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# THE Inkslinger

37th Birthday Issue 2014

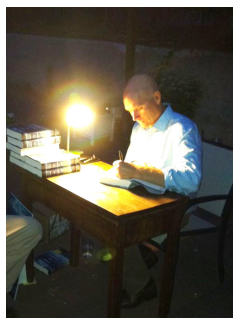


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## With Glee and Gratitude: A Look Forward and A Look Back

We're turning 37 and are in the mood to celebrate! In fact, we're making a week of it by bringing in seven incredible authors in seven days, beginning on September 6, with Michael Pitre, whose tale of Iraq literally knocked our socks off (see p. 2). On **Wednesday, September 10, the day we actually turn 37**, there'll be activities in the children's room all day and a 6 p.m. party for one and all. We invite everyone to take **37% OFF EVERYTHING, STOREWIDE** (special orders excepted) **ALL DAY LONG**.

We're looking forward to all of this with great glee, and we hope you are too! And we're looking back as well—with gratitude. This has been an amazing year, first, due to the publication of *All the Light We Cannot See*. Books like that come along only rarely in a lifetime. Incredibly, when Anthony Doerr appeared at TKE in June, the event itself was almost as brilliant as the book. It's a memory we'll treasure forever.



Then we received a grant from James Patterson, one of Hachette's best-selling authors engaged in the present struggle with Amazon. In a statement of solidarity with independent bookstores, especially those who carry children's books, he's donated a million dollars in grants to support us. *Thank You, Mr. Patterson!* With the grant TKE received, we're giving our Children's Room a face-lift—raising the ceiling to expose windows and wall space, painting that ceiling to match the sky outside our new clearstory windows and, as a centerpiece, creating a replica of the new Utah state tree—the Quaking Aspen.



On another track entirely, some of TKE's book clubs have developed wanderlust, meeting outside the walls of TKE in such far-flung locales as San Francisco and London! And speaking of wanderlust, our "Around the World Edition" of *Wanderlust*, which came out this spring, met with such rave reviews from customers that we're publishing a U.S. Edition, which you'll find inside this *Inkslinger*. It's a gift we hope will make your trips more enjoyable and your armchair travels frequent and fascinating. Thank you one and all for making our year-to-date so wondrous. Hope to see you on **Wednesday, September 10th**—and on the 6th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 13th as well!

Yours in books, Betsy Burton and Anne Holman

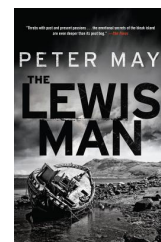


...and Seven Authors in Seven Days!



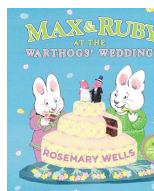
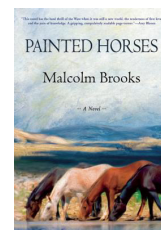
**Saturday, September 6, 7 p.m.** Michael Pitre will read from and sign his debut novel *Fives and Twenty-Fives*, one of our favorite books of the year!

**Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m.** Scottish mystery writer Peter May will join us to read from and sign *The Lewis Man*, the second in his *Lewis* trilogy which began with *Blackhouse*.



**Wednesday, September 10, 37% off everything** (except special orders) all day long! At 5 p.m. beloved funny man Dav Pilkey will join us on the patio for fun and games and *Captain Underpants and the Tyrannical Retaliation of the Turbo Toilet 2000!* At 6 p.m. **party on!** Birthday refreshments served storewide...

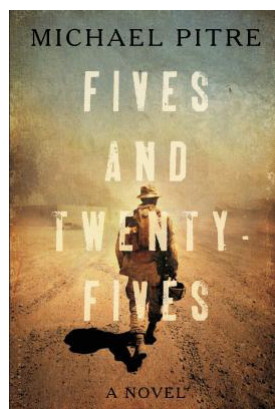
**Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m.** Debut novelist Malcom Brooks will read from and sign his novel of the West, *Painted Horses*.



**Friday, September 12, 5 p.m.** Beloved children's author Rosemary Wells will drop in to tell us about *Max & Ruby at the Warthogs' Wedding*.

**Saturday, September 13, 11 a.m.** Jennifer Adams returns to Storytime with two new books from her BabyLit series, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Frankenstein*. BOO! Then at 5 p.m. Sandy Hall will read from and sign her delightful teen novel, *A Little Something Different*.





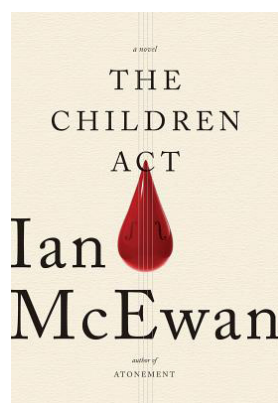
***Fives and Twenty-Fives*, Michael Pitre**

A green lieutenant, the Marines under his command, and the “terp” who translates for them form a kind of family—with all the love and pain that implies—in this deeply personal novel of the Iraq war. Pitre weaves together past and present, using post-war scenes of dislocation and grief to recall scenes of war, the grit of it, the violence, the danger, but also the camaraderie, the trust, the pride in one another’s skill. The squad is tasked with road maintenance—and although fixing

potholes may seem like an innocuous pastime, the potholes in question are used to bury and disguise bombs. A bomb in every pothole, high alert the name of the game, fives and twenty-fives the series of meticulous steps the Marines must take to identify threats: the reality of modern warfare. As harrowing as this may sound, it is no more so than the characters’ attempts to return to civilian life. Writing with caustic wit but also a delicate compassion, Pitre lays down the scenes involving these characters like cards dealt from a Tarot deck, each wartime face forecasting the shape of that same face in the future. Face by face, scene by scene, character by character—American and Iraqi alike—they wound their way into my heart; taken together, the chorus of their voices left me stunned. – Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, \$27 *Editor’s note: Michael Pitre will discuss his new novel at TKE Saturday, September 6, 7 p.m.*

***The Children Act*, Ian McEwan**

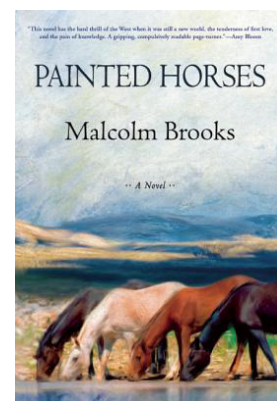
As slender as *On Chesil Beach* and every bit as emotionally fraught, McEwan’s blistering new novel addresses not the first but the later days of a marriage. Fiona Maye, High Court judge, is editing one of her opinions when her husband comes home, pours a drink, and tells her that he wishes to indulge in what he considers to be his last chance at passion. Not that he wants a divorce—he has no desire to give up his wife, whom he loves. In essence he wants her permission. No spoiler alert here—all of this occurs in the first few intense pages. Fiona escapes into her legal brief, and we begin to see how important her family law practice is to her—particularly a new case that comes via a phone call as she’s negotiating the shoals upon which her marriage is foundering. A 17-year-old cancer patient is urgently in need of a transfusion his parents are refusing to allow on religious grounds; the hospital is requesting intervention. Fiona, hurled into the consideration of the boy’s fate just as she is being forced to consider her own, has no option but to weigh both morally freighted issues. Like most of McEwan’s work, *The Children Act* mines exquisitely unbearable pain in order to create clarity, his subject ever the pivotal moment that defines a life. – Betsy Burton, Nan A. Talese, \$25



***Painted Horses*, Malcolm Brooks**

Catherine Lemay, a young archeologist living on the East Coast, is hired by the Smithsonian to survey an untamed Montana landscape in preparation for a hydroelectric dam. The time is the mid-1950s,

and developers see the land and the horses that inhabit it as the source of raw profit rather than as inherently valuable. Few guard that land, and those who do come rapidly into conflict with the powerful. With Miriam, a young woman from the Crow tribe whom she first hires and then befriends, Catherine takes off to discover what she can about the soon-to-be drowned landscape. Unprepared for the vast empty land, she’s helped by a loner who is an expert horseman and just ahead of the law. She learns about the past 50 years of Montana history; of the changing lives of ranchers, shepherds and subsistent mustangers there; and the unwitting part she is to play for the Smithsonian. At once a love story, a novel of the land, and a paradigm for the state that exists in the West—and across the globe—today, *Painted Horses* is an astonishing debut effort, it’s eloquent writing reminiscent of the work of Wallace Stegner, Jim Harrison and Ivan Doig. Meticulous descriptions of land, early settlers’ lives, and truth-telling of the Crow natives will enchant anyone who loves western history and lore. – Sue Fleming and Betsy Burton, Grove Atlantic, \$25 *Editor’s note: Malcolm Brooks will discuss his new novel at TKE Thursday, September 11, 7 p.m.*



***Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage*, Haruki Murakami**

Tsukuru Tazaki was once a vital vertex in an incredibly intimate and seemingly unbreakable pentagon of friends from his hometown of Nagoya. After high school, he moved to Tokyo to pursue his passion for train stations by studying to become an engineer while the other four stayed in Nagoya. Tsukuru was sure that geographical distance would have no effect on his emotional proximity to his dear friends—until one day, while visiting



Nagoya, he was brutally and inexplicably excommunicated by those friends. Numb and hollow, he returned to Tokyo and spent every night for a year sleeping a hair’s breadth from the precipice of death, thinking how simple it would be to roll over and sink into oblivion. Tsukuru is awakened years later by a vibrant travel agent named Sara who urges him to investigate the sudden and seemingly unwarranted event that so horribly devastated him. He embarks on a pilgrimage to find his old friends and demand answers as to why they cut him off so brutally. Some of what he discovers is painful and confusing, but on the journey he is finally shown just how much he meant to his friends and how regrettable the circumstances of his banishment were. In his new novel, Haruki Murakami has created yet another gloriously poignant story, delving into uncharted territories within the complex psychology of human relationships, both platonic and romantic. – Noble Williamson, Knopf, \$25.95

***The Bully of Order*, Brian Hart**

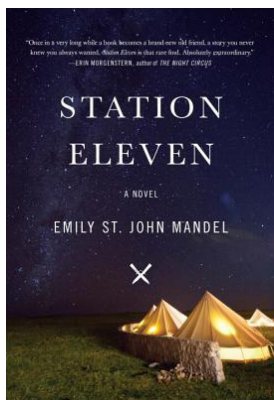
Fans of his debut novel, *Then Came the Evening*, will no doubt be thrilled by Brian Hart’s dark, hallucinatory second work which is much more expansive, both in its scope and design. Hart revels in



language, constructing a broad, visionary portrait of a Pacific Northwest logging community and populating it with a spectacularly colorful assortment of characters. The reader's compelled submission to these multiple, limited points of view and the cinematic survey of the harbor in the opening chapter make *The Bully of Order* an unforgettable reading experience.

— Aaron Cance, Harper, 26.99

**Station Eleven**, Emily St. John Mandel



A dystopian novel with a distinctive difference, *Station Eleven* postulates a population nearly extinguished by a deadly flu virus, it's remaining inhabitants tied together—and entertained—by a group of itinerant classical musicians/Shakespearean actors. Kristen, a seasoned actor, has early memories involving a night on the stage with a famous Shakespearean actor who fell dead during a production of "King Lear." This was the start of a decades-long drama involving a

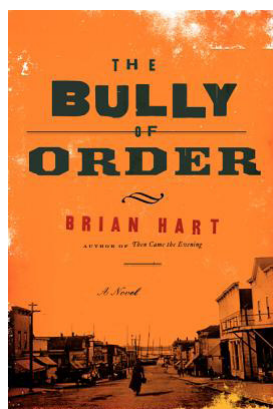
pandemic, violence, betrayal, and an insistent, persistent faith in the importance of music and drama in life. As the ongoing saga sweeps the players along through a sere landscape of abandoned factories and farms and across decades, the reader mourns with the players for what is lost, cheers with them for what they valiantly keep alive, fears for them as the legendary strength of a violent prophet grows. *Station Eleven* is at once a cautionary tale and a lyrical paean to life as we now know it and to the arts which presently grace our existence. Mandel, proficient in the fine art of suspense and possessed of a surprising turn of mind—and of phrase—is a wonderfully imaginative storyteller. — Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$24.95

**Island of a Thousand Mirrors**, Nayomi Munaweera

Munaweera tells the story of two young women whose lives are changed forever by the violence of the civil war in Sri Lanka. The beauty and horrors of that country are portrayed in exquisite prose, and although the lives of the two women are affected in horrific ways, humanity permeates the novel. This is a terrific debut. — Sally Larkin, St. Martin's, \$24.99

**California**, Edan Lepucki

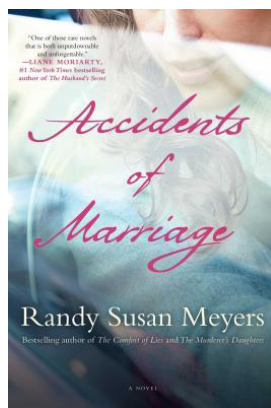
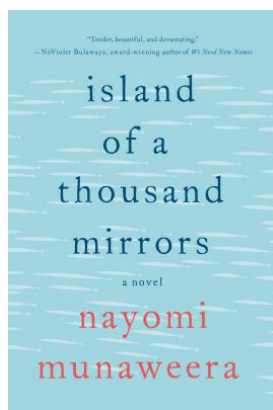
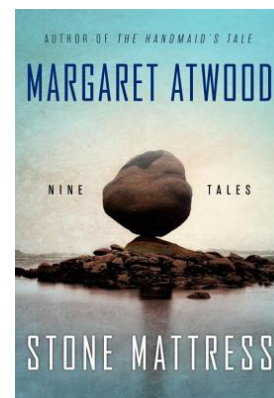
Joining *Dog Stars*, *The Road*, and *Station Eleven* (see above) on the "dystopia shelf" is Lepucki's first novel, *California*. Natural disasters have dramatically altered the U.S.; Frida and Cal have fled L.A. and are trying to survive the dangers and rigors of living alone in the wilderness—until Frida becomes pregnant and they're compelled to find a safer place. But the paranoid community they end up in has so many secrets that even the trust they had in each other is threatened. Lepucki uses flashbacks to fill in the gaps, and creates environments that are at once creepy and ironic. The story is tightly plotted, and



readers will be surprised by the twists and turns. A strong first novel—one that Steven Colbert, in his ongoing feud with Amazon, challenged readers to put on the best-seller list; which they did—successfully! —Margaret Brennan Neville, Hachette, \$26

**Stone Mattress**, Margaret Atwood

As a rule I'm not a short story fan, but I picked up Atwood's new collection and found, much to my joy, that the second story ties to the first and the third to both so that the first third of the book is a sort of semi-detached novella. Thanks to Atwood's dead eye for self-deception and her delicious wit, the entangled relationships in all three illuminate not only the characters involved but also the human comedy in which they engage. This same sly wit is, of course, evident in every tale. Some are macabre, whether creepy in the manner of Poe or, as in the vengeful title story, more in the spirit of Patricia Highsmith or Barbara Vine aka Ruth Rendell. The fulcrum on which each of Atwood's stories turn is old age—at least if the first three are seen as parts of a whole—but that theme is brought to brilliant fruition in the final tale, "Torching the Dusties." This macabre tale is set in an upper-income retirement home and told from the point of view of an elder party with a condition which populates her visual field with hordes of bright and spritely miniature figures. Her constant companion is an old gentleman with a checkered past and a courtly manner who has appointed himself her protector. Although life inside the home seems peaceful, outside the gates a storm is gathering: protestors with the slogan "It's Our Turn" are becoming ever more vocal, their language (delivered by Atwood with revelatory glee) escalating along with their fury. I won't give away the ending. Suffice it to say that "Torching the Dusties," along with every one of these mordantly witty tales, forces us to view the world with a new and deadly accuracy—Margaret Atwood's specialty. — Betsy Burton, Nan Talese, \$25.95



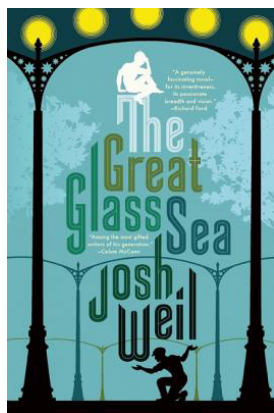
**Accidents of Marriage**, Randy Susan Meyers

Ben and Maddy are married with three children. They're not perfect, but what family is? Ben is a public defender, quick to anger. Maddy, a social worker and working mum, has developed coping methods to help her deal with her mercurial husband's moods. Ben has never hit Maddy, but he's about to drive her and their marriage onto life support. Is the family damaged beyond repair? While Meyers doesn't sugarcoat the emo-

tional abuse Ben heaps on Maddy, I was still rooting for them both. — Paula Longhurst, Atria, \$25

## *The Great Glass Sea*, Josh Weil

In a fat, far-reaching book possessed of a narrative sweep that mimes the Russian novels on which it is modeled, Weil chronicles the enduring love between twin brothers, Demi and Yarik. They've slept for years in the same bed, set off together on wordless adventures, completed each other's thoughts—until, in young manhood, Yarik falls in love. From this point forward, one step at a time, Yarik walks away from his brother, first into his new family and a new job, then into a changed view of the world. Suddenly, the invention of a system of mirrors—a great glass sea that transmits light so that night never falls—creates a whole new level of productivity, seeming to harness nature in the process. Everyone begins working seven 12-hour shifts a week, convinced they're building for the future; no one has time for leisure, for thinking, for art. As Yarik reaches ever higher in this new world, Demi rebels—although tortured by the mysterious, seemingly unbreakable bond that ties him to his brother. Futurist by nature, *The Great Glass Sea* sheds much-needed light on what is fast becoming the central issue of our age: time—or its disappearance—showing us in the process, that light, or the technology for which it serves as metaphor, has the ability to illuminate or to blind us. – Betsy Burton, Grove Press, \$27



Among the many issues Biss thoughtfully weighs is this: what is more important, the good of one or the good of the larger group? And who gets to decide? Regardless of which side of the issue you are on, this book is required reading, not just for the content but also for the lovely, lyrical prose Biss brings to a very personal (or some may say not so personal) topic. This is on my list of Very Important Books.

– Anne Holman, Graywolf, \$24



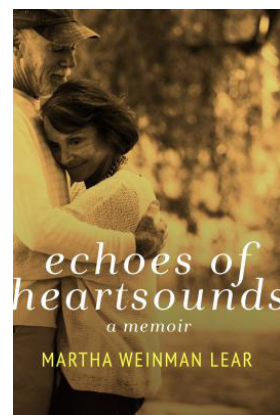
## *Heartsounds*, Martha Weinman Lear

When Hal Lear, a doctor, was suddenly catapulted to the other side of the medical profession by a heart attack, his wife, a long-time reporter for *The New York Times Magazine* with a lifetime habit of questioning procedure, probing at protocol, was by his side. What she witnessed in terms of patient care, what he experienced as his condition deteriorated, were the stuff of Lear's ground-breaking (and bestselling) cri-de-coeur, *Heartsounds*, an eviscerating and blissfully good chronicle

of his illness and death—from the perspective of both husband and wife. Used in medical schools and hospitals nationwide, *Heartsounds* turned notions of the doctor/patient relationship on their ear, receiving rave reviews in the process. Engaging, enraging, passionate in its vivid and visceral description of their marriage, sometimes downright funny, it's an exquisite, emotional see-saw of a book that reads like a riveting—and literary—novel. I read it 34 years ago yet it remains seared into my memory—and my heart. – Betsy Burton, Open Road Media, \$24.95, ebook \$7.99

## *Echoes of Heartsounds: a Memoir*, Martha Weinman Lear

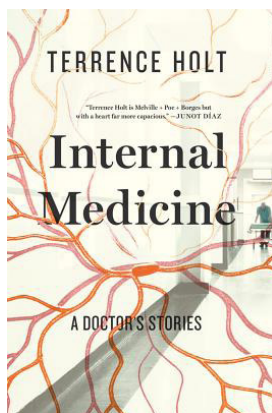
Martha Lear lost her husband to congestive heart failure in the late '70s; her account of that event and its aftermath is recorded in the wonderful book *Heartsounds*. Page forward 30-odd years: Lear has remarried—again happily—and is sitting in her kitchen when she feels a fluttering sensation, followed later that evening by extreme nausea. Eerily, once a heart attack is finally diagnosed, she finds herself in the same cardiac unit once occupied by her first husband—and treated by the same doctor. So begins a journey into and out of medical trauma as Lear's heart attack is followed by the onslaught of a mysterious infection that leaves her whipsawing between hope and terror in another uncanny parallel



to the past. *Echoes of Heartsounds* aptly echoes the blistering, hopeful, terrifying triangle of illness, medicine and love that *Heartsounds* first identified, the present informing the past in an enlightening and eloquent book. – Betsy Burton, Open Road Media, \$10.99, ebook \$4.99

## *Internal Medicine*, Terence Holt

Holt, a practicing physician, starts his book with a curious note, that to protect privacy these stories are an amalgamation, “parables,” of actual patients and their histories. Holt reveals the



## FICTION NEW IN PAPER



## *The Moment of Everything*, Shelly King

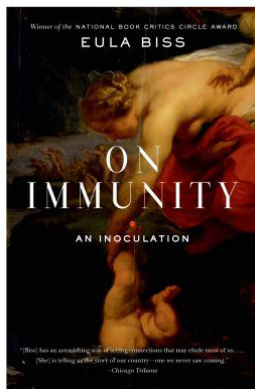
Maggie Dupres is unemployed in Silicon Valley. As can only happen in the dot-com world, she's laid off from the very company she helped start. Luckily for her (and for us) she is whiling away the days at Dragonfly Used Books, thinking (but not very hard) about what to do next. When she discovers an old copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* she's surprised to find it contains the back and forth writings of

two other lovers, Henry and Catherine. But who are they? And did they finally find each other? King's debut novel contains the answer to this and many other questions, so once the kids have returned to school, sit back and enjoy! – Anne Holman, Grand Central, \$15

## NONFICTION

## *On Immunity: an Inoculation*, Eula Biss

Eula Biss, National Book Critics Circle award winner, turns her pen and her heart to the emotionally charged issue of keeping our community safe through vaccination. The birth of her son brought this topic home to Biss; at the moment her baby was born she had to decide whether to have him inoculated against Hepatitis B. What may be an easy choice for some can seem like a life-or-death decision to others. And it often is, either for one baby or child or for an entire community.

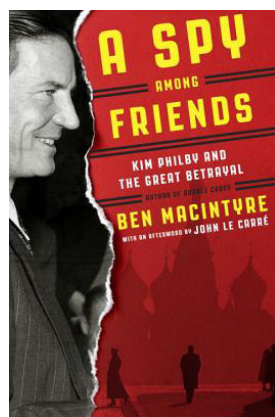
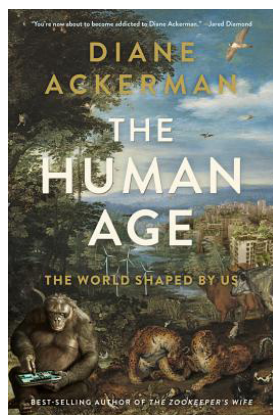




insecurities he had as a new doctor, showing the reader how hard it sometimes is to be present, how exhausting patient care is in every way. He's caring, calm, thoughtful, thorough. The patients' conditions cover a spectrum of diseases and outcomes; nothing is hidden. I might not be able to recognize the individuals Dr. Holt treated but I can definitely see a doctor who understands the emotional price of practicing medicine. Very readable and interesting. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Norton, \$24.95

***The Human Age*, Diane Ackerman**

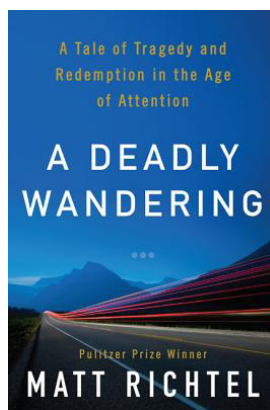
We are delighted to recommend Diane Ackerman's latest book about nature and our place within it. In *The Human Age*, she acknowledges that humans are now the single dominant force on the planet, for good or ill. She recalls the "Blue Marble" photo taken in 1972 by astronauts aboard Apollo 17, the last manned lunar mission. The photograph showed the whole earth floating against "the black velvet of space." No national borders, military zones, or fences were visible. Released during a time of growing environmental concern, it became an emblem of global consciousness, the most widely distributed photo in human history. Just 40 years later in 2003, Don Pettit aboard the Space Station, shot a series of photos at night, strung them together with a running dialogue and named this collection the "Black Marble" for YouTube. The lights alone show how far civilization has come. This is but one example of the way Ackerman introduces readers to our new reality and to the many people and ideas now creating—perhaps saving—our future. A fascinating interpreter of science and nature, Diane Ackerman is always a must-read. – Sue Fleming, Norton, \$27.95



***A Spy among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal*, Ben Macintyre**

One thing stands out above all else in this saga of British master spy Kim Philby: the mind-bending degree of Philby's duplicity in each and every one of his relationships outside Moscow. His utter and absolute willingness to betray his friends, the care with which he establishes friendships in the first place, with which he nurtures them, with which he manipulates them, all the while giving up to Moscow countless documents, whole networks of

spies, make this at once a dazzling and devastating read. His treason, perhaps the most spectacular in the contemporary annals of spying, began well before the Spanish Civil War, carried on throughout WWII, first harming, then helping the Allies as Russia switched sides, and doing incalculable harm to the West during the Cold War. Chief among Philby's friends—and victims—is Nicholas Elliott, his comrade in arms from 1940 forward. This friendship forms the framework for the book; both young men are well-off, charming, ambitious—and successful, often with one another's help. If Elliott's feelings for Philby are akin to hero-worship, Philby seems to return that affection wholeheartedly, "seems" being the operative word. As heart-stopping and Machiavellian as any thriller by John Le Carré, *A Spy among Friends* is the best kind of history, one that, thanks to its close attention to character, is as revelatory as the finest fiction. – Betsy Burton, Crown, \$27



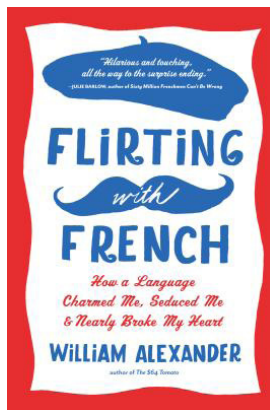
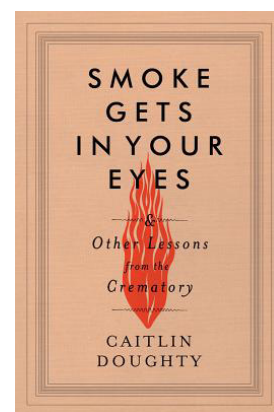
***A Deadly Wandering: A Tale of Tragedy and Redemption in the Age of Attention*, Matt Richtel**

Reggie Shaw, a 19-year-old from Tremonton, Utah, on his way to work one winter morning, was texting his girlfriend when his life was shattered and the lives of two brilliant scientists were ended. In 2006 not much was known about the dangers of texting and driving, but Reggie's accident and the investigation surrounding it would bring about one of the first legal restrictions of this activity in the country.

Richtel, whose reporting on the subject of distracted driving won him and *The New York Times* a Pulitzer Prize, brilliantly charts the course of Reggie's trial, the neuroscience behind attention blindness, and the landmark Utah law on texting and driving that resulted. Smart phones can be as addictive as drugs or alcohol, each ping of an incoming text message or email sparking a little hit of dopamine. Further, the human "brain is limited, lacks bottomless capacity, and isn't particularly fast relative to computer technology." Such discoveries will impact our lives in far-reaching ways, as will each piece of research concerning how the brain interacts with our increasingly sophisticated technology. – Barbara Hoagland and Paula Longhurst, Morrow, \$28.99

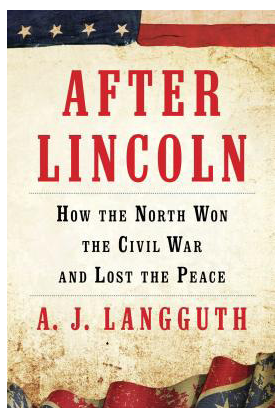
***Smoke Gets in Your Eyes: And Other Lessons from the Crematory*, Caitlin Doughty**

In this most unusual memoir, Doughty describes how she went from achieving a degree in medieval history to working in a crematory. As she details the nitty-gritty of the cremation process, she also elaborates on the way death is viewed in our Western world as well as the history of burials in various cultures. She explains how her somewhat morbid fascination with death evolved into a more nuanced belief system that would eliminate much of what is now the gigantic funeral industry. Think Mary Roach in a crematorium and you will have a glimpse of this wicked mind at work in the death business. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$24.95



***Flirting with French*, William Alexander**

William Alexander, author of *52 Loaves* and *The \$64 Tomato*, has written a delightful book for every Francophile. In fact, though he focuses on the difficulty of learning to speak French, the material could hold true for learning to speak any foreign language. Often hilarious, he indulges in his love for all things French while losing his mind (and health) over the various (unproductive) ways to learn to speak the language. My husband and I are struggling with basic French and we have totally enjoyed this memorable and helpful book. What William Alexander learns while not learning French is its own reward. *Flirting with French* will not sit on my shelf as we will be reading it often. – Sue Fleming, Algonquin, \$23.95



### *After Lincoln*, A.J. Langguth

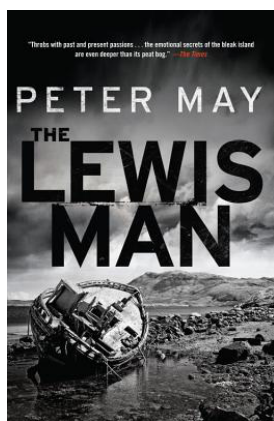
Langguth helps the reader to realize what a powerfully transformative person Lincoln had been and the incredible loss his assassination was for the future of the United States. The author presents 20 personalities or events in the crucial few years after the Civil War which shaped the America we have today. Individuals, whom you may have heard of as a reference, are given center stage—with enough detail to understand their roles, right or wrong, in post-Civil War policy. Thad-

deus Stevens, Julia Grant, and events such as the formation of the Ku Klux Klan are stitched together to provide a context for understanding why the Civil War and its equally terrible aftermath still drive much of our modern politics. – Patrick Fleming, Simon & Schuster, \$28

## MYSTERY/THRILLER

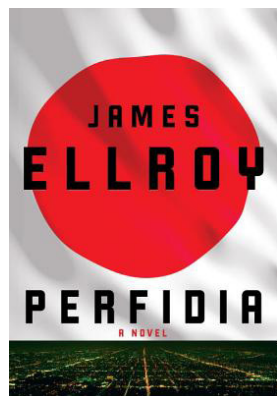
### *The Lewis Man*, Peter May

Following his return from the Isle of Lewis in book one of the *Lewis Trilogy*, Fin Macleod leaves both his wife and the Edinburgh Constabulary intending to rebuild his family croft on the wind- and rain-swept isle in the Outer Hebrides where he grew up. Upon his arrival, he is consulted by the local constable concerning a body found in a peat bog. The victim was probably murdered in the 1950s and a DNA test makes a connection with one Tormond MacDonald, father of Marsaili, Macleod's old flame. MacDonald is in the later stages of dementia and cannot be trusted to remember details—although the reader is privy to his thoughts. May builds a sympathetic character in MacDonald—an old man returning to his youth, confused by the present and frustrated by his dark memories, in the process opening a window into the island's inhabitants, their insular lives, and their violent history. Far more than a look at old murders and contemporary crimes, *The Lewis Man* is a revelatory look at lives lived in isolation and the violence that can result. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Quercus, \$26.99 *Editor's note: Peter May will discuss his books at TKE Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m.*



### *Perfidia*, James Ellroy

December, 1941. The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor, and the swift ramp-up to war turns Los Angeles on its head. Curfews, blackouts, roundups, rumors of enemy subs patrolling the coastlines. Against this turbulent backdrop Ellroy sets the first installment of his much-anticipated Second LA Quartet, *Perfidia*. Covering 23 days before, during and after Pearl Harbor, the novel follows four characters as they play different roles in solving the murders of a Japanese fam-



ily. The heart of the story belongs to Hideo Ashida, an exceptionally talented LAPD forensic scientist who must confront the fierce racial

animus exposed by Pearl Harbor while concealing his homosexuality. The fists of the story belong to Sgt. Dudley Smith, a loquacious Irish thug-turned-cop who commits as many murders as he solves. Reading Smith's narrative provides a glimpse into the mind of the major antagonist from Ellroy's First LA Quartet (which occurs chronologically after the second), and seeing such a dark and familiar figure in this formative state is kind of like reading *A Portrait of the Beast as a Young Man* by Moby Dick. The brain of the story is Captain William Parker, LA's future chief of police, a boozed-out choirboy with a gift for schemes and a powerful yen for provocative women. The young but world-wise Kay Lake voices the story in the form of excerpts from her diary. She is an extraordinarily provocative woman who shares a prairie background with Parker and is all too willing to join him in his rogue endeavors. As a reward or perhaps a lesson, she will have to defend her life in a jailhouse shiv fight that ranks with the most violent encounters in crime literature. Global conflicts become deeply personal battles in Ellroy's expansive novels; he seems to work the frontiers of macro and micro all at once. In *Perfidia*, he explores the twin themes of fidelity and betrayal on an epic scale while plotting a story that leaves the reader breathless. – Kenneth Loosli, Knopf, \$28.95

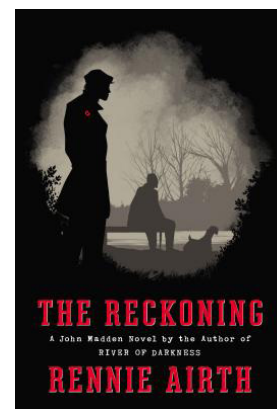
### *The Secret Place*, Tana French

The Secret Place is a bulletin board at St. Kilda's School for Girls. Frank Mackey is reluctantly letting his 16-year-old daughter Holly board there instead of living at home. Detective Stephen Moran hasn't seen Holly since she was 9. When she turns up outside his office with a card she took from the school bulletin board, Moran takes the information to Antoinette Conway who worked the original case the year before. Popular student Christopher Harper was found dead on

the grounds of St. Kilda's, and Holly's photo shows a smiling Harper with the caption "I know who killed him" on the back. At the time of the death, Conway hadn't gotten past the cliques and the bleating of panicky rich parents and their lawyers, so why wait a year to dredge the whole thing up again? What changed? Conway, reluctant to trust Moran, takes him with her to St. Kilda's, waiting for him to screw up so that she can boot him from the investigation. Each needs something from the other: for Conway this is a chance to prove what she suspected all along; for Moran it's an opportunity to join the murder squad. But throw Frank Mackey into the mix and everything gets skewed, especially when he's thinking like a father, not a detective. Conway and Moran have until the end of the school day to unmask a murderer. – Paula Longhurst, Viking, \$27.95

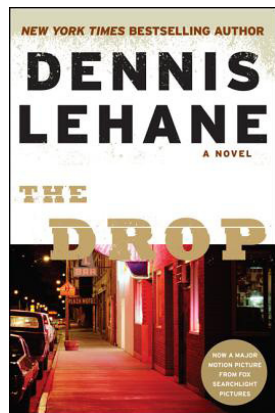
### *The Reckoning*, Rennie Airth

Three ordinary men with no known relationship to one another are murdered in the same manner and with the same gun. John Madden, retired Scotland Yard detective, is mentioned in an un-mailed letter written by one victim. Now a gentleman farmer, he's curious enough to come out of retirement and find out what connection he has with the three victims. Airth writes a solid, linear mystery complete with curious twists and turns. The time period, 1947, and the location, Sus-





sex, give the reader a clue to the plot; WWII has just ended, England is recovering from the days of rationing and black-outs, Madden is living a genteel life in the country, and the victims too are returning to ordinary post-war lives. Why are they now targeted in a ritualistic manner? *The Reckoning* is not a cozy mystery, but it is a comfortable one complete with fully developed characters, a rich landscape, and a solid, historical foundation. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Viking, \$26.95



***The Drop*, Dennis Lehane**

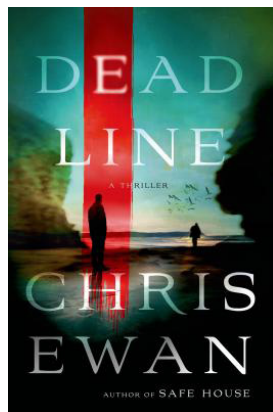
The night Bob worked his regular 4 p.m.–2 a.m. shift at Cousin Marv's South Boston bar seemed like every other night until he left, heading home. On the way, he passed an alley full of trash set out for pickup in the morning. A terrible keening noise emanated from one of the cans, so Bob detoured into the alley to see if he could help, not being one who would walk away from anyone in trouble. Under some garbage was an adorable brown-eyed, bloody-headed puppy shivering

from the bitter cold, looking up at Bob as if he were the second coming. The ensuing tale features a lovely young woman, three different sets of mafia, cops, and robbers, and teaches Bob a lot about love and loss and life and dogs and friendship. Vintage Lehane.

– Kathy Ashton, Morrow, \$24.99

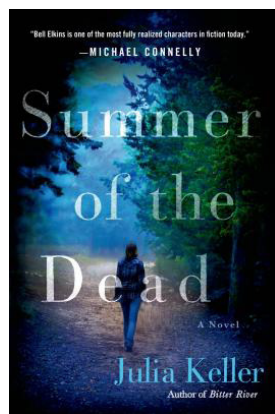
***Dead Line*, Chris Ewan**

Respected hostage negotiator Daniel Trent lives in Marseille with his fiancée Aimee. After keeping an appointment with shady businessman Jerome Moreau, Aimee vanishes. Daniel, convinced Moreau has harmed or is holding Aimee, plans to extract the information from him somewhere quiet and private. But before this plan can be executed, Moreau is kidnapped. Trent has to use all his skills to save the life of the man who holds the key to Aimee's disappearance while hiding his own more personal agenda. Can Daniel save Aimee, or has their time run out? – Paula Longhurst, Minotaur, \$25.99



***Summer of the Dead*, Julia Keller**

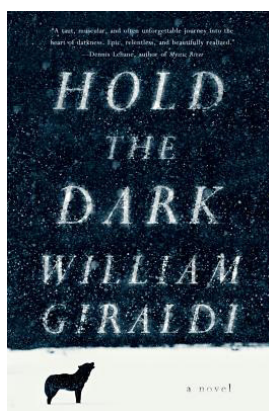
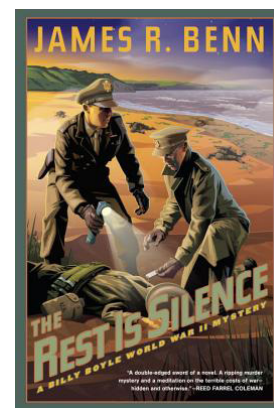
An old man is murdered yards from his home in Acker's Gap and another meets the wrong end of a screwdriver in a seedy bar one county over. The townsfolk are still recovering from the explosion that destroyed the local diner the previous year and county prosecutor, Bell Elkins, can't get her sister Shirley to open up to her. Even though Bell owes her so much, she's finding herself having to act more like the mother the girls never had in order to prevent Shirley from violating her



parole and being sent back to prison. Meanwhile Bell and the sheriff are hunting a killer who moves like smoke and strikes without warning in a town full of hard-luck stories and secrets hidden below the ground. It's going to be a hot and deadly summer. – Paula Longhurst, Minotaur, \$25.99

***The Rest Is Silence*, James R. Benn**

James Benn is writing his way through WWII by recounting the adventures of Billy Boyle, Boston cop and nephew of General Eisenhower. Along with his friend Kaz, Lieutenant Boyle has reached 1944 and preparations for D-Day when the team is called upon to identify a body washed ashore on a Devonshire Beach. With D-Day approaching, the allies must insure the security of the coast during its rehearsals for the big day, and the body is not the only dead man on Slapton Sands. The Billy Boyle series is an education on WWII and its hidden secrets—secrets which include not just death but the maiming of men and women in war time. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$26.95



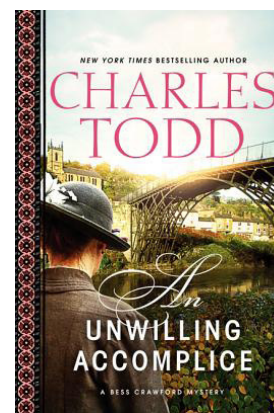
***Hold the Dark*, William Giraldi**

The present can't seem to touch Keelut, Alaska. It's insular and otherworldly and the wolves are taking its children. Three so far. Medora Sloan, mother of the latest victim, brings Russell Core, a wolf expert, to her tiny town asking him to kill the wolf that took her son. Meanwhile her husband Vernon, who has been fighting insurgents in the Afghan desert and is a trained killer, is wounded in action and returns to an empty home—and to a town that now knows Medora's terrible secret.

He goes after his missing wife, leaving a trail of bodies across the tundra, and Core reasons that if he does find his wife, Medora won't live to see another sunrise. Besides, the wolf expert has reasons of his own for pursuing Vernon Sloan. Dark, spare, and best devoured in one sitting. – Paula Longhurst, Liveright, \$24.95

***An Unwilling Accomplice*, Charles Todd**

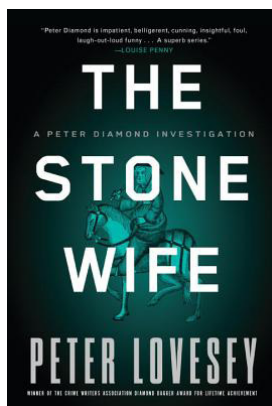
Bess Crawford is the epitome of propriety and dedication. When asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace to be awarded a medal for bravery, she obeys even though she doesn't know the soldier and wonders why he has asked for her. This act of kindness causes problems when the soldier slips away only to be spotted at the Iron Gorge at the site of a murder. Bess is held responsible and is suspected of being an accomplice; she and her friend Simon set out to find the soldier and clear Bess of charges of negligence. Their travels into rural Shropshire offer the reader a view of the insular nature of these remote villages and their inhabitants. Charles Todd does fine research into the landscape and history of the time period, creating a strong protagonist and supporting cast who will travel well out of their WWI setting and into the future. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$25.99



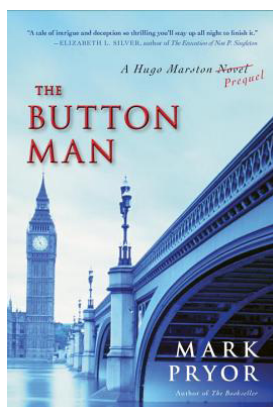
***The Stone Wife*, Peter Lovesey**

A bungled robbery that turns into murder gives Superintendent Peter Diamond and his team a case that is positively Byzantine. The murder victim was a Chaucer scholar, and the piece he was bidding for,

“The Stone Wife of Bath,” has taken up residence in Diamond’s office. Diamond isn’t enjoying her company. While he is chasing suspects and weighing motives, DS Ingeborg Smith volunteers to go undercover to finger the likely gun supplier. A risky operation, made riskier by the actions of one of her impulsive colleagues. – Paula Longhurst, Soho, \$27.95



***The Button Man,***  
Mark Pryor



Before Hugo Marston became head of security at the U.S. embassy in Paris, he held the same position in London. He’s trying to convince his wife to leave Texas and come to London; it’s not going well and now he’s been saddled with two Hollywood movie stars, Ginny Ferro and Dylan Harper who, while filming a movie in a rural English village, accidentally ran over a local

man and then drove away leaving him to die. The press and the public are baying for the couples’ blood but they are not the only ones. A self-styled vigilante has them in his sights. Ferro is released first and promptly vanishes, only to show up hours later, hanged in the graveyard. A grieving Dylan Harper gives Hugo the slip, sending the Texan on a star hunt, assisted and hindered by a star-struck member of Parliament, obstructive journalists, and the lovely and resourceful Merlyn. As the bodies pile up and local law enforcement refuses to budge, Hugo cuts through the red tape and goes it alone, which is just what the killer was waiting for him to do. – Paula Longhurst, Seventh Street Books, \$17

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