by Betsy Burton

Technologically speaking, the world is changing so rapidly that it’s hard to know how to respond—hard to gather together enough facts to make decisions on whether to buy this PC or that iPad for instance, whether to sign up for this cell phone or that bundling program or head for a tent in the woods. It’s also hard to predict the consequences of such decisions on everything from your pocketbook to your community. So we’re taking this opportunity to answer some questions you may have, hoping to clarify the relationship between books and ebooks, publishers and retailers, readers and community.

QUESTION: Did you know you can buy ebooks from The King’s English website?

ANSWER: Yes, and at the exact same price you pay at Amazon. In fact, 80% of the ebooks sold in this country are now the same price, no matter where you buy them.

QUESTION: What difference does it make to the world of books or to our community whether you buy books from TKE or from Amazon?

ANSWER: The economic downside of shopping at Amazon is huge. Amazon has spent the better part of the last decade trying to drive bricks-and-mortar businesses into extinction, and now, with recent announcements about major Amazon publishing programs, they’re trying to do the same to book publishers. You may think of Amazon as a bookseller, but do you know what their best-selling product is? Electronic items like flat screen TVs. The majority of what they sell is nonbook. And if they succeed in doing away with publishers we’ll...

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Matterhorn
Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m.
Karl Marlantes will read from and sign his award-winning novel.

Peter Mountford
Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m.
Mountford will read from his debut novel, A Young Man’s Guide to Late Capitalism.

Hell Is Empty
Thursday, July 7, 7 p.m.
Craig Johnson will read from his latest Walt Longmire mystery.

Lessons from a Desperado Poet
Wednesday, June 15, 7 p.m.
National Public Radio’s cowboy, poet and large animal vet Baxter Black will read from his new book.

Robert Redford
Tuesday, June 21, 7 p.m.
Michael Feeney Callan will read from and sign the long-anticipated biography.

Alice LaPlante
Wednesday, August 24, 7 p.m.
Author Alice LaPlante will read from and sign her breathtakingly original and novelistic mystery, Turn of Mind. Once in a blue moon a book comes along that is so brilliantly conceived and executed, that it worms deep into the reader’s psyche where it continues to reverberate long after the last page is turned. Turn of Mind is such a book.

SALE! Thursday through Sunday, June 9-12—TKE’s famous and fabulous Semi-Annual Sale!
WHAT'S A PERSON TO DO? On Booklovers and Community

Continued from page 1

be left with one giant online retailer using books as loss leaders for appliances, clothing, and computers.

QUESTION: In a world without publishers or independent booksellers is it going to be harder or easier to find things you want to read?

ANSWER: In the industry as it functions now, editors find and edit books, and marketing people pass them on to the booksellers who actually read them, separating the wheat from the chaff for their customers. Matching books to people, helping you find the books you’re likely to enjoy is our profession and our passion. In the huge and indiscriminate world of the Internet, a world dependent on one giant online retailer selling whatever anyone can type into their computers, it’s going to be much harder to find books you might like—first because they won’t be carefully selected or edited and secondly because winnowing out the good books from all those millions (some of which are good, some not) typed late at night by people all over the world and hyped by themselves, their friends, their friends’ friends will be pretty hard without booksellers to talk to, and shelves of carefully selected stock to browse.

QUESTION: What would be the economic impact on our community if Amazon and other online retailers put not just publishers but independent bookstores out of business, not to mention all the other independent retailers in town?

ANSWER: Loss of jobs, loss of sales tax, loss of payroll taxes, loss of property taxes, loss of corporate taxes, loss of every kind of tax you can think of and a subsequent loss of dollars to repair roads, fix schools, maintain parks and the arts, provide support for the elderly and those with special needs. Here’s why: every time you spend $100 in a locally owned independent business 68% stays in our community; when you spend that same $100 in a chain store, 43% stays here. When you spend $100 at Amazon 0% stays here. They use our local services to deliver their products, but—unlike the local businesses that try to compete with them despite having to charge sales tax—Amazon pays nothing for said services. Not a penny. In fact it’s almost ludicrous the measures which Amazon is willing to employ to avoid paying sales tax, spending millions of dollars on lobbying and even going to the lengths of firing their own employees to prove they owe nothing to the states in which they do business. To say they are bad corporate citizens is putting it mildly.

QUESTION: Does Amazon give ANYTHING back to our community?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: What about The King’s English?

ANSWER: Yes! TKE contributes to the local economy and is involved in the local community (as are almost all locally owned independent businesses) in countless ways: We pay fair wages and provide health insurance for our employees. We pay property tax and sales tax and every other kind of tax that business members of communities are expected to pay. And we give continually to our community, in non-monetary ways, not only as a store but individually. We do book fairs and book talks, lectures and seminars; we sit on panels and boards and sell books at countless events for schools, businesses and charitable organizations. We participate in the life of our community not only because of our business but because it is the place we live and raise our children.

QUESTION: What’s a person to do?

ANSWER: If you want a way to support your community, shop locally—at The King’s English and at other locally owned independent bookstores in the place you call home—either in store on online.

AND SPEAKING OF COMMUNITY...

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the church was doing, and we started getting phone calls from all over Utah from people wanting a copy of the Qur’an. There was a slight problem however... we didn’t have the books yet. It didn’t seem fair to hold books for people; we kept encouraging customers to check the website so that as soon as we knew when the books were arriving we could let everyone know.

Then another wonderful thing happened. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community called and asked if they could donate more copies of the Qur’an for us to give away. And suddenly we were having conversations with people from all over the country who wanted to know why, where, and how many; every single conversation was polite, positive, and hopeful—in a word, everything you want from your community. And still, we had no books.

We called the publisher, who assured us that the Qur’ans would be in our hands by Friday, April 29th. We decided to pass them out starting Monday morning, May 2nd at 10 am. And then the craziest thing of all happened. President Obama announced that Sunday night that U.S. peacekeeping forces had stormed Osama bin Laden’s hideout and executed him. So, when we opened our doors on Monday morning it felt more important than ever to seek peace through understanding. TV and radio news people called and came by the store and the church again and again, and the phones rang all day long. The Qur’ans were gone by noon, and customers started ordering them anyway, happy to pay and to be a part of what was occurring. Then, my favorite thing of all happened.

Eight women from Salt Lake's Muslim community went to Wasatch Presbyterian and brought lunch for the women of the congregation. Over food and conversation (and dancing!) they decided to work together on other volunteer activities in the community. There’s that word again. So thank you to all of you who make up our community. We are here because you are here and we wouldn't want it any other way.
**Doc**, Mary Doria Russell

Not since *Lonesome Dove* has there been such a readable novel set in the wild, wild West, or one peopled with such recognizable characters. John Henry “Doc” Holliday is a character whose life is surrounded by myth. Cutting through that myth, Russell illuminates a man forged by his past and by the illness that overshadowed all he did. Doc Holliday spends his evenings holding forth in whatever saloon has the highest-stakes game, dealing cards, trading appropriate Latin and Greek phrases with his girlfriend, a Hungarian aristocrat fallen on hard times, and coughing, always coughing, from consumption. Populated by the Earp brothers, Bat Masterson, assorted prostitutes, cowboys, and other characters that inhabited the West, Russell’s story vibrates with the energy of a time when there was no law, and everyone was either in search of wealth and stability or running from their past and attempting to forge a new identity. Doc Holliday is the epitome of such individuals and is brilliantly portrayed in this gorgeous, literary, smart, funny, and at times, heartbreaking novel. – Kathy Ashton and Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $26

**Children and Fire**, Ursula Hegi

Two time frames coalesce during the course of this powerful novel, one a single day, February 27, 1934, (the first anniversary of the burning of the Reichstag), the other comprised of the years leading up to that fateful day, from 1899 forward. We first meet Thekla as a talented and passionate young teacher who not only feels overwhelming responsibility for the boys in her classroom, but also suffers guilt for having supplanted her former teacher, who is Jewish. Then it is 1899, Thekla is born, the young family moves to Burgdorf, and her mother becomes housekeeper to a family that seems oddly connected to mother and child. Back and forth the reader goes from the early years of the 1900s to the fateful day in 1934 that is the nexus of the tale, watching young Thekla grow to adulthood, watching boys who are nearly men fast approaching another world war. We see from the inside the almost impossible choices with which Germans were faced in 1934, see their need to deny, their paralyzing fear, the lies that made existence both possible and impossible to bear—lies that allowed the Nazis to create a fire from which there was no escape for the children of Germany. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $25

**State of Wonder**, Ann Patchett

Marina Singh researches new drugs for a huge pharmaceutical firm; she and her lab partner Anders Eckman have worked together for years testing various drugs before they are released for human studies. Many of their compounds are found deep in the Amazon rain forest, and when the company director doesn’t receive any reports at all from the field, he dispatches Eckman to Brazil to check on the team’s progress. All this sounds very straightforward, but it is not. Researchers contract all manner of tropical diseases, some die from them and still no report from the team leader. Internecine rivalry, the local flora and fauna, the comings and goings of local Indian tribes make Marina’s task ever more difficult. The mystery of Anders’ disappearance, his missing notes, the animosity of his team leader all play a part in this tangled tale of love and hate and caring in a setting that is far from propitious. – Kathy Ashton, HarperCollins, $26.99

**The Upright Piano Player**, David Abbott

Not a book for the faint of heart, David Abbott’s debut novel begins with the death of a child and the despair of the grandfather who feels responsible for that death—all of which is revealed in the first 11 eviscerating pages. The reader then travels back five years in the life of the same man—worldly, well-to-do, eminently rational Henry Cage, retiring amidst acrimony at the acme of what has obviously been a hugely successful career. The unraveling of that image of success, the rents already evident in the fabric of Cage’s life, slowly become visible even as the threat of anonymous violence begins to not just hasten his unraveling but to make it evident to those around him. An ex-wife dying of cancer provides a thread that takes us back to the un-stitching of a marriage, a son’s estrangement widens the tears in the familial fabric, while a relationship with a young former colleague reveals the true trajectory of Henry’s career and early retirement. Witnessing the disintegration of a life is never easy, but in the hands of a master storyteller like Abbott it is at once illuminating and excruciating. This is a book I could hardly bear to read but could not put down and cannot stop thinking about. – Betsy Burton, Nan Talese/Doubleday, $21.95

**Caleb’s Crossing**, Geraldine Brooks

Set in the late 17th century on Martha’s Vineyard and in Cambridge, this new novel from Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Geraldine Brooks tells the tale of Caleb Cheeshahateaumauk, the son of a Wampanoag chieftain, who would become the first Native American to graduate from Harvard in 1665, and Bethia Mayfield, a spirited and intelligent young woman, the daughter of a Puritan minister. As part of the conversion and education of the ‘salvages,’ Bethia’s father adopts Caleb, who excels in the study of Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Bethia, who
desires an education, struggles to find her place in a world where it is forbidden for women to study. The two forge a secret-yet-lifelong friendship, bonding in their shared love of nature and knowledge, religion and culture. Brooks intertwines their stories and destinies as they journey through the Massachusetts mainland—he as a student and she as an indentured servant. In Caleb’s Crossing, Brooks takes the few known facts about the real Caleb and builds them into a vibrant and beautifully written work of historical fiction. She does what she has done in her earlier novels, People of the Book, March, and Year of Wonders—which is to merge her investigative research with her intuitive sense of the lives of her characters. This will certainly become a summer book club favorite. – Lisa Goldstein Kieda, with her intuitive sense of the lives of her characters. This will certainly become a summer book club favorite. – Lisa Goldstein Kieda, Penguin, $26.95

The Year We Left Home, Kay Thompson

A family in rural Iowa comes of age as its four siblings enter adulthood (in varying degrees) in the 70s and beyond. There’s Ryan, often misguided (sometimes appallingly so), but not bad-hearted; Anita, pretty, popular, too-soon wed; Torrie, rebellious, confused, unhappy; Blake, the brother who stays at home. As Ryan wanders from college to drugs to academia to computers and beyond, his ne’er-do-well cousin Chip stitches the narrative line into place, appearing in Ryan’s life at pivotal moments, only to disappear, sometimes for decades. Thompson’s cultural commentary is spot-on, her observations concerning the social currents she identifies not just insightful but integral to the lives of her characters. Better, those characters are drafted with lean prose and wry insight—and however foolishly they may behave, she’s clearly fond of them, clearly ready to give them the space and affection we should all give to one another. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $25

Down from Cascom Mountain, Ann Joslin Williams

Daughter of a famous naturalist, newly-wed Mary Hall brings her husband to her family’s mountain retreat in rural New Hampshire, hoping that he will feel as much a part of the place as she does. Both her parents are gone, she has no siblings, and Michael is her soul-mate as she is his, music their common ground. Their first day on the mountain they decide to take a hike. When they stop for lunch, Michael trips and falls off a ledge. She rushes to his aid only to find him not breathing, bleeding from a head wound. The accident causes a maelstrom of grief, the loss almost more than she can bear. In this gorgeous novel Williams describes a world breathtakingly beautiful, but one that holds danger around every twist of the trails. Mary’s home, high on a mountain ledge, offers solace, a balm to her wounds in this tale of heartbeat and healing, of loss and remembrance, one that will stay with you long after the last page is turned. – Kathy Ashton, Bloomsbury, $25

The Summer of the Bear, Bella Pollen

Unlike any other book you may have read, this wryly charming and utterly enthralling novel feels like a fairy tale yet reads like a thriller. It is! The children in the story, grieving the mysterious loss of their father, are left largely to make their own way on the windy heights of an Outer Hebrides island. Their mother, having depleted all her reserves getting the children to her home and refuge, has now tuned them out. They have not tuned her out, though, or their absent father; each wends a way back to him. Pollen deftly weaves an almost mythical bear and quirky island residents into a fascinating tale. An altogether great read. – Jenny Lyons, Atlantic Monthly Press, $24

Faith, Jennifer Haigh

“. . . faith is a decision. In its most basic form it is a choice.” This quote from Jennifer Haigh’s latest novel provides the foundation for her story of an Irish-American family living in Boston. Father Art is the oldest son; his half brother and sister, Mike and Sheila, are torn in terms of their faith in God and their faith in their brother when he is accused of molesting an 8-year-old boy. The year is 2002 and as many priests are accused and found guilty in that city, fears of pedophilia within Catholic parishes grow into a worldwide phenomenon. What is the truth and what is not provides a gripping and suspenseful, though deeply anguished, tale. – Sue Fleming, Harper-Collins, $25.99

The Coffins of Little Hope, Timothy Schaffert

A scrivener of obituaries in a small Midwestern town, S. (Essie) Myles is 83, acerbic, indomitable. Her grandson, however unwillingly, runs the paper her father had started, and the novel turns on the paper’s coverage of the disappearance of a young girl—a girl who may or may not be real. The eleventh volume of a madly popular children’s series reminiscent of Harry Potter’s tales also looms large, as do the topics of story, of writing, of life and what it really is (and is not) about. A lot for a slender book to take on, but Schaffert’s sense of humor, his sharp eye for painful truth, and his compassionate sensibility are more than up to the task. The Coffins of Little Hope is funny, moving, and a great read. Who could ask for more? – Betsy Burton, Unbridled, $24.95
Welcome to Bordertown: New Stories and Poems of the Borderlands, Edited by Holly Black and Ellen Kushner
Paranormal romance and urban fantasy fans, welcome to Bordertown. This fast-paced collection of works by authors such as Neil Gaiman, Cory Doctorow, and Jane Yolen details the dystopian world of Bordertown and the Borderlands, a mysterious place between this world and the magical realm. This culturally astute collection of interconnected short stories and poems holds the same weight as the rest of the Borderland series, while filling some gaps and fleshing out new ideas. Dark and worthwhile, it brings forth the relatively new genre of urban fantasy with spotlights and sass. – Rachel Haisley, Random House. $19.99

Jamrach’s Menagerie, Carol Birch
Young Jaffy Brown is carried off by a tiger, only to be rescued by the owner of a menagerie of exotic creatures—a man who peddles his rare stock far and wide in Victorian London. Hired, Jaff goes to work among the animals, squabbling his way through the days with another boy, Tim, until rumors surface that a dragon has been sighted in the far reaches of the globe. An expedition is organized, and the boys, nearly brothers by now, are hired on as hands. Improbable as all this may seem—tigers, dragons, small boys on high seas—Birch’s novel is not only a ripping good yarn but also a tale with the depth and reach of the seas on which much of it is set. The ocean is as implacable as it is magical; young Jaffy Brown sees things few men encounter and almost none survive as he soldiers through the toil, terror, and madness that mark the lives of sailors. Through it all, he searches for what we all want—a place to belong. And it is precisely that search that gives the book its power and its pathos. Boisterous, colorful, inventive as a tale by Rushdie, Darwinian in its accuracy, and as touching as any Dickens creation, Jamrach’s Menagerie is quite simply unforgettable. – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, $25.95

This Is a Book, Demetri Martin
Demetri Martin is hilarious. His brevity and wit are displayed perfectly in his first literary work, a collection of short stories spattered with graphs, venn diagrams, and epigrams. Do not miss his story of the Spanish teacher encountering a former student in the grocery store. This book left me in stitches—and I’m fairly certain it will look great on my bookshelf. – Rachel Haisley, Grand Central, $24.99

IN MEMORIAM

Judy Lueders passed away on May 22, 2011. Customers who have shopped at The King’s English since we opened will remember Judy, who worked at our bookstore for nearly a decade. She had been a long-time volunteer at the Museum of Natural History and she and my mother were fast-friends. When she heard we needed help at the store she was interested and before we knew it Judy was doing everything from inventory maintenance to backlist ordering to unpacking books—and, of course, selling books at the front desk.

Judy was an incredibly knowledgeable bookseller, reading extensively not only in natural history, geology, and anthropology but in fiction, mystery, politics, memoir, and even children’s books. Her interests were wide-ranging, her quiet grace was spiced by a wicked sense of humor and she was loved and respected by all of us. When she moved to New Mexico we were desolated although we understood her wish for a change. There she again volunteered, first at the Museum of Natural History and Science in Albuquerque, and then at the Pueblo Cultural Center and at Petroglyph National Monument.

Judy was one of a kind, a second mother to me and to most of the staff. She was the quintessential bookseller and a trusted colleague and friend, beloved by literally all who knew her. Although we will miss her, we feel she is still part of the store, present in the books she loved and loved to sell, the choices she made that enriched our shelves, the quiet love that enriched all our lives. We will celebrate her life at TKE on Monday, June 13 at 6 p.m. on the patio. Please, join us in tipping a glass to Judy and spending time remembering her.

by Betsy Burton
**Turn of Mind**, Alice LaPlante

Once in a blue moon a book comes along that is so original, so brilliantly conceived and executed, that it worms deep into the reader's psyche where it continues to reverberate and illuminate long after the last page is turned. *Turn of Mind* is such a book. Retired from medicine and living at home with a full-time caregiver, brilliant surgeon Jennifer White slip-slides in and out of dementia, her mind a kaleidoscope of memories merging continually with present-day reality. She is also chief suspect in the murder of her best friend. Strings of Jennifer's internal monologue bleed their way into conversations that take place with and around her—conversations involving her son and daughter, the caregiver, a detective, and, in memory, her husband and her slain friend. Occasional moments of scalpel-like insight throw light on both past and present as the surgeon's formidable mind surfaces, only to submerge again in the murk of disease. A breathtakingly original and novelistic mystery that turns on the insubstantial nature of reality in the brain of someone suffering from Alzheimer's, *Turn of Mind* is also an illuminating look into those deep caverns in the mind and heart where love resides. LaPlante, at once compassionate and cynical, resorts to neither cliché nor soft sentiment, yet manages to profoundly affect—and electrify—the reader. – Betsy Burton, Grove/Atlantic, $24

**Once Upon a River**, Bonnie Jo Campbell

At 16, Margo Crane's short life has been a series of terrible events. Her mother has run away, her father has been murdered, and her extended family is bad news all around. Living in the extreme poverty of backwoods Michigan and trying to figure out how to take care of herself, Margo makes every possible wrong move, including attaching herself to terrible men in the mistaken belief that she will be safer with them than on her own. The two things that save Margo from herself are the ability to take to the river and the fact that she can shoot a rifle better than most grown men. Time and again she heads upstream or downstream on her boat in attempts to flee from or find someone...anyone. Ultimately, the lesson she must learn is to depend on herself and recognize her formidable skills as a person on her own. The odd note that distinguishes the good from the ho-hum, not to mention his sense of humor, make this light, syncopated tale both entertaining and touching. – Betsy Burton, Little Brown, $23.95

**The Map of Time**, Felix J. Palma

H.J. Wells may have written about a time machine, but it takes Murray’s Time Travel to transport the curious to the year 2000 and a battle for human survival. Wells is caught up in the dreams and ambitions of characters from the past, present, and future. Some are good, (read Wells, Henry James, Bram Stoker), some very nasty (Gilliam Murray, the man who developed the time-traveling trips that so upset Bertie Wells and his advocates), and a few are actual Dr. Who-like time-travelers. On one hand, a young man is saved from suicide by being transported back to the days of Jack the Ripper, while on the other hand a young police officer is transported to the future so that he can serve a warrant on a murderer. Four books connected by the lure of time travel and man's eternal curiosity about time, parallel worlds, and hope for the future, *The Map of Time* is one of the most original—and charming—books of the year. – Wendy Foster Leigh and Kathy Ashton, Atria Books, $26

**The Night Train**, Clyde Edgerton

Larry Lime, a black kid who works in a furniture shop, is studying piano in his spare time. Under the tutelage of Bleeder, a jazz musician, Larry’s ambition is to learn to play like the legendary Thelonious Monk. Meanwhile Dwayne, the son of the shop's owner, has musical ambitions of his own: to be the next James Brown. The year is 1963, the small Southern town Larry and Dwayne inhabit is racially (and musically) divided, and the young, as ever, are testing the rules set down by their elders. Edgerton’s ear for dialogue and for music, his eye for the odd note that distinguishes the good from the ho-hum, not to mention his sense of humor, make this light, syncopated tale both entertaining and touching. – Betsy Burton, Little Brown, $23.95
Matterhorn, Karl Marlantes

Like Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried, Karl Marlantes’ sprawling, gritty, Vietnam War epic vividly explores the experience of being in the line of fire in a time of war. With a keen eye for detail that comes from his own experiences in Vietnam and a delicate sensitivity to the subtlest nuances of the human condition, he illustrates the transformation of Second Lieutenant Mellas from a naive Princeton graduate to the indurate officer who stalks the bloodied foliage of Southeast Asia and meditates on questions of race, heroism, and integrity. Matterhorn is destined to be a classic of the genre. – Aaron Cance, Grove Press, $15.95 Editor’s note: meet Karl Marlantes when he reads from and signs Matterhorn Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m. at the bookshop.

The Lonely Polygamist, Brady Udall

How can a man with four wives be lonely? The old adage, “Two’s company, three’s a crowd,” has never been truer than in this uproarious and improbably touching tale of Golden Richards, construction boss, man of God, and bewildered soul. This hapless father of 28 is continually befuddled; he doesn’t understand his kids, his wives, his boss, or his employees. And then he discovers Huila, who is kind, gentle, and, thank heavens, soft-spoken. She is also his boss’s wife. Every chapter (sometimes every paragraph) is a vignette, and each is by turns hilarious and moving. Truly, Brady Udall is our modern-day Charles Dickens. – Anne Holman, Norton, $15.95

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet, David Mitchell

Like James Clavell’s Shogun, this terrific novel, set in Japan in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, is as full of twists and turns as a netsuke carving: deceitful company officers; nosy Japanese interpreters, two of whom must be present at every business meeting; a local magistrate who cares more about keeping his head attached to his neck than facilitating business; a tremendously skilled, multilingual physician who cares for patients equally, be they Dutch or Japanese, and passes his skills on to a small coterie of Japanese students. And the de Zoet of the title, an articled clerk for the Dutch East India Company in the Far East to make his fortune, is one of the few principled officers left on the small, artificial island of Dejima outside Nagasaki, where the Dutch are confined. The language is as lush and gorgeous as a formal kimono, yet simultaneously new and exciting. In short, a tour-de-force. – Kathy Ashton, Random House, $15

Island Beneath the Sea, Isabel Allende

The histories of Haiti and New Orleans, of colonialism, slavery, abolition and concubinage, bring together a society bent on subjugation, and a willingness to inflict untold abuse toward that end, with their victims, who long, above all, for freedom. A cast of characters as entwined and entrancing as those who peopled House of the Spirits includes, among many others, Zarité, born into slavery, but a woman who never gives up her vision of freedom; Toulouse Valmorain, the French nobleman who owns the plantation, owns Zarité, owns her children; his Spanish wife and brother-in-law as well as Valmorain’s children and lovers; Zarité’s African lover; and, later, the mulattoes, quadroons, and French Creole friends and acquaintances in New Orleans. This is Allende at her fierce and fulsome best. – Betsy Burton, HarperPerennial, $14.99

The Dream of Perpetual Motion, Dexter Palmer

Many writers, artists, and filmmakers have attempted to re-imagine the work of William Shakespeare with mixed (and sometimes questionable) results. Dexter Palmer’s dreamlike, futuristic retelling of The Tempest, rife with mechanical men and flying machines, is breathtaking, and performs the same way a perpetual motion machine should: it gives off far more energy than it takes. Putting Palmer’s debut aside between readings is like waking from the type of dream you struggle to return to. Highly recommended! – Aaron Cance, Picador, $16

The Passage, Justin Cronin

Welcome to the not-so-distant future where Project NOAH is the new Manhattan Project. Deep in the jungles of South America, a strange virus with the potential to cure all disease and create “super-soldiers” has been discovered by the United States military. Somewhere underground in Colorado, this virus is being tested on death-row inmates, all of whom are morphing into something frightening and monstrous. At the same time, 6-year-old Amy has been abandoned by her frantic, impoverished mother at a Memphis convent. Using multiple narrators, Justin Cronin winds an intricate, terrifying, apocalyptic tale reminiscent of Stephen King’s The Stand, addressing a broad spectrum of issues such as climate change, the omnipresence of modern warfare, genocide, and the American penal system. Deeply haunting and profoundly epic, The Passage holds you in a vise-like grip and refuses

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Meet jazzman Leonard Less, an annoying character you'll grow to love as you watch him struggle with such mundane dilemmas as a middle-aged waistline, a torn rotator cuff (hell on a horn player), a disintegrating marriage, and a stepdaughter on the lam. Late one night on TV, our angst-ridden musician sees the masked image of a terrorist who is holding several hostages. Even through the mask, Leonard recognizes that face as one from his own past. Instead of calling the police, Leonard embarks on a reconnaissance mission and so encounters the terrorist's daughter. Crace's latest is not only a page-turner, but also an astute look at relationships between mothers and their daughters, husbands and their wives, our pasts and our presents. It's also positively revelatory in terms of the false face we sometimes put on such traits as bravery, loyalty, and love. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, $15

Mr. Peanut, Adam Ross

David Pepin loves his wife, Alice, but he can't help fantasizing about her death. Alice is convinced someone is trying to kill her and suddenly bang! Alice is dead, and David's the prime suspect. Unwrapping this conjugal conundrum is a trio of NYPD homicide detectives: LB Jeffries, crippled in the line of duty, overshadowed by wife Lisa's celebrity; Lars Thorwald, who thought he had a happy marriage until Anna decided to teach him a lesson; and, in charge of the investigation, Detective Sam Sheppard, a man whose first life was destroyed by infidelity and murder. Who killed Alice? Only Mr. Peanut knows the answer to that one. – Paula Longhurst, Vintage, $15

So Much for That, Lionel Shriver

Shep Knacker has spent every moment of his adult life planning for retirement on a tropical island until his plans are suddenly derailed when Glynis, his wife of 26 years, is diagnosed with an extremely rare and aggressive form of cancer. Shep's dreams, along with his carefully saved and invested monies, are drained as he navigates through the health care and insurance systems. Jackson Burdina, Shep's self-centered and satirical best friend, is embroiled in his own family drama. This intelligent and engrossing novel's real and complicated characters,

**Pearl of China, Anchee Min**

Anchee Min creates a story of friendship and politics in this fictionalized account of Pearl Buck and Willow. The street urchin and the daughter of an American missionary share the simplicity of childhood and the conflict of the Chinese Revolution. Pearl, often more Chinese than American, encourages Willow to become a community leader and journalist. With the rise of Mao, Willow is punished for her friendship with Pearl who is now writing about China. The two are destined to be separated by politics; however their friendship never falters and lives on in the writings of Pearl S. Buck. This touching story of a powerful friendship caught in violent times makes a turbulent time period human. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Bloomsbury, $15

**I Thought You Were Dead, Pete Nelson**

A self-pitying, sort-of-successful hack writer who drinks too much, is estranged from his family, and talks to his dog? A dog who talks back? What's to like? What's to like is Stella. She's old. Very old in dog years. And she knows her master, Paul, well enough to tell him what's what. Which she does with frequency and perspicuity. Paul himself is not without wit, at least when he's sober, and before you're aware of it you'll start to like him, too, even if he is sort of immature. You'll positively warm to him as he tries to relate via e-mail to his stroked-out father. If all of this sounds hokey, it's not. Funny? Yes. Touching? Absolutely. Hokey, not in the least. In fact, Nelson's pitch-perfect dialogue and keen wit turn a plot with enormous potential for ho-kum into a wryly affecting novel. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin, $13.95

**The Wednesday Sisters, Meg Waite Clayton**

Five young women strike up a friendship when they’re watching their children play in a Palo Alto park; they’re all a little shy at first, and one of them who lives across the street borrows her niece so she’ll fit in. As all are fledgling writers, they start keeping journals and read their week's entries aloud, sharing the most intimate details of their lives. Soon they are bonded to the point where they call themselves the Wednesday Sisters. They write fiction and poetry and dream about the day when they’ll publish their first books. This is one of those books where you’ll recognize your own dearest friends in Frankie, Linda, Kath, Brett, and Ally, find yourself celebrating their successes, mourning their disappointments. An extraordinary tale of kinship among friends. I loved it. – Kathy Ashton, Ballantine, $14

**Work Song, Ivan Doig**

Butte, Montana, in the years after WWI, is the center of the copper-mining universe. Into this melee of mine managers, workers, and Wobblies, comes Morrie Morris whom we met in Doig’s earlier novel, *The Whistling Season*. Where Morris has been since leaving Maria’s Coulee is a mystery, but he is quick to ingratiate himself with the widow Grace Faraday, the staff at the town library, and the mining community at large. When he is enlisted by the miners’ union to find a way to unite them, one for all and all for one, Morris must face his past and decide what his future holds. Every new book by Ivan Doig is something to look forward to, and *Work Song* is no exception. – Anne Holman, Riverhead, $15
Summer Book Clubs at The King’s English

Roz Reads!
Open to the public, $10 per evening paid to Roz, meets last Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
June 27, 28, 29: Love and Summer, William Trevor
July 25, 26, 27: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Jonathan Safran Foer
August: Summer vacation; no book club

Margaret’s Book Club
Open to the public, $5 per evening paid to Margaret, meets 2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
June: The Lonely Polygamist, Brady Udall
July: The Wake of Forgiveness, Bruce Machart
August: Hannah Coulter, Wendell Berry

Rachel’s Teen Book Club
Open to the public, meets 1st Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
June: True Grit, Charles Portis
July: Tales from Outer Suburbia, Shaun Tan
August: The Ring, Bobbie Pyron

Armchair Travel Mystery
Open to the public, meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
June: The Glass Key, Dashiell Hammett
July-August: Summer vacation; no book club

Danielle Lail’s Book Club
Open to the public, meets 1st Monday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
June: Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson
July 6: The Black Dahlia, James Ellroy
August: Eleanor of Aquitaine: A Life, Alison Weir

Newman Center
Open to the public, meets monthly at the Newman Center, contact Barbara Bannon, 583-4289
June: The Help, Katherine Stockett

Slow Food Utah Book Club
Open to the public, meets 3rd Wednesday of the month, details online
June: An Extravagant Hunger, Anne Zimmerman
July: Summer vacation; no book club

Interested in joining or starting a book club? The King’s English Bookshop has more information online at www.kingsenglish.com
Bill Moyers Journal: The Conversation Continues, Bill Moyers

Moyers, one of the most intelligent voices in the America media today, continues his dialogue with other thoughtful men and women who come from every facet of the world community. In this wide-ranging discussion everything from racism to politics to environmental issues to religion is tackled. The breadth of the conversation is amazing, as are the thought-provoking ideas that have shaped not only this country but the world in the past decade. Reflective, insightful and challenging are only three of the adjectives that come to mind in describing Moyers’ latest effort. – Barbara Hoagland, The New Press, $29.95

Reading My Father: A Memoir, Alexandra Styron

William Styron was an incredibly talented author, perhaps best known for the Pulitzer Prize-winning Sophie’s Choice, and for Darkness Visible, his memoir about his bout with depression, Styron was also a founder of the Paris Review. In Reading My Father, Styron’s youngest daughter, Alexandra, chronicles life with her brilliant, unstable father. From lively dinner parties with her parents’ famous friends, to dealing with an aging father who had become a shell of his former self, Reading My Father is filled with wonderful stories about life with one of the 20th century’s best authors. Ms. Styron spent months combing through her father’s papers at Duke University to fashion a lovingly honest portrait. – Geoff Lara, Scribner, $25

Small Memories, José Saramago

This beautiful small volume contains a mosaic of memories of Saramago as a young child and on through his teen years in his native land of Portugal. His simply-told story details the tragic loss of his brother; his moves back and forth from Lisbon, where he lived with his parents, to his beloved maternal grandparents’ home in Azinhaga; his mother’s struggles illustrated by her pawning their blankets each summer, only to buy them back for winter use. His fascination with words and stories from an early age along with his relationships with family and friends were instrumental in the formation of one of the most respected writers of our time. Many of his early memories were to be triggers for his later novels. Saramago received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1998. I highly recommend this memoir. – Sue Fleming, Melville House, $26


This delightful new biography which portrays the way Charlotte’s Web came into being is full of stories about White, his wife Katherine, and their home on the Maine coast. Sims brings the man and the spider to vivid life as he describes the Whites’ farm and their passion for it. This was not a showplace, but a real working farm. The Whites raised chickens, lambs, cows, and even geese, on land so close to the shore that dew bespeckled the spider webs in the early morning, making them much easier to see. Charlotte’s Web was my daughter’s favorite book as a child and I came to love it too; anyone who treasures White’s charming tale of a spider and her best friend, the pig, will adore Sims’ book as well. – Kathy Ashton, Bloomsbury, $24

In the Garden of Beasts, Erik Larson

Just when you think everything possible has been written about the buildup to World War II, Larson comes along with this sensational look at the rise of Hitler through the eyes of William Dodd, U.S. Ambassador to Germany in 1933. A college professor, Dodd arrived at his post reflecting the views commonly held by Americans in the 1930s of a subtle prejudice against Jews and an admiration for Hitler. Martha, Dodd’s socialite daughter, sets off on a romp through Germany’s highest social circles, even having an affair with the surprisingly decent first Gestapo chief, Rudolf Diels. Through Dodd’s own diaries, letters and official communiqués, as well as those of his irrepressible daughter, Larson reveals their awakening to the evils surrounding them. Larson ably explains how an entire country was slowly seduced, and how the rest of the world stood by while that happened. Readers will wonder what could have been prevented if the U.S. had been paying attention. It’s a horrifying examination, brilliantly conducted. – Barbara Hoagland and Margaret Brennan Neville, Crown, $26

Berlin 1961, Frederic Kempe

Diplomatic history with the pace of a novel, Kempe’s account of the Berlin crisis is good storytelling backed by serious scholarship. Every incoming president in the nuclear age ought to read Berlin 1961 in tandem with Barbara Tuchman’s The Guns of August, the story of how Europe stumbled into war in 1914. The Cold War didn’t heat up in 1961 because Kennedy and Khruschev showed better sense than
Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle, Thor Hanson

Thor Hanson's subtitle to this fascinating book gives the prospective reader a little nudge toward its purchase. Yeah, it is about feathers, and people who like single-subject books, nature and, most especially, birds will enjoy it. Most of us have no idea what a true miracle feathers are and how they evolved into a most functional, adaptable and beautiful feature of birds. This book takes you back to the age of the Jurassic dinosaur and then brings you forward through Darwin, the great age of explorers of Africa, South America, and New Guinea and to the market hunters of the early 20th century who were seeking to fill the demand for ladies' fashion. Along the way, you get a lesson in fashioning a pen from a goose quill and learn why feathers are a Las Vegas showgirl's best friend. All in all, a nice, tight little book, well researched and illustrated. – Patrick Fleming, Basic Books, $26.99

A Covert Affair: The Adventures of Julian Child and Paul Child in the OSS, Jennet Conant

Julia sprang from a right-wing California family, as did her fellow OSS compatriot Jane Foster. War taught them both to question their parents' politics, taught them to think for themselves and to view Asia through the lens of their hard-won experience. Thrown together in the legendary OSS, Paul Child and Jane were initially attracted to one another and thereafter maintained a friendship that was to impact all three of their lives for years to come. Conant follows these three characters and their friends through their wild tenure in the OSS in Indonesia and China, their years in Paris after the war as their careers took them in different directions, and their run-in with the forces of McCarthyism. But it is history itself that is the true protagonist of A Covert Affair. Conant's eye for the details that bring history to life, for the tales of derring-do that keep the reader riveted to the page, the quirks of character that fascinate, make the experience of reading Conant's latest a lively one. Yet the lessons of history that she quietly imparts leave us wondering how it is that politicians have such flawed memories and such impossibly short attention spans concerning the patterns of betrayal and their lingering consequences in the world. – Betsy Burton, Simon and Schuster, $28

Editor's note: we've re-run this review to accompany our interview with Jennet Conant (see following pages).
Betsy Burton: Although *A Covert Affair* details the lives of Julia and Paul Child, it is in some ways as much about their fellow OSS compatriot Jane Foster. Was the idea for this book generated by all three friends or did you begin researching the Childs and discover Jane's impact on their lives along the way?

Jennet Conant: From the start I was fascinated by what happened to the three friends. From the time they all joined the OSS to the dawning of the Cold War and rise of McCarthyism, the world they inhabited was fissured by divides. I wanted to explore the nature of friendship and loyalty and honor in those fraught times, and to be able to have two such trusted narrators as Julia and Paul make the story all the more compelling. The frenzied Communist witch hunts of the 1950s literally turned their world upside down. Many of their closest friends and colleagues—loyal OSS and State Department officers—suddenly found themselves accused of being Red spies. That two people as good, and decent and altogether unimpeachable as Julia and Paul somehow got entangled in a major spy scandal seems incredible today, but they were both thoroughly investigated and Paul came perilously close to having his career ruined. I wanted to unravel the whole complicated story, beginning with their volunteering for the OSS all the way through their time in Ceylon and China, so readers could judge for themselves what really happened: whether or not Julia and Paul were duped by Jane Foster (had she really crossed over and was leading a clandestinely divided life all along?) or whether they were all victims of a poisonous time in American politics.

BB: Julia sprang from a right-wing California family, as did Jane. War taught them both to question their parents' politics, to think for themselves, and to view Asia through the lens of their hard-won experience. Yet as the U.S. broke promises and bungled policy, Jane was radicalized in a way that Julia never was. Do you think the differences in their responses to history can be explained more by the differences in their characters or their differing experiences?

JC: I would have to say character is destiny in this case. Jane was radicalized well before the war began. Although she and Julia were both bright girls from conservative, well-to-do California families, the similarity really ends there. Julia was very close to both her parents and basically enjoyed her “social butterfly” years before the war in Pasadena. Jane, by contrast, was a restless malcontent and in full rebellion by her late teens. Raised in convent schools by very controlling parents, Jane went out of her way to provoke them: taking up abstract painting, joining San Francisco's avant garde art scene, adopting a bohemian lifestyle—lovers, liquor, late nights, etc.—spouting utopian ideals, supporting socialist and Communist causes... She finally rejected her parents' lifestyle completely by running off to Java with a Dutch diplomat. Jane wanted a life of excitement and high drama and in the end got all that she asked for and more. Julia never felt the need to rebel in the same way. She came into her own during the war, but I would say she emerged a more educated and independent thinker rather than radicalized. Her politics were shaped by her romance with the very liberal Paul and reaction against the right-wing extremism and demagoguery of the post-war era. By the late 1950s she was a committed Democrat and would remain one the rest of her days.

BB: Julia, Paul, Jane, and their sidekicks in and out of the OSS are fascinating characters, but it seems as if history itself is the true protagonist in *A Covert Affair*. The true narrative arc of the book might well be the mistakes we made as a government back then, and its theme the consequences of those long-ago decisions. Despite your eye for the fascinating, quirky characters and the details that bring history to life and keep the reader riveted to the page, do you see *A Covert Affair* as an historical cautionary tale at its heart?

JC: I do see it as a cautionary tale. Exploiting the public's fear—either of war, enemy infiltration or terrorist attack—is a dangerous
business. Episodes of demagoguery—along with the accompanying domestic repression and censorship and detainment—have occurred periodically throughout history. Just think of the discreditable acts committed in this country in the summer of 1798, when the Federalists passed the notorious Alien and Sedition Acts and condoned waves of searches and arrests of anyone critical of the government. The Federalists were absolutely paranoid about the inroads being made by Jefferson's Republican Party and more or less suspended the First Amendment in their efforts to defeat the opposition. I am always interested in that kind of official hypocrisy—the gap between this country's professed ideals and rhetoric and actual behavior. I think any student of human affairs can detect the parallels between the McCarthy era and some disturbing political trends we see today. The same motifs repeat—smug ideologues, unswerving fanatics, accusations of disloyalty and guilt by association. And it's important to remember that the abuse of power is not particular to the Right or Left, both sides have pursued such tactics when it suited them.

BB: Your tales of derring-do and of the ever-changing relationships among your characters are so vivid that sometimes it seems as if you were there. I know Paul's often-revealing letters to his brother provided a good deal of insight into their lives, but there were obviously other firsthand sources. Can you talk about them?

JC: I wanted the book to have a very intimate tone so that readers could experience the characters' growing anxiety about their situation, and understand what it was really like to live in fear that even the slightest rumor about Communist sympathies could stop their chances of getting a promotion or a new passport, let alone trigger an investigation that could end in disgrace and ruin. What made it possible to maintain that tone was the huge number of firsthand sources. Paul Child's diaries and Julia's letters provided me with their intimate commentary on events from the beginning of the war all the way through to the end of the 1950s. I was able to weave in Jane's thoughts and reactions throughout, based on her memoir, letters and personal papers, as well as interviews with her family. Above all, I had a built-in narrator in the person of Elizabeth McIntosh. She was an invaluable source: not only did I have her wartime memoir as a contemporaneous chronicle of day-to-day events, but I had her at the other end of a phone every time I had a question or needed help with a scene. I would call her to ask about the weather—I'm not kidding. Elizabeth was close to Julia, Paul and Jane, entered the OSS at the same time and was with them every step of the way, so she was my touchstone. I dedicated the book to her out of gratitude for the many hours she gave to this project, and the wealth of insight and emotional truth she provided.

BB: Your portrayal of the relationship between Paul and Julia themselves is moving—its tentative nature at first, the growing attachment, the eventual bonding that seemed to grow stronger and stronger. What struck you, as you were doing your research, as the true cement that held them together? The most moving and perhaps romantic thing about them?

JC: What struck me most forcefully was that these were two very different people who were both profoundly lonely. Their romance was built, very hesitantly and over many months, on the foundation of their friendship—on their basic need for human warmth and companionship. Paul did not believe they had much in common and worried endlessly about their disparate family backgrounds, but in the end he missed Julia's company so much he allowed his heart to overrule his head. I thought it was very touching that as the years went by they never forgot how miserable they were when they were single, and never stopped being grateful that they had found love. What made them seem like such a romantic pair was that they were always celebrating their relationship, and toasting their togetherness.

BB: If, indeed what you have written is a cautionary tale, can you talk about the lessons from history we ought to have learned and whether or not we've learned them? If we haven't, can you talk about consequences in today's world? Or is that another book?

JC: Surely the answer to those questions could fill another book! There are so many worrying trends, not the least of which is our old habit of promising democracy to people in distant corners of the globe and then failing to deliver it. To me it seems a naïve, dangerous and delusional style of leadership. But enough said. The point I'd like to emphasize is that the reason for writing history is that there is always a chance we will learn from our past mistakes. I have enormous faith in our resilience as a country, in the strength of our Constitution, and in the ability of future generations to chart a better course.
### War
Sebastian Junger

Sebastian Junger, author of The Perfect Storm, Death in Belmont, and Fire, now focuses his attention on our fighting forces in the remote tribal region of Afghanistan. Based on five trips to the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, in 2007 and 2008 as an imbedded reporter, this is a riveting portrayal of the men, the terrain, and the enemy Taliban that make this conflict one of the most difficult tests of the American military since the Pacific Theater of World War II. Despite Junger's effortless style, War is jam-packed with enough detail that you can almost smell the stench of battle and death. Junger stays out of politics and focuses on the fighting men, their weaponry, and strategy. He also delves into the psychology and physiology of the warrior. Great maps, a rich cast of characters, and a glossary of military terms enrich the text. If you want to understand what is happening in this remote corner of the world and why it is important, you must read this book. – Patrick Fleming, TWELVE (Hachette), $15.99

### Take Good Care of the Garden and the Dogs
Heather Lende

In 2005 Heather Lende was riding her bike down a two-lane highway in Haines, Alaska. She was mentally preparing for her first book tour, enjoying a beautiful day when she was hit by a truck and suffered, among other things, a crushed pelvis. She recovered, miraculously, and was able to return to an active life. This new book, subtitled “A True Story of Bad Breaks and Small Miracles,” weaves Lende’s own story of injury and healing with those of the tribulations and victories of her fellow townspeople. In a town of 2,400 people, you get to know each other pretty well; Lende not only knows her neighbors, she cares deeply about them and writes about each of them in a manner that leads you to believe you know them, and her, personally. – Anne Holman, Algonquin, $14.95

### Reading Lips: A Memoir of Kisses
Claudia Sternbach

This charming little book is great for an afternoon in the hammock—what could be more fun than spending an afternoon reading about kisses, your first, your second, all the important times in your lives. And even better, since you’re already reclining, a little dreaming is certainly in order. I loved it. – Kathy Ashton, Unbridled Books, $12.95

### Hell Is Empty
Craig Johnson

Virgil White Buffalo is back and not a moment too soon. Sheriff Walt Longmire has fallen into the seventh circle of hell trying to catch a murderous outlaw in this latest adventure with the citizens, bad and good, of Absaroka County, Wyoming. Spring is slow coming to their part of the state and when a routine convict transfer goes terribly awry, Walt chases the felons into the heart of the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area trying to stop innocent lives from being lost. The giant Crow Indian, Virgil, literally becomes Walt’s guide through the underworld although instead of Dante’s Inferno, it is a chilling backdrop of snow and icy rain where the reader feels every freezing step as it takes place. This is Johnson at his best; as you journey through the novel, you’ll have difficulty distinguishing real from unreal until the end comes crashing down around your eyes. – Anne Holman Viking, $25.95 Editor’s note: Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 7th at 7 p.m. when Craig Johnson will join us on the patio on for some wise-cracking and book-signing.

### The Fatal Touch
Conor Fitzgerald

If you are a Donna Leon fan, you’ll love this thriller set in the heart of Rome in the Vatican’s shadow. Alec Blume, an Englishman by birth, an Italian by choice, is an absolute whiz at solving murders. His new assistant, Inspector Caterina Mattiola, formerly of the immigration section, may be new at this job, but is not new to the force. The death of an English tramp—an alcoholic, who paints his versions of famous Italian works and sells them for a lot of money through his partner’s gallery—is her first murder case. The two murder investigators are good cops; both know how to navigate the invisible lines that separate the crooked cops from those who care about what they do and how they do it. Full of wonderful vignettes of Rome’s back alleys, this new series rivals that of Leon’s; the reader sees the way the cops manage the details of work and home and the unspoken but always looming secret police, the Italian equivalent of the CIA. This is the best new mystery I’ve read in a long time—don’t miss it or the first in the series, The Dogs of Rome. – Kathy Ashton, Bloomsbury, $25
The Hypnotist, Lars Kepler
National CID Detective Joona Linna takes on a bizarre and tragic murder case—a young Swedish family hacked to pieces in their own home. Questioning the barely surviving witness is not an option, the boy’s life hangs by a thread. What Linna needs is a hypnotist. Erik Maria Bark is that hypnotist—problem is, he gave up practicing 10 years ago. Bark went on national TV and swore he would never hypnotize another soul. But the detective won’t take no for an answer so Erik puts the boy in a trance. What happens next won’t just threaten everything Erik has managed to rebuild. It will tear families apart, turn friends into bitter enemies and rob Erik of Benjamin—his only son. Gritty, fast-paced and hard to put down. – Paula Longhurst, Macmillan, $27

Tigerlily’s Orchids, Ruth Rendell
Combining Rear Window with Tales of the City, Rendell creates a detailed picture of lodgers in an apartment building on Kenilworth Avenue, London, as Stuart Font prepares his housewarming party. Each flat and house has an exclusive story. Font is a vain young man who attracts women, both married and not; Olwen is a sad alcoholic drinking herself to death; Rose and Marius are over-the-hill hippies finding happiness together; and then there is Tigerlily—an exotic young woman who comes and goes from a semi-detached house across the street. Once she enters Font’s life, things are never the same. Rendell choreographs stories around a murder, yet the murder is not the focal point of the novel and comes later in the narrative. There is tension in the street itself and in the bricks and mortar of the buildings. For those who enjoy a sinister, psychological novel, Ruth Rendell is the master storyteller of our time. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Scribner, $26

The Redeemed, M. R. Hall
British coroner Jenny Cooper fights demons everyday—her own and those she is forced to confront through her job. When the two collide, it almost takes her down in this latest installment written by a former criminal barrister. An ex-porn star turned religious icon is murdered and the question before Jenny is whether an innocent man has confessed to the crime. Her investigation involves an evangelistic church, the highest echelons of British jurisprudence, and a decades-old crime in which Jenny may or may not be implicated. Complex, gripping, and, hopefully just the second in many mysteries starring Jenny Cooper. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, $25

The White Devil, Justin Evans
Young American Andrew Taylor’s father has bought his son’s way into Harrow School in the heart of London. If Andrew gets thrown out of this school he’ll be cut off without a cent. Hidden away in the confines of Harrow, Andrew resists to buckle down and not get into trouble, but trouble finds him. Everyone at Harrow has heard of the ‘The Lot Ghost’ but Andrew’s connection to it is becoming stronger by the hour. This presence is volatile...
and insanely jealous and it can kill. When Andrew is recruited into a play about Lord Byron, he realizes that his resemblance to Byron has tricked the ghost into believing his lover has returned, and this time he will stop at nothing to possess him. – Paula Longhurst, Harper-Collins, $24.99

Gone with a Handsome Man, Michael Lee West
Funny is always good in a summer read, and there are very few writers more amusing than West. In her latest, Charleston and its environs, its gorgeous antebellum homes, play as big a role as any of the characters. And the characters—her smart, laugh-out-loud, mean, loving, unfaithful, faithful, two-faced, and always charming characters—will keep you guessing while you’re chuckling in this absolute delight of a mystery. – Kathy Ashton, St. Martin’s, $24.99

Devil’s Plaything, Matt Richtel
We can all agree that our memories play tricks on us as we age. We chalk it up to growing older; a natural side-effect of a long life. But what if something diabolical is behind what we remember…or think we remember? In this techno-thriller, Nat Idle, erstwhile medical student turned investigative journalist, realizes his grandmother’s memories aren’t just fading, they are being subtly re-written. But by whom and why? Grandma Lane has a secret and there are a whole host of people who want to know what it is. A who’s-on-first game of computers and neurotechnology from New York Times Technology writer, Matt Richtel, this novel will make you think twice before you play that next online Scrabble game. – Anne Holman, Harper $9.99

Elegy for April, Benjamin Black
Quirke, a pathologist who is waging a war on alcoholism, is asked by his daughter Phoebe to look into the disappearance of her close friend. No one has seen April for two weeks and although she is in some ways a mystery to her friends, this is unusual behavior. April’s group of friends and her prominent Irish family are the suspects in a plot that combines mystery with the touching duet of love played out by the father and daughter, Quirke and Phoebe, both of whom fight demons and long for love neither seems able to give. Not just an intriguing mystery, this is a layered and moving novel as well, written under the pen name used by Booker prize-winning novelist John Banville. – Betsy Burton, Picador, $15

Spies of the Balkans, Alan Furst
Furst may have produced his most charismatic character yet in Costa Zannis. Costa’s in the employ of the aging police commissioner as fixer, defuser of trouble spots, and peacemaker in the port city of Salonika. When he’s not busy doing that, he does a spot of bedwarming (only the loveliest and most charming of women, of course). When the winds of war blow southeastward from Nazi Germany, Costa manages to build his own underground railroad, ferrying Jews to safety via railroad (really) and ferry to Alexandria. His network consists of other trustworthy Balkan police officials. Prepare to sacrifice a few hours of sleep on this terrific tale, because once you start reading, you’ll be glued to the page. – Kathy Ashton, Random House, $15

Editor’s note: available June 15

Junkyard Dogs, Craig Johnson
What’s worse than a Wyoming winter where the average temperature is 4 below? A Wyoming winter in Durant where a murderer (or two) is on the loose and a shady real estate deal has gone bad. Sheriff Walt Longmire has barely recovered from his last adventure when the Stewart family, owners of the local junkyard, call him to rescue Grampus, who’s been pulled behind the family Toronado for 2.5 miles over icy roads before coming to a stop on top of a mailbox. And that’s in the first three pages! Henry Standing Bear, Vic, and Sancho are all along for the ride again in this chilly tale of modern frontier justice. – Anne Holman, Penguin, $14

Oscar Wilde and the Vampire Murders, Gyles Brandreth
Brandreth creates a cast that includes Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde, and a variety of royals and 19th century artists, all in a quest to find the murderer of the beautiful Duchess of Albermarle, looking at the underbelly of the Victorian era about which it is said that, “a lot went on under those Victorian bustles.” Placing Wilde and Doyle in an imaginary setting and revealing biographical information, the book will interest the literarily curious and the reader of light, entertaining mysteries. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Touchstone, $14
**CURRENT TITLES**

**MYSTERY/THRILLER—NEW IN PAPER**

**Darkside**, Belinda Bauer
Jonas Holly is a village policeman who finds himself faced with a series of murders of the elderly and infirm. The townspeople expect him to solve the case quickly. But the big-town, demanding detective gives Jonas little opportunity and even adds to Jonas’s insecurities by belittling him publicly. Village life is not gentle; each character has a dark side and Bauer allows the reader to discover it slowly as she paints her word portraits. Jonas is the focal point of the story; his dark past haunts him and affects his relationships with his wife, his boss, and his neighbors. No longer is the English countryside an escape from the wicked big city. For readers who enjoy Susan Hill or Tana French, here is another look at the ominous world some humans inhabit. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Simon & Schuster, $17

**The Twisted Thread**, Charlotte Bacon
Most people are familiar with New England’s top prep schools; they exist to funnel their students to the best of the Ivy League colleges. Armitage Academy is such a place, so it is particularly horrifying when one of their top students is found dead in her room, having just given birth to a missing baby. Claire, tall, blonde, aloof, slender, so slender that she was able to hide a full-term pregnancy under somebody’s brother’s shirts, is the person everyone else emulates. No one, especially Madeline Randolf, a faculty resident in the dorm, can figure out how someone got into a secure dorm, dotted with security cameras, never mind killing a student. Fast-paced, cleverly plotted, very well-written—I loved it. – Kathy Ashton, Voice/Hyperion, $14.

**FORTHCOMING TITLES**

**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

**The End of Everything**, Megan Abbott
Abbott’s ear for the giggling, murmuring patois of childhood, her eye for the shared reality of inseparable friendships, the shared days and nights of summers of bikes and swimming and secrets, all pull the reader down into the shadowy world of pre-adolescence where best friends share everything. But pre-adolescence is also the time of wonder with a capital W—a time of yearning curiosity when the desire to learn nameless truths about adulthood is all-consuming. When 13-year-old Lizzie’s best friend disappears, Lizzie knows fragments of how and why—

**small half-realized bits of truth about her friend Evie, Evie’s glittering, larger-than-life family, and about the forces that drive adults for good and for ill. Her struggle to find out what has happened to Evie and to manufacture what she can’t prove but somehow knows, and the ambiguous nature of the truth that finally emerges are at the heart of this intense and intelligent book. – Betsy Burton, Reagan Arthur/Little Brown, $23.95**

**Dominance**, Will Lavender
Funerals bring old friends and enemies together. In *Dominance*, the group re-unites around the suicide of a classmate from a particularly peculiar class. From his prison cell convicted killer and professor Richard Aldiss taught a course on the reclusive author, Paul Fallows. Aldiss was subsequently released, but that is only the beginning. One of his students, Alex Shipley, who has become a successful professor, is called upon to solve the murder of a class member who is brutally killed, his body decorated with the books of Paul Fallows. In the background is the mysterious “Procedure,” a game which the students have played in the past and that is now part of their present. This literary mystery builds in tension until the reader becomes part of the “Procedure” and as curious about its rules as any character in the book. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Simon & Schuster, $24

**Reading the West Book Awards**

**ADULT WINNER**

**The Wake of Forgiveness**, Bruce Machart

**CHILDREN’S WINNER**

**Starfish**, James Crowley
Keep your kids interested in reading this summer by signing them up for one of our Summer Reading Programs. The groups will meet on Tuesdays—June 21, June 28, July 12, July 19—at either 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. Each group will meet for 50 minutes at the store. The cost is $40 per child and books can be purchased at the store at a 10% discount. You must pay when you sign up your child, but book purchase is not required. We have a wonderful combination of certified teachers and enthusiastic staff to lead the groups.

Pre K/K – Rachel Heath, 6 p.m.
*Carl and the Puppies*, Alexandra Day  
*You Can't Eat a Princess!*, Gillian Rogerson  
*If You're Happy*, April Sayre  
*Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?* Susan Shea

1st/2nd Grades: 6 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 15th  
*The Giant Jam Sandwich*, John Vernon Lord  
*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, Judith Barrett  
*Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*, Philemon Sturges  
*Ameila Bedelia Bakes Off*, Herman Parish

1st/2nd Grades: 6 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 15th  
*Nate the Great and the Monster Mess*, Majorie Weinman Sharmat  
*James and the Giant Peach*, Roald Dahl  
*Everything on a Waffle*, Polly Horvath  
*Granny Torreli Makes Soup*, Sharon Creech

2nd Grades: 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, June 16th  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, Jaqueline Kelly  
*Alice in Wonderland*, Lewis Carroll  
*Frequenaut*, Paul Feig  
*The Neddiad: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood and Saved Civilization*, Daniel Pinkwater

3rd/4th Grades: 7 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 15th  
*Attack of the Shark-Headed Zombie*, Bill Doyle  
*The Luck of the Buttons*, Anne Ylvisaker  
*Jack Plank Tells Tales*, Natalie Babbitt  
*Once I Ate a Pie*, Patricia MacLachan

3rd/4th Grades: 7 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 15th  
*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, Grace Lin  
*Whittington*, Alan Armstrong  
*Emerald Atlas*, John Stephens  
*Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*, Phillip Hoose

5th/6th Grades: 6 p.m. beginning Thursday, June 16th  
*The Prince of the Mists*, Carlos Ruiz Zafon  
*Incarceron*, Catherine Fisher

Young Adult – Rachel Haisley, 7 p.m.  
*19 Varieties of Gazelle*, Naomi Shihab Nye  
*Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Septys  
*The Prince of the Mists*, Carlos Ruiz Zafon  
*Incarceron*, Catherine Fisher

We are also offering an unusual book/reading opportunity for the 12-and-up crowd. Catherine Fisher (Incarceron and Sapphique) is publishing a new story, *The Relic Master*, in four installments. One book will be released each month, starting May 17 and ending August 9. Nathan Spofford, award-winning teacher and part-time staff member, will lead a discussion of the books on August 18 at 6 p.m. We have a limited number of slots (nine) for this group. The $70 price includes the four books (hardcover first editions) and a fun evening!

More details available online: www.kingsenglish.com
**Mitchell’s License**, Hallie Durand, illustrated by Tony Fucile

One of our very favorite new picture books, *Mitchell’s License* is about a little boy who never EVER wants to go to bed . . . until he is presented with his very own driver’s license, as well as a remote control car that looks exactly like his dad! Because it is Mitchell’s dad! Mitchell climbs on board his father’s sturdy shoulders, takes a drive through the house (with a few pit stops along the way) and somehow winds up in bed. Utterly charming. – Candlewick, $15.99 (3 and up)

**The Day Tiger Rose Said Goodbye**, Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jim LaMarche

Heavy hitters Yolen and LaMarche team up to create this special book about an aging pet’s last day, which she spends saying quiet good-byes to all the things she has loved. Keep a tissue handy for this one. – Random House, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Everything I Need to Know Before I’m Five**, Valorie Fisher

Numbers! Opposites! Shapes! Colors! Seasons! Letters! It’s all here, folks. This bright, busy book has plenty to keep young children engaged while cramming for preschool. – S & W, $17.99 (3 and up)

**Mine**, Shutta Crum, illustrated by Patrice Barton

This new picture book about sharing and not sharing is short on text, but long on charm. Children of all ages will recognize the universal human tendency to wrap arms around an object and shout, “Mine.” We love, love, love the illustrations in this one! – Knopf, $16.99 (2 and up)

**Charlie the Ranch Dog**, Ree Drummond, illustrated by Diane deGroat

Ree Drummond, known to millions of online readers as “The Pioneer Woman,” tells the story of a REALLY laidback basset hound who makes himself useful (sort of!) to a family of hardworking ranchers. Fans of Drummond’s popular blog will enjoy Charlie’s latest star turn. – Harper, $16.99 (4 and up)

**We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart**, Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers

“We are America/ The land of the free/ Wealthy beyond belief and not wealthy/ The land of equal opportunity and not equal/ The land of justice and injustice.” A much-honored father and son duo combine their extraordinary talents in this honest but loving picture book, which speaks eloquently to both our country’s greatness and its problems. The lyrical free verse text is complemented by the book’s mural-like illustrations. – Harper, $16.99 (4 and up)

**I’m a Shark**, Bob Shea

What does Shark fear? The dark? Don’t make him laugh. A scary movie? Whatever. Dinosaurs? HA! Everybody knows that dinosaurs are scared of sharks, duh. There is, however, one itsy bitsy thing that Shark fears. Can you guess? Shea’s zany hero is sure to put a smile on any child’s face. – Harper, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Pirates of the Sea!**, Brandon Dorman

“No cryin’/ No dyin’/ No brushin’ yer teeth!/ No stealin’/ No squealin’/ No eatin’ Parrot Pete!/ No nappin’/ No scrappin’/ No wimpy moans or groans!/ No veggies/ No wedgies/ No disobeyin’ Cap’n
**This Plus That: Life’s Little Equations**, Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Jen Corace
The author of the phenomenally popular *Cookies: Bite-sized Life Lessons*, scores with another clever feel-good book. Using plus signs and equal marks, the author adds up the good things in life: “laughter + keeping secrets + sharing = best friend.” Who can argue with math like that? – Harper, $14.99 (4 and up)

**You Can’t Eat a Princess!**, Gillian Rogers, illustrated by Sarah McIntyre
When Princess Spaghetti receives word that her beloved father, King Cupcake, has been kidnapped by aliens, she interrupts her birthday party and fearlessly zooms off in a spaceship to find him. Does she succeed? Young readers will have a good time finding out. (P.S. Don’t be surprised if you experience a sudden craving for chocolate.) – Penguin, $9.99 (4 and up)

**Scapegoat**, Dean Hale
Poor Oat the Goat gets blamed for everything at Jimmy Choat’s house. That’s because Jimmy’s parents don’t understand the language of goat; it takes a kindly neighbor, Bert Sproat, to sort out who is causing trouble and who is the real scapegoat. Silly rhymes combine with this story to create a fun read-aloud with just a small lesson in good behavior. – Anne Holman, Bloomsbury, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Zoomer’s Summer Snowstorm**, Ned Young
Is it possible to take a snow cone machine and use it to turn summer into winter? If your name is Zoomer the answer is “yes.” Zoomer’s high-octane antics will entertain young readers while (possibly) and perhaps fondly) reminding their grandparents of the Hanna Barbera character, Ricochet Rabbit. Fantastic illustrations! – Harper, $16.99 (4 and up)

**Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad**, David Somar, illustrated by Jacky Davis
Ladybug Girl returns in this good-natured story about Lulu and her pals (aka “the Bug Squad”). All four friends have fun as they avoid a sea of lava, confront an army of golden giants, and paint Bug Squad pictures. In fact, it’s a perfect playdate . . . until someone’s feelings get hurt. Will Ladybug Girl come to the rescue? – Dial, $16.99 (3 and up)

**The Great Big Book of Families**, Mary Hoffman, illustrated by Ros Asquith
Once upon a time most families in storybooks had a father, a mother, a couple of kids, and a couple of pets. While some families still look that way in real life, many of them don’t. This kind-hearted, even-handed book celebrates all kinds of families and how they live. Lovely. – Dial, $16.99 (all ages)
Junonia, Kevin Henkes
Alice and her family are making their annual trip to Sanibel Island off the coast of Florida. Alice is excited for all of the traditions of the previous years, but when things don’t go the way she expects, this quiet little novel takes some surprising turns. Alice, searching for a rare Junonia shell, finds a lot more than a shell on this trip. Kevin Henkes creates a beautiful seaside world, full of inquisitive tender characters. As an added bonus, he adds life to the story with his fine line drawings. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, $15.99 (8 and up)

The Royal Treatment, Lindsey Leavitt
We loved Princess for Hire and are excited to find out what happens to Desi next. She’s back in Idaho trying to get to Level 2 as a SUB, and working on the play at the high school. Meanwhile, at Facade, Meredith and Lilith are jockeying for position and trying to keep the ancient secrets of the magic silt. When Desi gets the plum assignment to sub for a young movie star, she has to balance all of her worlds and try to make sense of her own growing MP (magical potential). A lot of unanswered questions and a hint of romance will have readers looking forward to the next installment. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Disney, $16.99 (10 and up)

The Ogre of Oglefort, Eva Ibbotson (August)
British author Eva Ibbotson passed away in 2010. Her last book is a funny, creative story that’s a delight to read. A group of magical people are sent to the castle of the Ogre of Oglefort to rescue the Princess Mirella. A series of misunderstandings creates a humorous and engrossing story. The characters are engaging and the twists and turns will satisfy every reader. – Sally Larkin, Penguin, $16.99 (8 and up)

The Friendship Doll, Kirby Larson
Kirby Larson was researching her book, Hattie Big Sky, when she came across an old black-and-white photo of a young woman holding a most exquisite doll. This is where the seed for The Friendship Doll started to grow. In 1927, Japan sent 58 Japanese dolls to the U.S. as ambassadors of good will. This story is told from the point of view of one of those dolls, Miss Kawanaga. Like another famous toy, Edward Tulane in The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, Miss Kawanaga finds that a heart is a very important thing. Larson challenges readers to see the impact of this historical gift through the eyes of various girls who come into contact with Miss Kawanaga. There is also a challenge to discover the whereabouts of the missing 13 dolls. This is a terrific read for historical fiction fans, and for readers who simply love a great story. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, $16.99 (10 and up)

Long-Distance Love, or Grandma Knows Best
Kathy Gifford is a grandmother three times over. And, although she lives in Provo, she’s a longtime customer of TKE. When she comes into the store to buy books for her grandchildren, she buys not one but two of each. Why? Because she sends a copy of each of the books she’s picked to the grandchild for whom it was chosen and keeps one for herself. She then calls them long-distance and reads to them. Thus, a child in Lubbock, Texas can turn pages and follow along as a grandmother in Salt Lake reads aloud. We all know that nothing draws children closer to their parents and grandparents than sharing a book, and Kathy Gifford has found a way to do so over a distance of half the country. We salute her.
Catherine Fisher is producing great work at a prodigious pace! We just finished reading *Incarceron* and *Sapphique* and now *The Dark City*, the first of a four-installment series, has arrived. The publisher plans to release one book a month this summer. The series is set in Anara, a world that is falling apart. A master and his apprentice might be the only thing between Anara and complete destruction. Fisher takes objects and places we know and makes them barely recognizable in a book with a cliffhanger ending, tantalizing clues, and, best of all, only a short wait for the rest of the story – Margaret Brennan Neville, *Penguin*, $16.99 (12 and up)

*Editor's Note: this is the first in the set that is part of a special promotion in our Summer Reading Program.*

*Wolfsbane*, Andrea Cremer (August)

Calla has no idea where she is when she wakes up in this riveting sequel to *Nightshade*. When she ran from her future mate, Ren, in book 1, she put her pack, her family, her future at risk. Now she also has to figure out who her enemies really are and decide who she loves. With the searchers’ help, she might be able to save her pack and herself.

Another great read! – Margaret Brennan Neville, *Penguin*, $17.99 (Teen)

*Paradise*, Jill S. Alexander (July)

For Paisley Tillery life has always been about one thing: drumming. But, as Paisley’s dreams come closer to becoming reality with the approaching Texapalooza music festival, things don’t go exactly as planned. Paisley’s plans hit a speed bump when she meets Paradise, the charming cowboy with a smoky voice who sweeps Paisley off her feet and teaches her that there’s more to life than drumming. *Paradise* is a romantic read with the twanging Texas heart of an old country song! – Claire Friedman, *Feiwel and Friends*, $16.99 (teen)

*The Game of Triumphs*, Laura Powell (August)

Cat notices a desperate man running through the subway in her introduction to the ancient alternate world called Arcanum—which is called a game, but it is really a place ruled by Tarot cards, full of shifting political agendas, good and bad. When Cat falls into the “Reign of Past Pleasure,” she realizes that she does not know everything about her parents’ death. Cat is a “chancer” or a fool, and along with the other fools can change the game. It is the details that make this fantasy so much fun. Clever use of the Tarot deck! – Margaret Brennan Neville, *Random House*, $16.99 (12 and up)

**Events for Kids to Young Adults**

*Scapegoat*  
**Wednesday, June 22, 5 p.m.** Dean Hale will present his brand-new picture book *Scapegoat: The Story of a Goat Named Oat and a Chewed-up Coat*.

The goat is very often responsible for the disappearance of many things! Wacky illustrations created by Michael Stack contribute to the hilarity. Be on the lookout for goats!

*Heist Society*  

*Supernaturally*  
**Saturday, August 6, 2 p.m.** Kiersten White will read from and sign the second volume in her debut trilogy for young adult readers, *Supernaturally*. White was born and raised in Utah, graduated from BYU and now lives near the ocean in San Diego.

She’s coming back to Salt Lake and she’s FUN AS EVER! Join us at the bookstore on Monday, July 11th at 10 a.m. when Junie B. and Mr. Woo join us for some fun & games summer style!
**INKSLINGER’S INKSLINGERS**

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**SALE!**

**JUNE 9-12**
(THURSDAY-SUNDAY)

**HARDCOVER BOOKS**
30% OFF

**BUY THREE OR MORE**
40% OFF

**EVERYTHING ELSE**
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SPECIAL ORDERS AND GIFT CARDS NOT INCLUDED

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**CALLING ALL JUNIE B. JONES FANS...**

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**Come See Me and My Stupid Smelly Bus!**

**Monday, July 11**
10 a.m.
at The King’s English Bookshop

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