Rockin’ Around the Block! Four Summer Days and Nights on 15th & 15th!

At 15th and 15th there are, along with the bookstore and art gallery, the dog groomer and delicatessen, the Zagat-rated restaurants that pepper our block, some wonderful new businesses open or opening! Friendly neighborhood hangout defines Trestle Tavern, started by restaurateur Scott Evans (of Pago and Finca fame) and serving everything from hamburgers to pierogies, french fries to spaetzle to schnitzel, not to mention goulash and pastrami on the city’s most beautiful patio (or cozily inside). Then there’s Tulie Bakery, whose breakfast buns and blondies, croque monsieurs and pain au chocolat, caprese salads and almond cream tarts are known far and wide in our fair city (we at TKE have already gained the weight that proves it), and Sweetaly Gelato, a real live Italian gelato and dessert shop guaranteed to add even more inches to our waistlines and our happiness. Quel bonheur, Che felicità!

All three are delicious additions to our neighborhood—and all are in the mood to party! They’re enticing us with special treats and with discounts—as are the other businesses on 15th and 15th.

What’s Rockin? Sales Around the Block!

Every Day All Day
TKE Sale (30% on hardbacks, 40% for 3 or more, 15% storewide) Tulie Bakery’s cookies will be on sale all four days! Trestle Tavern’s housemade pretzels complimentary with purchase of meal.

Store-wide sale on accessories at the 15th Street Gallery.

Thursday, June 15th
10 a.m. TKE Sale Begins!
11 a.m. Scavenger hunt all around the block.

Friday, June 16th
Mazza offers special chicken sandwich and fries for $10.
11 a.m. TKE Storytime with The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors by Drew Daywalt and Adam Rex. Come play!

12 p.m. Humane Society at The Dog Show
5:30 p.m. Live music by the Caputo’s All Star Quartet on Caputo’s patio.
6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Gallery Stroll at 15th Street Gallery

Saturday, June 17th
10 a.m. 15th Street Gallery will feature Utah artist, Heather Rison, and her unique wooden jewelry
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Face painting at TKE.
11 a.m. Storytime with Dr. Seuss
1 p.m. Dog Parade! Bring your four-footed BFF.
7 p.m. Julie Berry will read from and sign The Emperor’s Ostrich.

Sunday, June 18th
11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Happy Father’s Day! Come into TKE and browse the grown-up parts of the bookshop and we’ll read with your kids!

TKE is having a sale day and night from Thursday, June 15 to Sunday, June 18th, 30% off on hardcovers, 40% on three or more, 15% on everything else. But that’s not all. We have activities galore from Seuss stories to face painting to author appearances to music, and—in conjunction with The Dog Show across the street—a Dog Parade!!! The Dog Show will also have a sale on collars and leashes. Meanwhile, back on our side of the block, on Friday, the 15th Street Gallery will host their fantastic Gallery Stroll, and will feature jewelry by Heather Risen. Caputo’s is revving up the neighborhood with live music from Caputo’s All-Star Quartet on Friday night starting at 5:30. And Mazza and Trestle, both of which serve unique and delicious international cuisine will offer tempting treats (see below). So let’s party! Thursday, June 15 through Sunday June 18. A sale on everything from art to books to dog paraphernalia, activities galore, and food, food, food. Good times for everyone from ages 2 to 92! What a way to start the summer…

See the Summer Calendar for Adults and for Kids both on page 2!
Summer Events for Adults

Sunday, June 4, 3 p.m. Dennis Lehane will read from and discuss Since We Fell.

Wednesday, June 7, 7 p.m. Maile Meloy will discuss her new novel, Do Not Become Alarmed.

Friday, June 9, 5:30 p.m. Extreme skier Kristin Ulmer will discuss her debut book, The Art of Fear.

Saturday, June 10, 7 p.m. In Sons at War, Jane Sweetland will discuss the true story of her uncle during World War II.

Friday, June 16, 7 p.m. Karma Brown will discuss her novel, In This Moment, with local author Ella Joy Olsen.

Saturday, June 17, 2 p.m. Nature writer Gary Ferguson will join us to discuss his new book, Land on Fire.

Tuesday, June 20, 7 p.m. Thriller writer Dan Wells will read from and sign, Nothing Left to Lose.

Saturday, June 24, 7 p.m. Science fiction writer David Mealing will debut his novel, Soul of the World.

Thursday, July 6, 7 p.m. Penguin Teen Tour will include authors Romina Russell, Danielle Vega, Aditi Khorna and Morgan Rhodes.

Tuesday, July 11, 7 p.m. Ann Dee Ellis will debut her middle reader, You May Already Be a Winner.

Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m. Penguin Teen Tour will include authors Romina Russell, Danielle Vega, Aditi Khorna and Morgan Rhodes.

Saturday, August 12, 11 a.m. Park City author Robert Neubecker will share Fall Is for School with us.

Tuesday, August 15, 7 p.m. Kathryn Purdie will read from and sign Crystal Blade at the Provo Library.
Audio Books from TKE

In the mood for a good book but need your hands free for driving to the mountains, planting the garden, putting burgers on the barbeque? TKE audio books are a fast and easy solution. Follow the four easy steps below and you can be listening to *All the Light We Cannot See*, for instance, in a blink of the eye! Choose from thousands of titles, including some of our favorites from this *Inkslinger*.

1. Enter into your browser: Bit.ly/tke-books
2. Find the book you want and click on the cover.
3. Press the “Buy” button and follow the instructions to create an account.
4. Download the “My Must Reads” app from the Apple app store or Google Play onto your mobile device and sign in to it using the same email address and password you used to create an account. Your book will be waiting for you in your “Library.”

Happy Listening! *Editor’s note for insomniacs: they can even help you fall asleep…*

From Our House to Yours

As many of you know, we have a first edition club for adults. The title for June is *The Widow Nash* by Jamie Harrison (see page 7).

The adult club has been so successful we’ve decided to add THREE more for our younger customers (depending on their ages). Now you can subscribe to one or more of our monthly book clubs. If you do, each month we will select a wonderful new book and deliver it to your front door—or to that of your favorite child or grandchild. For them it will be like having a birthday all year long!

Here’s what will go out to those who have already signed up:

**Children’s Illustrated:** *Owl Bat Bat Owl* by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick (Candlewick, $15.99)

**Middle Grade:** *The Emperor’s Ostrich* by Julie Berry (Roaring Brook Press, $16.99)

**Young Adult:** *Once and for All* by Sarah Dessen (Viking Books for Young Readers, $19.99)

Choose your subscription: three months for $80, six months for $160, or a full year for $300 (annual subscription includes an extra book for a baker’s dozen). Enroll a friend or family member—or indulge yourself. Our staff reads widely and deeply to find the books we think you will love. We hope you join the club!
There are wonderful new books for Father's Day giving on our shelves from Colson Whitehead's *Underground Railroad* in hardcover to *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen in paper, both of which won Pulitzers recently. Aside from what's brand new this summer (starting on page 6), there are great books for dads from last fall as well, like *News of the World* by Paulette Giles, *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles or, for the literary dad, two witty Shakespeare retellings, *Nutshell* by Ian McEwan and *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood.

Not to mention signed copies of Colm Tóibín's brilliant new *House of Names*. Also relatively new in hard and paper are books from this spring to suit any and every father's fancy. Here are a few:

### FICTION

**Lincoln in the Bardo**, George Saunders

When Willie Lincoln dies, it is a devastating moment for his father, our beloved 16th president, one captured in a brilliant and inventive novel haunted by the grief of a parent and by countless other tragedies of the time. The Oak Hill Cemetery is a holding place, literally, for the multitude of characters who inhabit the "Bardo," a sort of Tibetan limbo, middle ground between life and death. Our country is fully represented there by a chorus of soldiers, criminals, mothers, and everyday citizens, most of whom lost their lives too early. Their personal stories are the background for Lincoln's meditation on his own grieving in this first novel by Saunders, a dark, powerful story about the crippling burden of loss. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, $28

**The Adventures of John Carson in Several Quarters of the World**, Brian Doyle

The subtitle of this delightful story is "a novel of Robert Louis Stevenson," and as soon as you are three pages into the book it truly feels like RLS is speaking sotto voce so neither of you will miss a word John Carson is saying. Doyle begins with a bit of truth: RLS did live for a time in San Francisco at 608 Bush Street, home of the Carsons. While waiting anxiously for his sweetheart Fanny to obtain a divorce, he split his time between visiting her in Oakland and writing. As this story goes, Robert and John often sat before the fire with a pipe in the evening, and there the old man would spin tales of world travel, death-defying adventure, and invariably, just before the story's climax, Mrs. Carson would call them into dinner, leaving RLS on the edge of his seat. Brian Doyle is a master storyteller—as was RLS. Together they are something to behold. – Anne Holman, Thomas Dunne Books, $25.99

**American War**, Omar El Akkad

This book chronicles the story of the Second American Civil War. Yes. You read that right. El Akkad is hiding a crystal ball somewhere in his house, because this book is eerily plausible. It is the late 2070s, and the Southern states have waged war on the “Blue North” over the use of dwindling fossil fuels. The story follows one Southern refugee, Sarat Chestnut, as she survives the toils and darkness of a country torn in two. Using his knowledge as an acclaimed war journalist, El Akkad brings the idea of war off the page, making it visceral and real. Sometimes we can get detached from what is happening overseas, and this book brings it all down to American soil, showing us what could happen if our country turns its war policies and deadly weapons on itself. I have few words for how much this book blew me away; I really can't stop thinking about it. – Claire Margetts, Knopf, $26.95

**Everybody's Fool**, Richard Russo

You don't have to have read and loved *Nobody's Fool* to love Richard Russo's long-awaited sequel but it doesn't hurt, since everyone you loved and hated and loved to hate is still spinning out their days in their small burdened New York town, the difference being that now the threat of mortality looms over them all. The book begins with a bang (literally) at a funeral (I defy you not to laugh) and includes in its snappy narrative adultery, friendship, abuse, death, community, the environment, new love, yearning for days gone by—and some of the funniest scenes in modern fiction. Russo's characters—whether indelibly etched in our brains or new acquaintances—so roil each other's lives that his novel, while in a broad sense a tale of everyman (and woman), is at once so sad, so wildly and improbably funny, so painfully true on every level that it feels acutely personal. I'm not sure how he does it, but I do know that Russo is an American treasure. And while I trust he has many novels left to write, for now at least this is his capstone. I couldn't put it down, and I can't quit smiling. – Betsy Burton, Vintage. $16.95 Editor's note: your dad won't be able to either!

### NONFICTION

**Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy**, Nicholas Reynolds

Ernest Hemingway is best known as one of the most iconic literary figures of the 20th century. He was also a man who threw himself into the middle of the major turning points of the first half of the century. He reported directly from the Spanish Civil War in the ’30s, was on hand for D-Day in France, and lived in Cuba during the Castro revolution. As a participant as well as an observer of
For the Delight of Dads

**The Stranger in the Woods**, Michael Finkel

This is a true story stranger than fiction. Christopher Knight drove up a dirt road in central Maine in 1986, stopped his car leaving the keys on the seat, and walked into the woods. Almost half a century later he was captured stealing food from a summer camp for children. Knight's story is woven through the history of hermits and all the different ways man has found to experience the ultimate in aloneness. How Knight survived and why he so totally dropped out are explored in depth by Finkel as he attempts to understand a man reluctant to reveal himself. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $24.95

**A Really Big Lunch: Meditations on Food and Life from the Roving Gourmand**, Jim Harrison

In his earlier book, The Raw and the Cooked, Jim Harrison said, “I have lost three pounds during a diet that began in 1970…” Best food writer ever. And now, on the one-year anniversary of his death, we have a collection of gastronomic gems originally published in magazines beginning in 1981 and continuing through 2015. With such provocative titles as “The Logic of Birds and Fishes As It Relates to Shingles” and “Bear Posole,” you’ll want to tie a napkin around your neck and dive right in. – Anne Holman, Grove Press, $26

**Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt, His Cowboy Regiment, and the Immortal Charge up San Juan Hill**, Mark Lee Gardner

Gardner has become one of my favorite Western writers, and this book keeps him high on my list. If you are a fan of To Hell on a Fast Horse, his great tale about Billy the Kid, or Shot All to Hell, the narrative of Jesse James and the Northfield Minnesota raid, you will love this telling of Theodore Roosevelt's gambit in the Spanish-American War. Well researched, this is also full of great photos and maps which make the retelling of this chapter in late 19th century American history a pleasure to read. You will come away with a new understanding of the complex personality that was Theodore Roosevelt and the real dedication his soldiers felt for him. – Patrick Fleming, William Morrow, $16.99

**Since We Fell**, Dennis Lehane

Rachel, a journalist, is searching for a father whose identity her mother would never disclose. Every step closer she takes makes that identity more elusive, her anxiety more profound. The detective she once hired to find him has become her safe harbor as panic attacks debilitate her to the point that she can't leave the house, can only work remotely. But is he safe harbor? Or her prison? It's hard for her to know. I’ve never read a novel that depicted anxiety as accurately or as terrifyingly as this one; never (except perhaps in Shutter Island) read a book where the truth is more elusive; seldom (except in previous Lehane's) torn through a book with such savage speed, such a desperate need to KNOW. Lehane has always been one of the best but even for him this is something new—a mystery that delves into the dark tangles of our minds and unravels not just the truth of what happened but the truth of what makes us who we are. He does it with a mixture of acuity and compassion and sheer story-telling ability that takes the breadth away. – Betsy Burton, Ecco Press, $27.99 Editor's note: What better for Father's Day than a signed copy of Lehane's fabulous new mystery?

**Prussian Blue**, Philip Kerr

One can only hope that history doesn't in fact repeat itself—at least the history of Germany in 1939 and 1956. The history of totalitarianism, in other words, which, as told here, bears frightening resemblance to the world that seems to be looming like a bad dream today. Bernie Gunther, on the run in 1956, is hunting for a murderer in 1939, and we are pulled back and forth between the two narratives, the first a classic thriller featuring as its villain a detective with whom Bernie had worked and from whom he is now running for his life, the second a complex mystery featuring that same villain along with a cast of characters plucked from the pages of Nazi history. From Reinhard Heydrich to Martin Borman, Albert Speer to Gerdy Troost, and from Berlin to Berchtesgaden, the characters drive a plot that winds through the dark tunnels beneath Hitler's aerie, the darker tunnels of corruption and cruelty that underlie the Nazi regime—and in 1956 that same totalitarian indifference to humanity, alive and well among the Stasi of then-East Germany. Dark, fascinating, scary. – Betsy Burton, Putnam, $27

Happy Father’s Day!
the city politically; if fake, Mr. Smith could hang. So begins a madcap adventure in which social satire abounds, romance is in the (often fetid) air, law and religion adhere to similar (utterly inadequate and hypocritical) rules as those of today’s America, and justice, especially that which is racial- or gender-based, exists only in the shadowy corners of personal lives. We meet in short order the Dutch and Anglicans, Baptists and papists, judges and lawyers and sots, slaves and royalists and loyalists, see (and smell) Pre-revolutionary New York in company with a hero as memorable as Tom Jones and a heroine as far from the fair Sophy of Tom Jones’ affections as is imaginable. Plot-perfect despite (or because of) its twists and turns and surprisingly likeable characters, it’s an absolute joy to read. I was heartbroken by its ending. Not because of the denouement, but because I’ll now have to withdraw from the wildly rollicking, sometimes bawdy, and surprisingly thoughtful world Francis Spufford has created—unless I turn it over and begin again on page 1. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $26

Editor’s note: available June 27

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness, Arundhati Roy

A book for readers with large hearts and curious minds, Roy’s prodigious new novel is a tale of love; of gender, caste, religious and racial identity; of the convoluted history of India, Pakistan, and the revolution in Kashmir; and, underneath everything else, the overarching reality of motherhood. Its protagonists are Anjum, a hermaphrodite who, after adopting and adoring a child who rejected her, has moved to the graveyard along with her friend Saddam Hussain (don’t ask, it’s too complicated to explain); three friends from college in Delhi; the woman they all love; and Amrik Singh, whom each fears and despises. The three college friends’ adult lives weave a complex web across a network of religious, ethnic and political cracks and fissures: one is a Brahman high up in conservative government, one was born in Kashmir and so into revolution, the third is a journalist who straddles those worlds. As they pursue their own destinies, always circling back around the woman they love, Tilo (first abandoned and then adopted by her own mother) falls in love with an abandoned baby—just as Anjum had years before. Through the eyes (and hearts) of the two women and of the men they love we witness the complexity of a society populated by Hindus and Buddhists and Muslims whose religions are fractured into dozens of sects and factions, of Separatists and hardliners and castes of every conceivable variant, in a mad, mythic, heartbreaking, poetic, loving welter of the things it means to be Indian, yes, but more importantly, to be human. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $28.95

Goodbye, Vitamin, Rachel Khong

Ruth Young’s father, professor Howard Young, is in the early stages of dementia. Her mother has asked her to come home to help, for a year maybe, and since her fiancé has left her for another woman, Ruth decides she might as well. She loves her father, but he hasn’t always been faithful to her mother so she’s conflicted. But life is not black and white, and when her father’s teaching assistant asks her to help him create a “pretend” class for her dad to teach, Ruth goes along with it. In the process, she learns that while the mind forgets some things, the heart doesn’t; and love and forgiveness matter more than anything. This is Khong’s first novel and it’s both funny and sad; I loved it. – Anne Holman, Henry Holt, $26

The Leavers, Lisa Ko

One evening Deming Guo’s mother Polly, an undocumented Chinese immigrant, doesn’t come home from her job at a nail salon. It seems that she has vanished without a trace. With his mother gone, Deming is soon adopted by a white family and rechristened Daniel Wilkerson. So far removed from everything he has ever known, Deming, now Daniel, struggles to reconcile his past and his present. This debut novel, awarded the 2016 PEN/Bellwether Prize for Fiction, is deeply layered, poignant, haunting, and lyrically beautiful; it is definitely one not to miss. – Rachel Haisley. Algonquin Books. $25.95

Girl on the Leeside, Kathleen Anne Kenney

Siobhan Doyle, 2 years old, was rescued by her uncle after her mother was killed by an IRA bomb in Belfast. She lived with her uncle in County Galway in a 300-year-old pub and country inn for the next 25 years. Her uncle, determined to protect her from harm, isolated her within the small community, immersing her in ancient Celtic stories and poetry. Her way of living is challenged when a visiting professor from America stays with them to learn what he can from her erudite uncle, an expert on ancient Irish writings. Throughout the coming-of-age story, various poets appear along with snippets of their poems: Seamus Heaney, W.B. Yeats, A.E. (George W. Russell), Thomas MacDonagh, Thomas More and others. An engaging read for those always on the lookout for Irish stories that offer a blend of character and culture. – Sue Fleming, Nan A. Talese, $25.95 Editor’s note: available June 20

Golden Hill: A Novel of Old New York, Francis Spufford

Welcome to New York City, circa 1746, and the adventures of young Richard Smith, recently of London. After bolting off his barely-docked ship and racing up and down cobbled streets on page 1, he presents a bill—a sort of letter of credit to be paid upon presentation—to a countinghouse on Golden Hill. But is the bill genuine or is Mr. Smith a charlatan? If the former, the amount is large enough to put the financial firm at risk and impact the city politically; if fake, Mr. Smith could hang. So begins a madcap adventure in which social satire abounds, romance is in the (often fetid) air, law and religion adhere to similar (utterly inadequate and hypocritical) rules as those of today’s America, and justice, especially that which is racial- or gender-based, exists only in the shadowy corners of personal lives. We meet in short order the Dutch and Anglicans, Baptists and papists, judges and lawyers and sots, slaves and royalists and loyalists, see (and smell) Pre-revolutionary New York in company with a hero as memorable as Tom Jones and a heroine as far from the fair Sophy of Tom Jones’ affections as is imaginable. Plot-perfect despite (or because of) its twists and turns and surprisingly likeable characters, it’s an absolute joy to read. I was heartbroken by its ending. Not because of the denouement, but because I’ll now have to withdraw from the wildly rollicking, sometimes bawdy, and surprisingly thoughtful world Francis Spufford has created—unless I turn it over and begin again on page 1. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $26

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The Widow Nash, Jamie Harrison

An amalgam of Castle of Otranto and Pride and Prejudice, Oil and English Creek, Jamie Harrison’s tale of an intrepid young woman fleeing a pool of pain and villainy in turn-of-the-century Seattle to throw herself headfirst into a new life (if only she can) is laced with black humor, vivid storytelling and a memorable cast of characters—not the least of whom is the entirely likeable Dulcy herself. Companion and dogsbody to her slightly mad father, Dulcy roamed the world with him from mine to mine, one earthquake (he loved earthquakes) after another. Creative, syphilitic, half mad, engaged in a partnership with a bad actor, her father had been a strange albeit loving parent. His death either leaves her in peril or frees her in a madcap tale that roams large swaths of the West and the world and is by turns funny, terrifying, bucolic, wrenching…. Dulcy is a hero of the Old West in an entirely new vein. Hope we get to meet her again. And again. – Betsy Burton, Counterpoint, $26

A House Among the Trees, Julia Glass

What a treat this summer to have Julia Glass doing what she does best, bringing multiple characters together over the course of a story in surprising and unexpected ways. Mort Lear, beloved children’s author and illustrator, dies suddenly, leaving his estate to his assistant of 40 years, Tommy Daulair. But what does this mean for Merry Galarza, the museum curator he’d promised his artwork to? Add to this Nicholas Greene, a famous movie star about to play the role of Morty in a biopic. And Tommy’s brother Dani brings a whole other set of issues to bear. Tommy thought she knew Mort better than anyone else did, but apparently he kept secrets, not just from Tommy, from everyone. A great read!
– Anne Holman, Pantheon, $27.95

Marriage of a Thousand Lies, SJ Sindhu

Lakshmi (called Lucky) and her husband present themselves as a happily married couple to her conservative Tamil family. However, both are secretly gay. When Lucky’s childhood best friend and former lover Nisha agrees to an arranged marriage, the two women find their relationship rekindled. Lucky wants to save Nisha from a marriage based on a lie, but does Nisha really want to be saved? Debut author Sindhu has an absolutely beautiful voice, and her first novel, a rich story of expectations, tradition, love, and family, is captivating and full of heart. – Rachel Haisley, Soho Press, $25

The Windfall, Diksha Basu

When changing fortunes make a house in a wealthy section of Delhi affordable, the Jha family moves there from the housing project in which they had lived their entire married life—finding in the process that while it is true that privacy and greenery abound in their new neighborhood, social congress with their neighbors is…well, complicated. Meanwhile their son, in America to earn an MBA, is making similarly painful discoveries, about school and romance alike. Basu, blessed with a satiric eye and an outsized compassion for humanity, spins a tale of social foibles and bumpy romance—particularly that of the flawed but goodhearted Mr. Jha and his infinitely practical and utterly honest Mrs. Jha—which is a pleasure to read. – Betsy Burton, Crown, $26

The Essex Serpent, Sarah Perry

This atmospheric tale of love and “monsters” takes place over the course of a year beginning on New Year’s Eve. Cora Seaborne’s husband has died, and it’s not clear if this is altogether a bad thing, at least in the attending doctor’s eyes. Dr. Luke Garrett sees Cora for the remarkable woman she is; even more impressed is he when she departs for Colchester to take up residence and perhaps engage in some fossil hunting. In this novel, reminiscent of Jane Eyre or Wuthering Heights in its bitter cold and windy weather, people surprise each other, much is not as it would seem, and the human heart wants what it wants, even when we know what happened in the garden of Eden. Lovely characters I will not soon forget. – Anne Holman, Custom House, $26.99

The Chalk Artist, Allegra Goodman

One thing I love about Allegra Goodman is her keen intuition of contemporary culture. In her new novel, she once again brings clarity to an urgent issue, the lines we draw between the real and virtual worlds. She does so through a developing relationship between a school teacher, Nina, who strives to make a permanent imprint on her students’ lives, and Collin, a chalk artist whose work is temporary, always washed away after completion. One of Nina’s students becomes dangerously immersed in virtual gaming, to the extent that his ability to interact in the actual world is compromised. As the characters lives’ converge, Goodman explores themes of love, art, literature, and our human desire to connect with each other in meaningful ways. – DawnAnn Owens, Dial Press, $27
**FICTION**

**Miss Burma**, Charmaine Craig  
Spanning generations and political regimes, Craig's second book is fascinating in terms of the turbulent history of Burma (now Myanmar) and the persecution of its ethnic minorities, particularly the Karen—thanks in large part to the betrayal of British colonialists. One family, Benny and Linn (she is Karen) and later their daughter Louise (who gains fame as a beauty queen just as the country descends into civil war) lives out that history on both a personal and political level. The parents survive the harrowing Japanese occupation, and Benny helps shape the country, amassing a fortune, while Linn watches him change. Her subsequent actions, his responses, the fame their daughter acquires tie the personal to the political, involving our hearts, educating us about the past of a country across the globe and far from too many of our minds, reminding us of the deadly nature—and fast-moving destruction—that can be the result of political upheaval created by injustice. – Betsy Burton, Grove Press, $26

**The Right Side**, Spencer Quinn  
When LeAnne Hogan returns from Afghanistan minus one eye, her brain still muddled from shrapnel remnants, she is unprepared to assimilate back into either family or civilian life. Fighting loss of memory and the ability to reason, she is paired unexpectedly with Goody, a large, aggressive, black mongrel who seems to take LeAnne on as his personal mission. Quinn, who has given us the Chet and Bernie mystery series, provides us with an in-depth view of military life in the ongoing war zones of the Middle East. – Sue Fleming, Atria, $26

**Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine**, Gail Honeyman  
Eleanor is completely fine in her well-ordered, well-structured, uncomplicated, very rigid life: each Wednesday night for eight years it’s the same outfit each day, same pasta for lunch, same pizza ordered, same two bottles of vodka consumed each weekend, a phone-call to Mummy, who is somewhere in lockdown. In walks Raymond, the funky IT guy from work who forces her into an act of good-Samaritanism, and suddenly everything isn’t nearly as “fine.” Quirky, lonely Eleanor is forced to discover life in all its messiness, friendliness, and frightening social complexities. As she and Raymond begin to find their way through a warm and delightful yet frustrating friendship, Eleanor’s well-constructed cocoon develops cracks, and a butterfly begins to emerge. But as warmth and love enter her life, the complicated and devastating secret of her past surfaces. – Karen Bush Yengich, Pamela Dorman Books, $26

**Beartown**, Fredrik Backman  
The boys’ hockey team in Beartown is the most important thing going, what with the town’s growing unemployment and dwindling population. Backman, as with *A Man Called Ove* and other novels based in Scandinavia, has brought to the reader the passion of small-town friendships, jealousies and grief. Though the upcoming semifinal game may prove the town can make a comeback, it is what happens off the ice that will change their community forever. – Sue Fleming, Atria Books, $26.99

**NONFICTION**

**Memory’s Last Breath: Field Notes on My Dementia**, Gerda Saunders  
As I age and watch people I know and love get older, I wonder how it would feel if I were diagnosed with dementia and my grasp on reality slowly loosened. Would I be aware of changes in thought and memory inside myself? Would my self-awareness be reliable? Imaginary? Forgotten? In *Memory’s Last Breath*, Saunders tells her own story of experiencing dementia from the inside out by inviting the reader into the distorted and shifting perceptions that affect her thought processes. After being diagnosed with microvascular disease in 2010, which forced her early retirement as associate director of the Gender Studies Program at the University of Utah, Saunders started journaling, creating what would become the roadmap of her memoir, her “Dementia Field Notes.” Committed to writing about her experience objectively and honestly, she weaves stories of her childhood in South Africa with the mental mishaps she experiences today with great clarity and insight.  

– Rob Eckman, Hachette, $27

**The Radium Girls**, Kate Moore  
In 1917, several small factories opened in New Jersey and Illinois using radium in paint to coat dials for watches and clocks. Within a few months demand increased as the U.S. entered World War I and the need for luminous dials in airplanes and submarines skyrocketed. Young women, mostly teenagers, could earn more at these factories than at other jobs available at the time. What they did not know, nor did the companies who owned the plants tell them, was that frequent exposure to radium caused irreparable harm. The method for application was to dip a brush into paint after molding the tip for exactness with the girls’ lips. The young women lipped and dipped and painted all day...
long. When their teeth started to fall out, and then their jaw bones, and then odd cancers began to appear, the companies vehemently denied any responsibility. Moore’s story of these radium girls and their fight for justice is horrifying. That they were ultimately vindicated was small consolation to families who lost mothers, wives, and sisters. Their struggle was instrumental in the creation of OSHA and the institutionalization of protections for industrial workers. Everyone owes a debt of gratitude to these valiant dial painters.

– Sue Fleming and Barbara Hoagland, Sourcebooks, $26.99

**The Fact of a Body**, Alexandra Marzano-Lesnevich

The author of this memoir didn’t set out to investigate the rape and murder of 6-year-old Jeremy Guillory in Louisiana. It was the case she was assigned as a young law school intern in 1992. In a fascinating twist, this becomes not only the true story of a heinous crime for which the perpetrator is in prison, the investigation also unlocks the author’s memories of her own youth, a childhood in which she and her sisters were repeatedly sexually abused by their maternal grandfather. As she moves backward and forward in time between Ricky Langley, the young man who killed Jeremy, and her own life, the reader is swept along on a current of both dismay and awe. Dismay that human beings can do these things to each other, and awe that the author could face the demon and move on. I’ve never read another book like this. – Anne Holman, Flatiron Books, $26.99

**Between Them**, Richard Ford

A small, lovely book, Ford’s memoir of his parents alternates between them. After all, it takes two people to make any of us—part of the point of this achingly tender portrayal of the two people who made him. And as he has done so often in his fiction, he brings to vivid life ordinary people who, in his hands as he not only recalls but reimagines each of them, become extraordinary. In the process, he sheds light on his journey, his own character. I was obliquely reminded of Vikram Seth’s masterful biography of his aunt and uncle, *Two Lives*, which was writ so large across the stage of the world while Ford’s is slender, narrowly focused. That said, both use the prism of memoir to convey something remarkable about the world and those people inhabit—about the time in which they live, yes, but more importantly about character, about love, and about what makes us who we are. – Betsy Burton, Ecco, $25.99

**The Best Land Under Heaven: The Donner Party in the Age of Manifest Destiny**, Michael Wallis

The tragic story of the Donner Party is a testament to the struggles and hardships endured by the pioneer families of the early westward migration. Wallis’ new exploration of this particular wagon train, the fatal mistakes made and the heroic actions of some of the participants, is chilling reading. He spends a great deal of time at the beginning of the story explaining the history of each family and what drove them to sell everything to start over at the end of the continent. As their trek progressed the cohesion of the group began to break down, bringing them to the final fatal choices that left them stranded in the Sierras during one of the worst winters in history. The challenges they faced, their determination to survive, and the ends to which they were forced to go to do so is a testament to their will to live.

– Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $27.95

**The Jersey Brothers**, Sally Mott Freeman

Pearl Harbor has happened and just like thousands of young American men and women, three brothers from New Jersey have already joined the navy in the anticipation of war. The Pacific Theater in WWII is a brutal hellhole and its outcome is in question. Each of the three brothers winds up serving in one or another of the epic battles of the Pacific war and one of them—the one who was supposed to be safe and stay stateside—ends up missing in action. The author, the niece of the missing naval ensign, tells the tale of her family’s effort to find out what happened to her uncle, using a series of letters between family members at home and the three brothers, along with information from the highest levels of the American military and civilian government, to not only reconstruct events but also establish what must have happened to the missing brother. Wonderful recounting of what countless American families went through during WWII and continue to go through in all of America’s wars. – Patrick Fleming, Simon & Schuster, $30

**MacArthur’s Spies: The Soldier, the Singer, and the Spymaster Who Defied the Japanese in World War II**, Peter Eisner

The Japanese invasion of the Philippines immediately following Pearl Harbor caught the residents, both native and foreign, by surprise. Thousands of Allied soldiers were captured and many were sent on what became known as the Bataan Death March. From the beginning of the invasion until MacArthur’s triumphal return from Australia, the Philippine people and numerous foreigners undertook guerilla action against the invaders. The stories and exploits of just three of these fearless fighters are as thrilling and daring as any reported during a war that upended the world. Each of the individuals, two men and a woman, battled an enemy with wit, cunning and ingenuity. It’s a brilliant tale, well told. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $28
**NONFICTION**

**The Long Haul: A Truckers Tales of Life on the Road**, Finn Murphy

Murphy is an unlikely candidate for a career as a “Bed Bugger,” the not-so-nice name in the trucking industry for one who is a professional mover. Raised in Connecticut, an almost graduate of Colby College, Murphy early on yearns for the freedom of the open road. His tales of life on the road in his 53-foot 18-wheeler give a glimpse of an America many of us never see. The people he moves are as varied as the country he traverses—some good, some not so good. His insightful analysis of the world as he views it is perceptive and vividly described in a book as beguiling as the country Murphy sees. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, $26.95

**Narrow River, Wide Sky**, Jenny Forrester

This frank and honest memoir about growing up poor along the Colorado Plateau with a single mom and a brother is a timely look at how we see ourselves and see others (or don't). Forrester's mother was not an easy woman; add to that an up and down religious fervor and poverty, and the two siblings were left to figure out many things on their own. The beauty of the plateau is at the heart of this telling; Forrester's language puts you on the Mancos River where the daily struggles never seems to get easier. This felt like real life to me; the good, the bad, and the wonder. – Anne Holman, Hawthorne Books & Literary Arts, $18.95

**Mystery/Thriller**

**The Thirst**, Jo Nesbo

Nesbo plays cat and mouse with the reader as well as his characters in this, the eleventh in the Harry Hole series. Harry Hole is back, and happy? Well right now he is, married to Rakel, father to Oleg, and lecturer at the police college. But things are about to change; Mikael Bellman blackmails Harry into helping with a case—a killer using Tinder to target his victims. Harry senses something about his signature that is somehow familiar, although he can't place exactly what it is. Working alongside DI Katherine Bratt and an enthusiastic young newbie, Harry and the team race against the clock to save Oslo from a killer who has a fetish for blood and an old score to settle with Harry and DI Bratt. – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, $26.95

**Persons Unknown**, Susie Steiner

Manon Bradshaw, the detective-protagonist of Steiner's excellent debut mystery, Missing, Presumed, is back and as emotional, chaotic, instinctive in her actions as ever—in life and in her career—yin to the yang of another favorite fictional detective, Donna Leon's Commissario Guido Brunetti. Yet there is some kinship of character between the two, perhaps because of the jaundiced eye they both cast on authority, their innate fairness—and their shared conviction that truth must out. Manon has left London with Fly, the boy she adopted and wants desperately to keep safe—although bringing a black kid from the melting pot of London to the white sameness of Cambridgeshire might not have been the best strategy for doing so. To further complicate matters, Manon is pregnant and hasn't told Fly. When there's a murder, Fly, seen in the vicinity, is arrested. Turns out the victim is the ex of Manon's sister, father of her son, and Fly seemingly had a reason to be jealous. So Manon, beset by hormones, scared out of her wits by Fly's arrest, relatively powerless since she's no longer lead detective, must somehow solve the case—with the help of an attorney she's attracted to (to her endless shame with her son in such peril). The toll of her emotions lends credence to her almost superhuman persistence while the byzantine financial nature of the plot fascinates. Couldn't put it down and still see Fly, feel his confusion. Keep writing, Susie Steiner! – Betsy Burton, Random House, $27

**The Amber Shadows**, Lucy Ribchester

Bletchley Park, 1941. The place is chock-full of secrets, some more dangerous than others. Honey Deschamps, one of the Park's decryption administration team, has been receiving some very odd mail, postmarked Leningrad. It stirs childhood memories of her real father. Could he still be alive and trying to make contact with her, or is this some bizarre test of her loyalty to queen and country? An atmospheric little psychological thriller with insights (good and bad) into life on the home front during WWII. – Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, $25.95

**The Silent Corner**, Dean Koontz

FBI Agent Jane Hawk has gone rogue in the eyes of her agency. Recently widowed and hunted by a mysterious cabal, she fights to keep the last of her family safe. Jane was investigating a rise in suicides, her husband's among them. Now she’s gone as dark as she can while attempting to gather evidence of a mind-bending conspiracy capable of tearing down life as we know it. She's the one variable 'they' never expected, and she's determined to take 'them' down, or die trying. – Paula Longhurst, Bantam, $28
**Defectors**, Joseph Kanon

When his brother Frank defected to the Soviet Union, Simon was left with a career in tatters and devastating feelings of betrayal. More than a decade later, Frank has written a memoir and wants Simon, now a publisher, to edit it. Still under his big brother’s spell at some level, Simon goes to Russia, only to find an adult perspective on his brother’s character and actions that is both revelatory and dangerous—to both brothers. The world of defectors that Kanon portrays, people at once pampered and imprisoned, is fascinating; the allegiance to an ideology and the consequent propensity to betray is both puzzling and intriguing; and questions of what loyalty means to different people take the plot in fascinating, and harrowing, directions. It becomes increasingly uncertain who will survive this encounter as both brothers are caught in a thicket of subterfuge and danger involving the KGB, the CIA and Frank’s schemes, whatever they may be. A classic Cold War game of wits and a ripping good thriller.

– Betsy Burton, Atria, $27

**The Dying Detective**, Leif GW Persson

A long, somber, elegiac tale of a Swedish detective who, three years into retirement from a legendary career spent ‘seeing around corners’ while solving all manner of crimes, has a stroke. He’s still in the hospital, slowly recovering, when his doctor tells him the tale of a long-ago child murder—a horrific pedophilic case that was never solved. In alternating passages we see the physical assault of the stroke and its aftermath and the assault of a child as the narrative takes Johansson, with help from some of the more appealing characters in crime fiction, down fascinating investigative trails and along the path toward either recovery or death. The confluence of each in this slowly building tale leads to a powerful conclusion in which the demands of justice, or, recovery or death. The confluence of each in this slowly building tale leads to a powerful conclusion in which the demands of justice, or, more precisely, of truth, exact a price—just as does coming to terms with the fact of mortality. Persson has been a nationally known crime specialist for years in Sweden, and every page rings true.

– Betsy Burton, Pantheon, $27.95

**Watch Me Disappear**, Janelle Brown

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

– Paula Longhurst, Spiegel & Grau, $27

**Midnight at the Bright Ideas Bookstore**, Matthew Sullivan

‘Bright Ideas’ is the Denver bookstore where Lydia Smith works. Joey Molina is young, damaged and one of Lydia’s favorite ‘book frogs’—until the night he takes his own life among the book stacks. The old Lydia starts to surface—Joey had left her his collection of books, defaced in odd ways, and the picture he carried in his pocket was of her and some friends on her tenth birthday. Memories return: Lydia, the only survivor of the ‘hammer man’ attack, fleeing Denver with her dad for a cabin in the mountains. Then people she thought she’d lost—childhood friend Raj, her estranged father, the cop who never solved the hammer man case—start showing up at the store and calling, banging on that door in Lydia’s brain where the memories of that awful night reside. A clever debut mystery that keeps you guessing, studded with characters that book sellers and customers alike will recognize.

– Paula Longhurst, Scribner, $26

**Blackout**, Marc Elsberg

Sometimes it’s the originality of plot that drives a good thriller—particularly if the technical nature of said plot fascinates and its potential reality becomes apparent. Such is the plot of Blackout, which not only posits the viral spread of an electrical blackout across the face of Europe, rendering such an occurrence plausible in the process, but also tracks the appalling consequences of a spiraling blackout on every part of our lives. As a computer guru, ex-hacker Piero Manzano tracks the crashing grids looking for clues, a comprehensive picture of our dependence on electricity—and our vulnerability because of it—emerges, perhaps explaining why Blackout is already an international bestseller.

– Betsy Burton, Sourcebooks, $26.99

**Into the Water**, Paula Hawkins

“When I was 17, I saved my sister from drowning.” The drowning pool in Jules’ home-town has claimed many troublesome women over the years, some suicides, some not. Jules escaped south to London soon after her mother died. Her sister Nel stayed and is now dead, found floating, broken, in the drowning pool. The local police begin poking around and as Jules reluctantly returns to her child-
hood home she finds Nel’s death mourned by some and celebrated by others. Nel, an award-winning photographer, was researching a book on the macabre history of the town and its river—could that have prompted someone to kill her? Jules’ memories of growing up in this small town are about to suffer a jolt, especially when Lena, Nel’s teenage daughter, goes missing. — Paula Longhurst, Quirk, $22.99

Ten Dead Comedians, Fred Van Lente
Ten stand-up comedians, a once-in-a-lifetime collaboration too good to ignore, on a luxury private island where a killer is picking them off one-by-one. A sly homage to Agatha Christie’s And Then There Were None, with monologues.
— Paula Longhurst, Quirk, $22.99

The Child, Fiona Barton
The Daily Post is downsizing, more online content, less staff. Kate Waters needs a good story to cement her star reporter status and finding out what happened to “baby Alice,” who was taken from her hospital crib back in the 1970s and never found, might do the trick. A tiny skeleton has surfaced on an east London building site in Howard Street, and Kate, saddled with a cub reporter, sets about tracking down the story that she can feel is there. Along with the rest of the public lapping up the growing headlines are three women who are connected to the missing infant, one in ways Kate could never have imagined. She’s sure she’s got a scoop but a chance encounter with a former Howard Street tenant spins the story into something else entirely. And then the DNA test results come back...
— Paula Longhurst, Berkley, $26

Maggie Murders, Anthony Horowitz
Who killed Mary Blakston? That’s the question Susan Ryeland, editor at Cloverleaf Books, is asking herself. Cloverleaf’s star author Alan Conway has always been hard to deal with, but turning in a manuscript with the last chapters missing is unforgivable. Susan resolves to find the missing pages if it kills her... Horowitz has given us two books in one and invites the reader to play detective alongside Ryeland in a wonderful mash-up of a Christie-esque whodunit with an up-to-date murder mystery complete with clues and red herrings galore.
— Paula Longhurst, Harper, $27.99

A Talent for Murder, Andrew Wilson
Those lost 10 days in the life of Agatha Christie have become fodder for many a modern writer. Wilson’s imaginative portrayal of those days makes use of Christie’s creative talents for murder and poisons in particular. Agatha’s marriage is falling apart, but she still dreams of regaining the Colonel’s love. Even while attempting to prove her own strength of will she finds herself frightened of unknown forces around her, as evil shows itself in the form of a manipulating doctor who attempts to use her skills for his own purposes. The book is filled with twists and turns and is a credit to the author’s imagination in creating an original heroine and villain within the framework of those lost 10 days in 1926. — Wendy Foster Leigh, Atria Books, $26

The Marriage Pact, Michelle Richmond
To newlyweds Jake and Alice, “The Pact” seems like an exclusive club. Beautiful people, lavish parties, just a few rules which they are too immersed in their own passion to really take in and know they won’t break anyway—will they? And even if they do break a rule or two, what’s the worst that could happen?
— Paula Longhurst, Bantam, $27

The Library of Light and Shadow, M.J. Rose
It is 1925, and post-war New York is a glamorous place. Gifted young artist Delphine Duplessi, a favorite on the society party circuit, is known for her ‘shadow paintings,’ portraits that lay bare the subject’s darkest secrets. Delphine herself has a secret; her talent is enhanced by powers passed down through the Duplessi line. When her ‘gift’ leads to tragic consequences, Delphine, along with her twin brother and business manager Sebastian, returns to France. Back home Delphine tries to heal and her mother, legendary witch La Lune, attempts to help her, while Sebastian does his best to lure her back to painting. Sebastian springs a commission on her; Emma Calve, former opera singer and now owner of a Chateau that has links to alchemist Nicolas Flamet, wants to hire Delphine to ‘shadow paint’ the building and reveal the secrets that Flamet allegedly hid there in the “Library of Light and Shadow.” Delphine is hiding something from her family, however—her ex-lover Mathieu. The daughters of La Lune are cursed by love and her love for this man may destroy them both.
— Paula Longhurst, Attra, $26

The Party, Robyn Harding
Hannah has finally made it. She’s dating the hottest boy in school and has been hanging out with the popular girls. But she’s petrified that her sixteenth birthday party is going to be social suicide. In fact, what happens at her party will cause shockwaves in many lives for years to come in this mash-up of Mean Girls and Pretty Little Liars.
— Paula Longhurst, Scout, $26
**Mystery/Thriller**

*Murder in Saint-Germain*, Cara Black

Readers have watched Aimee Leduc grow up, become a mother, learn of her family history over the 17 books in the series—all while wearing Chanel and Louboutin sandals. In her latest she becomes involved with counterterrorism and a hedonistic killer from the former Yugoslavia when an old friend asks her help she cannot say no—even when it interferes with paying clients and baby care. As old friends come back into her life, new questions occur to Leduc addicts: what will happen to her mother? Will her old lover return? Will she ever recognize Rene's secret? Will she ever get a good night's sleep? Cara Black has many more books in her future if she chooses to reveal Aimee's secrets. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, Inc., $27.95

*A Case of Espionage*, Paula Longhurst

Mary MacCallan hasn't gone looking for trouble but trouble has found her in spades. Daughter of a crusty Scotch liquor magnate, Mary is the designated heir to the CEO title but her brother wishes it were otherwise and he's mixed up with a nasty bunch of henchmen. It's on the train from a botched meeting that Mary bumps into Sebastian Miller. Or does he bump into her? Either way, sparks fly and the fun begins. This novella is what begins our literary relationship with Mary, who we will meet later in a longer novel. Suffice it say, she is not to be taken lightly. Her wry British humor and uncanny ability to see trouble ahead of time are just delightful. I would love to meet her at the local pub and have a pint. Paula is one of our own booksellers and we're pleased as punch for her! --Anne Holman, Ingram Spark, $10. *Editor's Note: Paula will read from and sign her new novel on Tuesday, June 27, at 7 p.m.*

Our very own bookseller, Paula Longhurst!

**Speculative Fiction**

*D'Arc*, Robert Repino

This is the sequel to one of my favorite sci-fi books, *Mort(e)*. If you've met me, I've probably tried to get you to read it. This follow-up does not disappoint. Time has passed since war in the first book, and everyone must deal with the aftermath. Housecat turned war hero Mort(e) has retired to a remote ranch where he wants to live in peace and quiet. All too soon, he is dragged out of his sanctuary to defeat a growing threat to the turbulent peace between humans and animals that has been established. So he dusts off his arsenal and reluctantly jumps back into action (much to the delight of readers like myself). The characters in this book are powerful, fierce, and real. Everything about the premise sounds crazy when you say house pets and animals rise up to fight against humans, but the way Repino writes, it seems natural. He is able to lace together wild ideas with real, grounded characters and meditations on love, war, and belonging. – Claire Margetts, Soho Press, $26.95

*The Space Between the Stars*, Anne Corlett

In a universe very similar to ours, the governments of the world decided to solve their overcrowding problems by deporting certain ethnic groups and lower-class citizens to outer space. Jamie Allenby, a white English woman, felt so strongly about this that she and a large group of protesters went with them. Over a decade later Jamie is estranged from her partner Daniel and working as a veterinarian on far-flung Soltaire. With scant warning a deadly mutating virus, coming seemingly from nowhere, strikes the colonists, and Jamie, who was certain the virus would kill her, is one of just a handful of survivors. She decides to accompany the others back to Earth. When they are picked up by a cargo freighter she and the others on board will have to work together, putting their various agendas aside in order to reach home. And is Earth really the safe haven they believe it to be? – Paula Longhurst, Berkley, $26

*The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.*, Neal Stephenson and Nicole Galland

Magic was real but something caused it to die out in 1851. A chance collision in a Harvard hallway leads to a whole new life for linguist Melisande Stokes. The guy she bumped into, Tristan Lyons, recruits her into D.O.D.O, a government black-budget operation and the ancient cache of documents she translates for him prove that witches were useful members of society until their powers faded. Tristan and his superiors want to know why and to bring magic back even in a limited form for uses that are ‘classified.’ The burgeoning team that Tristan pulls together soon learns that magic has rules and while some can be broken, if you mess with time, time will break you. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $35
All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

In paper at last!!!! An incandescent novel the beating heart of which are a Parisian child—a blind girl whose father works at the Natural History Museum—and a German orphan who’s a natural-born inventor. As we follow them from childhood into adolescence, we follow the course of the war in each country—France and Germany—seeing the devastation it wreaks on the fabric of life, the extraordinary ways each child copes. In some ways this is a fairy tale from Grimm, at least metaphorically—two children alone in a dark wood, the lurking ogre, the Nazi regime. Yet the narrative owes more to Dickens than Grimm, both socially and in terms of Marie-Laure and Werner. To know them is to love them and we follow their paths with growing admiration, watch them grow and toughen, our alarm increasing as war engulfs their lives. The writing is stunning, the past/present rhythm of the narrative creates a heart-in-throat tension, scenes between characters are heart-wrenching, tear-blinding, and the underlying plot is so clever it borders on magical. Doerr reminds us of the light that exists in dark times with his iridescent language and with his abiding compassion, his faith in our capacity to love as well as hate, dare as well as cower and cave in, open our hearts. All the Light We Cannot See shines a beneficent light on all of us. It’s an extraordinary book. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $17

Another Brooklyn, Jacqueline Woodson

In her first novel for adults, Jacqueline Woodson writes a very real story of four young girls growing up in Brooklyn in the ’70s. And it may be a story about being black but it felt universal to me. August is a young woman coming of age and coming in to her power, and she understands some things and wonders mightily about others. But in the meantime, she does her homework, says no to boys when she needs to and goes off to college when some of her friends make other choices or have choices made for them. It’s the old adage, “We are all different, we are all alike.” I would have loved to have been friends with August. – Anne Holman, Amistad, $14.99

News of the World, Paulette Jiles

Captain Jefferson Kidd, a Civil War veteran who is no stranger to war or to violence, has a peaceful new occupation: reading the news to isolated communities in northern Texas. Until he accepts a gold piece as payment for transporting back to her own people a 10-year-old white girl who’d been captured by the Kiowa four years before. Trouble is, Joanna thinks she’s been kidnapped; that the Kiowa are her people. So begins a journey you’re guaranteed to enjoy and are unlikely to forget as this unlikely duo takes to the road, trailed by danger. Although they slowly forge a bond, despite themselves, Captain Kidd is determined to do what he considers to be right. At journey’s end what’s right becomes problematic, however, and the expected sentimental ending becomes instead a situation that is unexpected, unsettling, and ambiguous—both legally and morally. Which, along with the lyrical writing, may be the reason this little novel was short-listed for the National Book Award. But awards notwithstanding, this is a rip-snorting Western novel, full of action, while at the same time a touching tale of two people, one 70, one 10, learning to care. A rare and lovely combination. – Betsy Burton, Morrow, $15.99

LaRose, Louise Erdrich

At the heart of Louise Erdrich’s new novel are the children: Dusty, accidentally killed by LaRose’s father; LaRose himself, loaned half-time to Dusty’s mom and dad in a shattering act of atonement; LaRose’s sisters; and his new “sister” Maggie. And then there is the first LaRose, an 11-year-old child sold by her mother and abused by one white man, rescued by another, many generations before. Erdrich’s fiction hovers between the Objebewe and white worlds, flying across generations—as, in this case, five LaRoses float into and out of a tale told as oral history, as family saga, as ancient myth and harsh reality, all twined in ways that lend dimension and magic to both the past and the present. Erdrich has created, over her lifetime, the single most comprehensive saga of interrelated families in American fiction and LaRose is one of, perhaps the, most brilliant of her creations. – Betsy Burton, Harper Perennial, $15.99

The Noise of Time, Julian Barnes

This stunning new novel, Barnes’ first since winning the Man Booker prize for The Sense of an Ending, is set in 1936. Dmitri Shostakovich has written a new opera, and Stalin, who has suddenly taken an interest in his music, has denounced this latest work. How do you stay true to your music and to yourself in an atmosphere of fear and repression? How do you even survive? Questions addressed in this fascinating look at a complex and brilliant musician caught up in turbulent times. “What could be put up against the noise of time? Only that music that is inside ourselves—the music of our being—which is transformed by some into real music. Which, over the decades, if it is strong and true and pure enough to drown out the noise of time, is transformed into the whisper of history.” – Sally Larkin, Vintage, $16
Nutshell, Ian McEwan

Who but Ian McEwan could conjure up a protagonist who, through shrouds of amniotic fluid, overhears a murder plot over the thudding of his mother’s heart? Who but Ian McEwan could make us believe in this preternaturally sentient, highly literate and astutely philosophical, oenophilistic almost-baby enough to hang on his every word—or rather thought, since he’s not yet talking? Who but Ian McEwan could/would imagine what sex—in a variety of positions—might feel like from inside the womb that our hero occupies almost completely with his 9-month-old, ready-to-be-born self, or what effect Sancerre, delivered through uterine membrane, might have? In a nutshell, the answer is that once you buy into the premise of baby in a nutshell, your eyes will open wide with wonder and you will howl with shock and laughter and horror as you follow the ups and downs of plot and counterplot, of self-serving rationalization and blatantly evil admissions, of stupidity and cupidity and lust, all contained in this nutshell-sized novel. There is no other writer alive today who is as mordantly funny, as corrosively ironic, as conniving plot-wise or as linguistically ingenious as Ian McEwan. Like his equally morbid The Cement Garden, but minus the redeeming character motivation, Nutshell is a book that will inhabit your brain and bloodstream like a virus—for ever after, I fear. Bravo! —Betsy Burton, Anchor, $16

Hag-Seed, Margaret Atwood

Like Nutshell, this funny (very) tale about a displaced man seeking revenge is a Shakespearean retelling, this time of "The Tempest." Its protagonist is Felix, a famous theater director cast out of the world he loves by a conniving assistant, who goes to ground in an abandoned shack, his only company the ghost of his long-dead daughter, Miranda. When he finally returns to life Felix takes a job as theater director at the local correctional facility where the inmates, initially dubious to a man and dangerous to say the least, become increasingly enchanted by Shakespeare—re-written in rap to suit their world—and by the heady seductions of theater. When Felix learns his nemesis is to visit the prison, what follows is pure Shakespeare. Or rather, pure Margaret Atwood: people at cross purposes, plays within plays, star-crossed fates if not lovers, a tangle of betrayal and fealty, love and greed and jealousy, all of which proceed at a heart-in-throat pace, the mood at once darkly cynical and deliciously satiric, every page conveying the irresistible sorcery of the stage and the heady air of comedy. Atwood’s addition to the Hogarth Shakespeare series is pure magic. —Betsy Burton, Hogarth, $15

Mischling, Affinity Konar

Maybe we must bear witness to unspeakable evil, the way it twists and terrorizes and destroys, before we can (ironically) even begin to comprehend what is truly magnificent about humanity. Konar, in her tale of twin girls in the hands of Josef Mengele, has accomplished this miracle, showing us, in a book shot full of joy and anguish, that courage can be as boundless as the evil of Auschwitz. Her narrative genius, her power to turn the unimaginable into vivid, harrowing reality, the leavening quality of her humor and compassion do more than transport us, they make us SEE. I couldn’t breathe as I read Mischling. —Betsy Burton, Lee Boudreaux Books, $16.99

The Girls, Emma Cline

The basic plot of Cline’s debut novel will be familiar to anyone who knows the Charles Manson story: at the close of the ’60s, wayward youth fall under the spell of a charismatic psychopath with lethal consequences. But this is much more than a fictional account of that infamous death cult; it’s a book that explores deeply why a young girl would join a cult in the first place, which is to say The Girls is really a book about, well, girls—where they fit in, where they belong. Cline’s storytelling is so confident, so well crafted, that it’s hard to believe this is a debut. —Kenneth Loosli, Random House Trade Paperback, $17

Homegoing, Yaa Gyasi

Spanning almost 300 years, Gyasi’s tale is of two Ghanian half-sisters: Effia “the Beautiful,” who ends up “married” to a white man managing the burgeoning business in the slave trade, and Esi, who is on her way to America as a slave. Both women, ripped from their families and homes, are grappling with fear of the unknown and the horrors of slavery. Gyasi follows their stories through many generations. The brutality of the tribal wars at home is overshadowed only by the barbarity of slavery in America, and time does not diminish the familial memory of terror. The repercussions reverberate all the way into the 20th century. Really we are all living with this inhumanity, and this book will stay with readers for a very long time. —Margaret Brennan Neville, Vintage, $16

The Trouble with Goats and Sheep, Joanna Cannon

Out of the mouths of babes is the best way to describe this story. It’s 1976 and the neighbors on the cul-de-sac come and go each day and do a great deal of minding each other’s business. When one of them, Mrs. Creasy, disappears, it sets in motion a flurry of suspicion and gossip. Viewed through the eyes of 10-year-old...
Grace and her little friend Tilly, it becomes clear that they need to find the missing woman by knocking on each household’s door, finding their way inside, and in the course of “investigating,” managing to uncover secrets that have lain dormant for a decade. At once funny and tender-hearted, this is also a look at the ways in which human beings can bring out the absolute best and worst in each other. – Anne Holman, Scribner, $16

**This Must Be the Place**, Maggie O’Farrell

There are memorable coming-of-age novels, moving novels of family, unforgettable love stories, but rarely does one find all of this in a single book. Maggie O’Farrell’s latest does all of the above. Even better, this is a novel that keeps you on the edge of your seat from the first page as we track Daniel from his childhood through a mistake he makes as a young man and into his midlife, the narrative zeroing in on him at different ages and stages, and on his children so that we see him through their eyes. We meet his friends and his lovers too, his image refracting over and over as we do. We see his present wife, mother of two of his children, and also see the shadow of her mysterious past: movie star/collaborative director/lover à la Liv Ullman, a woman of great fame who quite simply vanishes—into Daniel’s arms and life. The mystery of how people devastated by life can be washed ashore by different tides and tangle together only to be torn apart by those same tides…and the ways their children thrive or suffer as their families are torn asunder, the love they feel, how it thrives, how it fails: all the stuff of life, in other words. And the stuff of this wondrous novel. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $16

**Underground Airlines**, Ben H. Winters

In an alternative history, the Civil War didn’t happen because compromise was reached between the slave-owning and slave-free states. A hundred years later, slavery exists in “the Hard Four” states of the South and the Marshal’s Service is tasked with tracking down escapees and returning them to their owners. Victor, a former slave himself, has been blackmailed into working as a bounty hunter, and, as he goes about his soul-destroying work he uncovers layer upon layer of corruption. The story twists upon itself as the narrative of Victor’s search for humanity in an inhuman institution grips the reader in a riveting thriller that is also a speculative look at a world as it could have been. – Barbara Hoagland, Mulholland, $15.99 *Editor’s note: paper available July 17*

**Everyone Brave Is Forgiven**, Chris Cleave

In this huge and hugely passionate novel set during WWII, Chris Cleave sweeps us from the London blitz to the Ritz to the tenuous British front in Malta, sweeping us off our feet in the process. On the day war is declared in England, Mary North signs up, imagining glory but winding up in an abandoned school, teaching the few children left in London following the evacuation. She promptly falls in love with teaching, with one student in particular, and with her superintendent, whom she has alternately charmed and harassed into hiring her. So begins an alternately besetting and horrifying portrayal of war writ large across the landscape of the world and particularized in the lives of those who lived through its horrors—powerful, compelling and unforgettable. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $16

**Barkskins**, Annie Proulx

Not for the faint of heart, Annie Proulx’s 700+ page novel *Barkskins* has the sweep and heft—and the density—of the seemingly endless forests that once covered our continent. It chronicles the fate of those forests along with those who made timber their lives, beginning in 1693 and moving back and forth across centuries, following two families over time—one of Dutch ancestry, the other of American Indian/French lineage. Proulx urges us along dark forest trails into stump-ridden clearings, along watery trade routes to China and New Zealand and South America, telling us tales of traders and timber barons and sea captains, of lovers and husbands and wives, of scientists, visionaries and murderers. Through it all, as cultures are destroyed or changed unutterably, lands denuded, whether by axe or by fire, in the end the earth itself becomes a character, its persona woven of changing seas and brutal storms, falling trees and angry oceans and endlessly striving men and women. This isn’t a novel to keep you up at night but one to remind you who you are and how you came to be—and where you are, and are not, going. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $20

**City of Secrets**, Stewart O’Nan

In 1945 a Jewish survivor of the German death camps finds his way to Jerusalem and is immediately pulled into an underground cell for resistance fighters against the British Mandate. O’Nan’s concise and sparingly stark account of a true event occurring that year at the King David Hotel that has haunted him is a tale fascinating for those interested in Israeli history or in the way a young disenfranchised man or woman can get caught up in events soon beyond their control—something as true today as it was then. A remarkable book. – Sue Fleming, Penguin, $15
**The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks**, Terry Tempest Williams

Taking us through American national parks and monuments, their history, their present reality, the rocks and birds and trees of them, traveling through place, the memory of place, its history, somehow, whether through the spectrum of poetry or personal story, natural history, history, or science, *The Hour of Land* reveals the very bones and sinew of our country. A redhead woodpecker, Theodore Roosevelt’s grief, Terry’s straight-backed father, a horseback ride with her husband through the terrain of the Civil War—slowly, place by place, our country begins to emerge. The South’s Civil War outlook is linked to that of today’s Sagebrush Rebellion here in the West; a planned wall in Big Bend to the inevitable desecration of nature; fratricidal rage to the glorious indifference of the Arctic; righteous rage to the devastation of oil spills, of the earth; Alcatraz to injustice everywhere. The conflagration of Glacier National Park sets the pages on fire and yet the monument to the future. A manifesto that everyone must read and then act upon.

– Betsy Burton, Sarah Crichton Books, Picador, $18

*Editor’s note: paper available July 4*

**Lab Girl**, Hope Jahren

From the first sentence of this debut memoir, I wished that Hope Jahren could be my best friend. Smart, funny, thoughtful, her study of and undying love for plant life leaps (and creeps) from the pages of this book. Whether she’s studying a hackberry’s atomic make-up or shepherding grad students in the lab and across the country, Jahren’s curiosity and compassion are always on display. Amidst all the natural wonder, however is the reality of life as a research scientist.

Worries over funding for everything from salaries to Post-It notes and test tubes depends on Jahren’s ability to put just the right word on the page in an endless cycle of grant writing. Luckily for us, she took time to write this book; it’s summer and it’s time to read about growing, green things! – Anne Holman, Vintage, $16

**The Gene: An Intimate History**, Siddhartha Mukherjee

Mukherjee, author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*, explains genetics and its profound influence of heredity on our lives. He weaves the story of his own family to exemplify how conditions with uncles, cousins and other family members come to be. In as fascinating a work as his previous book on the history of cancer, Mukherjee begins with the history of the study of genes, from its mythical beginnings to the solid science of today. I highly recommend this book for anyone even remotely interested in nature and science. – Sue Fleming, Scribner, $20

**Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War**, Mary Roach

Coming from the author of *Bonk, Spook, Packing for Mars* etc., you know that *Grunt* is going to be a mix of science and ‘eww!’ This book isn’t going to tell you how to treat PTSD or build a more lethal weapon. What it will do is give you an insight into what scientists can do to keep our military personnel healthy—from fabrics that will stop them from bursting into flames to ear protection that won’t leave them deaf at the end of their operational tour. There’s even a quick trip into the attempted development of shark repellent and operational stink bombs. On a more serious note, Roach highlights an injury that most of us have never heard of (warning: it will make grown men cross their legs!), tells us about ‘surgeon’ maggots, gets sleep-deprived on a submarine and explains the sound submariners don’t want to hear at 300 feet below. Above or below, she takes us along for the ride, seatbelts and sick bags optional.

– Paula Longhurst, Norton, $15.95

**The Apache Wars**, Paul Andrew Hutton

The southern part of what we now know as Arizona was an arid and unforgiving land. The people who inhabited the region had to be tough to survive. By the 1860s the tension was greatest between the Native Americans, Mexicans and Americans, both Union and Confederate. Loyalties were flexible, but, to the Apaches of the time, revenge was the strongest emotion, and it was revenge that started what was to become the longest war in American history. Hutton has written a breathtaking history of this war between the Apaches, settlers both American and Mexican, and the armies of both nations. Geronimo, Cochise, the Apache Kid, Kit Carson are only a few of the names Hutton brings vividly to life. It is a great read and a wonderful history. – Barbara Hoagland, Broadway, $17

**White Sands**, Geoff Dyer

This unique travel book takes us on a witty, inquisitive exploration of some well-known, as well as not-so-well-known destinations, from the Forbidden City in Beijing to the Watts Towers in Los Angeles to the Spiral Jetty in Utah. Dyer, in elegant prose, explores more than just “place,” examining the why and what of the places we choose to explore and forcing us, even in those pieces that are laugh-out-loud funny, to look at our own reasons for travel and at what we expect
to gain from it. He explains that when we travel we pack with us images and memories that we have long had—sometimes for our entire lives—in a must-read book, not for the answers it may have about a desired destination, but for the questions that we should ask before we go. – Jan Sloan, Vintage, $16.95

**Paper: Paging Through History**, Mark Kurlansky
Kurlansky is the master of the single-topic book. Other authors who write in the genre aren’t as prolific as Kurlansky with *Salt, Cod, Birdseye*, et al., and in *Paper*, he combines the topic of paper and our relationship with writing and the writing medium to tell a short history of human civilization. It is a fascinating read, perfect to take on vacation and also a great topic for a casual discourse at a summer cocktail party. Before reading this book, it would never occur to most of us how much paper has shaped who we are in the modern world. – Patrick Fleming, W.W. Norton, $16.95

**Valiant Ambition**, Nathaniel Philbrick
With many books based on history you can always learn something new, but a book about the American Revolution and George Washington—what more can possibly be written? Well, it turns out, a lot—especially when the story is in the hands of Philbrick. He gets us into the big battles of the Revolutionary War while also letting us in on the small battles mainly involving the personalities of well-known historical figures, British and American alike. This book is a fluid read, has great maps, and explains the Revolution in the context of the 18th century in a way that makes you admire George Washington all the more even while understanding and sympathizing with Benedict Arnold. A must-read for the casual or serious historian and those fans of Philbrick. – Patrick Fleming, Penguin, $18

**The Secret War: Spies, Ciphers, and Guerrillas 1939-1945**, Max Hastings
Probably the definitive book about espionage associated with World War II, Hastings’ new book is a tour-de-force retelling of all of the spying, code-breaking, and guerilla warfare during the six years of WWII by all of the major players (Germany, Britain, U.S., Russia, and Japan). Could have been a long read if not for Hastings’ great writing and the way the book is organized—global, sweeping strategic/political aims intermingled with moving personal stories of raw courage and grit. This is a good summertime read for the serious history buff. – Patrick Fleming, Harper Perennial, $18.99

**Joe Gould’s Teeth**, Jill Lepore
If you were expecting something like *The Secret History of Wonder Woman*, this delightfully weird little book is equally terrific but very different. While it’s well-researched (as all Lepore’s work is), it’s also a quick and breezy read, with Lepore employing a less academic, very conversational tone. At times, she even inserts herself into the story, recounting trips to libraries and archives and providing a glimpse into the working life of a professional historian. And a historian could not ask for a better subject than Joe Gould, who declared himself the most important historian of the 20th century as he embarked upon a quixotic quest to document history in real-time as expressed in conversations. He called it oral history, and he spent his life working on an ambitious all-encompassing survey, but the final work never seemed to materialize. It was even suspected he never wrote it at all, and some may have colluded with him to perpetuate the lie yet Gould left notebooks for the project all over the country in the course of his strange and winding life. He is one of those true history mysteries, a real enigma, and Lepore’s book leaves you wondering if someday you yourself might find a long-forgotten trunk full of Gould’s notebooks in a dusty attic. – Kenneth Loosli, Vintage, $16

**Commander in Chief: FDR’s Battle with Churchill, 1943**, Nigel Hamilton
Hamilton won a National Book Award for his initial volume on the first year of America’s entry into World War II, part of a multivolume project on Franklin Roosevelt as commander in chief during World War II. In this second volume Hamilton tells us of Franklin Roosevelt’s performance as commander in chief in 1943, the year the Allies went on the offensive in Europe and in the Pacific. Nineteen forty-three saw serious differences emerge between FDR and Winston Churchill as to where and how Europe should be liberated from German occupation. There were polite but fiercely argued disputes between the two on whether the Allies should accomplish the job of liberation by a direct attack across the English Channel or through a Mediterranean-centered strategy centered in Italy and Eastern Europe. As the year and the war wore on, Roosevelt gradually prevailed in his disputes with Churchill on Allied military strategy. He also firmly restrained and overruled powerful American military chiefs, General George Marshall and Admiral Ernest King. Readers will come away from this volume feeling that in 1943 Roosevelt was a commander in chief of the first rank, as effective as Lincoln during the Civil War. Hamilton’s work is a major literary and historical achievement. – Lawrence Leigh, Mariner, $16.99

**The View from the Cheap Seats**, Neil Gaiman
Gaiman’s nonfiction is as accomplished and fascinating as his stories and graphic novels, and here is a collection of the best speeches (commencement and otherwise), essays, and forewords he has writ-
The Latter Days: A Memoir, Judith Freeman

For anyone who grew up in Utah, is a child of the ‘50s, or who wants to understand what it means to be Western, female and Mormon, The Latter Days by Judith Freeman is revelatory. Not in the sense that it gives away secrets about Mormonism. There’s nothing revealed here that anyone who’s spent time with Mormons doesn’t already know. Rather, it puts the reader in the heart of a family and a culture and time and makes the experience of growing up in that crucible here in the West seem familiar, knowable. Not outside or “other.” Freeman’s experience with boys, with siblings, with elders, with her mother and most of all with her charismatic abusive father, are universal. Her coming of age, chaffing under the constraints of a religion that on the one hand was comforting, inclusive to believers, and on the other exclusive, shaming, is pretty universal too. The part that isn’t, the characteristics that are particularly Mormon, seen through the prism of a tough but vulnerable girl and young woman, her vision now both softened and sharpened by the hindsight of age, is—I’ll say it again—revelatory. No longer out of hurt or a need for revenge but out of a desire to give a true accounting. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $17.99

Missing, Presumed, Susie Steiner

Detective Manon Bradshaw is lonely when we first meet her. She’s tried internet dating (with sadly hilarious results), tried throwing herself into her work, but is dangerously close to despair. She welcomes the news of a new case: the disappearance of a young woman whom a massive man—or in this case woman-hunt does not turn up; the putting together of the pieces—or rather the people—of the puzzle that’s hers to solve; the intriguing suspects themselves. The father is a Royal Surgeon, a man of fame and distinction; the mother’s a frustrated feminist who has sacrificed for husband and daughter; the boyfriend is improbably good looking; the best friend appears to be holding something back; the victim herself seems increasingly unknowable.... And then there’s Manon’s personal world—her colleagues for good and ill, her estranged sister, a man she meets. Steiner’s agility with plot, her ability to create character, and the pulsing tension that winds through the book, not to mention Manon herself—irascible, rash, often foolish but as often doggedly smart, and improbably kind—pull this above humdrum so-called genre fiction and into the territory of Kate Atkinson’s Case History or Derek Miller’s Norwegian by Night. May it be the first of many! – Betsy Burton, Random House, $16

A Great Reckoning, Louise Penny

Followers of the Chief of Homicide for the Surete du Quebec will find their belief in Armand Gamache’s kindness and competence reinforced in the training academy of the Surete where he is met with a hive of cruelty and corruption. His task is to clean the Augean Stables with reason and benevolence. His methods are intellectual and his passions controlled, although the reader is aware of the well-thought-out actions of which he is capable beneath his outward calm. The book begins with a map to Three Pines found in the Bistro wall and Gamache’s acceptance of a tattooed and pierced girl as a cadet whom he assigns to join forces with three others in investigating the map’s history. While they are so occupied, their mentor and professor is murdered, and Gamache is back in the world of homicide—this time not the inspector anymore but a possible suspect. Plot twists abound before the murder is solved but the book is about much more than solving a murder. Pacing the work in slow movements, Penny seems to be analyzing the difference between power for power’s sake and power used for good, contrasting that which comes from evil, and that which comes from good. – Wendy Foster Leigh, St. Martin’s Paperbacks, $9.99

When the Music’s Over, Peter Robinson

In Peter Robinson’s 26th mystery, Detective Superintendent Banks is given a case he doesn’t much like the sound of: investigating a very old accusation of rape, one that involved a now-85-year-old man who was a famous singer in 1967 during the time of Banks’ youth. The victim, a then-14-year-old star-struck girl, had been autograph-hunting and thought she was auditioning when the rape occurred. Now she’s a well-known poet, beyond middle age. Meanwhile Banks’ colleagues are investigating the current rape and murder of a young girl of similar age. The two cases, albeit philosophically and psychologically alike in some ways, illustrate the profound differences in society between the ’60s and the present. As always with Robinson, music pervades the tale, defining the man and also the eras and cultures the book investigates. The examination of rape, the ways it was treated then, the differences—and appalling similarities—to its treatment by law enforcement now, make this a heartbreaking if fascinating and...
timely read to which the calm process at the core of any good police procedural tempers and lends perspective. – Betsy Burton, Morrow, $15.99 Editor’s note: available in paper July 4

**The Sixth Idea**, P.J. Tracy

Sixty years ago during a friendly golf game two scientists working on the Manhattan Project came up with the sixth idea, and weeks later one of them was dead. In present-day Minneapolis the Christmas season is dampened by a series of murders that at first glance seem to have nothing in common. Detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth take their baffling case to Monkeewrench’s door where Grace MacBride and her team of unconventional geniuses uncover not only a link but opposing sides, one determined to wipe out all sixth-idea descendants, the other determined to protect them. Can Monkeewrench find the answer and could it make them targets too? – Paula Longhurst, Putnam, $9.99 Editor’s note: available in June 27

**The Highwayman**, Craig Johnson

It’s hard to wait for the next Walt Longmire mystery but every so often, Johnson gives us the gift of a novella which not only tides us over but also gives us a glimpse into other parts and people in and around Absaroka County, Wyoming. In The Highwayman we meet Rosey Wayman of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. She’s smart and experienced, and she’s afraid she’s losing her mind. A fellow HP, Bobby Womack, keeps trying to contact Rosie during her late night shifts, 12:34 a.m. to be exact. The trouble is, Womack’s been dead for years. What does he want? And why is he afraid she’s losing her mind. A fellow HP, Bobby Womack, keeps trying to contact Rosie during her late night shifts, 12:34 a.m. to be exact. The trouble

**Charcoal Joe**, Walter Mosley

Fans of Easy Rawlins will be pleased to know that Easy is back in L.A. along with his band of friends. L.A. in the late ’60s, a haven for hippies and drugs, retains its racial biases and the underlying cruelty of its underworld. When tough guy Mouse appears with a request for Easy to aid a friend’s son arrested for murder, Easy can’t refuse. The young African-American, Seymour, top of his class at Stanford and a bright star, has been found near the body of a dead white man. Easy, who has learned his “coolness” through experience, will work within a racist society to clear the man even while his own love life is falling apart. Mosley’s secondary characters are as quirky and appealing as the major ones, and it is exciting to become part of his world once again. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Vintage/Black Lizard, $15

**Security**, Gina Wohlsdorf

Manderley is the jewel in the crown of the Destin Management Group, a private resort like no other, boasting unparalleled luxury, and, on the night before the opening, a ruthless killer is roaming its halls and picking his targets off with deadly precision. His orders are to turn the grand opening into a blood bath, and the staff doesn’t even know they’re in any danger. Only hotel manager Tessa knows what goes on on the twentieth floor, and up there two pairs of eyes are watching her: the killer and the man who would save her life—if his own weren’t hanging by a thread. – Paula Longhurst, Algonquin, $15.95

**Fatal Pursuit**, Martin Walker

Readers who like classic cars, classic food, and a classic French chief of police will enjoy Walker’s latest. At the moment the center of Police Chief Bruno’s life is the annual fete in St. Denis, the heart of which is a classic car parade containing The Bugatti Type 57 Atlantic which may have been the most beautiful car of its time. There were only four made; any now in existence would be worth millions. And where there’s money, there’s murder.

A local scholar is killed as the car parade begins, and Bruno finds himself attempting to solve the murder while taking part in a car race and meeting with a beautiful Parisienne whose local kin is involved in a family feud. Nothing comes easily for Bruno, but he’ll put the pieces together and solve the case while preparing a gourmet dinner with the best of the local wines. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Vintage, $16

**Wilde Lake**, Laura Lippman

Luisa (Lu) Brant has been elected to the position of State Attorney of Howard County, Maryland, a position her father held before her. Her brother and his friends had been all-important in the newly planned Columbia, Maryland. The family and relationships with the community are the core of this legal novel as Lu’s life moves back and forth from the 1960s to 2015. But, how many memories are accurate and how does truth vary according to the points of view of the characters and due to distance from the event? Lu’s first case is the battering of a woman by a mentally disturbed man who seems to be a drifter unknown to those in the community. However, coincidences and details come to life as Lu begins to ask questions the answers to which make her even more curious. What is the truth of her family’s involvement in an old rape case? What skeletons will be unearthed as she pursues her search for justice? Lippman acknowledges her homage to Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird as Lu’s curiosity awakens her interest in the part family and community secrets play in the search for justice. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, $15.99
Cutting for Stone, Abraham Verghese

As we say over and over again at The King’s English, we don’t just sell new books, we sell old ones as well—often with equal fervor. Take Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese for example: I read the rough manuscript, which had been mailed to me by an editor, late one night at the Mayo Clinic. Awash in the reality of medicine, surrounded by beeping machines and backlit by that eerie light known only to nighttime hospital rooms while my son slept uneasily under the nest of wires that capped his head, I opened this incredible, medicine-steeped novel and started to read. I finished at dawn, my mind schizophrenically possessed by my son in his bed, the wires, the seizure waiting to happen, and the tale of medicine and family, culture and country that I could see almost as clearly. After the doctors had come and gone, after my son had awakened, after my husband took my place at the bedside, and, finally, after we had all gone home, I became a proselytizer for Cutting for Stone, first to our booksellers and, when it was published, to our customers. I gave copies to the doctors at the Mayo Clinic when my son returned for brain surgery. The following year we had the great privilege of hosting Abraham Verghese for the paperback release of the book. I’d written a florid introduction but jettisoned it in favor of describing the tale of when and how I had read it. Years later I saw him across a room at a publisher’s party. I didn’t think he’d remember me but he asked with genuine interest, “How is your son Nicholas doing? Are his seizures any better?” Which shed light on something that happened during our event: When asked whether, now that he had written a best seller, he would be free to stop practicing medicine, he literally gaped before saying, “Madame, medicine is my calling.” As is clear to anyone who has read his magnificent book. We hand-sell Cutting for Stone to anyone touched by medicine, whether as a patient or a professional, and, of course, to everyone who loves long and compelling novels. And in this day and age when our right to health care is at risk, it seems more important than ever to hand sell this book, not just to remind everyone of the theme, often funny, Smith’s latest novel is irresistible. – Betsy Burton, Anchor, $15 Editor’s note: Smith’s new book, Autumn, set in past- and present-day England, is likewise wonderful!

A Spot of Bother, Mark Haddon

A family so completely ordinary in their dysfunction that one might imagine them in a sitcom—a sort of Everyfamily—populates Haddon’s funniest novel. There’s George, the father, a quiet man, recently retired who’s going politely mad; his wife, who’s indulging in a quiet bit of adultery; their two children: Katie, bent on marrying a man whom both parents dislike, and Jamie, who can’t decide whether to bring the man he loves to his sister’s wedding. Imagine, if you can, a book which crosses the best of Anne Tyler—Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant, say—with the slapstick pace of a Carl Hiassen and the moral outlook of Nicholas Hornby’s A Long Way Down. To call it entertaining would be understatement. To call it deadly accurate would be, well, accurate—as would the words hilarious and brilliant. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, $16

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid, Bill Bryson

Growing up in the 1950s in Des Moines, Iowa, Bryson is the poster boy for baby boomers. In this hilarious memoir he recounts his childhood from long Saturday afternoons in the movie theater to the joys of a “real” downtown to the threat of nuclear war (remember crouching under your desk during civil defense drills?). Bryson reminds us how innocent and hopeful growing up in America in the mid-20th century could be. – Barbara Hoagland, Broadway, $15.99

A Short History of Women, Kate Walbert

Beginning and ending with the voice of Evelyn Charlotte Townsend, whose mother Dorothy Townsend starved herself for suffrage in 1914, Walbert pulls the reader from branch to branch of the Townsend family tree in these interlinked tales, weaving a crisscrossed vine of story as she limns mother, grandmother, daughter, grandneces, on to the fifth generation. Even as we wend our way through these women’s tales we encounter Dorothy’s daughters, one an artist, the other a financier, and, unto the next generation, their daughters. What’s endlessly surprising about these stories is the way each illuminates some part of one life even while detailing another. Walbert has always been a brilliant writer, but as we watch these women struggle, pulled between their desire to make a difference in the world and their need to give and receive love, her work takes on astonishing emotional resonance. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $15

Beloved Backlist from the Shelves of TKE

The Accidental, Ali Smith

Magnus is upstairs in the bathroom tying his shirt to a beam in order to hang himself. His 12-year-old sister Astrid is busy filming everything she sees, while Astrid’s mother Eve is locked in her office pretending to write a novel, and Eve’s second husband Michael is in his office at the university banging one of his female students. Then, Amber walks into the household, appearing in time to prevent the suicide of the brother and becoming—or refusing to become—what each wants her to be. Inventive in terms of style, serious in terms of
WHAT OUR BOOK CLUBS ARE READING NOW
All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL MYSTERY
3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*, Dominic Smith
July: *The English Teacher*, Yiftach R Atir
August: TBD

BRIAN SHORT
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *Saint Death*, Marcus Sedgwick
July: *Narconomics*, Tom Wainwright
August: *Salvage the Bones*, Jesmyn Ward

GAY MEN’S
3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.
at the Sprague Library
June: *The Omnivore’s Dilemma*, Michael Pollan
July: *The Lost Language of Cranes*, David Leavitt

INSIGHTS TO CONSERVATION
1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
June: *29*, Mary Sojourner
July: *Coyote America*, Dan Flores
August: *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman*, Miriam Horn

LAS LECTORAS
3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
Contact DawnAnn Owens for details. dawnannie@msn.com
June: *La Casa en Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros

ROZ READS!
Last Monday & Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m. See www.roz-reads.com for details. $10 per evening paid to Roz.
June: *LaRose*, Louise Erdrich
July: *Case Histories*, Kate Atkinson
August: Summer Break

SLC LESBIAN
1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
May: *Aquamarine*, Carol Anshaw
June: *Juliet Takes a Breath*, Gabby Rivera
July: *Difficult Women*, Roxane Gay

SLOW FOOD UTAH
3rd Wednesday every other month; visit slowfoodutah.org for more details.
May: *A Book of Bees*, Sue Hubbell
July: *Rhapsody in Green*, Charlotte Mendelson

YA & WINE
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *The Hundredth Queen*, Emily King
July: *Now I Rise*, Kiersten White
August: *Vassa in the Night*, Sarah Porter

SECOND MONDAY
2nd Monday of the month; 7 p.m.; $5
June: *Vinegar Girl*, Anne Tyler
July: *American Pain*, John Temple
**TRANSITIONAL READERS**

*Princess Cora and the Crocodile*, Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Brian Floca

Poor Cora is subjected to a carefully planned, regimented and boring schedule designed to get her ready to be the Queen. When she makes a desperate plea to her godmother for a pet, she gets one: not the one she wanted, but maybe the one she needed. Newbery winner Schlitz showcases her talent again in a wonderful read-aloud that will leave kids and parents wanting more. Brian Floca’s illustrations add depth and humor in this smart, fun and ultimately nice book that is a wonderful addition to the emerging readers section! – Candlewick, $16.99 (5 and up)

**MIDDLE READERS**

*The Many Worlds of Albie Bright*, Christopher Edge

Albie’s mom dies of cancer, and when his astrophysicist father tells him that she might be alive in a parallel universe, he is driven to find her. Of course, this is a needle in a haystack proposition. He finds all sorts of versions of himself and of his parents (some not so good) and in the end finds out more about himself and about being human. This tender funny story is an interesting combo of realistic fiction and sci-fi. – Random House, $16.99 (8 and up)

*The Uncommoners #1: The Crooked Sixpence*, Jennifer Bell

When Ivy and her brother Seb literally stumble into Lunidor, a secret world under London, they discover of all things that their grandmother is from Lunidor. Her fall and her trip to the hospital have started a series of events that are both puzzling and scary, and in the end Ivy and Seb are going to have to go to extreme measures to save the world—and maybe their own as well. The author’s whimsical re-imagining of everyday objects, transforming them into uncommon magical devices, is clever and adds a light touch to this new series. Looking forward to the next installment. – Random House, $16.99 (8-12)

*The Warden’s Daughter*, Jerry Spinelli

Cammie O’Reilly grew up in the Warden’s apartment in Hancock County Prison, and now she is walking down memory lane, remembering her sixth-grade year (1959), recounting her struggles with being motherless, and her peers’ fascination with her living situation. Cammie, really struggling, is looking for help in a lot of different places. Spinelli’s secondary characters are just as interesting: Eloda the inmate who takes care of Cammie and the apartment and who is crucial to Cammie’s life; Boo Boo the shoplifter, who is covering up more pain than a 12-year-old can bear; Reggie, Cammie’s best friend, who is obsessed with “American Bandstand” and the recently imprisoned murderer; Cammie’s dad whose silence seems off-putting but who is actually so present for her. Authentic characters, unusual setting and a great story make this a book that will be on shelves for many years, another great addition to the Spinelli section! – Random House, $16.99 (9 and up)

*Beyond the Bright Sea*, Lauren Wolk

As a baby, Crow was plucked from a small boat cast out to sea. She and Osh have stayed on his postage stamp island off Cuttyhunk, Maine, happily living a simple life of fishing and selling paintings to tourists who come in summer. They share their days with Miss Maggie so that although Crow has no blood relatives, she has family. At 12, this is no longer enough for Crow, and she begins to wonder who put her in that skiff. When she spies a fire on the abandoned island of Pinkeese, it raises more questions and a determination to know. – Becky Hall, Dutton, $16.99 (10 and up)

*Orphan Island*, Laurel Snyder

On Orphan Island there are eight children, each one a year apart in age. Every year a boat appears with a new young one and the eldest leaves. This is The Changing and is the way of things. This year Jinny’s best friend Deen leaves and she becomes “The Elder,” which means she must care for the new girl Ess. But Jinny has begun to wonder where the children go when they leave. Why are they on the island anyway? What will happen when she leaves? And what would happen if she didn’t? Thought-provoking and creative, *Orphan Island* is a must-read. – Becky Hall, Walden Pond Press, $16.99 (8-12)

*Genevieve’s War*, Patricia Reilly Giff

In 1939 Americans Genevieve and her older brother Andre are nearing the end of their summer stay in Alsace with their prickly French grandmother Meme. Gen’s brother leaves and she is eagerly awaiting the train but decides to stay to care for Meme instead, despite the predicted German invasion. Life becomes increasingly
**MIDDLE READERS**

**The One Memory of Flora Banks,** Emily Barr

Flora's life is confined to a very small place because as a young child her ability to remember anything and everything was seriously altered by a brain tumor. Until Drake kisses her. The kiss is the first thing she has been able to remember without using her yellow stickies, her journal, or writing on her hand. The consequences of this memory reverberate through her life. Barr has constructed a character study that is compelling and believable. Flora's disability is so unique it might seem hard to find anything in common with her, but her issues with memory, love, acceptance and self-affirmation ring true and are deeply affecting. Readers will find this book and Flora unforgettable! – Penguin, $17.99 (12 and up)

**Girl with a Camera: Margaret Bourke-White, Photographer: A Novel,** Carolyn Meyer

In the early 20th century, women were expected to be wives and mothers. In this novel, told from the point of view of Margaret Bourke-White, readers realize early on that this is a young woman with a desire to succeed. She goes against the grain from the get-go, thinking she wants to be a scientist until one of her professors at Columbia shows her photography. Margaret changes the path her life has been on; she struggles with relationships, with her career, with her health and with blatant discrimination but she persists. Her body of work is readily available to see online, and makes this story even more compelling. – Calkins Creek, $17.95 (10 and up)

**Blood Rose Rebellion,** Rosalyn Eves

Debut local author Rosalyn Eves is off to a great start. In a world where your worth is determined by your magical ability, main character Anna has some extraordinary skills, but none of the traditional forms of magic that are so highly valued. When she really messes up her sister's party, Anna is sent away to Hungary where her Hungarian family proves to be difficult although the local Romani Gabor is handsome and tempting. Anna must figure out her own place in the mayhem of the dark, multilayered world in which she finds herself. – Random House, $17.99 (12 and up)

**Words in Deep Blue,** Cath Crowley

This is the story of Rachel and Henry, two people trying to figure out loss and love at the same time. Rachel's brother died in the ocean, her favorite place in the world. Henry's life changed with divorce and the sale of the beloved family bookstore. They were best friends in high school, but when Rachel moved, things changed. All of this might not sound unusual, but author Crowley has literally created magic. The bookstore has a "Letter Library," a place where patrons are invited to put letters, anecdotes into used books. This clever device, an enthralling plot, and lots of genuine believable bits of life and love make this a terrific read. – Random House, $17.99 (14 and up)

**The Pearl Thief,** Elizabeth Wein

Before Verity became a brave and unbreakable spy she was Scots lass Julia Beaufort Stuart. Fifteen-year-old Julia, Julie to her friends, made the mistake of coming home from her Swiss studies three days early and ended up in the hospital because of it. She can't remember being bashed over the head; she's just grateful to the McEwens, Euan and Ellen and their fellow Travellers, who found her on the path to their campsite and got her to the hospital. Returning to her grandfather's estate to recover, Julie begins to remember snippets of what happened to her. She is keen to get to the bottom of the mystery because on the day she got hurt a family employee vanished. She grows closer to the McEwens, experiencing firsthand some of the prejudices they've become used to. Then a body is found in the river, and the Travellers look like an easy target to frame for murder. Julie joins forces with the McEwens and her brother Jamie to find the real culprit and save her friends. – Paula Longhurst, Hyperion, $18.99 (14 and up)

**Saint Death,** Marcus Sedgwick

Arturo lives in unimaginable poverty outside of Juarez, Mexico, his path through life barely survivable. One night an old friend shows up desperate for help for himself and his newborn child. He owes a drug lord a lot of money, and thinks that Arturo can somehow help him. Pain, suffering, fear, illegal drugs, human trafficking and desperate poverty—Arturo is at his lowest point in this tale packed into just 36 hours. But even at the bottom, people still seek dignity, something that is emphasized by the voice of Saint Death hovering, commenting and waiting. Beautifully written, and unsparingly told, the story of Arturo will stay with readers for a long time. – Roaring Brook Press, $17.99 (14 and up)
**NONFICTION**

*The Quest for Z*, Greg Pizzoli

Adventure, mystery, history all wrapped up in Greg Pizzoli’s quirky art and great storytelling. Percy Fawcett was a Brit who wanted to explore the world, especially jungles. With the support of the Royal Geographic Society, Fawcett went on many expeditions to South America where he became obsessed with the mythological city of Z. Fawcett did not return from his final trip and to this day no one knows what happened to him. Pizzoli has picked another (Tricky Vic) fascinating person from history who may not have changed the world but is intriguing and entertaining, and informative. – Penguin, $17.99 (8 and up)

*Undefeated Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*, Steve Sheinkin

Staff at TKE are all huge fans of Sheinkin’s work, accessible, well-paced history (Bomb and The Notorious Benedict Arnold stand out) that readers of any age will love. Jim Thorpe broke ground all over America and internationally as a phenomenal Native American athlete. Famous on the track team, he wanted to play football. His story is riveting, his talent shines through, and so do his struggles. Readers will have no problem connecting those struggles with institutional racism to the same issues being played out today. Sheinkin reminds readers of this iconic American hero/athlete who deserves to be remembered for his athletic talent and for his perseverance. – Roaring Brook, $19.99 (10 and up)

*The Notorious Benedict Arnold*, Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale, author and illustrator of the beloved Hazardous Tales, has finally written his own graphic novel, set in a future where the earth is in ruins and humans scrape and scavenge to survive. As Strata and her family search for remnants of our digital technology while trying to avoid the alien “blobs” who control the world, she finds an extremely rare robotic pony that might just save her life. This is great adventure that leaves us longing for sequels. It is also a great showcase for Hale’s many talents. – Amulet, $14.96 (8-12)

**YOUNG ADULT/EDGY**

*The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr navigates between two worlds, the poor black neighborhood where her family lives and the exclusive suburban prep school she and her brother attend. She speaks differently, acts differently and even dances differently in each place. This uneasy balance is destroyed when she is the only witness to the police shooting of her unarmed childhood friend Khalil. Now everyone wants to know what really went down that night. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this intense and timely book opens readers’ eyes to the complexities of racism, gangs, police violence and interracial dating. – Becky Hall, Balzer & Bray, $17.99 (14 and up)

*Gem & Dixie*, Sara Zarr

Zarr has a deft touch as she reveals the intimate lives of sisters, Gem and Dixie. The girls are separated by a couple of years and a lifetime of responsibility, Gem has been watching over Dixie all her life. As Dixie has gotten older though, their relationship changes—especially when their father shows up with a bag of money! This is beautifully written, realistic fiction. – Balzer & Bray, $17.99 (14 and up) Editor’s note: signed copies are available

*Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees*, Mary Beth Leatherdale and Eleanor Shakespeare

Not a day seems to go by without another story about refugees. People fleeing life-threatening situations, like war or famine, is not a new story, but this little book opens a window for readers to the plight of boat refugees, starting with Ruth who was on the ill-fated St. Louis during WWII and ending with Mohamed who fled the Ivory Coast. First-hand accounts, timelines, and historical context along with interesting art work that includes collages and actual photos add to the fascination. – Annick Press, $12.95 (10 and up)

*Fish Girl*, Donna Jo Napoli and David Wiesner

Fish Girl is the main attraction of a boardwalk aquarium. She spends her days performing in a tank, oblivious to the world outside, until she befriends a young girl in the audience. Suddenly, her tank seems much too small and she yearns to explore the world beyond her aquarium, but is the outside world really as frightening as it seems? Fish Girl is a superb work from both contributors: it is a beautiful interplay of Napoli’s introspective voice and Wiesner’s surreal illustrations. This whimsical story of friendship will delight both children and adults. – Rachel Haisley, Clarion Books. $25 (HC), $17.99 (PB) (10-12)

*One Trick Pony*, Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale, author and illustrator of the beloved Hazardous Tales, has finally written his own graphic novel, set in a future where the earth is in ruins and humans scrape and scavenge to survive. As Strata and her family search for remnants of our digital technology while trying to avoid the alien “blobs” who control the world, she finds an extremely rare robotic pony that might just save her life. This is great adventure that leaves us longing for sequels. It is also a great showcase for Hale’s many talents. – Amulet, $14.96 (8-12)
**Triangle**, Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen

The dynamic duo of Barnett and Klassen are back with this sly, wry story about a triangle named Triangle who wants to play a practical joke on a square named (wait for it!) Square. Wondering whether or not he’ll succeed drives the story’s action. It’s always good times when Barnett unpacks his offbeat sense of humor and puts pen to paper. But the real star of this book is Klassen’s work. It’s hard to look away from his subtle color palette and shifting landscapes. – Candlewick, $15.99

**Life on Mars**, John Agee

No, this fabulous new picture book isn’t based on the old David Bowie song. Rather, it follows the adventures of a young astronaut who travels to Mars, hoping to find someone there with whom to share some chocolate cupcakes. Too bad no one is around to greet him. OR ARE THEY? Once again, Agee scores a boatload of points on the charm front. – Dial, $17.99

**The Way Home in the Night**, Akiko Miyakoshi

As his mother carries him home at the end of the day, a young bunny wonders about the people they see through windows along the way. This quiet, visually stunning book invites readers to share the sights and sounds (and smells!) of an urban environment at night. – Kids Can Press, $16.95

**We’re All Wonders**, R. J. Palacio

Palacio’s lovely bestselling novel *Wonder* first introduced readers to Augie, a 10 year-old boy born with seriously distorted facial features. Augie returns in this winning picture book, which follows his imaginary adventures as he and his dog, Daisy, journey to outer space. From his new vantage point, Augie sees an earth big enough to accommodate all kinds of people, all kinds of wonders.

– Knopf, $18.99

**Strictly No Elephants**, Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Taeeun Yoo

What if it’s Pet Club Day in your neighborhood and you want to take your tiny pet elephant (who’s fabulous!) to the meeting? Then what if you discover that only people with dogs and cats and birds are allowed to attend? You decide to do, of course, what a good friend does. Yoo’s illustrations are especially appealing. Like “We’re All Wonders,” this book is a celebration of diversity. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

**Happy Dreamer**, Peter H. Reynolds

**The Lion Inside**, Rachel Bright, illustrated by Jim Field

“In a dry, dusty place/ where the sand sparkled gold,/ Stood a mighty flat rock—/ all craggy and old,/ And under that rock/ in a tinyful house,/ Lived the littlest, quietest,/ meekest brown mouse.” Thus begins this thoroughly charming story about a young mouse who goes searching for his voice because he’s tired of being overlooked. How he finds it will delight both children and their parents. Highly recommended. – Scholastic Press, $16.99

**Tony**, Ed Galing, illustrated by Erin E. Stead

The late poet Ed Galing (born in 1917) grew up on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, a community that was home to a large European Jewish population. Many of his poems reflect his day-to-day experiences there, including this memory of Tony, the horse driven by the boy who delivered eggs and milk. Stead’s soft-edged illustrations do a stellar job of capturing the animal’s sweet and gentle nature. – Roaring Brook Press, $16.99

**Normal Norman**, Tara Lazar, illustrated by S. Britt

So what does it mean to be “normal” any-way? The junior scientist who narrates the story is determined to find out by examining an ape named Norman who has been deemed the most normal animal on the planet. And Norman is normal all right. Except for the part where he prefers pizza to bananas and sleeps in a bunk bed instead of a pile of leaves and branches. Also, he likes to play with stuffed animals. The toy kind. Turns out Norman isn’t all that normal. But then who is? – Sterling, $14.95

**Priscilla Gorilla**, Barbara Bottner, illustrated by Michael Emberley

Another girl! Another ape! Another fun picture book about a girl and a gorilla! Priscilla has loved learning about gorillas. Why? Because, according to Priscilla, gorillas ALWAYS get their own way. And when Priscilla goes to school dressed as a gorilla for her animal report, she tries to get her own way too—which doesn’t sit well with her teacher, Mr. Todd. How will Priscilla solve her gorilla problem? – Athenem. $17.99

**We Are the Dinosaurs**, Laurie Berkner, illustrated by Ben Clanton

“We are the dinosaurs, marching, marching—we are the dinosaurs—whaddaya think of that?” Berkner’s lively hit song for children gets full-on picture book treatment in this new title, and Clanton’s bold illustrations are a pitch perfect match for Berkner’s buoyant lyrics. The conversation bubbles embedded in the art add an extra layer of fun! – Simon & Schuster, $17.99
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Many thanks to Equitable Life & Casualty Insurance Company for its help in printing this edition of the Inkslinger.

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