

**THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP**  
MATCHING BOOKS TO READERS SINCE 1977  
1511 South 1500 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84105  
801-484-9100

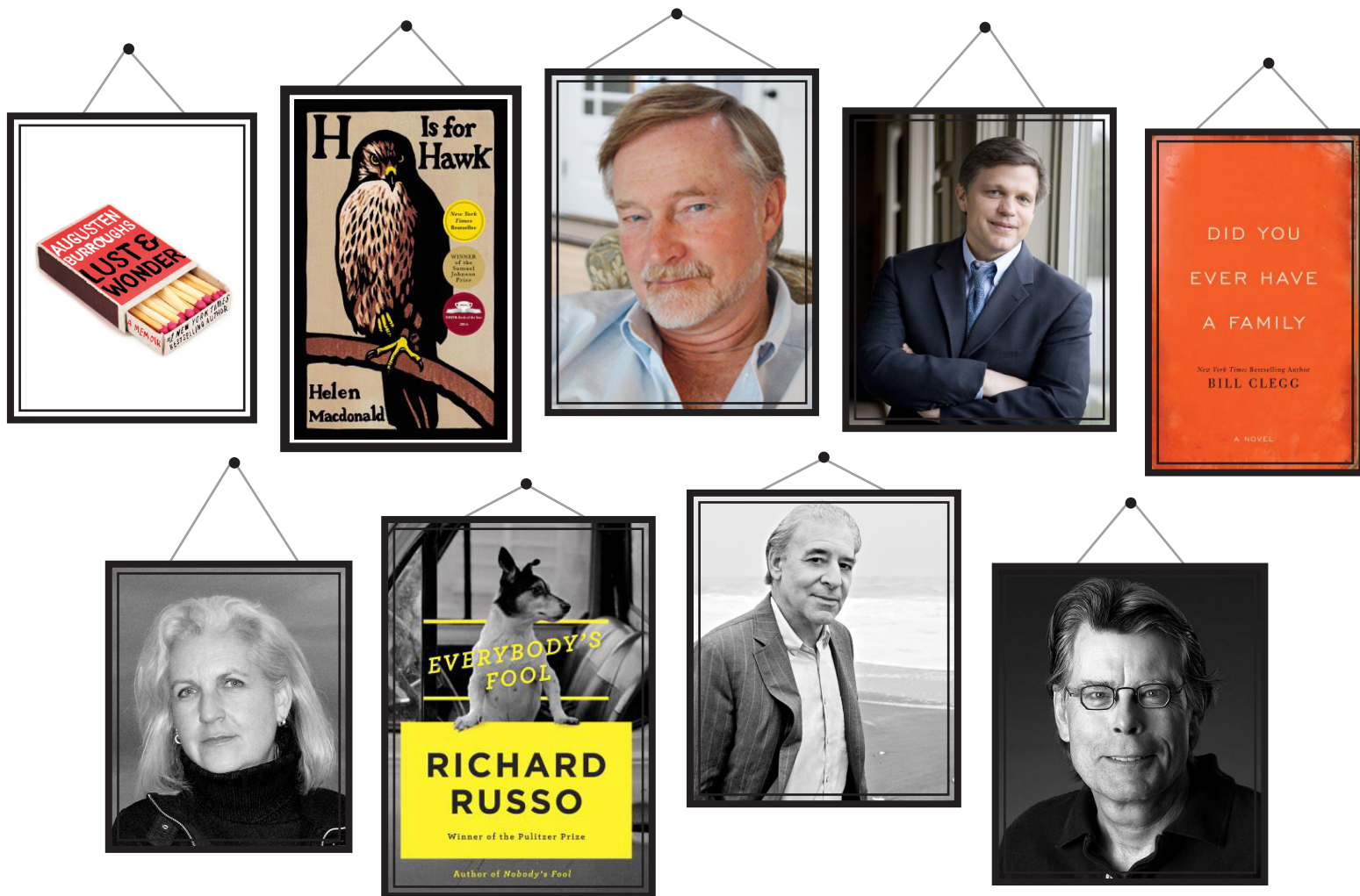
# THE Inkslinger

Spring Issue 2016



## TKE Is the Place to Hang!

The bookshop will certainly be the place to 'hang' this spring and summer with an amazing lineup of authors from fiction to non-fiction, memoir to mystery—presenting, in many cases, their best books ever. Take a peek!



**Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.** Augusten Burroughs *Lust & Wonder: A Memoir*

**Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.** Helen Macdonald *H Is for Hawk*

**Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.** Erik Larson *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (off-site, call store for details)

**Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m.** Douglas Brinkley *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America*

**Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.** Bill Clegg *Did You Ever Have a Family*

**Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.** Terry Tempest Williams *The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks* (offsite, call store for details)

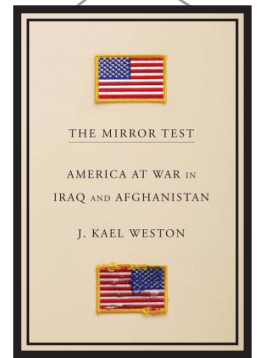
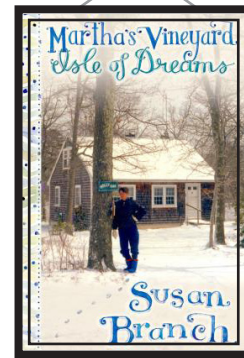
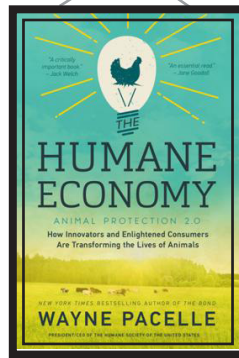
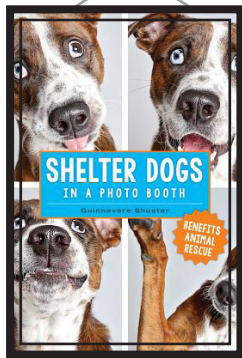
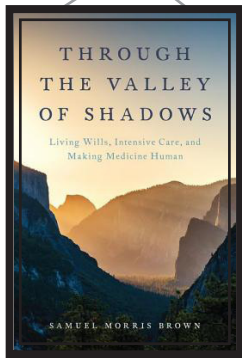
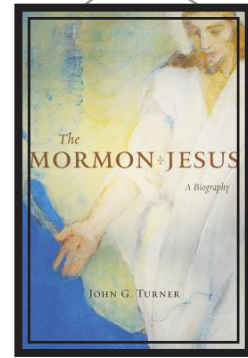
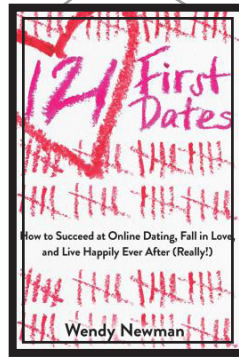
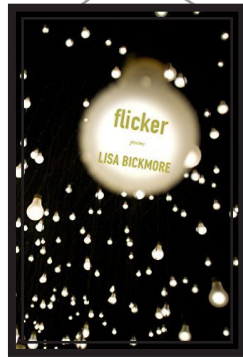
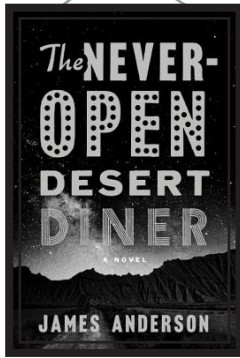
**Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m.** Richard Russo *Everybody's Fool*

**Friday, June 10, 7 p.m.** Alan Furst *A Hero in France*

**Friday, June 17, 7 p.m.** Stephen King *End of Watch* (off-site, call store for details)

**But Wait, There's More! Please Turn the Page.**

## The Rest of the Spring Calendar at TKE



**Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.** James Anderson returns with his novel *The Never-Open Desert Diner*.

**Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.** Poet Lisa Bickmore will join us with her new collection, *Flicker*.

**Friday, April 1, 7 p.m.** Relationship expert Wendy Newman dishes up advice with *121 First Dates*.

**Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m.** Historian John Turner will be with us for a discussion of *The Mormon Jesus*.

**Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.** Join us for our quarterly **Local Author Showcase**.

**Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.** Dr. Samuel Brown will present his latest work, *Through the Valley of Shadows: Living Wills, Intensive Care, and Making Medicine Human*.

**Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.** Local favorite Greg Zeigler returns to Salt Lake to read from and sign *Some Say Fire*.

**Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.** Shawn Vestal will read from and sign his coming-of-age novel, *Daredevils*.

**Saturday, April 30, ALL DAY!** Independent Bookstore Day with fun for all ages.

**Saturday, May 7, 2 p.m.** Bring your four-legged friend for a lively event with Guinnevere Shuster and her new book, *Shelter Dogs in a Photo Booth*.

**Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m.** Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, will join us to present his new book, *The Humane Economy: How Innovators and Enlightened Consumers Are Transforming the Lives of Animals*.

**Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.** Beloved artist Susan Branch will discuss and sign her memoir, *Martha's Vineyard: Isle of Dreams*.

**Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m.** Former State Department official Kael Weston will read from and sign his new book, *The Mirror Test: America at War in Iraq and Afghanistan*.



## Indie Bookstore Day Returns!

We're gearing up for Indie Bookstore Day (IBD) 2016, and we want all of you to join the fun! For one day, Saturday, April 30th, we'll have food trucks, giveaways and unique items for sale—only on that day and only in the store. In addition to all-day activities, we'll have a special *Duck & Goose* storytime at 11 a.m. and our Second Annual **Author Trivia Showdown** at 2 p.m. on the patio. Who will win this year? Will it be the Holyhead Harpies led by Sara B. Larson? Or the Literati, coached by Ann Cannon and Jennifer Adams?

IBD collectible items this year include an EXCLUSIVE, limited edition Neil Gaiman coloring book with art by Chris Riddell, a Bad Citizen stencil by Fran Lebowitz with the phrase, "*Think before you speak. Read before you think.*" We'll also have tea towels with quotes from Anna Quindlen and David Mitchell, a limited number of Brandon Sanderson's *Stormlight Archive: A Pocket Companion to The Way of Kings and Words of Radiance*—along with, for one lucky person, a special excerpt from Terry Tempest Williams' new book *Hour of Land*.

For the younger set we'll have exclusive SIGNED & NUMBERED editions of *Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo with a special note from Kate; a fun *Draw Me!* book with instructions from Mo Willems, Raina Telgemeier, Stephen Pastis, and more—and a bookstore-cats' clutch, MEOW!

IT'S HAPPENING HERE!

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**400 BOOKSTORES.**

**12 EXCLUSIVE BOOKS & ART PIECES.**

**ONE DAY ONLY.**

**JOIN THE PARTY!**

**INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY**

**SATURDAY**

**APRIL 30, 2016**

[www.indiebookstoreday.com](http://www.indiebookstoreday.com)

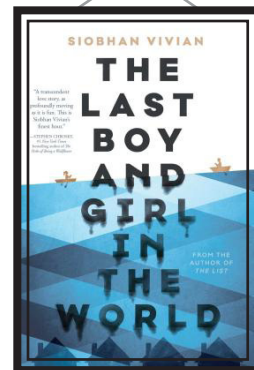
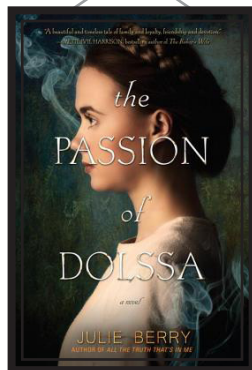
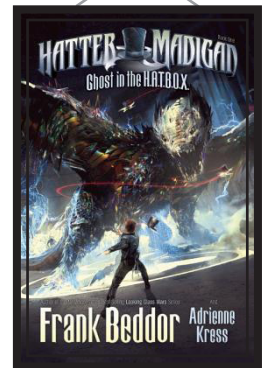
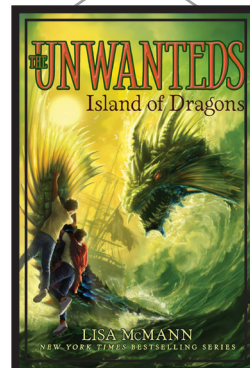
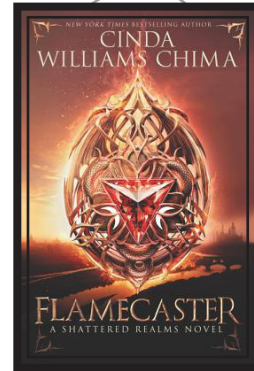
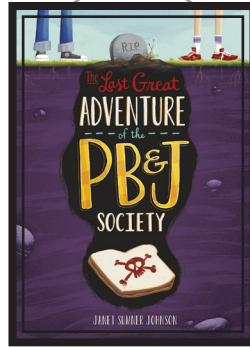
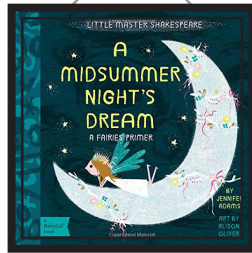


### Indie Bookstore Day 2016 Collectibles!



# Spring Is Jampacked with Events for Kids and Teens!

Grab your calendars and see which authors fit into your schedule!



**Saturday, April 2, 12:30 p.m.** Jennifer Adams brings her new BabyLit book, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to the children's room.

**Saturday, April 2, 4 p.m.** The fun continues with Janet Sumner Johnson and *The Last Great Adventure of the PB & J Society*.

**Friday, April 8, 7 p.m.** Teen favorite Cinda Williams Chima will read from and sign *Flamecaster*, the first in her new *Shattered Realms* series.

**Friday, April 8, 7 p.m.** Newbery winner Kwame Alexander will be at the Viridian Event Center to read from and sign his new YA novel, *Booked*.

**Tuesday, April 12, 7 p.m.** Ridley Pearson and his *Kingdom Keepers* visit us with *Legacy of Secrets*.

**Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.** Lisa McMann joins us with her middle grade chapter book, *Island of Dragons*, the conclusion of *The Unwanteds* series.

**Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.** YA author Frank Beddor will present *Hatter Madigan: Ghost in the Hatbox*.

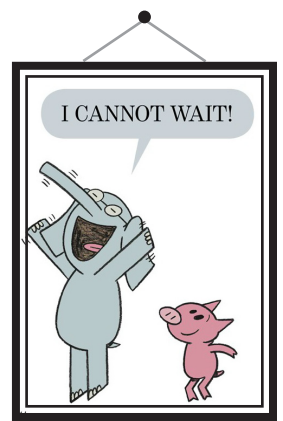
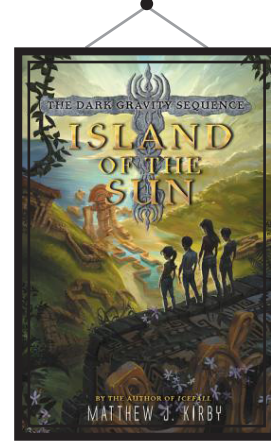
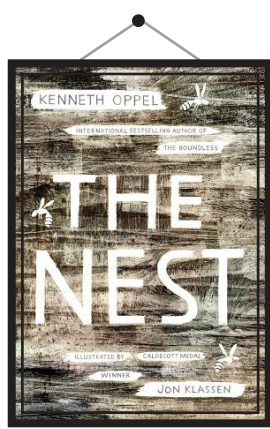
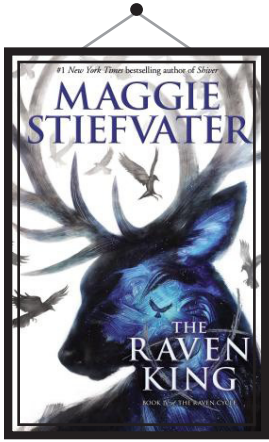
**Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m.** The talented Julie Berry will read from and sign *The Passion of Dolssa*.

**Thursday, April 28, 6 p.m.** Sarah Mlynowski joins us for the next installment in her *Whatever After* series. Shannon Hale will be a special guest for this evening.

**Friday, April 29, 7 p.m.** Siobhan Vivian will be with us to read from and sign her teen novel, *The Last Boy and Girl in the World*.



## More Events for Kids and Teens!



**Monday, May 2, 7 p.m.** *The Raven Cycle* comes to a thundering conclusion when Maggie Stiefvater joins us for *The Raven King*.

**Thursday, May 5, 7 p.m.** Middle grade author Kenneth Oppel will be at the store to read from and sign, *The Nest*.

**Friday, May 6, 6 p.m.** The adventures continue with Liesl Shurtliff and *Red: The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood*.

**Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m.** Matthew Kirby returns with *Island of the Sun*, the second in the *Dark Gravity* Sequence.

**Wednesday, May 11, 3 p.m.** The Scholastic Summer Reading Road Trip RV rolls into Salt Lake City! (see below)

**Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m.** Fun favorites Elephant and Piggie join us for story time with Rob!

## Summer Reading (and Writing!)

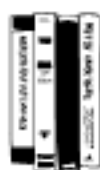
by Margaret Brennan Neville

Did you know that there is over 100 years' worth of research that shows students routinely score worse on standardized tests at the end of summer, than they did at the beginning? And everyone will know the answer to the next question. What is the one activity that can prevent that slide? Reading of course! At TKE we think reading can fix or prevent a whole slew of problems.

Sign your kids up for TKE's Summer Reading and Writing programs. The groups are led by highly qualified, certified, and AMAZING teachers, with support from our enthusiastic staff. The classes will meet on Wednesdays, June 15, 22 and 29 and July 6 and 13 and will run for 50 minutes. Book groups for PreK/Kindergarten, First/Second, and Third/Fourth, will start at 6 p.m. Fifth/Sixth, Seventh & Up, and Writing for Third/Fourth at 7 p.m., and Writing for Fifth & Up will begin at 8 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per child per class, and must be paid when you sign up—on or after April 1, 2016. Class size is limited, so register soon. You can do so online, in the store, or by phone. Book purchase is not necessary, but we do discount books bought at TKE specifically for book groups.

Teachers and reading lists will be posted on our website by May 1, 2016.





***The Ancient Minstrel*, Jim Harrison**

Jim Harrison, that rough and ready yet supremely literary writer who wove the physical world through his poetry, his novels, his wondrous novellas and stories, died last week. He'll be sorely missed. Considered together, the three novellas of his last book, *The Ancient Minstrel*, seem oddly linked, a coda of sorts, although at first glance they bare scant similarity to one another. The title tale is a self-mocking account of an aging writer, separated from his wife but only by the

distance of the yard since he inhabits the writer's studio, his wife the house they once shared. As always sex is on his mind, along with old nightmares, poetry, booze, dogs, dinners, rivers, hard work, pigs—the lifelong preoccupations and passions that have enriched and bedeviled his years. If there's a hero in this tale, it's the author's wife, as the last line of the epilogue bears out with self-irony. The second novella, the funny, lovely “Eggs,” features one of the most clear-eyed, likable creations in Harrison's fiction, a woman who grew up with alcoholics and knows what she now wants—chickens, a baby, the farm-life denied her mother—and what she doesn't want. Men. Not that she spurns them; she just wants her own life. The disturbing “The Case of the Howling Buddhas” carries the addictions from both previous tales to the loathsome extreme of pedophilia. Somehow the second and third tales seem to bookend the first, maybe because they detail the best and worst impulses of the character in “The Ancient Minstrel.” Whether meant as a coda or not, this is signature Harrison, gutsy, funny, dead-honest, as full of contrary currents and of beauty as the rivers he so loved to write about. – Betsy Burton, Grove Press, \$25

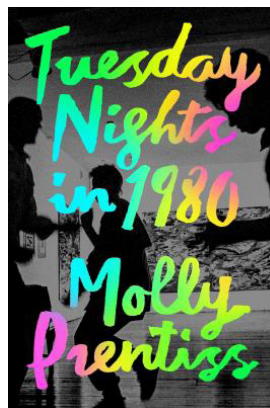
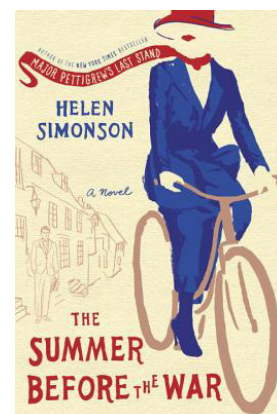
***Noonday*, Pat Barker**

From the Booker Prize-winning author of the acclaimed *Regeneration* trilogy comes a beautifully written story of two men and two women struggling to survive during the London blitz of 1940. Once fellow students at the Slade School of Fine Art before the First World War, Eleanor and Paul Tarrant and Kit Neville live their lives hourly, Eleanor and Kit as ambulance drivers and Paul, a commissioned artist. Eleanor and Paul's marriage is in disarray, and Kit, having proposed to Eleanor himself decades before, waits his opportunity. Bertha Mason, a hugely obese medium whose spirit guides haunt her and those she provides séances for, affects Paul in ways he could never have imagined. These characters draw the reader into the nightly horrors, the unbelievable courage of volunteers and the cruel devastation of London. A spectacular read. – Sue Fleming, Doubleday, \$27.95

***The Summer Before the War*, Helen Simonson**

In the idyllic summer leading up WWII, Beatrice, in straitened circumstances after the death of her father, applies for a teaching job in Rye, East Sussex. She is championed by a local Grande Dame pos-

sessed of regal charm and an implacable will and before long by her nephews—one a steadfast medical student, the other an emotionally unruly poet. Beneath its bucolic surface, the smug town of Rye, which has co-existed uneasily with the resident gypsies, is even more upended by the new flood of refugees fleeing from the Nazi advance on Europe. Suddenly the building constellation of love and rejection, social gerrymandering and financial skulduggery seems insignificant, overshadowed by the gathering forces of war. But the personal is never insignificant in Simonson's world and her latest, deliciously readable, satiric, romantic and insightful, is as close to Jane Austen in terms of wit, affection, sharp insight and biting, savvy realism as any writer I can think of. – Betsy Burton, Random House, \$28



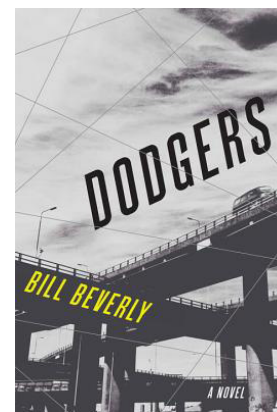
***Tuesday Nights in 1980*, Molly Prentiss**

Argentina, mid-70s. An orphaned brother and sister stranded together in a huge house are so close they know each other's thoughts. Until she marries, and Raul flees to New York, pursuing art, ignoring his past and the dangers descending on his native land, unaware that his sister is with child. He lives the fabled bohemian life of NY in the 70s, meeting James along the way, an art critic informed and inspired by Synesthesia—which enables him to see the colors underlying, suf-

fusing, the paintings he examines, the painters who paint them. Prentiss is a miracle of a writer: The New York art scene is rendered so vibrantly, the characters portrayed so vividly, the tangle of their relationships evoked with such a mix of elation and pain that the reader is torn between racing from page to page and stopping to re-read this iridescent, garish paragraph, that shimmering sentence. But the real miracle is that this is a debut novel. May such wonders never cease—at least in the world of books. – Betsy Burton, Gallery/Scout Press, \$26

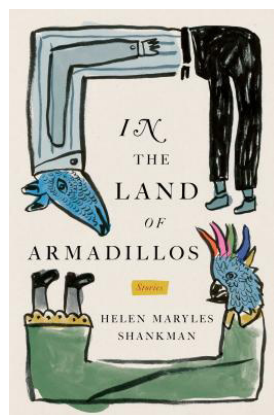
***Dodgers*, Bill Beverly**

Teen gang members on watch at a drug house in East L.A. fail to give warning of a raid and their fates hang in the balance in this literary tour-de-force, an almost scary evocation of the teen psyche, not to mention the psychology of gang violence, gang camaraderie and loyalty. Sent on a mission of death after the debacle at the drug house, 15-year-old East, his younger brother and two other boy-soldiers, all frightening, frenetic, yet at the same time achingly, convincingly human, terrify us and break our hearts. Especially the ever-serious, hypervigilant East. Their nightmarish trip along the netherworld of the freeway to Wisconsin, the choices they make along the road, the actions they





take, and finally, East alone, unmoored, create a level of empathy that opens our eyes and our hearts. A remarkable first novel by another hugely talented new author. – Betsy Burton, Crown, \$26



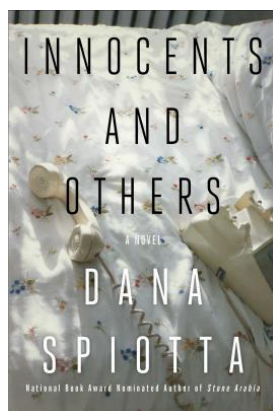
***In the Land of Armadillos: Stories***, Helen Maryles Shankman and Elizabeth Wiley

Yet another amazing first is this collection of connected short stories (think *The Tsar of Love and Techno*), each set in Wlodawa, a small town in Eastern Poland, during WWII. The common thread is a Jewish family whose father is an artisan with leather and Willy Reinhart, the commandant of the local labor camp. Their personal tales deal with the survival of body and soul, of love and faith, and are overlain with mythology and folklore—

some of which lingers in the local culture today. The magical realism blended with what we know about the horrors of WWII make for stories at once brutal and tender. A powerful addition to WWII libraries. I loved it! – Margaret Brennon Neville, Simon & Schuster, \$25

***Innocents and Others***, Dana Spiotta

Meadow's ambitions as a documentary filmmaker involve work on the outer fringes of her art. Her best friend Carrie doesn't have the money or the vaulting ambition of Meadow, but she too wants to create films that, albeit entertaining, show the world from uncommon perspectives. Then there's Jelly, in love with a blind phone phreak and ultimately with the safety of her own phone voice out there in the ether, dissociated from her body. And Sarah, tragically involved in a far darker form of filmmaking. As Spiotta skillfully splices together their tales, cutting and patching scenes as artfully as any filmmaker, we see the arc of all four lives, witness airy wisps of dream solidifying into inescapable reality. Spiotta casts a deadly eye on life's absurdities and on the blinkered vision of obsession, a more kindly one on the possibilities for redemption in this discerning evocation of the reality of being young and female. One question burns its way through this novel: What price the freedom to create? – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$25



***Hard Red Spring***, Kelly Kerney

Guatemala takes center stage in this novel with its many coups, civil wars and genocide. Never has the U.S. hand in the terrible crimes and horrors that occurred during the 20th century been so factually exposed. Four American women are linked across those years beginning in 1902 with the disappearance of a little girl who watches her family's life destroyed by corrupt officials and inscrutable natives. In 1954 the wife of an American ambassador becomes trapped in the intrigue of

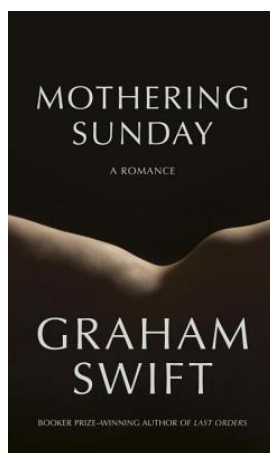
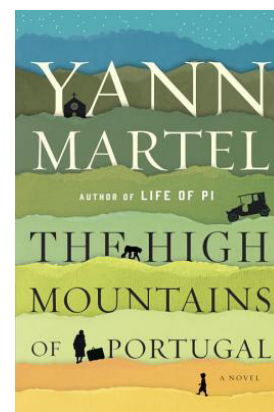


a Cold War love affair. By 1983, an evangelical missionary discovers that the Good News may not be good news at all to the Mayan refugees she hopes to save. And in 1999, the mother of an adopted Mayan daughter embarks on a Roots Tour only to find that the history she seeks is not safely in the past. The country's rich and distinct culture, a fusion of Spanish and Indigenous influences, as well as its unique ecosystems and rare biological species, are the backdrop for the book. – Sue Fleming, Viking, \$27.95

***The High Mountains of Portugal***, Yann Martel

Suspend belief and then prepare patiently for a physical and metaphorical journey through the past century. The story begins in 1904 and takes us on three different yet interconnected journeys of men in the throes of grief: Tomas who, having lost wife and son to diphtheria and knowing that nothing in his future can compensate for his loss, goes backward, retracing the steps of Father Ulisses, a monk whose bizarre quest for a relic hidden in a tiny village had taken on both evolution and belief in God; a pathologist suffering from loss and obsessed with Agatha Christie, who is drawn into the quest of Tomas 35 years later when asked to perform an autopsy; and, 50 years after that, a Canadian Senator also grieving for a lost wife who rescues a chimpanzee, returns to his familial homeland in the high mountains of Portugal and brings to a conclusion the century old quest of Tomas. Told with humor, pathos, mysticism, and an emphasis on the theme of our need for home, this is a tender exploration not just of great love and great loss, but of faith, of man's desire to make sense of it. "[He] realized that this matter of faith was either radically to be taken seriously or radically not to be taken seriously." All in all a very addictive—and thought-provoking—read.

– Jan Sloan and Anne Stewart Mark, Spiegel and Grau, \$27



***Mothering Sunday***, Graham Swift

It is Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day in England) in 1924; the war is truly over and families are sadly smaller, celebrations quieter. In Swift's brief but moving new novel, we spend the day with Jane, a maid. It is the last time she will be with Paul, her "Thoroughbred" lover, because he is on the verge of marriage to another woman. The world is changing. Jane is going to leave service, and become something else, become more herself. And her new life hinges on this one day, beautiful, memorable, dark. Swift is a beautiful writer, crafting sentences that you want

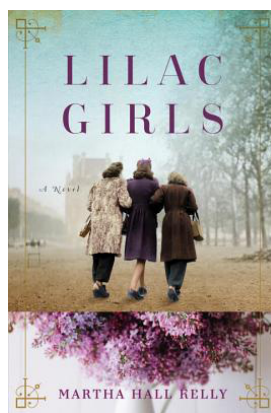
to read over and over again. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, \$22.95

***Lilac Girls***, Martha Hall Kelly

In September, 1939, while Europe waits for the Germans to invade and America avoids facing Hitler's power, three women's lives link: in New York Caroline Ferriday coordinates events for the French con-

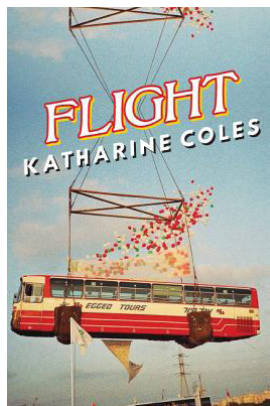
## FICTION

sulate; in Poland Kasia faces the invaders and slowly becomes part of the Resistance until she is captured, sent to Ravensbruck, and is among those girls used in medical experimentation, “lab rabbits,” in Germany Herta, a young surgeon, develops a medical career as a Nazi doctor performing experiments—just as the other doctors do—even as she sympathizes with various prisoners. Ferriday takes up the cause of the “rabbits” as the war comes to an end, and Kasia searches for and finds Herta in order to confront the woman who damaged her and killed her friends and family. Under ordinary circumstances, the New York socialite, the Polish girl and the German doctor would never have known of one another, but war brings strangers together. The canvas of the book is large but the stories are personal, based on the actual life of Caroline, with whom Martha Hall Kelly is obsessed—along with the people whose lives were damaged by the cruelty of war. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Ballantine Books, \$26



## POETRY

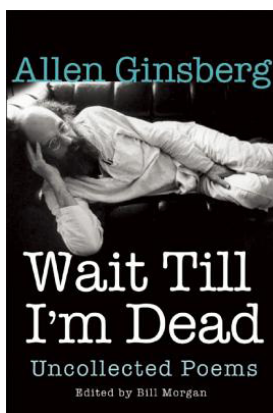
Oliver, chances are you'll find much to admire in this collection. – Kenneth Loosli, Atlantic Monthly Press, \$22 *Editor's note: Helen MacDonald will be at TKE on Wednesday, April 6, 7p.m.*



**Flight**, Katharine Coles

This sixth collection of poetry by Coles also pays close attention to the natural world, like all her work, twining it with science or math or art or philosophy—or with love, whether of man, finch, flower, dog, Hagia Sophia—or a pancake batfish. Playful, inventive, haunting, Coles winds her way through the world and all it contains, reflecting, refracting, shedding light, joy, sorrow. “Fault Line” is a perfect love poem, “Song at the Museum of Musical Instruments” perfectly playful in its macabre way, “At Pompeii” the ideal intersection of past and perfect present...and so her poems spool out, spanning time and space, interiority and the wide world, delighting, saddening, inspiring. – Betsy Burton, Red Hen Press, \$17.95

## POETRY



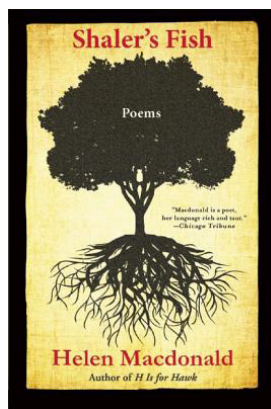
**Wait Till I'm Dead: Uncollected Poems**, Allen Ginsberg

Given that the most recent edition of Ginsberg's *Collected Poems* is more than 1200 pages long, the appearance of these uncollected poems nearly 20 years after his death may come as something of a surprise. *Wait Till I'm Dead* is a collection of what one might call ephemeral work — poems that Ginsberg dashed off in letters or submitted to long forgotten literary journals or poems he himself simply forgot about along the way — so perhaps the

bigger surprise is that these aren't throwaways. In fact, there are many pieces in this collection that deserve to be considered significant entries in Ginsberg's impressive oeuvre. Ginsberg's longtime editor Bill Morgan has made a fine selection that demonstrates the poet's characteristic fusion of the personal and the sexual, the religious and the political, a selection that serves as a fitting reintroduction to a major American poet about whom we thought we already knew everything. –Kenneth Loosli, Grove Press, \$22

**Shaler's Fish**, Helen Macdonald

This reissue of Macdonald's early poetry (originally published in 2001) shows that she was a keen observer of birds well before the success of *H Is for Hawk*. In these poems, she turns a close eye to the natural world, favoring long lines like Jorie Graham and unrhymed couplets like Mark Doty. Like a true Romantic (with a capital R), she uses poetry as a sort of two-way glass between the external and interior worlds. If you're a fan of Mary



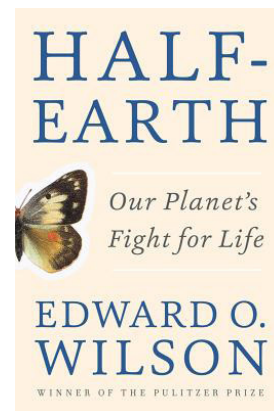
## NONFICTION

**Half-Earth, Our Planet's Fight for Life**, Edward O. Wilson

This, the third in Wilson's trilogy begun with *The Social Conquest of Earth* and *The Meaning of Human Existence*, describes in no uncertain terms the breadth and rapidity of the disappearance of species from air, land, and sea. Factors include global warming, pollution, deforestation and over-fishing, all human-caused. Wilson posits that there are many who feel Earth is now human-owned, and that all resources in, above, or beneath should be considered for human benefit, for business, and we should just get on with it. He instead counters that if “biodiversity is to be returned to the baseline level of extinction that existed before the spread of humanity, and thus saved for future generations, the conservation effort must be raised to a new level.” He recommends that the area of inviolable natural reserves (parks, existing and new reserves) equal half the Earth or more. Beautiful 18th and 19th century illustrations from the Botanical Library of the Herbarium at Harvard University are featured throughout. Accessible, humorous at times, despondent at others, this is a big shout-out for conservation biologists and all who are serious about taking care of this planet. – Sue Fleming, Atria, \$26

**Far & Away: Reporting from the Brink of Change: Seven Continents, Twenty-five Years**, Andrew Solomon

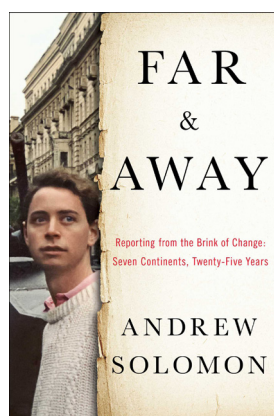
Journalist, art critic, searcher, researcher, psychologist, inveterate traveler, Solomon, in *Far & Away*, shows himself to be possessed of an ability to be at once far-reaching and intensely personal in his perceptions and observations. The book's first section is a brilliant essay on the initial stirring of his lifelong need for travel—the yen for safe harbor once he'd learned history's hard lessons concerning





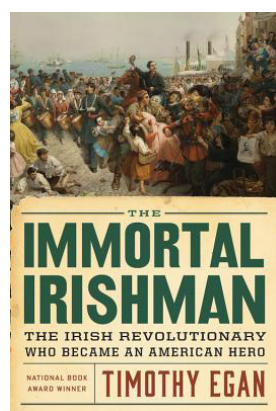
the Holocaust—and in equal measure the historical, cultural and geographic differences that make change as unpredictable as it is inevitable, as personal as political. And so we track Solomon's footsteps across the globe and over time, visiting and revisiting Russia and China, parts of Africa, Asian islands, and disparate parts of the Americas, witnessing change as political upheaval, as economic revolution, as artistic rebellion masked as irony. Whether through the mediums of art, genocide, depression, climate or ritual, he gets to the roots of change across cultures.

As empathetic as he is knowledgeable, his proclivity for the overview ever tempered by the personal, he is one of the most extraordinary thinkers of our time. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$29



## *The Immortal Irishman*, Timothy Egan

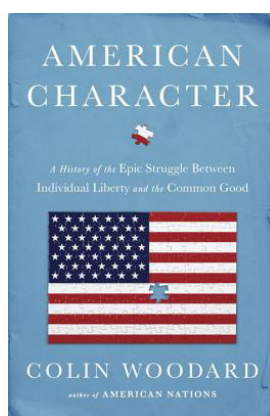
Those of you who have read Egan's previous work on topics such as the Dust Bowl or epic forest fires will find this book to be a gem, still written in Egan's easy narrative style. Being of Irish ancestry myself, I thought I knew a lot about the history of Ireland, especially her sorrowful relationship with England, but Egan gives us a 50-page synopsis of the Irish/English relationship which in itself makes reading the book worthwhile. Then he details the famine and the exodus of the Irish,



mainly to the U.S. and Canada, which leads into the American Civil War and the settling of the American West—with a snippet about Salt Lake City. All of this is told through the life of Thomas Meagher, an almost Forrest Gump type (but real-life) character who seemed to be everywhere as history was being written. Loved it! – Patrick Fleming, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$30

## *Lust & Wonder: A Memoir*, Augusten Burroughs

At first, this book reads like a conversation between a bunch of gay guys gossiping over cocktails—funny, sarcastic, self-deprecating and painfully honest. But as Burroughs takes us on a journey through his failed relationships and shares his loopy (but very real and personal) rational for why he makes the same mistakes over and over, it becomes just as personal, just as real for the reader. I swear, I think I hear the same voices in my head that he hears in his. This is the first of Augusten Burroughs' books that I have ever read (*Running with Scissors* is next on my list) and I loved it! No matter how often I wanted to put it down, I just could not do it. – Rob Eckman, St. Martin's, \$26.99 *Editor's note: Burroughs will be at TKE on Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.*



## *American Character: A History of the Epic Struggle Between Individual Liberty and the Common Good*, Colin Woodard

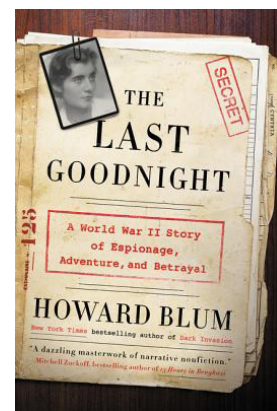
Colin Woodard builds on the thesis of his previous book, *American Nations*, to show how the 11 different "nations" within the United States fall along the spectrum of individualism versus collectivism. Looking at our country through this lens of political structures provides a unique insight not only into historical events but also into current affairs. It may seem that some cultural-political fault

lines are too great to overcome, but Woodard offers his own ideas about how to strike a balance to avoid what he calls "the two paths to tyranny" (extreme individualism and extreme collectivism). This is political science at its best—nuanced, well-researched, and pragmatically hopeful. Moreover, appearing during such a fraught election year makes *American Character* a timely book, one which every voter and candidate would be better off for having read.

– Kenneth Loosli, Viking, \$29

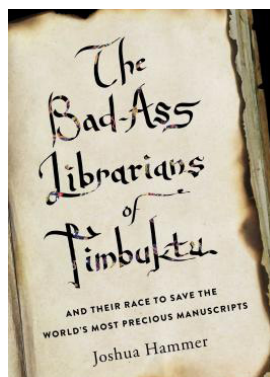
## *The Last Goodnight*, Howard Blum

Betty Pack's role as a highly successful spy for both Britain's MI6 and America's OSS unfolds, albeit in Blum's straightforward style, like a bestseller of World War II mystery noir. Pack was beautiful, charming, and used her seductive skills on diplomats and military attachés across the globe in exchange for ciphers and secrets, cracking embassy safes to steal codes and obtaining the Polish notebooks that proved key to Alan Turing's success with Operation Ultra. Pack's information has been kept classified for decades. Through access to recently unclassified files, Blum discovered the truth about this attractive blonde from Minnesota code-named Cynthia. This historic profile will soon find its way to personal shelves next to Erik Larson and Ben Macintyre. – Sue Fleming, Harper, \$28.99

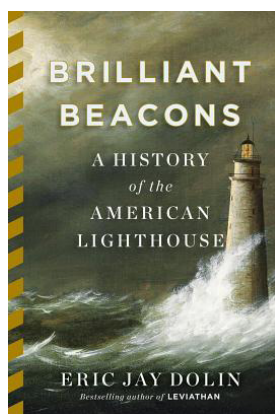


## *The Bad-Ass Librarians of Timbuktu*, Joshua Hammer

Over the last 30 years, rare book collector Abdel Kader Haidara has been collecting antique books from across the Sahara, seeking to preserve Timbuktu's long-standing traditions of scholarship. When religious extremists started moving through Africa, Haidara found himself an unlikely protector of an entire nation's history and knowledge. This incredible story of a group of mild-mannered librarians' quest to save hundreds of thousands of priceless manuscripts from the destructive hands of Al Qaeda is impossible to put down.



Hammer weaves together centuries of Islamic history into a thrilling heist story of dedicated book lovers working tirelessly to preserve North African intellectual traditions. – Rachel Haisley, Simon & Schuster \$26 *Editor's note: publication date, 4/19.*



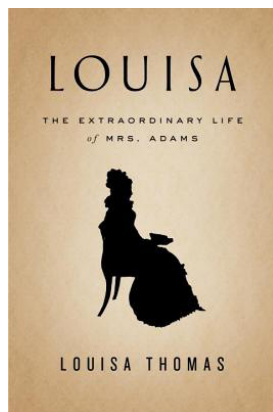
***Brilliant Beacons: A History of the American Lighthouse*, Eric Jay Dolin**

When the Federal Congress convened in 1789, one of the first issues it took up was whether the federal government or the states would be in charge of lighthouses. This history of those lighthouses is wondrously wide-ranging and endlessly fascinating, featuring, among others, the farsighted colonists who built the first lighthouses on the East Coast to welcome commerce safely to their shores. It is also a history of government ineptitude and

international competition. Only by finally emulating lighthouses from across the oceans did America raise its lighthouse system from one mired in mediocrity to one that was among the best in the world. From the author that brought us *Leviathan: The History of Whaling in America and Fur, Fortune and Empire*. – Sue Fleming, Liveright, \$29.95

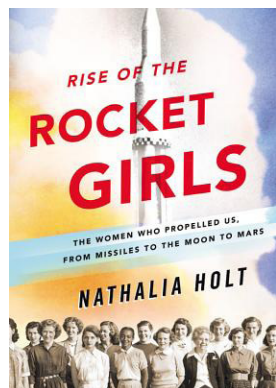
***Louisa, the Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams*, Louisa Thomas**

Louisa Catherine Johnson was born in London in 1775, on the eve of the American Revolution, to a British mother and American father. Twenty-two years later she was married to John Quincy Adams, much to the disapproval of his parents, John and Abigail Adams. Abigail in particular was dismayed that her son, destined to be a public servant, had fallen for this young woman who had known only high society, could not manage a household, nor even prepare a meal on her own. Throughout their married life Louisa never felt she “belonged” to John or his family, nor to America. John’s short fuse and strident manner lost friends abroad and also in Congress when he was elected as a senator. This biography tells the history of a woman of the 18th and 19th centuries who had no power of her own and little respect from her husband and family who, when the two together eventually occupied the White House, finally found her own voice. – Sue Fleming, Penguin Press, \$29.95



***Rise of the Rocket Girls*, Nathalia Holt**

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory started as a division of Cal Tech the members of which were known as the ‘suicide squad’ because of their propensity for blowing things up (on campus!). JPL used a lot of computers in its early days, back when the word ‘computer’ was used to define a math genius who could turn strings of figures into useful data armed with just a notebook and pencil. The ‘computers’ at JPL were all women with mad math skills and an unshakeable work ethic. They



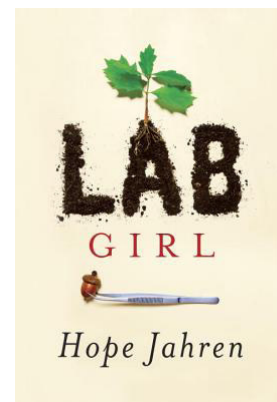
literally got the space program off the ground long before NASA even existed. You still see their work in every launch and they plotted the

trajectory and course changes for unmanned missions like Voyager and Mariner. These women were space pioneers; hopefully this book brings them the recognition they’ve long deserved.

– Paula Longhurst, Little Brown, \$27

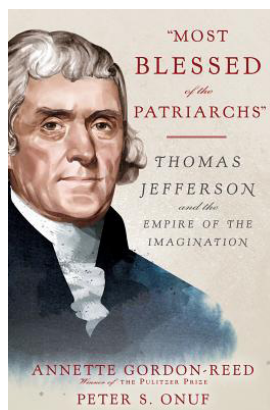
***Lab Girl*, Hope Jahren**

From the first sentence of this debut memoir, I wished that Hope Jahren could be my best friend. Smart, funny, thoughtful, Jahren’s study of and undying love for plant life leaps (and creeps) from the pages of this book. Whether she’s studying a hackberry’s atomic make-up or shepherding grad students in the lab and across the country, Jahren’s curiosity and compassion is always on display. Amidst all the natural wonder, however is the reality of life as a research scientist. Worries over funding for everything from salaries to Post-It notes and test tubes depend on Jahren’s ability to put just the right word on the page in an endless cycle of grant writing. Luckily for us, she took time to write this book; it’s spring and it’s time to read about growing, green things! – Anne Holman, Knopf, \$26.95



***Most Blessed of Patriarchs*, Annette Gordon-Reed and Peter Onuf**

Thomas Jefferson may be the most interesting, complex, and certainly the most widely written-about of the Founding Fathers. Pulitzer Prize author Gordon-Reed (*Heminges of Monticello*) and Onuf (well-known Jefferson historian) try to peel back the mystery which is Jefferson by telling his story through several phases of his life: that of a farmer, plantation manager, author, statesman for Virginia and the newly formed United



States, emissary to France, husband, father and grandfather. Their formidable scholarship and prodigious research lend the reader perspective on the struggle within Jefferson as author of the Declaration of Independence while a committed slave owner, dedicated scientist while committed to the status quo of the planter culture. Definitely a book for history lovers, especially those interested in the birth of this country and one of its most important Founding Fathers.

– Pat Fleming, Liveright Publishing, \$27.95

# MYSTERY/THRILLER

***The Waters of Eternal Youth*, Donna Leon**

Commissario Guido Brunetti, as cynical as ever, has been invited to meet Contessa Demetrian Lando-Continui. Well into her 80s, the Contessa wants to know before she dies what happened to her granddaughter, Manuela, who, years before, had either fallen or been thrown into a Venetian canal. Although rescued, she had been deprived of oxygen and the resultant damage was permanent. The police investigation at the time had turned up nothing to indicate foul play, but Brunetti’s interest is engaged. As he begins to make enquiries we are pulled into the lives of the characters—particularly the



sweet Manuela. For those who love mysteries of the classic style, no one writes them better than Leon. *The Waters of Eternal Youth* is one of her best. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly Press, \$26



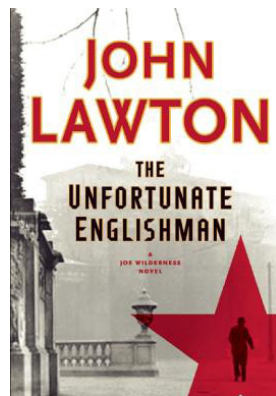
**Midnight Sun,**  
Jo Nesbo

The past has finally caught up with Jon Hansen; he isn't a killer and that's a bit of a hitch as he's the fixer for a notorious drug dealer known as 'The Fisherman' and his two 'kills' have just been exposed as fakes. Jon goes on the run, boarding a bus in the dead of night and arriving in the isolated Sami town of Kaslund. Here

he changes his name to Ulf and poses as a hunter. But The Fisherman's new fixer is closing in and he never gives up until he sees a body... – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$23.95

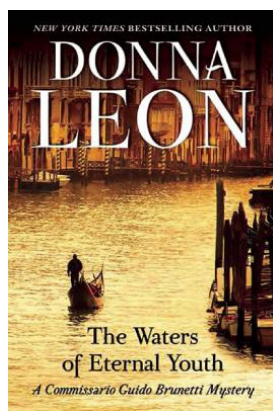
**Journey to Munich,** Jacqueline Winspear

Munich is the latest destination for Maisie Dobbs who is now a widow attempting to come to terms with her new life. Returning to London in 1938 from her Spanish adventures, she is approached by old acquaintances from the Secret Service who convince her to assist them in the freeing of an important British citizen from Dachau. This is a moment in time when England can still negotiate with Germany prior to the official declaration of war. German officials will only release the man to his dangerously ill daughter, and Maisie will play that role. In addition to the government's request, a powerful industrialist recruits her to search for his daughter who may be a Nazi sympathizer. Maisie does not care for the woman but becomes involved because of her natural curiosity and commitment to her country. An evocation of that time period when war was inevitable and hope waning, what life must have been like for the citizens of England and Germany, Winspear's book reflects on the dangers of the Nazi regime and artfully projects that danger into the present time. – Wendy Foster Leigh, HarperCollins, \$26.99



**The Unfortunate Englishman,**  
John Lawton

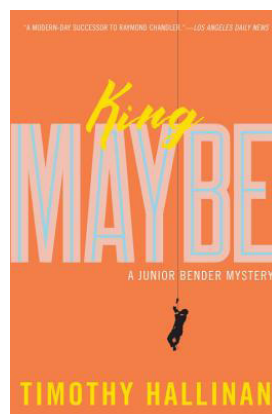
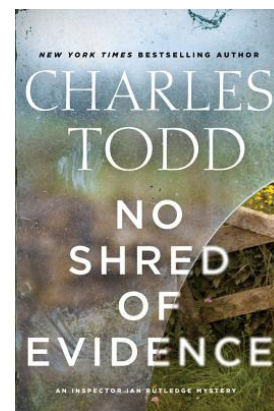
The second in Lawton's Joe Wilderness series involves, among many other things, a spy exchange on Berlin's Bridge of Spies the backstory of which spins the reader from London to Vienna to Moscow to Berlin—East and West alike—from WWII forward into the 1960s in a wilderness of covert activities. Complicating everything is Joe himself, his proclivity for



tricky dealings, his character, which is closer to con man than secret agent. Rescued from Berlin by his father-in-law in 1961 and sent back to facilitate a prisoner exchange in 1965, Joe is ever alert for any angle (this time one involving an inordinate amount of fine Bordeaux) in an often-funny tale of derring-do set in a Cold War world inhabited by Khrushchev, Kennedy, MI6 and a large assemblage of international spies. A dream read for thriller aficionados. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly, \$26

**No Shred of Evidence,** Charles Todd

Inspector Ian Rutledge, along with his constant reminder of WWI, the internal voice of Hamish, is in northern Cornwall. Four young women on holiday have been boating on the river Camel when they spot a man floundering in a sinking boat. In trying to save his life they are accused of his murder and kept under house arrest in the home of the local magistrate, the father of one of the girls. Scotland Yard is called in because of the prominence of the families involved, but the community, angry residents filled with superstition and old grudges, seems set against the women. Another killing leads to confusion between the two cases while Rutledge, with the constant hidden voice of Hamish guiding him, searches for that "shred of evidence" which will lead to the true killer or killers. Todd not only plots tightly but creates wild rural settings and complex characters. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$25.99

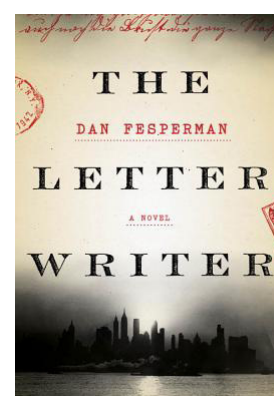


**King Maybe,** Timothy Hallinan

Junior Bender, L.A. burglar extraordinaire, no sooner escapes from one housebreaking caper than he is coerced into another, and yet another—the last at the home of a Hollywood mogul of extremely bad character. It appears someone in Hollywood is attempting to entrap Junior, someone is doing the same to his teenage daughter in her Hollywood high school, his girlfriend won't speak to him and things are looking grim. But Junior has contacts in high (if criminal) places and creative is his middle name. Watching him dodge and feint and plan is pure pleasure but the real joy of reading this fourth in the Junior Bender series is the fast, lippy, ever-cynical dialogue. A quick pick-me-up when life looks dark. – Betsy Burton, Soho, \$25.95

**The Letter Writer,** Dan Fesperman

An explosion on the ship Normandie marks Woodrow Cain's arrival in New York City. Only months after Pearl Harbor, the city reeks of paranoia, and Cain, a Southerner taking up a detective position in the 14th precinct, is having to go along with the culture of corruption in his new precinct just in order to do his job. Cain's first case, that of a dead immigrant dock worker, brings him to the attention

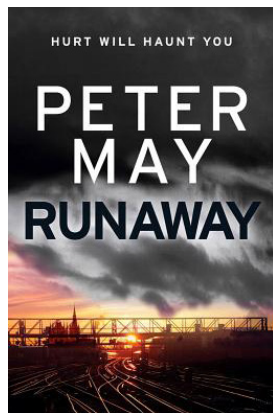


of Max Danziger who provides a letter-writing service for the local, mainly illiterate, immigrant population. He has some information that ties in with Cain's case. Information, his currency, is also the thing that could get him killed if he and Cain can't quickly learn to trust each other. As the two begin working together they have no idea what kind of unholy alliances they are about to uncover.

– Paula Longhurst, Knopf, \$26.95

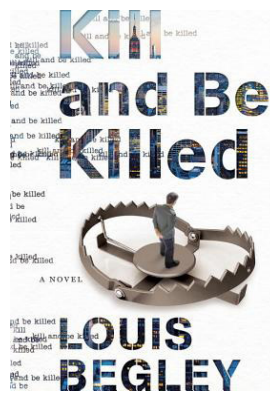
## *Runaway*, Peter May

Neither a mystery nor a literary novel but a combination of the two, this is a book about journeys, both real and metaphorical. Why are three 67-year-old men attempting to relive a past that involves running off to London when they were 17 by taking that same trip again? The answer takes a full novel to explain. Nothing came easy to them on that first trip south in 1965 when The Beatles were beginning their reign and LSD was the drug of choice. It included stolen vehicles, murder, and decisions that have haunted them for 50 years—choices they made that need to be put to rest before they die. May gives nothing away; readers must be vigilant in watching for clues and asking questions as the two stories unspool side by side in perfectly blended narratives. He brings the tale to a dramatic end in 2015, answering the questions why and why not in the process. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Quercus, \$26.99



## *Kill and Be Killed*, Louis Begley

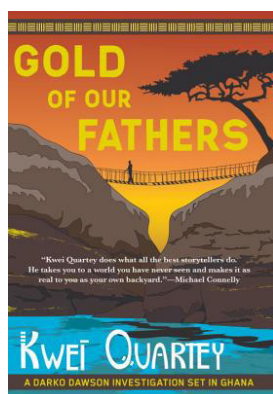
In this sequel to last year's *Killer Come Hither*, Jack Dana, former marine now full-time writer who avenged his Uncle Harry's murder and lost his lover, Kerry, in the process, is still in love with her and plans to show her just how much by flying to New York all the way from Italy to try to win her back. Before he can do so, terrible news reaches him. Jack has no time to mourn Kerry's death. Someone is after him, too. – Paula Longhurst, Doubleday,



\$25.95

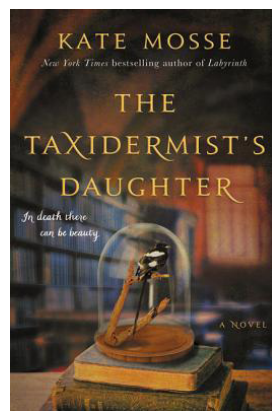
## *Gold of Our Fathers*, Kwei Quartey

Police procedurals commonly feature a hard-working group of police officers led by a bright, often nontraditional detective who comes in conflict with his superior. Darko Dawson has become Chief Inspector in the Ghana Police Service and is transferred from Accra to a remote Ashanti Region, Obusai, which is noted for illegal gold mines and the exploitation of the locals by Chinese mine owners who are abusing not only the miners but the land itself. Dawson is called upon to solve the murder of a Chinese mine owner while battling internal corruption in his own department. Quartey created his character



three books ago, his tone straightforward and clear, appealing to curious readers who want to learn more about Ghana and its customs through the eyes of an observant police officer and his family.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$26.95

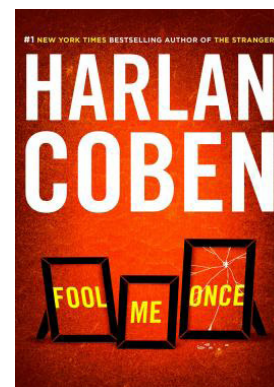


## *The Taxidermist's Daughter*, Kate Mosse

April, 1912. Who is the woman in the beautiful blue coat, keeping an eye on Constantia Gifford's father and the four other men meeting in a west Sussex churchyard at midnight? Is she the same woman found dead in the river close to the Giffords' isolated home days later? Connie is determined to find out as her father has vanished and the incident has stirred some long-buried memories of a past wiped out by an accident when Connie was 12 years old. A face, a voice and, a crow? In the vein of *Rebecca* and *Turn of the Screw*, Mosse has created a gothic Poe-like tale. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$26.99

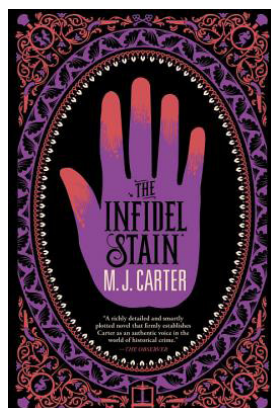
## *Fool Me Once*, Harlan Coben

Don't pick this one up at bedtime—unless, of course you have a need to stay up all night. Maya, home from Afghanistan, has just buried her husband who had been attacked and shot to death in Central Park—and the detective investigating her husband's murder clearly suspects her. The mother of a 2-year-old daughter, Maya has hired a nanny, and when her best friend talks her into using a nanny cam, the first thing she sees on its screen is the image of her dead husband. So begins a tale that delves deep into character, into the relationship between money and power, and into the responsibilities of parenthood as we follow on the heels of a mother/soldier tortured by PTSD. Foundering in grief at the death of her husband and of her sister who had been shot and killed before she came home, Maya is determined to get at the truth of the deaths. Her actions are as impulsive and unpredictable as the plot Coben has devised, and the facts she turns up ever deepen the mystery. She is at the heart of every scene, her mother's heart the core of every action, the drive toward truth the beating heart of the book, propelling us forward page after riveting page. – Betsy Burton, Dutton, \$28



## *The Infidel Stain*, M.J. Carter

Blake and Avery are two adventurers who have returned from India to the England of 1841, Avery now a country gentleman, Blake still the adventurer combing the alleyways of London as though they were the jungles of India. A series of gruesome murders of printers becomes the focal point of their reunion when a social crusader hires them to find the killers. The newly formed police force is not interested in the murders until a prominent pub-



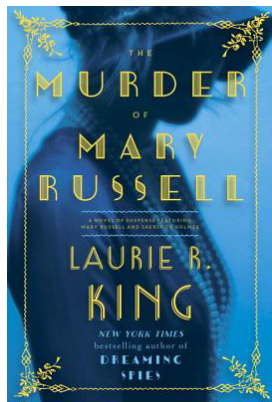


## MYSTERY/THRILLER

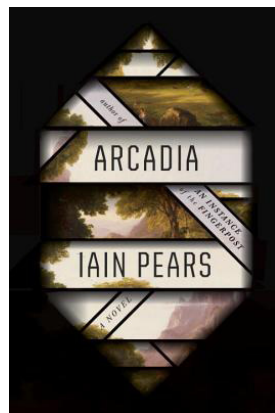
lisher of a sleazy press is killed; now Blake and Avery are manipulated by powerful forces, members of the establishment and of the Chartist Movement demanding the right to vote, all determined to stop them by any means. The morality of the times is loose, and Carter is a storyteller who spins together tales of childhood workhouses, labor, and prisons in another intriguing historical mystery. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Putnam, \$26.95

***The Murder of Mary Russell*, Laurie King**

In the most recent episode of “Sherlock,” Mrs. Hudson complained to Dr. Watson that she was “more than just a plot device,” and here King gives her center stage. Sherlock Holmes’ Sussex home has been invaded, there’s a pool of blood on the floor, the raw scent of cordite in the air and no sign of Mary Russell, except for bloody drag marks leading to the front door. What has become of her and what part did the redoubtable Mrs. Hudson play in her murder? – Paula Longhurst, Bantam, \$28



## SPECULATIVE FICTION



***Arcadia*, Iain Pears**

I had no idea while reading this new Pears novel that it was conceived and written for an app, but fortunately, an electronic format is not needed for the ultimate enjoyment of this dense and satisfying book. Exceedingly complex, but ultimately rewarding, it defies any categorizing into genre. It is a spy story, a fantasy, an historical novel, a romance, a mythology and a work of science fiction. Episodic and vignette-like, it is very cinematic, jumping from multiple worlds

and shifting points of view, extremely visual and harmonic. Begun in an Oxford pub where Henry Lytten tells his fellow friends about the story he is writing, this is reminiscent of Tolkein and C.S. Lewis; we suddenly find ourselves with Jay inside the tale and then slammed into another, dystopian universe. What is real, where are we? We follow Jay, Rosie and Angela among several others—10 story lines in all—across time and perhaps into other worlds. ‘Qui moderator tempus intelligit Omnia’ says the Lytten family motto: ‘He who controls time understands everything.’ Angela allows the math in her head to equate while she dreams, readers will carry this plot and its characters with them after putting it down for the night and long after the final chapter. – Anne Stewart Mark, Knopf, \$27.95

***Sleeping Giants*, Sylvain Neuvel**

Like your science fiction with a dash of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*? Then this is for you. Dr. Rose Franklin was 11 years old when she fell down a hole, was rescued, and inadvertently discovered a giant mechanoid hand. Rose, now a physicist, is involved in a project to reunite the parts of a device that no one on earth could’ve built. The

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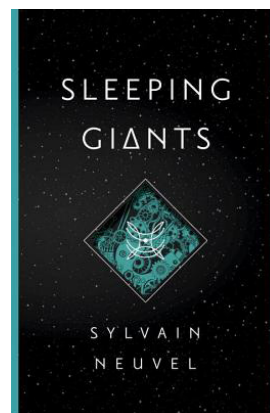
Aaron Bushnell

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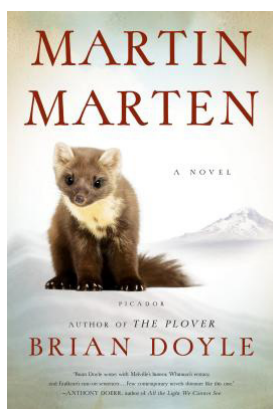
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team she assembles, pilots Kara and Ryan, linguist Vincent and geneticist Alicia, gathers the parts with the assistance of “the man with no name,” a person who seems to wield more power than the commander in chief. Is his interest in the device as philanthropic as he claims? A more thoughtful brand of sci fi, told through the team’s interviews with Mr. No Name, news reports, and insight from the team-members’ private journal entries, the story moves at a good clip to an intriguing conclusion. A sequel is coming. – Paula Longhurst, Del Rey, \$26



## FICTION



**Martin Marten**, Brian Doyle

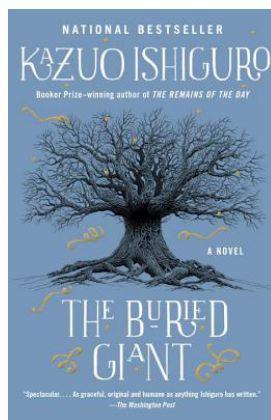
A boy named Dave and a marten named Martin live on Mount Hood. It's as simple and as complicated as that. If you look at the life span of a marten, Dave and Martin are basically teenagers together during this wild and wondrous coming-of-age story. As we follow the lives and loves atop their mountain over the course of a year, we can't help but be spellbound by the creatures, great and small, mythic and magical, as Doyle pulls us into the tale, wrapping us up and carrying us along for

the ride. Give yourself the gift of an afternoon and read this novel in a single sitting with a cup of tea, a blanket and all the love that we afford our fellow sentient beings. You won't be disappointed.

— Anne Holman, Picador, \$16

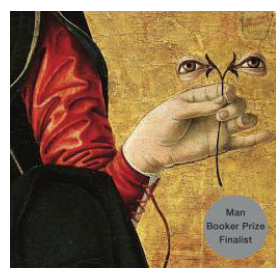
**The Buried Giant**, Kazuo Ishiguro

Ishiguro's wondrous new novel is an epic in the truest sense of the word. Two elderly Britons set out on a quiet sunny day to rejoin the son whom they believe resides in a nearby village. The reasons for his departure are lost in the mists of memory—mists which hover over their land as if arisen from the River Lethe, erasing both fond and bitter recollections. Legend has it that this state of forgetfulness is caused by the fog of a dragon's breath and that should said dragon be slain, memory will return. Along their path, the couple meet a boy, a Saxon warrior, and Sir Gawain, aging nephew to the now-dead King Arthur. The journey these people take in search of memory, the decisions they make, the ways their destinies intertwine and play out form a tale that is wondrous, deeply touching, as large in scope as humanity and history and as particular as love or as the poetry at the book's heart. — Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15



**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



**Ali Smith**  
**how to be both**

"Playfully brilliant... Delightful... Incredibly touching."  
—The Washington Post

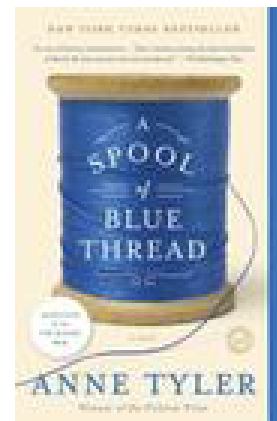
past as George, her brother, and their mother head for Italy in pursuit of a painting—the middle panel of a fresco by a 15th century Renaissance artist. Before long the reader is flung back to that time and

to Francesco 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, Anchor, \$15.99

**A Spool of Blue Thread**, Anne Tyler

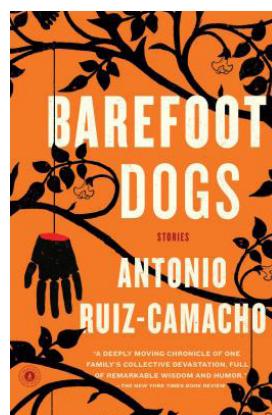
Anne Tyler is a master at showing us what lies just beneath the surface of a "typical" American family. As we weave back and forth between three generations of the Whitshank clan, it's in the small details that we learn who they are as opposed to who they think they are. We meet Junior (!) who has tried 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, Ballantine, \$16



**Barefoot Dogs: Stories**, Antonio Ruiz-Camacho

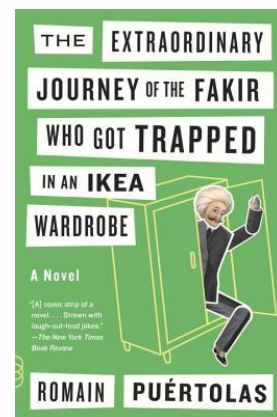
There are few things more exciting for readers than discovering new voices—voices that surprise. Antonio Ruiz-Camacho is possessed of such a voice—or more accurately voices—each first-person, each distinctive. There are the voices of privileged youth, eager, innocent, bewildered, and those of adults trying to make sense of the world and each other. The reader's realization that in some sense **Barefoot Dogs** is more than a mere collection



of disconnected tales—that they have more in common than the violence that pervades modern Mexico, the aftermath of that violence on lives lived far away—is gradual, revelatory. Simple details resonate across stories, gaining metaphorical power, connections emerge informing us—about a country, a way of life, and a set of characters you will never forget. — Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$14

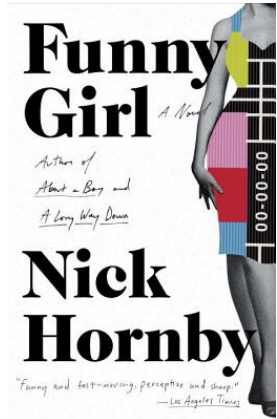
**The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe**, Romain Puértolas

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 identities, 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. — Anne Holman, Vintage, \$17



**Funny Girl**, Nick Hornby

Nick Hornby’s *Funny Girl* is not sad-funny 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 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

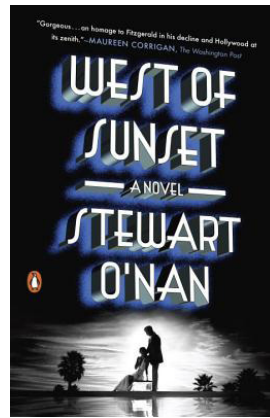
job. Two playwrights, one openly gay—or at least as open as anyone could be in 1964 London—and one uncertain about his sexuality, have penned a successful sitcom and are trying to write another. The highs and lows of said sitcom, which is the perfect vehicle for Barbara’s talent, is the stuff of this 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. — Betsy Burton, Riverhead, \$16

**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, soul-rattling 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, \$15

**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.



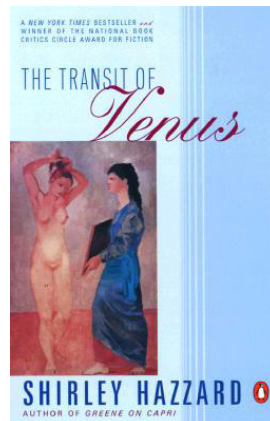
O’Nan’s compassionate and complex portrait of one of the greatest literary icons of our time manages to evoke Hollywood’s glitter and wit while at the same time bringing us inside the mind and heart of a man torn—torn between his sense of duty to his old love, his troubled wife Zelda, his blooming love 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 contradic-

tions: 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, Penguin, \$16

**The Secret Wisdom of the Earth**, Christopher Scotton

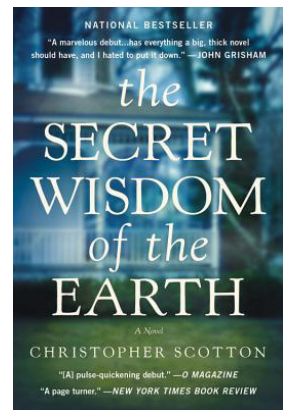
Seen through the eyes of 14-year-old Kevin, Medgar, Kentucky, comes alive as a melting pot of the best and the worst of coal-dependent Appalachia in the late 1980s. Mountain top removal mining is dividing the town into those who need the jobs and those who recognize that mountains can’t be rebuilt. Kevin 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, \$14.99

And, in keeping with our desire to feature backlist titles, one, wonderful contemporary classic:



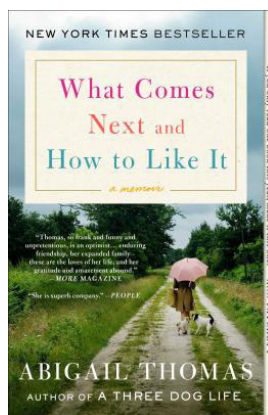
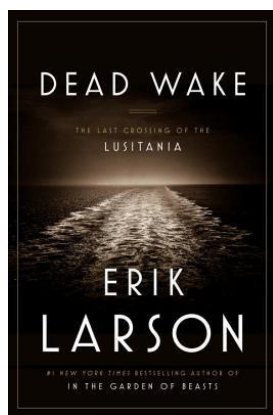
**The Transit of Venus**, Shirley Hazzard

WWII has just ended when two Australian sisters, Grace, whose nature is described by her name, and Caro, more angular in terms of beauty and character, encounter the Englishmen who will subsume their lives. The result is not only a rapturous love story but a novel of ideas as adept at skewering society as people, as astute about global conflict as about love. The writing, at once luminous and precise, is heart-stopping, hair-raising, the sweep of story hugely engrossing, the result brilliant. — Betsy Burton, Penguin, \$16



**Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania**, Erik Larson

Almost three years to the date after the sinking of the British passenger liner Titanic by an iceberg, another British luxury ocean liner is sunk, though this time by a German submarine in an act of war. Passengers aboard the Lusitania on May 15, 1915, include a record number of women and children because of a special promotion to safely deliver home British citizens anxious to join family members threatened by Germany and her allies. Erik Larsen weaves his peculiar magic in introducing us to the captains of both the Lusitania and the German submarine, about whom he has new information—as he does about the extraordinary circumstances that placed the ocean liner in the path of disaster. Larson uses a myriad of documents from Cunard, Woodrow Wilson's papers, Churchill's memoirs and the log of U20, the U-boat that sank the Lusitania, to bring the events surrounding the sinking to life. The effect of this singular event on the psyche of the isolationists in the U.S. is immediate; this centennial remembrance of but one incident that pulled us closer to engaging fully in World War I is highly recommended by both of us. — Sue Fleming and Paula Longhurst, Broadway Books, \$17 *Editor's note: Erik Larson will be at Rowland Hall on Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.*

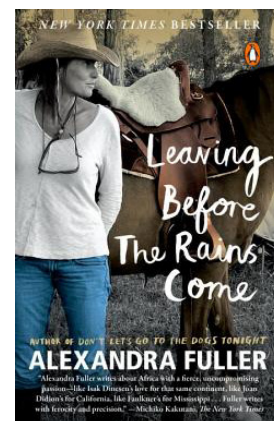


**What Comes Next and How to Like It**, Abigail Thomas

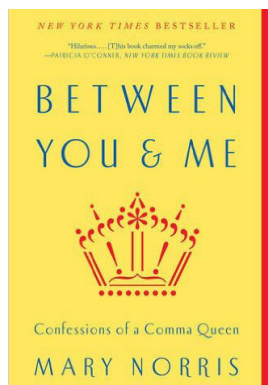
**What Comes Next and How to Like It** is the perfect title for Thomas's thoughtful and reassuring memoir of growing into old age, growing up in the process, and of the true value of a friendship maintained and nurtured over time. The friendship takes place between Thomas and a male colleague with whom she initially bonds over the slush pile at the publishing house where they both work—and over a shared proclivity for laughter. This truly is a friendship rather than a romance—a relationship between two people who see the world from a similar angle more often than not, and who, when they do differ in perspective, are informed rather than annoyed by the difference. Although both know tragedy, their friendship persists, grows and deepens, despite complications introduced when the romance of one scorches the life of the other. This is a bittersweet chronicle of a woman's descent—or perhaps ascent is a more accurate description—into the stage of life characterized by retreat rather than engagement and more likely populated by pets and grandchildren than by lovers. Which is not to say that the author has in any way given up or given in, rather that she has learned not just to face reality but to live with it, something that her unique and lovely friendship no doubt helped teach her. Thomas has a benign and lovely sense of humor, but best of all she's dead honest—about herself, about her loved ones (including her beloved dogs), and about life. Amusing, moving, wise, and vastly comforting. Maybe growing old isn't going to be so bad after all. I'm beginning to think I might like it. — Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$15

**Leaving Before the Rains Come**, Alexandra Fuller

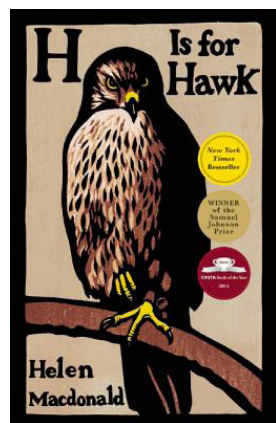
A starred review in Booklist describes Fuller's newest book as, "powerful, raw and painful." It is all of that. Yet told with her inimitable humor, what could otherwise be unrelenting sadness is mitigated by her ability to laugh at some of the less-than-funny situations in which she found herself—both 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, \$17



**Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen**, Mary Norris



The only thing more fun than a book about correct grammar usage is one that includes the ins and outs of appropriate swear word protocol. A lead copy editor at *The New Yorker* for more than 30 years, Norris knows whereof she speaks



**H Is for Hawk**, Helen Macdonald

Many things can knock a life off-keel. In *H Is for Hawk* scholar and naturalist Macdonald describes losing her path forward on the day she lost her father. He had taught her how to watch—how to see the world around her. Now, suddenly without him, she could no longer fight her way clear of the dark wilderness that her bereavement had made of that world. An ongoing fascination for T.H. White, one of the most beloved authors of her childhood, is woven into *H Is for Hawk*; what White had in common with our

grieving orphaned author, was, aside from scholarship, an unsettling fascination with reptilian killers. With Goshawks. Driven by an indefinable longing, Macdonald buys a young goshawk, Mabel by name, and together woman and bird learn the fine art of murder in the natural world. Mabel grows less wild over time while the author becomes more so—an irony that isn't lost on the scholar or the naturalist or the historian in Macdonald. Bent on illumination, she employs words as torches to shed light on birds of prey—T.H. White's use of feral, ferocious, fey, free as a lexicon for taming, along with such words as Jess, hood, string, tether transmitter. Each term has double meanings, each act is ambivalent, each consequence a surprise in this dazzling revelation of the natural world and of human nature—of death, yes, and of soaring, unquenchable life. — Betsy Burton, Grove Press, \$16 *Editor's note: Helen Macdonald will be at TKE on Monday, Wednesday, April 6, 7 p.m.*

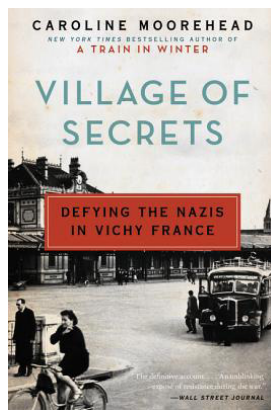


## NONFICTION

(or writes). Although her advice is serious, she uses her everyday life experiences, past and present, to make us laugh and learn at the same time. Who among us hasn't wanted to be a fly on the wall in the offices of the famous weekly magazine, gleefully watching Wallace Shawn or David Remnick wield their mighty pen? I'll never read a *New Yorker* article the same way, or *The New York Times*, or anything else for that matter. I just hope the commas in this paragraph are correct! – Anne Holman, Norton, \$15.95

### *Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France*, Caroline Moorehead

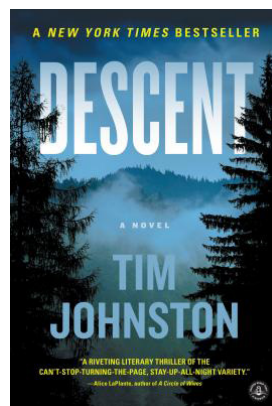
In a remote area of France high in the mountains adjacent to the border with Switzerland, Jews and others deemed “undesirables” were hidden from the Nazis and their Vichy collaborators. Farm families took in children as well as adults, and a complex organization was established to coordinate their constant oversight. The threat of discovery was ever-present, and the courageous actions of these protectors saved thousands from the gas chambers. That many of the protectors were themselves captured and sent to the concentration camps only accentuates their bravery in the face of unspeakable evil. Moorehead's research brings to light a little-known facet of World War II in France. – Barbara Hoagland, Harper Perennial, \$16.99



## MYSTERY/THRILLER

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 bolt-hole 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, Penguin, \$16



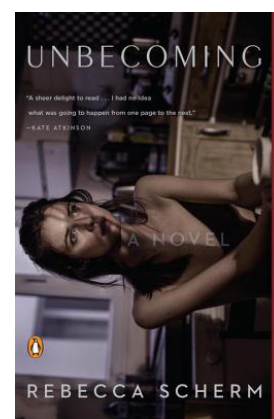
### *Descent*, Tim Johnston

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.

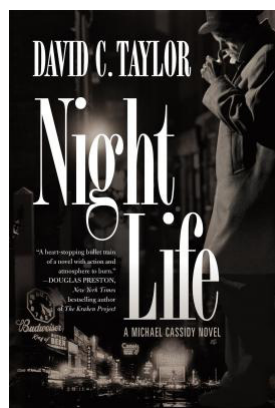
What's fascinating about this mystery is the way we get in to each of the main characters' heads and feel his or her pain and confusion. There are a few cracks in this outwardly happy family, and Caitlin's disappearance pushes each of them further inside themselves and away from one another. We follow 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, \$15.99

### *Falling in Love*, Donna Leon

Flavia Petrelli, whom Leon lovers have met before (in the first Brunetti mystery, *Death at La Fenice* and again in my personal favorite, *Acqua Alta*), is back in Venice and in glorious voice, singing Tosca. The night Brunetti comes to hear her, her performance is delivered to a thundering standing ovation—and to yellow roses carpeting the stage, making it hard to walk. Somehow they have made their way into her dressing room as well, delivered by an anonymous admirer who is clearly following her and whose attentions become increasingly worrisome—particularly after a young student in whom Flavia has shown interest is badly injured. And so Flavia turns for help—as she had twice before—to Commissario Guido Brunetti. Brunetti understands that the flowers are a threat, one he takes seriously. The ensuing investigation takes us backstage at the opera, across the canals of Venice, in and out of the dining rooms of Brunetti's wife Paula and her family in yet another mystery as nuanced, exquisite and fulsome as the meals so deliciously described in its pages. The heady combination of high art, intelligent characterization and the bracing cynicism of Brunetti as he pursues a shadowy figure make this—like all of Donna Leon's mysteries—an addiction worth acquiring. – Betsy Burton, Grove, \$16



## MYSTERY/THRILLER



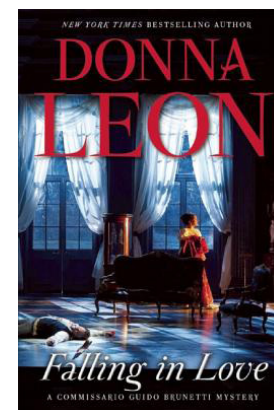
### *Night Life*, David Taylor

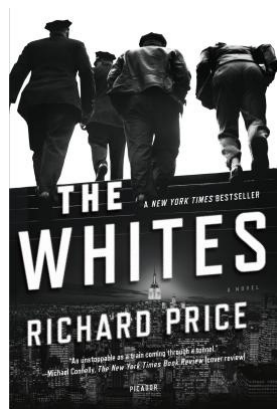
It's New York City circa 1954. The McCarthy madness is in full swing, and Michael Cassidy is a detective who doesn't like to follow orders that don't make sense. He's already thrown an abusive cop out a third story window when, in the course of an arrest, he crosses Roy Cohn, McCarthy's right-hand-man. Cassidy's father, a well-known Broadway producer, is an immigrant with a fierce love for America and a past that makes him vulnerable. Cassidy's girlfriend has just left him and loneliness

makes him vulnerable. When a beautiful woman moves in next door and an investigation into the torture and murder of a dancer in the cast of his father's play is pulled out from under him by the FBI, it becomes increasingly clear that Cassidy is knee-deep in something more than merely dangerous. Red scares, loyalty oaths, turf wars between the FBI and the nascent CIA; conservatives, communists, politicians and the military all vying for power; missing photographs and missing bodies... A 1950s thriller that is also a classic mean-streets noir detective story, *Night Life* isn't a book to start in the evening—unless you plan on reading until dawn. – Betsy Burton, Forge, \$15.99

### *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





***The Whites***, Richard Price (writing as Harry Brandt)

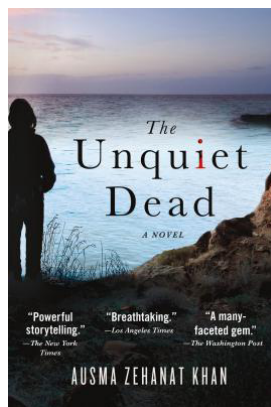
A quality revenge thriller is always a confrontation with the limits of human forgiveness. What can you live with? What keeps you up at night? For Billy Graves and his friends, a tight group of mostly retired detectives who call themselves the Wild Geese, it's the Whites. The ones who got away. Every 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 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, Picador, \$16

***The Unquiet Dead***, Ausma Zehanat Khan

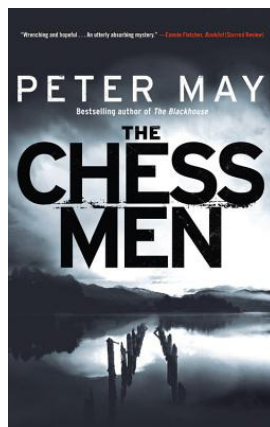
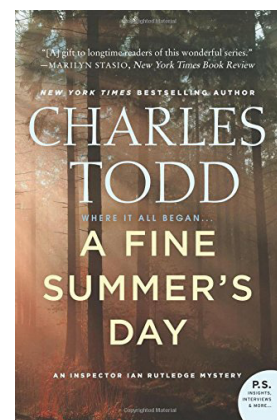
*The Unquiet Dead* may at first glance appear to be a typical if well-written mystery. It begins with a death and a question: the death, a fatal plunge from a Canadian cliff top, the question, was now-dead Christopher Drayton pushed, did he jump, or was his death an accident? And why has an old friend 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, \$15.99



***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, \$14.99



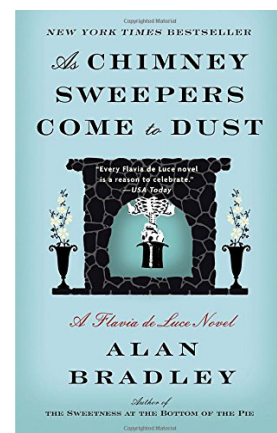
***The Chessmen***, Peter May

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 versus poachers and the conflicts of a newly found son and a 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 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—chess men 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, \$14.99

***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 mum-

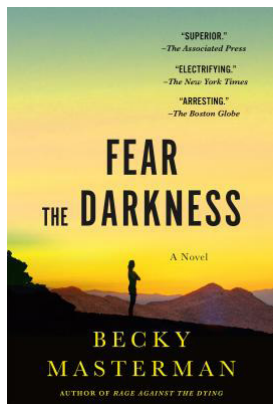




## MYSTERY/THRILLER

mified 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, Bantam, \$15



***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, investigat-

ing 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. – Paula Longhurst, Griffin, \$15.99

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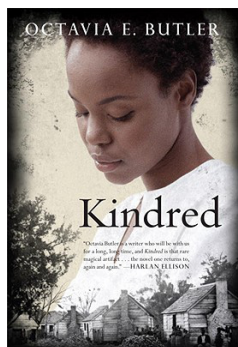
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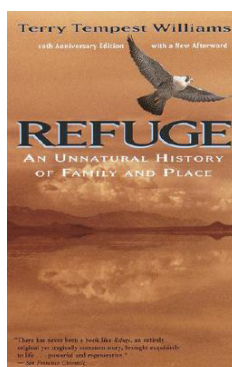
***Kindred*, Octavia E. Butler, Beacon Press, \$16**  
(Originally published in hardcover in 1979)

“With lively characters and rich narrative, this genre-bending book is a wonderful blend of speculative and historical fiction that takes on the broad issues of power, freedom, gender, and race. A woman suddenly goes back in time to the days of slavery, where she is thrust into plantation life. Viewing her experience through the lens of our contemporary world, she struggles to understand and

adapt to her antebellum existence. This book, written nearly 40 years ago, still resonates today.” – Rebecca Fitting, Greenlight Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY

***Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family & Place*, Terry Tempest Williams, Vintage, \$16**  
(Originally published in hardcover in 1992)

“This is Williams’ memoir about a beloved bird habitat by the Great Salt Lake that is slowly washing away while her mother is dying of cancer, the family’s legacy as Downwinders of atomic-bomb testing in the 1950s. This is a moving narrative that balances grief against a deep wonder and appreciation both for the natural world and Williams’ family history.” – Jeanne Costello, Maria’s Bookshop, Durango, CO



***The Salt Eaters*, Toni Cade Bambara, Vintage, \$15.95**  
(Originally published in hardcover in 1980)

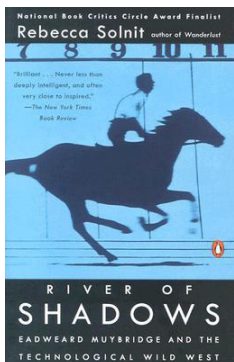
“Are you sure, sweetheart, that you want to be well?” So opens Bambara’s vibrant, Afrocentric novel about a group of black activists in the 1970s as they strive to hold onto a pure vision for liberation even as their group begins to splinter into fractious debates about ideology and method. Bambara was an early radical feminist and black activist whose work was brought to the attention of Nobel Prize recipient Toni Morrison when she was an editor at Random House. Anyone with more than a passing interest in the Black Lives Matter movement -- participant, supporter, or just curious -- should read this masterpiece.” – Kris Kleindienst, Left Bank Books, St. Louis, MO



***Stoner*, John Williams, New York Review Books, \$14.95**  
(Originally published in hardcover in 1965)

“This story follows William Stoner, who is sent to agricultural college in 1910 to study farming. While at school, he falls in love with literature and begins a career in academia. His life becomes a series of missed opportunities and disappointments, and the novel offers an intimate view of academic life and politics in the first half of the 20th century. Written in clear and simple prose, this is a tender and

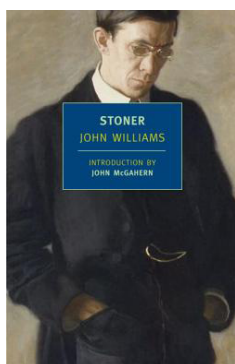
truthful portrayal of a man with a passion for literature and a yearning for the life of his dreams. While his own life doesn't quite measure up, Stoner touches the lives of many others and he will touch the heart of the reader as well." – Sue Boucher, The Cottage Book Shop, Glen Arbor, MI



***River of Shadows: Eadweard Muybridge and the Technological Wild West***, Rebecca Solnit, Penguin Books, \$18 (Originally published in hardcover in 2004)

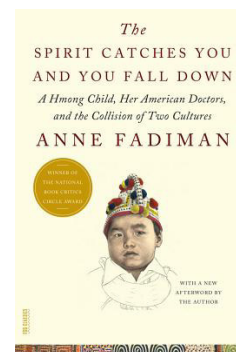
"New technologies, political intrigue, and sexual scandal in Northern California: Solnit takes these elements and crafts a tale with such narrative verve and nuanced political and cultural insight that the reader is swept

away to be a witness to the birth of Northern California as a center of technological innovation. The complexity of the relationship between Eadweard Muybridge and Leland Stanford is a fascinating story to which Solnit does justice. More than 10 years after its original publication, *River of Shadows* remains one of my favorite recommendations." – Paul Yamazaki, City Lights Booksellers, San Francisco, CA



***The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures***, Anne Fadiman, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$15 (Originally published in hardcover in 1998)

"Fadiman's story of the tragic misunderstandings between American medicine and immigrant Hmong culture after an infant girl is diagnosed with severe epilepsy is a modest masterpiece of journalistic empathy. Tirelessly curious about the people, history, and science connected by Lia's illness, Fadiman does not lose sight of the limits of what a journalist can discern or what two cultures can know about each other." – Tom Nissley, Phinney Books, Seattle, WA



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