Holiday Pleasures and Winter Treasures

TKE’s booksellers have been reading the new books all fall like a bunch of squirrels storing nuts for winter. In the process we’ve gathered some wonderfully meaty treats for you and those you love, whether what piques your interest is fine fiction or the galaxy, art, gardening, poetry or politics. If you’re not sure what you want for your Aunt Sally or your 10-year-old niece, or for that plane ride you’re not looking forward to, we have a host of knowledgeable booksellers on hand who will not only recommend the right book, but also wrap it, mail it, or, if you’re doing your shopping by phone or e-mail, deliver it—the same day!

And….we’ve finally found a sophisticated and successful solution to e-reading that is totally friendly to independent bookstores—the Kobo. It’s an e-reader used all over the world, and it’s debuting in the U.S.—at independent bookstores! Kobo’s motto is “read freely,” and e-books ordered through Kobo (they have a 3 million+ inventory) can be read on any device—important to us as independent bookstores! But Kobo’s own e-readers are fabulous. Come in and try out the Glo, the Minis (they fit in your pocket!) in the store right now, and the tablets that are shipping soon. Our Kobo experts can answer your question and get you up and running on these terrific and very affordable e-readers. We know when you see them you’ll be as excited as we are.

We want our customers to read books in whatever format they prefer, of course, but we love it when you come in and browse our shelves, ruffle the pages of real books, and pick our booksellers’ brains. This year you’ll be especially glad you did because there’s so much that’s wonderful—as you’ll see when you read our Inkslinger. Enjoy, and we hope to see you soon!
Art as Life

Two gifts of the year this year—at least for those who love art and our land—are LeConte Stewart Masterworks (Gibbs Smith, $75) and an original plein-air pastel ($400 to $2500)—or a print ($55 to $85)—by Utah artist Scotty Mitchell. Mitchell sees the land through the lens of this century. The landscape of the Southwest, and particularly of Boulder, Utah where she lives, are ideal subjects for her sensibility, her understanding of the structure beneath the sweep and grandeur of the land and her understated palate that speaks softly yet eloquently of the landscape we know and love. LeConte Stewart (1891-1990) created iconic images of Utah, both rural and urban, from a sensibility of the century just past, one influenced by John Carlson, Maynard Dixon, and Edward Hopper. Included in this stunning book are more than 300 paintings along with an introduction by noted American art scholar, curator, and collector William Gerdts, essays by Mary Muir and authors Donna Poulton, Robert Davis, James Poulton, and Vern Swanson. Either a pastel or the book would be a spectacular present—wrapped together they’d create an unforgettable gift, one to be treasured.

For those who like their art cutting-edge, Joseph Cornell’s Manual of Marvels (Thames and Hudson, $80) might be the ticket. A fabulous facsimile of an almost unknown masterpiece found in Cornell’s basement after his death, this consists of 60 extraordinary pages with cutouts, glue-ons, hand-colored and black-and-white engravings of the French rural culture of the period and much more, accompanied by a volume of essays, along with an interactive DVD…this is as inventive, creative, surprising as only Cornell could be, perfect for those who like their art outré. Also ideal for those who savor the out-of-the-ordinary is the gorgeously illustrated new edition of the bestselling masterpiece, Hare with the Amber Eyes by Edmund de Waal (Farrar Strauss & Giroux, $40). A world-famous ceramicist, de Waal explored the history of his illustrious family through a collection of 264 Japanese wood and ivory carvings, called netsuke, which he inherited from his uncle, reconstructing the lives of the Ephrussi family—from financial and cultural dominance in fin-de-siècle Europe, to almost total destruction at the end of World War II. Lively visual details, including full-color images of de Waal’s most beautiful netsuke, and almost 200 previously unseen images from de Waal’s family archive—class photographs, old postcards, family snapshots—transform a deeply intimate saga and art-detective story into a work of visual art. Like the Cornell, an intriguing gift for the art-curious and avant-garde.

On the other end of the artistic spectrum, The Book of Kells by Bernard Meehan (Thames and Hudson, $95) represents the glories of one of the greatest treasures of medieval Europe. Replete with religious history and iconography and as inventive and intricate as anything conjured in modern times (although probably painted around 800 in a monastery at Iona in Scotland or Kells in Ireland), the original Book of Kells, newly photographed and illuminated by recent scientific research and more than 50 full-size reproductions of complete pages of the manuscript, will ravish any lover of art, religion, or history. And finally, for an overview, Glittering Images: A Journey Through Art from Egypt to Star Wars, Camille Paglia (Pantheon, $30) offers fascinating short essays on the major movements in art over the last 5000 years, illustrated with gorgeous full-color plates.

Literature Is Life

For those who visit the past in the pages of novels and are loath to return to the present, give the gift of The Palliser Novels (Oxford University Press, $75), an elegantly designed boxed set of paperbacks of the six novels which Trollope himself called, “the best work of my life.” As a group these novels are as witty, entertaining, telling and affecting as anything the 19th century master ever wrote—and for those who love his work, no better gift exists—except perhaps a full set of his work at five
playing each of the tunes. A CD is included in this wonderful package with the author George Gershwin through 12 of their most popular songs.

is responsible for this loving re-telling of the lives of Ira and (Simon & Schuster, $45). Michael Feinstein in Twelve Songs heartbreaking. Or, if you like your music a tad more classi-
cal, we also love The Gershwins and Me: A Personal History fields forever," and "imagine." These are letters to family, friends, strangers, and lovers from every point in his life and are by turns funny, informative, wise, poetic, and sometimes heartbreaking. Or, if you like your music a tad more classi-
cal, we also love The Gershwins and Me: A Personal History

Play On
For those who measure time in music, John Lennon Letters edited by Hunter Davies (Little, Brown and Company, $29.95) will illuminate the life and mind of one of our most famous songwriters, evoking in the process both the music and the era of "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds," "Strawberry Fields Forever," and "imagine." These are letters to family, friends, strangers, and lovers from every point in his life and are by turns funny, informative, wise, poetic, and sometimes heartbreaking. Or, if you like your music a tad more classi-
cal, we also love The Gershwins and Me: A Personal History

Gustatory Fervor
If your lover, friend, or spouse has a passion for cooking, you might benefit more than he or she from the gift of a book insured to tease the taste buds and get the gastric juices flowing—and for cooks, this is a year of unbelievable riches. The unfailingly wonderful library of cookbooks from Ina Garten has acquired yet another treasure, Barefoot Contessa Foolproof: Recipes You Can Trust (Clarkson Potter, $35). You can trust Ina Garten—this is not just hype! Her recipes are not only delicious but easy and so are the menus she organizes, describes, and times. The combination of practical and glitzy offered in the 150 gorgeous color photographs and Ina’s menus, recipes, and invaluable tips, make this far and away the most useful cookbook of the season—although a close contender is The Smitten Kitchen by famed food blogger Deb Perelman (Knopf, $35) whose specialty is home-cooking, whose attitude is can-do, and whose recipes are both down-home and divine! If, on the other hand, your chef loves to bake, Thomas Keller and Sebastien Rouxel’s Bouchon Bakery (Artisan, $50) is a dazzling amalgam of French and American baking with mouth-watering photographs and recipes, tips and lessons to spark the imagina-
tion, thrill the palate, and tease the taste buds.

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PREMIERE SCREENING
This moving 20-minute documentary examines the challenges adults with special needs in our communities face when their disabilities, at first glance can be hidden or "invisible."
The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring: Temple Grandin, Ph.D., author of Thinking in Pictures; Chief Chris Burbank, Salt Lake City Police; and William M. McMahon, M.D., U. of U. School of Medicine and will be moderated by Betsy Burton.

Friday, November 30, 7 p.m.
at the Salt Lake City Library, 210 E. 400 S.

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
NOV 24

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Filling the Void

The perfect gift for those who mourn the loss of those relentless elections now past, and can’t fill the vacuum left by the disappearance of those unending political ads, there’s *On Politics: A History of Political Thought from Herodotus to the Present* (Liveright, $75) by Alan Ryan. Three decades in the making and one of the most ambitious and comprehensive histories of political philosophy in nearly a century, this is both a history and an examination of human thought and behavior spanning 3000 years. Whether examining Lord Acton’s dictum that “absolute power corrupts absolutely” or explicating John Stuart Mill’s contention that it is “better to be a human dissatisfied than a pig satisfied,” Alan Ryan evokes the lives and minds of our greatest thinkers in a way that makes reading about them a transcendent experience. If, on the other hand, laughter is a better antidote to the political doldrums or the weather, and your dog is your family’s best friend, *The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs* edited by Malcolm Gladwell (Random House, $45) is the perfect gift for one and all—an outsized and outrageously funny collection of cartoons, essays, poems, fiction—you name it—about your own best friend from our favorite magazine.

High Style

For the Fashionista with a sense of history, the book of the year is *Fashion: The Definitive History of Costume and Style* (DK, $50), a stunning, informative, and glamorous examination of the trends that have consumed our interest and defined us physically as we drape ourselves in fabrics, tease and torture their shapes over the centuries. *Grace: A Memoir* (Random House, $35), about Grace Coddington’s 30 years in the fashion industry, many of them as *Vogue Magazine* Creative Director, is beautifully done, as one would expect from someone with her chops. And for fashionistas of garden style, *Flowers* (Clarkson Potter, $85) by the formidable Carolyne Roehm is breathtaking—chockfull of sumptuous photographs, exquisite, vibrant, and evocative of the vision Roehm has of the flower as art. And for something completely different this year... book-scented perfume! The perfect gift for the consummate book lover is from Steidl Publishers in Germany, *Paper Passion: Perfume For Booklovers* at $98 may be just the thing for the person on your list who loves their e-reader but misses the smell of the written word!

*Editor’s note: perfect to pair with your new Kobo eReader.*

The Miracle of It All

For those for whom the natural world has appeal of a more scientific nature, *Seeds: Time Capsules of Life* (Earth Aware Editions, $35) by seed morphologist Wolfgang Stuppy, artist Rob Kesseler, with a foreword by Prince Charles HRH, the Prince of Wales, presents a natural history of seeds, illustrated with close-up photographs and scanning electron micrographs. The beauty and diversity of seeds from around the globe, the genetic information each contains, their intricacy and sophistication, make this the perfect gift for those who love the earth. For those who love to think beyond the boundaries of our planet, on the other hand, *Universe* (DK, $50) takes you on a lavish, full-color tour of the universe from the sun’s fiery core to the Milky Way. Featuring a star encyclopedia and charts of the constellations and planets, along with scientific information about outer space from black holes to the motion of the Earth, technological information from astrophotography to the latest telescopes, this is a wonderful gift for those who believe the earth has no boundaries.

Time Out of Mind

There are those for whom that phrase, time out of mind, rings true. For them, *The Lands of Fire and Ice: A Game of Thrones* (Bantam, $40) by George R. R. Martin might be perfect, featuring as it does frameable, collectible maps linking Westeros to the lands of the east, Qarth and
beyond, detailing King's Landing and Braavos city maps, the Dothraki Sea and the Red Wastes...we've never been there but for those who have, at least in their imaginations...And for graphic novel aficionados, Building Stories (Pantheon, $50) by Chris Ware is the absolute best one-of-a-kind, innovative, extraordinary book of the year by the master of comics and cartoons. Hailed everywhere for its originality and featuring "everything you need to read the new graphic novel," this is truly a treasure in a box. And finally, speaking of treasures, for those who like their maps based on reality, a perfect gift for the entire family is The Lost Christmas Gift (Princeton Architectural Press, $29.95) by Andrew Beckham. Young readers might find the sensibility and structure—a story within a story within a story—confusing, but adults will be moved by this tale of loss, memory, and a father's enduring love for his son, the saga of a lost package on the eve of war and the contents, maps and photographs, drawings and watercolors evoking a winter adventure shared during a blizzard. Author and TKE bookseller Ann Cannon calls this, "Truly, truly lovely." And we hope your holidays are truly, truly lovely too!
Sweet Tooth, Ian McEwan

Serena has an affair with an older man during her last year at Cambridge—a man who molds her culturally and philosophically, creating from her youthful plasticity a perfect spy. When he abandons her without telling her why, he does leave her a legacy: a job at MI 5 where she is given a strange assignment. She’s to bring an up-and-coming young writer into the fold of authors the secret service is recruiting in an effort to influence the public. The year is 1972, the Cold War an ongoing reality, and operation Sweet Tooth is just one more misbegotten attempt to manipulate the cultural landscape. So begins a novel in which McEwan has managed to snag us not just with his story, which is mesmerizing, or the relationships which shimmer with sexuality, but also with the hidden motives behind the actions of his characters, the moral dilemmas they face, the seeming impossibility of their plight, given those dilemmas. But it’s a mistake to anticipate the masterful McEwan. He’s as brilliant at the art of surprise as he is at character or plot or imagination. What you’ll find as you turn the last page of this harrowing, highly sexual and often funny book is not just a vastly entertaining tale of spies—although Sweet Tooth is all of that—but an astonishing and unforgettable novel, one that makes the best argument I can think of for the WORTH of novels in our lives. – Betsy Burton, Nan Talese, $26.95

The Lighthouse Road, Peter Geye

There could be no better setting than the northern Minnesota woodlands and no better time than the threshold of the 20th century for characters as roughly hewn as those found in Peter Geye’s second novel. This emerging talent has, it seems, skillfully accomplished for the Midwest what Bruce Machart, only a couple years ago, did for Texas in his bulletproof debut, The Wake of Forgiveness. Highly inventive and thoughtfully composed, The Lighthouse Road heralds the arrival of yet another extraordinary new literary voice in modern American fiction. – Aaron J. Cance, Unbridled Books, $24.95

Mrs. Queen Takes the Train, William Kuhn

The Queen of England is in the dumps and despite yoga poses and lectures to herself, she can’t seem to pull out of her malaise. Problems with her children and decades of public appearances have gotten her down. When one afternoon she decides to take a stroll to see her favorite horse (named Elizabeth, of course), one turn leads to another which leads to an adventure unlike anything she’s ever experienced. Her goal is to see—one more time—the royal yacht Britannia, now mothballed, but home to some of her happiest moments. Her trip is a revelation, not only to Elizabeth, but also to the loyal companions, both within the palace and without, who are frantically searching for the missing monarch. Kuhn’s book is a delight. – Barbara Hoagland, Harper, $21.99

Dear Life, Alice Munro

This new book of stories from Alice Munro is, in a word, stunning. The normal complaint about short stories is just that, that they are short. However, Munro has the ability to leave the reader completely satisfied that the entire tale has been told. She has an unparalleled way of giving us the essence of a life in brief but spacious timelessness—that one moment when a life is being shaped. All of the stories are set in the area around Lake Huron which Munro seems to have made her own. They include tales of beginnings and endings, accidents, dangers and detail an indelible picture of how extraordinary and bizarre an ordinary life can be. In this reader’s opinion, one simply cannot say enough about this beautiful book. – Jan Sloan, Alfred A. Knopf, $26.95

The Round House, Louise Erdrich

Like all of Erdrich’s novels, The Round House taps into the history, the mythology, the collective wisdom of past generations. But it is also intensely and dramatically grounded in the present. When Joe is 13 his mother is brutally attacked and badly injured; she manages to escape and make it home, but then stays in her bedroom, refusing to talk—or, for that matter, to eat. Her husband, a judge who has done his best to deliver justice to his Ojibwe people, is sick with worry, bedeviled by anger. Joe increasingly shares that anger, along with a growing determination to discover what actually happened to his mother. He and his friends launch a bicycle-mounted investigation into the puzzle of who attempted to kill his mother in a mystery that echoes down the corridors of generations, decades of family history and legend, past crimes and present scandals. Erdrich is as concerned with the past’s connection to the present as she is with the tale’s action, and her lyrical investigations of life involve much more than immediate reality. – Betsy Burton, Harper, $27.99 Editor’s note: Winner of the 2012 National Book Award!

A Place in Time, Wendell Berry

Whether writing poetry, philosophy, natural history, or fiction, Berry has a master’s eye for not only setting, but also for characters and lives in the process of being lived. In this new book of 20 stories, we become reacquainted with many of the characters of Port William. This book will resonate with seasoned readers
of his Port William series, and will be a beautiful introduction to those visiting for the first time. A wonderful, comforting read. – Jan Sloan, Counterpoint Press (PGW), $26

**The Ordinary Truth**, Jana Richman

Two things are sacrosanct on any ranch in the western United States: family and water rights. The Jorgensen family has ranched and run cattle in Spring Valley, Nevada, since 1885. Fast forward to 2011 when Kate Jorgensen, in her role as deputy water resource manager for the Nevada Water Authority, appears on television one night to inform the people of the Silver state that the city of Las Vegas is, with the Authority’s approval, going to sink hundreds of miles of pipeline under the Nevada and Utah aquifers to accommodate the ever-increasing growth of the Entertainment Capital of the World. No one in her family or the small town of Omer Springs, Nevada, can comprehend her actions. Although she’s a ranch girl by birth, Kate’s “family” life is divided into Before and After her dad died, and the fact that he died when she was 10 years old has complicated and confused her for 36 years. This novel is told from the very different perspectives of Kate, her daughter Cassie, and her mother Nell, with her aunt Leona adding a chapter here and there to give us an outsider’s view of the Jorgensen clan over the span of three generations. The truth is, everybody has a different truth and it’s hard, even impossible sometimes, to see the other side of the coin. I loved this sweeping story of three strong, smart women doing their best to make their way in a West that is changing faster than any of us want to admit. In the truth-is-stronger-than-fiction department, this very fight over water rights is happening now in the Nevada and Utah legislature—and the fate of two states and several million people hangs in the balance. – Anne Holman, Torrey House Press, $16.95 Editor’s note: Signed copies available!

**The Yellow Birds**, Kevin Powers

Powers’ novel creates a compelling awareness of what our military men and women have been subjected to for the past decade. The war in Iraq is not left behind but is brought home by each soldier to his or her family and to their community for better or, too often, for worse. Powers, a veteran of Iraq, has etched a powerful picture of reality for those of us who glance through the newspaper and note several more losses, vague implications of corruption in the elected governments, and a wistful longing for it all to end. For many of us, the experience has been only a shadowy reminder of that horrific morning in 2001. Powers forcefully shows us how the terror lives on and on, and, for some, forever. – Sue Fleming, Little Brown, $24.99

**The News from Spain: Seven Variations on a Love Story**, Joan Wickersham

Whether the news from Spain comes via a sea shell, the newspaper, a letter, a classroom, or the cinema, people in these extraordinary stories are blinded by it as they fall in and out of love, create love, let love die, betray love, lose love, find love in unlikely places. By turns heartbreaking and enchanting, *The News from Spain* is at once a collection of stories and a clutch of variations on a single theme—love. Seldom if ever has there been a more perceptive, witty, complex, surprising and true examination of that subject. Wickersham’s talent is breathtaking. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $24.95

**American Decameron**, Mark Dunn

Mark Dunn has written a book of 100 stories covering 100 years and all 50 states. The first is set in 1901 in Arboreal, Texas, and the last ends in 2000 in a nursing home in Greenwich, Connecticut. Some are funny, others deeply affecting. The research and imagination put into them is apparent in their complexity and craft. Loved them all. – Jan Sloan, MP Publishing, $24.95

**Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore**, Robin Sloan

Twenty-something Clay Jannon loses his job due to an economic downturn in San Francisco and wanders into Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore looking for work. Little does he know he’s about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime when he begins to work the night shift there. But he quickly realizes that this is no ordinary bookshop—there aren’t many customers and the few who do visit are definitely not looking for a bestseller. Clay’s interest is piqued and when he involves his buddies, a start-up genius, a Google programmer, and a visual effects artist who works at Industrial Light & Magic (this is Silicon Valley right?), what follows is a rollicking trek through the world of books in every format imaginable. Turns out, Mr. Penumbra and his “customers” are part of a secret society called The Unbroken Spine whose goal is to decode the secret of life so as to live forever. Sounds simple, right? A terrific read and a great reminder that books are here to stay...forever! – Anne Holman, Farrar Strauss & Giroux, $25

**The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving**, Jonathan Evison

Benjamin Benjamin has lost his entire family and is losing the will to live as well; Trev has lost his mobility and is suffering.
from a progressive disease that will eventually cost him his life. Hard to believe such a pair could be funny but they are—frequently and hysterically so. In a novel involving, among other things, split and splitting marriages, grief-stricken survivors, helping and helplessness, a road trip across the West, parents trying to cope with their teenage children, adults trying to grow out of their teenage selves, Evison’s latest is both madcap and deeply moving. And his storytelling ability is nothing short of miraculous. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin, $24.95

**Almost Invisible**, Mark Strand

Lovers of poetry and prose alike will dote on Mark Strand’s latest work—a book which he maintains is NOT poetry. And it isn’t, at least in terms of form. Although each entry floats in the white space of a single page and is possessed of its own title, none have a poem’s structure or shape, and the language, while admittedly poetic, is distinctly different than that of Strand’s poetry. What does follow every witty title is a fable or scene or sketch, each laced with irony, and some laugh-out-loud funny. Many are drawn from the life of a man, often elderly, either in the act of dying or wishing to do so. Strand has lost neither the power of his language nor the depth of his understanding of human nature. What has changed is that the humor often lurking at the edges of his poetry has, in this new prose, been allowed to flower freely. Sex is funny in Strand’s new vision, central still to at least some lives, but more as a source of entertainment or amusement than of bliss or passion or pain. And if wisps of mystery still whisper to do with the inevitability of death than the fear of it. While he may know that, as Dylan Thomas would have it, “dark is right,” Strand, in **Almost Invisible**, intends not to go gentle into that good night but instead to disappear on a gust of divine laughter (but not for a long, long time, we hope!) – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $26

**A Possible Life: A Novel in Five Parts**, Sebastian Faulks

This incredible novel, from the author of *Birdsong*, traces the separate trajectories of five unforgettable lives in five different time periods. Each life story is expertly etched by Faulks, and each could stand alone, but the tales become even more compelling as they join to form a provocative whole. This is storytelling at its most enduring and satisfying. – Jenny Lyons, Henry Holt and Co., $25
**Bring Up the Bodies**, Hilary Mantel

The inscrutable Thomas Cromwell of *Wolf Hall* is back, only now he's not scheming to install Ann Boleyn in Henry's bed but rather to remove her from that bed. And he has again scored the prestigious Man Booker Prize—or at least his creator has. We all know the fate of Ann Boleyn, of course, and for that matter of Jane Seymour. What is it, then, that makes that oft-told tale so fascinating in the hands of Hilary Mantel? In the first place, this is Cromwell's story, not Boleyn's. In the second, Mantel's grasp not just of history but of the tides that move the world—the currents of war and religion and thought and politics that shape an age and its people—is phenomenal. In the third, the writing, as always with Hilary Mantel, is sublime, and in the fourth, Mantel's characterization of Cromwell is sheer magic. Her Cromwell is so canny, so interested and interesting, so quick to see and understand, such a mix of calculation and warmth, guile and cynicism and openhandedness that he's both a cipher and an open book, no pun intended—as knowable and mysterious, understandable and ambiguous as any character in fiction—or for that matter, history. Mantel tells us there has never been a comprehensive biography of Thomas Cromwell. After reading her books, who needs one? – Betsy Burton, Henry Holt, $28

**The Dog Stars**, Peter Heller

The opening pages of *The Dog Stars* are as fragmented as the world in which the novel is set. Two men and a dog are holding the perimeter of an airport somewhere in Colorado, defending themselves from marauders, foraging for food, backing one another up in an obviously uneasy alliance. It's been nine years since Hig and his dog Jasper made a home at the airport with their unlikely companion when a deadly flu ravaged the land, and nine years is too long. Dangerous as it is, Hig leaves, chasing a radio signal he'd heard beaming from Grand Junction three years before. Suddenly, he's willing to pass the point of no return to find its source, even as he wonders what he might find. *The Dog Stars* is a book that has everything: a Cessna bouncing off clouds, an old dog as fierce as he is faithful, several firestorms of combat, sweeps of brown forest just beginning to green again, a love story that blossoms slowly and sweetly against a dystopian backdrop. I think I’ll start over. I have a feeling it will read as well the second time around, maybe even better. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $24.95

**The Bartender's Tale**, Ivan Doig

Always one of the West's best storytellers, Ivan Doig has here achieved the perfect fictional mix: winning, believable characters; an intricate, timely, and surprising plot; and a Montana setting that pivots between the early days of JFK in the 1960s and the 1930s of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The protagonist, age 6 at the story's start, is, for the body of the novel, 12 years old—that tender age when one still has a child's eye for the wonders of the world yet an adult's perspective beginning to glimmer on the periphery of his vision. The boy, Rusty, is brought to English Creek territory by his father, Tom, proprietor of the legendary bar, Medicine Lodge, where the two are comfortable together except when Tom takes occasional, mysterious trips to Canada. When Rusty turns 12, however, his world changes. He first meets Zoe, for whom his feelings rapidly grow from admiration to fast friendship. Then Delano appears, longing to capture the disappearing Lingua Americana and needing Tom's help to do so. Next, a bleached blond named Proxy drives up in a large Cadillac, daughter in tow—a daughter she claims Tom fathered years ago at Fort Peck. Complications ensue in a novel that kept me enraptured, unable to sleep, even after the last page was turned. I frequently fall in love with books, but *The Bartender's Tale* is no mere infatuation. – Betsy Burton, Riverhead, $27.95

**Capital**, John Lanchester

The economy is collapsing around their ears, but the residents of a certain street in London have other things on their minds: things like year-end bonus payouts or lack thereof, a soccer prodigy, nannies, and the mysterious photos that have been showing up in each of their mailboxes saying, "We want what you have." Told with the razor-sharp wit for which Lanchester is famous, this novel takes you in and out of the lives and loves of the people of Pepys Road, most of whom don't even know what they have, much less want. – Anne Holman, W. W. Norton, $26.95

**The Twelve Rooms of the Nile**, Enid Shomer

Both Florence Nightingale (chaperoned by a married couple and a maid) and Gustave Flaubert traveled through Egypt and down the Nile. Even though the two never actually met, Shomer offers a believable ‘what if?’ thesis: during a tough journey in the mid-19th century, involving camel rides into and over the Sahara, and in and out of tombs containing poisonous fumes, the two main characters met, exchanged letters, visited ruins, and formed a brief, occasionally salacious, relationship—until Flaubert contracted syphilis, a constant risk for men accustomed to frequenting bordellos. And sadly, Flaubert had to admit his problem to Nightingale. A compelling tale of derring-do involving kidnapping by local tribes, and brave rescuers amongst the camel drivers, beautifully imagined and described by the author, a published poet. – Kathy Ashton, S&S, $26
The Fiddler on Pantico Run, Joe Mozingo

A white, blue-eyed journalist with the Los Angeles Times began wondering what the origins were for his unusual family name. He had always been told the original Mozingos hailed from Italy, so when his investigations turned in an entirely different direction, he was stunned. Colonial American records indicated the first Joe Mozingo was a slave brought to the Jamestown colony in 1644. Through DNA testing and intensive research, 21st century Joe Mozingo reveals his fascinating genealogy and thus the history of race relations between blacks and whites in America. – Barbara Hoagland, Free Press, $25.99

Far from the Tree: Children and the Search for Identity, Andrew Solomon

This momentous (800 pages) nonfiction from the author of The Noonday Demon (a Pulitzer prize finalist and National Book Award winner) looks at the differences among us, the art of parenting children possessed of those differences, and the reality of living with those differences. Solomon insists on the importance of understanding the duality inherent in the differences that define who we are—understanding them as identity yes, but sometimes as identity wrapped up in illness, sometimes as identity perniciously labeled as illness. Gay himself, Solomon first details the struggles he had to endure to discover his own identity growing to manhood. He then takes his own experience, his parents' confusion of illness and identity and extrapolates to other obvious differences of identity, whether due to the genes that are a part of our birthright, or to conditions acquired from physical incidents through birth trauma or accidents. Discussing everything from deafness to cognitive differences to gender identification to genius, Solomon provides the context for understanding the duality inherent in the differences that define us—understanding them as identity, yes, but sometimes as identity wrapped up in illness, sometimes as identity perniciously labeled as illness. Gay himself, Solomon first details the struggles he had to endure to discover his own identity growing to manhood. He then takes his own experience, his parents' confusion of illness and identity and extrapolates to other obvious differences of identity, whether due to the genes that are a part of our birthright, or to conditions acquired from physical incidents through birth trauma or accidents. Discussing everything from deafness to cognitive differences to gender identification to genius, Solomon examines each in terms of identity, untangling the knots of confusion that surround them, emphasizing what makes us who we are, and the importance of parents seeing, respecting and loving their children for who they are. Staggering in its breadth and scope, even more so in terms of its timeliness and importance, this is a book that everyone involved in any way with children—or interested in humanity—should read. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $35

Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher, Timothy Egan

Subtitled "The Epic Life and Immortal Photographs of Edward Curtis", Egan’s latest terrific book captures and memorializes Curtis as the amazing man he was. In 1900 at age 32 years he turned from his life of hobnobbing with presidents, influential thinkers and theatre greats to his great dream of photographing American Indians before their lives and ways changed forever. He spent the next three decades living as an adventurer, traveling distances to document stories and rituals of 80 tribes. During the process he changed from a detached observer to an outraged advocate. A truly remarkable book for readers interested in American history focusing on the displaced peoples of our country. – Sue Fleming, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $28.

Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America’s Most Perilous Year, David Von Drehle

A book for the serious Civil War buff as well as those who find Abraham Lincoln fascinating. A great depth of material provides the context for understanding Lincoln and his times—you find out that, contrary to popular belief, George McClellan was really not a bumbling fool and that Lincoln was actually a middlesome micromanager. Interesting in that the great battles are summarized in a few short paragraphs (unusual for a Civil War book) and mundane facts like how the Merrimack and Monitor came to be are fascinating. The real story
is, as in most good Civil War histories, Lincoln. Makes you realize what a political genius he really was, able to match anyone in political infighting but matched by no one in his vision of the future of the country. – Patrick Fleming, W.W. Norton, $26.95

Hidden America: From Coal Miners to Cowboys, an Extraordinary Exploration of the Unseen People Who Make This Country Work, Jeanne Marie Laskas

Have you ever traveled six miles into a mountain, the only light the bulb on your hard hat, one so bright you can't look people in the eye while you're talking to them, for fear of blinding them? Or visited the controllers at La Guardia, amazing individuals who work within a sadly outdated communication system, unflinchingly civil with impatient pilots, handling inhuman workloads on bargain-basement salaries? Ever spent 12-hour days on your knees, raking blueberries in the barrens of northern Maine, a place where migrant workers love to come because owners treat them humanely, and provide warm, safe, clean cabins to occupy while they are there? Or spent a few days on an Alaska oil rig, where the plumbing is yards away from the secondary dorm provided for visitors, through the locked bear cage, and the temperature is so cold you can suffer frostbite if you don't stick your face in the fur lining the hood of your down parka? Jeanne Marie Lukas did all these things and more, providing a glimpse into unseen worlds, behind closed doors. This is as fascinating a piece of nonfiction as I have read in a very long time. – Kathy Ashton, Putnam, $25.95

Crazy Brave: A Memoir, Joy Harjo

In this heady blend of elusive spirituality, highly distilled prose, poetry, and internal dialogue, one of the prominent figures in Native American literature opens some of her most private experiences to her readers. Unapologetically complex and metaphysical, Harjo's unusual recipe for memoir effectively captures some of her life's most ambiguous and inexplicable moments while, at the same time, hitting an underlying chord of truth that might have been in accessible had she written in a more conventional autobiographical style. A beautiful and brutally honest addition to a fine body of work. – Aaron J. Cance, W. W. Norton, $24.95

Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power, Jon Meacham

One of America's most esteemed historians revisits the life of one of our most complicated and accomplished founding fathers in this latest biography. Meacham's compelling examination of Jefferson reveals fine nuances of character of a man whose words echo down the centuries, but whose life is still somewhat shrouded in mystery. He was a person of vast contradictions who will continue to fascinate generations to come; Meacham has made a noteworthy effort to peel back the layers of Jefferson's life and works. – Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $35

The Last Lion, Defender of the Realm, 1940-1965, William Manchester and Paul Reid

The long-awaited final volume of Manchester's opus on Winston Churchill, which takes the reader from 1940 and the beginning of World War II to the end of his life, is finally here. Unfortunately, Manchester died before he could complete this last volume, but Reid has assiduously followed Manchester's research in order to finish the trilogy. The brilliant and the difficult sides of this towering figure are both thoroughly examined in a book that minutely details Churchill's leadership during the war as well as the politics and personalities of the time. Always readable, this is a must for any library of 20th century history. – Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, $40

Editor's note: at 1200 pages this could take a reader well into the 22nd century to finish!

Brain on Fire: My Month of Madness, Susannah Cahalan

Ever feel like you're losing your mind? Cahalan did, and if she hadn't had some very smart doctors working on her case, she probably would have been sent to some long-term psychiatric facility, involuntarily committed, heavily medicated, warehoused until she died. But she did have superb care once she was assigned to the right person, someone who poured over her lab results until he found something suspicious, then began testing for some very rare conditions until he found the answers. And the family of this funny, bright, talented New York Post reporter, who was having severe behavioral problems along with documented and escalating grand mal seizures, never did believe she was truly crazy, just very, very ill. Well-written, occasionally hilarious, sometimes moving, always compelling, I loved it. – Kathy Ashton, Free Press, $25

Living Beautifully, Pema Chödrön

This book should be required reading for everyone in government. Chödrön has applied her Buddhist wisdom to the problems facing us today and does not go for the "easy fix." Her wisdom and insight into the human condition is apparent throughout as she acknowledges her own struggles to stay on the path and to let go of our fear-based clinging to what is familiar. A small, beautiful, timely book that each of us needs to take the time to read (and then re-read). – Jan Sloan, Shambhala-Random House, $22.95
Heads in Beds: A Reckless Memoir of Hotels, Hustles, and So-Called Hospitality, Jacob Tomsky

Tomsky has written a delightful tell-all memoir about working in the hotel industry, an informative guidebook for travelers through his life as valet, desk agent, supervisor of housekeeping and fired (although still potential) manager. His dialogue is so conversational that I could imagine sitting with him while he confessed to the many foibles of his industry. Do you want 10 bottles of that fabulous shampoo? How about a towel? Take them, he says, and so surprised was I, reader, that I could not put the book down until I finished it. For everyone, and I do mean everyone! – Sue Fleming, Doubleday, $25.95

Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann Richards, Jan Reid

"Poor George. He can't help it. He was born with a silver foot in his mouth." This may be all you know of the woman with the big white hair, sparkling eyes, and Texas twang. But she was a force of nature, a pioneering, liberal Democrat, feminist, governor, and the woman many of us devoutly hoped would be the first female president of the United States. Reid met Richards in the late fall of 1980 or early 1981. The woman he eventually married would ultimately become Governor Richards' chief of staff, and his proximity gives the book a sense of immediacy and honesty. He doesn't whitewash his subject, but in his recounting of her story, he brings her vibrantly to life, from her childhood in a working-class family, to volunteering for the Kennedy/Johnson ticket in 1960 to her keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention in 1988 with which she rose to national prominence. She ascended to the governorship in 1990 only to be defeated by George W. Bush, a virtual political novice, four years later. Many characters pop up in the biography, from Molly Ivins to George W. Bush to Karl Rove to a slew of others less well-known outside of the Lone Star State. Read it—you'll be glad you did. – Marilyn Copeland, University of Texas Press, $27

Round about the Earth, Circumnavigation from Magellan to Orbit, Joyce E. Chaplin

The title says it all: this wide-ranging look at the history of circumnavigation is as vast as the earth itself. Chaplin's opus begins with Magellan's tragic (for him) journey and ends with man's space orbits. In between, every aspect of the exploration of the earth's surfaces is examined—from sail to railroads to airplanes to spaceships and every other vehicle imaginable. In the process, Chaplin reveals the trials, challenges, and quirks facing the all-too-human beings whose achievements were also as vast as the earth they roamed. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, $35

Spillover: Animal Infections and The Next Human Pandemic, David Quaamen

In the world of apocalyptic books, this might be the ultimate. Quaamen explores the science of zoonosis—viruses that pass from animals to man. Zoonotic diseases strike fear in the hearts of us all: ebola, SARS, HIV, influenza—the list goes on and on. Zoonoses are increasing in frequency and intensity. A fascinating look at scientific detective work in tracing origin and spread of these horrific viruses. As we progressively encroach into animal habitats, our contact with these viruses increases and the possibility of infection and spread also increases. What is the next pandemic and what are we going to do about it? An engrossing read!! – Sally Larkin, Norton, $28.95

Price of Politics, Bob Woodward

An interesting book by veteran political author Bob Woodward on the dysfunction of our current Congress. Woodward focuses on the first term of Barack Obama and the inability of our leaders to get the "grand bargain" struck which would have allowed the economy to recover and move us away from the fiscal cliff. Political personalities such as Harry Reid and John Boehner are described in close-up detail and the reader discovers the limits to what they can and cannot control in the current Washington D.C. environment of "take-no-prisoners" politics. A great read that gives the background of what happened in the debates with each side firmly dug in, and just when a deal looks possible, a framework for compromise implodes. Well-written in Woodward's easy style. – Patrick Fleming, Simon and Schuster, $30

Constantine J. Skedros, 1923 ~ 2012

The King's English mourns the death, on November 11, of our dear friend, Con Skedros, a dedicated educator, meticulous historian, engaging raconteur, and chronicler nonpareil of the many contributions of the Greek community to Utah culture. His book, 100 Years of Faith and Fervor, is a lasting monument to the Greek Orthodox Church in Utah. Our sincere condolences to Con's family.
If you have ever wanted to forge a famous painting, this charming mystery offers all the answers. In addition to the techniques it provides, however, you will need a great deal of talent, a very good eye for infinite detail, and an MFA. When Claire Roth is offered a year’s salary to reproduce a Degas, one of the famous paintings stolen from Boston’s Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in 1990 (the biggest art heist ever), she feels she is safe because she is told it will be represented as a copy by one of the city’s most reputable dealers, Aidan Markel. He also offers her a one-woman show in his gallery. A professional copyist, Claire supports herself making almost-identical copies which even expert appraisers cannot identify. The paintings are then sold by an Internet firm as copies worth many thousands of dollars. Red herrings abound as Claire defends herself against charges brought by the FBI and the Boston police when her copy of a Degas is hung as an original Degas. I loved it. — Kathy Ashton, Algonquin, $23.95

Salvation of a Saint, Keigo Higashino
When Detective Kusanagi is called to investigate the murder of a successful businessman he includes his long-time gadfly and friend, physics professor Yukawa (alias Detective Galileo). Yukawa reluctantly joins Kusanagi only to become obsessed with the puzzle and the suspected killer, the victim’s brilliant and calculating wife. Although Galileo believes the wife’s involved, he can’t prove it, and the search for proof becomes the story. Galileo advances various theories as to how the murder took place and then proceeds to disprove them until that final moment when the pieces fall into place. The wife is a duplicitous villain, the mistress of an unsuspecting victim. Higashino’s books, with strong-women adversaries, appeal to readers of cool and calculating novels with little overt action but plenty of mental games. Salvation of a Saint follows the publication of The Devotion of Suspect X, which was named one of the top 10 books of the year by Publishers Weekly. — Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur, $24.99

The Art Forger, B. A. Shapiro

The first abbot of Saint-Gilbert-Entre-les-Loupes Monastery hid his brethren in the wilds of Quebec Province in the 17th century. The monks remained there, no one aware of their existence, until now, when the current abbot calls Suréité du Québec to report a murder. Chief Inspector Gamache decides to take his young assistant, Beauvoir, along on a potentially sensitive case located in the back of beyond, reachable only by float plane. The two policemen would be the first outsiders ever to visit the abbey—some record, considering how long the abbey has been there. What they find is a very dead choirmaster with his head bashed in, in the abbey’s private garden. How he got there, and why, in a religious community dedicated solely to preserving the purest versions of Plainsong (glorious songs created to mark the day’s offices), is the stuff of this terrific mystery. Gamache and Beauvoir’s discretion, their sensitivity to the situation, and how they discover the culprit makes for a fascinating read. — Kathy Ashton, Minotaur, $25.99

The Jewels of Paradise, Donna Leon

When I discovered that Donna Leon had departed from her beloved Commissario Guido Brunetti, I confess to misgivings. But if you love opera, history, art, musical scholarship and the city of Venice, you’ll positively revel in this tale of music and mystery. The protagonist is Caterina Pellegrini who, homesick for Venice, takes a dubious job researching a lost composer and the mysterious steamer trunks he’s left behind. His heirs want proof of ownership, but what does the attractive Dottor Moretti want? And who is following her silently through her beloved city? The tangle of plot is satisfying, the characters intriguing, and beauty—whether religious, poetic, artistic, or musical—shimmers and bubbles throughout. — Betsy Burton, Atlantic, $25

The Beautiful Mystery, Louise Penny

Harry Hole never intended to return from Hong Kong; he certainly didn’t want to go back into police work, but family makes you funny that way. Oslo hasn’t changed for the better; there’s a new drug on the streets known as “Violin.” Oleg, the closest thing Harry has to a

New Mystery

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son, has admitted to shooting a dealer, and Harry wants to know the truth. His investigation into burners, Ukrainians, mules, and killers with long sharp knives leads him to a showdown, maybe his last.
– Paula Longhurst, Knopf, $25.95

**Live By Night**, Dennis Lehane

Prohibition, racketeering, murder, and Joe Coughlin, son of a prominent Boston police commissioner, is right in the middle. Joe is out take down Albert White and his bootlegging operation after both men fall for the same girl. Run out of Boston and into prison, Joe takes his revenge in Tampa by day, lives and loves in the vibrant backstreets and sultry jazz clubs of the city's Latin Quarter by night. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $27.99


More wonderful lunacy from Jasper Fforde. After an almost-successful assassination attempt by the downright nasty Goliath corporation (see One of Our Thursdays Is Missing), Thursday Next is hired as Swindon's Chief Librarian. This isn't as cushy a job as it sounds; for starters she's got to deal with homicidal nuns (some of them male!), death threats from Jolly Hilly of the Enid Blyton supporters group, a budget of just over 300 pounds 67 pence, and the threat of being replaced by an army of Goliath-financed Thursday clones or Day players. Oh, and Swindon is due for a serious smiting at the end of the week from a very ticked-off deity. To top it all off, Thursday gets involved in the search for DRM or Dark Reading Matter. Regular Fforde lovers will lap this up; if you're new to Thursday's adventures, start with The Eye Affair. – Paula Longhurst, Viking, $26.95

12.21, Dustin Thomason

In the second week of December a deadly insomnia hits Los Angeles. Prio researcher Dr. Gabe Stanton and his team are quick to figure out how the disease spreads but powerless to contain it. Could the answer lie in a black market artifact recently smuggled across the border from Guatemala? Cast out by the CDC after a disastrous failed attempt to cure the disease, Stanton teams up with Chel Manu, a curator at the Getty Museum and one of only a handful of descendants of the old Maya civilization, to attempt to translate the pages of the artifact even as the state is placed on lockdown. According to the Mayan calendar the world ends on December 21st 2012... – Paula Longhurst, Random House, $27

**Garment of Shadows**, Laurie King

1924. Mary Russell is missing in Morocco. She wakes up in a small room with blood ingrained in her nails and a memory full of holes. She's in the city of Fez, and, although she still has no idea how she came to be there, her skills have not deserted her. Fez is home to a rich blend of spies, bandits, diplomats, guides, merchants and some old friends. Because the city lies so close to a bubbling civil war front, many Europeans are keen to meddle there as a still-recovering Mary and her husband Sherlock Holmes attempt to piece together her missing hours and the bearing they may have on peace talks in the region. – Paula Longhurst, Bantam, $26

**City of Saints**, Andrew Hunt

Salt Lake in the 1930s wasn't as squeaky clean as you'd think. In the snowy west of the Salt Lake Valley, deputy Art Oveson and his partner find the remains of a wealthy socialist. Just as their investigation is ramping up, Art's boss, Sheriff Cannon, has one of his infamous hunches and directs his men to look away from the obvious pool of suspects (who have just made a generous donation to his re-election campaign). Art's misgivings that they have the right man could cost him his job but they'll cost others far more. City of Saints is based on a real-life unsolved murder case from the 30's. – Paula Longhurst, Minotaur Books, $24.99 Editor's Note: Andrew Hunt will join us on Saturday, December 1 at 7 p.m. at the bookstore.

**The Malice of Fortune**, Michael Ennis

The names of Machiavelli, Leonardo and the Borgias strike a visceral chord in most readers and although in Malice they live up to their reputations, Ennis humanizes his well-researched characters. Renaissance Italy is not modern Italy; region fights region, and church and state make compromises in order to survive. At the center of the chaos is a beautiful paramour, Damiata, catering to the whims of the Borgias while attempting to protect her young son from their control. Following the murder of the Pope's son, Damiata's lover, she must prove her innocence. Suddenly women are being murdered, dismembered, and scattered around the countryside as Machiavelli and Leonardo work together to find the killers, employing their diametrically opposed methods of investigating—Leonardo experimenting while Machiavelli analyzes. The plot may revolve around a murder mystery, but the novel also portrays the Renaissance and its importance to the political and religious thinking of the age. This is a wonderful read for anyone who loves history and its complications. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, $26.95

**The Map of the Sky**, Felix J. Palma

H. G. Wells is back again in this extension of The Map of Time. The ever-curious Wells wants to see the body of a Martian hidden in the bowels of the Natural History Museum. This compilation of
New Mystery

Adventure stories includes a trip to the frozen Antarctic; a romance between a willful New York socialite and a rich con-man who sets out to recreate Wells' War of the Worlds; and the actual invasion of the extraterrestrial creatures. The Antarctic expedition sets the stage when a “flying saucer” lands and its lethal occupant begins killing or occupying the members of the expedition. That extraterrestrial does not die but is the impetus for the mischief to come as various stories meld into one epic in which the socialite and her suitor, Holmes, and a mysterious inspector battle the bizarre creatures. The map of the sky had once been the precious picture which Emma remembered from childhood but is now the cruel reality of a society more intelligent and powerful than earth creatures and intent on controlling planet earth for their own survival. The Map of the Sky is more complicated than The Map of Time and seems to be leading to a third volume. I hope so. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Atria Books, $26

Hand for a Hand, T. Frank Muir
St Andrews Golf Club in bonnie Scotland is the last place you’d expect to find a body part. But there it is in a bunker on the seventeenth green, a hand clutching an envelope addressed to Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Gilchrist. The note contains a single word MURDER. More messages follow, and Gilchrist has a horrible suspicion that he knows the identity of the next victim. The last time he played a hunch he got it wrong, but if he’s right this time, the consequences will destroy him. – Paula Longhurst, Soho Crime, $25

The Valley of Unknowing, Philip Sington
When the Berlin wall went up it may as well have frozen East Germany in time. No one speaks out against socialist ideals because state security has informers everywhere. Life is hard and dirty and short if you get caught saying the wrong thing. In this choking climate Bruno Krug, author of The Orphans of Neustadt, falls for Austrian music student Teresa. He is also reading a manuscript as a favor to his editor. This work has no title or author and not only is it disturbingly good, but it echoes Krug’s earlier book. When the person Krug thinks is the author dies suddenly, Krug has the book smuggled to the West where the book and Krug’s protégé take on a life of their own. But who really wrote The Valley of Unknowing? How many more lies and betrayals will it spawn? – Paula Longhurst, W.W. Norton, $25.95

Luther: The Calling, Neil Cross
A madman wants the oxygen of publicity and DCI John Luther wants him off the streets permanently in the prequel to the eponymous TV series. Luther is a good copper, intense and driven, although his marriage is falling apart around his ears and his dark side is starting to show. He’s not on the take; he just metes out justice his own way. With a double murder to solve and a killer with a massive pool of possible victims, Luther’s going to have to bend the rules to save a little girl’s life. – Paula Longhurst, Touchstone, $29.99

Death’s Door, James R. Benn
What would modern mystery writers do without World War II and its cast of characters? The setting and complications of war are the perfect backdrops for individual murders and intrigue. In Death’s Door James Benn uses the feisty Boston-Irish policeman nephew of Gen. Eisenhower once more in the seventh of the Billy Boyle mysteries. The setting is narrowed to the Vatican, into which Boyle, disguised as a priest, is smuggled through Gestapo checkpoints. He enters St. Peter’s Basilica through the entrance called Death’s Door, his goal to find the murderer of an American monsignor at the request of highly placed American politicians. Billy’s personal goal is to find his lover being held in the infamous Regina Coeli prison, and the two plots blend as the war reaches into the corridors of a supposedly neutral Vatican, a city filled with refugees, murderers, and Good Samaritans, a place where priests may profess to neutrality but most take sides. Boyle is never sure whom to trust and only knows that he must find his lover, British spy, Diana Seaton. With that goal in mind he can solve the murder and leave the Vatican knowing that he has done the best he can in a microcosm of the good and evil in the world. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, $25

Books, large or small, are always our first choice in gifts, and there are many to choose from this year (see below). But a gift that’s small in size (it fits into your shirt pocket) that keeps on giving is the Kobo Mini. It’s a very portable eReader (4 x 5.2”) that has over 2 GB of storage space. That’s a lot of reading packed into a small and light powerhouse. And at (4.5 x 6.2”) the Glo is pretty portable, too. Come by the store and we’ll give you a demo!

Two little books about books we’re big on this season are: Read This! Handpicked Favorites from America’s Indie Bookstores (Coffee House, $12), jam-packed with titles from all over the country. Choose your favorite bookstore and see what they’re reading; all royalties go to the American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression (ABFEE), a group that fights literary censorship. And—if you love your local bookseller or for that matter your local authors, My Bookstore: Writers Celebrate Their Favorite Places to Browse, Read, and Shop (Black Dog & Leventhal, $23.95) contains dozens of essays by American writers celebrating their favorite bookstores. In it, Terry Tempest Williams writes movingly about the time she came to TKE for a reading and signing of Refuge in the early 1990s.

And speaking of Terry Tempest Williams, nothing could be a more perfect gift than When Women Were Birds: Fifty-four Meditations on Voice (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $24), which came out earlier this year. When her mother died at 54, bequeathing her three shelves of journals, Williams approached them with a mix of longing and expectation. What she found was not revelation, however, but rather a bewilderment of blank pages. Now 54 herself, Williams considers these same journals from the perspective of a woman of her mother’s age, mulling what the silence of those empty pages might mean, what secrets their blank surface might conceal.

Few things make better gifts for readers than poems do, and a small but perfect gift for bird-lovers and poets alike, is Bright Wings (Columbia University Press, $16.95), edited by Billy Collins, an anthology of poems written by poets across the ages in praise of birds. It is lavishly illustrated by David Allen Sibley’s watercolors and belongs on every bird-lover’s bookshelf.

Paperbacks make ideal gifts for almost everyone. For the literati in your life for instance, what could be better than a copy of the most recent Julian Barnes, The Sense of an Ending, or the latest Michael Ondaatje, The Cat’s Table? And what could make an arm-chair historian happier than Robert Massie’s Catherine the Great or Hilary Mantel’s brilliant novel of Cromwell and Henry VIII, Wolf Hall? Here are some terrific new paperbacks that will also make small-but-thoughtful gifts:

**The Cove**, Ron Rash

The people of Mars Hill, North Carolina fear and despise Laurel Shelton and her brother, Hank, both of whom live on a mysterious piece of farmland called The Cove. Laurel’s birthmark labels her as a witch and Hank is plotting to escape the cursed land when a stranger appears with his silver flute, changing their lives, and the lives of the residents of The Cove, unearthing the cruelty of the citizens of Mars Hill. The patriotic fervor of the time explodes through the cruelty of a young army recruiter who fires up anti-German sentiment in order to fulfill his own ambitions. The final chapters fly by, as the hatred reaches a fever pitch and the evil in the recruiter infects the masses. Ron Rash’s language infuses the land with human passions and The Cove is a major character in this beautiful page-turner. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Ecco, $14.99

**Lightning Rods**, Helen DeWitt

Joe, an out-of-work encyclopedia salesman, has a lot of ideas. Most are useless, but he stumbles upon a solution to the problem of sexual harassment and low productivity in the workplace. His unconventional idea of discreetly placing women in offices to provide orchestrated, sanitized sexual release for male employees is an immediate hit for corporate offices. But Joe is then forced to take on the stigma of being very successful at something revolting to most. Reminiscent of Gary Shteyngart and Chuck Palahniuk, Lightning Rods avoids pretension by being bizarrely funny and sardonic. – Rachel Haisley, New Directions, $14.95

**Stranger’s Child**, Alan Hollinghurst

A literary homage to male friendship, Stranger’s Child is a reflection on the dangers of memory and the decline of the British Empire. It begins prior to WWI in the world of Georgian poet, Cecil Valance, who has written: “Two Acres,” a poem destined to be read far into the future. A young man in the 1960s begins writing Valance’s biography and sees the poet through modern eyes. The title comes from Alfred Lord Tennyson’s long poem, “In Memoriam,” which he wrote on the death of his friend Arthur Henry Hallam. Since Hol-
linghurst's book reflects the world of Tennyson and the longing for the past, reading Tennyson along with Hollinghurst is a challenging but fascinating task. The modern characters yearn for the gentle landscape of a pastoral world and live with half-formed memories and a fantasy of a graceful Victorian age. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Vintage, $15.95

**The Quality of Mercy**, Barry Unsworth

Just because a novel runs out of pages, doesn't mean it is finished. Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger* won the Man Booker Prize in 1992. The subject matter was the slave trade, a mutiny and the power of money. The theme, the powerful vs. the powerless, is still relevant. Unsworth's new novel returns to 1767 and continues the story of the British involvement in the commerce of slaves. When slave-ship-owner Kemp finds his mutinous crew in Florida and brings them back to England for trial, a lone sailor, a fiddler, escapes and starts toward County Durham and coal country. But he cannot escape Kemp, who has just bought a coal mine and is spreading his wealth from the sea to the land; thus begins a battle among the ship owner, an abolitionist lawyer, the escaped convict, and a coal miner. Unsworth once more forces the reader to ask important questions about individual rights, the strength of commerce, and the quality of mercy. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Anchor, $15.95

**The Orphan Master's Son**, Adam Johnson

North Korea is a land of silence where the inhabitants are trained to accept any reality with which they are faced. Guided by the “Dear Leader,” their lives are bracketed by collective perceptions which may change at any time. Thus, is an orphan master's son capable of becoming a seaman, a miner, a prisoner, and, although an imposter, ultimately, a famous North Korean Commander, husband to the most beautiful woman in the land. Johnson's epic novel is an inge-

ous look at a country and society about which we know very little. He has brilliantly illuminated the fragility of reality and the fear under which an entire nation can be constrained by force and indoctrination. Absolutely stunning in its scope. – Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $15

And on the lighter side……

**Mr. G: A Novel about Creation**, Alan Lightman

For eons, God has existed in the Void, meditating endlessly, talking only to his aunt and uncle. As, being God, he knows everything, he understands physics and chemistry, none better. Thus, when he gets the idea of creating a universe, no sooner said (to his aunt and uncle) than done. Author Lightman is a physicist, and the pyrotechnics involved in the creation of said universe are as dazzling as they are fascinating. But the fun really begins when a tall, dark stranger walks into the Void. Guess who? As God and the stranger begin a dialogue about the future of the new creation and its evolving inhabitants, God, ever fair, agrees to contemplate the stranger's point of view. This often very funny novel of creation looks at consequences, both scientific and moral, at the act of creation, and at evil, all from a wide-angled perspective that includes theology and philosophy as well as theoretical physics. Betsy Burton, Vintage, $15

And, OK, maybe not for everyone but for some people (you know who), *I Could Pee on This: and Other Poems by Cats* might be the best present they get all year! (Chronicle, $12.95)
Nonfiction New in Paper

_Catherine the Great_, Robert K. Massie

Daughter of a minor German nobleman, Catherine (or Sophie, as she was born) was brought to the Russian court by Empress Elizabeth to marry the heir to the throne. With the death of Elizabeth and the coup against her husband, Catherine was proclaimed Empress of all Russia and thus began an unprecedented reign. Massie’s massive biography explores the brilliance of her court, her many loves, her flirtation with the Enlightenment via a vast correspondence with the world’s philosophic geniuses, and her attempts to bring her backward country into the light of 18th century Europe. Her 34-year reign is remarkably told by Massie, providing a brilliant complement to his Pulitzer Prize-winning _Peter the Great_. Massie’s accomplishment is matched only by those of the woman he has profiled. – Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $20

_Rin Tin Tin: The Life and the Legend_, Susan Orlean

Susan Orlean is a masterful writer, no question. I am not even of the Rin Tin Tin era, and I was so captivated, so caught up in this story that there can be no doubt as to the storytelling ability of _The Orchid Thief_ author. Those who grew up with the famous dog will be even more entranced by this book. Orlean manages to give an engaging overview of 1920s and 1930s Hollywood as well as a comprehensive view of post-war America and a fascinating character portrait of—and this is the heart of the book—a man and his dog. This would be a great gift for just about anyone, a thoroughly enjoyable read. – Jenny Lyons, Simon & Schuster, $16

_London Under_, Peter Ackroyd

The prolific Peter Ackroyd, author of the ground-breaking _London: A Biography_, has just broken ground, literally, by exploring the underground of London. He takes us through mazes of springs and streams, rivers and wells, catacombs and crypts and underground prisons, pulling us along to view the tube lines and gas lines and warrens of sewers, the telecommunications, often unmapped due to security precautions. Rats roam these nether regions, and buried bodies still threaten to spread the bacillus that these same rats once carried, the so-called Black Death. Roman remains and mammoth bones, forgotten monasteries, secret rivers and utility tunnels are all part of this detailed and Dickensian portrait of the city’s dark side, all illustrated with engravings that would do a fine edition of Dickens proud. – Betsy Burton, Anchor, $15

_In My Home There Is No More Sorrow: Ten Days In Rwanda_, Rick Bass

This small volume is a result of a trip that Bass, along with his wife and daughter, took with Terry Tempest Williams to visit Rwanda. It somehow rises above the heart-breaking evidence of genocide to not only tell the story but to talk about the hope and optimistic spirit found in Rwanda’s young people. It also tells of the breathtaking beauty to be found in this country of unimaginable tragedy. This is an unforgettable essay, exploring the history of a country and the dark reaches of human nature that allow such an unthinkable event to take place. – Jan Sloan, McSweeney’s Books, $13

Mysteries and Thrillers

_Blessed Are Those Who Thirst_, Anne Holt

Oslo is in the grip of a heatwave and a crimewave. Hanne Wilhelmsen, half-buried under a stack of cases, finds connections between a series of brutal assaults on young Norwegian women and the weird ‘Saturday night massacres’ which most of her department consider to be a sick prank. Someone is going down for the crimes, permanently. – Paula Longhurst, Scribner, $15

_Impossible Dead_, Ian Rankin

Malcolm Fox from “Complaints,” Scotland’s Internal Affairs Division, is investigating the cronies of Detective Paul Carter, a crooked cop, when his uncle, the very man who reported Carter, is murdered. Although it’s clear that Carter is guilty of misconduct, is he guilty of murder? And why, just before he was killed, was the murdered man so interested in the year 1985? The past becomes an ever-widening noose threatening to encircle Fox himself before the end of this evocative and haunting mystery by the author of the more famous Rebus series. Fox may not drink as much as the depressive Rebus, but his character is equally compelling. – Betsy Burton, Reagan Arthur/Back Bay $14.99
Gifts Galore

From Baggallinis to Scojos, decadent chocolates to handmade jam, Moleskine notebooks to original art, Eye-Holes, eReaders and more!

Find the perfect extra at The King’s English Bookshop.
Margaret’s Book Club
Meets the 2nd Monday of the month, $5, 7 p.m., TKE
November: Emily Alone, Stewart O’Nan
December: No book club meeting; enjoy the holidays
January: Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë

Rachel’s Reads!
Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
November: The Trouble With Poetry, Billy Collins
December: A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens
January: My Life in France, Julia Child

Roz Reads!
$10 per evening paid to Roz, meets last Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
Nov. 26, 27, 28: On Canaan’s Side, Sebastian Barry
December: no groups; enjoy the holidays!
Jan. 28, 29, 30: The Ordinary Truth, Jana Richman
*Jana will join discussions, all 3 nights

Danielle Lail’s Book Club
Meets the 1st Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
November: Dracula, Bram Stoker
December: The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco
January: Spook, Mary Roach

Armchair Travel Mystery
Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
November: Hidden Moon, James Church
December: The Night Circus, Erin Morgenstern
January: Christine Falls, Benjamin Black

Teen-Parent Book Club
Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month, 4-5 p.m. at TKE
November: Seraphina, Rachel Hartman
December: The Name of the Rose, Umberto Eco
January: Spook, Mary Roach

NOTE: Aimed for teens ages 12-15, but all teens are welcome, even if they don’t have a parent with them. This group will be moderated by a teen-parent duo. January 12 will be an introductory meeting starting at 3:30 p.m.

Events for Children & Young Adults

Tuesday, December 11, 7 p.m. Local author Jessica Day George will read from and sign her new book, Princess of the Silver Woods, the third book in her Twelve Dancing Princesses series. The enchanting spin George places on classic fairy tales throughout this series continues with Petunia, the youngest of King Gregor’s 12 dancing daughters.

Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m.
Join us for a sneak peek preview of the Salt Lake Acting Company’s upcoming new children’s production of "Click, Clack, Moo."
**The Christmas Quiet Book**, Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Renata Liwska

“Christmas is a quiet time: Mysterious bundles quiet/ Searching for presents quiet/ Getting caught quiet...” This lovely little book celebrates the hushed moments of a season that too often shouts. Like its bestselling companions *The Quiet Book* and *The Loud Book*, *The Christmas Quiet Book* is especially notable for its warm and lovely illustrations. Recommended (Plush toys available!). – Houghton Mifflin. $12.99 (3 and up)

**Just Right for Christmas**, Birdie Black, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw

Some gifts just keep on giving—such as a bolt of “beautiful bright-red cloth” that a king buys for his wife’s Christmas dress. Eventually the leftover scraps are used by a host of forest animals for holiday presents of their own. Reminiscent of the wonderful *Mr. Willowby’s Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry (which we also have in stock). – Nosy Crow, $15.99 (3 and up)

**Baby’s Christmas**, Esther Wilkin, illustrated by Eloise Wilkin

Baby boomers, rejoice! Eloise Wilkin’s classic *Baby’s Christmas* has been re-issued in board book form by Random House’s Golden Books imprint. All the beloved images are here for a new generation to peruse. – Golden Books, $6.99 (ages 1-5)

**A Christmas Carol**, Jennifer Adams, illustrated by Alison Oliver

Our very own Jennifer Adams (now working as an editor for Quirk Books in Philadelphia) scores again with another of her witty BabyLit books. In this version of *A Christmas Carol*, very young children are introduced to basic color concepts via characters and objects taken from Dickens’ famous story. Oliver’s artwork is as stylish as ever. – Gibbs Smith, $9.99 (3 and up—adults will love it too!)

**How Do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas?** Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague

What do America’s favorite dinosaurs do on Christmas Eve? Get into a little (or a lot) of holiday trouble, naturally! But all’s well that ends well as the dinosaurs finally fall asleep before Santa’s big arrival. Seriously, Teague’s illustrations never fail to delight. – Blue Sky Press, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Santa from Cincinnati**, Judi Barrett, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Heavy hitters Judi (*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*) and Kevin (*Library Lion*) team up to create this offbeat story about a young boy born on (you guessed it!) December 25th in (trust me, you didn’t guess it!) Cincinnati General Hospital. With a name like Claus, is it any wonder our hero grows up to become the real deal? Hawke’s vibrant retro illustrations nicely complement Barrett’s sly humor. – Atheneum, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Christmas Parade**, Sandra Boynton

“Biddy boom, biddy boom, biddy boom boom boom! What’s that noise filling the room?” So begins *Christmas Parade*, another in a long line of likeable books by Sandra Boynton. Fans will love the sight of Boynton’s signature hippos decked out in red and green band uniforms playing snare drums with “a rat-a-tat-tat.” – Little Simon, $14.99 (2 and up)

**Smudge and the Book of Mistakes: A Christmas Story**, Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Stephen Costanza

In many ways this text-heavy picture book is a throwback to classic Christmas stories such as *The Littlest Angel*. Not everyone, frankly, will have the patience to sit down and read *Smudge and the Book of Mistakes*. But those who do will be rewarded with a sweet tale about a messy young monk who eventually turns his weakness into strength. – Sleeping Bear Press, $17.95 (5 and up)
Every child should receive a book during the holidays and so should every adult! It’s time to find the perfect book for each young person you know. Then choose a cozy place to cuddle up, light the fire, make some hot cocoa, and you’ve created reading heaven. As William Joyce says in his new picture book, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, “It was filled with the fluttering of countless pages, and Morris could hear the faint chatter of a thousand different stories, as if each book was whispering an invitation to adventure.” What better place to find that “invitation to adventure” than The King’s English?

This year we are pleased to continue our tradition of offering signed copies. We have autographed copies signed by the many wonderful authors who visited this fall— including, but not limited to, Judy Schachner, Libba Bray, David Leviathan, Colin Meloy, Maggie Stiefvater, and Mo Willems. Our local authors are always happy to personalize their books for your gift-giving as well. Check out the list of local authors on our website, www.kingsenglish.com.

**Picture Books**

*By Ann Edwards Cannon and Margaret Brennan Neville*

Books for Children from 2 to 92

Skippyjon Jones *Cirque de Olé*, Judy Schachner

Oh, Skippyjon Jones, we just love everything about you—your name, your pointy ears, your big blue eyes, your ongoing and deeply profound species confusion. And now you’ve gone and joined the circus?! Seriously, Skippyjon, our joy is complete. Signed copies of this charming new adventure are available. – Dial, $17.99 (5 and up)

*Let’s Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy*, Jan Thomas

“It’s time for little cows to rest their heads./ It’s time for little cows to go to bed.” So sings the brave cowboy to his herd. HOWEVER! Things definitely do not go according to plan . . . . Repetition, rhyme and a healthy dose of humor make this book an especially good choice for reading aloud. Autographed copies available. – Beach Lane, $12.99 (3-5)

**Olivia and the Fairy Princess**, Ian Falconer

Everybody’s favorite pig (that would be Olivia) is having an identity crisis. All her classmates want to be princesses, but Olivia has her heart set on being different. Of course! What’s a poor pig (especially an über stylish one) to do? This newest addition to the Olivia saga does not disappoint. – Atheneum, $17.99 (4 and up)

**This Is Not My Hat**, Jon Klassen

In this companion to his wildly popular *I Want My Hat Back*, Klassen introduces us to a cheeky little fish who has just stolen a hat. Will he get away with his crime? Like its predecessor, this book is darkly funny. – Candlewick Press, $15.99 (5 to adult!)

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**The Night Before Christmas**, Clement C. Moore, illustrated by Ted Rand

This edition of Moore’s famous poem isn’t new, but the packaging is. This gift set comes with a copy of the book as well as a colorful ornament created from one of Rand’s marvelous illustrations. The perfect family gift. – North South, $19.95 (5 and up)
Little Elephants, Graeme Base

This story begins on a realistic note: a boy and his mother worry that they will lose their wheat farm to a plague of locusts. But authentic kindness to a stranger reaps unexpected (and magical!) rewards. As he demonstrated in his classic Animalia, Base has a singular talent for illustrating animals, both real and imagined. – Abrams, $16.95 (6 and up)

Kel Gilligan’s Daredevil Stunt Show, Michael Buckley, illustrated by Dan Santat

Evel Knievel has nothing on toddler Kel Gilligan who performs such death-defying stunts as eating broccoli! Dressing himself! AND TAKING A BATH! Bravery like this should be celebrated—and Kel Gilligan’s Daredevil Stunt Show does just that. – Abrams, $16.95 (4 and up)

Good News, Bad News, Jeff Mack

Good News, Bad News is the mostly visual story of two friends who see the world in very different ways. Rabbit always looks on the bright side. Rat...doesn't. Can a friendship between the two survive? Witty and unexpectedly touching. One of my favorite new books of the season. – Chronicle, $16.99 (3 and up)

Julie Andrews’ Treasury for all Seasons: Poems and Songs to Celebrate the Year, selected by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman

Poetry anthologies edited by celebrities are not uncommon—Caroline Kennedy’s A Family of Poems comes immediately to mind. This new collection, however, is an unusually strong example of the subgenre, featuring traditional favorites along with works by contemporary poets such as Billy Collins. The artwork—reminiscent of the late Leonard Weisgard and (more recently) Chris Raschka—may not suit every taste. But the vibrant illustrations do complement the joy each poem takes in the changing seasons. Recommended. – Little, Brown, $19.99 (5 and up)

This Moose Belongs to Me, Oliver Jeffers

Jeffers, a staff favorite, offers up a jewel for this holiday season—especially for moose lovers! Readers will be highly entertained (or maybe not so much) by Wilfred and his pet moose, Marcel. Does Marcel really “belong” to Wilfred? Jeffers’ signature artwork limns the glorious backdrop of the Grand Tetons in an entertaining picture book that will bring a smile to readers of all ages. – Penguin, $16.96 (4 and up)

Bear Has a Story to Tell, Phillip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead

Bear wants to tell his story to at least one of his friends, but they’re all busy getting ready for winter. Although he helps Mouse, Duck, Frog and Mole, still, no one has listened to his tale. Being friends means being patient—I particularly loved the page where Frog is sitting on Bear’s belly! Like their Caldecott winner, A Sick Day for Amos McGee, the Steads have once again written and illustrated a tender, lovely book endearing on so many levels. – Macmillan, $16.99 (all ages)

Moby Dick: Chasing the Great White Whale, Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Andrew Glass

Last year offered up several books about Melville’s novel, Moby Dick, and this is a notable addition to the collection. The paintings are eye-catching, and the ode written by Kimmel reminds adults how powerful Melville’s tale still is. This is not a picture book for young children, but is a tremendous introduction to an American classic. – Macmillan, $16.99 (6 and up)

Helen’s Big World: The Life of Helen Keller, Doreen Rappaport and Matt Tavares

I did not think that Rappaport could ever write a better picture book than Martin’s Big Words until I read Helen’s Big World! In 48 pages, the reader receives an unforgettable picture of this American icon as the authors mix Keller quotes with biography and compelling artwork. Helen Keller’s lifelong courage and tenacity are celebrated in this amazing book. – Hyperion, $17.99 (all ages)
Middle Reader

The Dogs of Winter, Bobbie Pyron

The fall of Communism in 1991 left Russia in complete disarray; the most unfortunate victims were the children (upwards of 2 million left homeless, by some estimates). They took to the streets, the metro, the sewers, anywhere they could find a place to sleep and, during the terrible winters, stay warm. When his mother disappears, 5-year-old Ivan finds himself on the streets with no food or money and little understanding of how to proceed. Conscripted by a gang of street urchins, our young hero soon learns how to beg and "borrow" to stay alive and stay one step ahead of the militsiya or military police. As young as he is, Ivan understands that he is becoming less human in his actions and he is afraid. At the same time he starts to notice the dogs; they are all over the city, roaming the streets, riding the metro, basically living a life similar to his with a noticeable difference: they seem kinder to each other than the children he has fallen in with. Ivan runs away and is adopted by the pack of dogs in this historical novel that is based on a true story of a young boy in post-Soviet Russia. This will have you on the edge of your seat until the final page. Masterful! – Arthur A. Levine, $16.99 (11 and up)

Violet Mackerel's Brilliant Plot, Anna Branford, illustrated by Elanna Allen

In this welcome addition to the "precocious little girl" genre, Violet is smart and funny. When she sees the Blue China Bird at the weekly market, she wants it desperately and has to use all of her talents to make this happen—efforts the readers will relish. The illustrations by Allen add even more charm to this little gem, and Violet keeps the reader smiling from page to page. – Simon & Schuster, $14.99 (6 and up)

The Year of the Book, Andrea Cheng

Booksellers love books in which books are the heroes! Anna is having a hard time with her friends, and her favorite books save her over and over again, lending her both motivation and courage. Many of the titles she loves will be recognized by readers. The illustrations in this charming tale include Chinese calligraphy. – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $15.99 (8 and up)

Homesick, Kate Klise

Benny’s mom has left him with his difficult dad and all the clutter in their house. When a local teacher enters their town, the pressure is on to get the family home cleaned up. Add a cast of quirky small-town characters and a natural disaster that no one knew was coming and, once again, Klise has created a place you would like to visit and characters you would like to meet. – Feiwel and Friends, $16.99 (10 and up)

Starry River of the Sky, Grace Lin

Lin was winner of a Newbery Honor for Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. In this lively sequel (which can be read as a stand-alone), Rendi is the only one in the Village of Clear Sky who notices that the moon is missing. Chinese folklore and story are intermingled flawlessly with Rendi’s search for self and home. At the same time Lin challenges readers with a complex plot enhanced by her full-color art work. – Little Brown, $17.99 (9 and up)

Shadow on the Mountain, Margi Preus

Espen and his friends are all eager to support the Resistance movement in Norway, now that the Nazis have conquered their country. Espen starts out with the delivery of illegal newspapers but quickly moves up to increasingly dangerous jobs. Family, friends, soccer, a little romance, and cross-country skiing all play a part in this WWII spy tale, a fast-paced novel based on the life of a real Norwegian spy. This would be a great read for fans of Snow Treasure, another gripping Scandinavian war story. – Abrams, $16.95 (10 and up)

Navigating Early, Clare Vanderpool

Newbery-Award-winner Clare Vanderpool has done it again! This terrific coming-of-age story begins as WWII comes to an end and so many people have lost so much. After Jack Baker’s mother dies suddenly, his father returns from the front lines, uproots him from the only home he’s ever known in Kansas and enrolls the young boy in a Maine boarding school near the naval base. Jack has learned how to count on his own sadness
and loss, but when he meets Early Auden, sometime student and full-time puzzle, Jack’s life takes a surprising turn. Fall break finds the boys on a quest to find a bear, a timber rattler, and maybe, a brother. Early believes that Pi (π) holds the answer and his (Pi’s) story is told in alternating chapters as the boys navigate the Kennebec River and parts of the Appalachian Trail in a search for what they’ve lost, both real and imagined. I read this in one sitting and you will too! – Anne Holman, Delacorte Press, $16.99 (10 and up) Editor’s note: coming in January.

**Game Changer**, Margaret Peterson Haddix

A softball game goes awry, and KT, the 8th-grade star pitcher, blacks out. She wakes up to a topsy-turvy universe in which sports are merely for practice, true competition is centered around academics, and her mom and dad are fixated on her brother’s math career. Haddix creates worlds where ideas run counter to mainstream society, challenging her readers to think, “What if?” Although KT has to reevaluate her vision of the world, this story is NOT anti-athletics—it just reminds readers about what is truly important. – Simon & Schuster, $16.99 (12 and up)

**My Name Is Parvana**, Deborah Ellis

A young girl who is in the custody of the Americans on a base in Afghanistan does not speak, and her captors believe she might be connected to terrorism. While she is incarcerated, Parvana takes readers through her memories of the last four years of her life in which she and her family reunited and built a school (a haven for young girls), recalling all the difficulties that went with this endeavor. Fans of the *Breadwinner* series will be pleased to see Parvana again and will once again be impressed with her bravery and her strong sense of what is right. Ellis does not shy away from showing readers a scary and troublesome world that is all-too real. – Groundwood (PGW), $16.95 (10 and up)

**Gods and Warriors**, Michelle Paver

Set in the Bronze Age, Paver’s (*Wolf Brother*) story has brilliantly recreated another ancient world—one in which Hylas is desperate to find his sister and discover why he is an “outsider.” He ends up fleeing the only home he knows with a talisman of unknown power in his possession, inadvertently ending up on a mysterious island in the company of a reluctant bride-to-be. The pair must decide to work together or perish in a world in which the gods are alive and demand their tributes, dolphins communicate with the human world, and the physical world is real in terrifying ways. All this adds up to a riveting read that is a great start to Paver’s new series. – Penguin, $16.99 (10 and up)

**Splendors and Glooms**, Laura Schiltz

Schiltz (Newbery winner for *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!* has set this story in a Victorian England where the reader can taste the bad air and feel the bumps on the cobblestones. When puppeteer Grisini and his two helpers, Lizzie Rose and Parsefall, drag their cart into the Wintermute home, Clara Wintermute is enchanted by the puppets and by the magic of the show. She is drawn to Parsefall but disappears under some very suspicious circumstances. Schiltz does an amazing balancing act, just enough humor to temper the macabre, showing the reader the meaning of loyalty and family in the process. Great read! – Candlewick, $17.99 (10 and up)

**Behind the Bookcase**, Mark Steensland, illustrated by Kelly Murphy

When Sarah and her brother are forced to spend the summer helping their parents clean out Grandma Winnie’s house, Sarah finds an unfinished letter from her grandma—a letter that turns the dull work they’ve been doing into a dark and chilling mystery. The world they enter behind the bookcase is as shadowed as a black and white picture book, and the stylistic artwork only adds to the creepiness, bringing the surreal nature of “Scotopia” to life as Sarah navigates this world that threatens her family. – Random House, $16.99 (8 and up)

**The Great Unexpected**, Sharon Creech

Lizzie and Naomi struggle to figure out their own relationship and how they fit into their families, into their community. Finn, a mysterious and charming boy, drops out of a tree and into their lives, while Mrs. Kavanaugh, who lives in the south of Ireland and loves a good murder, looks for revenge. Creech alternates these two seemingly disparate stories, throwing in a Dingle-Dangle Man, a crooked bridge, three mysterious trunks, and several rooks. In Creech’s world we are all connected, as long as we believe in love. – Harper, $16.95 (8 and up)
FICTION

Shadows, Ilsa J. Bick
Creepy, gritty, edgy, disgusting, and fascinating—all words that describe Shadows. Life has not gotten any better in book two of Bick’s Ashes trilogy; Tom and Alex are still apart, and both are looking for each other, for safety, for answers—none of which will be found in this version of zombie dystopia. Bick is laying the groundwork for book three, drawing a picture of a dark and scary world in which readers will not find redemption or resolution (at least not until later) but will be engrossed (or is it grossed out?) by this fast-paced monster-filled novel. – Egmont, $17.99 (14 and up)

Reached, Ally Condie
Casia, Ky and Xander are in the midst of the rebellion, their hopes based on its success. They’re all making choices, trying to get back to those whom they love, but it is the freedom to make those choices rather than the choices themselves that really counts. As usual, Condie challenges her readers to see beyond the love story in what is the most challenging and satisfying trilogy I have read in a long time. Congratulations to Ally! –Penguin, $17.99 (12 and up) Editor’s note: Signed copies available!

Paper Valentine, Brenna Yovanoff
In her distinctly edgy style, Brenna Yovanoff introduces us to Hannah, a 15-year-old who just wants to be normal—well normal but with really crazy clothing that she sews herself since it used to be OK to be decidedly outside the popular crowd and she and her girlfriends prided themselves on their quirky outfits. But now her best friend Lillian is dead, and hanging out in her room! A serial murderer seems to be on the loose in the small town of Ludlow, the summer temperature is rising and so are everyone’s suspicions. Can her ghostly girlfriend help Hannah solve the murders before another young girl is abducted? And is Finny Boone guilty of something other than being good looking? The cliffhangers will leave you jumping into the next chapter until you’ve spent the whole day (or night) finishing this creepy and satisfying tale! – Anne Holman, Razorbill, $17.99 (14 and up) Editor’s note: forthcoming in January.

Magisterium, Jeff Hirsch
In Hirsch’s (The Eleventh Plague) second novel, he has created a distinctly different dystopia. Glenn’s mother disappeared years ago, and her father is vanishing into his own world of scientific study. When her father is suddenly arrested for his work, he manages to give her a bracelet which turns out to be more than it seems. As Glenn’s world crumbles around her, she and her friend Kevin have to seek refuge in the Rift, a place unlike anything Glenn and Kevin have ever experienced, where they will struggle to save themselves and perhaps the rest of the world as well. This novel is inventive, creepy and engrossing—I am looking forward to the next one! – Scholastic, $17.99 (12 and up)

Seraphina, Rachel Hartman
Dragon fans will be THRILLED with this new fantasy. The treaty between dragons and humans is almost 40 years old but is still the source of many problems in the kingdom of Goredd. Even as the capital city gears up for a celebration, events seem to be unraveling the treaty. Seraphina, who has just become the music master’s assistant, is a rare half-human/half-dragon, and if her secret gets out, she will be killed. The dragons, who have the ability to transform into human form, are an analytical breed that believes emotion is an illness that can be wiped from their brains. Add to these complicated characters a medieval setting rich in detail and culture and you have a story that will leave you wanting more. – Random, $17.99 (12 and up)

Raven Boys, Maggie Stiefvater
Blue is standing in the graveyard on a cold St. Mark’s Eve, amplifying her mother’s ability to see the souls of the future dead go by, when all of a sudden a ghost speaks to her, something that has never happened before. The ghost brings terrible but ambiguous news in this tale of five teenagers bound together by a quest, each for a different reason. Stiefvater (Shiver) makes fantasy feel like realistic fiction in a novel that has surprises at every turn; this is the first of a new series. – Scholastic, $18.99 (12 and up)

Colin Fischer, Ashley Edward Miller & Zack Stentz
Fourteen-year-old Colin, who has severe Asperger’s and loves to solve mysteries, is bullied routinely by Wayne Connolly. However, when Wayne is accused in a serious crime, only Colin is willing to
help him. Using journal entries, notes and traditional text, new authors Miller & Stentz have created a character who readers of many ages will like and remember. Colin is funny and smart without really intending to be; this is a must-read. – Penguin, $17.99 (12 and up)

**Skinny**, Donna Cooner
Fifteen-year-old Ever Davies wants to be invisible, an impossibility for someone who weighs 305 pounds. She would also like to be able to tune out the vicious voice of “Skinny” in her head. When Ever makes the decision to use surgery to lose weight, she must not only find her true voice but also learn to recognize the love that has always existed around her—and to discover it in some surprising places as well. This is a story that will resonate with young women and the adults in their lives. Family and self-image issues are examined honestly and courageously. – Scholastic, $17.99 (12 and up)

**Unusual Creatures**, Michael Hearst
With eye-catching illustrations in a very unique color palette, Hearst goes through a list of creatures that could all be stars in some kind of weird fiction—proof that truth can be stranger than fiction. This is the kind of book that makes readers want to learn more about the natural world. Hearst’s presentation, humorously combined with all kinds of facts, makes it my personal non-fiction favorite. – Chronicle, $16.99 (8 and up)

**Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal—the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon**, Steve Sheinkin
Sheinkin, author of the award-winning *The Notorious Benedict Arnold* (loved it!), follows the lives and choices of three men involved with the development of the nuclear bomb. Robert Oppenheimer worked to make the U.S. government aware of the potential of this weapon and the way it could save the world from Hitler. Harry Gold was snagged by a Russian spy network, while Kurt Haukelidc must lead the team that will destroy the Nazis’ ability to make their own atomic weapon. Sheinkin carefully explains the events and the politics at the beginning of nuclear armament in a fascinating, clear read that will inform anyone who is interested in this subject. – Roaring Brook, $19.99 (10 and up)

**Little White Duck: A Childhood in China**, Na Liu and Andres Vera Martinez
Eight short stories loosely based on the author’s life, clearly show the trauma of growing up in 1970s China. Because Chairman Mao has died, sisters Da Quin and Xiao Quin have a radically different experience than their parents in a graphic novel that shows readers what is best about the format. This personal history is well worth reading. – Lerner, $9.95 (10 and up)

**Their Skeletons Speak**, Sally M. Walker and Douglas W. Owsley
Human history in North America is carefully examined through an exploration of four sets of ancient remains. So many of the skeletons have been found in recent years, that access to state-of-the-art science reveals the secrets of each individual. Photos, maps, timelines add to the body of information. Get to know our ancient neighbors! – Lerner, $22.95 (10 and up)

**Wild Horse Scientists**, Kay Frydenborg
Two scientists are responsible for the wild horses on Assateague Island National Seashore (a state park in Maryland). Taking care of the horses means taking of the ecosystem. Dr. Keiper and Dr. Kirkpatrick have a big job. Follow both scientists as they try to figure out a way to save these amazing animals. And of course it is full of photos of the wild horses. Horse lovers will think this is a great addition to their libraries. – Lerner, $18.99 (10 and up)

**How to Be a Math Genius**, Dr. Mike Goldsmith
We use math in every facet of our lives. Goldsmith shows readers easy ways to take advantage of math, and make it work for you! This is an explanation of some of the most important math ideas, and how our brain uses math. Readers can test their own knowledge with the puzzles and games. This is a great book for the up and coming geeks in your life (the next Bill Gates!) and your favorite math or science teacher. – Dorling Kindersley, $15.99 (10 and up)
Did you know that in Salt Lake County, by shifting 10 percent of our holiday spending budget to locally owned businesses, $9,800,943.75 would stay in our Utah economy in the month of December! During **Shift Your Spending Week, November 23—December 1**, all locally minded shoppers are encouraged to take the **Shift Your Spending Pledge**, and commit to shifting 10 percent of their holiday shopping to local businesses. And let your gift recipients know by adorning your locally purchased gifts with special “Buy Local First” gift tags, available with purchase at The King’s English.

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