animals. The personal stories of Lucy, Echo, and Tusko, which add so much weight to the discussion about elephants and their place in our world, are supported by many photos and a strong appendix directing the reader to supporting information. – Fitzhenry & Whiteside, \$19.95 (10 and up)

Turning 15 on the Road

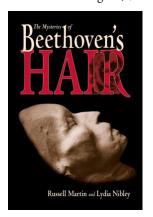
to Freedom, My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March,

Lynda Blackmon Lowery

Lynda Lowery was the youngest person to participate in the 1965 historic march, Selma to Montgomery. Her story is marked by the small and large moments of the journey, everything from sleeping on straw, to hearing Martin Luther King. Lowery's voice rings true and her saga is a welcome addition to the library of stories



that make up the Civil Rights Movement. This book is also beautifully illustrated. – Penguin, \$19.99 (12 and up)



The Mysteries of Beethoven's Hair, Russell Martin and Lydia Nibley

Paul Hiller had written a note on the back of a mysterious locket telling the reader that his father had cut the lock of hair off of Beethoven's head at the time of his death. Historians and musicians have long been fascinated with Beethoven and his amazing talents, wondering what the explanation for his genius was and what troubles went with it. Martin and Nibley cover the course of Beethoven's life, the travels of that lock of hair, and the sur-

prising results that came with the scientific examination of the hair. This compelling story is finally in paperback, and well worth reading! – Charlesbridge, \$7.95 (10 and up)

Fun and Games at TKE!

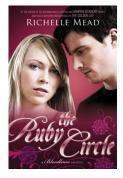


The TKE gang having fun with Cary Elwes.

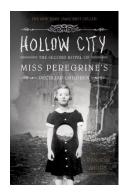


Marissa Meyer, author of **The Lunar Chronicles**, with Children's Marketing Manager, Whitney Berger.

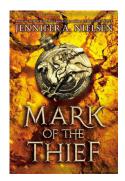
EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS



Friday, February 13, 7 p.m.
Richelle Mead will join us with the final book in her *Bloodlines* series, *The Ruby Circle*.



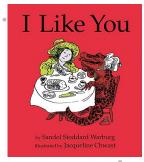
Wednesday, February 25, 7 p.m.
Ransome Riggs
will be in conversation with Tahereh Mafi about
his book, Hollow
City, the sequel to
Miss Peregrine's
Home for Peculiar
Children.



Satruday, February 28, 4 p.m.
Join us at the Provo Library (550 N. University Avenue) with Jennifer Nielsen to launch her new book, *Mark of the Thief*.

I Like You, Susan Stoddard Warburg, illustrated by Jacqueline Chwast

Why do we like the people we do? Is it because they're silly when we're silly and sad when we're sad? Or because



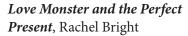
it's the Fourth of July? Or the Fifth? Or do we like them just because? Or for no reason at all? First published in 1965, this small book (featuring a memorable pen-and-ink drawing of a girl and an alligator taking tea together on the front cover) is as charming now as it was then. - Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95



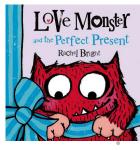
Crankenstein Valentine, Samantha Berger, illustrated by Dan Santat

"Roses are red. Violets are blue. Valentine's Day stinks. Seriously, P.U." Crankenstein returns in this story about a cranky little monster who dislikes (ick!) a certain holiday dedicated to hearts and

flowers. Funny text and funny illustrations make this new book the perfect anti-Valentine. - Little, Brown, \$17



Love Monster has a friend to whom he wants to give the perfect gift. But when he goes shopping, he discovers that "perfect" gifts come with less-than-perfect price tags.



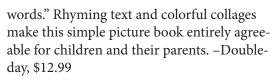
What can Love Monster do to show a special friend that he really, really cares? Bright does right in this charming sequel. - Farrar Straus Giroux, \$17.99



Three Little Words,

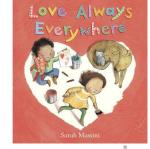
Clemency Pearce, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

"When you feel so very small, when no one seems to care at all, what can make you ten feet tall?" The answer, of course, involves "3 little

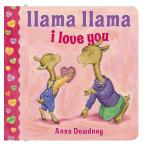


Love Always Everywhere, Sarah Massini

Vivid illustrations and spare text celebrate the presence of love in the simplest of activities—petting a cat, building a sand castle, reading a story, sharing a slice of watermelon.



A nice choice for very young children. - Random House, \$16.99



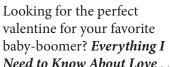
Llama Llama I Love You, Anna Dewdney

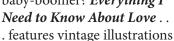
Fans of the llama llama board book series will enjoy following our character as he gets ready for Valentine's Day. (Who knew baby llamas look so cute in overalls?)

Viking, \$5.99

Everything I Need to Know About Love I Learned from a Little Golden Book.

Diane Muldrow





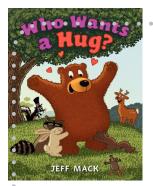
selected from the pages of everybody's favorite Golden Books; Muldrow's upbeat text gives new life to these beloved images. - Golden Books, \$9.99



The Hug Book, Sue Fliess, illustrated by Anne Kennedy And speaking of Golden Books. . . *The Hug Book* takes a look at all kinds of hugs. Published in 2015, it has the look and feel of classic Golden Book titles. - \$3.99



PICTURE BOOKS



Who Wants a Hug?, Jeff Mack

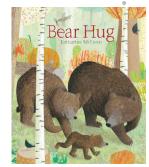
"Everyone liked Bear. No one liked Skunk." Could the reason be that Bear offers free hugs while Skunk hands out free slugs? This good-natured

book takes a look at winning friends and influencing people. – Harper Collins, \$17.99

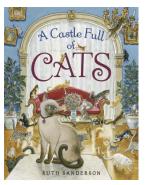
Bear Hug,

Katharine McEwen

And speaking of hugs and bears . . . *Bear Hug* is a circle-of-life story. Bear leaves home. Bear practices the skills he's learned from his mother. Bear finds another bear. Bears hibernate. Spring arrives and another bear is



born. The text is simple but what makes this such an attractive book are McEwen's collages that capture and celebrate the essence of life's seasons. – Templar (Candlewick), \$15.99



A Castle Full of Cats, Ruth Sanderson

Beloved illustrator Ruth Sanderson turns her paint and poetry to a King who loves his Queen but is quite besieged by the castle cats. Delightful drawings and a pitch-perfect rhyme scheme make this a perfect book to

open in your lap and read with kids and the cats they love. A sweet and silly ending will have your little ones asking to "read it again!" – Anne Holman, Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$16.99





Silly story time with Mr. Rob!



James Patterson grant in process...



The Grinch finds a little friend.

BOOK CLUBS AT THE KING'S ENGLISH



All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.





MARGARET'S BOOK CLUB

Cost is \$5 per evening, 2nd Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

February: All That Is Solid Melts Into

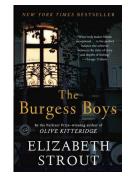
Air, Darragh McKeon

March: Americanah, Chimamanda

Ngozi Adichie

ROZ READS

Cost is \$10 per evening, last Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday each month, 7 p.m. February 23, 24, 25: *The Burgess Boys*, Elizabeth Strout



March 26, 27, 28: *The Shipping News*, Annie Proulx

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL MYSTERY

3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. February: *Gods of Gotham*, Lyndsay Fave

March: *Black Star Nairobi*, Nukoma Wa Ngugi

YOUNG ADULT LIT CLUB

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. February: *The Tragedy Paper*,

Elizabeth Laban

March: Meet Me at the River, Nina de

Gramont

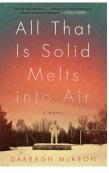
BRIAN SHORT BOOK CLUB

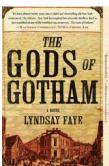
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. February: *The Rosie Project*, Graeme Simsion

NEWMAN CENTER

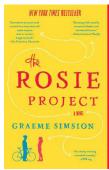
Meets monthly at the Newman Center, contact Barbara Bannon at 801-583-4289

February: *Mrs. Queen Takes the Train*, William Kuhn

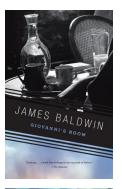


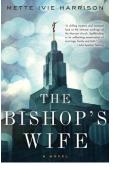




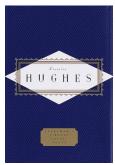


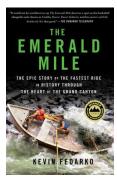












GAY MEN'S BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Sprague Library February 25: *Giovanni's Room*, James Baldwin

UTAH LIT BOOK CLUB

Online conversation, visit www.sltrib. com for further details.

February: *The Bishop's Wife*, Mette Ivie Harrison

SLOW FOOD UTAH BOOK CLUB

3rd Wednesday of each month; location varies. Visit slowfood.com for further details.

February: *The American Plate*, Libby O'Connell

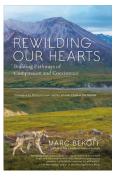
SLC LESBIAN BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m. February: *All about Love*, Bell Hooks March: *The Paying Guest*, Sarah Waters

HIVE MIND BOOK CLUB

February 5, 7 p.m.: *Hughes*, Langston Hughes at Calvary Baptist Church, 1090 South State

February 18, 7 p.m.: Rare High Meadow of Which I Might Dream, Connie Voisine at TKE



INSIGHTS TO CONSERVATION BOOK CLUB

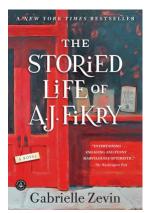
1st Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. February 3: Rewilding Our Hearts, Marc Bekoff

(author will Skype in for this meeting)

March 3: *The Emerald Mile*, Kevin

Fedarko

FICTION NEW IN PAPER



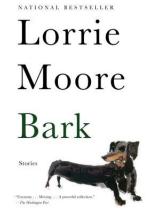
The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry, Gabrielle Zevin

A.J. Fikery is a mess. His wife has died and he's running the bookstore they ran together into the ground. Until, that is, someone leaves a baby in the store, and A.J. ends up a sudden, surrogate parent. If all of this sounds a tad sentimental, it is, in a tickle-your-funny-bone, make you laugh-'til-you-cry way. Because A.J.'s a cynic—about people, about books, about the business of books, about romance, and about possibility—a cynic with a

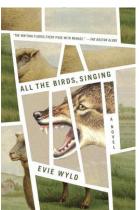
well-developed sense of irony and a wonderful literary sensibility. The result? In Zevin's hands what might have been sentimental is funny. Very funny. And, in the end, superbly satisfying. *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikery* is fast-moving, feisty in terms of the book business, felicitous in terms of feelings—and for anyone who likes books, or better still, the business of books, it's a joy. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin Books, \$14.95 *Editor's note: Gabrielle Zevin will visit TKE Tuesday, February 24, 7 p.m.*

Bark, Lorrie Moore

This beautifully crafted book of stories, Moore's first since her much-lauded 1998 collection *Birds of America*, showcases her sharp observations concerning experiences we all face. In "Debarking," the attempts of a newly divorced man to keep his wits about him during the ominous beginnings of the Iraq War portray the perils of navigating new waters personally and as a nation at war, providing moments of dark humor in the process. "Wings" relates the fate of two talented musicians who did not hold fast to their



dreams, detailing the dead ends they encountered as a result and the consequent working out of regret. Some stories are laugh-out-loud funny, others are heart-rending, but all are beautifully wrought and illuminate the human condition. – Jan Sloan, Vintage, \$15



All the Birds, Singing, Evie Wyld

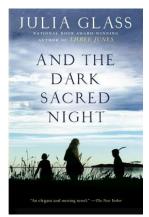
Australian fiction has been characterized by a lurid inventiveness of late—witness *The Night Gues*t by Fiona McFarlane. But the tigers who haunt that surreal novel are nothing to the ghosts that haunt Wyld's protagonist Jake Whyte, who now lives on a wild island in Britain, as far from her Australian past as she can get. Half this searing novel moves forward in time as Jake, isolated in a farmhouse with only her sheep and a dog for company, tries to avoid unwanted guests and to ward

off something monstrous—something that is killing her sheep. The other half of the novel, and of Jake's life, begins with her escape from another monster, this one human, winding gradually, skillfully backward in time to the reason for her scars, both physical and psychic.

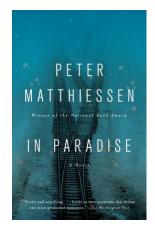
The tale both batters and mesmerizes the reader and, like *The Night Guest*, is as unsettling as it is revelatory, as visually dramatic as it is emotionally opaque. Both novels are hard to read and harder to forget. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15.95

And the Dark Sacred Night, Julia Glass

As she did so brilliantly in *The Three Junes*, Glass succeeds in melting a huge cast of characters into a sublime and velvety-smooth whole: Daphne and Jasper raised three great sons in a tiny northern Vermont ski town; Jasper still lives there with his sled dogs and shows no surprise when Kit comes to stay. Sandra and Kit struggle to raise their twins on too little money and too many secrets; Lucinda and Zeke have lost their way in the wake of Zeke's stroke as they still mourn the



loss of their son Malachy. Fenno, a major character from *The Three Junes*, is still dispensing calm in the midst of chaos but this new novel doesn't rely solely on the old. Glass harbors a rare understanding of the human condition, the urges that drive us, what makes us laugh and cry and love and hate and succeed and fail in a story that will keep you up late and make you sad when it ends. One of her favorite writers (and mine) is Robertson Davies; I think if he were still alive, she would be one of his. – Kathy Ashton, Anchor, \$15.95



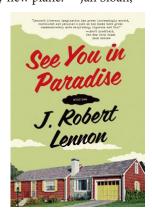
In Paradise, Peter Matthiessen

Matthiessen's first book since his 2008
National Book Award-winning *Shadow Country* is set in Poland in 1996 at the site of a former death camp. A group of more than a hundred people have come to bear witness, offering prayers and meditating for a week on what was at one time the "sorting" platform. Among them is Clements Olin, an American professor who has come to research the apparent suicide of a camp survivor. What ensues is not just a brief look into one of the more horrific times in human history, but

also the turmoil wrought when a group of people get together, each with a different agenda. A great insight into the emotions and reasons for participating in what has been billed as a communal experience—and into the human condition. Matthiessen has not lost his ability to transport us with language to an entirely new plane. – Jan Sloan, Penguin/Riverhead Press, \$16

See You in Paradise: Stories, J. Robert Lennon

Considering that the 14 stories collected in *See You in Paradise* were written over a period of 15 years, the consistency of J. Robert Lennon's work is impressive. In the best of the stories here, he mixes the mundane with the surreal, the domestic with the fantastic, the bleak with the comedic. Highlights include stories about: a backyard magic portal that doesn't work



FICTION NEW IN PAPER

quite right; the transformative power of a hibachi grill in the home; the unforeseen dangers of revivifying dead loved ones; and changes at home when a wife's unhappiness takes on its own bodily form. These stories won't wow you with their plots but even the weakest ones are so funny and entertaining that it's easy to overlook any shortcomings. – Kenneth Loosli, Graywolf Press, \$16

INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS

Anne Brillinger Betsy Burton Kathy Ashton Aaron Cance Anne Cannon Hilary Dudley Sue Fleming Deon Hilger

Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Wendy Foster Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Kenneth Loosli
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