

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

THE Inkslinger

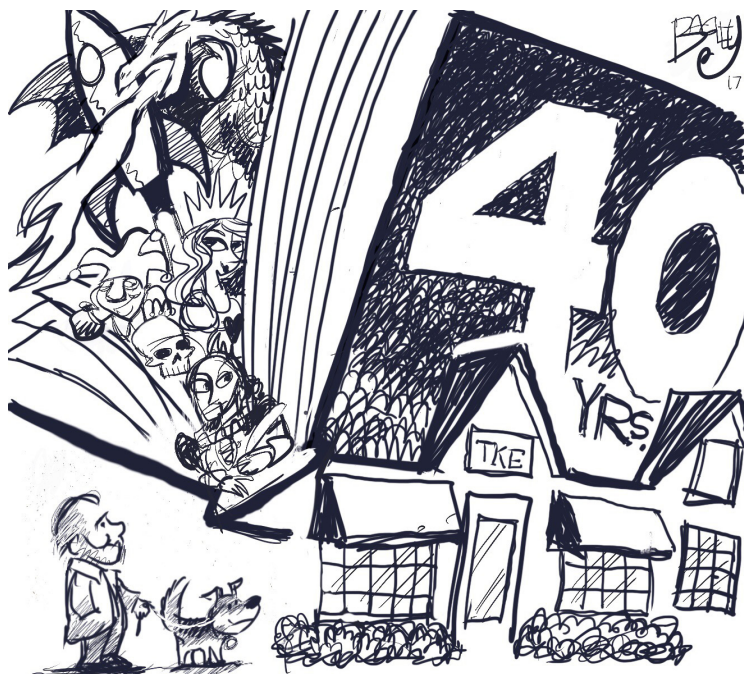
40th Birthday Issue Fall 2017

Buy local
FIRST
KEEP UTAH INDEPENDENT

A Short History of a Small Bookshop (Longer Version on page 4!)

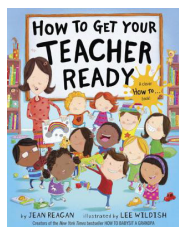
When we considered what we wanted to say on the occasion of this milestone birthday—our 40th—we started talking about all the unforgettable characters we've met in the pages of books over the decades (see page 19). That was when it occurred to us that The King's English itself is like one of the books we so love to hand-sell, alive with plots and subplots and full of fascinating if sometimes improbable characters, all with one thing in common, a passion for books.

We loved the idea of wandering in a leisurely way down memory lane in search of these characters as well as talking about what's new on our shelves—it's our prerogative, after all, since this is such a momentous birthday. Although we will, of course, tell you about the books brand-new this month that we've loved (see page 11), what you're about to read in these pages is, for the most part, not the stuff of a typical *Inkslinger* but our (by no means complete) recollections of the myriad of characters we've known and loved over 40 years at TKE. Starting on page 4 you'll encounter a number of the amazing authors who've visited TKE, moving us to tears, laughter, wonder... some among the many booksellers our customers have come to depend on, returning to them again and again for suggestions about what to read next... and a few (among such a multitude) of the customers whose loyalty, love of reading and friendship have enriched us and kept us going—literally and figuratively—for four decades. For every name we mention we're aware that there are hundreds more—be they customers, booksellers or authors—whom we have known and loved at TKE over all the years. Remembering them makes us want to simultaneously cry and shout for joy—but mostly to say thank you to all of them—and to all of you—who have made us who we are.



Good Lordy, We're 40!

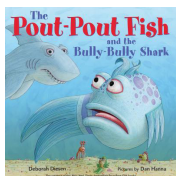
TKE's turning 40 this year, so let's celebrate! Join us on **Saturday, September 9 from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.** and take 25% off almost everything on our shelves all day long as our way of saying thank you! And there's more, look!



11 a.m. Jean Reagan will read from and sign her new picture book, *How to Get Your Teacher Ready*.

12 p.m. The Poky Little Puppy will join us for our annual Pup Parade; bring your four-legged friends and join the fun!

2 p.m. Illustrator Dan Hanna will show us the secrets behind *The Pout-Pout Fish* and *the Bully-Bully Shark*.

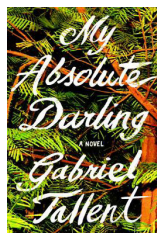


3:30 p.m. Celebrate with a King's English cake and libations—and take 30% off during the party only.

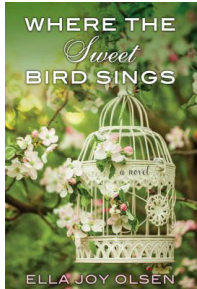
4 p.m. Gather at the bookshop to hear from the writers and view the work of the artists and photographers who entered our birthday creative arts contest! The contestants will have their work published in our second annual anthology, *Turning Pages: The King's English at 40*.



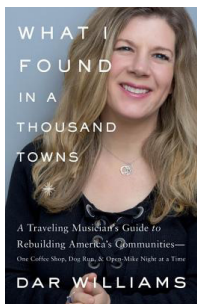
6 p.m. Debut author Gabriel Tallent will join us to read from and sign *My Absolute Darling*.



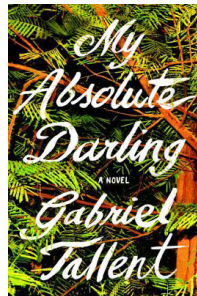
Fall Events for Adults



Thursday, September 7, 7 p.m. Local author Ella Joy Olsen returns with her new novel, *Where the Sweet Bird Sings*.

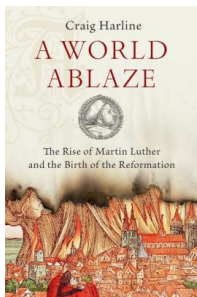


Saturday, September 9, 6 p.m. Local author Gabriel Tallent will debut his startling new novel, *My Absolute Darling*.



Friday, September 15, 7 p.m. Singer/songwriter Dar Williams will discuss her memoir, *What I Found in a Thousand Towns*.

Saturday, September 30, 6:30 p.m. Poets Paisley Rekdal & Dana Levin will share their recent collections.



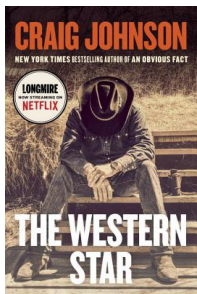
Thursday, October 5, 7 p.m. BYU history professor Craig Harline will discuss *A World Ablaze: The Rise of Martin Luther and the Birth of the Reformation*.

Tuesday, October 10, 7 p.m. Join us for our semi-annual Local Author Showcase.

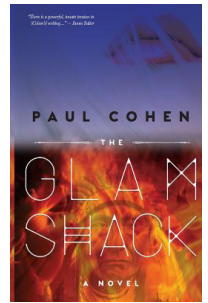
Friday, October 13, 7 p.m. Mylene Dressler will read from and sign her ghost story, *The Last to See Me*.



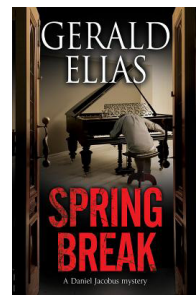
Saturday, October 14, 7 p.m. TKE favorite Craig Johnson will share his new Longmire adventure, *The Western Star*. This event will be at the Sandy Library, 10100 Petunia Way.



Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m. Novelist Paul Cohen will read from and sign his new work, *The Glamshack*.

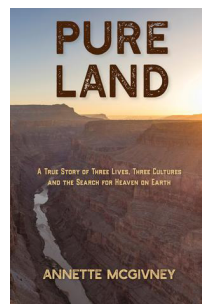


Wednesday, October 25, 6 p.m. TKE's monthly coloring event continues!

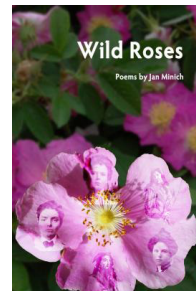


Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m. Local favorite Gerald Elias will share his latest Daniel Jacobus adventure, *Spring Break*.

Friday, October 27, 7 p.m. Annette McGivney will read from and sign *Pure Land*.

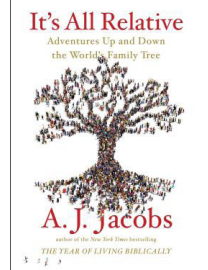


Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. Local poet Jan Minich will read from and sign *Wild Roses*.



Tuesday, November 14, 7 p.m. Historian and funnyman A. J. Jacobs will share his latest

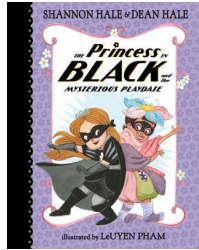
research in *It's All Relative: Adventures Up and Down the World's Family Tree*.



Thursday, November 16, 7 p.m. Former Focus on the Family member Amber Cantorna will share her memoir, *Refocusing my Family*.



Fall Events for Kids and Teens

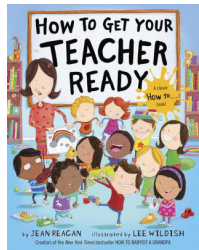


Tuesday, September 5, 6 p.m. Perennial favorites Shannon Hale and Dean Hale debut *The Princess in Black and the Mysterious Playdate*.

Thursday, September 7, 7 p.m. Teen author superstar Leigh Bardugo brings



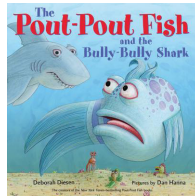
Wonder Woman: Warbringer to the stage at the Grand Theatre. *This is a ticketed event.*



Saturday, September 9, 11 a.m. Jean Reagan will show us *How to Get Your Teacher Ready*.

Saturday, September 9, 12 p.m. Join the Poky Little Puppy for a fun and furry Puppy Parade!

Saturday, September 9, 2 p.m. Dan Hanna and a special finned friend will join us for *The Pout-Pout Fish and the Bully-Bully Shark* storytime.

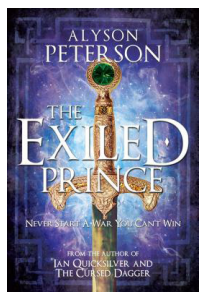
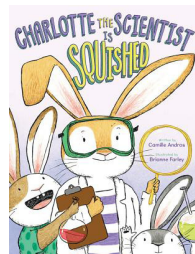


Monday, September 11, 7 p.m. *New York Times* bestselling author Jennifer A. Nielsen will launch, *Deadzone*, the second middle grade novel in the *Horizon* series.

Wednesday, September 13, 7 p.m. Local favorite Ally Condie will moderate a round table discussion with fellow authors Alexandra Bracken, Elizabeth Eulberg, and Tamara

Ireland Stone.

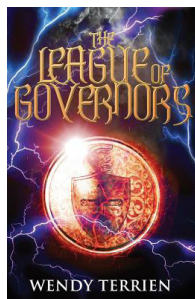
Saturday, September 16, 11 a.m. Join us for a special storytime with Camille Andros and *Charlotte the Scientist Is Squished*.



Saturday, September 16, 7 p.m. Local author Alyson Peterson will read from and sign her middle grade novel, *The Exiled Prince*.

Friday, September 22, 7 p.m. Wendy Terrien returns to Salt Lake with

The League of Governors and *The Clan Calling*, continuing the saga of *The Ram-part Guards*.

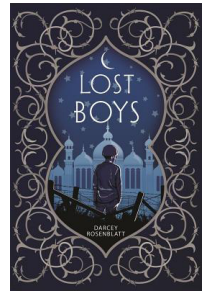
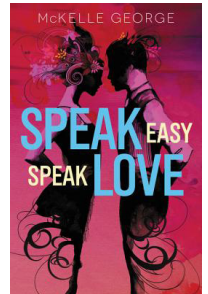


Saturday, September 23, 7 p.m. Local writer and librarian McKelle George will debut her teen novel, *Speak Easy Speak Love*.

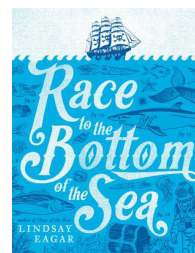


Thursday, September 28, 7 p.m. Kids' favorite Ben Hatke will read from and sign *Mighty Jack and the Goblin King*.

Tuesday, October 3, 7 p.m. Darcey Rosenblatt will share her new middle grade novel, *Lost Boys*.



Saturday, October 7, 7 p.m. Jennifer A. Nielsen will launch Teen Read Month. *At the Viridian Event Center 8030 S 1825 W, West Jordan.*

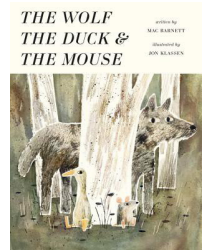


Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. Lindsay Eagar will read from and sign her middle grade novel, *Race to the Bottom of the Sea*.

Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. Join us for a HarperCollins Epic Reads Meet-Up. Details to come!

Sunday, October 15, 2 p.m. Join us for an extra-special storytime with both Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen and their new picture book, *The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse*.

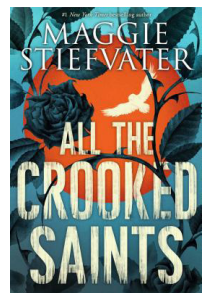
Monday, October 16, 7 p.m. If you missed them at TKE, Mac Barnett & Jon Klassen will share their new picture book, *The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse* at the Provo Library.



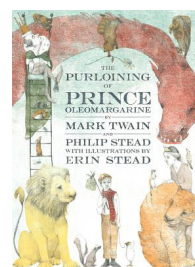
Monday, October 16, 6 p.m. Robert Beatty will share the next installment in his series, *Serafina and the Splintered Heart*.



Wednesday, November 1, 7 p.m. Perennial favorite Maggie Stiefvater will join us for *All the Crooked Saints*.



Saturday, November 4, ALL DAY! Join us for a special Mark Twain day-long read-a-thon in celebration of Philip and Erin Stead's homage to Twain's short story, *The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine*.



TKE at 40: A (Much) Longer History of a Small Bookshop

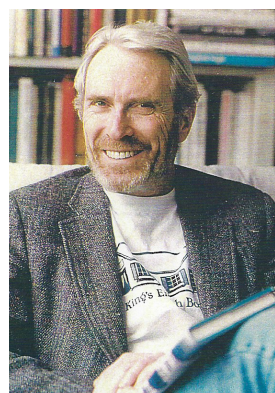
by Betsy Burton and Anne Holman

On this, the occasion of our 40th birthday we felt it appropriate (and interesting) to memorialize not only some characters from the books on our shelves, old as well as new (see page 19), but also, as we told you on page 1, some of the fascinating, sometimes improbable characters who



have sprung from the pages of our ongoing history at TKE. First among these are a handful of the many beloved customers who have frequented (sometimes unto the third generation) our store over the years. We'll also tell tales about a few of the many incredibly knowledgeable if sometimes idiosyncratic booksellers from four decades who were (and are) not just well-read to a fault but also ready and willing to discuss books ad infinitum in order to find just the right one and so put a book into the hands of a customer who's likely to like that book. And last but by no means least, we'll spin a few tales about some of the alternately spellbinding, diverting and/or profound (often all of the above) authors who have come to read to us, talk to us, or just to visit us at TKE.

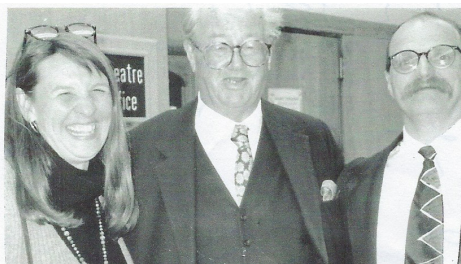
Those writers whose books inhabit our shelves and whose lives have intersected with ours over the years but who are no longer with us are too numerous to name. A few memories and a few of the photographs we have kept will, we hope, serve to evoke their presence



over the decades and their importance to our store and our community. We'll start with Mark Strand who died two years ago, but whose presence is still palpable at TKE—especially in the poetry room where he loved to recommend books for our shelves. He frequently hung out at TKE during the eight years he lived in Salt Lake, read here many times from books that we hand-sold with passion (and still do), and also brought literally every living Nobel poet except Szyborska to Salt Lake City and to our store. Who could

forget him standing side-by-side at the U with Joseph Brodsky, each reading the same poem in his native language—reading with power and beauty that took our breath away—before coming to our store for the signing? Or Mark himself reading with such eloquence from *The Blizzard of One* that when he had finished the stillness went on and on—before people began to clap wildly and to cheer.

Another presence still palpable at TKE, although he visited only once, is Sir John Mortimer of *Rumpole of the Bailey* fame. After a riotous trip from the airport he asked for champagne (this was fairly early in the day), and then more (Dom Perignon was his tippable of choice, a bit pricey for booksellers but well worth the cost!), drinking steadily right through dinner, getting funnier with each sip (ask Ron



Yengich if you don't believe us), and finally delivering the wittiest talk imaginable—one that still makes the halls of what was then South High, now Salt Lake Community College, echo with the laughter of the 1100+ people in attendance.



And there was E.L. Doctorow, who visited us more than once over the years, thrilling us all since we considered him to be one of the greatest living novelists of our time, a man who tried every form of fiction and whose books, from *Book of Daniel* to *Ragtime*, *Loon Lake* to *The Water Works*, *The March to Homer and Langley*, captured America, its history, the social, political and personal truth of it. And who won nearly every literary award in the process.

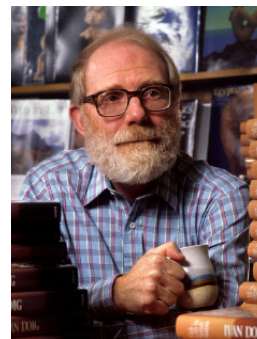
About the time Doctorow first walked in our door (and the same time that he wrote the above words, which we used

in ads for years) Harriet Doerr came to call (and if you haven't read *Stones for Ibarra*, do so at once!). A recently published author and Stegner Fellow at Stanford in her late 70s, she was an inspiration to us all—even more so when she returned a few years later (now well into her 80s) to read from *Consider This, Señora*. Regal, wise, wonderfully talented, she reminded us that it's never too late to begin again. As did Jeannette Haien, a concert pianist-turned author, likewise in her 70s, who first came when *The All of It* was new and returned for *Matters of Chance*, taught at Writers@Work, and later simply came to visit. Jeannette was a large, outspoken, passionate woman who told the truth whatever the consequences, as did her luminous novels.



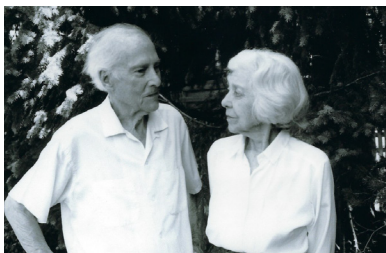
We lost two other writers we adored this past couple of years—Kent Haruf and Ivan Doig—both of whom visited us frequently and each of whom we consider to be among the best writers not just of the West, where their books are set, but of our country. *Plain-song*, *Benediction*, *Our Souls at Night*—plain-

spoken and achingly alive, wise and wonderful... *English Creek*, *Dancing at the Rascal Fair*, *This House of Sky*, *Last Bus to Wisdom*—possessed of peerless history and matchless narrative zest....All among

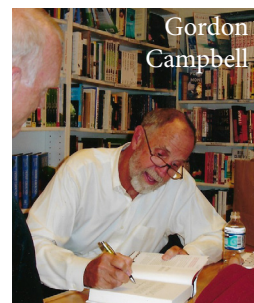
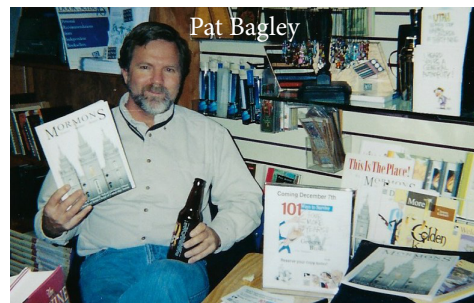
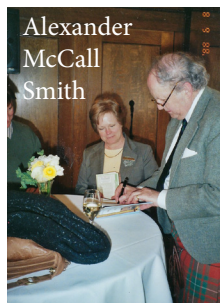
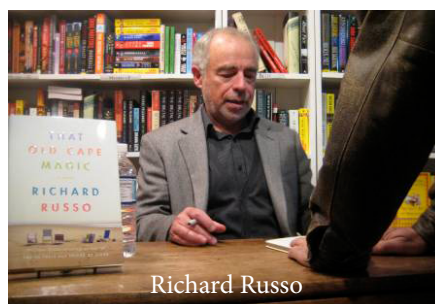
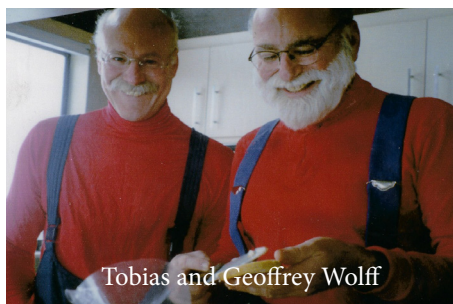
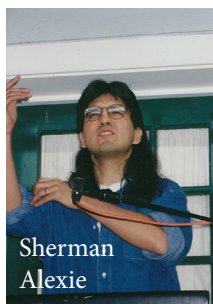
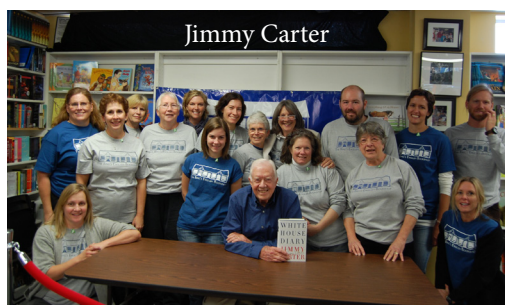


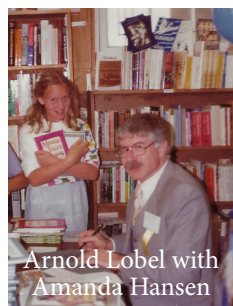
the best books we know or can recommend. As are the exquisite and deliciously ironic stories of Olive Ghiselin and the collections of poet and U professor Brewter Ghiselin.

These writers, all gone now, evoke much more than mere memories. They fill our rooms with remembered laughter, our patio with echoed applause; their books very much inhabit our shelves, living on as booksellers hand them to customers who are likely to like them—love them—or when those who fell in love with them years before come back to buy them anew as gifts or to replace copies they've loaned out (none of us have ever been able to figure out why otherwise dependable people so seldom return borrowed books).



All our memories of authors aren't from the deep past, however. Many writers still among the living have come to call and still do. From Margaret Atwood to Anthony Doerr to Jimmy Carter (EVERYONE was over the moon the day he came—except for the secret service), Isabel Allende to Tony Hillerman, Octavio Paz to Sherman Alexie, Tobias Wolff to Sandra Cisneros to Abraham Verghese, Jon Krakauer (during his event for *Under the Banner of Heaven*, several polygamist wives from the pages of his book lined up along the wall and stared balefully at him—something he handled with aplomb) to Barry Lopez, Ellen Meloy to Helen Macdonald, Jane Smiley to Jane Austen (just kidding) to Rick Russo; Sarah Paretsky, Sue Grafton, and Elizabeth George to Alan Furst, Dennis Lehane and Alexander McCall Smith; from (among the many local authors we love) Pat Bagley, our beloved *Salt Lake Tribune* and nationally syndicated cartoonist, winner of the Herblock Prize and finalist for a Pulitzer, whose gallery you have viewed on the pages of the *Inkslinger* and the walls of our loo as well as in newspapers around the country; to Gordon Campbell whose *Missing Witness* is one of the most intelligent, well-written, deviously plotted (and unputdownable) legal mysteries in print (John Grisham and Scott Turow notwithstanding); to Terry Tempest Williams, arguably the founder of creative nonfiction and its foremost (and most brilliant) practitioner, whose brave, innovative writing has changed not only a literary form but also our world—and who has provided a wonderful foreward for the stunning and comprehensive new book *Mariposas Nocturnas: Moths of Central and South America*, by Emmet Gowin; and in the children's room from





Arnold Lobel with
Amanda Hansen



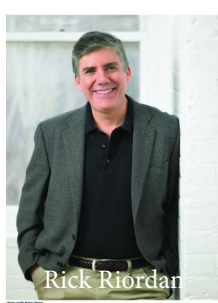
Jon Scieszka



Dav Pilkey
Event

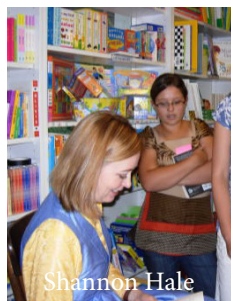


Avi



Rick Riordan

Arnold Lobel to Jon Scieszka to Dav Pilkey (when he saw the paper mache toilet our multi-talented bookseller Connie Romboy made for the event—you have to read the book to understand why—he was speechless). And in terms of middle reader and young adult authors from Avi to Rick Riordan, Shannon Hale, Ann Cannon and Ally Condie (local authors and national stars in the children and young adult literary firmament), to J. K. Rowling...well, we haven't actually had her at the store but we've had so many jam-packed fun-filled midnight Harry Potter extravaganzas that it seems like she must have been to at least one of them....



Shannon Hale



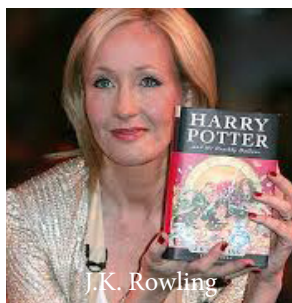
Ann Cannon



Ally Condie



Harry Potter Event



J.K. Rowling



For years we've hosted a growing stream of authors, packing them into the children's room, the patio, the Fifteenth Street Gallery next door, or when one of our A-list authors is also an internationally known literary rock star, finding bigger venues that, because we are a close-knit community, are so often willingly provided: libraries



from Ogden to Salt Lake to Provo, schools from The University of Utah to West High to Rowland Hall, Judge Memorial to Juan Diego Catholic High School—which provided the space needed to host none other than Stephen King! Famous or not, these authors are all vitally important to us—and to the booksellers who read their books and who put them into

your hands, relating enough from the stories in their books to titillate, raving about the writing, wooing you with the magic of their own obvious love.

Ah, the booksellers...

TKE's partners over the decades begin with Ann Berman who, along with Betsy Burton (then Hansen), opened the store all those years ago, hoping to write novels in the back room and come out when the bell on the door tinkled (some business plan!). Ann, who is vivacious, witty, a born raconteur and passionate about books, was an amazing bookseller. When she left for the library (she needed more money than we could eke out of TKE, and the library offered, imagine this, benefits), Betsy ran the store alone for a few years before taking on a new partner, Barbara Hoagland, who brought Betsy and TKE kicking and screaming into the computer age. Betsy, who had mortgaged her



home once to buy the building which housed the store (to get out of a date, but that's another story), mortgaged it again to buy the gas station next door to TKE. Using the money Barbara brought to the partnership they remodeled it (our office was once the men's bathroom), adding a room to

connect the gas station to the store, and, et voilà, the present children's room and nature room were born.

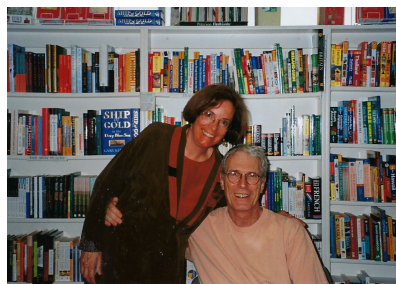
There are many memories from those years but a particularly vivid one from Barbara's days in the store was of Isabel Allende: We had been writing her mash notes for years and because she wrote back we, not knowing that she answered all her fan mail, screwed up our courage at a national convention and invited her to have a glass of wine with us. We meant in the bar, she thought we meant in our room; when we realized she was on her way up, I can still remember in technicolor the scene of the two of us stuffing our strewn wardrobes (in truth my wardrobe, Barbara was the tidy one of our duo)

into the closet and under the bed. She looked at our panting red faces curiously when we answered the door and didn't comment on the un-chilled white wine. She nonetheless agreed to come to the store and has been back again and again since that first inauspicious day.



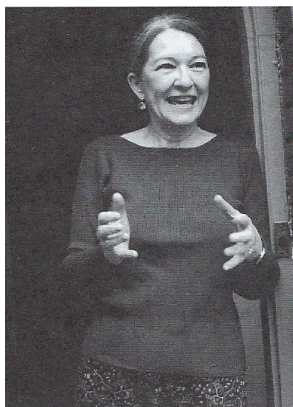
Equally notable in terms of embarrassment was a time Elizabeth George was due to visit when we, along with then-*Inkslinger* editor Kathy Ashton, decided (none of us can remember why), to dress up as witches—a sight which shocked our author, whose books have nothing at all to do with witches, speechless.

These were halcyon days at TKE. And then the '90s came, and with them chain stores. Our “Local First” strategy, which involved promoting local business and educating our customers and our government about its importance to our economy and our community (sorry, Betsy can't help herself on this subject), wasn't yet having much



impact, we were short of cash, and also of help since our payroll was necessarily small. At this point a dear friend, Deon Hilger, who had grown up with Betsy, returned to town and began to work at the store. She eventually bought in and became a partner, helping mightily—not just with the

influx of money which got us over a bad patch, but with everything from bookselling (at which she was very good) to receiving books to editing the *Inkslinger*, something she still does although from a distance. She's now a silent partner; several years back she fell so in love that even her passion for TKE couldn't hold her here. She moved to Santa Fe, but we still spend hours on the phone reading over passages from the latest *Inkslinger* trying to decide where to put this comma, remove that one, or whether a participle is dangling or not—as does “AB,” Anne Brillinger, now our red-penciler in chief, and possessed of an eagle eye for right syntax, the right word in a given context, a real feel not just for language but for the flow of words—and above all a sense of humor—in short everything that makes plodding prose sing. She inherited her responsibilities from Kathy Ashton who was the elegant and intelligent editor of the *Inkslinger* for so many years, not only putting together its complicated pieces (and writing many of them) but sitting three-in-a-row on her couch with Barbara and Betsy to read the entire *Inkslinger* aloud, just to make sure all the errors had been caught. This after each of them had already proofed it twice! But we digress.



Our most recent partner is Anne Holman. [Here's her voice on the topic of TKE]

“For my part I can't believe it's been almost 20 years since I joined this crazy crew. Every day has brought something new, whether it's a customer, a book, an author, you never know what is going to come in through that front door and delight (or sometimes scare) you. I

*remember a very young Helen Makhdounian walking in as a junior at Highland High School and telling me she needed an internship as part of her Honors program. Twelve years later she is midway through her Ph.D. program in Armenian Literature at the University of Illinois. Carl Bernstein told us he'd get us a new podium; we're still waiting. Dean Hale had to wrestle the fattest goat ever out of the back of a truck when we celebrated his book, **Scapegoat**. Diana Gabaldon came to TKE and I could barely introduce her I was so awestruck. The authors that have shared their stories, the customers who've shared their lives, my coworkers who I count as some of my dearest friends...it all seems miraculous to me. Getting to be around books and the people who love them is as good a life as any on earth. As for the scary part, we had a cookbook author who wanted to share duck ravioli during her reading but she wanted us to make it. We had everyone at Fresco trying to help us and the author was not happy about the way it was working out AT ALL. Two things I learned from that event: 1) Duck is greasy and does not go well with books, and 2) If the cook yells 'Ravioli!' duck!”*

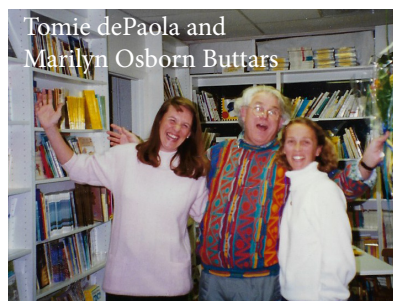
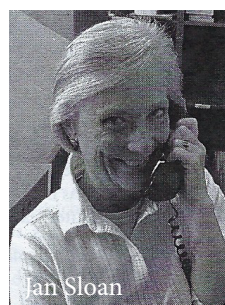
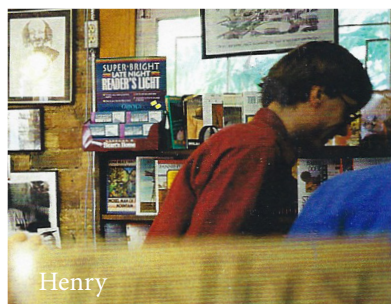
A bookseller who swiftly became a general manager who ultimately became a partner, Anne has been managing partner since Betsy, always active in Local First, (actually she co-founded it and co-chaired it for 10 years [says Anne]) became even more active in the American Booksellers Association (she was on the ABA Board for eight(!) years, the last two as President [Anne again]) and, now



at 70, is happy to take the back seat created by her extracurricular activities and leave the heavy lifting to Anne, who has done it so magnificently for the past two years). [Betsy supplied that last bit and this as well] Anne has worked miracles with the store, bringing in more and more authors, keeping them and the audiences who attend their events happy, working tirelessly with the physical appearance of the store, which looks better than it ever has, and more importantly with



the staff. Aside from making us all laugh, she has nurtured what was already one of our strengths—our relationships to one another in what has been and now is even more so, an incredibly cohesive and loving family.



A family that stretches back decades, creating even more vivid memories than our authors did—from poet Gail Davern) who sold fiction and poetry with passion and helped to start a national poetry contest along with the poetry series which would later become the Westminster Poetry Series, to Eve Leonard who started a singles book club and ended up marrying the most eligible bachelor in it, to Henry, who we thought we'd made a terrible mistake in hiring because, despite his vast knowledge, he seemed too shy to sell books but who turned out to be one of the best booksellers we ever had (other than John Merritt who knew so much as a customer we hired him as a bookseller), to poets Julianne Bassinger and Jennifer Ashton to novelists from Kate Woodworth to Charlotte Freeman to consummate booksellers like Sue Fleming and Jan Sloan, who think they've retired but whom we, in denial, keep on calling for shifts, to earlier children's room mavens from lively Marilyn Osborn Butters to that brilliant and unstoppable force of nature Margaret Brennan Neville who still does everything from adult book clubs to buying children's books, along with to all the other incredible booksellers who make up the staff at TKE today to (shhh, don't tell) the nameless couple who carried on an afterhours romance in the back room at TKE—something which we only found out about years later. Sorry, folks, no pictures available.

All families suffer losses. In ours we still mourn Kelly Wells, a young woman who seemed intensely shy—until animated by the thought of one of the thousands of books she had read, at which point she'd turn into the most impassioned and persuasive bookseller imaginable. She

was lovely in manner, in character and in the way she thought, felt, and talked about books. As was Janet Lund, our long-time children's room impresario who hosted events with such pizzazz, wooed shy children with books that made them wide-eyed with wonder—made them readers for life. Both women died far too young, but both changed lives with the books they recommended and the grace they brought to their work.



And we never stopped mourning kind, quiet Judy Lueders although she died many years ago. She started as a customer, one of our very first, and then began working part-time in a volunteer capacity, filing 3x5 cards in the shoeboxes we used in our inventory control system (system might be a misnomer). Before long she was on the payroll (such as it was), typing up purchase orders and mailing them off, helping receive the books, shelve

the books—all while working at the front desk. She read deeply, was the most knowledgeable person in the store in the natural history section, but devoured history, fiction and the occasional mystery as well. In her quiet way she got more done (far more) in an hour than the rest of us in any given day, and was for years the beating heart of TKE...

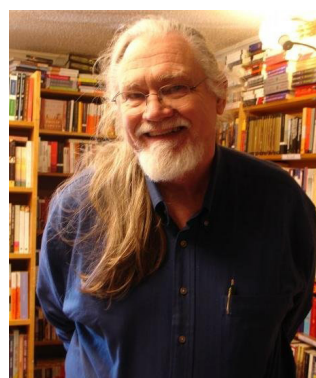
We also mourn Agatha, although her presence is still palpable at TKE (literally—her feline remains, reduced to ash, sit in an appropriate urn in the mystery room where she liked to lurk among the thrillers). She was with us for 23 years and worked her way up from mouser to boss, in the end



holding court in the front room, occupying the only chair and glaring at customers who eyed her—or that chair! At night she'd pace the key boards of our computers, thus leaving cryptic messages on the screens, and when Barbara put some catnip in the garden she'd sneak out for a nip or two (or six or eight) and come reeling back into the store to race madly from room to room, leap drunkenly from shelf to shelf—before collapsing to sleep it all off. The binges got worse; realizing we had created an addict and that an intervention was not just necessary but vital, we finally dug up the catnip. We told Aggie it was for her own good and in time she forgave us. We adored her (even if she wasn't a bonafide bookseller) despite (or perhaps because of) her abilities as a mouser, right up to the end.

Agatha notwithstanding, booksellers are amazing people. They read and read and read, that's a given. But they also know how to be nice to people. Want to be nice to people. Are interested in people. Talk to our customers about what they would like to read, have liked to read, before searching through their own memory banks, consulting with other booksellers in order to recommend books which a given customer is likely to love. Important in our world. And (as you can see above) they do a lot more besides.

The only thing more important is our customers.



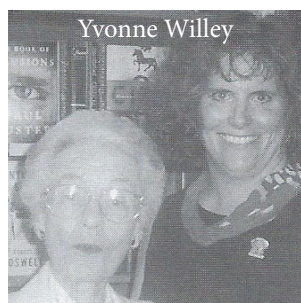
As with authors and booksellers, we have memories of beloved customers going back many years. Our store has always attracted voracious readers and we discovered early-on that we learn more from them than they do from us. We've already mentioned John Merritt who went, over the years, from customer extraordinaire to not just a spectacularly good bookseller but a font of wisdom on all things literary or philosophic. Who needs

reference books when John is around, we'd ask ourselves as we went in search of him, looked in the notebook he so carefully annotated at the front desk, or picked up the phone to call him. And it seems that some of them love us as much as we love them. There was even one obviously loyal but insistently anonymous customer who, in the days when we couldn't afford a paint job, sent a crew over one morning to paint our entire store! Thank you one more time, whoever you are!

Among the many faces from past years are those of a host of women who, 'of an age' in the '70s, led lives as wives and mothers and hid their sometimes vast intelligence from those around them—except at TKE where they roamed our shelves with an eagerness and a hunger others might have displayed at Makoff's (remember Makoff's? No question it was an enticing place, albeit in a very different way...). They'd ask questions, pluck books from the shelves one after another, buy stacks, return to talk about them, obviously having read them not just voraciously but with intelligence, then buy more... We loved so many of them: Maxine Darke (we still think of her as Mrs. Darke), Audrey Day, Yvonne Willey, Alma Anderson, Marilyn Warenski....

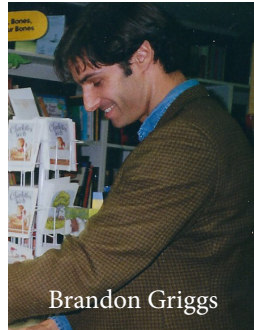


And those who did have professions despite the age in which they grew up, Leah Felt, for instance, or Edie Kochenour, among the many such who spent so many hours in our store. Like Betsy Campbell, an artist who began buying books for her children, and then for her grandchildren, then, as her family burgeoned, for her great-grandchildren, sending her daughter in with a list each year list when she could no longer come herself. Or Georgia Ball (now Perrin) who, when a Realtor, bought books from us for each and every customer, so many during the holidays that we'd have to restock our Art and Photography sections once we were done wrapping them up... So many women, some like Peggy Battin or Nancy Borgenight (whom we thank every summer for the chance to laugh through another "Saturday's Voyeur") now at the same age as those early customers, others younger, love our store just as passionately—professional women on their lunch hour or after work (many, such as Anne Milne and Ann Hanniball, Suzan Pixton and Karen Shepherd and Mickie Murphy, Lorraine Miller, Carol Gnade and Kay Terry, Katharine Coles and Jackie Osherow, Jeri Parker and Cill Sparks, Connie Borup and Georgia herself, who even now, from far away Provence, orders books by the boxful to stock the shelves in the bedrooms of La Lavendin, her lovely and serene B&B (if you want the best vacation ever, go!). Not to mention all those mothers with small children who believe so passionately in books, women with both careers and children, trying to do it all but never ever giving up the habit of reading, no matter how busy. Here are three generations of TKE booksellers and readers, not by any means the only example we can think of.





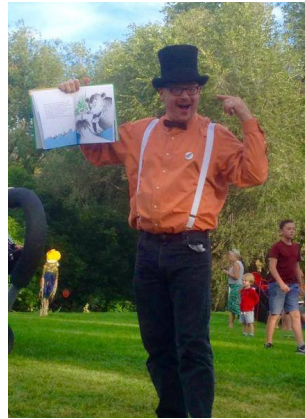
Russ Isabella Family



Brandon Griggs



Ron Yengich



We've loved and lost so many customers over the years that at times our rooms do seem haunted (or blessed, depending on one's point of view). Because when you've spent scores, sometimes hundreds of hours talking to someone about books, in some ways you know them as well, even better, than a close friend or relative. We miss them sorely but are comforted, overjoyed, in fact, by new readers coming in as children to listen to Rob Eckman's extravagantly entertaining story hours, falling in love with

books, spending hours browsing our shelves, sometimes skipping out as teenagers (but often not), getting jobs as wrappers during the holidays or just hanging out at TKE, then finishing school, getting jobs themselves, bringing in their children, if they start families, or actually working here, some even proposing in the store, getting married here...All of which makes this look back at the characters we have known and loved at TKE over all the years, customers, booksellers and authors alike, nostalgic, to say the least. But grateful, too. As we said before, more than anything else it makes us want to say thank you to all of you who have made us who we are. And if your name isn't in these pages, it should be! Put any omissions down to the fading memories of two aging (one more than the other) booksellers.



As many men were and are regulars. From customers in the 70s like Hugh Bollinger who used to make a regular appearance on Saturday mornings to Lou Borgenicht who does the same thing now (always with a joke for us), to Brandon Griggs who wrote articles about our visiting authors for years for *The Salt Lake Tribune* to Neil Kochenour, who argued with us then and continues to argue with us all these years later about the relative merits of fiction and nonfiction, to a raft of English professors from the brilliant and unbelievably courageous Brooke Hopkins to Barry Weller who reads more than anyone we know (well, almost) to Russ Isabella, another such, whose family reads as much as he does (well, almost) to Ron Yengich and Jim Peters, people who give lawyers a good name. A particular favorite of ours from the middle years was Andrew Deiss, (he died a few years back) who, being interested in everything under the sun, bought books from all over the store; bought so many books over time that he actually started to hide them from his wife, disguising them in bags from other stores. We all adored him and when he finally moved to Kanab would look forward to his visits, missing him like one would a favorite relative.



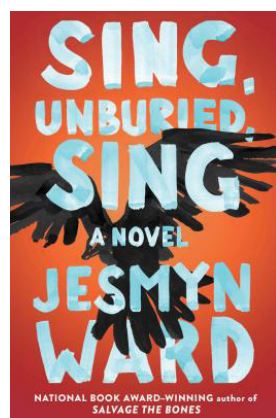
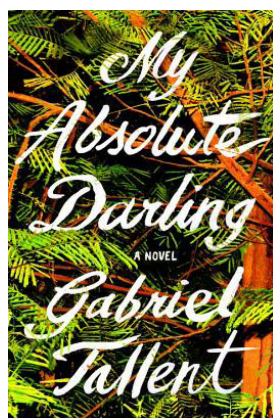
Come and Celebrate the Bounty—Support Local First Utah!



Guests of The King's English enjoying last year's Celebrate the Bounty!

***My Absolute Darling*, Gabriel Tallent**

Everything about this story is lodged in my heart forever; the people, the action, the Mendocino countryside. And especially Turtle; her ability to survive the worst that life has to offer and still get up every morning and hope something will be different. This is the most difficult and best book I've read in a very long time. – Anne Holman, Riverhead, \$27 *Editor's note: meet Gabriel Tallent in person on Saturday, September 9 (our birthday!!!), at 6 p.m.*



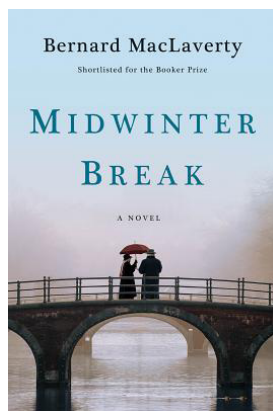
***Sing Unburied, Sing*, Jesmyn Ward**

Anyone who harbored a trace of doubt about Ward's literary chops after reading the National Book Award-winning *Salvage the Bones* can lay that doubt to rest. Ward's third novel is a marvel and a wonder, possessed of a narrative line that keeps your heart in your throat for all 285 pages. We watch inhumanity play itself out in the person of Leonie, mother to Jojo—and, despite our revulsion, we somehow find things in her to love—or if not love, at least understand. We fall

headlong for Jojo himself, small, sturdy of heart, caregiver of his sister Kayla, and are instantly ensnared as they, along with a friend, drive toward the barbarous Mississippi prison Parchmont to pick up Leonie's white husband, drive homeward with him and with Richie, the disembodied spirit of a boy Jojo's age whose past is tangled with the past of the prison, the past of Jojo's family... *Sing Unburied, Sing* is an important book the way *The Sound and the Fury* was—lyrical, truth-telling, often agonizing and as often alive with an awareness of the courage and grace in small children and in damaged adults alike. It's not a book you'll ever forget. Not ever. – Betsy Burton, Scribner,

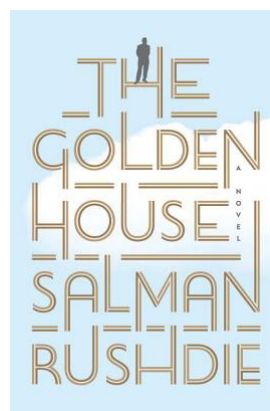
***Midwinter Break*, Bernard MacLaverty**

Gerry and Stella, a retired couple from Glasgow, are taking a holiday in Amsterdam. Just the thing for sightseeing, change in routine and some time alone together. All seems well as they browse cathedrals and museums, discover unique restaurants and get much-needed rest. However, it is not too long into the vacation that undercurrents of unhappiness become obvious. Gerry is drinking heavily, and Stella is keeping a secret appointment. Touchingly written, for readers of Colm Tóibín, this is a must-read. – Sue Fleming, Norton, \$24.95



***The Golden House*, Salman Rushdie**

Rushdie has turned his bumpstously inventive, supremely lyrical and lethally satiric talents to America in a work that tellingly twines imagination and observation. In the tradition of American narrators from Ishmael to Nick Carraway, Jack Burden to Billy Bathgate, René,

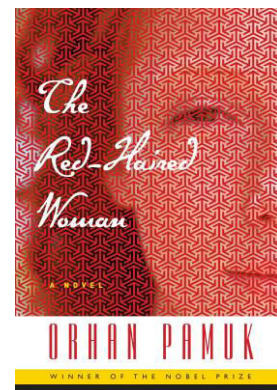


a would-be New York fringe filmmaker, is bent on telling the tale of mysterious immigrant Nero Golden and his three sons. Obviously fabulously rich, they live across the communal garden from René and are so secretive that the neighbors speculate endlessly about their origins. Father and sons alike have Roman names, each of which turns out to be an accurate descriptor of the man who possesses it—tragically so. The novel begins with the hope that swept the nation when Obama first won the presidency and ends with Trump's

victory. Trump is not only portrayed (with savage) humor as “The Joker” but is also embodied (whether unintentionally or not) in Nero, whose bizarre, narcissistic, larger-than-life character, as extravagant in his life and his lies as his name would imply, is undergirded by past moral failures made obvious by his attempts to hide the truth about that past. Truth will out, however, and wending your way toward it in the by turns ebullient and tragic pages of *The Golden House*, stopping at byways on everything from the history of film to Roman mythology, the gaming industry to identity politics, is an experience to savor. Aside from being a genius, Rushdie has a dead eye for truth; his new novel is, I'm afraid, all too accurate—in terms of the human heart and of today's political and social reality in America. Read it and weep. – Betsy Burton, Random House, \$28.99

***The Red-Haired Woman*, Orhan Pamuk, translated from the Turkish by Ekin Oklap**

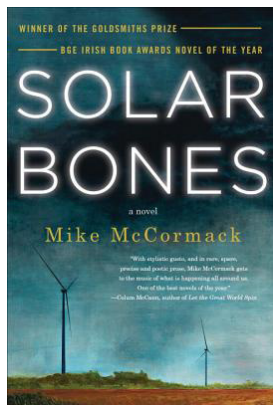
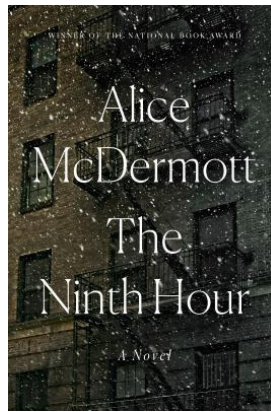
With the lens of Colm Tóibín's *House Of Names* and a little bit of Paulo Coelho's style, *The Red-Haired Woman* tells the story of a young, seemingly fatherless man, obsessed with the myths of Oedipus the King and its Eastern counterpart, Shanameh (the story of Rostam and Sohrab, warrior father and son), and the biblical tale of Abraham and Issac. When Cem becomes a well-digger's apprentice for a summer, the tales Master Mahmut tells and the street theater they both attend become self-fulfilling prophecies. An obsession with the red-haired woman leads to a crime that will haunt him throughout his life, a crime only explained in the coda, when she tells her tale. Here is the heart of this story: “Is the need for a father always there, or do we feel it only when we are confused, or anguished, when our world is falling apart?” – Anne Stewart Mark, Knopf, \$26.95



***The Ninth Hour*, Alice McDermott**

McDermott's quietly claustrophobic tale of Catholicism in early 20th century Brooklyn artfully threads together the strong relationships among a group of women whose lives are intertwined, whether due to circumstances or affinities, and whose beliefs determine (whether out of obedience or its opposite) their fates. Chief among them is Sally whom we watch grow into womanhood, trying valiantly if confusedly to separate the beliefs learned from the nuns in the convent where she and her mother work in the laundry—the sin and resultant guilt visited on them by the suicide of her father, the

“sin” committed by her mother, her own sins—from the world lived outside the strictures of religion. Few writers in the world are as adept at creating the blank slate that is the teenage mind, the so often futile or wrong-headed attempts to write on that slate. But the real grace of *The Ninth Hour* is to be found in the relationships of the women—the sacrifices they make—not out of duty but of love—the price they pay for their actions, and the consequences on into the next generation. And the next. Until in the end what seemed a closed Catholic system becomes the world. Stunning. – Betsy Burton, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, \$26
Editor’s note: available Sept 19



Solar Bones, Mike McCormack

McCormack has created an imaginary stream-of-conscious memoir to be read breathlessly and with passion—not for the character alone, but for the experience of living through the confusion of one man’s life. Marcus, an engineer, is a middle-aged man who is married with two children in a small community in Ireland at a time of financial collapse. As, using an Irish love of language and music, he recalls his life, his marriage, and his two children (whose lives are as varied as his own is common),

McCormack creates one long monologue that is impossible to put down. Each episode blossoms into the next, as does every character, and the pace varies as a piece of music would, moving from soft to hard and slow to fast, his memories of travels and family events never punctuated with a final sentence. Read the book knowing that you are in the body and soul of Marcus and must move at his pace and with his emotions. Recently long-listed for the 2017 ManBooker prize—much deserved for this mixture of poetry and innovation.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$25

Home Fire, Kamila Shamsie

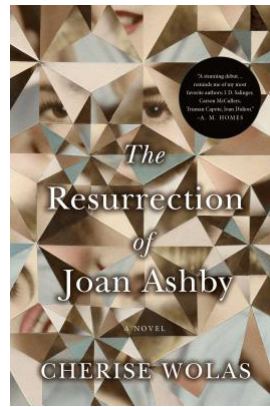
This is a debut novel to love on so many levels. It’s a love story, a coming-of-age story, and a commentary on terrorism both within our own borders and abroad. While the reader has the luxury of knowing what motivates each character, each of them keeps secrets, tells lies, and manipulates others—all, at the end of the day, in the name of love. If it sounds like a Greek tragedy it’s because it is. I loved it!

– Anne Holman, Riverhead Books, \$26



The Resurrection of Joan Ashby, Cherise Wolas

I’ve always admired people who knew what they wanted to do from an early age, be it a doctor, a marine biologist or a writer. Enter Joan Ashby, a young girl determined never to marry and certainly, never to have children. And then she does both, and that is when her tale



truly begins. Not only are we privy to her life story, we get to read some of her short stories and parts of her developing novels. The stories within the story, if you will. The only thing any of us know for sure, except for death and taxes, is that the hoped-for path is never straight and never predictable. I flat-out loved this book!

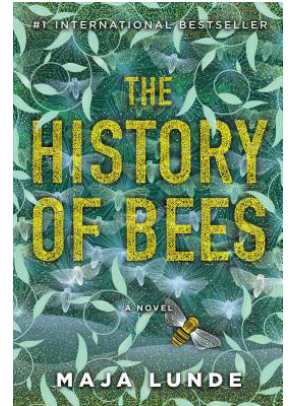
– Anne Holman, Flatiron Books, \$27.99

The History of Bees, Maja Lunde

Lunde, a Nor-

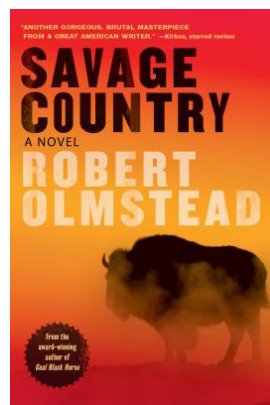
wegian author and screenwriter, received the prestigious Norwegian Bookseller’s Prize for this, her first adult novel. Three accounts, one set in 1882 England, one in 2007 America, and the last in 2098 China, follow the fate of bees from the experience of beekeepers. A fascinating, informative story that has been compared to such disparate books as *Ocean’s Eleven* and *Never Let Me Go*, this is highly recommended for anyone interested in the future of mankind and how individuals and their families truly make a difference. One of my very favorites for 2017.

– Sue Fleming, Touchstone, \$26



Savage Country, Robert Olmstead

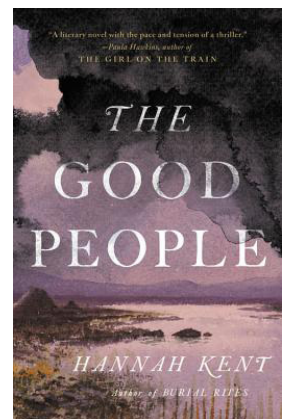
Olmstead takes the reader on a journey back to the days of the wide-open plains that beckoned men and women alike to find treasure in hunting buffalo. In September, 1873, Elizabeth Coughlin, a widow bankrupted by her husband’s folly, embarks on a buffalo hunt with her estranged and mysterious brother-in-law. Her hired hands and a few others they pick up along the way arrive at a spot indicated by her dead husband’s journal. Thus begins the cruel operation of



hunting and killing buffalo, perhaps at the cost of their own souls. Olmstead is a true storyteller, creating unforgettable characters and examining Western history in a new light. His writing is lyrical, redolent of yesterday and utterly believable. – Sue Fleming, Algonquin Books, \$26.95

The Good People, Hannah Kent

The widow Nóra Leahy is the sole caregiver for her young grandson Micheál who cannot walk or talk. She is desperate to find a cure for him, and when the elderly Nance, who knows the magic of the old ways, offers aid, Nóra cannot help but hope that help is in the offing. Lyrical, vivid, and deeply unsettling, *The Good People* is a tale of superstition and colonialism, of love and family, of the clashing of traditions that blends the line between

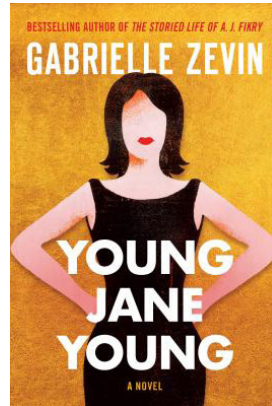


FICTION

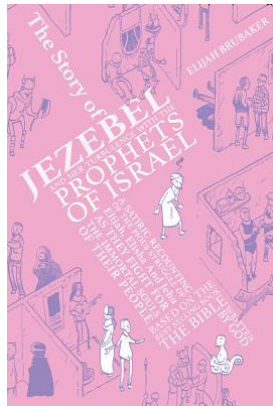
myth and reality. Kent's second novel is a marvel of pacing, exposition, and characterization, and a worthy follow-up to her first novel, *Burial Rites*. – Rachel Haisley, Little, Brown and Company, \$27

Young Jane Young, Gabrielle Zevin

Can one start over? Sometimes, but the past has a funny (and lovely) way of catching up with us despite our best efforts. Jane Young is a terrific mom and a successful and trusted businesswoman in upstate Maine. But when she, at her friend's urging, decides to run for local office, many people, including her daughter, have questions. How Jane answers them is what makes this such a satisfying read. – Anne Holman, Algonquin, \$26.95



FICTION NEW IN PAPER



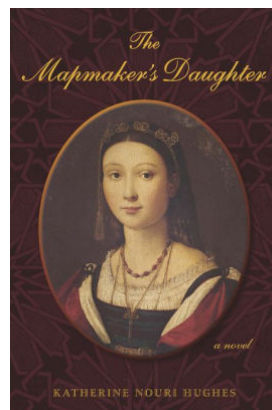
The Story of Jezebel: The Story of Jezebel and Her Turbulence with the Prophets of Israel: A Satiric Recounting of the Pious Struggle of Elijah, Elisha and Jehu as They Fight for the Immortal Souls of their People Based on the Best Selling Book The Bible Written by God, Elijah Brubaker

Who says Bible stories have to be boring? Certainly not cartoonist Elijah Brubaker, who has crafted a fresh, well-grounded retelling of the story of Queen Jezebel, King Ahab, and the prophets Elijah and

Elisha. Absolutely hilarious and deeply irreverent, Brubaker's witty, satiric style is reminiscent of graphic novelists like Tom Gauld and Kate Beaton. – Rachel Haisley, Uncivilized Books, \$19.95

The Mapmaker's Daughter, Katherine Nouri Hughes

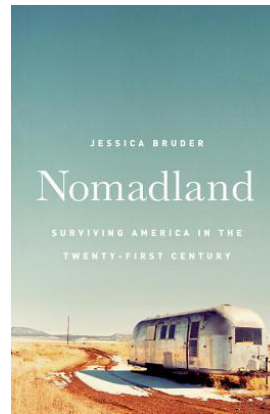
A fascinating blend of historical fiction and fact, this is the story of Nurbanu; born Cecilia Baffo Veniero, she's not even a teenager when the Ottoman Empire sweeps across her tiny island capturing her and hundreds of other young children. Cecilia's education brings her to the attention of the Sultan, starting her rise to becoming one of the most powerful and influential women of her age. Nurbanu, quarantined with a mystery illness, uses her time to document her story and explain some of the hard choices she's had to make to preserve her Sultan's dynasty. – Paula Longhurst, Delphinium Books, \$18



NONFICTION

Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century, Jessica Bruder

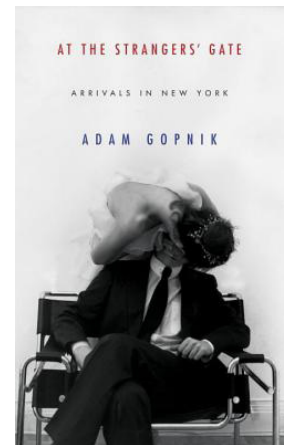
The recession of 2008 has had a lasting impact on scores of Americans. Bruder turns her attention to how this crisis has upended the lives of the retired and how their ingenuity has created a group who consider themselves house-less rather than homeless. Living in vans, school buses, small trailers and cars they have adapted to a lifestyle that most never imagined. They work long and exhausting hours in Amazon warehouses or beet fac-



tories or become camp hosts during the summer months for meager wages. This isn't a life lived paycheck to paycheck, but, rather, one crisis to the next. The people Bruder meets are all creative, upbeat, and, most of all, resourceful. Bruder ends her book with a chilling statistic: "Today the United States has the most unequal society of all developed nations...comparable to Russia, China, Argentina, and the war-torn Democratic Republic of the Congo." – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$26.95

At the Strangers' Gate, Adam Gopnik

From the best-selling author of *Paris to the Moon* comes a delightful memoir of Gopnik's early years in New York City in the 1980s. He and his wife had moved down from Montreal as excited and aspiring young artists ready to find and live the good life in Manhattan. Their home for the first three years was a tiny basement room on the Upper East Side, a modest nine by eleven square feet, that they quickly named "The Blue Room." Gopnik provides tender and humorous reminiscences of their beginnings there and discusses the peculiar anthropology of art and aspiration in New York, then and now. A definite read for those who love New York City and for those who want to know more about it. – Sue Fleming, Knopf, \$26.95



Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: a 500-Year History, Kurt Andersen

Andersen attempts to explain the American phenomena of feelings over facts—whether about the concept of climate change, the effectiveness of vaccinations, or anything to do with religion. In his telling, from the first moment Europeans stepped onto the continent, reality was fluid and has remained so for 500 years. From Puritans to pioneers to Walt Disney, Andersen posits that Americans have created their own reality, and that reality is

FANTASYLAND

How America
Went Haywire

A 500-YEAR HISTORY

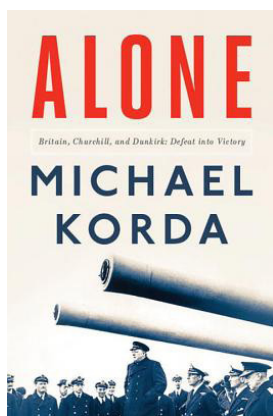
KURT ANDERSEN

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

as unique as the history of the country. It appears to be an American birthright to claim our individual feelings trump any science-based facts. It's a searing examination of our collective psyche.

– Barbara Hoagland, Random House, \$30





Alone, Michael Korda

What could be more heroic than the rescue of an army by civilians in little ships—yachts, ferries, tugs, steamers and fishing vessels—sailing alongside the nation's regular navy, heedless of the shells and bombs of a ruthless enemy? The evacuation of hundreds of thousands of British and French soldiers from Dunkirk in late May to early June 1940 is ready-made for good storytellers such as Korda. Actually, Dunkirk was part of a larger, more tragic drama—the fall of France.

Germany stunned the world by defeating France in seven weeks that spring, a feat it failed to accomplish in four years of fighting during World War I. The Nazi blitzkrieg also pushed British troops off the continent of Europe. They would not return to France until 1944. But for the miracle of Dunkirk resulting in the extraction of the bulk of the British army, they might not have returned at all. A British political cartoon of the period showing a defiant British soldier on the edge of the English Channel saying, "Very well, alone," inspires the book's title. There have been dozens of books on the invasion of France in the spring of 1940. Korda's original contribution to this literature comes from his memories as a young boy in England and the stories of family members and their acquaintances. These personal accounts are woven into the larger narrative of Dunkirk and the Battle of France in 1940. – Lawrence J. Leigh, Norton, \$29.95

The Last Castle, Denise Kiernan

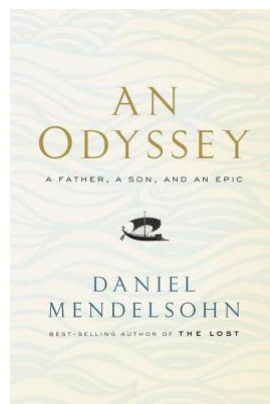
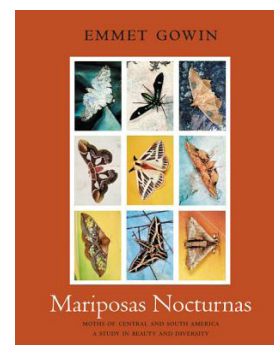
George W. Vanderbilt III, grandson of Cornelius (the Commodore) Vanderbilt, built the grandest home ever known in America, beginning in 1888, partnering with architect Richard Morris Hunt and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Together they created a European-style chateau with hundreds of rooms filled with priceless art and antiques—the spectacular Biltmore House, located on 125,000 isolated acres of North Carolina wilderness—and even built a charming village beyond the estate gates. It seemed that George, a confirmed bachelor, would never marry, but at age 35 he wed Edith Stuyvesant Dresser who, after his early death at age 51, became critical in preventing the loss of the estate. Today this beautiful home is enjoyed by 700,000 visitors each year. The forest was managed professionally and in 1898 became the site of the Biltmore School of Forestry, the first such school in North America. After her husband's death and according to his wishes, Edith sold 86,000 acres to the U.S. Forest Service for \$5 an acre. This tract of land became the core of Pisgah National Forest. Readers will enjoy this latest book from Kiernan which is as well-researched as was her earlier *The Girls of Atomic City*.

– Sue Fleming, Touchstone, \$28



Mariposas Nocturnas: Moths of Central and South America, a Study in Beauty and Diversity, Emmet Gowin

With a lovely foreword by our own Terry Tempest Williams, this stunning collection includes portraits of 1,500 moths, many of them never before photographed. Arranged 25 to a page, each of these "living jewels" reminds us, in Terry's words, that "Beauty is its own form of resistance." – Anne Holman, Princeton University Press, \$49.95



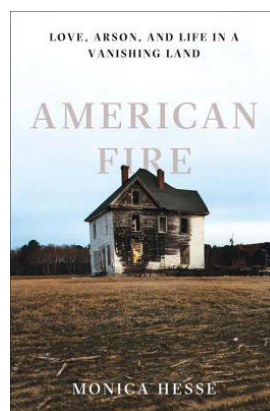
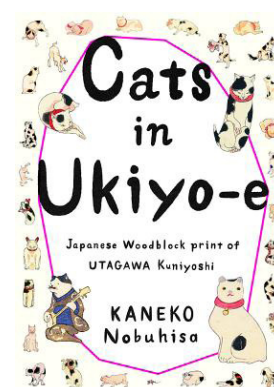
An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic, Daniel Mendelsohn

Mendelsohn, a professor of Classics at Bard College, and his 81-year-old father embark on a pilgrimage when the elder Mendelsohn enrolls as a student in his son's seminar on the Odyssey. The father sees life through the lens of a scientist while his son has devoted his life to the study of the classics. Together they explore Homer's masterpiece as well as their own history and life together.

Mendelsohn weaves their story through Homer's in a loving testament to his father and to the wondrous story of Odysseus's journey home. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, \$26.95

Cats in Ukiyo-e: Japanese Woodblock Prints, Kaneko Nobuhisa

Utagawa Kuniyoshi was a master of the woodblock print during the late Edo period (early 1800s) and this little book, filled with his skillful portrayals of cats, is a beautiful homage to them that showcases his extraordinary abilities. Each page contains a colorful and lively illustration plus the story behind the print, written in both Japanese and English, and, like the prints, a reflection of Japanese literature and folklore. The book should appeal to lovers of Japan, Ukiyo-E, color and design, and cats in all their moods and peculiarities. Kuniyoshi captures human nature through the images of cats and their human counterparts, and the book itself



is a small jewel complete with a precious book marker for those who wish to reflect on the specific moods of the cats depending upon the day and the season. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Pie International, \$29.95

American Fire, Monica Hesse

The late fall of 2012 brought a string of arsons to Accomack County, Virginia, a struggling tidewater community that, one hundred years ago, was the wealthiest rural county in the nation. *Washington Post* reporter Monica Hesse spent a year

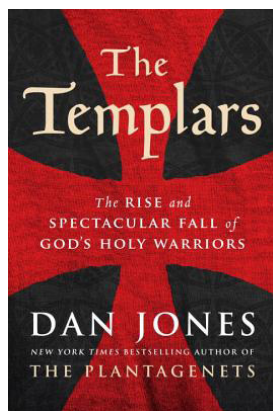


NONFICTION

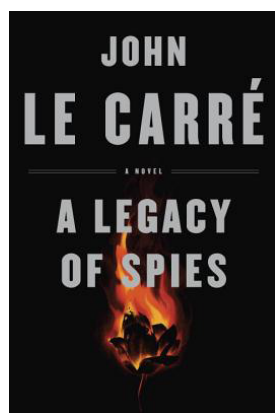
investigating the arsons, conducting interviews with those charged with the crimes, and trying to piece together exactly why and how these fires happened. What she uncovers, shockingly, makes the story even more heart-wrenching, difficult, and complicated. A gripping, compelling work of nonfiction that reads like a thriller, this tale of poverty and passion in 21st-century America evokes J.D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy*. – Rachel Haisley, Liveright, \$26.95

The Templars: The Rise and Spectacular Fall of God's Holy Warriors, Dan Jones

Originally formed to protect pilgrims in the Holy Land during the 11th century, the Knights Templar went on to accrue enormous wealth and to become a notable power throughout the Western world for two centuries. Their fighting prowess against the mighty armies of the Islamic world became legendary as the control of the lands Jesus walked shifted back and forth between the two great religions. The scandal that brought them down is carefully explored, citing new research into Templar history as Jones brings to life a story bigger and more interesting and provoking than any other in the medieval world. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, \$30



MYSTERY/THRILLER

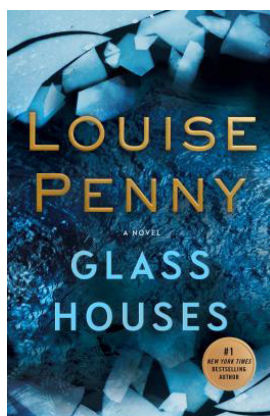


A Legacy of Spies, John Le Carré

George Smiley has informed and haunted my world for decades—from the moment I read *Call for the Dead* right through Le Carré's famous trilogy that began with *Tinker Tailor and Soldier Spy* and ended, or so we thought, with *Smiley's People*. Turns out when an author of 85 retains his brilliance and his steely-eyed understanding of humanity and political currents, nothing's over until he is. *A Legacy of Spies*, a capstone to the Smiley books, begins when Peter Guillam, long retired from

"The Circus" and living out his old age in Brittany, is suddenly summoned back to London. A lawsuit brought by the children of those involved in an old case (*Spy Who Came in from the Cold*) resurrects half-forgotten memories—and skills—in Peter as he attempts first to obfuscate and then to defend himself from the attacks of a world that has no understanding of the Cold War forces that drove the West 50 years before. The juxtaposition of those two eras, the failures of those involved—then and now—the brilliance with which Le Carré parses the two worlds, finally merging them into one, are the work of a master—not just of the spy genre but of the novel itself. His is a morally ambiguous universe peopled with characters who take advantage of that ambiguity along with those who refuse to do so, ferreting instead for truth. In the process they and he offer up a starkly accurate view of history and lessons to be learned (or not) from its pages, the unending venality of politicians, and the quandary facing humankind. All of that and he's as skilled a writer as exists in the world today. – Betsy Burton, Viking, \$28

MYSTERY/THRILLER



Glass Houses, Louise Penny

Sitting in the witness box in a hot courtroom, Chief Inspector Gamache faces moral questions which will affect both his career and the lives of those around him. Evil, in the Biblical, mythical sense, has become palpable in modern Quebec. A bizarre black figure appears on the green in Three Pines in full view of the villagers—a figure who could be death itself—bringing out the primal fears of those watching the strange apparition. Beneath Gamache's extended, thoughtful

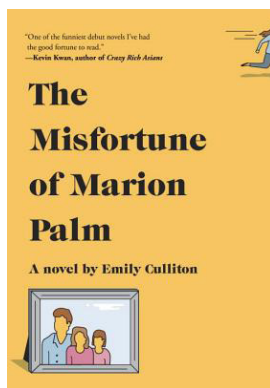
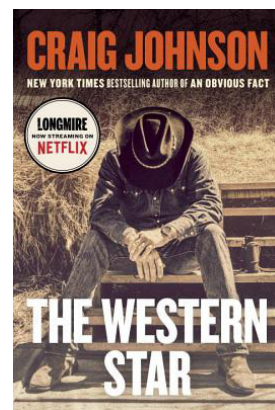
testimony is a traditional murder case and drug investigation, but the reasoned musings of the inspector are at the core of Penny's novel. The book moves between the courtroom, the village, and time itself to reach its denouement, building tension and fear in the mind of the reader through logical, cool monologues as the inspector addresses the court, reminding the reader of Louise Penny's skill in producing novels which create both a linear plot and literary creation.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur Books, \$28.99

The Western Star, Craig Johnson

In Craig Johnson's latest we jump back in time to 1972; Walt Longmire is literally a week into his job as Deputy Sheriff of Absaroka County, and already having doubts about his job choice. The Wyoming Sheriffs' Association is taking its annual cross-state train ride on the historic Western Star and there is murder afoot. This whodunit is a marvelous tribute to Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and, as always, Johnson leaves you guessing until the last page!

– Anne Holman, Viking, \$28



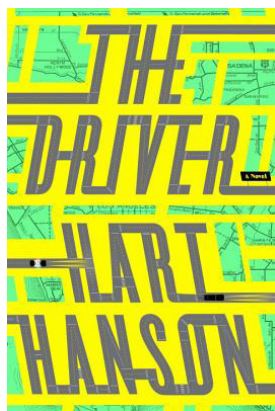
The Misfortune of Marion Palm, Emily Culliton

Marion Palm has managed to embezzle over \$100,000 from her daughters' elite private school, but when the school faces an audit, she knows it is time for her to take the money and disappear. She takes her rubber-banded stacks of cash and flees, leaving her husband and her colleagues to deal with the fallout of her crime. Full of sharp wit, biting satire, and deeply humanizing revelations, Culliton's debut novel will be a sure hit for fans of

Maria Semple, Jami Attenberg, and Emma Straub. – Rachel Haisley, Knopf, \$25.95

The Driver, Hart Hanson

The driver of the title, Michael Skellig, is not only a war vet suffering from PTSD, he's also the owner of a limo service that employs war vets likewise suffering in varying degrees from the same disorder. Possessed of a mix of disabilities and extraordinary abilities

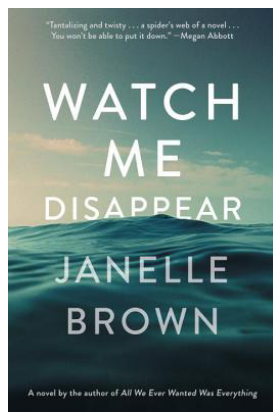


(all learned on the battlefield), Skillig and his crew run a fleet (three) of limos and manage to live a life that fits their situations. Until a rich young punk who's a skateboard king more than willing to employ blackmail to get what he wants commandeers Skillig as his driver. The money's not bad but the danger level is extreme since someone is intent on killing the kid. Throw in a cop our lonely driver adores, parents whose compassion belies the cynical turns of plot and a compassion for vets that is unsentimental and complex, lace it with violence and humor,

then shake it until it froths with energy and you have a smashing debut by a writer who has managed to cross the best of the mysteries of Carl Hiaasen and Robert Galbraith aka J.K. Rowling. Can't wait to see what comes next. – Betsy Burton, Dutton, \$26

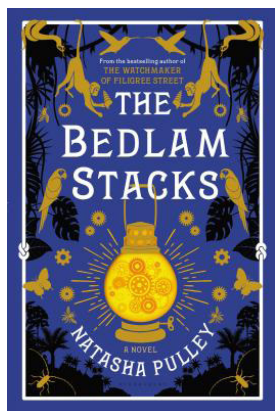
Watch Me Disappear, Janelle Brown

It's been a year since Billie Flanagan went missing, hiking alone in the Desolation Wilderness. They never found her body but her busted-up cellphone and a single hiking boot tell the story. Billie, the force of nature that swept Jonathan off his feet and into a proposal of marriage just six weeks after meeting her, is dead. Her daughter Olive has started having 'visions' of her mother and her conclusion is that Billie is still alive somewhere, maybe being held against her will. Jonathan, now writing a book of his life with Billie and just about coming to terms with her absence, tries to discourage Olive's attempts to locate her missing mom. And then a chance comment from one of Billie's best friends makes Jonathan wonder if he really knew his wife at all—or if he had built a story around her to protect himself and keep their family together. He starts to dig... – Paula Longhurst, Spiegel & Grau, \$27



The Bedlam Stacks, Natasha Pulley

Smuggling for the East India Company nearly cost Merrick Tremayne his leg. Stuck back in England in a crumbling ruin that his brother refuses to even try to repair, Merrick spends most of his waking hours in the greenhouse where his great grandfather, explorer Harry Tremayne, planted the exotic plants he found in Peru. Merrick can keep anything alive except the strange tree that Harry planted in the garden which has just blown up the house! The other thing Harry brought

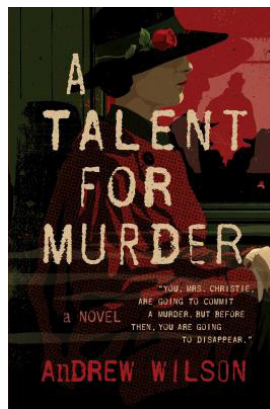
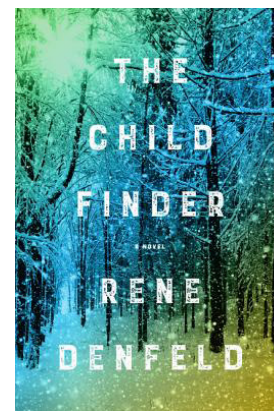


back was a statue, and it appears to be moving of its own accord. Merrick is convinced he is going mad, but before he completely loses his marbles, he is recruited into another smuggling operation, an effort to obtain cuttings from the cinchona trees that sit just above the tiny settlement Harry visited known as New Bethlehem, Bedlam for short—an endeavor destined to fail and liable to get him killed

by the people controlling the quinine trade, so providing grounds to bring in the army. What Merrick and his companions find is a place caught in time, protected by ancient beings and providing a link back to a priest named Raphael—his great-grandfather. – Paula Longhurst, Bloomsbury, \$26

The Child Finder, Rene Denfeld

Naomi is a private investigator who specializes in finding missing children, though in many ways she is still trying to piece together her own lost childhood. She has been hired to find a young girl who disappeared in the Skookum National Forest three years ago, whom her parents still believe is alive. Deeply suspenseful and artfully paced, this is a superbly crafted mystery that blends the boundary between past and present, imagination and reality, reminding us that no matter how lost people may be, they are never too lost to find their way home. – Rachel Haisley, Harper, \$25.99



A Talent for Murder, Andrew Wilson

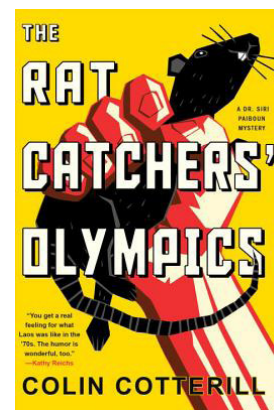
Those lost 10 days in the life of Agatha Christie in 1926 have become fodder for many a modern writer. Wilson's imaginative portrayal of those days makes use of Christie's creative talents for murder and poisons in particular. Agatha's marriage is falling apart, but she still dreams of regaining the Colonel. While attempting to prove her own strength of will she finds herself frightened by unknown forces around her as evil shows itself in the form of a manipulating doctor who attempts to

use her skills for his own purposes. The book is filled with twists and turns and is a credit to the author and his imagination.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, Atria Books, \$26

The Rat Catchers' Olympics, Colin Cotterill

Dr. Siri Paiboun began his career as the coroner for the Democratic People's Republic of Laos 12 books ago, and now, with the support of his wife and a coterie of quirky and curious friends, he leaves Laos to bring truth and justice to 1980 Moscow. Siri is now the ex-national coroner and the team physician for Laos's competitors in the Moscow Summer Olympic Games. The athletes, mainly naïve and trusting rural youths, include a national rat catcher. Much of the world has boycotted the games so Laos stands a chance at winning something...or not. Siri believes that one of the members of their national team is an imposter. In addition to that mystery, a young woman has been murdered and a competitor accused. Siri and his band of friends both in Moscow and Laos manipulate the curious Soviet systems in order to solve both crimes in Cotterill's witty portrayal of the Soviet system circa 1980. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$26.95





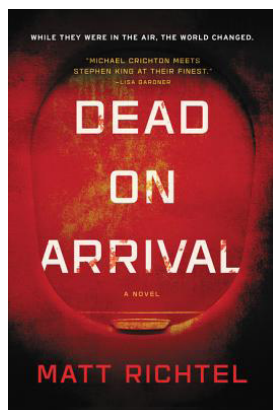
Miss Kopp's Midnight Confessions,
Amy Stewart

Deputy Sheriff Constance Kopp is back in Hackensack, New Jersey serving as matron to young women accused of moral depravity. The year is 1916, and the definition of moral depravity bothers Constance. She becomes a champion for the accused women in their search for independence, not always successful but a role model for independent women of her time. Three young runaways play center stage, one attracted to aiding the men

fighting in WWI; one attracted to the bright lights of the city; and one, Fleurette Kopp, attracted to the stage. Constance reacts differently to each of the cases, especially the one involving her own sister. Stewart has created a page-turning historical novel based on actual characters which illustrates the moral conflicts which still exist today.
– Wendy Foster Leigh, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books, \$26

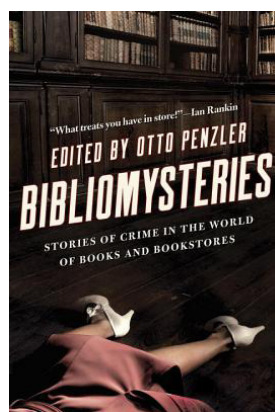
Dead on Arrival, Matt Richtel

Delta flight #194 inbound to Steamboat Springs has lost contact with the tower. The pilots land the plane but what they find on the runway scares the hell out of them. There's a doctor on the manifest, one Lyle Martin, in town for an infectious diseases conference and he's called up to the flight deck. Grumpy and still a little hung over, he doesn't know that this call will save his life. He and the crew, trigger-happy co-pilot Jerry and Captain Eleanor Hall, seem to be the only survivors of a pandemic that struck while they were in the air. And now it's on the plane... – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, \$26.99



Bibliomysteries, edited by Otto Penzler

These short stories by mystery authors like Max Allen Collins, Mickey Spillane, Anne Perry, Jeffrey Deaver, Laura Lippman and many more all involve books, bookstores, booksellers, libraries and book collectors. Discover tales like the Mexican drug lord with a fatal weakness for rare books. A library deep in the English countryside, a bookseller detective, Columbo hunting down the killer of a rare book dealer and a mythical book that turns out to be all too real. Like a box



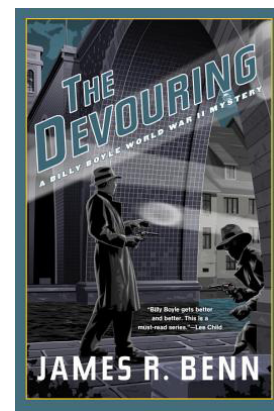
of fine chocolates there is something for every bibliophile.

– Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, \$26.95

The Devouring, James R. Benn

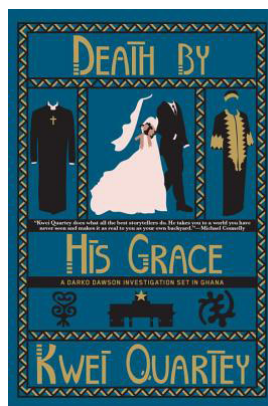
Billy Boyle goes to Switzerland and finds out that all is not peace, cheese, and chocolate. Benn's opening pages are filled with the excitement and tension of Boyle and his friend Kaz being flown into Switzerland through occupied France. After a crash landing they pick up a killer of Nazis who saves their lives and becomes a guide. The

complications of Swiss bank accounts and the international mixture of nationalities that were the hallmark of neutral Switzerland and the murder of a Swiss bank official provide ample grounds for diplomatic discussions—none of which ever go smoothly. The Boyle mysteries are exciting fiction filled with the little-known details of WWII. The characters, which include real people such as Allen Dulles, also introduce Benn's fictional Nazi sympathizers and Nazi killers. Readers, finding their curiosity peaked, may find themselves reaching for a history book or two.
– Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$26.95



Death by His Grace, Kwei Quartey

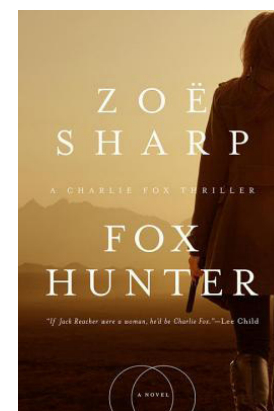
Chief Inspector, Darko Dawson is embroiled in a personal murder investigation when his wife's first cousin is butchered in her home. The cousin, Katherine, has married into a society family in Accra. Unable to conceive, she finds herself labelled a witch, and in trying to find peace with her problems, becomes involved with a popular evangelical minister and his large flock. Darko is suspicious of both the husband's family and the powerful religious community; his own demons

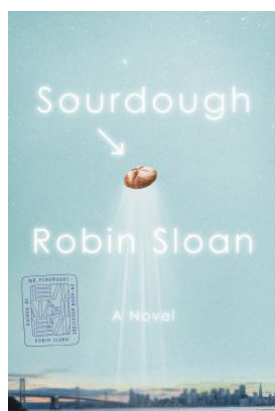


haunt him as he searches for her killer while at the same time facing family pressures. These Ghanaian mysteries are a pinpoint look at the lives of ordinary people in a setting foreign to most American readers.
– Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, \$16.95

Fox Hunter, Zoë Sharp

Close protection specialist Charlotte (Charlie) Fox is on the trail of her boss, Sean Meyer, who appears to have gone rogue and killed one of a group of men who got away with assaulting Charlie in her squaddie days. Parker Armstrong sends her to the Middle East with instructions to deal with Meyer—fast and by any means necessary. Charlie's arrival in Iraq coincides with a vicious attack on the convoy she's travelling in, But was she the target? She doesn't like being warned off; it only makes her more determined to find out the truth. Amid the groups of local arms dealers, smugglers, and black ops teams from both superpowers lies a path to Sean, and she's determined to follow it to the end.
– Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, \$25.95





Sourdough, Robin Sloan

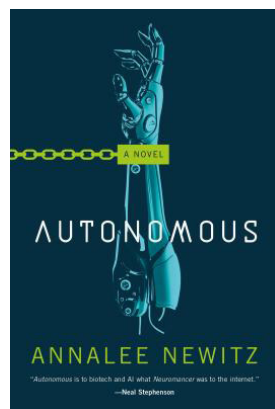
From the writer of *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore* comes a charming Bay Area tale of robots, software and sourdough. The 'clement street starter' is the last delivery from the hole-in-the-wall food place that genius software engineer Lois Clary has been ordering from every night since a menu was taped to her door. The two Mazg brothers who run it are leaving the country in a hurry, and the key to their mouth-watering sourdough is now Lois' roommate. A very musical and

lively roommate. Soon, Lois has the baking bug and is supplying her neighbors and the canteen of her employer, robot arm maker General Dexterity. She has also discovered a club for women named Lois, and also the Marrow Fair, a group of cutting-edge food technologists based at now-abandoned Alameda air base. With email encouragement from the Mazg brothers (and some Mazg music) Lois begins to explore the starter's origins. Without realizing it, she has hitched her star to a seething clump of microbes, which is becoming more demanding by the day. – Paula Longhurst, MCD, \$26

Autonomous, Annalee Newitz

This fast-paced, action-packed rumination on property, identity, and artificial intelligence, has a fascinating cast of humans and robots. The novel traces the story of Jack Chen, a pharmaceutical pirate who has recently crafted a drug with harrowing side effects. Fans of Paulo Bacigalupi will love this fresh, innovative allegory of modern society.

– Rachel Haisley, Tor Books, \$25.99



When the English Fall, David Williams

The Amish call outsiders 'the English,' or say 'the English are coming.' When a devastating solar storm wipes out power grids all over the world, these diary entries from Amish farmer Jacob tell the story of what happened next. The food shortages, the riots, the looting. At first Jacob's community, with its well-stocked larders and horse-drawn buggies, is unaffected and tries to help the refugees

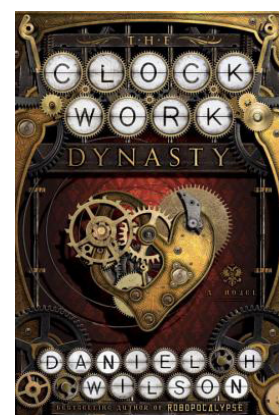
from the city with whatever food it can spare. Then the cities start to empty; a tide of armed, hungry people pours into the countryside, and the Amish are no longer safe. How far will they go to defend themselves and their values, when there is no law left to be upheld?

– Paula Longhurst, Algonquin, \$24.95



The Clockwork Dynasty, Daniel H. Wilson

'all who breathe do not live; all who touch do not feel; and all who see do not judge. Behold the...automat.' June Stefanov has always been fascinated by ancient technology. She has carried her grandfather's tale of an avenging angel impervious to bullets at the battle of Stalingrad for almost as long as she's worn the strange relic he left her. She has a grant from the mysterious Kunlun Foundation to document and research mechanical antiquities, but someone is always a step ahead of her, vandalizing the ancient tech before she can research it. But not this time; this time June uses modern methods to wrest a message from her quarry and breach a hidden world, reluctantly allying with Peter, a warrior who has lived among humans for centuries, and who serves no master as his kind slowly dies out. June may hold the key to saving his race—if Peter can keep her alive. – Paula Longhurst, Doubleday, \$26.95

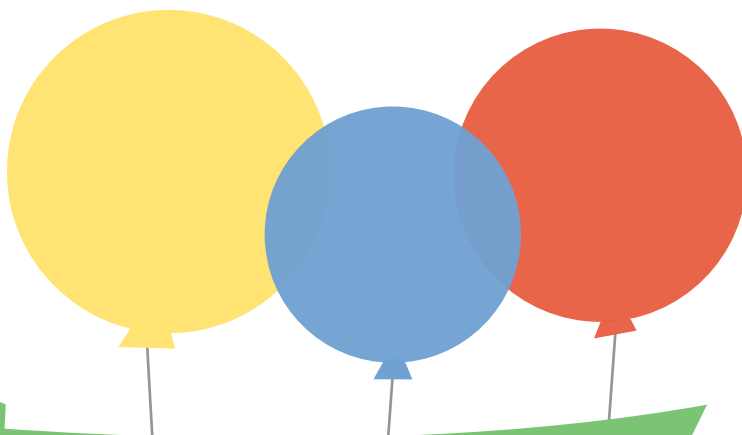


Yesterday, Felicia Yap

Imagine a world where memory is the class divide. After the age of 18 Monos only retain a day of memory. Duos, the elite, retain two days' worth. Apple's i-Diary has superseded pen and paper and mixed marriages like Mark and Claire Evans' are rare. Mark Evans is a successful novelist and rising political star. Claire is a Mono housewife. Mark's mistress Sophia has just been dragged lifeless from the Cam, and her diary implicates him in more than infidelity. Sophia claimed

to not need an iDiary she remembered everything, but Detective Inspector Hans Richardson reasons that anyone that crazy would probably lie in her iDiary. Mark, Claire, DI Richardson and Sophia are the storytellers. All have secrets, even Richardson who is determined to bring Sophia's killer to justice in his trademark single day.

– Paula Longhurst, Mulholland, \$27



HAPPY 40TH

BIRTHDAY TKE!

Final Thoughts on the Lives of Booksellers

From the lonesome cowboy who narrates *Smoky the Cowhorse* to the young man dashing up Golden Hill in this year's book by that title, from Nancy Drew's intrepid sleuthing to George Smiley's world-weary but persistent digging toward truth in Le Carre's new *Legacy of Spies* (although like Anne Holman, Peter Guillam now does the heavy lifting), from the biography of Beatian Yazz, Alberta Hannum's *Spin a Silver Dollar* to Sherman Alexie's brilliant and mind-bending new memoir *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, from Benjy in *The Sound and the Fury* to Jojo in *Sing Unburied, Sing* or Turtle in *My Absolute Darling* (both brand new), from *D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths* to Colm Toibín's brilliant retelling of one such tale in *House of Names* earlier this year, it's story that holds us. From the first page of a wonderful book it's story that grabs us, makes us read on. And on. Good writing helps, of course, but the siren song of the novel is created by story itself. And by character.

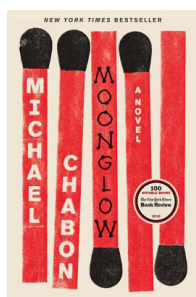
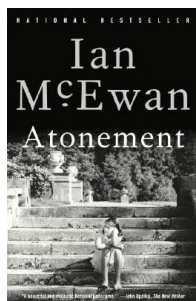
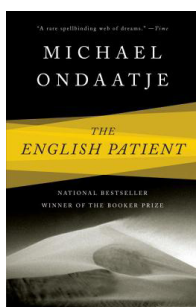
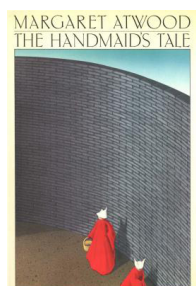
A straight line runs from Smoky and Scout and Nancy Drew right up to the novels we've loved in this, our 40th year at TKE. It doesn't really matter if your book of choice is fiction or non-, literary or not, the pull is the same: a character that stirs your interest or your empathy and the story he or she tells—or lives. That's what makes us read, whether we need to understand or escape, be pulled into or float above the currents that propel the tale, scratch the itch of our curiosity or simply make us care.

And that is why living the life of a bookseller for 40 years, watching The King's English grow from the selections of two women who loved books to the ongoing ever-changing creation of a group of 25 insatiably curious and always-reading booksellers and their equally book-obsessed customers is such bliss. Because the magic of that old love, born somewhere in the shrouded past of childhood or adolescence, is reborn in the present every time we pick up a good book and turn the first page. And because good books, books that recreate that insatiable need to know what happens next, to care deeply about what happens next, occur not once but many times every single year. It's our joy as well as our responsibility to winnow from the thousands of books published each year, those that truly have something to offer, whether information, palliation or inspiration, electric writing, novel (no pun intended) ideas, or intricate plot. And although we can't promise to find them all, we do give it our best shot, reading nonstop, whether literary or genre fiction, memoir or biography, history or natural history, mysteries or children's books, finding the nuggets that compel and inform and elate and create small epiphanies, moments of "ah, so that's why" (or why not or how or how not)....shedding (in the words of one of our favorite authors of these past 40 years), *All the Light We Cannot See*.

We hope you feel the same way about books. Take as much pleasure in them as we do. And that you'll celebrate with us on September 9 (we're partying all day long)—and all week long as we commemorate our 40 years in business.



40 Books (plus 4) for 40 Years: An Idiosyncratic Mixture of Beloved Fiction and Nonfiction at TKE



Song of Solomon, Toni Morrison, 1977
Shosha, Isaac Bashevis Singer, 1978
The Burger's Daughter, Nadine Gordimer, 1979
Transit of Venus, Shirley Hazzard 1980
Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie 1980
Smiley's People, John Le Carre, 1980
The House of the Spirits, Isabel Allende 1982
Unbearable Lightness of Being, Milan Kundera, 1984
The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood, 1985
The All of It, Jeannette Haien, 1986
Summons to Memphis, Peter Taylor, 1986
Moon Tiger, Penelope Lively, 1987
Crossing to Safety, Wallace Stegner, 1987
Love in the Time of Cholera, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 1987
Dancing at the Rascal Fair, Ivan Doig, 1987
Desert Solitaire, Ed Abby, 1988
The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien, 1990
Refuge, Terry Tempest Williams, 1991
The English Patient, Michael Ondaatje, 1992
Corelli's Mandolin, Louis De Bernieres, 1994
The Moor's Last Sigh, Salman Rushdie, 1995
A Fine Balance, Rohinton Mistry 1996
The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy, 1997
Plainsong, Kent Haruf, 1999
The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty, Sebastian Barry, 1999
Jayber Crow, Wendell Berry, 2000
Bel Canto, Ann Patchett, 2001
Atonement, Ian McEwan, 2002
The Story of Lucy Gault, William Trevor, 2002
The Master, Colm Toibín, 2004
Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro, 2005
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese, 2009
Wolf Hall, Hilary Mantel, 2009
Let the Great World Spin, Colum McCann, 2009
Life After Life, Kate Atkinson, 2013
All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr, 2014
Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson, 2014
Our Souls at Night, Kent Haruf, 2015
La Rose, Louise Erdrich, 2016
Moonglow, Michael Chabon, 2016

4 Other Highly Idiosyncratic Books Beloved by Us All Which We Just Couldn't Omit

Finding Beauty in a Broken World, Terry Tempest Williams, 2008
Norwegian by Night, Derek Miller, 2012
The Plover, Brian Doyle, 2014
The Sympathizer, Viet Thanh Nguyen, 2015

INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS

Anne Brillinger
Betsy Burton
Hilary Dudley
Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Deon Hilger

Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Lawrence J. Leigh
Wendy Foster Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Anne Stewart Mark

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