

THE KING'S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP
MATCHING BOOKS TO READERS SINCE 1977
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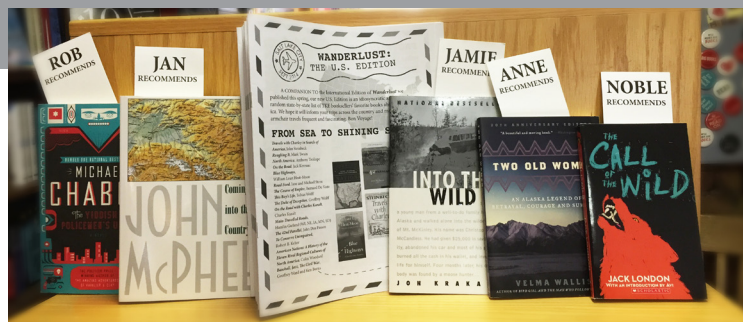
THE Inkslinger

2014 Holiday Issue



* * The Gift of a Shared Experience * *

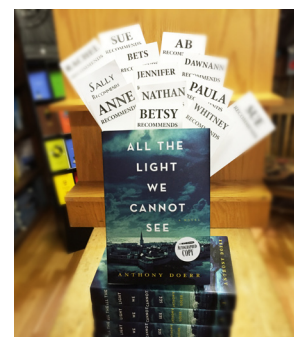
Earlier this year TKE published two special *Inkslinger* editions of *Wanderlust*, one focusing on international travel, the other on discovering the U.S.A. In these guides our booksellers offer country-by-country, state-by-state recommendations of must-read books to enhance your dream trip, whatever that may be. What better gift for your beloved than a plane ticket to [you name the destination] and a wondrous selection of books about that destination? Take Paris for example: choose some (or all) of this wondrous selection of books about the "City of Light" culled from *Wanderlust* International.



Or how about using a copy of *Wanderlust* U.S. to look forward to summer vacation, along with a ticket for an Alaskan cruise and some of the above titles?

Finally, for sheer story-telling verve, we recommend two staff favorites, *The Plover* and *All the Light We Cannot See*.

Come in and see what TKE has to offer for all those on your list!



* * Holiday Fun for One and All! * * *

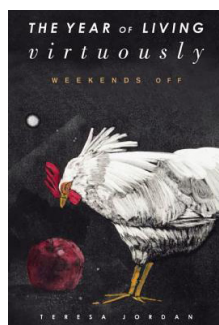


SAVE 15%

Friday, November 28 through Saturday, December 6: Shift Your Spending Week. Take 15% off your purchases at TKE as a thank you for shopping locally—at 15th and 15th!

Saturday, November 29: Small Business Saturday and Indies First combine to make this the day to start your holiday shopping. Use your Amex and get a \$10 credit in as many as three stores—and 15% off at TKE! We'll have authors hand-selling books, and a special storytime with *Frog & Toad* and the Salt Lake Acting Company!

Thursday, December 4, 5-7 p.m. TKE Annual Holiday Party. 20% off purchases made during the shindig and there are always one or 10 authors to meet and greet.



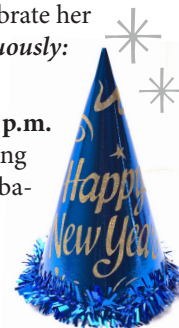
Sunday, December 7, 9 a.m. Books & Bagels: Bring your notepad and get ready to create your gift-giving list and take 20% off during our annual presentation and personal shopping morning with TKE booksellers.

Tuesday, December 9, 7 p.m. Local favorite Teresa Jordan will join us to celebrate her memoir, *The Year of Living Virtuously: Weekends Off*.

Thursday, January 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ring in the New Year with us and take 25% off everything on our shelves at TKE's Annual New Year's Day Sale. Libations and laughter will abound.

Friday, January 2, 7 p.m. Mette Ivie Harrison will read from and sign her new mystery, *The Bishop's Wife*.



Brandon Mull, Jan Brett, **THE GRINCH** Story Hour! Holiday festivities for children abound at TKE. See inside!



From the Sublime to the Divine: Lovely and Lavish Books for Holiday Giving

by Betsy Burton

COLLECTED POEMS

MARK STRAND

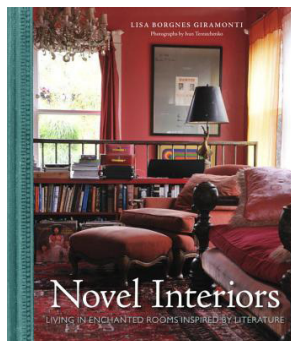
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE



Literary and Luscious

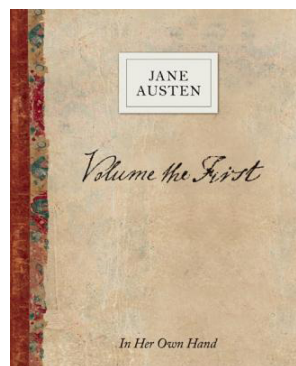
For the literati in your life few gifts could mean more than the work of a lifetime from a major poet or fiction writer. This year we have both! Mark Strand's monumental *Collected Poems* (Knopf, \$30) is a stunning compendium of a lifetime's work by a Poet Laureate who has won literally every award known to poets. Elegant, often funny, accessible and profound, Strand's poetry is endlessly insightful and moving. The chance to see the scope of his genius over a lifetime also offers endless hours

(and pages—544 of them) of pure pleasure—not to mention revelation. Speaking of revelation, Alice Munro, winner of, among other things, the Booker and Nobel prizes, has just published *Family Furnishings: Selected Stories, 1995-2014* (Knopf, \$30), 600+ pages of the best work of an author many consider to be the greatest short story writer of our time. With a foreword by Jane Smiley and stories that run the gamut of human emotions and experiences, this collection is as wise and complicated and surprising as life itself. Munro is an absolute master of the fine art of fiction, as this selection of the cream of her work clearly shows. For another take on furnishings of a literary nature, perfect for those who never wish to leave the pages of their beloved novels, *Novel Interiors: Living in Enchanted Rooms Inspired by Literature* (Potter Style, \$35) can help you—or the one you love—create interiors right out of the pages of Austen and Bronte and Wilde...who needs the real world, anyway?



For Those Who Do (Appreciate the Real World)

Lovers of Jane Austen will swoon over *In Her Own Hand* (Abbeville, \$75) by, it's true, Jane Austen in her own hand! Although few of her adult manuscripts exist in complete form, the work of her teenage years does. And it is, not surprisingly, witty, well-plotted and tart, showing the promise of what was to come. A boxed set of facsimile editions in Austen's own handwriting, the three-

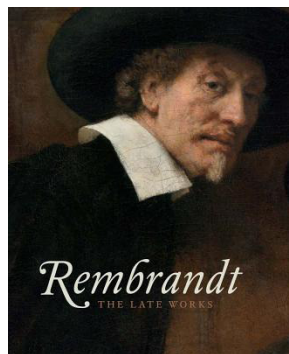


volume edition includes transcriptions by R.W. Chapman first recorded in 1953. Or if Vincent Van Gogh's is the voice you're yearning to hear, *Ever Yours, the Essential Letters by Vincent Van Gogh*, edited by Leo Jansen and Hans Luijten (Yale University Press, \$50) contains 265 of the letters (from the collection of 850), superbly translated and edited, selected to illuminate the artist, his inner life, and his place in the emerging Parisian avant-garde, accompanied by sketches, maps, facsimile letters. Either of these collectors' editions is a treasure for lovers of the arts, as is David Dawson's *A Painter's Progress: A*

Portrait of Lucian Freud (Knopf, \$65), a photographic record of the painter, his portraits in process, his studio, his art and the art he loved hanging in his house—altogether a stunningly introspective photographic portrait of one of the geniuses of our age.

The Art of the Old

There are also gorgeous new books on old masters, including, from the National Gallery, *Rembrandt: The Late Works* (\$65) which showcases the creative last years of one of the world's great artists, and *Bruegel in Detail* (Harry N. Abrams, \$65). Organized by theme, whether celebratory, daily, religious, or



GlitteringWorld Navajo Jewelry of the Yazzie Family



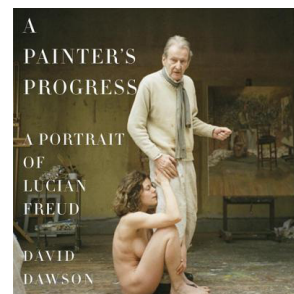
Lois Sherr Dubin

landscape—which was so all-important in his work—this look at the work of Pieter Bruegel the Elder reveals the radical, innovative nature of a so-called classical artist. One couldn't imagine anything more classical than *In the Name of the Son: The Life of Jesus in Art from the Nativity to the Passion* by Vittoria Sgarbi and Alastair McEwan (Rizzoli, \$35). Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque...Carravagio, Giotto...the sweep of the images tells a story dear to the heart of Christians and the images (over 350 full-color) are dear to the heart of those who love art in a truly classical sense. And for those who have a different appreciation of the classical, there's *Glittering World: Navajo Jewelry of the Yazzie Family* by Lois Sherr Dubin (Smithsonian, \$50). Tracing the history of Navajo jewelry from ancient times through a single family in New

Mexico, this lovely book weaves a tale of cultures in conflict, of tradition and of change into a stunning look at some of the most beautiful objects produced anywhere at any time.

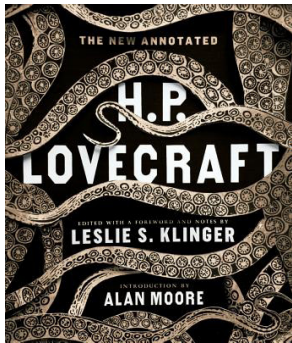
The Art of the Bold (Not to Mention Unconventional)

Art comes in many forms, and one of them is graphic—as may be seen to mesmerizing effect in *Here* (Pantheon, \$35) by Richard McGuire, the cartoonist (for *The New Yorker*) and graphic novelist who has, in wondrous Hop-pesque style, created a series of plots unfolding on a single plot—of land that is—in a corner of New Jersey. Inventive, layered, unlike anything you've ever seen, this is the graphic novel utterly reinvented. Then there's the *Dali Pop-Ups* by Courtney Watson McCarthy and Martin Howard (Thames and Hudson, \$29.95). For those who loved a similar volume of M.C. Escher's work, this 3-dimensional art by the master surrealist





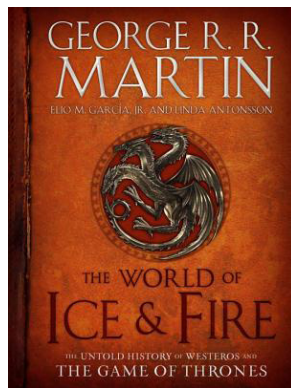
Salvador Dali is, well, surreal—playful, outrageous and an absolute joy to behold.



Art in Other Worlds

Another leap from the sublime to the unconventional (and to other worlds) is *The Compleat Ankh-Morpork* by the ever-inventive Terry Pratchett (Random House, \$39.95), a new street-dictionary of Discworld, mapped and illustrated (on every page) with a look somewhere between an encyclopedia and an illuminated manuscript that is perfect for fans of science fiction, fantasy and the inimi-

table Pratchett. In like fashion, *The New Annotated H.P. Lovecraft*, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (Liveright, \$39.95), is chock full of the original pulp art and terrorizing tales that gave rise to subsequent genres of science fiction and horror and to writers from Stephen King to Neil Gaiman. And finally, for fans of “A Game of Thrones,” whether in print or on screen, George Martin’s *The World of Ice and Fire: The Untold History of Westeros and the Game of Thrones* (Random House, \$50) is the be-all and end-all gift, a full-color guide to the saga to end all sagas.



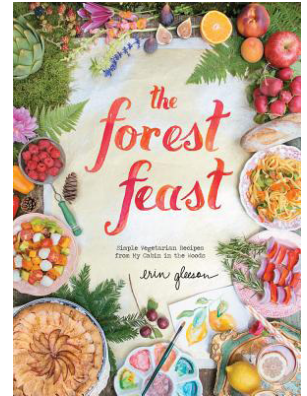
The Bewitching Art of the Kitchen

If literature and art are at once an escape, a creation, and a feast, one could certainly say the same thing of the fine art of cooking. This year is rich in our favorite kind of cookbooks: recipes for good food made fast without undo fuss. Mark Bittman’s *How to Cook Everything Fast: A Better Way to Cook Great Food* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$35) is user-friendly, full of tips on everything from equipment to time management. But best of all, “fast” food in Bittman’s world isn’t processed food but the process of cooking good food—fast. From the kitchens of Martha Stewart comes cooking that’s the opposite of fast but is just as easy: *One Pot* (Clarkson Potter, \$26). Whether it be a crock pot or roasting pan, a skillet or slow cooker, here are 120 recipes for creating dinner in one go—just the way we like it, good and easy, easy and good. Also from Clarkson Potter comes our favorite Doyenne of the kitchen, Ina Garten, The Barefoot Contessa, this time with *Make It Ahead* (\$35). Anyone who likes to cook knows how

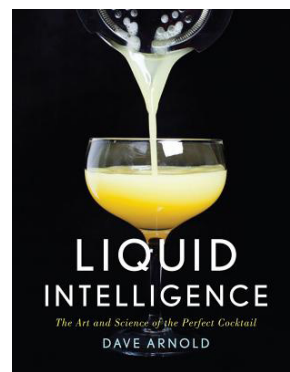
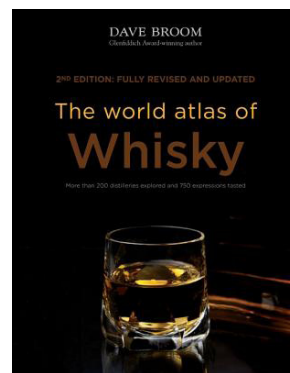


good Garten’s recipes are, and which of us, when entertaining, wants to spend the evening in the kitchen while the party takes place somewhere else? La Contessa has the perfect low-stress solution. Low stress doesn’t begin to describe the culinary process set out in *The Forest Feast: Simple Vegetarian Recipes from My Cabin in the Woods* by Erin Gleeson (Stewart, Tabori, and Chang, \$35). Published in April, this has become TKE’s bestselling cookbook

and a staff favorite as well. Few steps, few ingredients, amazing meals. Finally, the crème de la crème, *Baking Chez Moi: Recipes from My Paris Home to Your Home Anywhere* by Dorie Greenspan (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$40) features desserts which, although French, are surprisingly easy, giving the term elegant simplicity a whole new (and delicious) meaning and enabling our worst (some might say best) addiction: a craving for sweets.

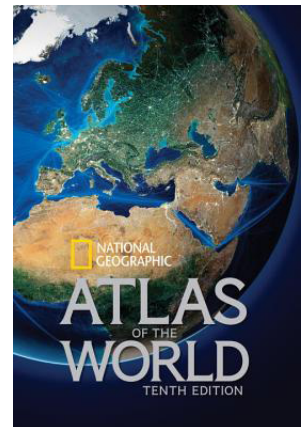


Connoisseur or Addict? Atlases of the Real and Unreal



My husband would say “connoisseur” if asked how his knowledge of the world’s whiskeys defines him. And I’d have to agree; whiskeys are every bit as complicated as wines, and anyone who has won the Glenfiddich Drinks Writer of the Year Award not once but twice has to know whereof he drinks. Dave Broom’s new edition of *The World Atlas of Whisky* (Hachette, \$39.99) has 21 maps featuring over 250 distilleries, charts that group whiskeys by style... who could ask more of an atlas than this distillation of information about the aristocrat of intoxicants? Those who like their drinks mixed, that’s who. *Death & Co: Modern Classic Cocktails* by David Kaplan, Nick Fauchald, and Alex Day (Ten Speed, \$40) might as well be an atlas, filled as it is with classic cocktails, with colorful photographs, illustrative charts and infographics, and also a complete guide to spirits themselves, to the tools, and to the philosophy of

drink-making. Last but hardly least, *Liquid Intelligence: The Art and Science of the Perfect Cocktail* by Dave Arnold (Norton, \$35) takes the subject even further, mixing science, experience and 450 full-color illustrations to revolutionize your expectations of what an interesting tittle can taste like. Mixologists, rejoice! For connoisseurs of the unreal, *100 Things You Will Never Find* by Dan Smith (Quercus, \$24.99) is, literally, an atlas of the unknown, from disappearing jewels to lost (make that erased) tapes to stolen horses to the Holy Grail. Every year it’s fun to have a book to pass around to those not busy opening presents and this is one of those. As is, albeit in a very different way (and in a very different price point), the atlas of the real: *The National Geographic Atlas of the World: Tenth Edition* (National



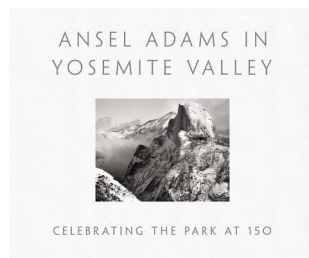


Sublime to Divine: Lovely and Lavish Books

Geographic, \$195). Everything you could ever want in terms of maps, charts, and informational graphics, this amazing volume locates and details not only countries and continents, oceans and seas, but also trends, be they social, political, environmental, or economic. It's big, it's colorful, it's informative; roam freely, whether in reality (see page one) or in your imagination with the stunning and completely up-to-date be-all-and-end-all reference by the world's finest cartographers on the occasions of National Geographic Cartographers' 100th anniversary. Cause to celebrate!

From the Indoors Out

Last Great Wild Places: Forty Years of Wildlife Photography by Thomas D. Mangelsen (Rizzoli, \$95) takes us from mountains to plains to jungles to deserts to the poles, showing us the full panoply of life on earth, Mangelsen's dazzling photographs reminding us of the importance of conservation even as they bring to life the polar bears and giraffes and elephants that still populate our planet. As does **Rainforest** by Lewis Blackwell (Harry N. Abrams, \$60) an exquisite record of the mystery and diversity of one precious ecosystem, the delicate flora and brilliant fauna that inhabit rainforests worldwide. Then there's **Melting Away: A Ten-Year Journey through Our Endangered Polar Regions** by Camille Seaman (Princeton Architectural Press, \$55) which captures not only the inescapable evidence of global warming but also the infelicitable beauty of the polar reaches of our planet. Closer to home, there's **Ansel Adams in Yosemite Valley, Celebrating The Park at 150** (Little Brown, \$100). The (appropriately) 150 images, selected by Museum of Modern Art past Curator of Photography Peter Galassi, brilliantly convey the landscape haunted by the last century's most significant photographer—and one of its most significant conservationists. Yet another conservationist from

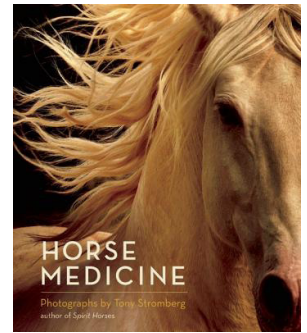


the last century, Mary Hunter Austin, wrote a seminal work which helped give rise to the naturalist movement in literature, **The Land of Little Rain**. Republished and illustrated in lavish color photographs by Walter Feller that bring the Southwest desert to life, this new edition (Counterpoint, \$50) belongs on all our shelves.

Outdoors for Sport

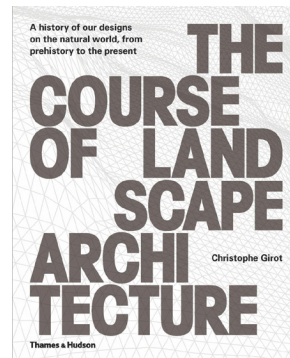
For a more visceral outdoor experience, **Chasing Epic: the Snowboard Photog-**

raphy of Jeff Curtes (Ammo, \$39.95) captures not only the surreal angles of sky and snow, but also the airborne feeling, the exhilarating beauty of the sport that make this the perfect gift for snowboarders everywhere. And in keeping with the adage "different strokes for different folks," a book for a different season is **The Golf Book: Twenty Years of Players, Shots and Moments That Changed the Game** by Chris Millard (Harper, \$50) which features everything from strokes to stories, sand traps to sidebars, all in lavish color—a golfer's delight. Finally, for lovers of the equine, two books capture the wondrous beauty of animals we use for sport and companionship, yet whose true nature remains forever wild: **Horse Medicine** by Tony Stromberg (New World Library, \$45) and **Golden Horse: The Legendary Akhai-Teke** by Artur Baboev and Aleksandr Klimuk (Harry N. Abrams, \$50). The first chronicles horses in America, the second a particular Asian breed; horse lovers will covet both.



Outside Tamed

It's hard to imagine a better book for an avid gardener than **The Gardner's Garden** by Toby Musgrave, Madison Cox, and Bill Noble (Phaidon, \$79.95), an extravagantly lovely look at gardens worldwide that inspires in terms of design and also informs. As does **The Course of Landscape Architecture** by Christopher Girot (Thames and Hudson, \$75), more academic in nature and a fascinating look at mankind's progressive attempts to control the landscape he inhabits. Both are perfect to while away long winter days dreaming of spring and flowers.

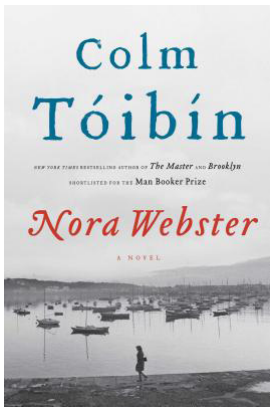


Music of the Spheres, Music to Our Ears

Ending on a musical note, for jazz aficionados there's **Blue Note: Uncompromising Expression** by Richard Hayes (Chronicle, \$85), a history of the incredible jazz label Blue Note whose stable of musicians has included everyone from Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, John Coltrane, Bud Powell, to Norah Jones. Pair it with an LP or a CD and who could ask for more?



Speaking of special gifts, The King's English received two this season - one inside, one outside. Come take a look!



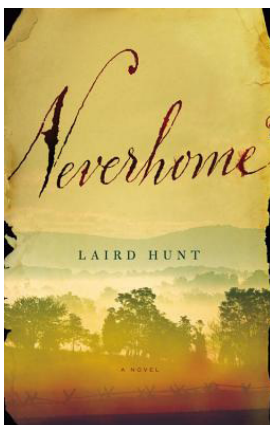
Nora Webster, Colm Tóibín

At first it's hard to know what to make of the newly widowed Nora Webster. That she loved her late husband is evident in her every thought and action. That she loves her children is less clear. Oh, she takes care of them dutifully enough, but her obliviousness to their feelings is maddening. Then slowly, over time, as she creeps out from under the carapace of her grief, moving forward into the world and back in memory, she becomes ever-more fascinating, a character who is the polar

opposite of the blank slate that was young Ellis in Tóibín's quietly brilliant *Brooklyn*. What had at first seemed helplessness in Nora gradually begins to transform from fragile to tough, even formidable; watching that transformation is revelatory. I don't always believe in men's depictions of women in novels but Tóibín's are the exception. More thoughtful than Emma Bovary and less self-destructive, in the end far and away a better parent than the doomed Anna Karenina for all the latter's dramatic posturing, *Nora Webster* is easily as memorable as either—and far more believable. To say more would spoil a masterful—and unforgettable—novel. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$27

The Book of Strange New Things, Michael Faber

Pastor Peter has been invited to go on a space mission, specifically because the local inhabitants living there have insisted that they receive regular visitations by a Christian minister. Galaxies away, he sets out, leaving behind his wife, his cat and anything that ever connected him to this earth. And thus begins one of the most interesting and riveting accounts imaginable of man reaching into the future, one that redefines speculative fiction. Peter's faith and that of his wife are challenged in ways neither could have anticipated. I could believe the awful possibilities contained within this remarkable novel; I cannot get the characters and events from my mind. – Sue Fleming, Hogarth, \$28

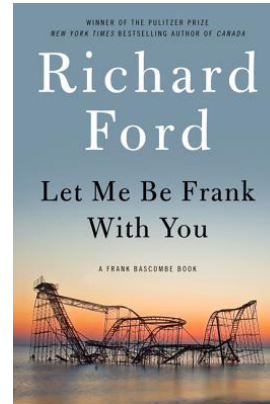


Neverhome, Laird Hunt

In homespun, rural dialect that at first evokes *Huckleberry Finn* but slowly segues into something darker, Constance Thompson, who has renamed herself Ash at the beginning of this blistering novel, weaves a tale of leaving hearth, home, and husband to become a soldier. In some ways a Dantesque descent into Hell, *Neverhome* evokes the war—particularly Antietam—in terrifying detail. But it also explores those mysterious sanctums in each of our hearts that make us at once human and unknowable. Probing ques-

tions of love and of gender, of what engenders violence and betrayal, what it means to be strong and what it means to fail and fall down, it

ultimately addresses what we can live with and what we can no longer bear. In the first section the pace is breathtaking as Ash marches boldly into battle, testing her courage and her sanity as she goes. But forward motion begins to lurch, stopping and starting in a nightmarish but extremely effective way as she marches toward home, each step taking her closer to a mystery the existence of which the reader is increasingly aware. Hunt writes with lyricism, power and wonderful ambiguity, the direct and downhome voice of Ash casting a spell that leaves us to ponder and to ask questions: about war, about loyalty, and about the differences that separate all human beings from one another. – Betsy Burton, Little Brown, \$26



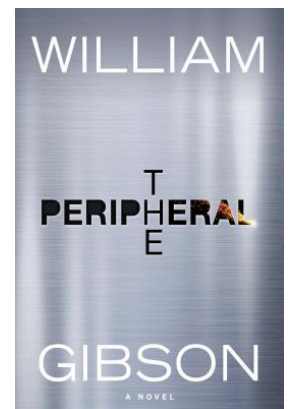
Let Me Be Frank with You, Richard Ford

Frank Bascomb, whom we all thought we'd seen the last of in *Lay of the Land*, is back in four linked novellas. Even taken together, they're slighter than any of the three novels in the Bascomb trilogy—appropriately so since Frank himself is slighter. He's aging, he's frail, he's more introspective than ever—and crankier. But he tries to be kind when asked—as he is in each of these stories—and his quirky humor still glints in unexpected ways. Frank has dodged a bullet, having sold

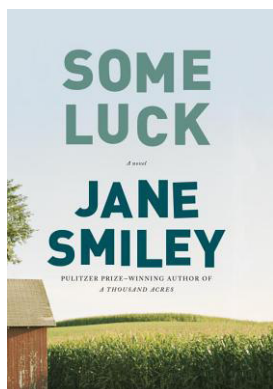
his house on the Jersey Shore and retired to his hometown—before Hurricane Sandy struck, wreaking the sort of havoc on real estate (not to mention lives) that age has wrecked on Frank. Appropriately, since Frank is a retired Realtor, houses form important backdrops for each of these pre-Christmas tales. In the first he agrees to meet with the unlucky man who bought Frank's beach house in Jersey, in the second he opens the door to his present house and lets in the tragic history of the woman who lived there as a child. In the last two unsettling tales he visits his ex-wife in an “assisted care facility,” and an old acquaintance he never really liked who's home dying of cancer. If all of this sounds gloomy, it's not; it's vintage Ford, funny as it is sad, wise in a cranky way and a pretty accurate picture of life. – Betsy Burton, Ecco, \$27.99

The Peripheral, William Gibson

The Holy Grail for those who work in virtual reality is to create something called presence, a feeling that the person entering into a virtual reality is really there. The goal is to provide a truly immersive experience indistinguishable from real life. In the work of William Gibson, original coiner of the word “cyberspace,” achieving this kind of presence can be both empowering and debilitating, ecstatic and frightful. In today's world, even with the advent of things like Google Glass and sprawling online gaming spaces, the closest the average person gets to virtual reality is to create an online avatar—a digital self that stands in for the physical being. In Gibson's latest novel, he takes the idea of avatar one step further: avatars become something more like new bodies that can be inhabited by a human consciousness. They seem like rentable skins. Hence the name of the novel,



The Peripheral, for peripherals are what these ultra-avatars or surrogates are called, as if they were one more digital accessory among other, more common peripherals like memory sticks and scanners. In basic terms, the novel is a thriller about a brother and sister who work as security officers in cyberspace and end up taking a job that ties them to a murder, but nothing about this novel is linear or straightforward, and the plot itself defies description. But the book is not about the plot; it's about the experience. It follows multiple timelines in different futures that slowly converge into one storyline, baffling but in a good way (something that should be familiar to fans of Philip K. Dick). Creating mild disorientation in the reader seems to be part of Gibson's storytelling technique, and the characters themselves mirror this when they enter into virtual worlds that are at once familiar and foreign to them, such as a cyberspace city that is at once clearly London and somehow not-London. Gibson is a world-builder, so prepare yourself for a demanding but satisfying read. The best rule for reading *The Peripheral* is when things get weird, just keep reading. If you jack in (to borrow another Gibsonism) and immerse yourself completely in his fictive world, your consciousness will soon achieve that elusive presence. – Kenneth Loosli, Putnam, \$28.95



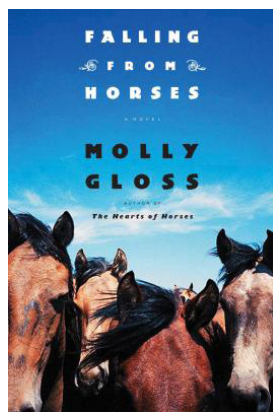
***Some Luck: A Novel*, Jane Smiley**

The Langdon family earns a living farming rich Iowa soil and has done so for several generations. Walter and Rosanna are carrying the tradition forward, husbanding their inheritance, rotating crops, eschewing chemical fertilizers, enriching the already fertile ground by planting fallow fields with nutrient-improving grasses. Instilling the thirst for knowledge in their children and grandchildren while they nurture the land is their *raison d'être*. Each of their children nurture their

siblings as carefully as their parents cared for them. They weather the Great Depression by selling eggs and butter to the local grocer, which allows them to reinvest in better machines, which allow even better crops, which keep the farm growing. This novel is vintage Smiley: we feel the Langdons' pain when they mourn, rejoice with them when they succeed, laugh and sing with them at family gatherings. I wanted to stay in the Langdons' world forever; I shed a tear or two when the novel ended. This wonderful book is as Pulitzer-worthy as *A Thousand Acres*. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, \$26.95

***Falling From Horses*, Holly Gloss**

In 1938, 19-year-old Bud Frazer leaves Oregon where he has worked as an itinerant rancher for Hollywood to follow his dream of riding as a stunt actor in movies. The historical atmosphere of movie-making is an eye-opener. Bud struggles not only with his attempts to break in to this dangerous work, but also with demons of his past, linking horses, his younger sister and parents. Gloss is obviously familiar with Western experience and with those who love horses—and, unfortunately, those who use horses for their own means ignoring their safety, or

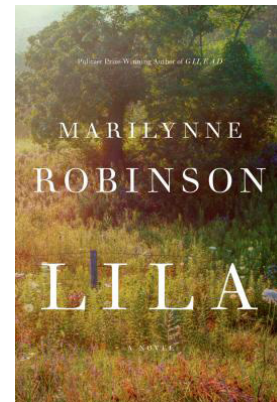


that of any the stuntmen and women involved in the film. This is a thoroughly enjoyable and informative novel. – Sue Fleming, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$25

***Lila*, Marilynne Robinson**

Marilynne Robinson's books always leave me in a state of conflict and *Lila*, just short-listed for the National Book Award, is no exception. On the one hand few novelists are Robinson's equal either in literary skill or insight. *Lila*, the prequel to *Gilead*, is stunning in terms of character, and stylistically brilliant; its voice is as pared down and haunting as that of Kent Haruf, and the novel is positively biblical in terms of its moral examination of a life.

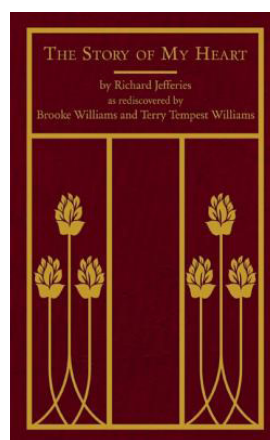
My problem is summed up in that one word: biblical. Lila is a compelling character. As we follow her childhood, first with an itinerant group living rough, and then with Doll, the woman who steals her away, saving her life in the process, there are many heart-in-throat moments. Just as there are years later when Lila meets and marries the aging Reverend John Ames. Lila has much to overcome: mistrust has long been a way of life, pain the norm. But as she listens to her beloved, puzzles out for herself the messages braided into the texts of various books in the Bible, the result is in some ways redemptive, in others a dense theological soup—only in part clarified by the stunning creation that is Lila herself and the equally wise and tender John Ames. Ultimately, and sadly, theology trumps character in *Lila*. No doubt there are many moments of revelation for the faithful but for me obfuscation rather than revelation was the end outcome, resulting in a cautionary review rather than a wholehearted recommendation. – Betsy Burton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$26



NONFICTION

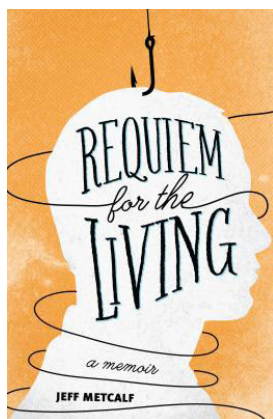
***The Story of My Heart*, Richard Jefferies, Brooke Williams, introduction by Terry Tempest Williams**

When Brooke Williams and his wife Terry Tempest Williams were poking around in a used bookstore in Stonington, Maine, they discovered a small, lovely volume on nature by Richard Jefferies, a little-known English writer from the 19th century. As Terry recounts in her introduction, their “find” quickly became an obsession—the results of which could only have been pulled off by these two amazing people. Jefferies' book has been republished in a



small, embossed leather volume reminiscent of a missal, the chapters, all beautifully reproduced, each followed by a well-considered response by Brooke. *The Story of My Heart* is more than a treatise on nature and our physical relationship with the outdoors; it is a call for pilgrimage. His was a walk of just over a mile from his home in London to “an aspen by a brook,” but for Jefferies the idea of pilgrimage meant simply “to get away from the endless and nameless

circumstances of everyday existence” which would lead to a different way of looking at life and the understanding of our need for the healing and beauty found in nature. As the book progresses, Jefferies not only continues the exploration of the natural world, but also explores the inner world of his psyche/soul, lamenting the fact that his body is no longer able to go the distance. In fact, the perfection of the body and the Spartan ideal become more and more important to him as his own body succumbs to the ravages of tuberculosis. Jefferies died in 1887 at the age of 38. Although one may not agree with all he wrote, he did start an important conversation, influencing not only the Williamsses, but Rachel Carson, John Fowles, and Henry Miller. “Yes, that Henry Miller,” as Brooke puts it. An absolutely beautiful, thought-provoking book. – Jan Sloan, Torrey House Press, \$21.95



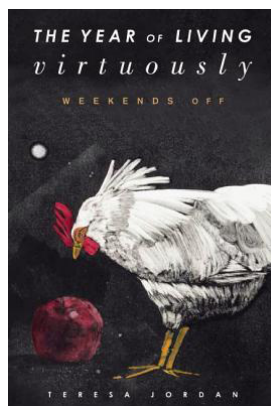
Requiem for the Living, Jeff Metcalf

What begins as Jeff Metcalf’s account of living with cancer becomes, as the title *Requiem for the Living* implies, a memoir about life, not death. The weekly essays he set out to write over the course of the year following his terminal diagnosis are funny, fascinating, filled with experiences at once profound and entertaining that drill down deep, demanding something of the reader in response. We see Jeff growing up as the family follows along on his father’s career path from Salt Lake

to Holland to Saudi Arabia to Houston, Jeff and his sister fighting their way through schools and each other’s lives, she ever the good student, he always the rebel. Insubordinate behavior makes for good stories and in the hands of Jeff Metcalf childhood memories become food for laughter and for thought, coming-of-age stories a pastiche of history and the personal that make sense of the times we lived through back then, sense of his calling to teach, his longing to write, his restless, questing character. In essay after essay Jeff’s wild enthusiasms, for Ireland for fishing for cooking and for good food in any form, for teaching and for his wife Alana, glitter, amuse, illuminate. The extravagance of his whims seems at first madcap and finally the product of a stubborn determination not just to live life to the full but to live life well. The Jeff Metcalf of *Requiem for the Living* is a wonderful writer, a fantastic storyteller and an honest and forthright man. – Betsy Burton, University of Utah Press, \$21.95

The Year of Living Virtuously: Weekends Off, Teresa Jordan

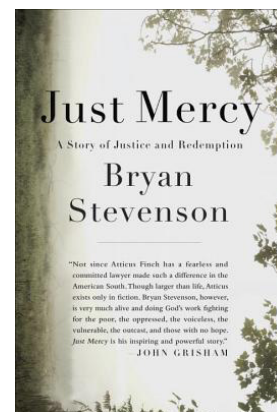
There’s great joy to be found in the pull of story but *The Year of Living Virtuously: Weekends Off* by Teresa Jordan offers a different sort of happiness. Pick it up at some point in your day and find yourself surprised by a turn of phrase, or of thought. The conceit of Jordan’s book is modeled after the attempt by her favorite founding father, Benjamin Franklin, to arrive at moral perfection during the course of a year. Franklin first defined and then used 12 virtues, adding a thirteenth, humility, when reminded it was something he lacked. Jordan uses each as a jumping off place—



whether to agree or to argue, to muse on her own life or someone else’s. Sprinkled with black and white graphics in the manner of a bestiary, laced with wry and delicious quotes by everyone from Aristotle to E. B. White, each of her daily entries takes on a specific Franklinitian virtue—or vice—and gives it her own spin. It’s worth noting that Franklin didn’t achieve his goal of virtue over the course of his year’s endeavor. I’m not sure what Jordan achieved personally. But I can tell you what she did achieve—the creation of an insightful, charming, often ironic and always fascinating book—one which I intend to keep by my bedside hereafter. –Betsy Burton, Counterpoint, \$26

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson

In one sense an account of coming of age in the world of law, in a larger sense *Just Mercy* is about the legal system itself. And about justice—or rather injustice. Bryan Stevenson might well have dropped out of Harvard Law School but for an internship in Georgia where he met a man condemned to death—and saw not a monster but someone of his own age with whom he had much in common. This unexpected glimpse of their shared humanity changed Stevenson. Returning to Georgia after law school he was assigned a case involving Walter McMillian, a man on death row in Alabama. That case becomes the connective tissue of the book. Walter, convicted of a murder he couldn’t possibly have committed, is, in microcosm, what Stevenson also reveals in macrocosm. He explores the court system from state prosecutions to the Supreme Court, the penal system in general, and on death row, the treatment of men, women, children, of people with disabilities, people of different races, all living under unspeakable conditions. Weaving Walter’s tale into those of others he defended, Stevenson couples each of his remorseless attacks on the death penalty and on life sentences for children tried as adults to the story of a human being. These narratives take our breath away, but it’s his cogent, passionate world view that makes this book important. That and the knowledge that the world he paints exists not just in Alabama but across this country. – Betsy Burton, Spiegel & Grau, \$28



All the Truth Is Out: The Week Politics Went Tabloid, Matt Bai

Bai’s in-depth examination of the collapse of Gary Hart’s Presidential campaign in 1987 is more than a look at hubris in politics. The revelations of Hart’s sexual misconduct came at a turning point in news gathering and dissemination. What would have been considered a private matter blew into a hurricane of exposure in large part due to the emergence of the 24-hour news cycle of CNN and Fox News, as well as the advent of digital cameras and a primitive Internet. Bai reflects on how a politician’s character became more important than his (or her) ideas and how we have become a nation of tabloid junkies. His is a fascinating and important look at journalism then and now. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, \$26.95

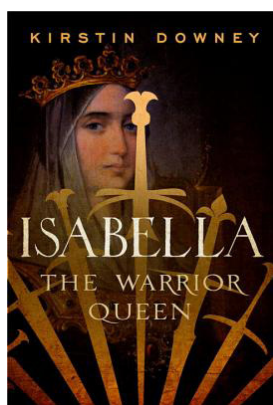
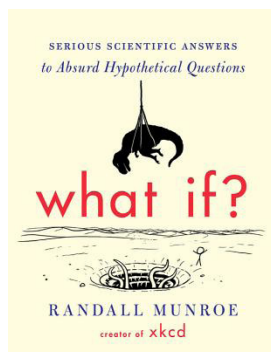


Encyclopedia of Trouble and Spaciousness, Rebecca Solnit

This newest collection of essays contains some of Solnit's best, most iconic work along with some lesser known gems. She uses her grasp of history and the progress of political movements to take a look at our current political situation and still find a reason for hope, taking us from Japan to Haiti to Iceland and Wall Street and everywhere in between. Be prepared for exquisite writing and eye-(and mind-) opening essays. – Jan Sloan, Trinity University Press, \$25.95

What If? Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions, Randall Munroe

While working as a roboticist for NASA, Randall Munroe hatched a plan to contribute to the scientific community in a new, unique way. He rebooted xkcd.com, the domain he had once registered that was chosen for its meaninglessness and its lack of a phonetic pronunciation, and began to draw amiable Web-comic strips featuring rudimentary stick figures exploring ideas in computer science, technology, mathematics, science, and philosophy in ways three-dimensional characters never could. His comics exploded in popularity—to such an extent that in 2013 the asteroid 4942 Munroe was named in his honor. Armed with his constantly expanding Internet fan-base as well as his sharp, clever intellect, Munroe began a new project with his website in 2012 in which he would do his best to answer the galaxy's most pressing questions (submitted by his own users) with as much scientific precision as possible. The response to what became known as xkcd *What If?* was staggering, and Munroe was flooded with wacky questions which he found so entertaining that he decided to compile them into this now *New York Times* bestseller, a perfect collage of the hilarious, the disturbing, and the educational. This walk through the often cataclysmic consequences of the most stimulating, exciting, and hilarious questions the human mind could ever hope to produce is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. – Noble Williamson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$24



Isabella, The Warrior Queen, Kirstin Downey

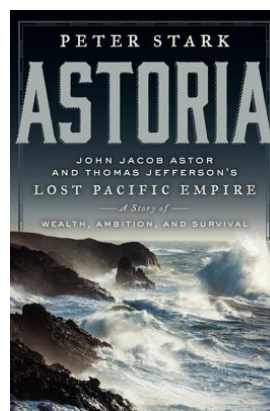
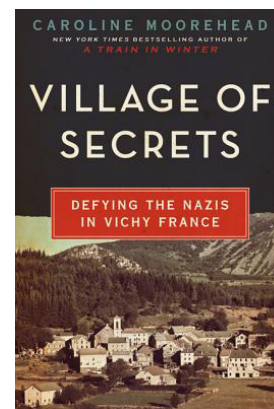
During medieval times girl children did not count for much within Jewish, Christian or Muslim communities. That Isabella was able to rise to power would be astonishing but for the enabling circumstances of royal families' greed, disloyalty and the struggle for land that was eventually consolidated into Spain as it is today. Born at a time when Christianity was dying out and the Ottoman Empire was aggressively expanding, Isabella was

inspired during her youth by tales of Joan of Arc, a devout young

Frenchwoman who led her people to victory over invading foreigners. Once in power, Queen Isabella ended a 24-generation struggle between Christians and Muslims, laying the foundation for a unified Spain, sponsored Columbus' trip to the Indies, and established a bloody religious inquisition that would darken Spain's reputation for centuries. This well-researched work has fused the elements of time, custom and character into a wonderful and historically insightful read. – Sue Fleming, Nan Talese/Doubleday, \$35

Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France, Caroline Moorehead

In a remote area of France high in the mountains adjacent to the border with Switzerland, Jews and others deemed “undesirables” were hidden from the Nazis and their Vichy collaborators. Farm families took in children as well as adults, and a complex organization was established to coordinate their constant oversight. The threat of discovery was ever-present, and the courageous actions of these protectors saved thousands from the gas chambers. That many of the protectors were themselves captured and sent to the concentration camps only accentuates their bravery in the face of unspeakable evil. Moorehead's research brings into the light a little-known facet of World War II in France. – Barbara Hoagland, Harper, \$27.99



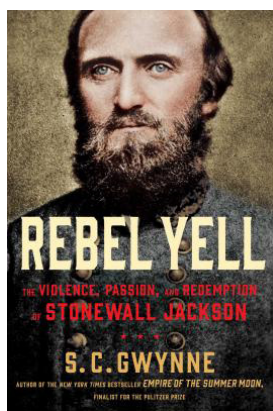
Astoria, Peter Stark

Ever been to the Oregon coast west of Portland and visited the Lewis and Clark historic sites? A lot of us have—or at least know about the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806. But I'll bet most people never heard of the Astorians and their incredible expedition to the Pacific Northwest. In 1806, with Britain still looming as the world superpower, Jefferson was desperate to consolidate control over the lands encompassed in the

Columbia River with access to the Pacific Coast. The British had two very large and powerful land and trade companies operating in North America with backup from the British Navy while the United States had no real military forces to challenge them. In stepped John Jacob Astor, with a fledgling fur and trading company; he proposed to Jefferson that an expedition comprised of an overland company and a naval company be sent to secure the Pacific Northwest for the United States. Although this tale of that expedition is especially interesting for those of us living in the Mountain West, any serious student of world and American history needs to read this very interesting and quick-paced book. – Patrick Fleming, Harpercollins, \$27.99

Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson, S.C. Gwynne

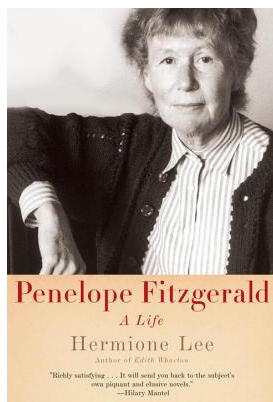
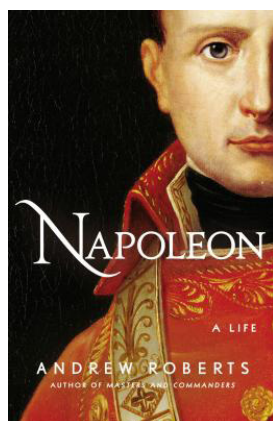
“...a smile of ineffable sweetness came over his face and he said, ‘Let us cross over the river and rest under the shade of the trees.’” So ended the life of Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, a man respected—



almost worshiped—in his time, who died as the result of a wound inflicted by his own troops. Due to a series of calamities, Tom Jackson was orphaned at the age of seven and raised by a succession of relatives. He made his way into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and succeeded there, despite inadequate preparation, by dint of hard work and perseverance. After performing admirably in the Mexican War, he took a position at the Virginia Military Institute, where his lack of talent for teaching made him a figure of ridicule to his students. A devout Christian, he founded the Lexington Colored Sabbath School, in which as many as 100 slaves studied the Bible despite the fact that state law prohibited whites teaching blacks to read. He was against secession, but when the Civil War began and he felt his home state was being unjustly attacked by the Federal government, he emerged as the beau ideal of the Confederacy. S.C. Gwynne captures the complexities of Stonewall Jackson's personality and life in this beautifully written book that illuminates the seeming contradictions in the General's makeup. This book will appeal to those interested in the Civil War as well as those who enjoyed *Empire of the Summer Moon*, Gwynne's previous book about the Comanches. – Marilyn Copeland, Scribner, \$35

***Napoleon: A Life*, Andrew Roberts**

Since 2004, over 33,000 of Napoleon Bonaparte's personal letters have been made available for the first time, allowing historians a fresh look at this one-of-a-kind soldier-statesman. Great maps, great illustrations and an equally great writing style make this book a real joy to read and own. It's amazing that this poor boy from Corsica could rise like he did and become not only one of the most successful military leaders the world has known but also the statesman who laid the foundation for modern France and Europe. We also see the inner Napoleon, who was vulnerable himself and who often betrayed those closest to him. His accomplishments are made all the more spectacular by his downfall and last years of life on a lonely rock in the South Atlantic. This is a book that will become the definitive work on Napoleon in our lifetime. – Patrick Fleming Viking Press, \$40



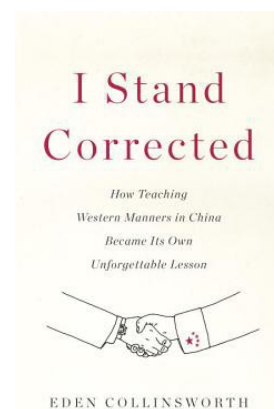
***Penelope Fitzgerald*, Hermione Lee**

As always with Hermione Lee's work, her latest biography offers a detailed and fascinating view of yet another brilliant British woman, Penelope Fitzgerald. It illuminates Fitzgerald's life as a teacher, a scholar, a world-class novelist, a two-time winner of Britain's Booker Prize, a devoted mother and wife. Fitzgerald came late to fame, but this meticulously researched and beautifully written biography reveals

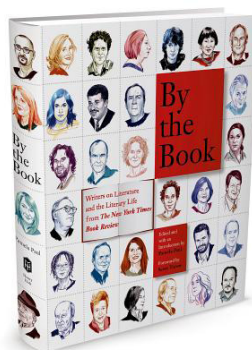
every facet of her life in a most intimate way. – Kathy Ashton, Knopf, \$35

***I Stand Corrected*, Eden Collinsworth**

Eden Collinsworth is quixotic, to put it mildly. And witty. She's also implacable. Before her erstwhile attempt to teach manners to Chinese businessmen, she started—and ran—a publishing house. And then moved from the East to the West Coast to start a magazine. And, she spent 30 years on and off in China as a consultant to billionaires and governments—all the while being an amazing—if unusual—mother. Who can resist such a tale? Even if etiquette is involved? Especially if etiquette is involved. Because it turns out that manners provide a perfect forum for examining cultural differences, the explanations fascinating in terms of Chinese manners and beliefs as well as our own. A memoir, a travelogue, a cultural history, a business book, and, yes, a book of etiquette, *I Stand Corrected* is also a trenchant look at contemporary China, its economy, its business climate, its family life and yes, its manners. All that and it's a terrific read. – Betsy Burton, Nan Talese/Doubleday, \$26



***By the Book*, edited by Pamela Paul**

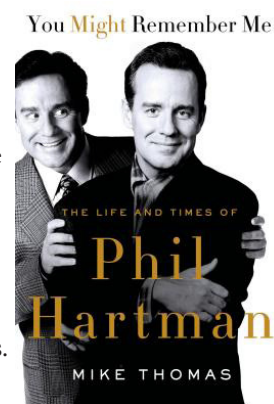


If you love the feature “By the Book” in *The New York Times Book Review* every Sunday, you will enjoy this collection of 65 of the best with entries ranging from Bryan Cranston (“Breaking Bad”) to J.K. Rowling (who, if she could be any character in literature would be “Elizabeth Bennet, naturally”) to John Irving, who's favorite book as a child was *My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett. And from Jhumpa Lahiri, a sentiment we've always

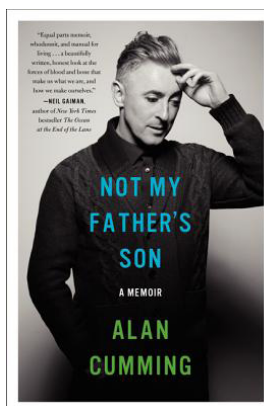
agreed with at TKE... When asked, “Do you ever read self-help? Anything you recommend?” Lahiri replied, “Literature has always been and will forever be my only form of self-help.” – Anne Holman, Henry Holt, \$28

***You Might Remember Me: The Life and Times of Phil Hartman*, Mike Thomas**

On the night of May 28, 1998, Phil Hartman's third wife Brynn pointed a revolver at his head and shot the comedian while he slept; some say despite the violent end, he died with a smile on his face. After hours of boozed-up, coked-up torment, Brynn took a different handgun, lay down beside her dead husband and shot herself, leaving their two children, both under six, orphans. Hartman's murder feels especially tragic because, unlike the premature deaths of other “Saturday Night Live” titans like John Belushi and Chris Farley, it was not the result of his own excesses, but rather the deep depression of his troubled wife. He was too funny to be defined by his



death, so if you want a complete portrait of Phil Hartman, you can't do better than this excellent new biography. It's richly packed with stories from everyone who knew him well, some of which, true to life, are contradictory; together they create a compelling composite that feels accurate. Hartman was a supremely talented actor whose major flaw in his personal and professional life was passivity; some thought him egoless, others spineless. Good or bad, this trait defined him so thoroughly that it earned him the complimentary nickname "Glue" on SNL—because he was a generous teammate in an industry that is notoriously and viciously competitive, on a show that turned friends against each other as they competed for air time. Thomas' book offers up a rare but welcome story of a celebrity who actually deserved much better than he got. – Kenneth Loosli, St. Martin's Press, \$27.99



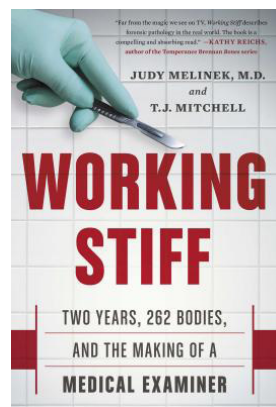
Not My Father's Son: A Memoir,
Alan Cumming

We think we know him as Eli Gold in "The Good Wife," as the host on "Masterpiece Theatre," or in his stunning one-man "Macbeth" on Broadway. But in his new memoir, Alan Cumming reveals a childhood of abuse at the hands of his father and of family secrets left undiscovered until Cumming was an adult. In 2010, Cumming agreed to be on the British reality show, "Who Do You Think You Are?." When the producers attempted to

contact his father, the old man refused until two days before filming began when he shattered Alan's world with a secret that forced the actor to confront both his past life and his future. This memoir is as brilliant as Cumming is himself. – Anne Holman, Dey Street Books, \$26.99

Working Stiff, Judy Melinek and
T.J. Mitchell

When Dr. Judy Melinek and her husband moved to New York City in July of 2001, they had no idea how tough her two-year residency as a medical examiner was going to be. There are many ways to die in NYC, and Judy has seen pretty much all of them; from death by falling object to the horrors of the 911 attacks, there's enough human drama, camaraderie, dark humor and forensic detective work in

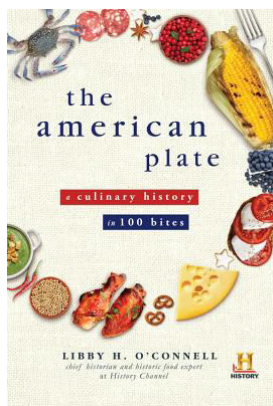


this book to fill a whole season of "CSI." Except that this is the real thing and more compelling because of it.

– Paula Longhurst, Scribner, \$25

The American Plate,
Libby H. O'Connell, Ph.D.

There's no better way for the foodie in the family to get caught up on their history than this fun, fact-filled book on the history of American cuisine from before Columbus to the final "few extra bites" that include Molecularly Modified Foods.

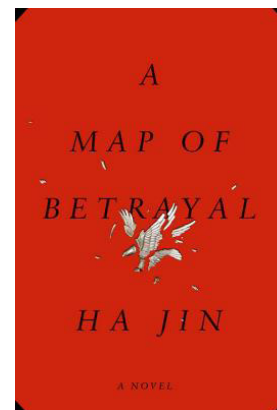


It's the stuff in between that whets our appetite for more: recipes and sidebars that are every bit as interesting as the book itself. Written by the chief historian for the History Channel, *The American Plate* is an easily accessible book to keep by your bedside and pick up to read at will. – Jan Sloan, Sourcebooks, \$26.99

MYSTERY/THRILLER

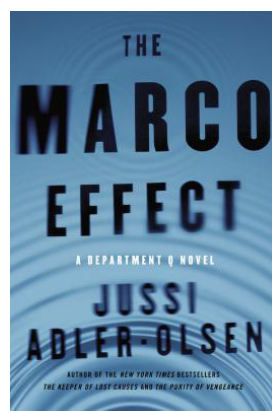
A Map of Betrayal, Ha Jin

In Ha Jin's literary spy thriller, Lilian Shang comes into possession of her late father Gary's secret journal and embarks upon a quest to learn everything she can about the man, a notorious Chinese spy who had worked as the CIA's lead translator for East Asian affairs for decades before he was exposed as a mole in 1980. The novel tells its story by interpolating Lilian's first-person narrative set in the present and her father's third-person narrative that spans 1949 through 1980. As with most spy tales, it explores the dual themes of secrecy and loyalty, yet Jin's book sets itself apart by exploring them through the daily domestic lives of the characters. This isn't a novel about spies; it's a novel about people, some of whom happen to be spies. In this world, everyone seems to be a kind of double agent, leading double lives—whether a husband or wife carrying on emotional or sexual affairs or an actual spy concealing the true nature of his mysterious activities, each is keeping secrets, forcing everyone to engage in one form of espionage or another to get at the truth. In the end, Lilian learns, as her father did before her, how the secrets and loyalties that protect us can just as easily be turned into the instruments of our undoing. – Kenneth Loosli, Pantheon, \$26.95

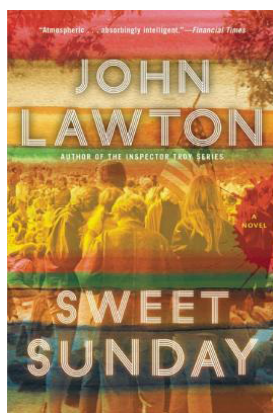


The Marco Effect: A Department Q Novel, Jussi Adler-Olsen

The Marco of the title is a teenager small enough to be mistaken for a child; he's part of a tightly controlled clan in which the children beg and steal for Zola, their undisputed—and feared—leader. Meanwhile, in Department Q, the Copenhagen cold-case kingdom first encountered in *The Keeper of Lost Causes*, life is chaos. Beset by a raft of cases, Carl resists when the batty Rose wants to chase after a missing person—who as it turns out, is a



corpse Marco has encountered early-on in the book and the reason his entire clan is after him. The chase that ensues involves not just that clan (ruthless enough), but also various Middle European thugs and boy soldiers from Africa—all looking for Marco with intent to kill. We immediately fall in love with him, following his crooked path through the urban jungle with bated breath and thumping hearts. As always, Department Q is the source of satiric humor and the plot, which involves government corruption at home and in Cameroon, the European Mafia as well as Danish street culture is byzantine and intriguing. The book is long—nearly 500 pages. I was bereft when I turned the last one. – Betsy Burton, Dutton, \$27.95



Sweet Sunday, John Lawton

The three Raines brothers hurtled into adulthood against the wide, drug-fueled, technicolor screen of the sixties, one of the most turbulent eras in this county's history. Lawton is known for his bestselling espionage novels set in 1950s Britain, but this, as far as I am aware, is the only one set in America. He's done his homework well; this convoluted tale of love, politics and murder is powerfully evocative of the Vietnam era and at once entertaining and moving. Perfect for any-

one who came of age during that time or for anyone curious about the parallels to today's divisive and war-torn world. — Kathy Ashton, *Atlantic Monthly*, \$25

The Laughing Monsters, Denis Johnson

Denis Johnson's latest is a post-9/11 spy thriller that reads something like a James Bond novel written by Joseph Conrad. Narrated by Roland Nair, a NATO intelligence operative, *The Laughing Monsters* takes place in the Uganda-Congo borderlands and centers around a "get rich and get out" scheme to sell phony uranium to a terrorist group. This terribly conceived and even more terribly executed plan is hatched by Nair's longtime partner-in-crime Michael Adriko, a displaced Congolese rogue who claims to have worked for a variety of military and intelligence units around the globe. Accompanying Adriko is his latest fiancée, a modellesque African-American named Davidia St. George, who almost immediately becomes both the glue and a source of lusty contention and disloyalty between the two friends. In the course of their adventure, the fractious trio must navigate everything from foreign intelligence agents and religious American aid workers to a rapacious battalion of the Congolese army and a genuinely crazy woman who rules as her village's queen from the boughs of a tree. If the people weren't trouble enough, the harsh African landscape too becomes a kind of antagonist for Nair. *The Laughing Monsters* conclusion feels like one is nearly drowning in just such an existential sinkhole. At its bottom lurks a new form of Kurtz's horror; but there may be a kind of hope to be found here too, as Nair tries to use his

restored faith in Adriko like a branch to pull himself up and out of the sucking darkness before it's too late.

— Kenneth Loosli, *Farrar Straus Giroux*, \$25

The Burning Room, Michael Connelly

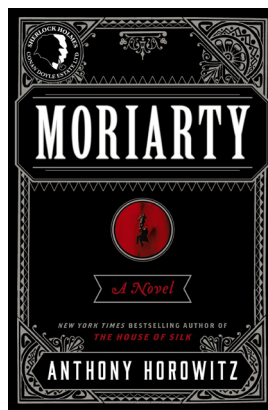
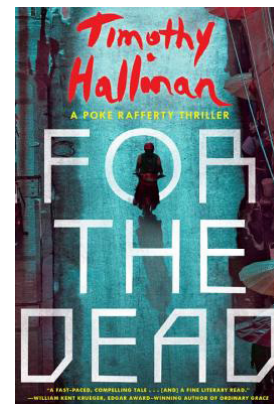
The latest in the Harry Bosch series has a twist: the veteran detective has acquired a new partner. Lucia Soto, latest recipient of LAPD's Medal of Valor while still a uniform rookie, arrives in Harry's squad room preceded by her reputation. Obviously a perfect candidate for meteoric

rise in the LAPD, she is bright, charming, Hispanic, bilingual, a top graduate of the Police Academy, an eager pupil who defers to Harry's seniority. What more could he want? Harry was delighted by her almost from the moment they met, and the duo set out to solve two high-profile cold cases. Top-rated Connelly keeps the action going at a pace that will leave you breathless; the plot is terrific and the writing superb. — Kathy Ashton, *Little Brown*, \$28

For the Dead, Timothy Hallinan

This relentless and compelling thriller begins with domestic strife: Poke's adopted Thai daughter Miaow, once a terrified child he'd rescued off the streets of Bangkok, is now in junior high and seems to have overcome the worst of the terrors that have bedeviled her. When Andrew, a school friend, loses his iPhone, they know his stern father won't be pleased. What to do? The two kids buy a stolen cell—which, as it turns out, contains lethal information about murdered policemen on its sim card. It's only Miaow's feral street smarts that allow them to escape murderous thugs and so live beyond the first few chapters. This is a realistic and moving portrayal of children who must bridge enormous social chasms—Miaow because of her background, Andrew because he's Vietnamese rather than Thai. Throw in three more street urchins, also at risk, and what begins as merely suspenseful becomes a haunting, eloquent—and moving—literary thriller.

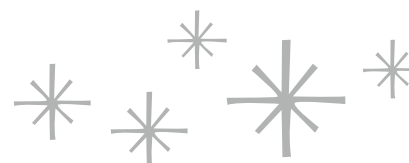
— Betsy Burton, *Soho Press*, \$25

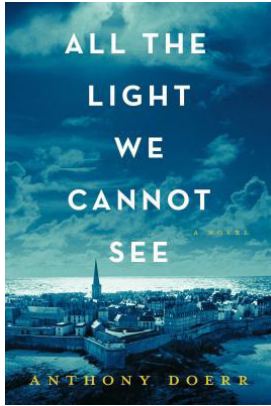


Moriarty, Anthony Horowitz

Days after Holmes and Moriarty have fought and fallen to their deaths at Reichenbach Falls, two men arrive to identify Moriarty's body. Inspector Jones, a student of Holmes' methods, has been sent by Scotland Yard. Frederick Chase is an agent with the Pinkerton Detective Agency and he brings disturbing news. One of America's most ruthless criminal masterminds was about to join forces with Moriarty. Jones and Chase work together to stop the mysterious Clarence

Devereaux but they are thwarted at every turn. Jones' life may be in more danger than he knows as he and Chase plunge deep into the murky waters of London's criminal enterprise. Can the pair stop a man hiding in plain sight or will they fall prey to Moriarty's would-be successor? — Paula Longhurst, *Harper*, \$26.99





***All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr**

Two children form the beating heart of this incandescent WWII novel: Marie-Laure is a blind girl whose father works at the Natural History Museum of Paris. Werner is a German orphan, a lonely boy who's a natural-born inventor. As we follow them from childhood into adolescence in alternating chapters, we follow the course of the war in each country, seeing the devastation it wreaks on the fabric of life, and also the extraordinary manner

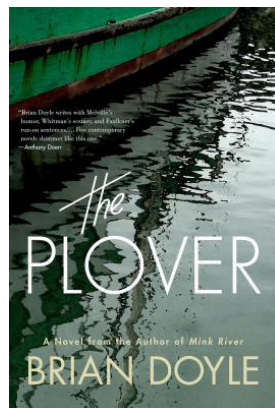
in which each child copes. In some ways this is a fairy tale from Grimm—two children alone in a dark wood, the lurking ogre, the Nazi regime. Yet the narrative owes more to Dickens than Grimm. If Doerr's language is iridescent, his compassion is deep and abiding. This is an extraordinary novel, one we all fell madly and deeply in love with at TKE. I suspect this is a love that will last a lifetime and that *All the Light We Cannot See* will be forever high on all our lists of all-time favorite novels. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, \$27

Editor's note: short-listed for the National Book Award

***Dear Committee Members*, Julie Schumacher**

Jason "Jay" Fitger is a beleaguered full professor of English in a small college somewhere in the Midwest. In this very funny and ultimately tender epistolary novel, Jay spends his days lamenting both the physical and mental state of the English department to any and all who will listen including the Provost, former co-workers, even his ex-wives. He writes brilliant letters of recommendation for his students, some of whom he actually likes.

And over the course of one academic year, we come to know quite a lot about this often sad and always funny middle-aged man; if you're like me, in the end you'll come to quite like him! – Anne Holman
Doubleday, \$22.95



***The Plover*, Brian Doyle**

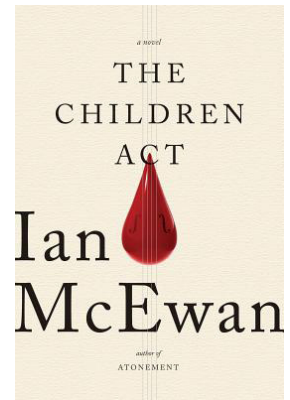
In plot and tone the seafaring novel *The Plover* lies somewhere between *Moby-Dick* and *Three Men in a Boat*. Hard to imagine, but true. The cast of characters is eccentric: a mad (in all senses of the word) Irish Oregonian with a jury-rigged fishing trawler; his old fishing buddy, numinous disabled daughter in tow; a monumental and monumentally sad island woman—all adrift in the South Seas, hunted, haunted by the Ahab of the tale, Enrique, captain of a rogue Russian trawler. The sea provides plenty of room for rumination, yet the boat is a closed world where people (and gulls—did I mention the gull?) have a hard time hiding from one another. The relationships

that spawn and bloom, darken and shred, pull at our imagination as surely as the lurking trawler. Like all good tales of the sea, *The Plover* has a tidal rhythm, an ebb and flow of action. But it's full of enchantment too. And of compassion and humor and wisdom. It's an unusual book, and I loved it. – Betsy Burton, Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, \$24.99

***The Children Act*, Ian McEwan**

As slender as *On Chesil Beach* and every bit as emotionally fraught, McEwan's blistering new novel addresses not the first but the later days of a marriage. Fiona Maye, High Court judge, is editing one of her opinions when her husband comes home, pours a drink, and tells her that he wishes to indulge in what he considers to be his last chance at passion. Not that he wants a divorce—he has no desire to give up his wife, whom he loves. In essence he wants her permission. No spoiler alert

here—all of this occurs in the first few intense pages. Fiona escapes into her legal brief, and we begin to see how important her family law practice is to her—particularly a new case that comes via a phone call as she's negotiating the shoals upon which her marriage is foundering. A 17-year-old cancer patient is urgently in need of a transfusion his parents are refusing to allow on religious grounds; the hospital is requesting intervention. Fiona, hurled into the consideration of the boy's fate just as she is being forced to consider her own, has no option but to weigh both morally freighted issues. Like most of McEwan's work, *The Children Act* mines exquisitely unbearable pain in order to create clarity, his subject ever the pivotal moment that defines a life. – Betsy Burton, Nan A. Talese, \$25



***Fives and Twenty Fives*, Michael Pitre**

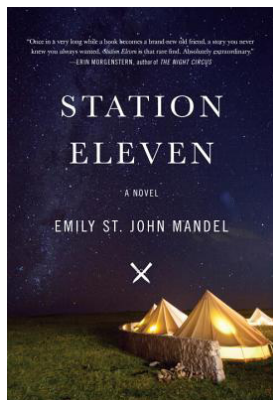
Iraq: a far-away war in a place so small that your enemy is sitting right next to you. The difference could be five feet or twenty-five feet, and the men and women in Lieutenant Donovan's platoon know it. Told from various soldiers' viewpoints, this debut novel careens back and forth between Ramadi, Iraq, and life back in the U.S. after some have returned and some have, sort-of, returned. At times funny, mostly heart-wrenching, this novel will stay with you for a long time. In the

tradition of *Matterhorn* or *The Yellow Birds*, add this to your list of important war stories that will stand the test of time.

– Anne Holman, Bloomsbury, \$27

***Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel**

A dystopian novel with a distinctive difference, *Station Eleven* postulates a population nearly extinguished by a deadly flu virus, its remaining inhabitants tied together—and entertained—by a group of itinerant classical musicians/Shakespearean actors. Kristen, a seasoned actor, has early memories involving a night on the stage with a famous Shakespearean actor who fell dead during a production of "King Lear." This was the start of a decades-long drama involving a

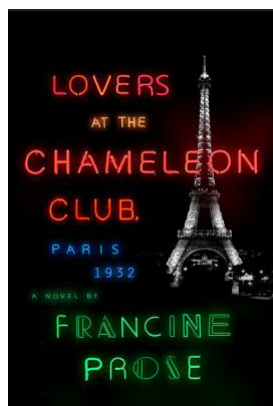


pandemic, violence, betrayal, and an insistent, persistent faith in the importance of music and drama in life. As the ongoing saga sweeps the players along through a sere landscape of abandoned factories and farms and across decades, the reader mourns with the players for what is lost, cheers with them for what they valiantly keep alive, fears for them as the legendary strength of a violent prophet grows. *Station Eleven* is at once a cautionary tale and a lyrical paean to life as we now know it and to the arts which presently grace

our existence. Mandel, proficient in the fine art of suspense and possessed of a surprising turn of mind—and of phrase—is a wonderfully imaginative storyteller. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$24.95 *Editor's note: short-listed for the National Book Award*

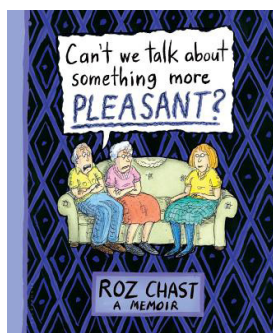
***Lovers at The Chameleon Club: Paris, 1932*, Francine Prose**

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



***Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, Roz Chast**

Aging parents can be difficult—especially when you're aging yourself. Their failing memories and growing neediness, their lack of impulse (make that tongue) control, their refusal to change or to give in may be a source of angst to their children, but also of humor. Especially in the hands of long-time *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast. Her graphic depictions through



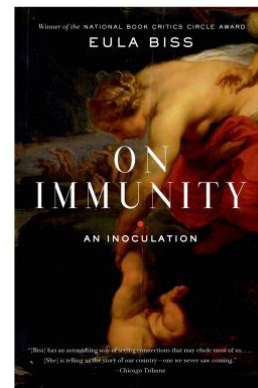
cartoons, photos and scratched letters and notes graphically convey the hardships of old age—from the points of view of the aging, yes, but more pointedly from the points of view of those responsible for

their care. Chast makes you laugh until you cry and you find yourself crying for all the right reasons: the buried sorrow, the denied sympathy suddenly welling to the surface, the potent mix of love, frustration, exhaustion, outright despair that is so often the lot of caregivers. Give this book to everyone with aging parents—and to your children so they'll know what to expect! – Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, \$28 *Editor's note: recently short-listed for the National Book Award*

***On Immunity: an Inoculation*, Eula Biss**

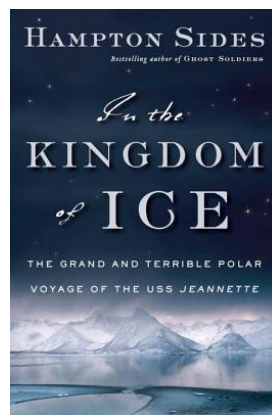
Eula Biss, National Book Critics Circle Award winner, turns her pen and her heart to the emotionally charged issue of keeping our community safe through vaccination. The birth of her son brought this topic home to Biss; at the moment her baby was born she had to decide whether to have him inoculated against Hepatitis B. What may be an easy choice for some can seem like a life-or-death decision to others. And it often is, either for one baby or child or for an entire community.

Among the many issues Biss thoughtfully weighs is this: what is more important, the good of one or the good of the larger group? And who gets to decide? Regardless of which side of the issue you are on, this book is required reading, not just for the content but also for the lovely, lyrical prose Biss brings to a very personal (or some may say not so personal) topic. This is on my list of Very Important Books. – Anne Holman, Graywolf, \$24



***In the Kingdom of Ice*, Hampton Sides**

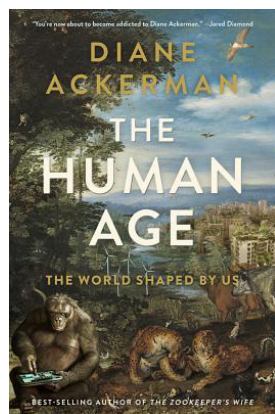
Sides tells the story of the USS Jeannette and its Arctic Polar Expedition of 1880, the first real American expedition to the Arctic and one that signified the passing of the mantle of world exploration from the British to the Americans. The Americans were a young energetic people who relied on technology and organization to overcome any obstacle. Edison had just developed the light bulb, electricity was now powering American cities, telephones were becoming common, and



there was no place on the planet that the Americans couldn't conquer. Then came disaster; the story of the USS Jeannette and her crew ranks right up there with that of Shackleton and the Endurance. This is compelling book with short, tight, well written chapters—a perfect choice for anyone who liked Sides' *Ghost Soldiers* or *Blood and Thunder*. – Patrick Fleming, Doubleday, \$28.95

***The Human Age*, Diane Ackerman**

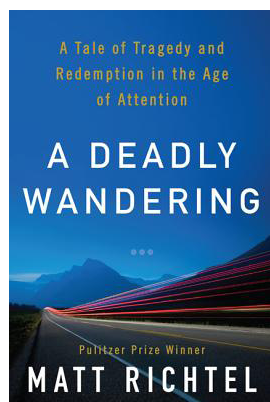
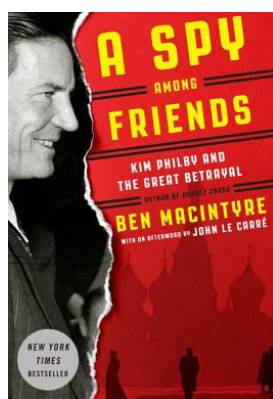
We are delighted to recommend Diane Ackerman's latest book about nature and our place within it. In *The Human Age* she acknowledges that humans are now the single dominant force on the planet, for good or ill. She recalls the "Blue Marble" photo taken in 1972 by astronauts aboard Apollo 17, the last manned lunar mission. The photograph showed the whole earth floating against "the black velvet of space." No national borders, military zones, or fences were visible. Released during a time of growing environmental concern, it became



ane Ackerman is always a must read. – Sue Fleming, Norton, \$27.95

***A Spy among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal*, Ben Macintyre**

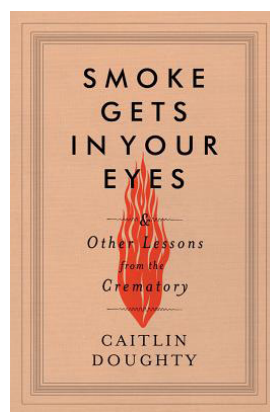
One thing stands out above all else in this saga of British master spy Kim Philby: the mind-bending degree of Philby's duplicity in each and every one of his relationships outside Moscow. His utter and absolute willingness to betray his friends, the care with which he establishes friendships in the first place, with which he nurtures them, with which he manipulates them, all the while giving up to Moscow countless documents, whole networks of spies, make this at once a dazzling and devastating read. His treason, perhaps the most spectacular in the contemporary annals of spying, began well before the Spanish Civil War, carried on throughout WWII, first harming, then helping the Allies as Russia switched sides, and doing incalculable harm to the West during the Cold War. Chief among Philby's friends—and victims—is Nicholas Elliott, his comrade in arms from 1940 forward. This friendship forms the framework for the book; both young men are well-off, charming, ambitious—and successful, often with one another's help. If Elliott's feelings for Philby are akin to hero-worship, Philby seems to return that affection wholeheartedly, “seems” being the operative word. As heart-stopping and Machiavellian as any thriller by John le Carré, *A Spy among Friends* is the best kind of history, one that, thanks to its close attention to character, is as revelatory as the finest fiction. – Betsy Burton, Crown, \$27



***A Deadly Wandering: A Tale of Tragedy and Redemption in the Age of Attention*, Matt Richtel**

Reggie Shaw, a 19-year-old from Tremonton, Utah, on his way to work one winter morning, was texting his girlfriend when his life was shattered and the lives of two brilliant scientists were ended. In 2006 not much was known about the dangers of texting and driving, but Reggie's accident and the investigation surrounding it would bring about one of the first legal restrictions of this activity in the country.

Richtel, whose reporting on the subject of distracted driving won him and *The New York Times* a Pulitzer Prize, brilliantly charts the course of Reggie's trial, the neuroscience behind attention blindness, and the landmark Utah law on texting and driving that resulted. Smart phones can be as addictive as drugs or alcohol, each ping of an incoming text message or email sparking a little hit of dopamine. Further, the human “brain is limited, lacks bottomless capacity, and isn't particularly fast relative to computer technology.” Such discoveries will impact our lives in far-reaching ways, as will each piece of research concerning how the brain interacts with our increasingly sophisticated technology. – Barbara Hoagland and Paula Longhurst, Morrow, \$28.99



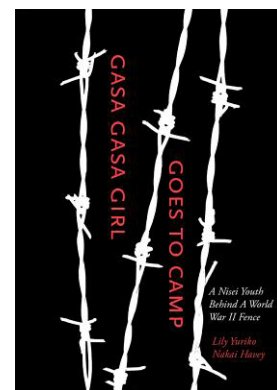
***Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, Caitlin Doughty**

How much do you know about what happens to our bodies after we die, from a corporate funeral perspective anyway? Caitlin Doughty wanted to know and when this memoir opens, she's beginning her first day as a cremation technician at Westwind Cremation and Burial. Her no-holds-barred approach to describing EVERYTHING that can and does happen is strangely comforting. Which is exactly her goal. By taking the fear and mystery

out of something that will happen to us and everyone we know, Doughty aims to bring death back where it belongs—among family and friends. I loved this book! – Anne Holman, Norton, \$24.95

***Gasa Gasa Girl Goes to Camp: a Nisei Youth behind a World War II Fence*, Lily Yoriko Nakai Havey**

This memoir, by turns engaging and haunting, details the coming of age in two Japanese American internment camps of Lily Nakai, the often disobedient and always curious daughter of Japanese immigrants. Before the war began her family had a happy enough life on the poorer side of Hollywood. Then Pearl Harbor: the Japanese—even those born in America and therefore citizens—were swiftly interned, labeled as potential enemies. Lily, a sometimes mischievous child with a strong will and an even stronger sense of fair play, retained vivid memories of those days—memories of the camps (on their first sojourn, to Santa Anita, she actually thought they were embarking on a camping trip), of her parents often turbulent relations, of the stories her mother told her of life in Japan. In Amache, the relocation camp in Colorado, Lily's pre-adolescent turmoil grew; Havey's ability to plant the reader squarely in her world by bringing that inner turmoil to life on the page is uncanny. Her stunning watercolors add a haunting, visceral dimension, so that one is compelled to go back and forth again and again between story, painting, and the many historical photographs. This is a one-of-a-kind memoir, reading like the best fiction yet shot through with scenes that, whether in paint or print, evoke the vivid reality of a life unfairly confined. I loved every page. – Betsy Burton, University of Utah Press, \$29.95



TRANSITIONAL READERS



Princess in Black, Shannon Hale & Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

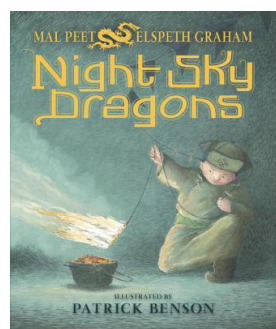
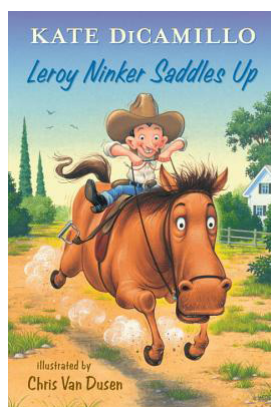
The world of princess stories has just gotten a lot better: Princess Magnolia will please diehard pink-clad girls along with all of the rest of The Hales' readers with her costume changes, her unicorn, her unerring ability to save the world, not to mention her skill at keeping secrets! the Hales' trademark strong storytelling goes beautifully with Pham's lively illustrations.

The ending sets us up perfectly for book two. Hurry up Hales! – Candlewick, \$14.99 (all ages)

Leroy Ninker Saddles Up,

Kate DiCamillo and Chris Van Dusen

Leroy longs to be a cowboy, and the perfect horse will seal the deal! Trouble is, his new horse Maybelline is more horse than most professional cowboys could handle. Funny and smart, readers will love this new work of the award-winning team of DiCamillo and Van Dusen. – Candlewick, \$12.99 (6 and up)



Night Sky

Dragons,

Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham

This little treasure is the story of Yazul, a Chinese boy who loves to make kites but whose father thinks only work is important. Yazul is banished to the kitchen, but when their village is attacked and laid siege to, he might be the only person able

to save them. The lovely illustrations are an important part of the story. – Candlewick, \$15.99 (8 and up)

Emma and the Blue Genie,

Cornelia Funke

Emma finds a strange bottle on the beach, and when Karim comes out of the bottle, she thinks he is going to grant her wishes. But it turns out that Karim's power was taken away by the evil yellow genie. Emma and her dog Tristan immediately set off to help Karim get his powers back. Funke (Inkheart) uses her wonderful imagination to great effect in this adventure. – Random House, \$9.99 (8 and up)

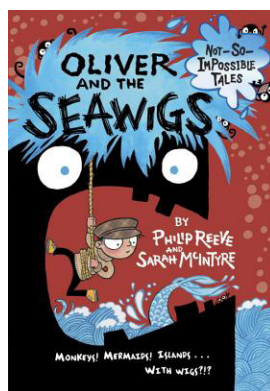
Rain, Reign, Ann Martin

In this heart-warming, realistic fiction, fans of *Wonder* and *Counting by 7s* will be thrilled to find Rose telling us about herself—including her obsession with homonyms. Rose knows she's different and that

most of the people in her life—from her dad to her teachers and classmates—don't understand why. When her dad brings home a dog, Rose's world begins to improve. She names the pup Rain (think rein, reign and Rose's love of homonyms here). Then a massive hurricane hits her town, and Rose's world changes again—this time dramatically. A girl, a dog, and Martin's deft storytelling add up to a staff favorite, and, we predict, a reader favorite too. – Feiwel & Friends, \$16.99 (9 and up)



MIDDLE READERS



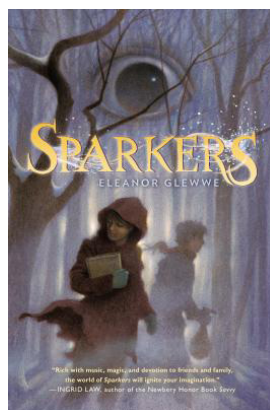
Oliver and the Seawigs, Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre

Oliver's eccentric parents are missing, and when he sets out to find them he has some funny and strange help: Iris the near-sighted mermaid and Mr. Culpepper the grumpy seagull, to name a few. There are lots of surprises in this adventure (I especially loved the islands!), and the art moves the story along at a nice pace. Creative, funny and smart all in this one package, readers will be clamoring for the

next one. – Random House Books for Young Readers, \$12.99 (8 and up)

The Iron Trial, Holly Black and Cassandra Clare

All his life Callum knew he didn't want to be in the Magesterium—and when he tries to fail the entrance exam, the Iron Trial, he even fails at that. The Magesterium turns out to be both better and worse than he imagined, forcing him to face his past and also recognize the potential of the future. Fantasy fans will relish this dark, mysterious and creative adventure. Black and Clare, two giants in the young adult genre, have crafted a terrific read for their younger fans. –Scholastic, \$17.99 (10 and up)

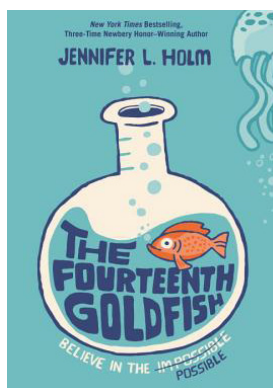


Sparkers, Eleanor Glewwe

Marah is a smart, talented violinist, but her opportunities are slim because she's a sparker rather than a magician and in Ashara, her home, magicians control everything. Then an epidemic strikes the city, and Marah's unlikely friendship with a boy who's a rich magician may be the source for the cure. Mystery, adventure, music, magic all add up to a great read. – Penguin, \$16.99 (10 and up)

Books for Children and Young Adults

MIDDLE READERS CONT'D



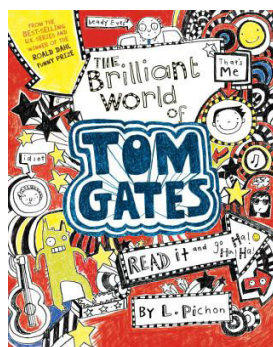
The Fourteenth Goldfish, Jennifer Holm

Ellie misses her best friend; she also wishes her goldfish could have lived forever. When an odd boy shows up wearing her grandfather's ring, well, her life just can't get any more weird. It turns out that her grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging. And he is moving in with her and her mom. Family, friends and science make this story funny and wonderful. – Random House, \$16.99 (8 and up)

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates,

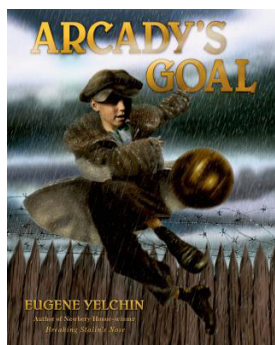
L. Pichon

Fans of *Wimpy Kid* and *Big Nate* will be thrilled to discover Tom Gates. He has an obnoxious sister, a couple of good friends and a fifth-grade teacher who keeps rearranging everything. Tom's voice is genuine and funny as he shares his life. Funny stories and a lot of art make this a great addition to the genre. – Candlewick, \$12.99 (8 and up)



Arcady's Goal, Eugene Yelchin

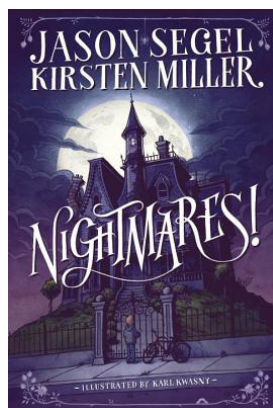
Last year Yelchin won a Newbery Honor for *Breaking Stalin's Nose*. His new book takes readers back to Stalin's Russia where Arcady is in an orphanage because his parents were taken away as "enemies of the state." Arcady struggles every day but he has one talent—soccer. It's the reason he survives and might provide him an out, but he must figure out what is really important. Yelchin provides young readers



another intimate look at Russia during a very dark time. His talents as an illustrator really add to the heft of this gem. – Henry Holt, \$15.99 (9 and up)

Nightmares!, Jason Segel and Kirsten Miller

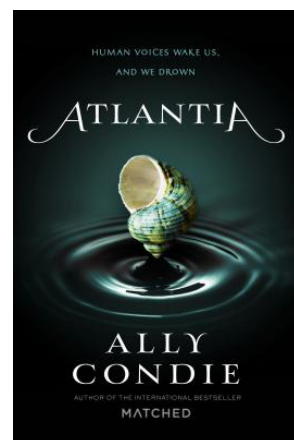
Our staff loves this book. Charlie's nightmares are all coming true, figuratively and literally. He thinks his new mom is a witch, he's had to move into a purple mansion, and his nightmares are coming to life. Aaaa! Things get even harder when he's tricked into going into the nightmares physically, instead of just in spirit. Charlie has to face his own fears in a novel that is populated with goblins and gorgons and creepy clowns. A little bit scary and a little bit funny, something the illustrations only enhance. – Random House, \$16.99 (9 and up)



YOUNG ADULT

Atlantia, Ally Condie

Fans of *Matched* will be so pleased with local author Ally Condie's new book. Atlantia is a beautiful world/refuge built under the water many generations ago when rampant pollution destroyed Earth. Once a year the youth Below can choose to stay or go Above. When Rio's sister Bay chooses Above despite her promises, Rio's world is turned completely awry. She's left behind, stranded Below, but to do what? Build a new and different life? Figure out what really happened to her mother? What her true self is? Rio's only help comes from an aunt she doesn't even know. Condie's storytelling skills are terrific! – Penguin, \$18.99 (12 and up)



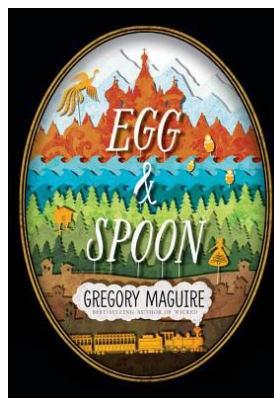
The Infinite Sea: Book 2 of The 5th Wave, Rick Yancey

OMG... The aliens have ramped up attacks on the remaining humans with an unbelievably cruel weapon. Cassie, Ringer and the rest of the kids are trying to stay alive, and so, it turns out, is Evan. Yancey challenges readers at every turn with fast-paced action, with questions about what it means to be human, and maybe what it means to be an alien. – Penguin, \$18.99 (12 and up)

Death Coming Up the Hill, Chris Crowe

Every week Ashe's history teacher puts the number of men who died in Vietnam on the chalkboard. At home his parents are at war, too, and Ashe is struggling to make sense of both conflicts. Crowe wrote this entire book in haiku, one syllable for every soldier who died in Vietnam. I can't even imagine how difficult that must have been. Reading this powerful book once

you'll be inspired to read it again and then to talk about it. It pairs brilliantly with J. Patrick Lewis's new book, *Harlem Hellfighters* (see review in non-fiction, right). And both are so apropos for what is going on in our world right now. – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99 (12 and up)



Egg & Spoon, Gregory Maguire

Cat, a poor Russian village girl whose world has been destroyed by the war,

Books for Children and Young Adults

YOUNG ADULT CONT'D

befriends the stranded Elena, who is on her way to meet the Russian prince. Circumstances put Cat in the fragile position of impersonating Elena, while Elana wanders the dark and scary woods. Then Baba Yaga shows up! Both ancient and snarky, Baba Yaga, along with such fantastical touches as the magical matroishkas (nesting dolls), make for great entertainment. The complexities of this remix of Russian fairy tales reflects the intricacies of Russian culture and landscape; Maguire's adult fans will like this new novel too. – Candlewick, \$17.99 (12 and up)



Vango: Between Sky and Earth,
Timothee de Fombelle

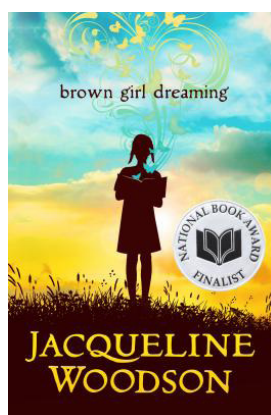
When the story starts, Vango is lying face down with 19 other men in front of Notre Dame, but instead of dedicating his life to the priesthood, he ends up fleeing the square as Superintendent Boulard is trying to arrest him for murder. Vango stays a step ahead with a lot of help from Cat in a page-turning, intricately-plotted historical mystery. I loved the historical romp through Paris in 1934; de Fombelle brings the city to life. – Candlewick, \$17.99

(12 and up)

NONFICTION

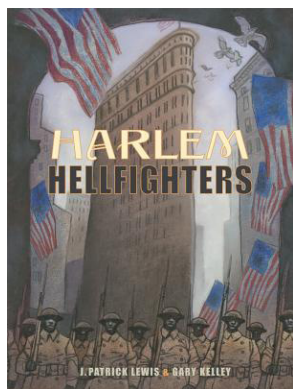
Brown Girl Dreaming,
Jacqueline Woodson

Woodson's memoir of her youth is composed entirely of poems, which read like prose. I was drawn quickly and deeply into her story. She shares the difficulties of having an absent father, of moving from the South to the North, the pain of deprivation and bigotry. But what really impressed me was her overwhelming desire, from a very early age, to write. Her innate sense of the power of language shines through this book; you'll want to read it several times! – Penguin, \$16.99 (10 and up)



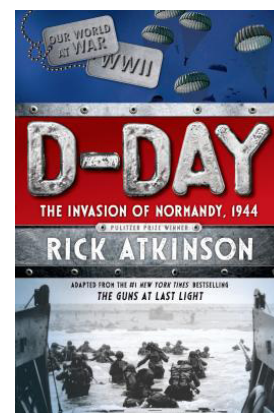
Harlem Hellfighters, J. Patrick Lewis and Gary Kelley

Lewis (current Children's Poet Laureate) and Kelly bring all of their talent to this new book. From the opening pages to the very last stanza, *Harlem Hellfighters* is full of powerful portraits of African-American men, the soldiers' bravery and sacrifices. This is nonfiction at its best, and it pairs wonderfully with Walter Dean Myers' book of the same title. – Creative, \$18.99 (10 and up)



D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy 1944,
Rick Atkinson

Atkinson, who writes books for the adult market, has taken all of his research and crafted a terrific summation of D-Day. The narrative is complemented by photos, maps and all sorts of information yet his presentation of the battle is clear and concise. – Henry Holt, \$18.99 (10 and up)

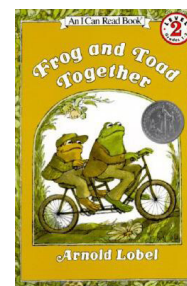


EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS

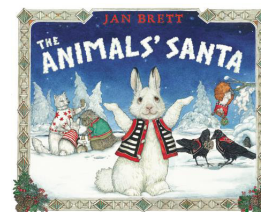
Tuesday, November 25, 7 p.m. Brandon Mull returns with *Rogue Knight*, the second in the *Five Kingdoms* series.



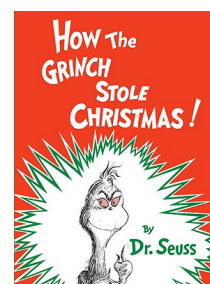
Saturday, November 29th, 11 a.m. Join us for a very special story time with *Frog & Toad* and the Salt Lake Acting Company.



Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m. Jan Brett rolls in to Provo with *The Animals' Santa*. This very special event will be at the Provo Library.

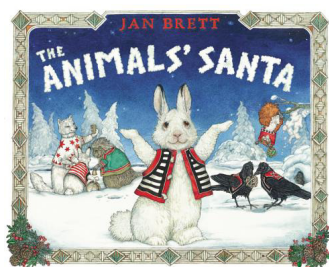


Saturday, December 20th, 11 a.m. The Grinch returns! Join us for a green and Grinchy storytime and grow your heart three times!



* * Fun for the Holidays: Christmas and Hanukkah Books for Children

by Ann Cannon



The Animals' Santa, Jan Brett

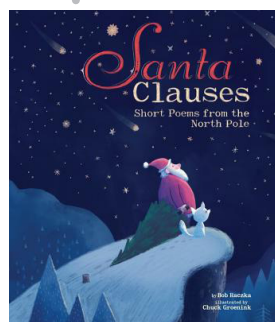
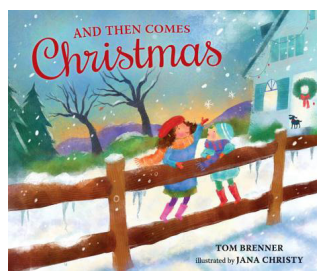
Although Jan Brett has illustrated stories set in warmer climes, she has a special feel for Nordic landscapes, and her new-

est picture book is filled with the wintry scenes for which she is widely admired. In addition to the main story about forest animals searching for signs of Santa, Brett treats her readers to a secondary story, framed by images of Native American quillwork, on the pages' borders. – Putnam, \$17.99

And Then Comes Christmas, Tom Brenner, illustrated by Jana Christy

"When the days barely start and they're over again, and red berries blaze against green shrubs, and bare branches rake across the sky . . . then hang boughs of fir or spruce or pine, dotted with cones and bits of holly, welcoming winter." The more I looked at this book, which celebrates the arrival or both winter and Christmas, the more I loved the evocative text and the happy illustrations. Recommended.

– Candlewick Press, \$15.99



Santa Claus: Short Poems from the North Pole, Bob Raczk, illustrated by Chuck Groenink

After discovering the haiku form (thanks to a book of poetry given to him by Mrs. Claus), Santa has taken to writing a haiku a day for the month of December. The results are compiled in

this charming countdown to Christmas. A Junior Library Guild Selection! – Carolrhoda, \$16.95

Everything I Need to Know About Christmas I Learned From a Little Golden Book, Diane Muldrow

Baby Boomers will love, love, love this compilation of classic holiday images from the golden years of Little Golden Books. The illustrations by artists like



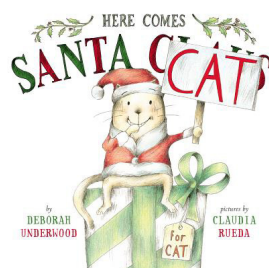
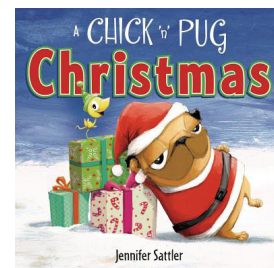
Eloise Wilkin, Richard Scarry, and Garth Williams are given new life by Muldrow's snappy advice for surviving—and even embracing—the holiday season. This is a great picture book for adults.

– Golden Books (Random House), \$9.99

A Chick "n" Pug Christmas, Jennifer Sattler

Everybody's favorite pug (aka "Pug") and his chicken sidekick (aka "Chick") return to spread a little holiday cheer. They even manage to give a "gift" to their arch nemesis, Mr. Snuggles. As always, Sattler's high-octane illustrations leap right off the book's pages.

– Bloomsbury, \$16.99



Here Comes Santa Cat, Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Claudia Rueda

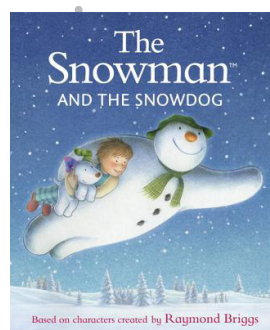
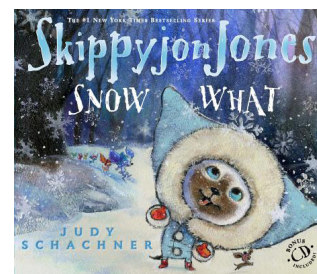
Christmas is coming and Cat has a problem. He's worried (and with good reason) that he'll wind up on Santa's "Naughty List." How can Cat trick Santa into giving him

some presents, too? A nice choice for those of us with a little Cat in our own souls. – Dial, \$16.99

Skippyjon Jones Snow What, Judy Schachner

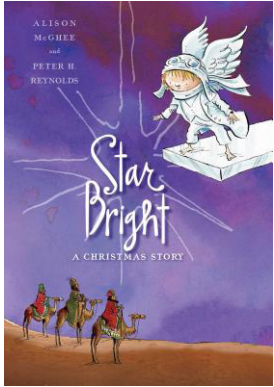
Oh, Skippyjon Jones, how do we love thee? Let us count the ways, you Siamese gatito loco! And now that you've taken it upon yourself to wake up Snow What with a kiss (ick!), we love

you even more. Technically speaking, this isn't a holiday book, but with its winter wonderland illustrations, *Skippyjon Jones Snow What* is the perfect gift for the Siamese cat (and cat lover) in your life. – Dial, \$17.99



The Snowman and the Snowdog, based on characters created by Raymond Briggs

This book about a young boy who re-creates a magical snowman based on a photo he finds



in a new house was created with Briggs' blessing by the team of animators responsible for the original snowman film. And incidentally, who doesn't love a snow dog with socks for ears? – Random House, \$17.99

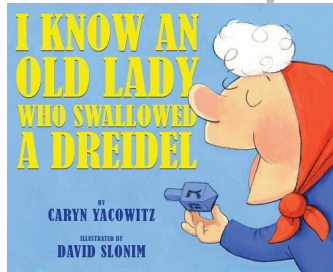
Star Bright: a Christmas Story, Alison McGhee, illustrated by Peter Reynolds

In some ways the text of this story, although much leaner, is reminiscent of the classic *The Littlest Angel* by Charles Tazewell. What sets it apart is Reynolds' futuristic vision of heaven where earth's events are monitored on computer screens.

While the illustrations won't appeal to all tastes, it's hard not to like Reynolds' simple, sunny aesthetic. –Atheneum, \$16.99

I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel, Caryn Yacowitz, illustrated by David Slonim

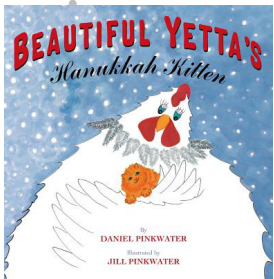
"I know an old lady who swallowed a dreidel/A Chunukah dreidel she thought was a bagel/ Perhaps it's fatal." In this extremely clever new picture book, Yacowitz and Slonim riff on an old folk rhyme, as well as some of the world's great art treasures, ranging from da Vinci's Mona Lisa to Warhol's Campbell soup cans. Fabulous! –Scholastic, \$17.99



Beautiful Yetta's Hanukkah Kitten, Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by Jill Pinkwater

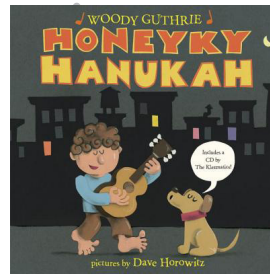
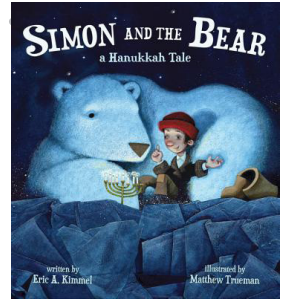
Yetta is a chicken with maternal instincts who flew the coop and now resides with a flock of wild parrots (who knew?) in Brooklyn. During the season of Hanukkah when "the humans

are in a good mood," Yetta finds an abandoned kitten and gives her to a Jewish grandmother who welcomes the baby cat into her life. The Pinkwaters' new book is told primarily in English—with some Hebrew, Yiddish, and Spanish thrown in for good measure. – Macmillan, \$17.99



Simon and the Bear: a Hanukkah Tale, Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Matthew Trueman

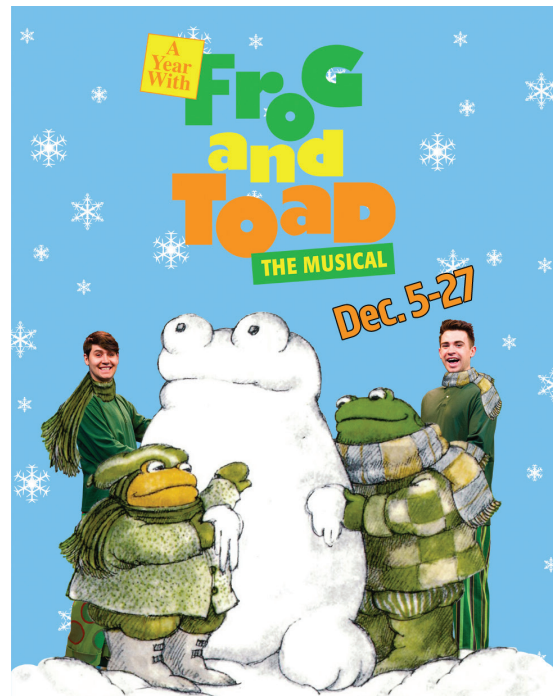
When Simon leaves his family to sail for America, his mother reminds him to celebrate Hanukkah because you never know when a miracle might come in handy. And when Simon's ship crashes into an iceberg, a miracle is exactly what Simon needs! Another fine Hanukkah tale from Eric A. Kimmel. – Hyperion, \$16.99



Honeyky Hanukah, Woody Guthrie, illustrated by Dave Horowitz

File this one under things you may not have known: Woody Guthrie's mother-in-law was a well-known Yiddish poet, and in her honor, Guthrie wrote a series of songs inspired by

Jewish traditions. "Honeyky Hanukah" is one of them. Not surprisingly, this title is a good choice for reading aloud. – Doubleday, \$17.99



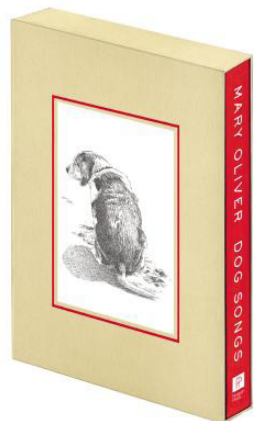
Part vaudeville, part make-believe,
all charm.

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Stocking Stuffers



Dog Songs, Mary Oliver—now in a gorgeous slipcase edition!

Mary Oliver brings the keen eye and beautiful language of her poems about the natural world to this book of poetry celebrating the dogs she has had the privilege of knowing in her life. Present is her beloved Percy along with others that have emerged as fellow-travelers along her journey. Her simple language beautifully conveys the love, heartbreak, laughter and grief that accompany our connection to our dogs. Illustrated with color images this is the perfect gift for the dog-lover in

your life, as well as all of us who are fans of this amazing American poet. – Jan Sloan, Penguin Press, \$32

Wait for Signs, Craig Johnson

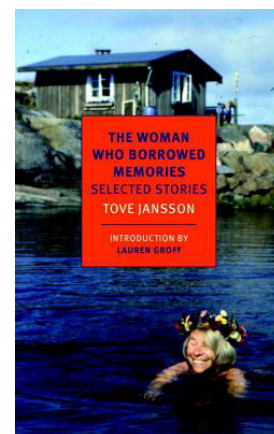
Each Christmas for the past 10 years, Craig Johnson has written a short story about Walt Longmire and the denizens of Absaroka County. Just in time for the holidays, these funny and touching tales are now together in a complete volume along with two new stories from the master storyteller of northeastern Wyoming. My favorite is “High Holidays.” – Anne Holman, Viking, \$22



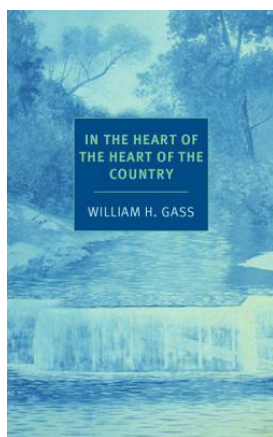
thriller, a suspenseful and violent yarn about heroic efforts thwarted, about the terrible realization that one must do something and the even darker realization that one's efforts may well be futile. Against this dark perspective, however, stands the brightness of Gass' prose, simply unparalleled in its beauty, fluidity and apt metaphors, which is why more than 45 years after it was first published, *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country* still feels fresh today. – Kenneth Loosli, NYRB Classics, \$15.95

The Woman Who Borrowed Memories: Selected Stories, Tove Jansson

Anyone who has read Jansson's *The Summer Book*—or anything else of hers—will love *The Woman Who Borrowed Memories*. The atmosphere she creates is perfect for this time of year, so grab that cup of tea and a nice blanket and settle in to be swept off to the islands in the northernmost reaches of the sea. The terror sometimes engendered by these stories is kept at bay by those small islands of light in our living rooms. As Lauren Goff says in the introduction to this book, “We read Tove Jansson to remember that to be human is dangerous, but also breathtaking, beautiful.” To me this is the most perfect reason to read this new collection of stories. – Jan Sloan, New York Review of Books, \$16.95



NEW PAPERBACK REISSUES FROM NYRB

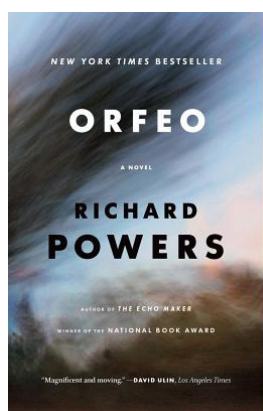


In the Heart of the Heart of the Country, William H. Gass

When you read *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country* for the first time, you will wonder why someone didn't tell you about this wintry gem sooner. One reason may be that, despite being widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of American fiction, it's been in and out of print over the past few decades. Now the fine folks at NYRB Classics have added it to their lineup of essential reissues in an edition that includes a superb preface by Gass himself wherein he outlines his

theory of fiction and his writing process. It's a great setup for the five stories in this collection, and while each one is excellent in its own right, the main attraction is surely the opener, “The Pedersen Kid.” It begins with farmhand Big Hans discovering the Pedersen kid nearly frozen to death in a blizzard. The kid has dared venture through the snowstorm to the Jorgensen farm to seek safety from a stranger he calls “yellow gloves,” who, according to the kid, has imprisoned the his parents in the cellar. Now, to save the Pedersens, Hans, Jorge and Jorge's father grudgingly trek through a haunting landscape drowned in snow, an omnipresent and potent substance that evokes the “general snow” of Joyce's “The Dead.” The story is almost a pulp

FICTION NEW IN PAPER



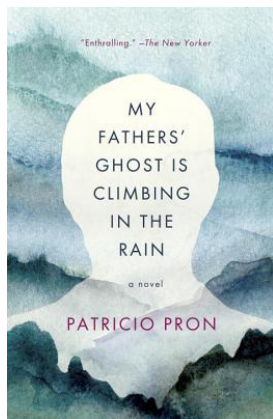
Orfeo, Richard Powers

Powers, winner of the National Book Award for *The Echo Maker*, four-time finalist for the National Book Circle Critics Award and the Pulitzer, has surpassed even his own genius in this book about the intersection of science and music, of life and art, and of the price artists pay—in personal terms—for the choices they make. An avant-garde musician and composer who once meant to study science, Peter Els recognizes the similarities of pattern across both disciplines and in

retirement attempts to research (and alter) those patterns. The result is a rapidly blossoming investigation by Homeland Security. It is the collision of Els' worlds—art, science, family, and now the state—that is the subject of this brilliantly conceived and passionately felt novel that is at once thriller, love story, meditation on art. Powers' breathtaking (and informed) take on music, on science, on technology and on the act of creation illuminates the perils of the underworld each creates and underlines their urgent importance to the world we inhabit. – Betsy Burton, Norton, \$15.95

My Father's Ghost Is Climbing in the Rain, Patricio Pron, translated from Spanish by Mara Faye Lethem

A self-exiled son, a drug-numbed writer who hasn't returned home from Europe in years, flies back to Argentina to gaze at the still form of his hospitalized father. Long-buried memories begin to surface

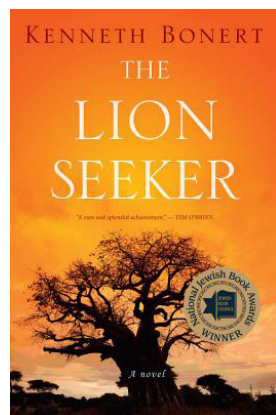
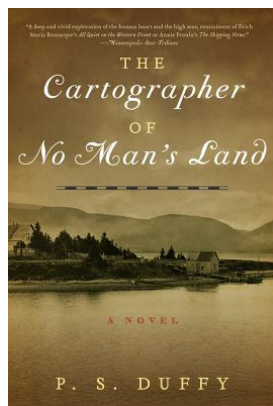


and with them a long-dormant curiosity. He enters his father's study—his father's life—burrowing through papers and articles on a hunt for past truth about his parents. Instead he uncovers a mystery—a murder mystery involving a simple man slain in the village where his journalist father grew up. Perhaps because the victim's sister, an old friend of his father's, had become one of Argentina's "disappeared," both deaths had become an obsession for him. The subject of *My Father's Ghost Is Climbing in the Rain* seems at first to be the generation who fought unsuccessfully

against repression in Argentina. But its true heart lies in the next generation—those children who unwittingly lived out the consequences of something they could never really engage in and never completely understand. Beyond all else this is a book about memory, our fear of it and our profound need for it. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, \$15.95

***The Cartographer of No Man's Land*, P.S. Duffy**

Angus MacGrath leaves his wife and son behind in Nova Scotia, intending to join the war effort behind the lines working as a cartographer in London. His motives are twofold: against the direct wishes of his father, who disapproves of the war, he feels a duty to serve, and he hopes to find some trace of his brother-in-law and dear friend, who is missing in action. War rarely allows for individual plans; in short order this artist and man-of-the-sea finds himself swamped in mud and blood in the trenches of the front line. Angus learns fast and bonds even faster with the men at his side as, at home in Nova Scotia, his son tries to make sense of the war. And so the tides of that war carry us back and forth between family and the battlefield in a novel that is at once spellbinding and enlightening, granting us blinding insights into war, into despair, into love, and into the ties and tensions between fathers and sons. – Betsy Burton, Liveright, \$15.95



***The Lion Seeker*, Kenneth Bonert**

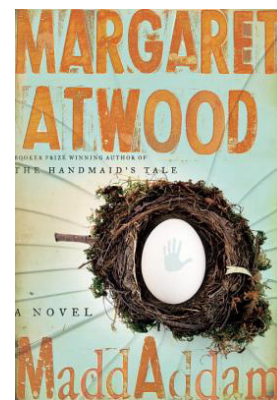
Bonert is possessed of the gift of gab, both in terms of dialogue and of sheer narrative verve. At the heart of his big bruising debut novel is Isaac Helger, who has a wild mop of red hair, a wiry build, a heart full of anger and confused notions of right and wrong. Isaac knows little outside the Jewish community of Johannesburg. His mother, a tough-minded woman who loves Isaac fiercely, is determined to rescue her family from her native Lithuania no matter the cost. His father, a watchmaker and a gentle, principled man, loves his son no less fiercely, and as Isaac grows he struggles with their very different

ways of viewing the world. In fact struggle is at the very heart of this novel: the struggle against prejudice and oppression from outside and from inside; the struggle to distinguish love from self-love, hatred from self-hatred; the struggle to first obtain and then understand truth. But most of all *The Lion Seeker* is about a young man learning to know—and to live with—himself and those who love him.

– Betsy Burton, Mariner, \$14.95

***MaddAddam*, Margaret Atwood**

The final volume of the brilliant dystopian trilogy that began with *Oryx* and *Crake* finds Toby telling stories to the "Children of Crake" those peaceful, perfectly beautiful, genetically altered semi-human beings that the brilliant Crake created before destroying most of what was left of the human race. As Toby, one of the few remaining humans, tells the Crakers the stories they so love to listen to, she's forced to define again and again words



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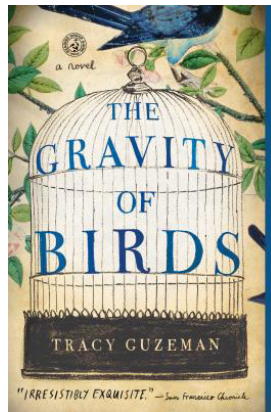


and terms they don't know. Their ignorance is unfortunate; they unwittingly allow two murderers to escape, endangering everyone. And so begins the last episode of Margaret Atwood's wittiest, fiercest, and most prescient of books in which the tangle of human relationships is complicated by Toby's relationship with the Crakers' curiosity—curiosity about the stories she tells, but also the strange black marks she makes in her book. "Words," she says, when asked what the marks are. "Voices." *MaddAddam* is chockfull of excitement and derring do, of love and death and betrayal. It couldn't be clearer about environmental issues and the fate of the earth, not to mention that of humankind. But beyond all else it is about storytelling—about not just the stories we tell but the ways they spread and grow until, ultimately, they become a mythology, a framework for a way a whole people see the world. On the one hand *MaddAddam* is a madcap work of science fiction, on the other it is one of the most brilliant, ferocious, cautionary, compassionate novels to come along in years.

– Betsy Burton, Anchor, \$15.95

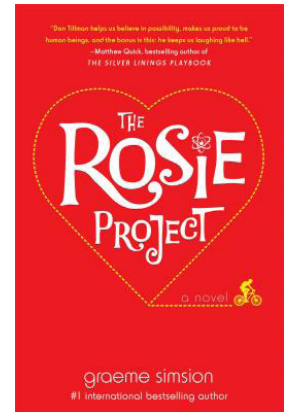
The Gravity of Birds, Tracy Guzman

Alice and Natalie Kessler, at ages 11 and 14 respectively, meet an artist of 26, Thomas Bayber, who is as brilliant—and as careless of others' lives—as he is careful of his own talent. What happens among the three of them echoes on in the shadow of memory, half understood and never discussed or revisited. Until, many years later, Natalie, who has long lived with her younger sister in a small Tennessee town, dies leaving Alice alone, her body riddled with arthritis, her memories hazy, her will focused almost entirely on fending off pain. It is at this point that Bayber, famous and reclusive, calls in two friends from the art world to find his unknown painting of the Kessler sisters. Suddenly, lives stagnant for years begin to quicken as memory takes on new reality. Not only is this extraordinary debut novel steeped in art, art history, and ornithology, it is also insightful in terms of such fraught subjects as grief, chronic pain and the jealousy that is so often a part of sibling relationships. An intricate, interesting plot that owes something to mystery but moves outside the restrictions of the genre, fascinating and layered characters, gorgeous writing... What's most remarkable about *The Gravity of Birds* is that it's Tracy Guzman's first novel. One sincerely hopes that it will not be her last. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, \$15.99



intellect, compulsive interest in his career, and an even more compulsively scheduled life, this is a love story that is also a tale of coming of age in middle age. It is crisply written, the characters are complex and fully conceived, the dialogue is both clever and compelling, as is the plot. But most of all it is hilarious. Uproariously so. Save Simson's novel for the aftermath of some personal disaster when you're sure nothing will ever make you laugh again. *The Rosie Project* will, I guarantee.

– Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, \$15.99



Mrs. Queen Takes the Train, William Kuhn

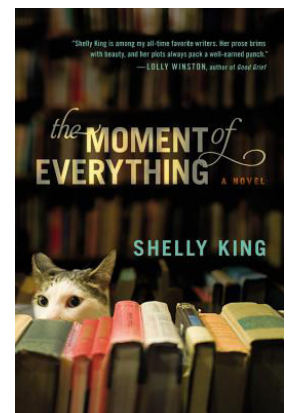


The Queen of England is in a royal funk, although she'd never say so—or, for that matter, seek help. Why should she have had to suffer so many slings and arrows in the press for the stoicism she considers admirable? The Queen is equally weary of all the public appearances people assume she loves, so tired of dressing up for them that she hardly notices what her dresser, Shirley, slips over her shoulders. She can't help thinking about the royal yacht Britannia, home to some of her fondest

memories. Why had life been so different then? One day she takes a stroll intending to visit her favorite horse and by a curious twist of fate ends up in the street by herself, having intended to buy more cheese for said horse. Thus she acquires a friend—the young man who runs the cheese shop—and sets out on a memorable journey which occasions memorable dithering and hand wringing in the castle. In fiction, journeys are often revelations and this novel is no exception: revelations do occur—for the Queen, for her frantic staff, and for the reader. *Mrs. Queen Takes the Train* is a joyride of the first order. – Betsy Burton, Harper Perennial, \$14.99

The Moment of Everything, Shelly King

Maggie Dupres is unemployed in Silicon Valley. As can only happen in the dot.com world, she's laid off from the very company she helped start. Luckily for her (and for us) she is whiling away the days at Dragonfly Used Books thinking (but not very hard) about what to do next. When she discovers an old copy of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, she's surprised to find it contains the back and forth writings of two other lovers, Henry and Catherine. But who are they? And did they finally find each other? The answer to this and many other questions is found in this debut novel. – Anne Holman, Grand Central, \$15



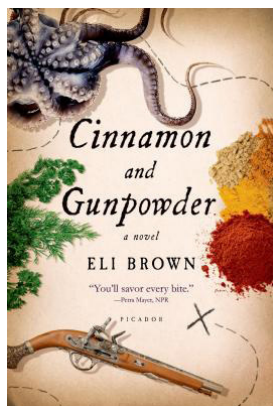
Cinnamon and Gunpowder, Eli Brown

Little does master chef Owen Wedgewood realize when he is

AND ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

The Rosie Project, Graeme Simsion

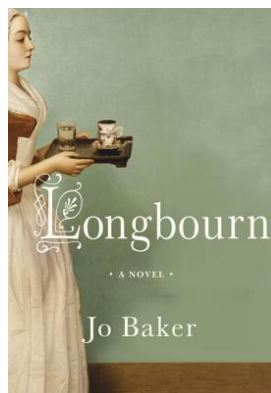
Not many books can make me laugh out loud at four in the morning, but this one did. Meet Don, a distinguished geneticist high on the Asperger's continuum, who's decided it's time he found a wife—using scientific methods, of course. Meet Rosie, a feminist, extroverted barmaid who's searching for the identity of her biologic father. Meet Gene and Claudia, two psychologists attempting to co-exist peacefully in an open marriage. Told in the pitch-perfect voice of someone wired “differently,” who has coped with his differences through his



kidnapped by pirate Mad Hannah Mabbot that he'll have to use every culinary tool in his chest just to stay alive! This novel is not only funny, it's filled with wonderful descriptions of food and adventure on the high seas. This will be the perfect beach read for your winter getaway! – Anne Holman, Picador, \$15

Longbourn,
Jo Baker

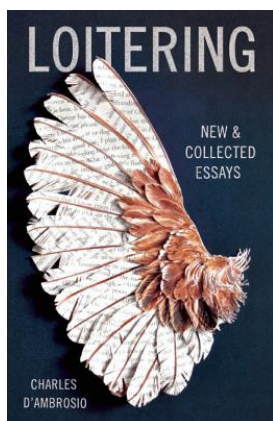
Having for years nursed an inordinate



fondness for *Pride and Prejudice* and as a result reacted with prejudice to the many spin-offs, I picked up *Longbourn* with misgivings—but I loved every page. This below-stairs tale of life in the Bennett home is a tale of incessant laundry that left the maids' hands chilblained and red, of sloshing chamber pots and blackened fireplace, of sweeping and mopping from dawn until long after dark. There's romance below-stairs, there's social commentary aplenty, and witticisms that might have come from the pen of Austen herself. But the thing that distinguishes this novel from its predecessors is the depth of character to be found in its pages: in young Sarah, who is neither as wise as Elizabeth nor as foolish as Lydia—although at first as easily led; in Mrs. Hill, the housekeeper, who buries unhappy secrets under a lifetime of hard work; in James, the footman, whose past is a secret unknown even to himself. That these past secrets are, in the end, shared by upstairs and down alike should come as no surprise since whatever their relationships, people who live under a single roof almost inevitably share more than a common abode.

– Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$25.95

✧ NONFICTION NEW IN PAPER ✧

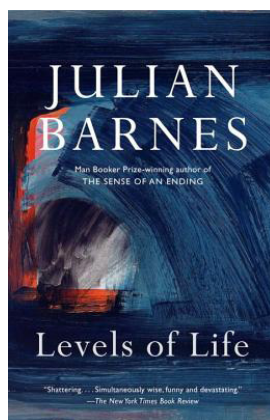


Loitering: New & Collected Essays,
Charles D'Ambrosio

Charles D'Ambrosio writes with the kind of talent that makes most other writers furiously jealous. His prose is not just great—it's "I'd probably read his shopping list" great. He possesses a remarkable gift for metaphors, or what he would call "an eye for resemblances," a capacious store of literary allusions, and a fluidity of style that complements his keen insight such that he can make pretty much any subject fascinating, whether it's an eco-village in

Texas, a Pentecostal haunted house or the emptiness of manufactured homes. Anchoring his writing are a sense of perspective formed by experience and tragedy (which is another way of saying he has that ineffable thing we call "voice") and a sense of place, specifically the Pacific Northwest, that grants his prose immediacy and strength.

D'Ambrosio is haunted throughout by his family's history of suicide and mental illness, yet each essay manages to be global and personal at the same time. These aren't light pieces but despite the frequently sad subject matter, they aren't dark either. There is genuine pathos, such as the piece on Russian orphans, and there can be humor here but no comedy, such as his essay about appearing as a character in an ex-love's novel. The final essay should be required reading for anyone who cares about the humanities. It begins as a close reading of a Richard Hugo poem, but soon reveals itself to be an erudite contemplation of falling and descent and of the place of literature in the wake of devastation. D'Ambrosio presents the view that one can write against death, that one can write as a way to fend off feeling bereft of love. It's an old and familiar claim in literature, but no one makes it more persuasively than Charles D'Ambrosio – Kenneth Loosli, Tin House Books, \$15.95



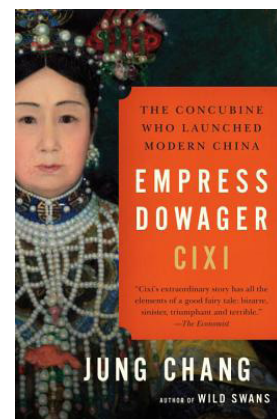
Levels of Life, Julian Barnes

Back at the turn of the century before last, balloons were a new and daring form of transport: the firing up, the untethering, that vertiginous ascent through the clouds and into sheer elation, the view of the earth spread out below as you peer down, God-like....Or perhaps Icarus-like would be more accurate since fear lurks in the vicissitudes of air currents and of the unknown, of fate, and of the possibility of falling. The first section of Barnes' remarkable book seems based entirely

on fact yet places us squarely in the unknown. We're soaring along with the famous and infamous passengers and pilots of 19th century balloons, but where, exactly are we headed? Is this a novel? A history of ballooning? Of adventurers and celebrities? Then, in the next section, two of the historical figures step to the foreground and into one another's arms: dramatist Sarah Bernhardt and intrepid inventor/explorer Fred Burnaby. Ah, this must be fiction after all, a love story, portraying as it does a passion arising from shared bohemian sensibilities, a shared love of flight, of freedom. Barnes' craft seems novelistic here, the relationship at the tale's heart beautifully backlit by metaphors arising from details of flight—of clouds and earth and air, of wind gusts and gases and ballast, of speed and velocity and depth. These same metaphors backlight the final section as well, doing so in ways that combust. And illuminate. To say more would be to destroy the experience of reading this remarkable book. But read it you must since you'll never find a surer, deeper or more poetic evocation—and explication—of the workings of the human heart. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, \$22.95

Empress Dowager Cixi, Jung Chang

The author of the wonderful *Wild Swans* has turned her skills to the examination of the life and times of the Empress Dowager Cixi of China. In her extraordinary life she was a 12-year-old concubine to the Emperor who became the mother of his only child, and, after the Emperor's



* * Stocking Stuffers * *

death, orchestrated a coup that made her ruler of nearly one-third of the world's population. In her reign of almost 50 years she forced a medieval kingdom into the modern world, dealt skillfully with rivals, while at the same time protecting the cultural heritage of her kingdom. History has not been kind to the Empress Dowager and Chang makes a convincing case for her rehabilitation. Chang's depth of research is astonishing, the story she tells gripping to the very end. – Barbara Hoagland, Anchor, \$17.95



One Summer: America, 1927, Bill Bryson

Bryson recounts, as only he can, the many events of the summer of 1927 and their effect on America's place in the world. He insists that all of them, good and bad, transfixed the world and established America in a leadership role which had never before been considered. Charles Lindbergh, Al Capone, Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, Herbert Hoover, the coming of age of radio, talking pictures and television, prohibition, electrocution of the first woman on death row, racism and anti-

Semitism....Most occurred simultaneously and the reader senses true time travel as the people and events are layered one upon another. I loved this book; you will as well. – Sue Fleming, Anchor, \$16.95

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