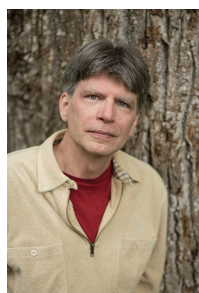




What a Way to Go *by Betsy Burton*

Two of our nation's finest contemporary novelists, Richard Powers and Anthony Doerr, have new books coming this September both of which are earth-shaking in their brilliance, their importance to the world of literature, and the world at large—albeit in entirely different ways. Powers' is small, acutely personal yet as large as the universe, daring in structure, perfect in shape, while Doerr's is audacious enough to encompass, among many other things, history, books, the history of the book—and of story. Each novel is intensely focused and utterly impassioned in terms of our environment. Both are, in their different ways, absolute masterpieces. And both authors are coming to The King's English in September, one virtually, the other in person. Life in a bookstore just doesn't get better than this!

Two paragraphs, taken from short reviews, written when I first got eager hands on their manuscripts some months back, briefly describe their unforgettable novels. I will have the pleasure of interviewing both Powers and Doerr during the last week in September as my final act at TKE before my retirement—which we are celebrating on the occasion of TKE's 44th Birthday on September 10th. I can't even begin to imagine a better gift. Or way to go!



Bewilderment, Richard Powers

A love story in the deepest sense of the word—between father and son, between husband and wife and, in memory, between mother and son—Powers' new novel is so intensely personal that the implacable forces abroad in our world become intensely personal too, the truth of our increasingly disastrous imbalance moving through the reader's heart and head alike. The

fact that our earth as we know it is slipping off its axis has never been raised as cogently or with such urgent passion—something the most sublime of novels (and ***Bewilderment*** is one of those, no question) have a way of doing. – Betsy Burton, Norton, \$27.95 *Editor's note: see full review on page 16.*

September 27, 6 p.m. Richard Powers will appear on Zoom in a ticketed event in discussion with Betsy Burton (see page 35 for details)



Cloud Cuckoo Land, Anthony Doerr

This glorious novel of children trying to figure out the world around them is, above all else, about books. About story. As its characters, whose tales are interwoven with those from the folios of an ancient manuscript, move us across continents and ages, we fall in love with the best of them—and the worst, our hearts filled with terror, tenderness, wonder. Encompassing our

present-day, struggling planet and the continuum of our history, it is the kind of book you hope will come your way but almost never does. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$30 *Editor's note: see full review on page 16*

September 29, 7 p.m. Anthony Doerr will discuss ***Cloud Cuckoo Land*** with Betsy Burton in an in-person, ticketed event at the University of Utah Alumni Auditorium co-sponsored by the Tanner Humanities Council (see page 35 for details)

From Time Present to Time Past: TKE Memories

I've said more than once that I could never have dreamed up a life better than the one I've spent at The King's English. I think most of our booksellers would feel the same way about the store and each other. I have had the privilege of working with so many amazing people over the years, all equally passionate about books and TKE, ever willing to help one another, help our customers, invariably friendly, all deeply knowledgeable in one area or another.... It is impossible to overstate the debt of gratitude I owe them, and likewise impossible to articulate a thank you big enough to encompass what we owe to all of you. Our customers. Our community. Readers one and all, you have been loyal to us through thick and thin, through chains and growing pains, through earthquakes, plagues and the internet. We owe you our life as a bookstore, as a part of the community, and I have loved knowing all of you throughout these many years. Like our booksellers, you are amazing: erudite, curious, loyal, generous, open-hearted... Is there something about books that creates such people? I guess there must be, because knowing you, talking books with you, sharing with you the bliss of readings with brilliant authors or the private pain that only the right book can begin to heal, whether bookstore coworkers, customers, community members, you have made my life a series of grace-notes. I am eternally grateful to you all. I hope TKE has given you many such memorable moments as well. And speaking of memorable moments, the following pages are full of them, first those of my coming-of-age in books and, on opposing pages, those of Calvin Crosby (TKE's new and wonderful primary owner), followed by a range of TKE's precious pictorial memories going back over 44 years (starting on page 8).

Join us September 10, 4-5:30 p.m. in celebration of our
 44th Birthday and Betsy Burton's Retirement!

44
 YEARS

For full autumn calendar, see pages 34-35!

Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books

By Betsy Burton and Calvin Crosby, Past and Present Partners in *The King's English Bookshop*

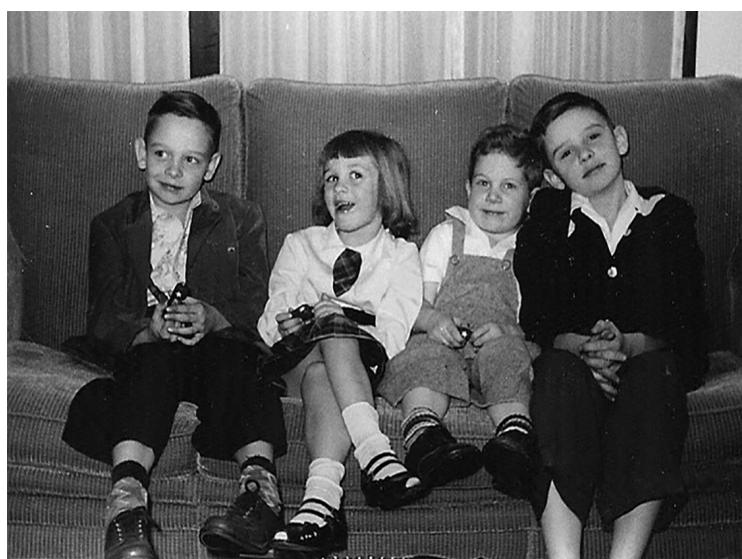
Betsy

Learning to read: 1951, the year I was quarantined with scarlet fever for a month, my favorite aunt read to me daily for hours on end, holding the books at an angle so I could see the pictures. I could also see the words and, after a few heartfelt repetitions of *Ferdinand* and *Corduroy*, I began to notice them and then to repeat them along with her. In no time I was reading and off we went in tandem, performing duets from battered copies of the Old Mother West Wind and the Bobbsey Twins series.

Reading in Bed by Flashlight: Still in quarantine after my aunt left, I whined up a storm because for the first (but by no means the last) time I had nothing to read. My only comfort was my flatulent dog Falcon lying patiently by my bed. I loved that dog, despite the gas, and when my big brother Bob tossed me *Lad a Dog* through my half-open door, I read it—along with every other Albert Payson Terhune he had. From there I moved on to Bob's horse books, among them *The Black Stallion* and *King of the Wind*. It was one evening while in the middle of *The Island Stallion's Fury* (mom bought me a brand-new copy, no doubt to prevent more whining) when I found I couldn't bear to turn off my light at bedtime. I had to know what had happened to Steve and Pitch—not to mention the island stallion. That was when I performed my first non-random act of rebellion. I stole a flashlight from the kitchen drawer and read under a tented sheet until the batteries dimmed—after which I returned the flashlight to its drawer. I blasted my way through the books of Walter Farley and Marguerite Henry along with those of Terhune that Mom got at the library, Falcon panting at my bedside while Mom replaced batteries, one after another, wondering how they were getting sapped so quickly.

A character encountered during your childhood reading who changed your life? Nancy Drew. I was drawn to my first one by the horses on the cover of *The Secret of Shadow Ranch*, but I quickly went back to the *Secret of the Old Clock* and *The Hidden Staircase*, reading forward from there. Who needs boys? I asked myself. I had a hard time sticking to the library limit of 10 books a week and, once I'd read them all, I went on (less enthusiastically) to the *Anne of Green Gables* and *Little House on the Prairie* series. There was simply no substitute for Nancy (especially the Hardy Boys. Boring).

When did you read your first adult classic and why? In fifth grade, frantically searching for books with female protagonists (although I didn't know that word back then) after that first nascent encounter with feminism (I didn't know that word either, and it probably didn't exist yet) thanks to Carolyn Keene, I came across a Heritage Classic edition of *Jane Eyre* on my parents' shelves in the living room. It had everything I was longing for right on the cover: mystery, romance, an air of



Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books



Calvin

Learning to read: The books I remember floating around our house were copies of *The Three Little Kittens* and one of *The Three Billy Goat Gruff*, both with lenticular covers. There was also an illustrated children's Bible filled with beautiful white people and amazing clouds. As a child, I had an aunt who was a magical storyteller in the oral tradition, but it was in kindergarten, 1970, that I connected books to reading. I saw the power in being able to follow the words on a page. The kids of Klickitat Street, *Ramona the Pest*, her sister Beezus and their friends, Henry and his lovable dog among them, enthralled me. I could not wait to learn to read Beverly Cleary's words on my own. I found a world that normalized boys and girls as friends. I would read her books repeatedly: *Beezus and Ramona*, *Henry Huggins*, *Ribsy*, and *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*. I also loved the original art by Louise Darling and still think it helped foster my own love of drawing.

Reading in Bed by Flashlight: By the mid '70s I had moved on to the Hardy Boys, which I could read on the school bus, but it turns out that, like Betsy, it was Nancy Drew's adventures that I loved and would read after the lights went out. I could not get enough of her mystery-solving and friends, especially gender non-conforming George, easy-going Bess, and hapless Ned. I had to read them sequentially, starting with the *Secret of the Old Clock* through book 51, *Mystery of the Glowing Eye*. I agree with Betsy that in comparison to Nancy, the Hardy Boys were not as compelling.

A character encountered during your childhood reading who changed your life? I will reconsider *Henry Huggins*, a boy whose best friend was Beezus. My friends were primarily girls; Beverly Cleary's normalization of the friendship was an anchor for me in my early years (maybe still) at elementary school. He also had a perfect scruffy mutt for a dog. *Henry and Ribsy* was the book I most wanted my life to resemble in elementary school.

When did you read your first adult classic, and why? Babysitting for the next-door neighbor in Linden, Utah, who happened to be a voracious reader and had a great library (in retrospect, I would have kept an eye on her children more often to have access to the books). There I discovered *Stranger in a Strange Land* by Robert A. Heinlein. I devoured the book in a single sitting, connecting to the outsider status of Martian-born "Mike" and his disruption of the status quo. Heinlein, with this book, started my love of speculative fiction.

Was there a book that either then or in hindsight introduced you to the adult world, and when did you read it? *A Boy's Own Story* by Edmund White. In 1983 or 1984, when I was still in high school (Cyprus High Class of '84), I was very unsure of my place in the heteronormative world (not a word back then) that I lived in, knowing I was gay but not knowing what that meant. I am sure I bought the book as a paperback release at The King's English. It conveyed to me, above anything else, that I was not alone. I still hold dear White's unflinching prose and honest, candid storytelling about being gay in America, pre-AIDS-crisis, told in his gorgeous literary voice.

A book that opened your eyes to race in a way that made you feel more than mere empathy—made you understand that prejudice is everyone's problem? I come at books on race and prejudice from a



Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books

gothic tension—a promise utterly delivered by the spellbinding narrative.... I went on to *Wuthering Heights* which frightened me in ways I didn't understand then and searched for other Heritage Editions, plunging into Dumas, Dickens, Hugo. Dad used to joke that one night I would disappear into the pages of a book and never be seen again. When I cracked (not literally, I hate it when people crack the spines of books) my first Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, I thought maybe my father was actually right. I never wanted to come out again. I still don't.

Was there a book that either then or in hindsight introduced you to the adult world and when did you read it? *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. This is an answer many people would no doubt give. As a child who grew up in Salt Lake City, I had no context for race, no idea how horrific prejudice could be. My only experience with exclusion was that of growing up non-Mormon in a Mormon city. Suddenly, thanks to Harper Lee, I saw prejudice in a whole new way—and not just racial prejudice.

A book that opened your eyes to race in a way that made you feel more than mere empathy—made you understand that prejudice is everyone's problem? Aside from Lee's, two books come to mind: *The House Made of Dawn*, and *The Song of Solomon*. Each tore at my heart and gut, helping me see the world through others' eyes, and also opened the floodgate to wonderful literature from writers with different voices—particularly Native American and Black voices—from Frank Waters to Leslie Marmon Silko to Louise Erdrich to Sherman Alexie and Tommy Orange, Alec Baldwin to Maya Angelou to Colson Whitehead to Jesyman Ward to Isabel Wilkerson and Ibram X. Kendi—and from there to other races, other continents...

A book that helped you survive the loss of a love? Certainly not the book by that title. In fact, the answer is not *a* book but many books. 1973 was the year my first husband left me. When you're young you actually feel as if your heart will break; I didn't think I would survive a divorce and only managed to do so by yellow-dotting my way through the Salt Lake City Library (mysteries were then coded with yellow dots on their spines). After putting my baby daughter to bed I'd read one mystery and then another. It took me a year to get through them all (or at least the ones that looked even a little bit tempting), and by the end of that year I knew we'd go on, Mandy and I.

A book that prepared you for a life you had no idea at the time you would later live? *The Sound and the Fury*. Benjy's voice moved me so utterly and completely that I lived inside his head for weeks, and he never really left my heart. I first read it during the summer after my last year of high school in 1964 and then again for a Faulkner class in college in 1965. I'd returned to it time and again since so when, in 1984, my son was



Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books



different perspective. I need to acknowledge an essential book for me, *Love Medicine*, Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain/Chippewa), which helped me see the shared experience native people have in the U.S. From my point of view, before this book, there was not an authentic representation of native life. Growing up in a white-dominated society, I ached to hear more about the native experience and understand the less-than or othered experience normalized to native people. As a card-carrying member of the Cherokee Nation, I ached to understand why this bias is accepted. Erdrich connected me to a broader understanding of the importance of tribe and the damage colonialism continues to inflict on the indigenous community. She pulls away the veil from the intimacy of reservation life, and while she holds nothing back, she still uses grace to share her stories. As a side note, I am amazed at the wealth of Native voices across genres that we have now. Darcy Little Badger's (Lipan Apache) *Elatsoe* for young adult readers, Kelli Jo Ford's (Cherokee) *Crooked Hallelujah* an incredible mother-daughter story, Angeline Bouley's (Ojibwe) debut young adult novel, *Firekeeper's Daughter*, and the poetry of Kim Shuck (Cherokee), her latest collection *Deer Trails* (San Francisco Poet Laureate Series, 7).

A book that helped you survive the loss of a love? Steven Rowley's *Lily and the Octopus*. This is the story of a man and his dog (a recurring theme for me) and their mythic and epic adventure fighting off an imagined octopus. The octopus turns out to be something real, putting Lily the dog in peril. I will add that I had a senior dog going through a similar diagnosis; my copy of this book is seriously water-damaged.

A book that prepared you for a life you had no idea at the time you would later live? National Book Award Debut Novel *The Three Junes* by Julia Glass gives us the story of Fenno McLeod, a proprietor of a bookstore of note...need I say more?

Is there a book that made you wet your pants laughing? Also, for me, a book by Jonathan Tropper, *The Book of Joe*, his first novel about a first-time novelist who exposes his family and friend's secrets and then must return home to care for his father and face their wrath.

Favorite authors, that gently amuse? Andrew Sean Greer (*Less*), Julia Glass (*House Among the Trees*), Joshilyn Jackson (*Gods in Alabama*), Kira Jane Buxton (*Hollow Kingdom*), and Jane Hamilton (*Laura Rider's Masterpiece*).

A book that made you understand the earth in new ways? In *The World Without Us*, Alan Weisman imagines (with a great deal of research) the idea of humanity vanishing off the planet and what the world would become. We saw some of this a month into the recent pandemic shutdown when wildlife and vegetation thrived, and pollution subsided while we were in lockdown. His studies allow him to go even deeper, extrapolating how the planet could heal itself. Human-kind is now listed as a force of nature. This book is a wake-up call.

Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books

born with pervasive brain damage and for years had no way to communicate, I somehow knew him already. Understood what he felt and meant by the sounds he made and the looks on his face. He talks now (and delivers books for The King's English), but I still feel I have an inside track on his brain and heart from my time spent with Benjy. No writer has ever conveyed that heart and head better—until Richard Powers this year in *Bewilderment*.

Is there a book that made you wet your pants laughing?

Jonathan Tropper's *This is Where I Leave You* which, when I read it in 2010, for a reason I never really understood, touched my funny bone in a way no other book has since *Cold Comfort Farm*. That scene with the birthday cake....

Favorite authors that gently amuse? Austen, Trollope, Barbara Pym, Nancy Mitford...I've read them all for years from the '60s forward and for years they've amused and comforted me as do (among today's novelists) Anne Tyler and Richard Russo. I adore their novels and feel bereft when I finish one. Just recently I've developed a taste for the gentle humor that underlies a much darker (and uncomfortably funny) sensibility that is the stuff of Mona Awad's fine fiction. Funny mysteries from the '30s forward do the same (so long as they're not too "cozy"). Donna Leon is a present-day master at mixing light and dark in ways that both comfort and intrigue.

A book that made you understand the earth in new ways?

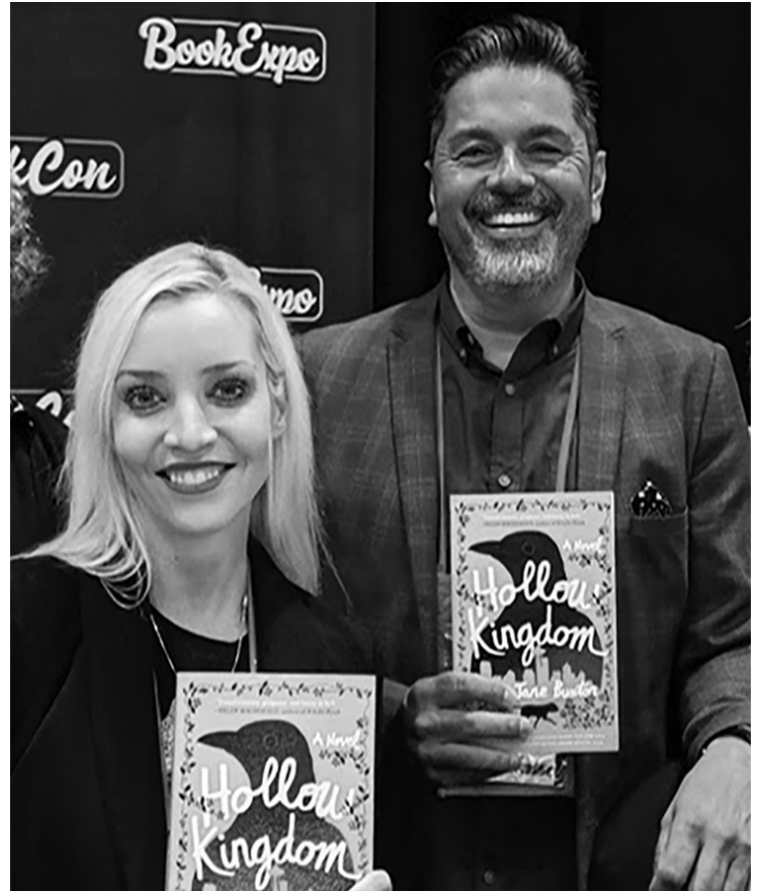
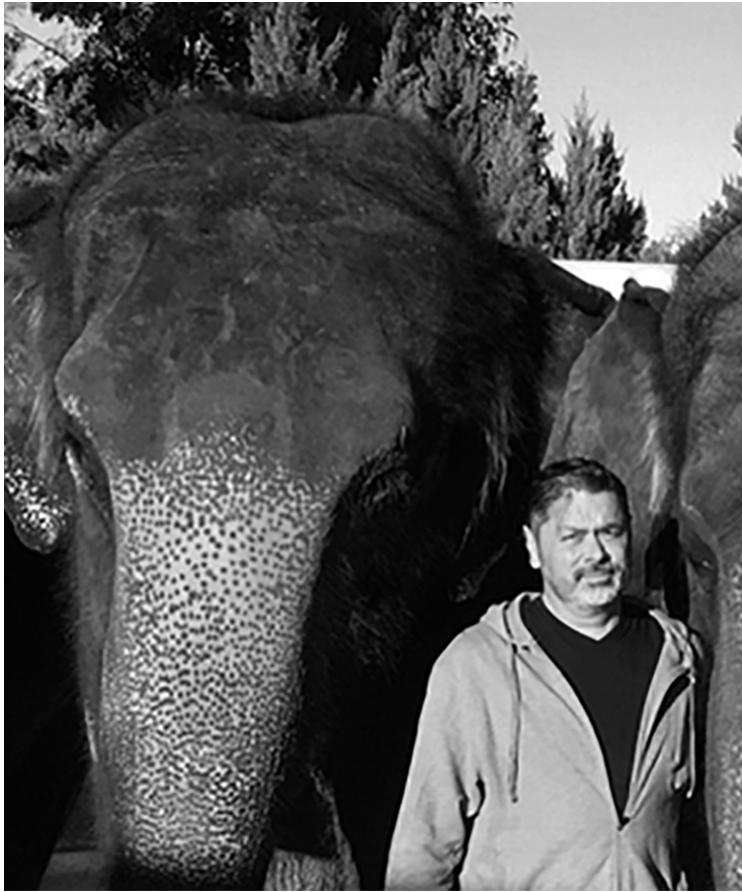
Every book by Terry Tempest Williams, but in particular *Refuge* from 2000 and *Finding Beauty in a Broken World* from 2009. Also, Richard Powers' *The Overstory*, published in 2018.

A book that helped you understand the environment, history itself and the history of books in new ways? *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr to be published September 27, 2021 (He's coming to TKE September 29!!!)

Finally, returning to the question of books and survival, a multicopy set of enormous volumes that helped me perhaps more than any other was Books in Print (known as BIP in the trade) which I read alongside Ann Berman (another recent divorcee) in 1976 in order to fill the shelves of the new bookstore we dreamed of opening, deciding we'd name it The King's English Bookshop. TKE, its books, its booksellers, the people in publishing who sold me those books and those who, over the years, have bought them, have helped me survive and thrive during the past 44 years—and with luck will keep me in books for yet another decade or two!



Two Readers' Timelines: A Not-Strictly-Sequential-and-Heavily-Anecdotal Chronology of Two Lives Lived with (and inside) Books



A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

And so it begins: Ann Berman and Betsy Burton at TKE's opening reception



Besty Burton, John Irving, Ann Berman at TKE's first signing



*Open House
Saturday, September 10th
2-7
To Celebrate Our New Bookshop
The King's English
1511 South 15th East
Betsy Hanner Ann Berman*



John Irving signing *The World According to Garp*



Top: Running amok in the children's room with Jack Prelutsky (left) in full dragon regalia, and illustrator Peter Sis (right).

Bottom: Tomi de Paola with Betsy Burton and children's bookseller Marilyn Osborne-Butter.

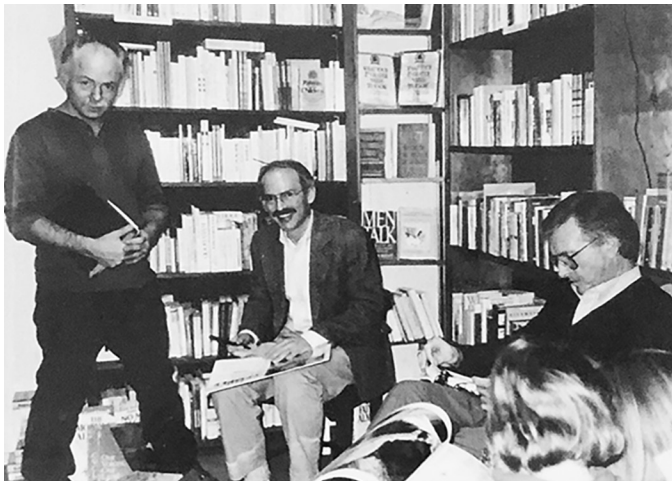
Jack Prelutsky and Peter Sis creating joy in TKE's Children's Room (top), the effervescent Tomi De Paola with booksellers (bottom)

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

Wall of Memories



Pat Bagley's take on TKE and Patriot Act



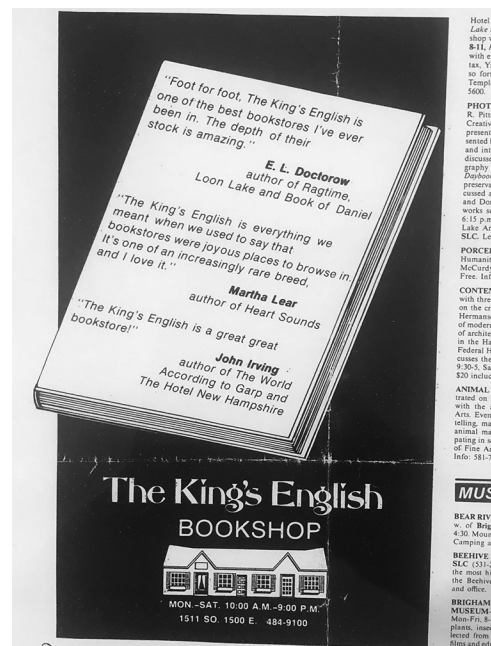
Signing and socializing in the early '80s with Steve Trimble, Jim Ure, and "Smokey" (John Koelsch) from the record shop next door



Tony Hillerman signing



Ah, memories...Isabel Allende and an ecstatic Tony Hillerman at the Grand Opening Gala at the Salt Lake Public Library



Early reviews of the small, but plucky, TKE

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

The glory days of the '80s and the coming of new partner,
Barbara Hoagland



Two amazing mystery mavens: Elizabeth George (top) and
Sue Grafton (bottom)



Longtim beloved author, columnist, and TKE bookseller,
Ann Edwards Cannon



An eager crowd at TKE's front and back doors during
Harry Potter Days



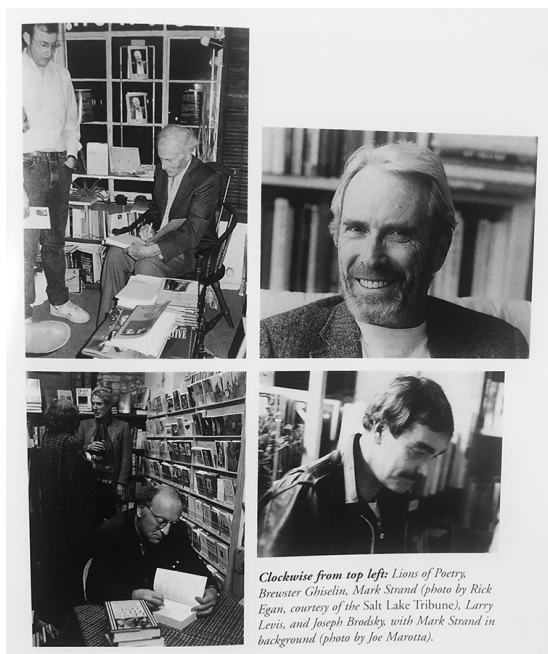
and Sara Paretsky makes three



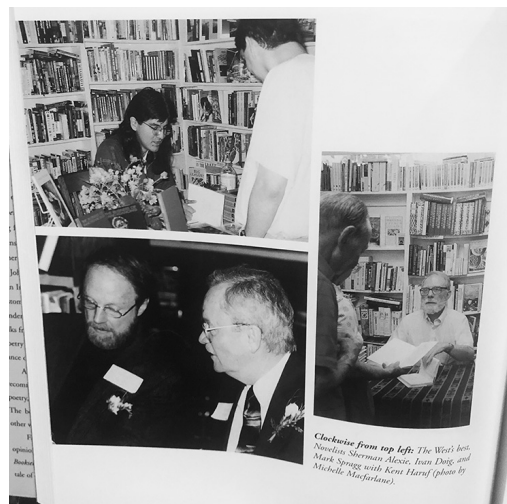
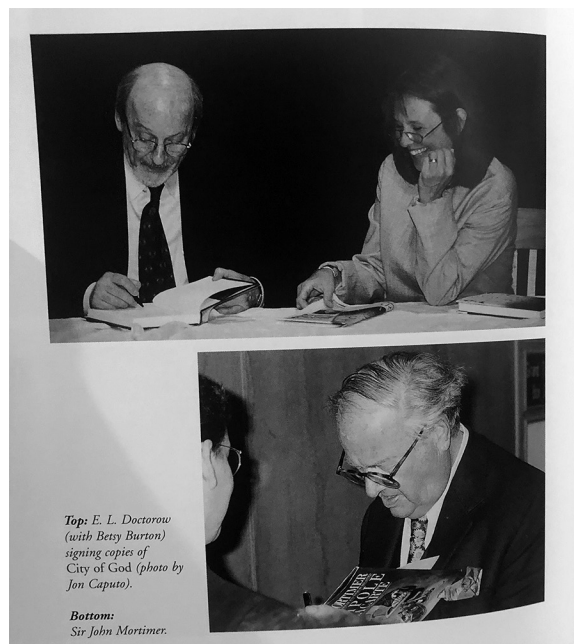
Barbara Hoagland, Deon Hilger, Betsy Burton and Caro-
lyn Ershler, partners in disguise greeting an astonished
Elizabeth George

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

The glory days of the '80s continue with world-class poets Brewster Ghiselin, Mark Strand, Joseph Brodsky, and Larry Levis...



and E.L. Doctorow (top), Sir John Mortimer (bottom) in once-in-a-lifetime appearances at TKE



beloved Western voices of frequent visitors to TKE, Sherman Alexie, Mark Spragg and Kent Haruf, Ivan Doig, all busily signing at various in-store events...



yet another frequent visitor, memoirist/novelist and longtime teacher of creative writing at Stanford, Tobias Wolff....



not to mention the fabled and fabulous Margaret Atwood!



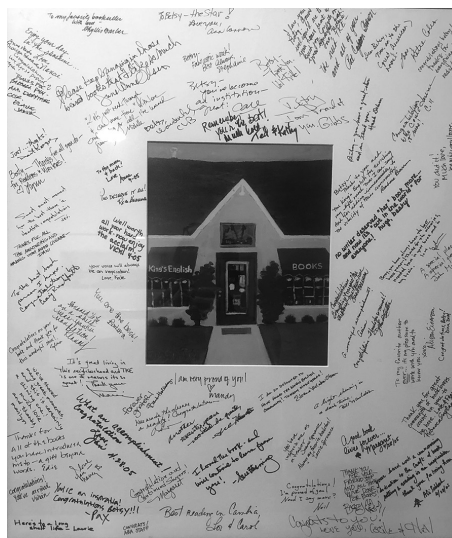
TKE circa 1990

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

30 years (off and on) of Burton's radio reviews for KUER



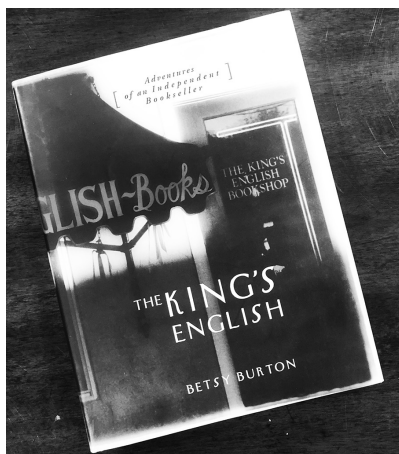
Customers' celebratory gift on publication day



15+ years of our semi-annual KUER Booksellers Talk Books with moderator Doug Fabrizio, booksellers Ken Sanders, Betsy Burton, Catherine Weller and producers, Benjamin Bombard, Tim Sloven and Elaine Clark



Burton and friend Gayle Shanks of Changing Hands Bookstores of Tempe and Phoenix, Arizona, upon the occasion of the publication of Burton's book



Publication of the story of TKE told in *The King's English: Adventures of an Independent Bookseller* by Betsy Burton



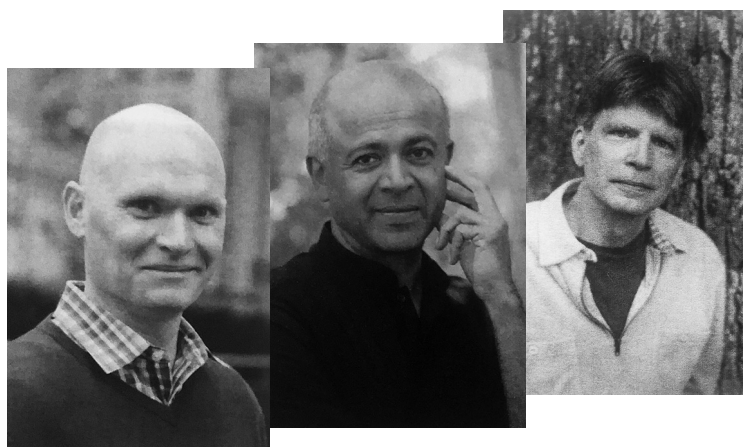
TKE's Children's Room Gift Wrapped with Local First logo, reminding people to shop locally!

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

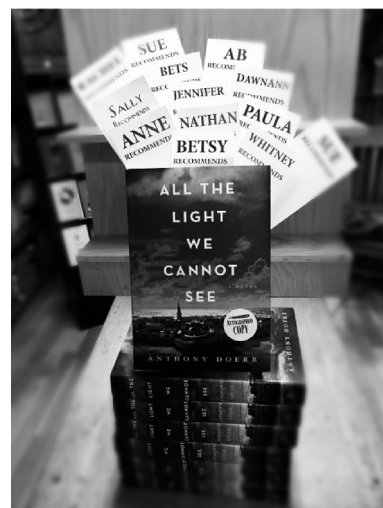
A star-studded cast: Richard Powers (that's his back) Christopher McDougal and Alexander McCall Smith visit TKE...



Terry Tempest Williams, whom we all adore and who has visited TKE for literally every book she's published, starting with *Refuge* and most recently with *A Burning Testament*, paintings by Mary Frank—now even more apposite than when first published last year, as is *Erosion*, published the year before!



As did Anthony Doer, Abraham Verghese and (this time facing the camera), Richard Powers for the second time



All the Light We Cannot See is a "porcupine" at TKE, bristling with recommendations



Playing hooky: Burton, Shanks and Tattered Cover friends, Cathy Langer and Margaret Maupin at London Bookfair (top) and a spin in Nicks Burton's VW with author Jeannette Haien and Bear (bottom)



The best booksellers in the country and perhaps the world, the staff at TKE

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

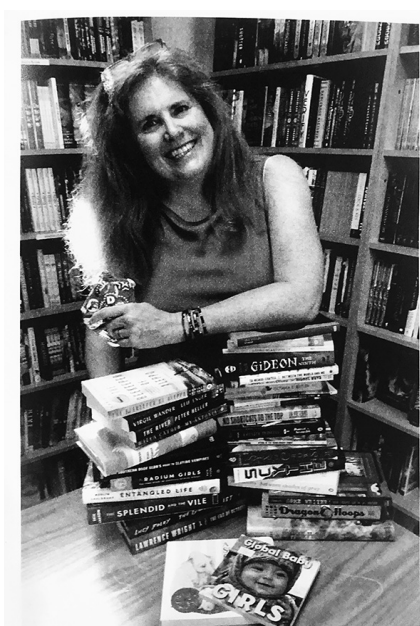
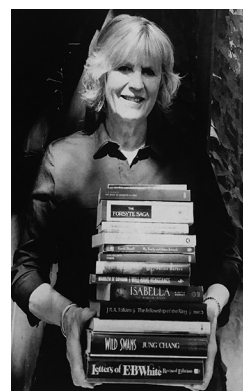
The Inkslinger, published 5 times a year for 30 years



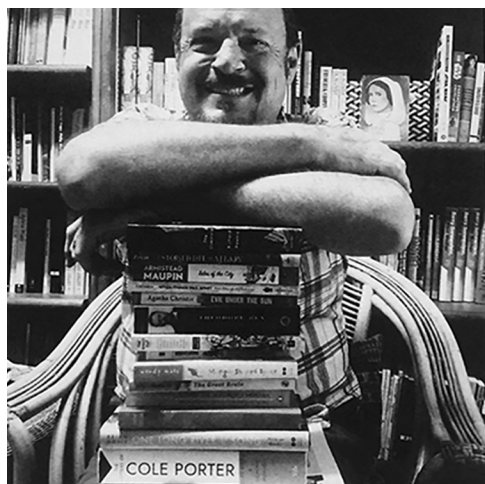
Bestselling author and amazing young bookseller Mackenzi Lee



And brilliant longtime bookseller Sally Larkin



First among booksellers, Margaret Brennan Neville—who reads everything!



Rob Eckman, media maestro and storytelling wunderkind (you have no idea what you're missing if you haven't heard him read *The Widemouthed Frog* aloud)



Partners, Burton and 20-year-veteran-at-TKE, general manager Anne Holman



Burton and then-President Barack Obama (and no, alas, not at TKE, but at a backyard healthcare meeting in Virginia)

A TKE Scrapbook of Memories

Michaela Riding, mother, writer, bookseller extraordinaire



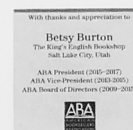
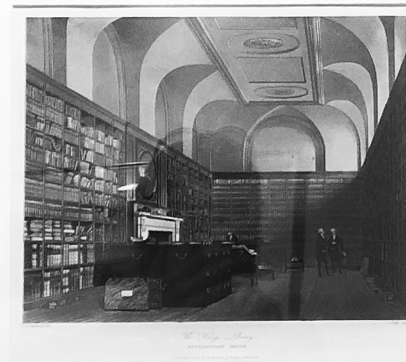
Michelle Macfarlane, poet, photographer, French scholar, bookseller (no, there's nothing she can't do)



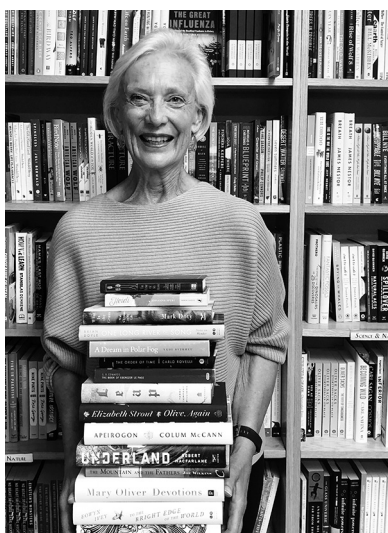
Oren Teicher, CEO of the American Booksellers Association, Burton, out-going board chair, and Robert Sindelar, incoming-chair



Burton having trouble choosing a single stack to feature



Award to Burton for 8 years of service on the board of ABA, two years as President



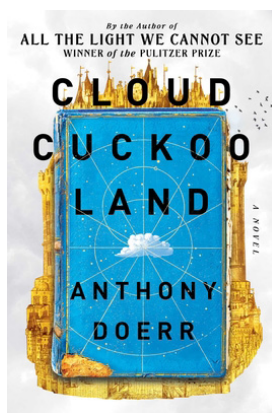
Jan Sloan Tempest, the natural world is her universe—and that laugh, oh that laugh!!!



Nicks Burton and Ricky Hoffman, delivering books and joy daily for TKE

Nighttime at TKE's front door. Goodnight, Sweet Store!





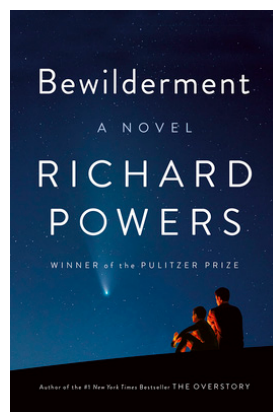
Cloud Cuckoo Land, Anthony Doerr

A glory of a novel, this tale of children trying to figure out the world around them is, above all else, about books. About story. As its cast of characters moves us across continents and ages from ancient Greece to the present and beyond, we fall in love with the best of them—and the worst: Anna, a child trying unsuccessfully to behave in a convent in 5th century Constantinople; Omeir, the youth who waits outside its walls in the company of thousands of Ottomans; Seymour,

a present-day eco-terrorist bent on saving the earth; Konstance, a girl encased in a spaceship who has never known our beloved earth; Zeno, a boy who grows up in the forests and years later returns home to help five children produce a play. And, of course, the narrator of that play, his voice, taken from the folios of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, an ancient novel and the connective tissue of Doerr's—which becomes, in an eerie sense, the history of all books. The tale of their fragility. And their strength. Both narratives fill the heart with terror and love and compassion, dread and humor; Doerr's also manages to encompass our struggling planet and the continuum of our history. Impossible to put down and, once finished, life-changing, *Cloud Cuckoo Land* is the kind of book you hope will come your way but almost never does. An absolute masterpiece. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$30

Bewilderment, Richard Powers

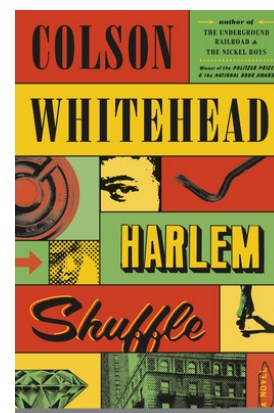
I've seldom cared so deeply for characters in a novel as I did for Theo, brilliant astrophysicist, confused father; his equally brilliant and erratically ungovernable nine-year-old son Robin—whom Theo is trying to stabilize while avoiding the psychotropic drugs the school is insisting the boy take—and, always offstage but haunting every page, Alyssa, Aly, wife of one, mother of the other, now deceased. This is a love story in the deepest sense of the word—between father and son, between husband and wife, and, in memory, between mother and son. When the novel opens Theo and Robin are camping, nature (however defiled) being the one place that seems to calm the boy, aside from the imaginary interplanetary visits on which father takes son at night. But nature and imagination can only work if a parent doesn't work—the triple bind of single parents whose children are emotionally or neurologically troubled. Although steeped in cutting-edge science, be it environmental, astrophysical, or psychological, Powers' tale is so intensely personal that the implacable forces abroad in our out-of-joint world become intensely personal too, the truth of our increasingly disastrous imbalance moving through the reader's heart and head alike. Yet I turned the final page of *Bewilderment* in my own state of bewilderment—not confused by the whys of what happens to Robin or Theo or Aly—but rather by the cosmic whys of humankind, of our country, our planet. The reality that the world as we know it is slipping off its axis has never been raised as cogently or with such urgent passion. Something the most sublime of novels—and *Bewilderment* is one of those, no question—have a way of doing. – Betsy Burton, Norton, \$27.95



Harlem Shuffle, Colson Whitehead

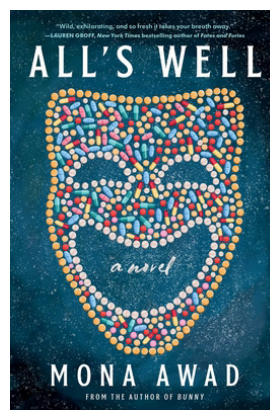
Whitehead is quickly securing his place as someone who should be on every award list! Ray, trying to be legit and a little desperate to keep his “other” life under wraps, dodges a lot of bullets in this book, literally and figuratively. His inner turmoil is the heart of the story. He is nurturing his modest furniture store when he gets dragged into acting as the fence in a big robbery. The job is botched, and Ray deals with a cast of unsavory characters as the plot involves more and more secrets and ever-worsening conflicts. Whitehead does a great job of unwrapping Ray's psyche, cloaking his tale in a richly detailed view of 1960's Harlem. In a novel that is intimate, witty, and tender, he places us squarely in the head of an African American man, trying his best in a system that only wants to squash him.

– Margaret Brennan Neville, Doubleday, \$28.95

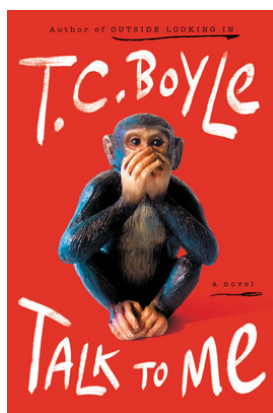


All's Well, Mona Awad

Webster's first and second definitions of comedy include happy endings, while its third defines it as “a ludicrous or farcical event or series of events.” According to Webster then, Awad's sizzling new novel is indeed a comedy—albeit a dark one. I howled with laughter as I read *All's Well*. But with remembered pain, too, as I followed untenured Shakespeare professor Miranda Fitch through not only a student production of “All's Well That Ends Well,” the rebellion of said students



and their ultimate determination to put on “Macbeth” instead, but also the throes of disabling back and leg pain. Throes that involve not just the pain itself but its treatment—the surgeries and the drugs, the physical and psychiatric therapies which too often blame, shame and otherwise disable the mind and body of the patient (or, more properly, the victim) in the current world of medicine. Anyone with a condition not highly visible or immediately amenable to treatment knows this world all too well. But the cocktail Awad's genius makes of it (add Shakespeare, a sexy set designer, three mysterious strangers, and stir) is at once ironic enough to elicit serial paroxysms of laughter and lethal enough to create empathetic spasms of horror. Like the play itself, which is, as our professor reminds us, both a comedy and a tragedy, *All's Well* plumbs the depths of illness and pain, their impact on the human spirit, as well as stirring our sense of irony. But Awad throws in elements of “Macbeth” as well, not to mention mind-altering psychotropic elements that turn the tale into a witches' brew of diabolical payback as Miranda, helpless no more, meets head on the threat of a student revolt, a satanic therapist or two and the response of “friends” to chronic illness. Anyone paying attention to this blistering novel will think twice before labeling a colleague's or loved one's pain dismissively. And no one who's read it will forget its long-suffering yet, in the end, formidable hero. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, \$27



Talk to Me, T.C. Boyle

Award-winning writer Boyle's latest work, set in the late 1970s, shares three perspectives: Aimee Villard, Guy Schermerhorn, and Sam. Aimee Villard is a student who, upon seeing Guy use modified sign language to communicate with a chimpanzee on a TV game show, becomes drawn into his research and into his and Sam's lives. Guy Schermerhorn is a professor and researcher driven to communicate with chimpanzees. Pizza-loving Sam is the chimpanzee at the core of the novel, born

and raised in captivity and fostered in a research study. Boyle, in his brilliance, illustrates the otherness at the heart of Sam's existence. Not human, not ape. Brought to life with humor and poignancy, Sam's point of view is beyond compelling. In the bond that Sam and Aimee share, is there communication or even conversation between them? Despite his upbringing, Sam is still an animal, prone to behaving instinctively—especially when the nefarious Dr. Moncrieff, his rightful owner, appears. Recurring themes of communication and companionship told with compassion make this book hard to put down.

— Calvin Crosby, Ecco, \$27.99

The Book of Form and Emptiness, Ruth Ozeki

Kenji, Annabelle's husband and Benny's father, dies within the first eight pages of a book 548 pages long. The hole Kenji's death leaves in their lives widens throughout until mother and son come, separately, and then together, to stand at the brink of decision. Under the influence of two homeless friends, Aleph and Bottle-man, as well as a host of other voices, including a rubber duck, a shoe, a paper cutter, and The Book, to name a few, Benny struggles to answer the question of "What is real?" Who, and what, gets to say "what is real" becomes the ultimate question this novel pursues. Is it a mother, a landlord, a psychiatrist, a social worker, a Buddhist nun? Is it friends? Is it the news? Is it a book? Is it what we collect—VCRs, turntables, DVDs, albums, computers and programs? Is it both the literal and metaphorical weight of capitalist trash under which Benny, his mother, and their homeless friends struggle to exist? In Ozeki's magical narrative of apparent demise, an entire tapestry of the world emerges. — Michelle Macfarlane, Viking, \$30

The Magician, Colm Tóibín

The theater in which *The Magician* is set is global, its historical backdrop that of two world wars and the Cold War that followed, but it is the moving currents of culture, swirling and eddying their way through the forward flow of that (chillingly timely) history which provide such fascinating context for the world-famous German novelist Thomas Mann. His family, moths to the light of his bright-burning flame, illuminate the man and his time—not to mention his work—with haunting clarity, as do the characters who inhabit his novels, from those of the brilliant multigenerational *Buddenbrooks* to *The Magic Mountain*, *Doctor Faustus* to *Death in Venice* to *The*



Confessions of Felix Krull, Confidence

Man. Like Felix Krull, Tóibín's Mann is a trickster of sorts, brave enough to buck authority but not public currents, ever in hiding, never able to live freely—sexually, personally or professionally. Not many people (except perhaps Felix Krull) would have the sheer guts, the ruthless knowledge or intuitive understanding to not only imagine the interior world of one of the world's great novelists, conjure his milieu, but also to (selectively) birth his novels, one after another. It's an endeavor even more breathtaking than was *The*

Master, brilliant on so many levels that it creates from the clay of a great author's life a kaleidoscopic, riveting tale of any artist's riven nature, torn as so many are by the desire to fit in and the inability to do so, the ability to at once see and be blind, love and use that love cold-bloodedly. In short, the ambiguity and anguish inherent in any creative soul. — Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$28



Intimacies, Katie Kitamura

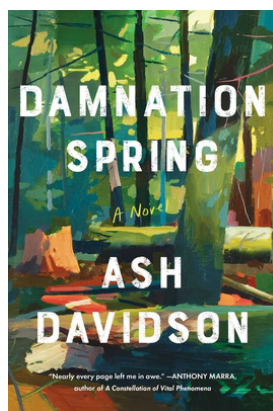
There is a moment, mid-novel, when Kitamura's protagonist, a young interpreter working at the Hague's International Court, stands in front of a canvas painted by a relatively unknown Dutch female artist working in the early 17th century. The painting, undoubtedly made over the course of several prolonged sittings, creates a kind of temporal blurring that our modern experience of a single photograph—a single moment in time—does away with. A dimension opens in which

the protagonist describes, "you could feel the weight of time passing." She sees the painter as having caught her subject, also a young woman, in separate, discrete states of emotion and mood. This character's description of her experience of the painting aptly describes what Kitamura herself allows the reader to experience through the world of her novel: separate and discrete, yet simultaneous states within each of the characters as seen through the eyes of her protagonist. From the imprisoned and on-trial war criminal, both charming and monstrous, for whom she translates, to her lover, a married man who is separated from his wife, to the brother of her friend's friend, an antiquarian bookseller who is the victim of a violent attack and himself a possible perpetrator holding secrets from his own family, we are allowed glimpses, prolonged yet fleeting, into the simultaneous, intimate moments in the lives of others. — Michelle Macfarlane, Riverhead, \$26

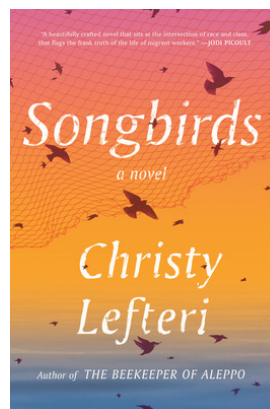
Damnation Spring, Ash Davidson

Old-growth redwoods and heartwood, clear cuts and the clearing of roads, the timber industry in Klamath, California, in 1977 and those involved in it: the stuff of this big and big-hearted wonder of a novel. One voice is that of Rich Gunderson, a 'top cutter' who works up high like his father before him, a tall man who, also like his father, yearns to fell gigantic '24-7,' the biggest redwood around, and to own the ridge in Damnation Grove where it grows. A second voice is that

of his wife Colleen, who yearns just as ardently for another baby, a sibling for their son Chub. Colleen is a midwife, not trained, but consumingly interested in babies she can no longer carry to term and as expert in her accidental profession as is her husband with trees, as is her former lover in watershed biology. But it is the third of the novel's narrators, Chub, "Grahamcracker," possessed of an innocent, sometimes unknowing voice, who lies at the beating heart of *Damnation Spring*. And it is the Gunderson family, kind and well-intentioned despite their differences, along with a close-knit community of friends, neighbors and those with whom they work, whose relationships absorb the reader so thoroughly that the pages seem to turn themselves. Eloquent, sometimes pain-filled, always involving, this saga of big trees and vividly imagined people is quintessentially American—at once tragic and shot through with love—for one another and for the land they inhabit, however flawed their ability to understand it. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$28

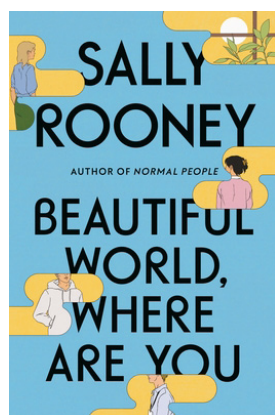


terminally-ill matriarch. Told with humor and pathos, this deep look into the frailties common to us all gives us hope, despite the tragedy of the story. A wonderful, uplifting novel. –Jan Sloan Tempest, Grove Atlantic, \$26



***Songbirds*, Christy Lefteri**

To get a take on just how close and deep Lefteri (*The BeeKeeper of Aleppo*) goes to absorb facts and real-life events before writing about them as fiction, you might want to start at the end of her newest novel, *Songbirds*. In the author's closing notes she reveals a recent tragedy in Cyprus in which five female migrant domestic workers and two of their children disappeared. Because they were foreign, it was assumed they had simply moved on, and the authorities didn't search for them. Almost like a story within a story, Lefteri's personal pursuit of what happened, her search for the truth, and how to write about it, makes the fiction of *Songbirds* sing. Her research, conversations, and friendships with migrant women working in Cyprus eventually become her reasons for writing this novel about the lost voices of women who are crossing borders, searching for freedom, and finding themselves trapped in foreign belief systems and prejudices with no way home. Nisha, a foreign domestic maid working on the island of Cypress, suddenly disappears. When Petra, her employer of nine years, asks the police to launch a missing person's investigation, she's turned away, and her eyes and ears are then opened by what she learns from other women from Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the Philippines. Through their tales of servitude and friendship, Petra begins to discover her blindness while, at the same time, she can only watch on her computer as her daughter, left behind in Sri Lanka, grows up. The contrast between the lush Mediterranean paradise-like environment of forests and coastal villages and the small-town people who grow up living their lives in a place where systemic racism exists, often unquestioned, is painful, but Lefteri's storytelling and unflinching dedication will keep Nisha's story alive and remind us of the essential fight for truth and justice that must go on; we must all be aware of every migrant worker performing double, unpaid, unrecognized labor, and often risking their lives with tragic consequences. Lefteri calls *Songbirds*... "a story about learning to see each and every human being the same way as we see ourselves." Reading her novel, I feel like I was given the opportunity to do just that. – Val Kittel, Ballantine, \$27



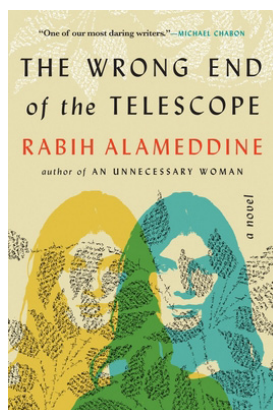
***Beautiful World, Where Are You*, Sally Rooney**

In the midst of a pandemic, two friends from college exchange emails about home, work, family, lovers, sex, desire and delusion. Even more than in her previous novels, Rooney sets the minutiae of lives against the backdrop of global demise—pandemic, climate change, famine, war, mass migration. *Beautiful World* gives the reader close-ups of two well-intentioned, well-educated friends and their lovers as they each struggle to make their

way in the world, wondering all the while how to do so ethically. Wondering who and what they can really count on—themselves, each other, family, society? Wondering how to find meaning in some big picture of it all. As always, Rooney's incisive writing captures her characters' inner lives with exquisite nuance. – Michelle Macfarlane, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$28

***The Wrong End of the Telescope*, Rabih Alameddine**

Alameddine has been the recipient of the National Book Award, a National Book Critics' Circle Award, and, in 2019, the Dos Passos Prize. His heart-felt, new book makes the reasons abundantly clear. Set on the Greek Island of Lesbos, the story follows Dr. Mina Simpson, a Lebanese transgender doctor who answers a call for help from a friend who runs an NGO there. She is alienated from her family, except from her brother Mazen, and has not been this close to her homeland for years. The common thread of the story follows a recently arrived family of Syrians with a



***The Manningtree Witches*, A.K. Blakemore**

Lest we forget that a witch-hunt is not just a metaphorical by-word, this evocative novel is set in the actual witch hunts of 1640s England. The country was already roiled with war and famine, and the institutional powers were clearly terrified of the endurance of women's laughter and survival in the face of squalor and pestilence. Weird, bawdy, and all-too-human. Religious fervor was never so lascivious, nor witchcraft so innocent. – Michaela

Riding, Catapult, \$26

***A Song Everlasting*, Ha Jin**

Yao Tian, a singer renowned in China, is touring the U.S. with his state-sponsored choir when he opts to delay his return for a private singing engagement. The extra money will help pay his daughter's school tuition. This is not a political statement, he tells himself, rather a move to benefit his career and family. Nevertheless, gears that will grind up his ongoing existence have been set in motion. Upon his return to China he is told to surrender his passport but opts to return to the U.S. instead. How could he continue his career with no access to international venues? He believes he will be back in China soon and that it will blow over. The government cajoles, bribes and threatens to get him to return, eventually resorting to character assassination before revoking his passport. Effectively confined to life in America without his family and with fewer and fewer singing opportunities, Yao Tian must continually rewrite his expectations and dreams. Ha Jin's own immigration story mirrors in many ways the story of his protagonist, leaving no doubt about the authenticity of the struggle faced by Yao Tian. Jin gives us a very specific story of struggle but also a universal one—how do people manage to maintain values and goals while at odds with the system in which they live and the life they have been dealt. — Becky Thomas, Pantheon, \$28

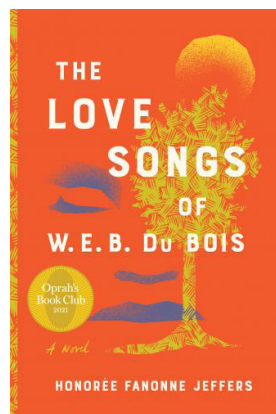
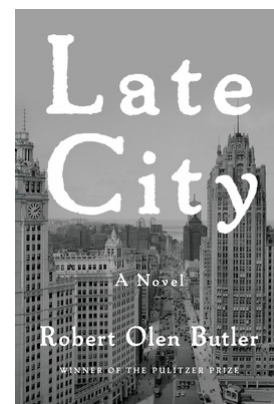


Haunted as she was her entire life by Zaza's early, tragic death? Why indeed, especially when de Beauvoir's autobiography, *Memoires d'une Jeune Fille Rangée*, went on to explore this very material? Only now, more than half a century later, do we have in our hands the story—fictional, yes, though perhaps closer to the truth as such, and no less heart-rending—of who and what shaped this twentieth-century feminist icon. *Inseparable* is a must read, if only to give Simone de Beauvoir the last word on what really holds a woman's interest!

— Michelle Macfarlane, Ecco, \$26.99

***Late City*, Robert Olen Butler**

In the year of our Lord 2016, the time of Donald Trump's rise to power, God assumes (in a mellifluous tenor) the position of interviewer in an exchange with one Samuel Cunningham, the last living veteran of WWI—who is thinking that, at 115, it's time to go. God, ambiguous, ironic, infinitely patient, alternately coerces and cajoles the dying man into really looking at his past, episode by episode. For Sam, who has spent his post-war life as a newspaper editor, there is irony in this assignment—although he doesn't guess the half of it as he obeys, searching his memory for answers to questions posed by the shadowy figure at his bedside, walking into graphic scenes from his past in the process. A stroll with his father down a wood-plank sidewalk in the South turns out to be Sam's first encounter with the horrific conundrum that is race relations, and his conflict with and eventual flight from that father drives him into the killing fields of WWI where the tail-end of his teenage years are spent as a sharpshooter, killing German soldiers one by one. His determination to become a reporter once back from the war and his journey to Chicago in pursuit of that goal; his courtship, marriage and the birth of his son; a fascinating career covering the significant events of the 20th century unspool, while God prods him along with often dryly pithy observations on humanity and Sam's behavior. The equally acerbic Sam ultimately does re-walk the byways of his life, facing his failures as they loom in vivid memory and at last atoning, at least verbally. In voices that vary from witty to outright hilarious to deeply touching to, at least occasionally, heartbreaking, this dialogue between the unfailingly observant but ever-surprising (and gender-fluid, as he/she reminds us) God and his long-lived son is itself ever-surprising, as fascinating as it is funny, as entertaining as it is revelatory. — Betsy Burton, Atlantic, \$27



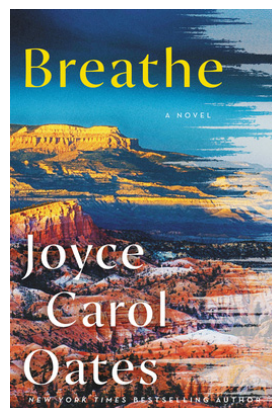
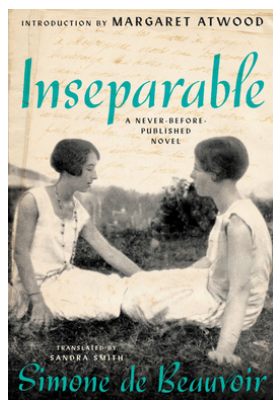
***The Love Songs of W.E.B. Du Bois*, Honoree Fanonne Jeffers**

This ambitious debut novel, epic in its scope, beautifully told, with lyrical interludes of poetic passages which detail the ancestry of the protagonist's family, follows Ailey Pearl Garfield through her city upbringing with summers spent in the family's ancestral hometown of Chicassetta, Georgia. As Ailey struggles to find her own identity as a young Black woman, she hears the echoes of her mother's, sister's and maternal grandmother's stories

reaching back in time—some over two centuries—involving slavery, rape, cruelty and independence. This patchwork of tales reveals an amazing lineage of African, Creek, and even Scottish people who are her forebearers. Truly a love song to the African American story. — Anne Stewart Mark, HarperCollins, \$28.99

***Inseparable*, Simone de Beauvoir**

Who knew this book existed? Sartre, for one! Here, in de Beauvoir's fictional account of the intensely passionate bond she shared with her childhood friend Zaza, is a story which (de Beauvoir quotes Sartre as describing) "seemed to have no inner necessity and failed to hold the reader's interest." What? Sadly, Margaret Atwood writes in her introduction to this English translation, de Beauvoir must have agreed with Monsieur Sartre. How could this be?



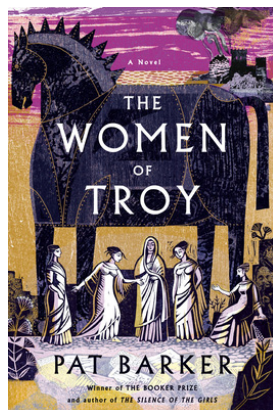
***Breathe*, Joyce Carol Oates**

"I will never abandon you." Can such a vow ever be kept? Readers familiar with Oates' writing will be prepared for her "imagination of disaster" (Henry James). And in this novel (rare use of a single first-person narrator, 37-year-old Michaela McManus), Oates takes us on a devastating and nightmarish journey. Michaela's husband Gerard, prominent Harvard scholar who is serving a residency in New Mexico, is struck by a mysteri-

ous illness, originally misdiagnosed. Facing the prospect of widowhood, Michaela is alone in a landscape of thin air and “skies of sharp chiseled clouds wounding to the eye.” Her love for Gerard—fierce and selfless as it is—cannot save him, but neither can she let him go. Is Oates saying that marital love which refuses to be surrendered to death is a blessing or a curse? Readers will not be disappointed by this unsettling, grief-filled work by a gifted, prolific writer. – Carol Kranes, Ecco, \$28.99

***The Women of Troy*, Pat Barker**

Agamemnon, Menelaus, and Odysseus—we know the narrative arcs of these famed heroes after their conquest of Troy. However, little narrative real estate has ever been given to the women of Troy made slaves in the aftermath. Cassandra fell to Agamemnon, his and her famous fate already foretold, Helen’s fate fell back again to Menelaus, Hecuba’s to Odysseus. But what of these women’s tremendous losses, their ongoing grief, what of their rapes, their subsequent pregnancies? Barker’s narrative imagines the dailiness of these women’s lives in the immediate aftermath of Troy’s fall through the eyes of Briseis, whose famed beauty was second only to Helen’s. Taken earlier in the war by Achilles, Briseis is still beautiful, still desirable; she is also wise, savvy to the tenuous alliances held between the fractious victors. She enjoys degrees of prestige, safety, and movement between the camps not held by the other women because of her longer tenure among the Greeks and especially because she is pregnant with Achilles’ child. A marvelous and tarnishing story told from the perspective of the victors’ spoils. – Michelle Macfarlane, Doubleday, \$28



***What Strange Paradise*, Omar El Akkar**

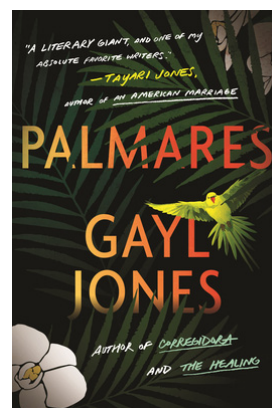
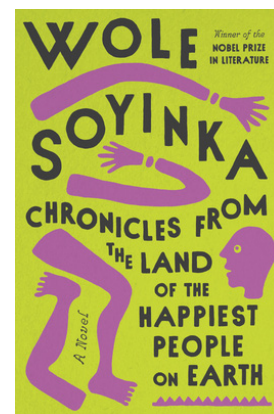
Unconscious but still alive, on a Greek island that is paradise to some, a nine-year old boy is found, washed up on a resort beach. Awakened by rescue workers, Amir runs off. The sole survivor of refugees escaping Alexandria aboard an overcrowded, ill-equipped ship, wrecked in the storm overnight, he is still afraid. Teenage Vanna, unhappy at home, finds him hiding on her family’s property. He speaks Arabic. She speaks Greek. Alone, but together, they make their way towards

relative safety on the island’s far side. Vanna knows the back way, off-road; she knows caves to sleep in, as well as how to scavenge cushions to sleep on and snacks to eat from the resort nearby. Suspenseful and heart-rending, a must-read—in this world where the tides have still not turned for people fleeing the ravages of war and climate change! – Michelle Macfarlane, Knopf, 25.95

***Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth*, Wole Soyinka**

Set in a satirical Nigeria of Kafka-esque proportions, a state-tolerated enterprise aptly called “Human Resources” is the literal and logical conclusion of political, social, and religious corruption. Dr. Menka is

a lauded surgeon who discovers Human Resources operating in his own hospital, stealing and selling body parts without compunction. Horrified, he sets into motion his erstwhile college gang of Nigerian elites who become embroiled with him and the powerful entity. Literary with a capital L, the first half of the book can at times be heavy, worthy of college literature classes and lots of analysis, which I do not doubt will be forthcoming. The reward comes in the second half. It is a quickly paced and compelling whodunit once the stage has been set. Since Soyinka is perhaps best known for his plays, this makes sense. He puts incredible effort into laying the groundwork, setting up the chess pieces for what turns into an explosive affray and a scathing indictment of greed. – Michaela Riding, Pantheon, \$29.95



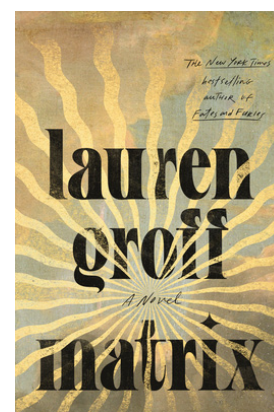
***Palmares*, Gayl Jones**

Lavish and compelling, *Palmares* has everything you would want to know about Brazil’s greed, conquest, and colonial desire in the 1600s. It is recounted by Almeyda, a black slave girl who admits, “I don’t talk very much, but I’m always curious.” A perfect vehicle for conveying this tale in its dense, short, almost 150 chapters, Almeyda is imaginative and a dreamer. Coming of age on a Portuguese plantation, she escapes in search of a fugitive slave settlement called Palmares.

When it is destroyed, she embarks, disguised, on a journey to find her husband, lost in battle. On her journey, she encounters, among others, a kindly priest, a mad lexicographer, women with long golden breasts, a traveling lunatic, a woman with charms in her hair, many people who were “repetitions and variations of her grandmother,” a village of women who worship a male “god” living in a cave, and a medicine woman who teaches magical secrets to her. The novel, comprised of short chapters and multiple characters, can be a challenge—but one that is well-worth the effort. It ends abruptly, perhaps conveying that this is the first in a series. – Carol Kranes, Beacon Press, \$27.95

***Matrix*, Lauren Groff**

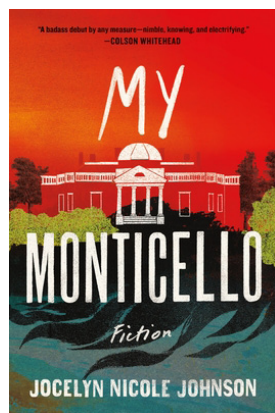
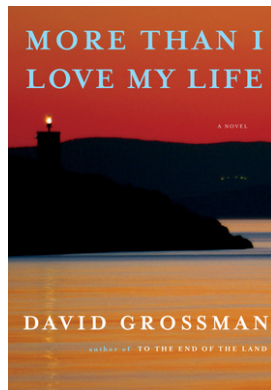
Though famous for her “lais,” short narrative poems written in the twelfth century, not much is known of Marie de France herself. Fabulously educated, multilingual, and likely a nun writing from the safety of an abbey, she was the first known poet to write francophone verse. From such a bare minimum of fact, Groff imagines Marie as a bastardess sister to Eleanor, queen of England, who has deemed Marie too tall and awkward to marry off for a life at Court. Eleanor makes Marie prioress of an impoverished royal abbey instead. For the rest of her



long life in effective exile, Groff's Marie uses her intelligence and position to turn an enclosed world of women, still subject to patriarchy, into a world of women safe from male predation. Under Marie's hand, the Abbey's renown scriptorium and subsequent prosperity grows to rival that of the famous Fontevraud. Taken on crusade as a child with her mother, Marie becomes a true believer and visionary in the end, if on her own terms. As confined as Marie's life was, what Groff weaves for her in this stunning narrative is a world as rich and as full of adventure as the world of the Bayeux Tapestry. – Michelle Macfarlane, Riverhead, \$28

More Than I Love My Life, David Grossman, translated by Jessica Cohen

Israeli author Grossman tells a story of family, war, and family wars over three generations. Vera, the matriarch, abandons her daughter at age six when she chooses imprisonment and torture over betraying her husband. Her daughter, Nina, in turn abandons her own young daughter, Gili. The novel is framed as Gili's handwritten record of her family's traumas at the hands of Hitler, Stalin, and Tito. The prodigal Nina, who returns for Vera's ninetieth birthday, has a request: she wants Vera, along with now grown Gili and her father, to make a film documenting the histories, places, and choices that have so damaged them all. Their road trip takes them to Vera's birthplace and eventually to Goli Otok, the infamous island prison off the shore of Croatia. There, the unblinking lens of the camera offers each of them a new, pointed, but emancipating, reality. Grossman acknowledges a personal confidant and former prisoner at Goli Otok as his inspiration for this novel, and I acknowledge that this novel makes embarrassingly clear how little I understood the antecedents and horrors of the all-too-recent Balkan Wars. – Becky Thomas, Knopf, \$27



My Monticello, Jocelyn Nicole Johnson
Johnson's breathtaking debut is told in a new voice you didn't know you needed until you pick up *My Monticello*. Deeply literary stories have you considering black identity from multiple perspectives in a book that is relevant for today and will be just as relevant for generations to come. She illustrates through her storytelling the divergent journey that black and brown people take in a white-dominated society, offering recurring themes of race and oppression from the first words of the

initial story, "Control Negro," a haunting tale of a father's experimental son, to the end of the final story. *My Monticello*'s title story is set in the future with Thomas Jefferson's former home now a refuge for his descendent. Johnson writes with understanding of the schism that exists for black people as they live, work, and navigate Virginia and the world beyond, seamlessly moving from past to present to future. A book that will continue to resonate long after you have finished it. – Calvin Crosby, Holt, \$26.99

Something Wonderful, Jo Lloyd

In the first of Lloyd's unflinching stories, "My Bonny," Agnes's married life to James, a sailor, ends when he dies in a shipwreck just off-coast of their Scottish port-town. Their son, John, marries Isabella who dies in childbirth with their seventh child. Of their children, some of whom lose their lives or at least a limb working in the local linen mill, only two, Thomas and James, go to night school, while their sister Jesse gets pregnant, is abandoned, and dies shortly after the immediate death of the baby she's just delivered. Thomas emigrates to India with his wife and son, but leaves his daughter, Clementina, with Agnes. Years later, Clementina refuses a ticket to India sent by her father, says "I would like a dog," and continues to share the bed where Agnes also sleeps, until Agnes dreams of a tide that continues to rise, then carries her away. In "The Ground the Deck," set in London, Megan meets two best friends and moves in with them until one, an aspiring artist, marries (for money) an older man she doesn't love, and the other, an aspiring writer, moves back in with his wealthy parents. Left in the lurch, Megan sees in her mirror that she is still "the same as she had been," then carries on. In surprising ways, Lloyd's flinty tone buoys each of her moody tales in a stunning debut collection. – Michelle Macfarlane, Tin House, \$24.95



Fault Lines, Emily Itami

Mizuki, a gorgeous (in retrospect), former Japanese lounge singer and really good flirt, never saw herself as the marrying type. Fast forward sixteen years from her last singing gig and Mizuki is now married and has it all: a perfect life—beautiful children, beautiful husband, beautiful apartment. Why then is she thinking that jumping off her 32nd-floor balcony is a perfectly reasonable thing to do? *Fault Lines* is a first-person, funny, sometimes harsh, always honest, inside-out look at how life isn't all that different for a contemporary Japanese woman—choosing home and family life over career—as for any woman, anywhere. Spoiler alert: Mizuki doesn't jump. Reasons to keep reading: Mizuki's wild stabs at straddling the fault lines opening up in her identity, her marriage, and in her new friendship with Kiyoshi, a successful restaurateur. – Val Kittel, HarperCollins, \$27.99

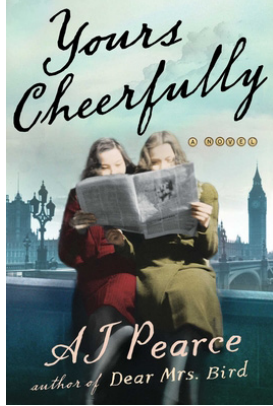
L.A. Weather, María Amparo Escandón

Escandón's (*González & Daughter Trucking Co*) latest book is a literary gem that flirts with the epic pace of a telenovela. A master of character and place, she brings us the Alvarados, a wealthy, Mexican-American family. At the start, a babysitting accident creates tension that ignites the family's journey into the changes that lie ahead. The matriarch, Keila, an artist



FICTION

of note, decides to ask her longtime husband for a divorce, shaking them and their three daughters into questioning all that disconnects their family. These disconnections lead them further from each other but also offer the potential for reunion and healing in this novel that is also a love letter to Los Angeles and the incredible and diverse people that navigate life there. – Calvin Crosby, *Flat Iron*, \$27.99



Yours Cheerfully, A.J. Pearce

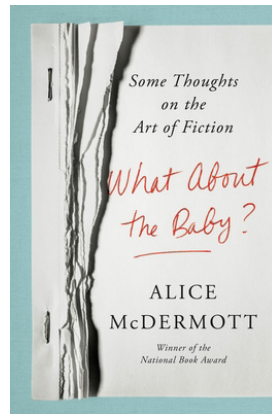
In a charming, delightful, and touching read, Pearce (*Dear Mrs. Bird*) picks up Emmeline Lake's story where she left her as advice columnist for *Women's Friend* magazine during WWII. Emmy finally has the opportunity to become a legitimate journalist. A chance meeting on a train introduces her to a young war widow and mother of two on her way to a job at a munitions factory. The women are being conscripted to fill the task of manufacturing to help the war effort. Emmy

has received a request from the Ministry of Information not only to recruit such women but also to help them confront the challenges of work and home duties. At once funny and poignant, *Yours Cheerfully* is one of those books that will fill your heart as it delights the desire for good historical fiction. – Anne Stewart Mark, Scribner, \$26

POETRY & LITERARY ESSAYS

What About the Baby? Some Thoughts on the Art of Fiction, Alice McDermott

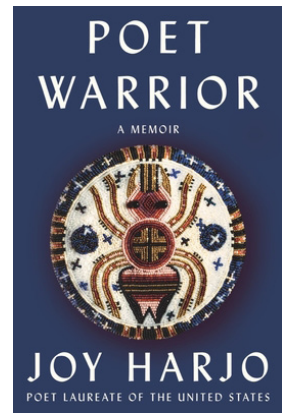
After quoting paragraphs from great writers of the last century from Faulkner to Morrison, Nabokov to Woolf, National Book Award-winning novelist McDermott says, flatly, "I expect the fiction I read to be memorable." Before addressing her memorable book on the fine art of writing fiction, a brief sentence on the other books included in this, our 44th birthday Inklinger. The freshly minted works of this century, the books we've included, are, each in its own way, memorable. This has been an amazing year for both fiction and nonfiction—***What About the Baby?*** is one shining example. From the particular to the overarching, the pithy to the plainspoken, McDermott's ideas on the craft of writing are often amusing, as often piercingly analytical, always informative, even revelatory, whether she writes about writers, about words, about sentences, about grammar, about the arc of a novelist's life. What *about* the baby? Why not consider what your reader needs to hear (in this case the baby's fate) rather than the fruition of some clever notion of the author's? McDermott speaks with passion on this and so much else that's fascinating about the art of writing and the lives of writers, gleaned insight and crystalizing craft from a chorus of the world's best writers, some of whom you may never have heard, that the reader is engaged, enthralled from page to fascinating page. A book for writers, certainly, but also for everyone who loves books. — Betsy Burton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27



POETRY & LITERARY ESSAYS

Poet Warrior: A Memoir, Joy Harjo

"Every poem has a poetry ancestry," writes Poet Laureate Joy Harjo toward the end of her new book, an amalgam of memories, stories, and poems that becomes a book about those ancestors. Some of Harjo's poetry ancestors connect to my own 1847 pioneer ancestors in troubling ways. I read this book in part to acknowledge and examine my heritage of colonization and its ongoing effect on today's indigenous populations. I expected there would be trauma, and trauma is indeed evident in *Poet Warrior*, as Harjo details an inadequate, ephemeral mother, an abusive father and a stepfather she christens "the monster." Does each generation carry forth the wounding that needs to be healed, Harjo asks, from mother to mother, cooking pot to cooking pot, song to poetry...? But I did not anticipate uplifting recollections of a growing girl's mind. I loved Harjo's words. How they felt in my mouth. I would taste them...Sing them. I find a commonality with young Joy. (We were both born in the same year, the same month.) Harjo recalls receiving her first book of poems in second grade, Untermeyer's *Golden Treasury of Poetry*. I received the same book on my ninth birthday. From that book, she discovered Dickinson—"I'm Nobody! Who are you?" I know the same poem by heart. "Are you—Nobody—Too?" *Poet Warrior* is a lyric book, leaping with artful grace from poem to essay, present to past, horrific to exultant; but it's Harjo's equanimity I find so helpful in today's quagmire. Now, because of her example, I look at the robin outside my window. He has questions. I tell him who I am. – Becky Thomas, Norton, \$25



The Heroine with 1001 Faces, Maria Tatar

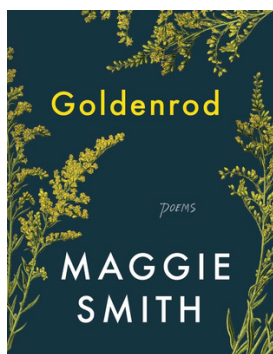


Joseph Campbell was an influential scholar of his age and defined many of our beloved cultural moments, including *Star Wars*, but he clearly didn't have sisters. Nothing could be plainer from his assertion that women represent "the totality of what can be known." In his works on mythology and folklore he codified the Hero's journey but he had only paltry offerings for the Heroine, and no surprise. He took women's almost complete absence from the ancient tales as a given

and had a massive blind spot when it came to their journey. Here is an answer to that blind spot. From *The Odyssey* and *Arabian Nights* to *Wonder Woman*, *Sex and the City* and the Nancy Drew series, Tatar has been more than generous with her offering. Now, finally, if not the prescribed path of the heroine's journey, it's a flashlight to find the path, or invent it anew, whichever we prefer. – Michaela Riding, Liveright, \$30

Goldenrod, Maggie Smith

In her new collection, Smith's poems situate the reader in the ongoing present of a world in which, at every turn, be it climate, politics, pandemic, marriage, family, individual, one's very existence is at stake. Her work reminds us that poetry has always concerned itself



with a heightening of awareness surrounding particular moments, with the amplification of one's presence within this world. Certainly a reader encounters the poet's presence within the unfolding of each poem, but at its best, the poem also creates an encounter for the reader with self—with one's own physical presence in the world, with the manifold ways in which this may ramify. The title poem, for example, ends with this line: "I see you, wild yellow, and I would let you name

me." – Michelle Macfarlane, Atria, \$23

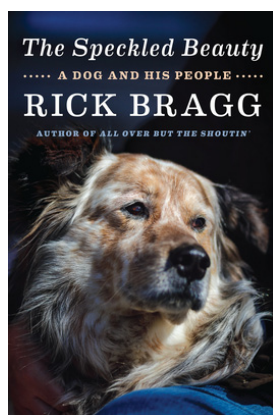
NONFICTION

The Speckled Beauty: A Dog and His People, Rick Bragg

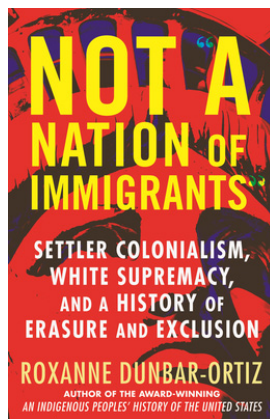
If you're one of those people who loves dogs but has learned to curb your enthusiasm for reading about them, *The Speckled Beauty* is the one exception I implore you to make. Speck, the long haired, used-up stray that reappears in Bragg's mother's Alabama farmyard, is just one more damaged dog Bragg figures would be no trouble at all; the dog is hurt and starved, a tough guy knocked down, but no worse than the many other refugees Bragg and his family have tried to save. Besides, the author admits to always liking the notion that dogs bring out the best in us, and he is ready to believe this one is exactly what he needs. Once Speck is rested, healed, and fed on the best of his mother's cooking, Bragg and his dog strike a deal. He'll always believe Speck is a good boy, and tell him so, if the dog just keeps doing what makes him happy to stay alive. Even when that includes fighting poisonous snakes and ferocious strays, stealing food from cats and kittens, cornering kicking donkeys and mules, biting and herding and tearing up anything for play. Even when he's put in jail and likes it better than a real bed. Even when this crazy, terrible dog who loved the sound of people laughing more than anything in the world, goes to get neutered and doesn't change. Bragg introduces you to his mother, his brothers, the southern red soil, suppers, and the melancholy of his boyhood and present-day manhood. He captures the rural dialects and kind hearts of his kin, their stories, and their love for his dog Speck, with never a sentimental thought or deed. I laughed hard reading this book. I sighed and turned down the corners of pages. I missed everyone when I finished it. So it was good to remember what a vet once told Bragg: 'Dogs have an amazing ability to start over, to re-set.' I'm holding on to this idea because it means there will be more stories to look forward to about the speckled dog and his people. – Val Kittel, Knopf, \$26

All In: An Autobiography, Billie Jean King

In what may become a classic first-person account in the worldwide history of sports, tennis superstar Billie Jean King shares her story in an action-packed autobiography that begins with her childhood in Long Beach during the '40s and '50s and concludes in the present.



The sweeping whole is illuminated by the author's current, late-life perspective, in which gratitude, love, hope, and a hard-earned sense of freedom are the essential ingredients. From the first chapter to the last, King weaves together the challenges she faced on and off the court as one of the game's greatest players; as a woman with a complex sexuality and even more complex relationships; and as a critical leader—both within and beyond the boundaries of her sport—in the fight for equality. The result is a rich tapestry of colorful characters from around the world—players, family members, coaches, educators, journalists, fans, professors, artists, musicians, film stars, businesspeople, politicians, lawyers, judges, and activists—many of them household names. The adage "truth is stranger than fiction" is amply illustrated. Many incidents are so outrageous that one can imagine Bob Costas saying, as he did in another context, "Who's writing this script?" (Example: King and her opponent, following the final match in a high school tournament, were each awarded a new racket and baby doll.) King recounts—in a way that generates suspense even if you know the outcome—the equally outrageous Battle-of-the-Sexes saga in 1971. A few utterances surrounding that event, however, demonstrate the progress that she has both forcefully and diplomatically helped to achieve over the course of decades. At a press conference, days before the match, Bobby Riggs, certain of his victory, said, "The best way to handle women is to keep them pregnant and barefoot... I love women—in the bedroom and in the kitchen, in that order." But he was the first to congratulate King after she beat him in straight sets, and decades later, on his deathbed, he said to her, "We made a difference, didn't we?" to which she responded, "I love you, Bobby," and he replied, "I love you too." King's candidness, a fascinating mixture of audacity and humility, big heart, intelligence, a sense of humor, and a huge personality appear on every page. And the tennis, of course, is spectacular. This might be the most inspiring book you'll read all year! – Karlyn Bond, Knopf, \$30



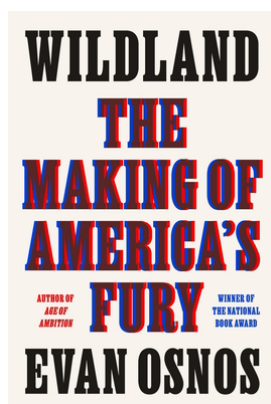
Not A Nation of Immigrants: Settler Colonialism, White Supremacy, and a History of Erasure and Exclusion, Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

Dunbar-Ortiz is the author of *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*, a must-read for anyone wanting the documented history of native people in the U.S. She has boldly returned with her new book, *Not A Nation of Immigrants*, which dives deep into the systemic white nationalism that is part and parcel of the DNA in the foundation of the United States of America, dating back to the birth of this nation and breaking down what is a settler versus what is an immigrant. A settler claims the land while an immigrant seeks the American Dream, safety, a better life. This book reveals the history and context of settler mentality and the conquering of this continent from the slave trade and slave breeding to contemporary politics. Dunbar-Ortiz recounts the history of the stolen people from Africa, the history

of the stolen land, the forced removal and slaughter of indigenous people, and the government's violations of the reservation treaties. She illustrates the overall immigrant experience, juxtaposing color and country of origin and including those white to brown, black or yellow. The politics behind race (a construct meant to keep people separate and ensure that status is in play) and the daily fear surrounding BIPOC are reality in the race conflict that has ebbed and flowed over the centuries for Caucasian-appearing people and, sadly, has not moved significantly for people of color. This book is not the history I learned as an American history student, and the reality that Dunbar-Ortiz conveys is eye-opening, creating a compelling read for those who want to better understand the plight of the oppressed as well as for those who want to be better informed, and do better. — Calvin Crosby, Beacon Press, \$29.95

Wildland, The Making of America's Fury, Evan Osnos

By focusing on three distinct places, Osnos examines the dissolution of American politics and fundamentals that we have traditionally taken for granted. Over a six-year period he visited and revisited Greenwich, Connecticut, Clarksburg, West Virginia, and Chicago, Illinois. During his intensive investigations, Osnos watched a country on a collision path with itself as income inequality soared. The gap between the poorest of Americans and the wealthiest grew to unheard of proportions. What Osnos calls "the fraying of the common purpose" came to a tragic head during the presidency of Donald Trump. Whether undermining traditional government agencies or creating "alternative truths," Trump's inept presidency was totally unprepared for the pandemic that tore even more at the fragile fabric of American life. Viewed through the lenses of the countless people Osnos interviewed, he has provided us with a valuable lesson in our history and the challenges we face in the future. This book is undoubtedly one of the most important examinations of our current crisis and loss of faith in democracy. — Barbara Hoagland, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30



Last Best Hope, George Packer

This clear-eyed look at the political, economic, and social forces that have fractured America over the last century—their place in the context of the history of this country and the ways in which they swirled and eddied, emerging either to carve out side-channels, converge with or submerge one another—finally makes sense of our splintered and chaotic present. Packer lists four disparate movements that have emerged to create and/or feed our present chaos: Free America,

Smart America, Real America and Just (or perhaps Un-just) America, explaining how each rose out of the circumstances of the country at a given time and how they subsequently grew or eroded, resulting in the two countries that exist inside America today. He says, early on in the book, "...if I were to put it in a single sentence I would say:

Inequality undermined the common faith that Americans need to create a successful multi-everything democracy." He goes on to demonstrate the truth of this statement as he not only tracks and analyzes each movement but also shows how, propelled by the inequality they address, they divide us, creating winners and losers that further fracture the whole. He not only explains the tools—politics, activism, journalism among them—that gave rise to each but also draws from examples in history to show us the possibility of a more hopeful future. If, in an attempt to better understand the world in which we find ourselves, you read one book, it should be this slim volume in which, in precise and penetrating prose, Packer (excuse the alliteration) offers a path forward based on the tracks of the past. — Betsy Burton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27

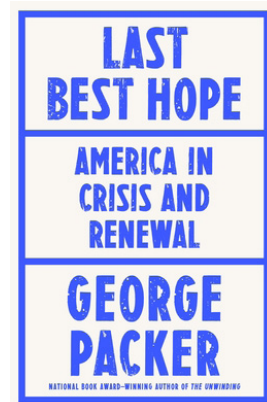


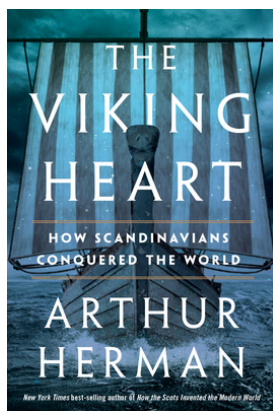
I Alone Can Fix It, Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker

A compelling though convoluted narrative of those in President Trump's orbit during the final year of his presidency, this complex, well-documented investigative report is based on hundreds of hours of interviews with over 140 sources. Thankfully, there is no psychoanalyzing about President Trump. Instead, the book recreates the claustrophobia of the West Wing and the intricate connections of sycophants, loyalists, family members, and career government employees who worked there as the pandemic and politics intersected. It often reads like a Russian novel that would have been helped along with a detailed chart of the dizzying roles and ever-shifting interconnections of the main players. One complexity that unfolds are the roles of the military and law enforcement. General Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, emerges as a single point of reference that brings clarity to understanding the balance of power between the Constitution, the Commander in Chief, federal military power, and states' rights. The authors do occasionally indulge in reductive summary descriptions and pronouncements that can diminish what they claim is a "forensic account." Women wear stilettos, tight apparel, and heavy makeup. People are clowns or heroes. The President wears an expression of canine curiosity. I read the book during a compressed week of media fragments: chilling Capitol Hill Police testimonies and confusing, frightening warnings about the COVID Delta variant. One's imagination can only fill in the backstory of politics and the pandemic. With this book's timely release during the dog days of 2021, each chapter made me appreciate how desperately we need guidance—and not "tell-all" books—to look back and make coherent the chaos we passed through in 2020. All in all, this well-documented narrative will hold its place as a timely work of investigative reporting. — Stephanie MacKay, Penguin, \$30

The Viking Heart, How Scandinavians Conquered the World, Arthur Herman

The name Viking is a general term used to describe ancient tribes inhabiting an area from Denmark north to include all that we know as Scandinavia. While our modern view regards them as seagoing warriors who lived to pillage and destroy, the history of the Viking people is much more nuanced. Due to their seagoing skills, they





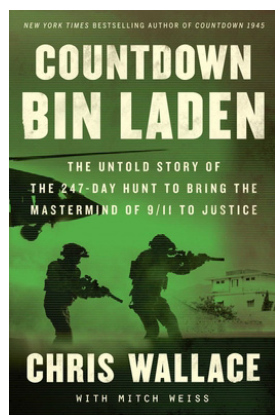
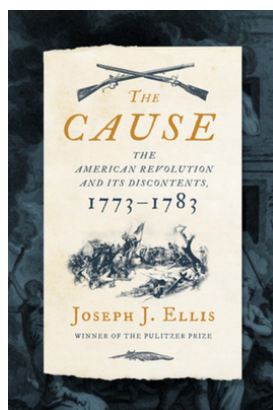
became what could be called the first globalists. Their voyages took them south and as far east as Constantinople, as far west as North America. Dublin was originally a Viking stronghold and much of Russia became a satellite settlement. They established colonies in all the lands they conquered, which enabled trade that influenced the development of all Europe. Herman's history of these remarkable people is a breathtaking examination of their impact on the world.

– Barbara Hoagland, Mariner, \$30

The Cause: The American Revolution and its Discontents, 1773-1783,

Joseph J. Ellis

Ellis, an esteemed historian of the American Revolution, takes us on the road with George Washington and other founding fathers in a remarkably insightful look at the beginnings of America's split from Great Britain on through to the end of the war for independence. From the onset, the power guiding the fledgling revolutionaries was fueled by anger among the people against what they perceived as unfair governance from King George III and the aristocracy of Great Britain. Britain's failure to understand the nature of the discontent and its flagrant dismissal from entreaties by the colony to change their stance fueled the colonists' desire to revolt. Ellis delves into the specifics of George Washington's remarkable guidance of the fledgling army, struggling with a constant lack of money, materials and experienced leaders. There was essentially no standing army, merely numerous militias the members of whom were underpaid and often left at the end of a year to return to their farms and businesses. That they managed to defeat the most rigorously trained and outfitted army in the world at the time was an astonishing feat. This is a remarkable addition to the story of the founding of a nation. – Barbara Hoagland, Liveright, \$30



Countdown bin Laden: The Untold Story of the 247-Day Hunt to Bring the Mastermind of 9/11 to Justice, Chris Wallace and Mitch Weiss

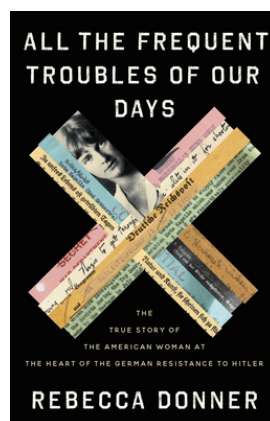
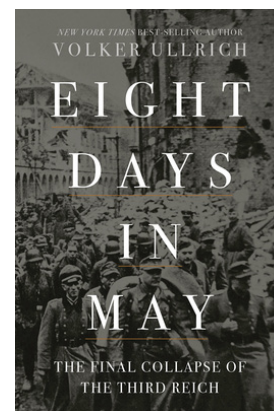
The breathtaking story of the hunt for the 21st century's most infamous man is mesmerizing. Wallace and Weiss give a day-to-day account of work done by hundreds of dedicated professionals who analyzed endless rafts of data in their quest to find and take out bin Laden. Their efforts led to the discovery of a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where it was determined

the fugitive was living. The raid by Seal Team 6 was managed with precision and excellence due to the extensive planning. This account is more riveting than any book of fiction out today—don't miss it.

– Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, \$30

Eight Days in May, Volker Ullrich

The end result is known, but how the last days of the Third Reich unfolded as seen through the eyes of the Germans, both military and civilian, has been clouded in mystery and speculation. Until now. Utilizing new primary sources, Ullrich describes the scene in Germany from the deaths of Hitler and Eva Braun through the remaining chaotic eight days until the final surrender of Germany. Though the fall of Berlin occurred shortly after Hitler's demise, his designated successor, Admiral Karl Donitz, formed a government in the north hoping to negotiate a surrender only to the Americans and British in an outlandish political dream that they would join together with the remaining German forces to fight the Russians. This was soon disabused by the Allies. Donitz then continued the war for several days in hopes that as many Germans as possible would make their way west and not surrender to the Russians. Ullrich also describes the horrors faced by the German populace in Berlin and other eastern occupied zones, among them, rape on an unprecedented scale and having to scavenge for food and water. *Eight Days in May* is not only a story about a militarily defeated army but also about the resilience of ordinary people in the face of incredible adversity. And about the beginning of self-reflection. As one Berliner opined, "How in the world did we ever allow ourselves to be led by this lunatic." A question for the ages. – John A. Mark, Liveright, \$28.95



All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler, Rebecca Donner

Mildred Harnack, born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, bears the sad distinction of being the only American woman who was executed by Hitler for her involvement with the German resistance. The largely untold story of her life is a breathtaking tale. She moved through the intelligentsia of prewar German society and soon became one of the most important members of the resistance to Hitler and the Nazis

while still living in wartime Germany. Her spying for the Allies was crucial to the fight to end the war and was ultimately her undoing.

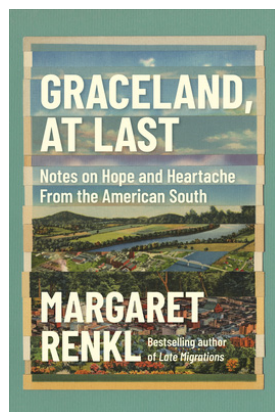
The story of her life is one of unflinching heroics under the most terrible of circumstances. Its telling is long overdue. – Barbara Hoagland, Little, Brown, \$32

Beautiful Country, Qian Julie Wang

They flee to a beautiful country where they work, go to school, and work more; to a beautiful country where they live in one room, too hot, too cold; to a beautiful country where they are always hungry. It is a beautiful country where they survive—just barely. In the early 1990s,



Wang's father, a professor of literature, fled China for Mei Guo, the "beautiful country" and, after several years, Wang's mother, a professor of math, succeeded in getting the two of them visas for Mei Guo too. *Beautiful Country* depicts their early struggle in New York's Chinatown, where all three work hopeless jobs and study hard to learn far more than English to find their footing in America, Mei Guo, the beautiful country. A marvelous read. A must read! – Michelle Macfarlane, Doubleday, \$28.95



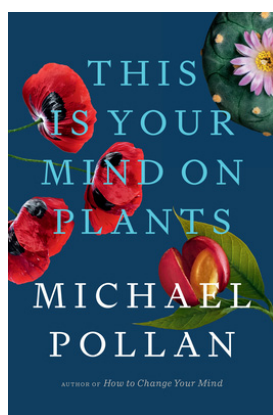
Graceland, At Last, Margaret Renkl

When she writes of the closeness in her Nashville, Tennessee, neighborhood, Renkl reflects that even "the dogs drank from each other's water bowls." Such delightful, unique observations are sprinkled throughout these more-than-sixty essays which appeared over a span of four years in the NYTimes OpEd section. Divided into six parts from "Flora and Fauna" to "Arts and Culture," these musings provided Times readers with a weekly dose of natural beauty, human decency, and

personal wisdom. From her Southern perspective, Renkl takes pride in Nashville's history, but she doesn't shy away from the dark side when, for instance, she describes a visit to a Montgomery, Alabama, museum and its "wall of jars each containing soil from the site of a documented lynching." From 1877-1950 in America, there were more than 4,000 lynchings of African Americans. Particularly rich in portraits involving Nashville's musical world and its artists, Renkl also regrets the many changes to its famous "Music Row"—its loss of Bobby's Idle Hour bar—as developers move in everywhere. "The South continues to resist easy categorization...as human beings are always more complex than the way they vote." The truth of this statement is closely observed in this sparkling patchwork quilt of personal essays. Don't miss this one! – Carol Kranes, Milkweed, \$26

This Is Your Mind on Plants, Michael Pollan

Pollan's latest book takes a deep dive into three psychoactive plants and the derivative drugs made from each. One is legal, caffeine; one is illegal, opium; and the legality of the third, mescaline, depends on where and by whom it is used. Set within our societal "war on drugs," Pollan's thought-provoking treatise does what all good reportage does—expands and educates our minds to the positive as well as the negative aspects of his subject. He explores our attraction to and infatuation with these psychoactive plants and the consequent entanglement with the natural world. He also discusses the political, cultural, and social, as well as the economic ramifications of these substances in a book that is a blend of memoir, history, a bit of science, as well as "participatory journalism" in regards to Pollan's own experimentation with each substance. Expand your mind along with him in this illuminating book. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Penguin, \$28



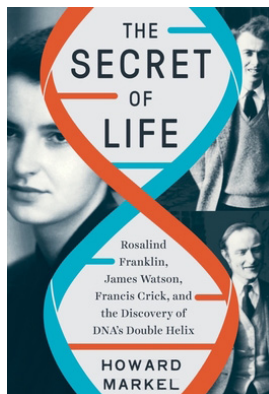
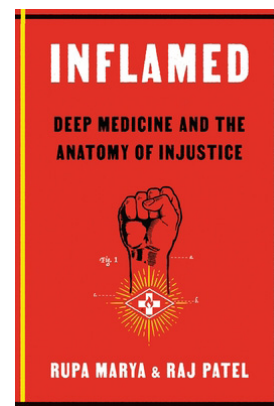
Fuzz, Mary Roach

Roach turns her discerning eye and ever-curious mind to the problem of man/animal conflicts. What she did to cadavers in *Stiff*, she now does to the animal kingdom. She reports on bears who outwit food disposal systems, moose who ignore traffic signs, and the ever-wily birds who have outmaneuvered all attempts by farmers and others in their quest to wreck devastation on crops. As Roach travels the world in her exploration of man/animal entanglements, she also delivers an

education to the reader in forensic science and conservation genetics. No one but Roach could bring enlightenment to a subject while at the same time delivering laughs. One of a kind, she is our kind of scientist. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$26.95

Inflamed: Deep Medicine and the Anatomy of Injustice, Rupa Marya and Raj Patel

In this powerful, original look at the way our bodies react to attacks not only from within but from without, the impact that our environment plays in our overall health, especially of those in marginalized communities, becomes clear. The authors, a physician and a researcher, take eight of our bodily systems—immune, circulatory, digestive, respiratory, reproductive, connective tissue, endocrine and nervous—and not only explain the basic function of each but also describe how non-genetic factors contribute to disease. They link age-related chronic illness, inflammation such as Alzheimer's and diabetes to cellular damage caused by stress, trauma, and environmental toxicity. In the cases of our respiratory systems, working class people are more likely to be exposed to higher levels of pollution only because of where they generally live—inner cities. The final section, "Deep Medicine," talks about the need for a holistic approach designed to personalize the relationship between the patient and the healer, thus working at liberating the individual from the "prison" of oppressive systems. A highly original approach which will not be without controversy, this is well worth not just reading but also taking the time to think about how each of us might take a different—and individual—approach to health. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30



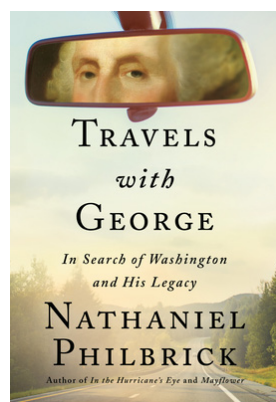
The Secret of Life: Rosalind Franklin, James Watson, Francis Crick, and the Discovery of DNA's Double Helix, Howard Markel

The 1953 discovery of the double helix structure of DNA is the cornerstone to the science of genetics. As with most scientific discoveries, research done by many contributed to the end-result. Markel ably unravels the lives and work of the four major players in this saga. Enor-

mously gifted, they each were products of their time, which included misogyny and anti-Semitism directed at Rosalind Franklin. This is a thorough and engaging examination of Cambridge University in the 1950s which was then the center of the scientific community and includes the competitions and struggles that led to one of the most significant discoveries in the history of mankind. The depth of Markel's research adds enormously to our understanding of the science of that time as well. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$30

***Please Don't Sit on My Bed in Your Outside Clothes*, Phoebe Robinson**

If "essay collection" sounds dry to you, think again. This collection is a glittering, humorous, masquerade ball of side-eye and knowing winks. Underneath the mask is nothing less than an exceptionally relatable and empathetic look at the human condition, along with a rousing dose of social commentary. Bonus: she helped me explain MASH to my children, who are perpetually baffled by the screen-less entertainments of 1994 youths. Whether you are a die-hard fan of Robinson from her early days working on *Broad City* and her podcast *2 Dope Queens*, or are completely new to her, you will love her book. – Michaela Riding, Tiny Reparations Books, \$27



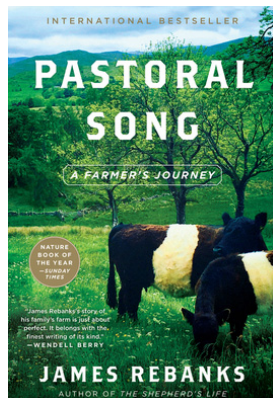
***Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*, Nathaniel Philbrick**

Philbrick, along with his wife and their dog, traveled in the footsteps of George Washington on his tour of the 13 original colonies. Washington's journey was an attempt to meet with citizens and understand their needs as the fledgling country came to grips with its emancipation from Great Britain. The country Philbrick sees is dramatically different from the one Washington visited, but Philbrick's

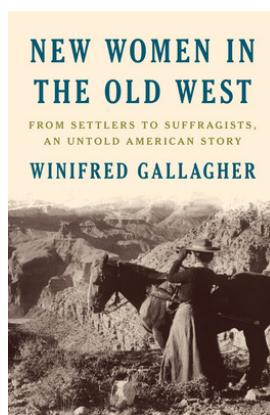
insights into both his own journey and the one Washington experienced is revelatory. Washington's legacy is that of a reluctant leader, a modest man, but also one who held slaves—a conflict that has impacted his own legacy and remained a contradiction in the fabric of our country throughout its history. A perfect companion to Ellis' new book! – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, \$30

***Pastoral Song*, James Rebanks**

This second memoir by Rebanks concerns his life as a farmer in the hilly country of England's Lake District. His farming philosophy grows out of the natural farming of his grandfather and the transition to current factory farms. The landscape is the landscape of Wordsworth or Coleridge rather than the wilds of the American West. For generations, farmers have survived in the harsh northern land filled with thistles and hedgerows



and wildlife. But the introduction of fast food, foreign imports, and technology made clear that modern farmers had to adapt. Rebanks, an Oxford graduate, lives on his grandfather's land in Cumbria where he blends his knowledge of modern farming techniques with the love he has for his heritage and the time-tested routines of his own ancestors. The book is an homage to natural farming with recognition of modern demands. Rebanks does not judge others but demonstrates by his actions that birds and bees and wildflowers can still be part of the family farm. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Custom House, \$28.99

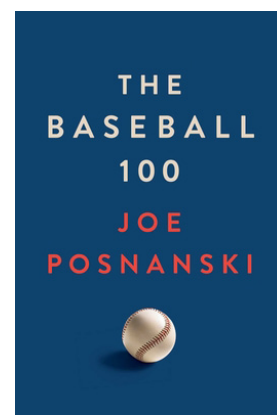


***New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists, an Untold American Story*, Winifred Gallagher**

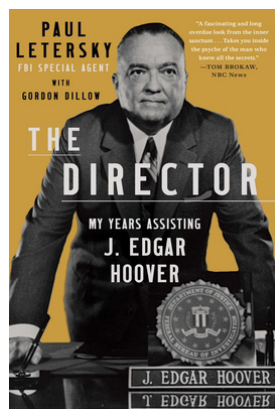
The opening of the American West to settlers also opened the door for women to step out of their customary role as helpmeet to a husband. Through necessity brought on by the hardships endemic to creating a society where there had been none, women became the mainstay in a major societal shift. The Wyoming Territory was the first in the country to give women the right to vote, followed shortly thereafter by Utah. Women were instrumental in establishing churches and schools to educate girls as well as boys. They were also at the forefront in establishing free coeducational colleges which provided women with an alternative to marriage. Gallagher deftly tells her story through the eyes of particular women who were at the center of this dramatic and dynamic time in Western American history. – Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, \$28

***The Baseball 100*, Joe Posnanski**

As a girl growing up in Salt Lake in the '50s with a brother 11 months younger, I watched A LOT of baseball—Little League, Babe Ruth, the East High Leopards. I can explain the infield fly rule, my favorite players are all catchers, and I love a good pick-off at first. I'm more into the lore and history of the game than stats and standings, which explains why I'd never heard of Joe Posnanski before reading this 880-page book. But Posnanski had me at the introduction in the story of his mother sorting his baseball cards. Ahh. One hundred short essays on the 100 greatest players in baseball, and each one expertly crafted, woven throughout with references to history, literature, art, film. Oh My! Not to worry, the stats are still there: Posnanski explains what each esoteric number means and how it is determined. But it's really the stories that bring heart into each essay. I didn't know that Frank Robinson, #20 on the list, when drafted by the Reds in 1953 was immediately sent to the minors in Ogden, Utah. What's a 17-year-old from West Oakland supposed to do in Ogden! He couldn't even see a movie as Blacks were not allowed in the theater. Posnanski recognizes there will be arguments with his list, but acknowledges a criteria all his own. DiMaggio is ranked at 56, low, most would say, but for Posnanski, DiMaggio is 56, the number of games in his record hitting streak. And Mike Trout, just turning 30—he's ranked 27. Why?



“Because that’s his number—duh!” any little leaguer will tell you. I recommend approaching this book like an exquisite box of chocolates; every day select one essay and savor it. You won’t be sorry, and the pleasure will last so much longer. – Becky Thomas, Avid Reader, \$40



The Director: My Years Assisting J. Edgar Hoover, Paul Letersky and Gordon L. Dillow

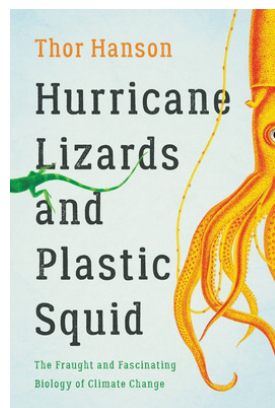
Twenty-two-year-old Letersky was tasked with working in the office of J. Edgar Hoover at a time in the mid-1960s when the country was enmeshed not only in the Vietnam War but also afflicted with massive civil unrest. Letersky’s time there and his later time as a full-fledged FBI agent gave him an inside look into the agency run with an iron hand by Hoover. While there have been acres of books about the

controversial FBI director, none have been able to delve into first-hand accounts of the inner workings of Hoover’s office. Letersky gives an honest assessment of the man, sometimes laudatory and sometimes highly critical. His account will doubtless add an important footnote to one of the most controversial figures of the 20th century.

– Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, \$28

Hurricane Lizards and Plastic Squid, Thor Hanson

This is not a book about the causes of climate change (which is happening whether we choose to believe it or not) but rather the biological changes that plants and animals are making in an attempt to adapt to it; in one case a species changed in just six weeks spurred on by back-to-back hurricanes. Nature is a series of complex relationships which, if thrown out of balance by, say, turning up the heat a couple of degrees, impacts everything from ice thickness to the breeding cycle of lizards to silently wiping out entire ecosystems or causing species to shift their range and destabilize other ecosystems. Hanson remains hopeful that there is still time to change our ways and turn the tide. – Paula Longhurst, Basic, \$28



The Arbonaut, A Life Discovering the Eighth Continent in the Trees Above Us, Meg Lowman

This book by one of the world’s first tree-top scientists is a fascinating look at life in the tops of trees. Lowman has christened this world in the tree canopies “the eighth continent.” She approaches this subject with such infectious enthusiasm that it’s all the reader can do to not want to get out and explore this “continent.” The chapters focus on field biology questions, the canopy access methods and conserva-

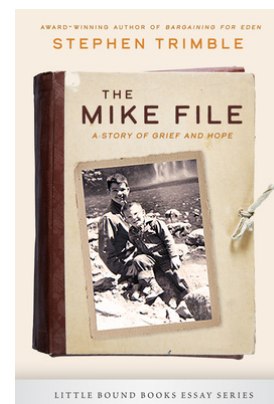


tion or education components of each expedition on which Lowman embarks. Among these questions, she also considers the challenges of juggling parenthood and career and the many positive affects her work has had on her children. All told, an enthusiastic, inspiring book. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$28

NONFICTION NEW IN PAPER

The Mike File: Clues to a Life, Stephen Trimble

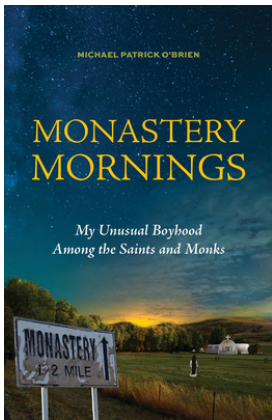
Woven from the tattered cloth of childhood memory, meticulously amplified by research (although with the attendant limitations of paper trails into the past) and by imagination based on family knowledge, *The Mike File* is carefully leavened by the soul-searching honesty that lies at the heart of this chronicle of a lost brother. In a scene remembered vividly by 6-year-old Stephen, his big-brother Mike was 14 when his rage became uncontrollable. He was institutionalized, diagnosed as paranoid schizophrenic. Oh, the process was longer and far more complicated, of course, but that searing memory is the springboard for Trimble’s attempts to investigate what he had for years failed to even try to understand. Ironical, since Trimble, an award-winning nonfiction writer and photographer, is known not just for his research skills but also for his ability to “see,” as his trademark skill with camera and pen bring both past and present to life. This piece of the author’s past, however, had been carefully boxed and stored for years as pluperfect, over in another lifetime, the easy explanations of psychiatry (the year was 1957 and mental illness was, to say the least, misunderstood) the perfect tool for avoidance. Now, finally, when Trimble is ready to examine that past and face head-on whatever reality he finds, the investigative skills honed over the course of his adult life make that examination not only possible but far-reaching. The process he undergoes, externally as an investigator and internally as a brother and feeling human being, is often fascinating and always absorbing. As I followed in his path, I found myself yearning for greater honesty in my family, doubting my own empathy for lost siblings even as he found his. This is a remarkable little book, meticulously detailed and yet expansive, drilling implacably toward reality yet compassionate, forgiving. Not every family buries the same secrets, but all bury truth in one way or another. *The Mike File* offers a compelling and empathetic argument for finding that truth. – Betsy Burton, Homebound Publications, \$16.95



Monastery Mornings, Michael Patrick O’Brien

On the one hand a lovely reminiscence of the Trappist Monastery in Huntsville, on the other hand this is a moving coming-of-age story in which the monks at the Holy Trinity Abbey played a significant role in a young boy’s life and ultimately gave him a lens through which to view the world. O’Brien’s father deserted his family when he was young, his mother had little money and their existence in Clearfield, Utah, was hardscrabble. She was an inveterate reader of Catholic literature and found both books and peace upon their first visit to the monastery. As did her son, who before long had a job in the

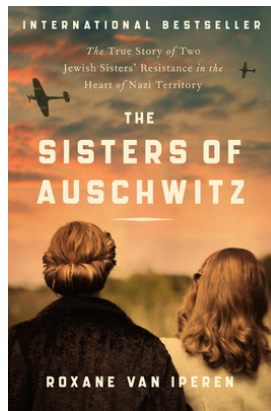
NONFICTION NEW IN PAPER



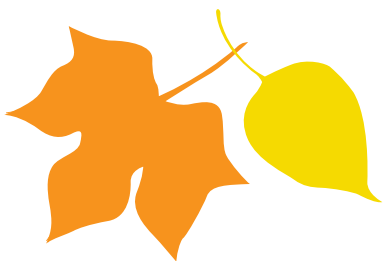
bookstore. His visits turned daily, and for some years he spent his (early!) mornings there in the dairy, the chicken coops, the cemetery (which was forbidden), working, praying, learning alongside some in a group of astonishing men—men who were patient when he shadowed them and there when he needed them. The story of that need, and of the peace O'Brien found with the monks—not to mention the belief that sustains him despite all—the tale of his doubts when the Catholic Church was accused, rightfully, of abuse again and again—are all here, mixed with childhood

angst and exuberance, teenage self-obsession, self-doubt, “foolishness,” leavened with a gentle humor that he seems to have absorbed from his time with his beloved monks. The monastery’s history, its relationship to the LDS Church, the spirituality he breathed in with the clear air during his time there are an illuminating prism through which not just to see but also to understand his past and his present. A touching memoir. – Betsy Burton, Paraclete Press, \$18

The Sisters of Auschwitz: The True Story of Two Jewish Sisters' Resistance in the Heart of Nazi Territory, Roxane van Iperen

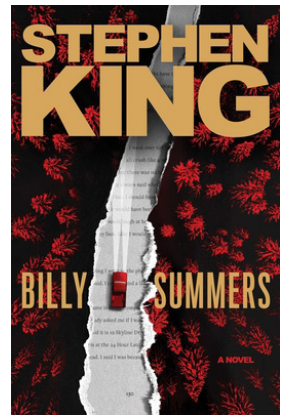


When Amsterdam was overrun by the Nazis in the early days of World War II, the large Jewish community initially hoped for the best. As time rolled on it became obvious that the Nazis' intentions were far from benign. By the end of the war most of the Netherlands' Jewish community had been eradicated. Iperen's story of two sisters and their work for the resistance provides a frame inside which she reveals the reality of life under the Nazis in all its vicious brutality. From active resistance to the Germans to hiding refugees in a remote house, the Brilleslijper sisters worked frantically to save as many as they could. When they were finally discovered and sent to Auschwitz, their lives revolved around basic survival. Iperen's description of this time is harrowing. They struggle to find hope in a place of utter desolation as they watch their close family members marched to the gas chambers and fellow inmates fall ill and die (including Anne Frank and her sister). Their own will to live becomes increasingly fragile; their ultimate survival is a testament to their resilience. This book is an important contribution to the horrifying history of the Holocaust. – Barbara Hoagland, Harper, \$17.99



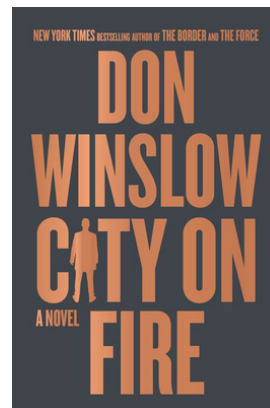
MYSTERY/THRILLER

Billy Summers, Stephen King



Billy is the most likable assassin you're likely to meet in any thriller: he checks to make sure his victims are truly deserving of their fates, he's kind, polite to a fault, thoughtful. Engaged on what he hopes will be his last assignment—taking out another assassin who is presently awaiting extradition and arraignment, timing uncertain—Billy embeds himself in a small town called Red Bluff. Without intending to, he begins to make friends with his neighbors, their children, and his office mates—not the best of strategies for an assassin. Worse, having endless time on his hands, he begins work on the memoir that's supposed to be his cover (ironically), although aware that his associates are monitoring his computer, he's careful to use the voice he presents to the world. To all who know him professionally, Billy is a phenomenally good shot who is otherwise clueless, a man who asks dumb questions and loves Archie Comic Books. In fact, Billy loves Emile Zola and is ten steps ahead of his associates at all times, as King maintains an ironic balancing act in which our hero teeters on the brink of becoming fully human—especially after he encounters Alice.... But that would be telling. Suffice it to say that King's witty, compelling and thoughtful book-within-a-book is intriguing, wildly entertaining, chock-full of vivid characters—whether gangsters, hard-working parents, exhausted soldiers or vulnerable children—and, when it isn't laugh-out-loud funny, it is as moving and thoughtful as it is compelling. I couldn't put it down—which is saying something, considering its 500+ page length. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$30

City On Fire, Don Winslow

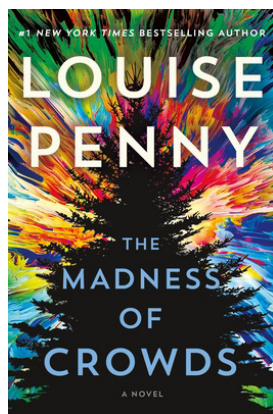


“Vengeance is an expensive luxury.” In this American mob epic the cost is great (and page-turning)! Two gang families—the Irish Murphys and the Italian Morettis—rent cottages each August in a small, gritty fishing village called Dogstown, near Providence, Rhode Island. Each gang has its own territory UNTIL they are forced to compete over a beautiful modern-day Helen of Troy, and “real war is back on.” After a series of shootings, brutal beatings, and a bloody,

murderous ambush, the main character, Danny Ryan, is forced to “rise above himself” to take leadership of the Murphy gang. He is the “good soldier...Good Old Danny who does what has to be done.” This novel explores the themes of loyalty, betrayal, and honor—stress-ing the importance and fragility of family. It is the first volume of a trilogy which Winslow says is a contemporary Iliad and will follow the classic character of Aeneas (Danny) “through his wanderings and struggles.” Stay tuned for more of this award-winning crime writer's brilliant story-telling. – Carol Kranes, Morrow, \$28.99

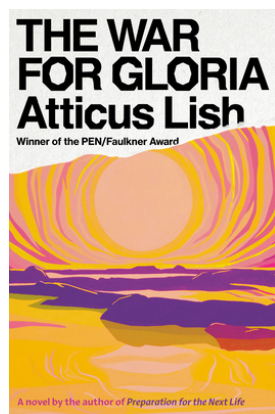
The Madness of Crowds, Louise Penny

In her latest Armand Gamache mystery, Penny imagines a post-COVID world. Family and friends have survived, mostly unscathed; but there is a new danger: statistics. The Sureté de Quebec has been asked to provide security for a professor in town who's to give a lecture on how "All will be well" if the citizenry will only believe the numbers and take the necessary steps to protect each other and their futures. And statistics don't lie...or do they? A cautionary tale of what people in extreme situations might be led to believe—even those of us who think we're immune. All of our favorite characters are here in *Three Pines*, and, as usual, someone has a secret. Penny just keeps getting better! – Anne Holman, Minotaur, \$28.99



The War for Gloria, Atticus Lish

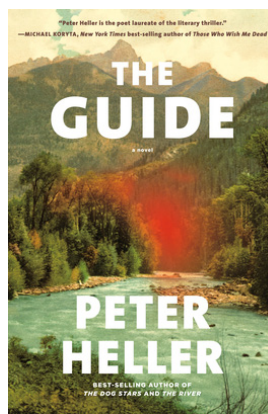
This is a harrowing story about human resilience—both physical and emotional—stretched to its limits and beyond. In the midst of distressed, working-class Boston during the Obama administration, Corey Goltz struggles to survive high school and navigate several volatile relationships. His abusive father is increasingly incapable of concealing the depths of his dark side with a veneer of scientific genius and a career that may or may not be what he claims; a brilliant pseudo-friend, Adrian,



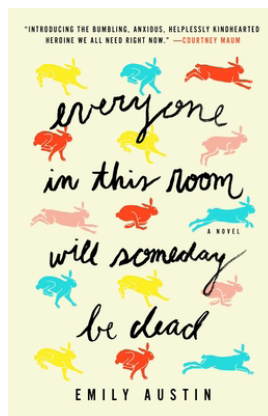
applies a rationality devoid of compassion to everything and everyone in his path; and a love interest, Molly, who likes and supports him but doesn't share or requite his intense sexual yearning. All these interpersonal complexities interfere with Corey's number-one priority: caring for his beloved mother Gloria who is dying both too slowly and too quickly from the ravages of ALS. Corey grabs every construction job he can in an effort to keep himself and his mother afloat while medical bills accumulate. He also undertakes martial arts training as a means of simultaneously venting his frustrations and acquiring sufficient strength to take down his father, should the need arise. A hellish climax occurs shortly after Gloria finally passes away. Three additional people within Corey's narrow circle die, all violently—one by strangulation, and the remaining two in a murder-suicide involving the destruction of a truck and a house. Corey is one of the suspects. Key detectives and attorneys involved in both cases, obviously linked, appear to be helpless, mean-spirited, or incompetent. Can Corey escape, survive, prevail—his sanity intact? Realism and mystery merge in this empathetic exploration of the human condition at its darkest. – Karlyn Bond, Knopf, \$28

The Guide, Peter Heller

As the newest guide at a very exclusive resort, Jack can tie a fly onto an expensive rod for the super-rich, enjoy a change of scenery and perhaps put his grief further away. Kingfisher Lodge, though, is not what it seems with its draconian rules, uptight staff and gates that lock people in, instead of the reverse. Jack's curiosity goes into overdrive as the days pass and the mystery deepens. Heller's spare



Duncker ran from to get away from the murderous shadow of her father, imprisoned for killing a local woman. Now a fully trained police officer with a gift for interrogation, Hannah returns, and not everyone is happy she's back. Threatening phone calls, outright hostility and a nosy new partner complicate her first case in her new station, that of a teen boy found stabbed at a local beauty spot. The victim has ties to Hannah's old life. Some of the suspects do too. Mo has crafted a clever thriller, reminiscent of a Swedish 'Broadchurch' where everyone has secrets layered upon secrets, and collateral damage to the community is guaranteed. – Paula Longhurst, Penguin, \$17



empathetic—I couldn't put this one down. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Atria, \$26

Velvet Was the Night, Silva Moreno-Garcia

An atmospheric noir set in 1970s Mexico City, Moreno-Garcia's (*Mexican Gothic*) latest features, in parallel time, two characters who on the surface are polar opposites in every way. Elvis, the would-be understudy to a crime boss who heads a politically driven goon squad, is a clownish clone of Elvis Presley in appearance whose métier is violence. Maite is a secretary with a bland life and wardrobe, a cat and illustrated romances for com-

but oh-so-rich writing is such a pleasure to read! He shows the reader so many of the little details that the big picture is as clear as a stream full of winter runoff. This masterful story, beautifully written and with a well-crafted plot, is a treat to read! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Knopf, \$27.99

The Night Singer, Johanna Mo

Oland is the place Hannah



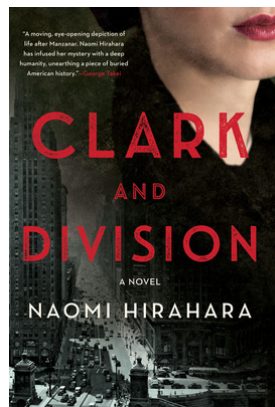
Mo has crafted a clever thriller, reminiscent of a Swedish 'Broadchurch' where everyone has secrets layered upon secrets, and collateral damage to the community is guaranteed.

Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead, Emily Austin

Gilda is a 20-something, morbidly anxious, atheist lesbian who has just landed a job as a secretary at a local Catholic parish. When she learns her predecessor died under mysterious circumstances, the question of what happened to her begins to consume Gilda's life—and could possibly lead to her own death. This book charmed me from page one. Realistic and heartbreaking, but also laugh-out-loud funny, morbid but optimistic, cynical but



pany. But Elvis hates the violence he perpetrates and reads in secret, loves music and film, while Maite's romantic imagination runs riot almost continually—especially when her beautiful neighbor disappears under mysterious circumstances. As the plot draws these two ever closer, the danger around them begins to converge in a dark but often funny mystery that is historically interesting, feminist, ironic, and riveting – Betsy Burton, Del Ray, \$27



Clark and Division, Naomi Hirahara

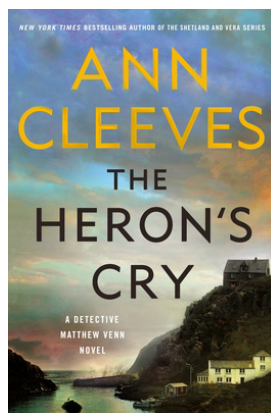
The Itos, Rose and Aki and their parents, ran a successful grocery business in California until they were sent to camp Manzanar. Finally released and sent for resettlement in Chicago, they have to start over. But Rose, who went on ahead, dies just days before they arrive. Aki worshipped her sister, and the younger Ito attempts to find out what happened to Rose amid clouds of suspicion from her own community and prejudice from most of the cops. An unsettling, period-accurate

read that shows what a country is capable of if it deems you 'enemy'.

– Paula Longhurst, Soho, \$27.95

The Heron's Cry, Ann Cleeves

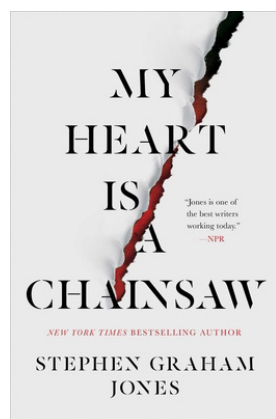
In this third in the Matthew Venn detective series, Detective Venn lives and works in North Devon where he was raised by ultra-religious parents. Estranged from them and the religion of his youth due to his unwillingness to deny his sexuality, he and his husband, Jonathan, live their lives outside the comfort of family and old friends. However, they are a respected part of the community which includes Jonathan's group of artistic friends, and in one artist's house he is sent to investigate a murder. Cleeves' books are more than a "who-done-it." They are thought-provoking creations with intelligent characters facing life and death with humility. Read the Matthew Venn novels knowing they are as much about kindness and tolerance as about murder or death. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur, \$27.99



My Heart is a Chainsaw,

Stephen Graham Jones

Jade Daniels is a 17-year-old Don Quixote with a twist: she's obsessed with '80s slasher films, ready to believe at any moment that she's in one. Meanwhile, a handful of tech millionaires are building mansions and floating yachts across the lake from her depressed rural town of Proofrock, Idaho. As tensions between the town and newcomers rise, Jade starts seeing signs that there's a slasher in their midst, ready to avenge an old grievance,



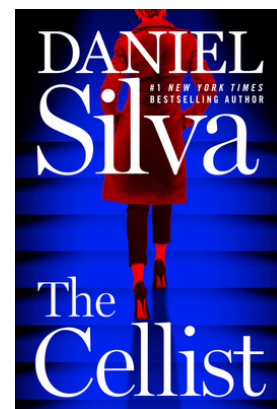
and she must decide if she wants to watch her hated town get slashed on the fateful night or fight with them to live. This is a terrifying,

smart meta-slasher with political substance, perfect for horror movie fans and those in search of a fresh take on the changing West.

– Lindsey Webb, Saga Press, \$26.99

The Cellist, Daniel Silva

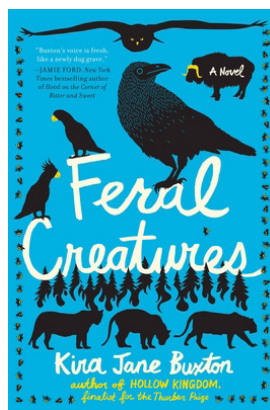
Ever wondered how much foreign skull-duggery has been involved in the rise of Donald Trump and the crisis which seems to be the ongoing state of the world today? In the eyes of Silva, the question can be answered with one word: Russia. The first inkling of that answer lies in an assassination and in leaks of a bank's transgressions that led to the death. The assassination's target was a Russian billionaire living in London who had long-opposed Putin's ascendancy. He was killed with contact poison, not the first such murder. The leak involved a European bank commonly known to launder money, flaunting regulation in the process. The leaker? The bank's regulator-in-chief and a brilliant cellist to boot. The man determined to track the truth behind the assassination and the leak? One Gabriel Allon, an Israeli agent whom readers of Silva have met before, abetted by (aside from the cellist) a Hollywoodesque cast with which Silva readers are likewise familiar. This page-turner provides an illuminating (if horrifying) look at the dark undercurrents driving the financial and political world. – Betsy Burton, Harper, \$28.99



SPECULATIVE FICTION

Feral Creatures, Kira Jane Buxton

Buxton uses humor and intelligence to comment on global warming, animal care and welfare in a way that is nothing short of genius. She is an author who truly understands and respects the animal kingdom, and her special connection to animals permeates the page as one avoids cell phone-obsessed zombie predators. In Buxton's follow-up to the wildly imaginative and incredibly immersive **Hollow Kingdom**, she conceives a place both absent of people and described from an



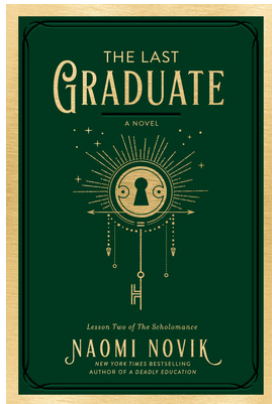
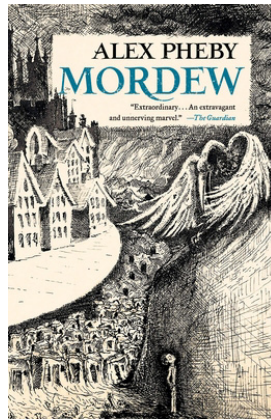
animal point of view. The "Hot Cheeto"-loving crow that transcends species is back navigating the post-apocalyptic world we left him in and raising what he sees as the last hope for humankind. In the absence of people, nature is doing what it does best: reclaiming the planet—a planet now filled with animals, some benign and some untrusting, some protective and some predatory. As young S.T.'s precious Dee grows and develops, S.T. honors his vow to watch after her and raise her to be the best "mofo" ever. Dee's education starts with our corvid hero, but she has an independent spirit and a connection to the earth and the animals and birds in their pod as they educate, protect and look after this precious creature. S.T. is one of the most original and heart-string-pulling characters in contemporary fiction.

– Calvin Crosby, Grand Central, \$28

SPECULATIVE FICTION

Mordew, Alex Pheby

God is dead, and Mordew, a walled city of intense social stratification, stands atop his corpse. This has odd effects on daily life there—the mud of the slums spontaneously generates strange life, some of it viable, most of it not; even babies can be created by mixing objects with mud (a block of rancid butter; a bird's nest). One day Nathan Treeves, who spends his time trying to survive in the slums, is sold to a mysterious figure called the Master, a magician who sees in Nathan a similar power that may rival his own. Who killed God—and who is currently a god—are questions that linger as Nathan travels deeper into the foundations of Mordew and the power that resides there. The plot is a ride of betrayal and deceptions to be untangled, and the world-building is complex and politically salient, dark and often stomach-churning. (I don't recommend eating while reading.) I already can't wait for the rest of the trilogy. – Lindsey Webb, Tor Books, \$29.99



The Last Graduate: Lesson Two of the Scholomance, Naomi Novik

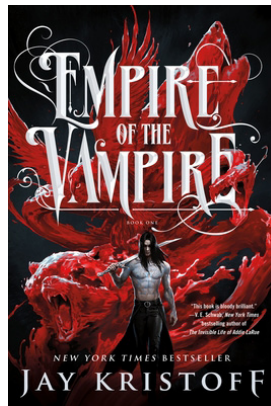
This sequel to *Deadly Education* will not disappoint! El, who wants nothing more than to make sure that she and her allies and friends all survive the dangerous and brutal ritual of graduation, is seriously afraid that she is going to have to fulfill her destiny and embrace her dark side. Novik's Scholomance is a cleverly constructed and highly detailed place permeated by dark magic. This is NOT Hogwarts. Novik is pulling readers into

her version of an adult magic school, and it is a blast to read.

– Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, \$28.99

Empire of the Vampire, Jay Kristoff

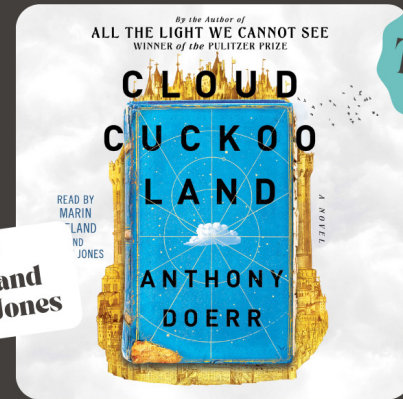
Vampire fans will be thrilled with Kristoff's new book in which Gabriel de Leon tells of the human struggle against daysdeath and the ever-increasing power of the undead. This novel has it all—love, intrigue, quests, battles, and a few creatures you will not recognize. Kristoff paints in broad, brilliant strokes, showing readers a dark and dismal world while slowly revealing Gabriel's reality. And he leaves you wanting more! – Margaret Brennan Neville, St. Martin's, \$29.99



Most Anticipated Audiobooks for Fall

Cloud Cuckoo Land

by Anthony Doerr



Read by
Marin Ireland
and Simon Jones

Libro.fm's To Be Listened To



Most Anticipated Audiobooks for Fall

Harlem Shuffle

by Colson Whitehead



Read by
Dion Graham

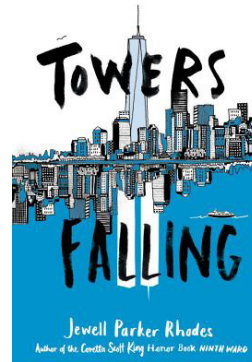
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Parents, teachers, preachers and others who work with children will soon be dealing with the trauma of 9/11, and a lot of us will have to discuss it with children. Because a book is the perfect way to introduce and invite conversation about difficult things, below are some sensitive, powerful books that could help with such conversations. Some of these titles have been reviewed in previous Inkslingers.

The Man Who Walked Between Towers, Mordicai Gerstein

A great introduction to the place the Towers held in the New York City skyline, this Caldecott winner tells the story of tightrope artist Phillipe Petit's harrowing stunt in 1974. – St. Martin's Press, \$8.99 (4 and up)



Towers Falling, Jewell Parker Rhodes

Deja is going to a new school, but she does not know what everyone is talking about, when her new friends and teacher discuss the “two towers.” Rhodes does a phenomenal job, clearly showing readers the tragedy

through the eyes of a young girl. – Hachette, \$7.99 (8 and up)

America Is Under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day the Towers Fell, Don Brown

In graphic novel format, Brown recounts the history of the attacks. He includes personal stories from survivors, responders, and witnesses in a retelling that is concise, accurate and compelling. – St. Martin's Press, \$16.99 (9 and up)



14 Cows for America

Carmen Agra Deedy
Illustrated by
Thomas Gonzalez

14 Cows for America, Carmen Agra Deedy and Thomas Gonzalez

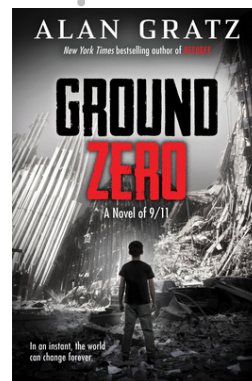
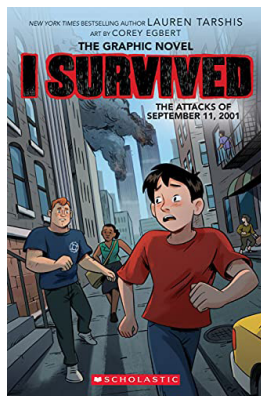
This picture book tells the story of a small, remote town in Kenya that, after hearing about 9-11, decided they needed to do something.

What they did illustrates

the fact that every gesture of kindness counts, makes a difference. – Peachtree, \$8.95 (all ages)

I Survived the Attacks of September 11, 2001, Lauren Tarshis

This popular series took on 9/11 in the author's traditional format in 2012, and in the graphic novel format this year. She tells the story through the eyes of a fictional character, Lucas, who happens to be in the city on 9/11; he is going to see his uncle the firefighter. At the end of both books, Tarshis gives the readers a full picture of the attacks. – Scholastic, \$5.99 for the chapter book, \$10.99 for the graphic novel (8 and up)



Ground Zero, Alan Gratz

Gratz tells this story in two voices, that of Brandon, who is visiting his dad in the World Trade Center on 9/11, and of Reshmina, a teenage girl in Afghanistan who, 8 years later, has to decide whether or not to help a wounded American soldier. Gratz skillfully weaves the terror of the attacks with the realities of Middle Eastern politics. A

compelling and sensitive rendering. – Scholastic, \$17.99 (10 and up)



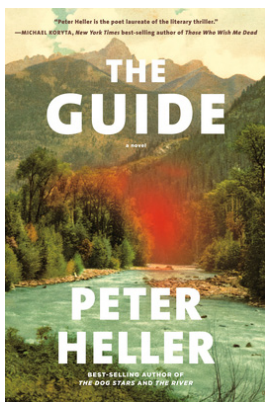
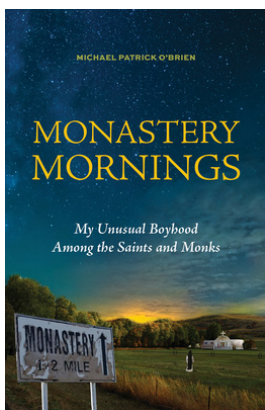
What Were the Twin Towers, Jim O'Connor

Another popular series took on the 9/11 events in 2016. This straightforward look at the history includes illustrations, photos, and timelines. – Penguin, \$5.99 (8 and up)



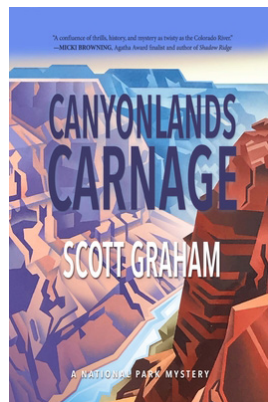
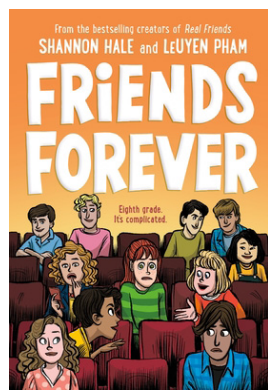
Save the Dates for a Fun-filled Fall!

Wednesday, September 1, 6 p.m.
Michael Patrick O'Brien will read from and discuss *Monastery Mornings* in the first in-person event at TKE in 18 months!



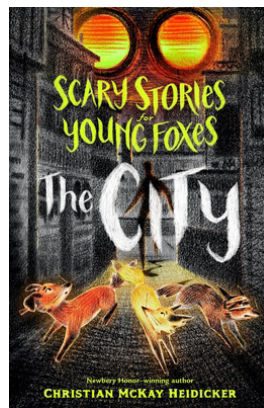
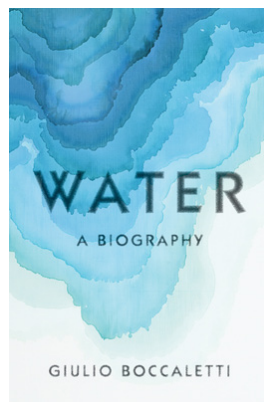
Thursday, September 2, 6 p.m.
Peter Heller will discuss *The Guide* with Margaret Neville on Crowdcast. Participation is free.

Thursday, September 2, 6 p.m.
Shannon Hale & LeYuen Pham will discuss *Friends, Forever*, in an in-person event at TKE.



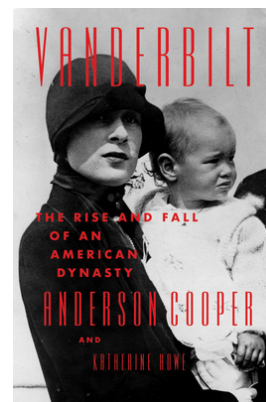
Wednesday, September 8, 6 p.m.
Scott Graham and Margaret Mizushima will discuss *Canyonlands Carnage* and *Striking Range* on Crowdcast. Participation is free.

Wednesday, September 15, 6 p.m.
Giulio Boccaletti will discuss *Water: A Biography* on Crowdcast. Participation is free.



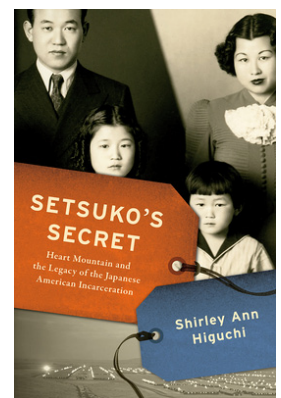
Friday, September 17, 6 p.m.
Christian McKay Heidicker will present *Scary Stories for Young Foxes: The City* in person at TKE.

Tuesday, September 21, 6 p.m.
Celesta Rimington will present *Tips for Magicians* in person at TKE.



Friday, September 24, 4 p.m.
Anderson Cooper will discuss *Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty* on Zoom in a ticketed event through Eventbrite. \$38 price includes the book.

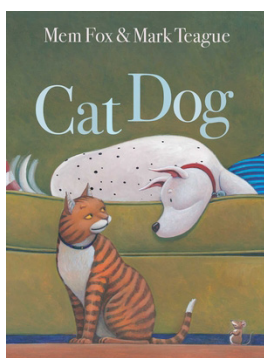
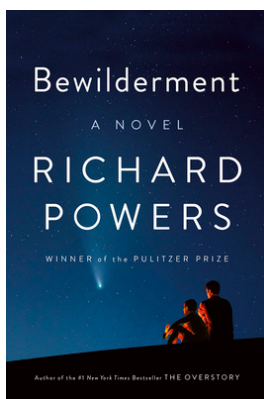
Friday, September 24, 6 p.m.
Shirley Higuchi will discuss *Settsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration* in an in-person event at TKE.



Saturday, September 25, 5 p.m. *The Human Experience: An Open Mic Night* in person at TKE! Connect through the written word. You are invited to recite, read, sign or simply observe. Free to attend; if you wish to perform, arrive early to reserve a time slot! For more information, contact Melissa at melissa.elder@live.com.

Monday, September 27, 6 p.m.

Richard Powers will read from and discuss (with Betsy Burton) *Bewilderment* in a ticketed event broadcast on Zoom through Eventbrite. \$35 price includes book.

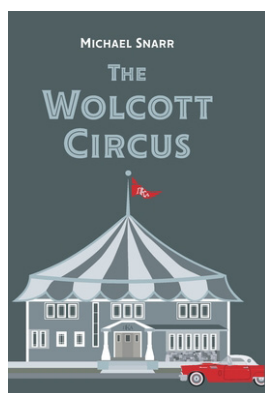
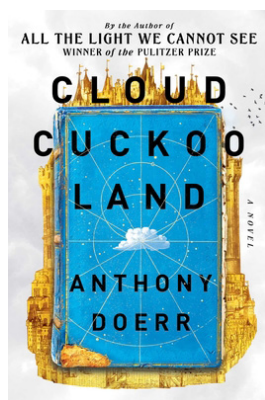


Tuesday, September 28, 11 a.m.

Mark Teague will present *Cat Dog* on Crowdcast. Participation is free.

Wednesday, September 29, 7 p.m.

Anthony Doerr will read from and discuss (with Betsy Burton) *Cloud Cuckoo Land: A Novel* in an in-person event at the Alumni House, University of Utah ticketed through Eventbrite. \$40 price includes book.

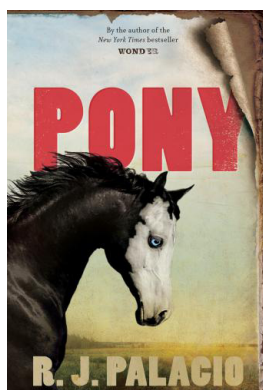


Thursday, September 30, 6 p.m.

Mike Snarr will present *The Wolcott Circus* in person at TKE.

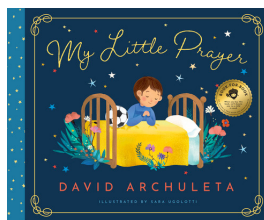
Thursday, September 30, 6 p.m.

R. J. Palacio will present *Pony* in an event broadcast on Zoom and ticketed through Eventbrite, \$25.



Wednesday, October 6, 6 p.m.

Stephen Trimble will read from and discuss *The Mike File: A Story of Grief and Hope* in an in-person event at TKE.

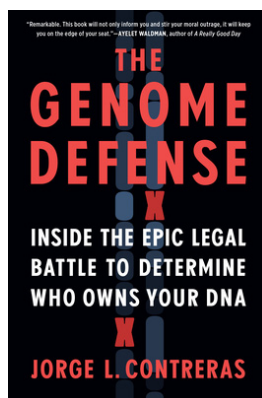
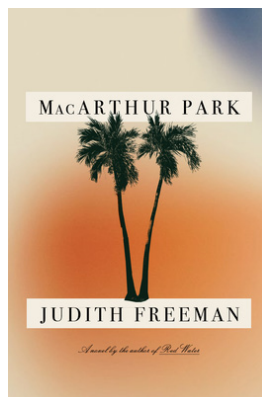


Wednesday, October 13, 4 p.m.

David Archuleta will sign copies of his new book *My Little Prayer* in an appearance ticketed through Eventbrite, \$25.

Thursday, October 14, 6 p.m.

Judith Freeman will read from and discuss *MacArthur Park* in an in-person event at TKE.

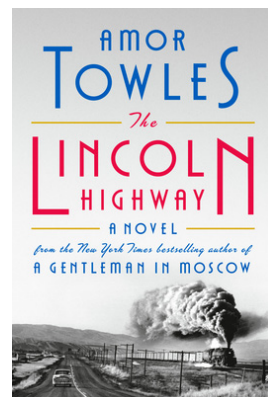
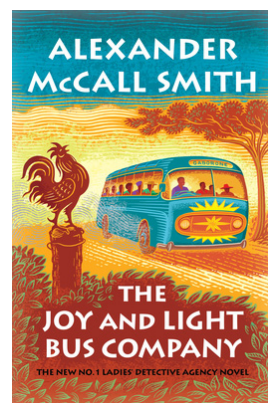


Thursday, October 26, 6 p.m.

Jorge L. Contreras will discuss *The Genome Defense: Inside the Epic Legal Battle to Determine Who Owns Your DNA* on Crowdcast. Participation is free.

Tuesday, November 9, 1 p.m.

Alexander McCall Smith will read from and discuss *The Joy and Light Bus Company* in an event broadcast on Zoom and ticketed through Eventbrite. \$35 price includes the book.



Thursday, November 11, 6 p.m.

Amor Towles will read from and discuss *The Lincoln Highway* in an event broadcast on Zoom and ticketed through Eventbrite. \$38 price includes the book.

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