Actually, it’s no secret to our regular customers that mystery novels of all sorts and sizes are a favorite here at TKE—so much so that they get a room of their own, presided over by Agatha Christie’s portrait and Edgar Allan Poe’s raven. We’re always happy to recommend a new mystery and each of us has different tastes so find your match and be forever content (or at least as content as a daily mystery can make you).

Paula Longhurst, our resident Brit, loves a good, dark, very dark, thriller. When she’s not working at the store, she’s working on a mystery of her own, and if you’d like to read more about what she’s up to, head on over to her blog, EnglishRosesLoveRain.blogspot.com. Paula is responsible for the Mystery Menu you’ll find on the desk in our “room at the top of the stairs.” It’s there to help you find a book to match your taste. Like your martini shaken, not stirred? How about John le Carré or William Boyd? Happier with a Shir-so much about the willful credulity of Kirn himself as it is about his sociopathic subject. When, years after their first meeting, Clark asked if he could come to stay for a couple of weeks, Kirn, by now a new father with writing deadlines to meet, turned him down. The tale of the author’s awakening from the spellbound state into which he had fallen is easily as fascinating as the tale of the sociopath—together they make for a riveting, psychologically astute and deeply unsettling book. – Paula Longhurst, Norton, $25.95

Editor’s note: Walter Kirn will visit TKE to read from and discuss his book on Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.

The Painter, Peter Heller
Grief, fishing, art, love, violence: all are ingredients in a book that hooks you savagely and completely on page one and holds you utterly in thrall. After the death of his daughter and the disintegration of his marriage, Jim Stegner has left the art scene in Santa Fe to settle in rural Colorado, hoping to fish his way out of despair, paint away the rage he can’t shake and doesn’t understand; instead he finds the violence he’d hoped to escape. It happens fast in the way of such things and Stegner heads back to Santa Fe to settle in rural Colorado, hoping to fish his way out of despair, paint away the rage he can’t

SHOW YOUR WORK
Wednesday, April 16, 7 p.m. Austin Kleon, author of the bestselling creative manifesto Steal Like an Artist will present his new book of timeless advice.

BURYAL RITES
Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. Australian author Hannah Kent will read from and sign her literary debut, inspired by the true story of the final days of a young woman accused of murder in Iceland in 1829. See review p. 6.

JOSH HANAGARNE
Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. The World’s Strongest Librarian returns for the paperback release of his bestselling memoir. See review p. 9.

THE INKSLINGER
Spring 2014

by Anne Holman

Two Books (and Events) to Die For

Blood Will Out, Walter Kirn
Part “48 Hours,” part memoir, Kirn’s latest details his 15-year friendship with the man who called himself Clark Rockefeller. They first met when Kirn transported a crippled shelter dog for Rockefeller, and he makes no bones about the fact that he had wanted to cultivate the young and rather secretive banker from that famous family, knowing he’d be great material. At the time Kirn had no idea how great. He was then an aspiring author, Up in the Air hadn’t happened yet, and he helped out with the dog as a favor for some friends in his new Montana home. His subsequent relationship with the man whose name turned out to be Gerhartsreiter rather than Rockefeller and whose unsavory past included kidnapping and murder is as much about the willful credulity of Kirn himself as it is about his sociopathic subject. When, years after their first meeting, Clark asked if he could come to stay for a couple of weeks, Kirn, by now a new father with writing deadlines to meet, turned him down. The tale of the author’s awakening from the spellbound state into which he had fallen is easily as fascinating as the tale of the sociopath—together they make for a riveting, psychologically astute and deeply unsettling book. – Paula Longhurst, Norton, $25.95

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World Book Night is April 23rd! Find out how you can participate and share your love of reading www.us.worldbooknight.org.
Lovers at the Chameleon Club: Paris, 1932, Francine Prose

A cast of characters so vivid, so real, you’re sure you’re reading history; a city as glittering as any in the world at a time when that world is changing utterly and forever; a surreal and sophisticated nightclub where people go both to reveal and to revel in whomever they are. Welcome to the Chameleon Club circa 1932. Meet its habitués: Hungarian photographer Gabor Tsenyi and writer Lionel Maine who wander the streets of Paris searching for drinks and for fame; Lily de Rossignol, patron of the arts, who has married into a luxury car dynasty and who loves both her husband and Gabor (who loves another); and the thrumming heart of the novel, Lou Villars, an outcast athlete, cross-dressing race-car driver, soon-to-be-Nazi villain who is searching all the while for self and for love. These are but a few in the stunning panoply of characters spangling the universe Prose has created, their mingling voices weaving a tale as subversive and satiric as it is bewitching. Prepare to be intoxicated, tricked (because whose memory, after all, can be trusted?), and enthralled by this blindingly good novel about fascism, feminism, art, love and war. To call this a tour-de-force would be crass understatement. – Betsy Burton, Harper, $26.99

Editor's note: Not available until April 22

Bark, Lorrie Moore

This beautifully crafted book of stories, Moore’s first since her much-lauded 1998 collection Birds of America, showcases her sharp observations concerning experiences we all face. In “Debarking,” the attempts of a newly divorced man to keep his wits about him during the ominous beginnings of the Iraq War portray the perils of navigating new waters personally and as a nation at war, providing moments of dark humor in the process. “Wings” relates the fate of two talented musicians who did not hold fast to their dreams, detailing the dead ends they encountered as a result and the consequent working out of regret. Some stories are laugh-out-loud funny, others are heart-rending, but all are beautifully wrought and illuminate the human condition. – Jan Sloan, Knopf $25

The Plover, Brian Doyle

In plot and tone the seafaring novel The Plover lies somewhere between Moby-Dick and Three Men in a Boat. Hard to imagine, but true. The cast of characters is eccentric: a mad (in all senses of the word) Irish Oregonian with a jury-rigged fishing trawler; his old fishing buddy, numinous disabled daughter in tow; a monumental and monumentally sad island woman—all adrift in the South Seas, hunted, haunted by the
Ahab of the tale, Enrique, captain of a rogue Russian trawler. The sea provides plenty of room for rumination, yet the boat is a closed world where people (and gulls—did I mention the gull?) have a hard time hiding from one another. The relationships that spawn and bloom, darken and shred, pull at our imagination as surely as the lurking trawler. Like all good tales of the sea, The Plover has a tidal rhythm, an ebb and flow of action. But it’s full of enchantment, too. And of compassion and humor and wisdom. It’s an unusual book, and I loved it. – Betsy Burton, Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin’s Press, $24.99

**The Blazing World**, Siri Hustvedt

Wheels within wheels, identities within identities, stories within stories. If the structure of Hustvedt’s latest novel sounds convoluted, it is. Especially if you throw in the narrative voices of the protagonist, her family, her fellow artists, her friends and lovers, the art critics who weigh in on her work, not to mention the philosophers and scientists heavily represented in footnotes. But oddly enough this novel really does blaze despite its complications and confusions, in part because of the deliciously byzantine plot and in part because of the sheer unadulterated zest of the writing. Harriet (Harry) is a large woman with little regard for her body or self but for whom art has always been second nature. Married to a famous art critic who eclipsed any possible role she might have had in the art world, she and her work have been ignored by her contemporaries, at least in part because she’s a woman. Once widowed, Harry discovers anger. She finds three male artists to serve as front-men and creates three separate art installations just to see what will happen. What does happen, especially with the third, is the stuff of the last half of this blistering, often erotic, and wildly inventive tale. More Umberto Eco than John Grisham, *The Blazing World* won’t be to everyone’s taste. But it will appeal to those who love the audacious—whether in terms of character or culture, scorching plotlines or scholarship. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $26

**The Enchanted**, Rene Denfeld

In an unnamed prison, a death row inmate who was a lifer before the ‘incident,’ spends all his free time in the prison library. He contrasts the brutality of prison life with the ability to roam through the literary images stored in his head. Not all are prisoners. There are the fallen priest, the warden, the corrupt guard and the lady. The prisoner worries for the lady—her job is to exonerate death row inmates and her latest project is York, who thinks the world would be better without him in it. *The Enchanted* is a strangely beautiful novel about life, death and redemption. – Paula Longhurst, Harper, $25.99

**The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**, Gabrielle Zevin

A.J. Fikry is a mess. His wife has died and he’s running the bookstore they ran together into the ground. Until, that is, someone leaves a baby in the store, and A.J. ends up a sudden, surrogate parent. If all of this sounds a tad sentimental, it is, in a tickle-your-funny-bone, make you laugh-‘til-you-cry way. Because A.J.’s a cynic—about people, about books, about the business of books, about romance, and about possibility—a cynic with a well-developed sense of irony and a wonderful literary sensibility. The result? In Zevin’s hands what might have been sentimental is funny. Very funny. And, in the end, superbly satisfying. *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* is fast-moving, feisty in terms of the book business, felicitous in terms of feelings—and for anyone who likes books, or better still, the business of books, it’s a joy. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin Books, $24.95

**And the Dark Sacred Night**, Julia Glass

As she did so brilliantly in *The Three Junes*, Glass succeeds in melting a huge cast of characters into a sublime and velvety-smooth whole: Daphne and Jasper raised three great sons in a tiny northern Vermont ski town; Jasper still lives there with his sled dogs and shows no surprise when Kit comes to stay. Sandra and Kit struggle to raise their twins on too little money and too many secrets; Lucinda and Zeke have lost their way in the wake of Zeke’s stroke as they still mourn the loss of their son Malachy. Fenno, a major character from *The Three Junes*, is still dispensing calm in the midst of chaos but this new novel doesn’t rely solely on the old. Glass harbors a rare understanding of the human condition, the urges that drive us, what makes us laugh and cry and love and hate and succeed and fail in a story that will keep you up...
late and make you sad when it ends. One of her favorite writers (and mine) is Robertson Davies; I think if he were still alive, she would be one of his. —Kathy Ashton, Pantheon, $26.95

Funny Once, Antonya Nelson
As with all great short story writers —Alice Munro and Mavis Gallant for instance—Antonya Nelson has the ability to look at all of humanity as the flawed individuals that we are and realize that we are doing the best that we can in order to get by in our unique situations. Realistically hopeful, beautifully rendered, each story is a small masterpiece. I agree with Michael Chabon’s comment; "I scan the tables of contents of magazines, looking for Antonya Nelson’s name, hoping that she has decided to bless us again.” Well said, Mr. Chabon. —Jan Sloan, Bloomsbury Press, $26

The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd
Based on the actual life of Sarah Grimke, an early abolitionist, this fictionalized account of her life in a wealthy Charleston household begins when she’s an 11-year-old in 1803, and follows her through the subsequent 37 years. When she was but 4 years old, she witnessed an event so terrible that her speech was affected for the rest of her life. Upon her eleventh birthday, she was given a 10-year-old slave, Hetty "Handful" Grimke, as a lady-in-waiting. The unlikely pairing of these two establishes a complex relationship marked with guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. The novel examines a horrific period in American history through the eyes of women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave readers deeply moved. —Sue Fleming, Viking, $27.95

Outside, Barry Lopez, engravings by Barry Moser
The tales in this small collection have previously appeared in three of Mr. Lopez’s earlier books. What makes this collection remarkable is its range, the reminder of the very narrow divide between the human and animal worlds—and, of course, the beautiful woodcut engravings by Barry Moser. The book was originally published as a limited edition by David Pascoe at Nawakum Press in Santa Rosa, California; it is now available to an even wider audience. We all need to read and take to heart the relationship we as humans have with the natural world. —Jan Sloan, Trinity University Press, $27.95

Astonish Me, Maggie Shipstead
Defection, reflection, conception, memory, love, hate, friendship, talent—all play a role in the ballet that brings this wonderful novel to life. Harry and Chloe grow up together in the dance classes taught by his mother Joan, who once danced in the corps de ballet of American Ballet Theatre, this country’s premier ballet company. Harry, more smitten by Chloe than she is by him, is both daring and über-talented; both are offered summer apprenticeships at ABT. Joan was once in love with gorgeous Arslan Ruskov, a young Russian who defected to the U.S. and became a sensation at ABT where he jumped higher, pirouetted faster, partnered better than any of his American counterparts. And he is now ABT’s premier danseur and decision-maker. To learn the ending of this fascinating tale, you’ll have to read it for yourself. —Kathy Ashton, Knopf, $25.95

The Serpent of Venice, Christopher Moore
His latest work may be the funniest yet: a send-up of Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado,” of The Merchant of Venice, Othello: The Moor of Venice and of course King Lear, from whence the fool Pocket acquired his lady-love Cordelia. Pocket makes his way to Venice accompanied by Drool, his quite-dim apprentice; Jeff, his monkey; no brain trust either; Jones, his bright assistant who is no more than a wooden stick covered with bells and possessed of a strident voice; and a very vicious dark green lady dragon (the serpent of the title), whose talons can eviscerate a man in seconds. With characters like these, who needs a plot, but there is one, lifted pretty much from all three plays and Poe’s short story. Prepare to laugh yourself silly. —Kathy Ashton, Morrow, $26.99

The Steady Running of the Hour, Justin Go
Tristan Campbell, a young American living in San Francisco, is contacted by solicitors in London and told that he must quickly meet them there as he may be the missing heir to a fabulous fortune. Tristan’s quest takes him to London, Paris, Berlin, Iceland, and Sweden, and along the way he learns of his great-grandparents’ ill-fated tryst. They had met briefly in 1916 before his great-grandfather, Ashley Walsingham, was to leave for the Western Front. Ashley was a British soldier and enthusiastic mountaineer, and also heir to an immense fortune which he left in trust for 80 years for his lover or her heirs. If unclaimed it would be given to a number of institutions. Tristan has two months to find documentation of his lineage. What follows is an historical trek through WWI, a tragic expeditionary climb on Mt. Everest, and a search for self—for all the characters in this memorable novel. —Sue Fleming, Simon & Schuster, $26
**FICTION**

**The Promise**, Ann Weisgarber

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was a sleepy tropical island of around 30,000, home to a growing port crowded with ships, the town's outskirts dotted with coastal farms with small commercial fishing boats docked at piers interspersed among them. An idyllic place to live, really, until an enormous tropical storm devastated the area, destroying almost everything in its path. What the high winds didn’t blow down, the floodwater damaged. As survivors reached out to help their neighbors, the Wileys took 5-year-old Andre Williams into their hearts as well as their home. This is a tale of overwhelming loss and extraordinary courage that will leave you marveling at the indomitable strength of the human spirit. – Kathy Ashton, Skyhorse, $24.95

**The Castle of Whispers**, Carole Martinez

If you are a woman living in the 12th century in France your choices are very limited, even if you are a noblewoman. Esclarmonde's father has arranged a betrothal to a brutal knight she has no wish to marry. Her solution is to cut off her trothal to a brutal knight she has no wish... [Continued]

**Northanger Abbey**, Val McDermid

In this wonderful satire of Austen's Northanger Abbey, the characters and their conversation may be modern, but McDermid’s insight into the human condition jives with Austen's, even though the contemporary version is couched in text-messages and researched on computers. Prepare to laugh loud and often. – Kathy Ashton, Grove Atlantic, $25

**Be Safe I Love You**, Cara Hoffman

When Lauren Clay returns from Iraq to her small hometown, no one except her father’s best friend Peej, a Vietnam vet, and her U.S. Army exit counselor/psychologist, realizes she is suffering from PTSD. She was an exemplary soldier, a medal recipient, a firefighter veteran. Her best friend Holly, a single mother who runs a bar, talks about old boyfriends and the two seem to re-establish the closeness they had once had. When Lauren left for Iraq, she had turned down a voice scholarship from Curtis, one of this country’s most prestigious music schools, because she needed the Army’s $20,000 signing bonus plus a guaranteed monthly salary to support her unemployed father and little brother. This wonderful novel offers a magnificent example of the resilience of the human spirit, one that will make you want to stand up and cheer as Lauren fights, and defeats, the demons that followed her home. – Kathy Ashton, Simon & Schuster, $26

**Casebook**, Mona Simpson

This complex and riveting tale is narrated by two preteens, Miles and his pal Hector, who don’t trust Elie, Miles’ newly divorced mother's recently acquired boyfriend. Supposedly, he lives in Washington D.C. and flies back and forth from there to California to see 'the Mims,' as the boys refer to her. Both are very bright and relentless in their campaign: they bug her phone, monitor her calls, rifle through her drawers, read her diary, and eventually hire a private detective who becomes their counselor, friend, facilitator, protector and refuses their money. Funny as the boys’ shenanigans are, they mask the depths to which the author mines the human condition. Humorous and heartbreaking, wise yet reserved, this wonderful novel reveals the lengths we will go to protect the people we love. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, $25.95

**The Wily O'Reilly**, Patrick Taylor

Early on, as Taylor was creating the characters who would eventually mark the Irish Country Doctor series set in a small village... [Continued]
outside Belfast during the 1960s, he wrote short stories for various medical journals, stories that illustrate the birth and growth of Doctor Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly, Maureen "Kinky" Kincaid, Barry Laverty and others. If you are a fan, as I am, you will enjoy this collection, written in much the same way as James Herriot's All Creatures Great and Small—gentle, humorous and informative. – Sue Fleming, Forge, 25.99

The Shadow Queen, Sandra Gulland

This adventure tale is set in 17th-century France during the reign of Louis XIV, the "Sun King," and features his long-time mistress, Athénaïs de Montespan, the "Shadow Queen," and her maid Claudette des Ouellettes, a former actress. Their paths cross by accident while Claudette is still performing in what was then a less-than-respectable profession with a troupe managed by the playwright and actor Racine. De Montespan's position is tenuous at best as she struggles to hold the interest of a man famed for his wandering eye. A great read that will keep you glued to the page. – Kathy Ashton, Harper, $25.95

Burial Rites, Hannah Kent

Accompanied by a man of God who is clearly out of his depth, a woman is taken by horseback across the bleak winter landscape to settle in with a family who wants no part of her. The landscape and people of Iceland evoke not only a sense of time and place but also grim context, forming stage, cast, and audience for the unspooling tale that has brought this mysterious woman to her present position: a prisoner awaiting execution for a crime she may or may not have committed. The truth, as it slowly emerges, seems inevitable since it grows so surely out of the characters. Hannah Kent has written a stunning novel, one which takes historical truth and, through the art of fiction, brings it to vivid life. The fact that it's her first makes Burial Rites even more impressive. – Betsy Burton, Back Bay Books, $15 Editor's note: Hannah Kent will read from and discuss her new book on Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m. at TKE.

The Shelter Cycle, Peter Rock

The Shelter Cycle begins with two 10-year-olds who belong to a religious cult that hypothesizes the end of the world. Three pages in, we meet these same two characters as adults: Francine, married, pregnant, preoccupied with the search for a missing girl; Colville, who has come to see Francine for the first time since their shared childhood, and who is likewise obsessed by the missing girl. As memory reaches out for them, tugging them back into the world of their childhood, the world of the "Messenger" and the "Elementals," of the underground compound in which they were once housed, the reader is pulled willy-nilly in their wake. Rock's language is a canny mix of narration and interiority, his dialogue juxtaposes the jargon of the sect with the ordinary chatter of kitchen tables and bedrooms, and the land is evoked subtly yet powerfully until all of this—land, home, past, beliefs, family—forms a present that seems at once inescapable and unexpectedly redemptive. This is a strange and mesmerizing tale, one that sheds light on the unexpected facets of characters whom we've pigeonholed in our minds. Rock somehow manages to draw those characters in ways that make us understand what impels them from the inside, feel empathy as well as repugnance, understanding as well as dread. Never has this been more true than in his latest novel. I can't quit thinking about it. – Betsy Burton, Mariner Books, $14.95

Spirit Walk, Jay Treiber

This is one of the most haunting novels I have read for some time. Kevin McNally, a college English professor in Arizona, has been troubled for the past 32 years by a violent incident that occurred when he was 17 years old. Treiber jostles the reader onto mules with an unwilling Kevin to revisit the events, forcing them and Kevin himself to deal with an inner turmoil of regret, guilt and confusion. The landscape of southern Arizona and northern Mexico provides a stunning setting for the events peopled by innocent teens, their families, drug runners and various law enforcement officers. The writing takes you there, making you part of the tragedy in another winner from Torrey House Press. – Sue Fleming, Torrey House, $15.95

The Flamethrowers, Rachel Kushner

Following the success of her critically acclaimed debut novel, Telex from Cuba, Kushner returns with an engaging tale of 1970s New York City. In a heavily layered prose that wraps itself around its readers, this vividly rendered work follows Reno, the young, artistic-minded Westerner, as she searches for herself by way of breakneck experimentation with speed and her artwork. Hooking up with an Italian motorcycle heir and a band of revolutionaries, Reno must courageously confront difficult questions about her art, her femininity, and, most intimately, her own identity. – Aaron J. Cance, Scribner’s, $17
The Divide: American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap, Matt Taibbi

Taibbi deftly presents the modern dystopia in which we find ourselves, a dystopia where the mania of the state isn’t found in its secrecy or censorship as much as in its unfairness. Obsessed with success and wealth and despising failure and poverty, our society is systematically dividing the population into winners and losers, using institutions like courts to speed the process. Winners get rich and get off. Losers go broke and go to jail. Taibbi presents circumstances, one after another, to show what we have known for some time.

Crime is down, poverty is down, and yet prisons are exploding with people convicted of minor crimes while white-collar crime goes unprosecuted. Read it and weep. – Sue Fleming, Spiegel & Grau, $27

Dying Every Day: Seneca at the Court of Nero, James Romm

Ancient Rome was home to extremes of all kinds, and Seneca represented almost all of them in one person. He was a renowned philosopher and stoic who also acted as a tutor and guide to Nero, one of the worst tyrants in Roman history. To what degree Seneca enabled some of Nero’s greatest excesses as well as those of his mother has kept historians busy for centuries. To some he is a hero and to others little more than a criminal. Romm’s depiction of life in Nero’s Rome is a shocking contrast to the meditations attributed to Seneca the philosopher. He deftly explains the politics and brutality which was such an intricate part of Roman society. It’s a gripping true story adroitly told. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $27.97

The Bohemians, Ben Tarnoff

Americans who garnered their first accolades writing from the far West include Ina Coolbrith; Bret Harte, the group’s Pasha and editor; Jack London; and the inimitable Mark Twain who made his indelible mark on the world of letters first from Carson City, Nevada. Twain discovered San Francisco’s brothels and saloons and wild night life while writing for Bret Harte’s The Californian and later his Overland Monthly. Both men developed multitudes of East Coast readers through stories in the Atlantic Monthly, which eventually offered Harte $10,000 ($217,000 in today’s money) for monthly articles. Well-written, funny, and absolutely charming, one of the best literary histories of 19th century writers in years. – Kathy Ashton, Penguin, $27.95

Seven Flowers and How They Shaped Our World, Jennifer Potter

Horticultural historian Potter, offers readers insights into seven flowers: lotus, lily, sunflower, opium poppy, rose, tulip and orchid. Their earliest records, religious and political connections, financial impacts and literary influences are tracked around the globe. For serious botany lovers or others just curious about their favorite flower, Potter offers interesting insights—for instance, the connection between the wrapping of female feet and the lotus flower, or the tension between the lily and rose in early Christian followers. – Sue Fleming, Overlook, $26

My Salinger Year, Joanna Rakoff

Imagine that you’re a freshly minted graduate of a prestigious undergraduate writing program and the first job you apply for is at a famous, well-respected Manhattan literary agency. The firm avoids computers like the plague and the only two job requirements are fast and accurate typing on an IBM Selectric and answering J.D. Salinger’s fan mail. Yes, THAT Salinger, and the job of a lifetime in the Big Apple. Rakoff aces the job interview and talks to Jim—as he is known in the office confines—on a fairly regular basis as well as other celebrity clients in what may be one of the most charming literary memoirs ever. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, $26.95

Extreme Medicine, Kevin Fong, M.D.

Anesthesiologist, intensive care expert and NASA researcher, Kevin Fong has written a fascinating and informative book about the advancement of science during the 20th century and the resultant medical breakthroughs. Each chapter focuses on one of the modern limits of survivability—extremes of cold, heat, critical illness, traumatic injury, disease, war, vacuum and finally, old age. Within each chapter the advancements of both technology and exploration have likewise enhanced artificial means to prolong life. For example, the chapter “Ice” revisits Robert Falcon Scott’s ill-fated expedition to the South Pole in 1912 and considers how we came to understand the threat of hypothermia and later turn it to our advantage. Consider that soon we will be sending travelers to Mars, again pushing the limits of technology and human capacity for survival. What is learned along the way will further impact modern medicine. Dr. Fong presents an organized and insightful look at medicine of yesterday, today and tomorrow. – Sue Fleming, Penguin, $27.95
Sous Chef: 24 Hours on the Line, Michael Gibney

The kitchen of a fine restaurant feels more like the gates of hell than a professional workplace. One person runs the show—the executive chef. The work surfaces must be maintained in immaculate condition in a starred restaurant, and the ingredients, of consummate freshness, must be well-handled (refrigerated, iced, toasted, stirred, whisked) so that they stay that way throughout the meal. Gibney is a sous chef; he orders, stores, and monitors the quality of the food, as well as deciding what his white-clad army, the line cooks, need at the various stations where they fill the orders with an exactitude that would do justice to an operating room. Gibney is more than a chef: he also holds an M.F.A. in literary nonfiction writing from Columbia and an M.A. in painting from Pratt Institute, so his descriptions make you want just a tiny taste of everything. By the end of the book I could almost smell the aromas and see the small masterpieces painted with fresh food. – Kathy Ashton, Ballentine, $25

Slices of Life: A Food Writer Cooks Through Many a Conundrum, Leah Eskin

How nice to have a book for those foodies in our lives in the middle of the year, not just at Christmas. This volume of pieces from the writer of the "Home on the Range" column, published in the Chicago Tribune, is accompanied by delicious recipes to help us get through those ‘conundrums’ in life that confound us all. A great addition to the library of any lover of great food and great stories. – Jan Sloan, Running Press, $26

The Galápagos, Henry Nicholls

A lovely and literate history and natural history, Nicholls’ lively book belongs on the bookshelf of every nature lover and in the backpack of any and every tourist venturing to the islands that Darwin made famous. Organized into chapters on habitat, plant life, birds of land and of sea, reptiles, and (sadly) humans, Nicholls’ book takes us from the islands’ volcanic origins to the ecotourism of today, narrating the fates of scientists, of flora and fauna alike, and convincing the reader in the process of just how vital the protection of this most remarkable chain of islands is. – Betsy Burton, Basic Books, $27.99

New Life, No Instructions: A Memoir, Gail Caldwell

Reading A Strong West Wind, Caldwell’s first memoir, seemed uncannily familiar, our coming-of-age experiences were so similar. Now, reading of her aging seems again achingly familiar. Her passion for her high-maintenance Samoyed puppy, Tula, the ecstasy and anguish of raising this glowing, healthy creature even while her own health and physical prowess declined seemed to parallel my own experiences (although my bête noir is not Samoyed but a Golden Doodle), in part, no doubt, because the experience of aging is so universal. The journey she travels, from denying the reality of her diminishing physical ability (out of misplaced fear) to encountering the medical world’s initial stupidity to the discovery of a doctor who recognized her problem and set about fixing it, will resonate with anyone over the age of 60 and no doubt with many far younger. And anyone who loves dogs will fall as madly for Tula as Caldwell did. Add to that the pastiche of love and pain involving mothers, fathers, friends, and lovers that she stirs into her tale, and we can’t help but be reminded of the good that lurks in the corners of all our lives...even (or perhaps especially) while we age. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $26

Celebrate spring in our neighborhood!

15th & 15th
The Dog Show
The Paris Bistro
Fresco Italian Cafe
Gallery
The King’s English Bookshop
Librarians are the guardians of free speech, right? But what happens when you have a syndrome that makes speaking difficult, at times even impossible? Josh Hanagarne began showing signs of Tourette’s syndrome as a young boy. While there is no known cure for the condition, many people are able to manage the symptoms with medication. Not so Josh; none of the drugs on the market worked for him and so he turned to other methods—specifically, strength training which, while it was good for him and made him stronger every day, didn’t really alleviate his battle with Tourette’s. In this brave and funny memoir, Josh uses the Dewey Decimal system to guide us through the ups and downs he has faced as “the world’s strongest librarian.” This is not simply a love letter to anyone who has built a life around books, but is also the moving autobiographical work of a gentle giant who refuses to let his sense of wonder about the world be displaced by his challenges, and an insightful exposition of what it’s like to wake ever morning and navigate life with Tourette’s syndrome. Ultimately, it’s his love of books and libraries that leads Josh to create a kind of truce with his Tourette’s, and in the process, shows us the lovely, crazy, and sometimes sad times a downtown city librarian lives through every day. Read this book and then go hug a librarian! – Anne Holman and Aaron Cance, Gotham, $17

**Murder on the Home Front: A True Story of Morgues, Murderers, and Mysteries**, Molly Lefebure

Who knew that reading about dissecting corpses could be so entertaining? This lively memoir recounting Lefebure’s reserve service as assistant to a brilliant pathologist during WWII will keep you smiling all the way through. A former journalist, she was hired away from her crime beat, pressed into service because she didn’t quake at the sight of blood, of corpses, or of being chauffeured by police drivers at top speed to murder scenes during bombing raids. As sharp-eyed as the photographer who joined the adventures, both the women became integral to the crime scene team that Scotland Yard deployed during the war. – Kathy Ashton, Grand Central, $14
The Accident, Chris Pavone
Populated by publishers, editors, and producers, agents, journalists and spies, The Accident more than lives up to the promise of Pavone's previous page-turner The Expats. It's dawn in Manhattan. Literary agent Isabel Reed has just turned the last page of an astonishing manuscript by an anonymous author; as an old hand in the publishing industry she knows just how explosive this exposé of a long-time media giant, a media conglomerate, not to mention the CIA, is going to be—although even she can't guess at how dangerous it actually is. Trouble is, the secret's already out of the bag. As we hurtle through a single day, darting from Isabel to her acquiring agent to his publisher, from CIA agents to murders in New York, Copenhagen, and Los Angeles, snippets of the manuscript titillate us, carrying us—and Isabel—back in time to where the truth lies buried. That The Accident rings true is no accident. Pavone has spent much of his adult life in publishing and knows whereof he speaks. His new book succeeds brilliantly as a mystery/thriller—fast-paced, intricate, sly and sophisticated—and also as a novel of the book industry, of corporate ambition, corporate greed and of the ways the past has of catching up to the present. On top of all that, it's a great read. – Betsy Burton, Crown, $26

Under a Silent Moon, Elizabeth Haynes
Operation Nettle: DCI Louisa Smith's first murder case as lead investigator. Who killed Polly Leuchars? Polly was a vital young woman who didn't know the meaning of the word monogamy. According to the village gossip of Briarstone she had slept with half the population; did one of them kill her? Complicating Lou's case is the apparent suicide of Polly's next-door neighbor. Polly's employer is Nigel Maitland, a crooked farmer with lawyers on tap whose daughter was in a relationship with Polly. Lou needs a result before the case goes cold and her resources get re-assigned. She'd be happy to lose her DI, Andy Hamilton (the very randy Andy) who spends far more time choosing his next conquest than he does carrying out orders. The rest of her team like and respect her and give her their best on what turns out to be a complex double murder containing multiple suspects, all of whom have valid reasons to be considered guilty, in a plot rife with intrigue, crime, and lots of very steamy sex. – Paula Longhurst and Kathy Ashton, Harper, $25.99

A Circle of Wives, Alice LaPlante
LaPlante, author of Turn of Mind, has penned a complicated mystery involving murder and polygamy. Plastic surgeon and beloved all-around medical savior John Taylor dies in a hotel room, apparently from a massive heart attack. When it turns out that the sainted surgeon has three wives (and another on the horizon), suspicions of homicide arise and an investigation is launched. LaPlante is gifted with insight into the eddies and undercurrents of any long-term relationship and, albeit in a poetic way, A Circle of Wives becomes a case study on marriage—the ways it can compromise and twist us and the ways it can bolster and even save us. John Taylor is no stage villain and neither are his wives; as in any good mystery, the solution to the murder, when it comes, makes as much sense in terms of character as it does in terms of plot. Not only a great read, LaPlante's latest is also an incisive look at women and the various roads they choose, the various ways they attempt to give their lives meaning. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly Press, $25

The Black-Eyed Blonde: A Philip Marlowe Novel, Benjamin Black
People have tried without much success to replicate the voice and persona of the noir detective, Philip Marlowe. Oddly enough it’s an Irish author, John Banville, writing under the pseudonym Benjamin Black, who has succeeded in capturing that quintessentially American voice where others have failed. His Marlowe is as susceptible to female beauty as his namesake, and as unable to control his cynical tongue, even in beauty’s presence. He’s also, in the manner of the American PI, ever-broke, too-often drunk, and eternally lonely. Thus, when the spectacular blonde of the title walks into his office he’s predictably interested—in her if not the case. She claims she’s just seen her ex-lover in San Francisco, which surprised her since she’d recently attended his funeral, and now she’d like Marlowe to find him. The plot thickens and the pace quickens as Marlowe steps into a world of wealth and glitter, of rich and restless characters whose motives are hard to read. The labyrinthine plot is full of surprises, but it is Marlowe’s laconic voice and wry sensibility that make this a marvel of a mystery, one decidedly up to the high standards of Raymond Chandler—perhaps not surprising since both Chandler and John Banville, albeit from different cultures and countries, were/are enormously talented writers. – Betsy Burton, Henry Holt, $27

Children of the Revolution, Peter Robinson
Like many of TKE’s favorite authors, Robinson has delivered a steady stream of wonderful mysteries featuring DCI Banks and his DI Annie, along with Winsome Jackson, their detective constable. In his latest tale, he introduces a team newcomer, Detective Constable Geraldine Masterson, an IT specialist who is a fearsome researcher, able to ferret out information on just about anything off the Internet, but also a dab hand at getting suspects to talk. They have just caught a new case, a former college professor named Gavin Miller, probably pushed off an unused railroad bridge near his tiny cottage. Miller

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taught at a local university until he was dismissed for being inappropriate with a student. He died a man with many secrets, including why he spent seven minutes on his cell phone with Lady Veronica Chalmers a week before he died. Like all Robinson’s previous mysteries, this one is terrific. – Kathy Ashton, Morrow, $25

**Alena**, Rachel Pasten

Alena, once the curator of the Nauq—a privately owned and funded Cape Cod museum dedicated to exhibiting cutting-edge contemporary art in the exclusive hamlet of Nauquasset—walked into the sea on a beautiful summer night, never to be seen or heard from again. At the Venice Biennale, Bernard Augustin, the museum’s founder, recruits a young curator who hates her position at a nameless Midwestern museum. After the Biennale, the two travel to Italy to see the trove of masterpieces concentrated there. Bernard escorts her to the Nauq, helps her move into a tiny dilapidated house behind the museum where she will live, introduces her to the staff, then leaves without instruction. The staff see her as an intruder trying to be a new Alena, and roadblock her every decision. Alena’s memory is the elephant in the room, lurking in every corner. What happened to Alena? You’ll have to read this compelling thriller to find out. – Kathy Ashton, Riverhead, $27.95

**Dark Invasion**, Howard Blum

It is 1915 in New York, a city beset by unrest due to its large population of immigrants, to labor disputes, and to the ongoing struggle for equality. The residents are already suspicious of each other and the authorities, and a sudden rash of bombings has the city in a tense mood, to put it mildly. Meanwhile an archduke is assassinated in Sarajevo, and Europe starts grinding toward war. America is committed to remaining neutral, but Germany knows that if the U.S. does enter the war the chances of a German victory are diminished. Germany, which has a vast and sophisticated spy network operating in all of the nations that will become the major combatants with the exception of the U.S., rushes to establish a spy network there with two purposes: 1) to keep the U.S. out of the conflict if possible and 2) if the U.S. does declare war against Germany, to sabotage her war industries and shipping capacity. Into this complicated situation steps an Irish immigrant, a New York Police Department captain, who must figure it all out and then break apart the spy ring. A great blend of history and a spy thriller wrapped up in one great read, this is an amazing story made all the more unreal because it actually happened. – Patrick Fleming, Harper, $27.99

**By Its Cover**, Donna Leon

In a genre taken over by serial killers and horrific crimes, a new book by the cerebral and sophisticated Donna Leon is always a treat. But Venetian Commissario Guido Brunetti engaged in an investigation of mysterious book thefts? Surely too good to be true. True it is, however; someone is snipping pages from rare books in a collection held by a prestigious Venetian library. Once the good Brunetti is called in, the thief is quickly identified—only to vanish. As we follow the Commissario along the ensuing paper trail, wandering the canals of Venice, stumbling across bodies and the pages of ancient volumes, crime has never seemed so delicious. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly Press, $26

**Murder in Pigalle**, Cara Black

Aimee Leduc and René, her partner at Leduc Detective, have plenty of work. With Paris in the sweaty grip of World Cup fever and Aimee feeling like a beached whale as she enters her second trimester, everyone keeps telling her to slow down. Aimee is doing the opposite. A serial rapist is attacking young girls in their own homes and when he escalates to murder, Zazie, the daughter of the proprietor of Aimee’s favorite café, goes missing, Aimee isn’t going to wait around like the flics; Zazie is running out of time. It may already be too late. – Paula Longhurst, Soho, $27.95

**Ruin Falls**, Jenny Milchman

Every mother’s worst nightmare is to lose sight of her children, even for a second. That nightmare is Liz Daniels’ world right now. Her children are missing, and so is her husband Paul. After a fruitless search, Liz returns to their home in Wedeskyull determined to shutter the perfect image that Professor Daniels projected to his students. She starts to look through his papers, his laptop and what she finds paints a disturbing picture. How long has he been planning this? And then the warnings start: if Liz digs too deep into Paul’s past she will be stopped. Liz is determined to risk everything to get her kids back—even her own life. – Paula Longhurst, Ballantine, $26 Editor’s note: Jenny Milchman will read from and discuss her book at TKE on Friday, May 16, 7 p.m.

**The Collector of Dying Breaths**, M. J. Rose

Jac L’Etoile’s beloved brother Robbie is close to death and the police suspect that the Chinese triads are behind the killing, which puts Jac in danger too. With his dying breath, Robbie urges her to complete a project he was working on at a magnificent chateau in Fontainebleau. When she meets the owner, an eccentric heiress, Jac learns of Rene la Florentine, plucked from a death sentence to become perfumier to Catherine de Medici. The queen didn’t just use him to make perfumes, he had pursued the heresy that a person’s soul could be preserved and transferred to another body, just by capturing their last breath. Robbie, along with Jac’s friend and lover Griffin North, was in the midst of recreating that formula, and, as Jac watches...
Rene’s heartbreaking story play out, the heiress becomes increasingly erratic. The woman will do anything to preserve her legacy no matter who is in her way. – Paula Longhurst, Atria, $28.99

The Word Exchange, Alena Graedon

In this debut novel set in the near future, print is dying and language, the very fabric of what makes us human, is under attack. Ana Johnson works for her father Doug on one of only two dictionaries left in print. The night he disappears is the night that Ana begins to fall out of love with the technology that her generation have become so dependent on. Ana, her friend Bart and the dwindling members of the Diachronic Society are the only obstacles standing in the path of the mighty Synchronic Corporation’s crusade to own language. But even Synchronic has no idea of the firestorm it is about to unleash. Graedon has taken our current technology obsession and extrapolated from there—you might cut down on your smartphone use after reading this. – Paula Longhurst, Random House, $26.95

The Intern’s Handbook, Shane Kuhn

Twenty-five-year-old John Lago, on the eve of his retirement, releases The Intern’s Handbook, a document that could get you killed just for possessing it. John’s employer, HR Inc. is an assassination bureau, and this is John’s version of a tell-all. Problem is that the FBI is already on the case in the seductive shape of Alice; she’s just John’s type, but he’s not sure how far down this particular rabbit hole he’s prepared to go. John throws the readers plenty of twists, turns and curveballs but will he make it to retirement or is The Intern’s Handbook posthumous? I guarantee you’ll never look at an intern the same way again. – Paula Longhurst, Simon & Schuster, $25
Graduation—whether from high school, college, or even kindergarten—is an important milestone. And it’s just around the corner! We’ve highlighted a few of our favorite milestone markers so you can shop early and be ready for that special day with your grad.

Kurt Vonnegut was one of a kind. In If This Isn’t Nice What Is? (Seven Stories Press, $21.95), a collection of his graduation speeches edited by Dan Wakefield, Vonnegut waxes funny and also serious, encouraging the next generation to be everything they can be. This Is Water: Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, about Living a Compassionate Life by David Foster Wallace is meaningful and unforgettable, while on a much lighter note, the inimitable Dr. Seuss has penned the preeminent graduation gift, Oh the Places You’ll Go.

We can all agree that excellent writing is a key tool for success after graduation. There are the classics, such as The Elements of Style (try the version illustrated by Maira Kalman!) and the Chicago Manual of Style. New from W. W. Norton this season is How to Write Anything by Laura Brown. This compact little book has advice for writing everything from an internship letter to a Powerpoint presentation—even an apology! For the budding scientist try Starlight Detectives: How Astronomers, Inventors, and Eccentrics Discovered the Modern Universe by Alan Hirschfield (Bellevue Literary Press, $19.95) and, new in paper, E. O. Wilson’s Letters to a Young Scientist (Liveright, $13.95).

For the younger grad we love 100 Things to Do Before You Grow Up (National Geographic, $9.99). Loaded with color photos and full of advice such as ride a rollercoaster, learn sign language, and make a friend of a different race, it’s a book the whole family can share. And You Are Not Special…and Other Encouragements from David McCullough, Jr. (Ecco, $21.99) is actually a call to action: Let kids be kids; let them fail; let them try again. By making mistakes and learning from them, our children learn empathy and self-confidence.

Last but not least is a book for grads and post-grads alike: How to Succeed in Business without Really Crying by Carole Leifer (Quirk, $19.95) is a very funny reminder to be open and remember to laugh. Leifer wrote many of the Seinfeld episodes and now writes for Modern Family. ‘Nuff said!
Book Clubs at The King’s English

Book Club books are 10% off if purchased at the store.

Armchair Travel Mystery
Open to the public, meets 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
April: Murder on the Orient Express, Agatha Christie (Istanbul)
May: Citizen Vince, Jess Walter (Spokane, WA)
June: Still Life, Louise Penny (Québec)

Brian Short Book Club
Open to the public, meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
April: Ender’s Game, Orson Scott Card
May: On The Road, Jack Kerouac

KSL/TKE Browser 5.0 Book Club
1st and 3rd Thursdays, 12:45 p.m. on KSL
3rd Saturday, 11 a.m. at TKE
March: Monument Road, Charlie Quimby
April: The Rosie Project, Graeme Simsion
May: Benediction, Kent Haruf
June: All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

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
April: Harvest, Jim Crace
May: Theft, B.K. Loren
June: Death of Bees, Lisa O’Donnell

Newman Center
Monthly at Newman Center, U of U
March: Tale for the Time Being, Ruth Ozeki

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
April 28, 29, 30: Independent People, Halldor Laxness (Part I)
May 27, 28, 29: Independent People, Halldor Laxness (Part II)
June 23, 24, 25: Behind the Beautiful Forevers, Katherine Boo

SLC Lesbian Book Club
Open to the public, meets 1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE
April: Nevada, Imogen Binnie
May: The Summer We Got Free, Mia McKenzie

Slow Food Utah Book Club
Open to the public, meets 3rd Wednesday every other month
April: This Organic Life, Joan Dye Gussow

Interested in joining or starting a book club?
The King’s English Bookshop has more information online at www.kingsenglish.com
Summer Reading (and Writing!)

Keep your kids up to speed this summer by enrolling them in one of our Summer Reading/Writing groups.

Our reading and writing groups, led by highly qualified, certified teachers, will be held Wednesdays: June 11, 18, and 25, and July 9 and 16. Each session lasts 50 minutes. Class size is limited. Books may be purchased at TKE at 10% off for paperbacks and 20% off for hardcovers, although book purchase is not mandatory. The cost is $50 per child for each group and payment is required at sign-up time. Book lists will be posted May 1, 2014 and registration will begin then.

This year we will offer two writing groups, 3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade, which will meet directly after the reading groups. Nathan Spofford (National Board-certified teacher) will lead both groups and will use the reading book group titles as a starting point for the writing classes. The cost is $50 per child for each group, and again, payment is required in order to sign up. Class size is limited.

The teachers:

**Megan Randazzo** has worked as a fourth- and first-grade teacher and is currently an Achievement Coach for Canyons School District, supporting teachers in implementing quality instruction and overseeing student achievement for Butler Elementary. Megan has been part of TKE’s program for several years. She and her husband recently welcomed a baby daughter into their family.

**Brynn Grover** has taught third grade at Canyon Rim Academy for five years. She loves books, planning parties, teaching, and doing projects with kids. Brynn has been helping out at TKE for several years; her art projects grace many refrigerators! Amazing fact: Brynn taught school for the Deaf in Ghana, West Africa.

**Sue Patillo** is a reading specialist at Our Lady of Lourdes and has worked with dyslexic children all over the state. She has participated in our summer reading program for many years. Sue loves poetry, something she shares with her group. She also brings her hedgehog to class!

**Sarah Button**, who has been teaching at Rowland Hall since 2001, is returning to Summer Reading after a brief hiatus. She brings enthusiasm and a wealth of experience to each group, and her many fans are thrilled to welcome her back to TKE!

**Marianne Jenkins**, who currently teaches 5th grade at Canyon Rim Academy and is now in her second summer at TKE, has been a wonderful addition to our reading groups. She’s an avid book collector and it shows when she is working with the kids!

**Nathan Spofford**, a National Board-certified Teacher in Early Adolescent English Language Arts who has taught for nearly 35 years, currently teaches ELP for the Salt Lake City School District. Another avid book lover, he is a bookseller at The King’s English and is the proud curator of one of the best children’s libraries in the state—right in his home!

Sign up on or after May 1, 2014; class size is limited. Reading lists and times (when finalized) will be posted online at www.kingsenglish.com or call us at 801-484-9100.
Events for Children & Young Adults

Jennifer Adams
Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m. Local author Jennifer Adams introduces the mischievous toddler Edgar the Raven in her new book, Edgar Gets Ready for Bed.

Natalie Whipple
Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m. Transparent author Natalie Whipple will read from and sign her young adult paranormal romance House of Ivy & Sorrow—at Pleasant Grove Public Library, 30 E Center Street, Pleasant Grove.

Reading of The Lorax
Thursday, April 24, 6 p.m. Join us for a special Earth Day storytime! The Lorax has been speaking for the trees for over 40 years. It’s a great way to introduce children to the important themes of conservation and recycling.

Aprilynne Pike
Wednesday, April 30, 7 p.m. Local author, Aprilynne Pike will read from and sign her new young adult novel, Sleep No More—at Provo Library.

Mark Pett
Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 p.m. Local author and illustrator (The Boy and the Airplane) will discuss and sign his new book, The Girl and the Bicycle.

INKSLINGER’S INKSLINGERS
Anne Brillinger  
Betsy Burton  
Kathy Ashton  
Aaron J. Cance  
Patrick Fleming  
Sue Fleming  
Alison Hilger  
Deon Hilger  
Barbara Hoagland  
Anne Holman  
Sally Larkin  
Paula Longhurst  
Margaret Brennan Neville  
Jan Sloan