Finding the “Perfect” Gift

Because books fill every role imaginable from escape to education to epiphany, if carefully selected they make exquisitely thoughtful gifts. Personal gifts, since matching the right book to the person receiving it can literally change his or her life. Or fill it with much-needed laughter. Or the kind of knowledge that might be acutely necessary at a given point…

If, for instance, you’re sorting through the wonderful array of books new this year looking for a gift for a young woman—or for that matter a woman of any age—who is finding her way in the world, looking backward and forward to try to map a course or find a place of comfort or meaning, Katharine Coles’ hybrid biography/memoir Look Both Ways: A Double Journey is finding her way in the world, looking for that matter a woman of any age—who is looking for a gift for a young woman—or for those trying to make sense of an increasingly chaotic world, Doris Kearns Goodwin’s Leadership in Turbulent Times, Michael Beschloss’ Presidents of War and American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us by Joseph J. Ellis, or on a fictional note, Kate Atkinson’s ironic take on our tribal selves, Transcription, are all books which remind us of the complexity of issues that have haunted this country since its inception, giving us the comfort of context. To fill the world of a loved one with much-needed laughter, The Shakespeare Requirement (“To be or not to be” never felt this funny) by Julie Schumacher, the big-hearted Virgil Wander by Leif Enger, and Hits & Misses: Stories by Simon Rich are all sure to elicit guffaws or snorts of one kind or another, while books such as RX by Rachel Lindsay and There, There by Tommy Orange strike a darkly hilarious note, making us laugh even while making starkly evident the seemingly unbridgeable chasms that separate us. Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulks, on the other hand, while never understating our historical, cultural and gender differences, reminds us in gentle and sometimes amusing ways of our underlying commonalities.

A lover of literature and nature will marvel at Richard Powers’ The Overstory, those that take their lessons from the gods (the Greek gods, that is) will love Madeline Miller’s Circe and Pat Barker’s The Silence of the Girls, while on a very different note, for the kind of knowledge that might be sorely needed at a given point in life, there are books like The Cost-Benefit Revolution by Cass Sunstein. There is, in short, something for literally everyone in the world of books this year. Read on for ideas that span topics, prices, heft and heart. And remember, matching books to people is our specialty and our mission in life. Remember also that we deliver—on the same day in Salt Lake!

Holiday Cheer Abounds! Free Delivery in Salt Lake! Free Gift Wrap! And...

On a very different note, for those trying to make sense of an increasingly chaotic world, Doris Kearns Goodwin’s Leadership in Turbulent Times, Michael Beschloss’ Presidents of War and American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us by Joseph J. Ellis, or on a fictional note, Kate Atkinson’s ironic take on our tribal selves, Transcription, are all books which remind us of the complexity of issues that have haunted this country since its inception, giving us the comfort of context.

To fill the world of a loved one with much-needed laughter, The Shakespeare Requirement (“To be or not to be” never felt this funny) by Julie Schumacher, the big-hearted Virgil Wander by Leif Enger, and Hits & Misses: Stories by Simon Rich are all sure to elicit guffaws or snorts of one kind or another, while books such as RX by Rachel Lindsay and There, There by Tommy Orange strike a darkly hilarious note, making us laugh even while making starkly evident the seemingly unbridgeable chasms that separate us. Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulks, on the other hand, while never understating our historical, cultural and gender differences, reminds us in gentle and sometimes amusing ways of our underlying commonalities.

A lover of literature and nature will marvel at Richard Powers’ The Overstory, those that take their lessons from the gods (the Greek gods, that is) will love Madeline Miller’s Circe and Pat Barker’s The Silence of the Girls, while on a very different note, for the kind of knowledge that might be sorely needed at a given point in life, there are books like The Cost-Benefit Revolution by Cass Sunstein. There is, in short, something for literally everyone in the world of books this year. Read on for ideas that span topics, prices, heft and heart. And remember, matching books to people is our specialty and our mission in life. Remember also that we deliver—on the same day in Salt Lake!

Friday, November 23 thru Saturday, December 1 Shift Your Spending with Local First and save 15% off all week as our way of saying thanks for shopping at 15th & 15th!

Saturday, November 24, ALL DAY Small Business Saturday means 20% off everything and The Salt Lake Acting Company will perform a selection from its holiday show “Pinkalicious” at 11 a.m.

Sunday, December 2, 9 a.m. Books & Bagels

Betsy, Anne, and Margaret will share all the books they are excited about for holiday gift-giving and help match them to the people on your list. Enjoy 20% off from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; we can wrap and mail for you too!

Friday, December 7, 5-7 p.m. Kick off your holiday season at 15th and 15th! At TKE’s annual holiday party take 20% off and enjoy food from Hell’s Backbone Grill with Blake Spalding and Jen Castle, along with a host of wonderful authors who have visited us this past year.

Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m. Grow your heart three sizes with a special appearance by the Grinch (and a reading, of course). Kids: bring your adults!
Thursday, October 11, 7 p.m. Thomas Lowe Fleischner will read from and sign his collection, *Nature, Love, Medicine*. Jana Richman and U of U professor Nalini Nadkarni will join Tom and share their own pieces from the collection.

Friday, October 12, 7 p.m. Sustainability coach Deborah Eden Tull will discuss and sign her most recent book, *Relational Mindfulness: A Handbook for Deepening Our Connections with Ourselves, Each Other, and the Planet*.

Saturday, October 13, 7 p.m. Local artist Brian Kershisnik will discuss and sign his new collection, *Looking for Something*.

Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m. Author and mortician Caitlin Doughty will read from and sign her newest nonfiction book, *From Here to Eternity*.

Saturday, October 20, 7 p.m. Join Patrik Sampler & Michael Mejia who will present their books *The Ocean Container* and *Tokyo*, respectively.

Saturday, October 20, 7 p.m. Bestselling author Markus Zusak will join us to discuss and sign his newest book, *Bridge of Clay*. This event is ticketed and will take place at Rowland Hall's Larimer Auditorium.

Wednesday, October 24, 7 p.m. The guides of Story Tours Salt Lake City's Ghost Tour, in *Haunted Salt Lake City*, reveal characters who just can’t seem to leave the valley.

Friday, October 26, 7 p.m. Award-winning local author and journalist Eileen Hallet Stone will read from and sign her newest work of historical nonfiction, *Auerbach’s: The Store That Performs What It Promises*.

Wednesday, October 31, 7 p.m. Scholar and engineer Francis Pring-Mill will discuss and sign his analysis of Lao Tzu’s work, *In Harmony with the Tao: A Guided Journey to the Tao Te Ching*.

Tuesday, October 30, 7 p.m. Local author Joshua Rivkin joins us to read from and sign his new biography, *Chalk: The Art and Erasure of Cy Twombly*.

Friday, November 2, 7 p.m. Award-winning author Leif Enger will be read from and sign his newest novel, *Virgil Wander*.

Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m. Former Utah Poet Laureate and University of Utah Distinguished Professor of English Katharine Coles will discuss and sign her new biography/memoir, *Look Both Ways: A Double Journey Along My Grandmother’s Far-Flung Path*.

Saturday, November 10, 5 p.m. Veteran crime scene investigator Paul Rimmasch will discuss and sign his book *Fingerprints and Phantoms: True Tales of Law Enforcement Encounters with the Paranormal and the Strange*.

Saturday, November 10, ALL DAY Small Business Saturday means Local First! Take 20% off everything all day—and also, in honor of Shift Your Spending Week, 15% off the entire week, November 23 through December 1!

Sunday December 2, 9 a.m. Books and Bagels. Join Anne, Margaret, Betsy and other TKE booksellers for a nosh and recommendations for holiday giving followed by personal shopping and gift wrapping.

Tuesday, December 4, 7 p.m. Award-winning poet Kristen Tracy will be in conversation with her husband and fellow writer Brian Evenson, discussing her newest collection, *Half-Hazard*.

Friday, December 7, 5:30-7 p.m. Kick off your holiday season at 15th and 15th! At TKE’s annual holiday party take 20% off and enjoy food from Hell’s Backbone Grill with Blake Spalding and Jen Castle, along with a host of wonderful authors who have visited us this past year.

Tuesday, January 1, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Celebrate the New Year with us all day with 25% off store-wide.
With the advent of 2019 we want to remind you that TKE is books, of course, but so much more. Our **Book-a-Month Club** is just over two years old now, and our members love it! Each month we choose a novel, a mystery, or a nonfiction book that we believe is important. Each is a first edition, usually signed by the author. All you have to do is wait for it to show up at your door! We’ve selected many wonderful books, *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, *The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson, and *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett to name just a few. These books arrive at your doorstep via the U.S. mail, but did you know that thanks to our crack special delivery team we can also bring books to you Monday through Friday? Who can match our same-day delivery? Especially when it comes thanks to Nicks Burton and his companion, Ricky Hoffman? They deliver anywhere within the Salt Lake county limits, that day if you call before noon. This can come in handy if you’re a teacher and need class books, or you’re having trouble getting out and want (need!) the latest Louise Penny.

And don’t forget, you can get the latest NYT-bestselling audio books from us now. Download the [Libro.fm](http://www.libro.fm) app and start reading. For more info about any of these programs, you can visit [www.kingsenglish.com](http://www.kingsenglish.com) or just call us at 801-484-9100 and we’ll walk you through it!
There are large and lovely books on every topic under the sun (and beyond it) this year, from trees to animals to outer space, culture to birdsong to disappearing language, food to poetry to humor. There are so many in fact that we can’t help but think there’s one perfect for every interest, every taste, every temperament. Need to cheer someone up? The New Yorker Encyclopedia of Cartoons: A Semi-Serious A-to-Z Archive edited by Bob Mankoff with a foreword by David Remnick (Black Dog & Leventhal, $100), a monumental, two-volume, slip-cased collection of New Yorker cartoons from 1924 to the present, is guaranteed to elicit a smile. Put it on your coffee table and whenever a gloomy friend appears just open it up and point. If, on the other hand, you want to tickle someone’s taste buds, there are books by everyone from Ottolenghi to the Barefoot Contessa on cuisines from France to Germany to Greece. The pièce de résistance? This Immeasurable Place: Food and Farming from the Edge of Wilderness (HBG, $40) together with the newly redesigned With a Measure of Grace: The Story and Recipes of a Small Town Restaurant (HBK, $35) by famed Hell’s Backbone Grill owners Blake Spalding and Jen Castle. Pair them as a matched set for the gift of a lifetime, ideal for lovers of this land, farm-to-table food in general, and Hell’s Backbone grill in particular, reminding us not only of exquisite food but also of the glories of the Grand Staircase National Monument and of how great its loss will be if we fail to protect it.

MOTHER EARTH

There are, as you’ll see, books for history buffs and music lovers, tomes on art and mythology, religion, culture and poetry; there are illustrated literary treasures and books of maps, along with books of book lists and eye-popping popups for the whole family to enjoy. But with all those riches to consider, books about our earth take pride of place in our hearts this year—perhaps because the natural world is changing so rapidly and we’re so afraid of losing it, as is illustrated (literally and figuratively) in Robert Macfarlane’s The Lost Words, illustrated by Jackie Morris, (Anansi International, $35), which captures in ravishing art and sorry detail words describing the natural world that are disappearing from our children’s lives and minds, stricken from dictionaries, sidelined from education in favor of technology. An important book, and a wonderful gift for the whole family.

While on the subject of nature, there is nothing we’d rather look at—either outdoors or in the pages of a book—than trees. The Hidden Life of Trees: The Illustrated Edition by Peter Wohlleben, translated by Jane Billinghurst (Greystone, $35) brings to visual life the cutting-edge book by the same title that German forester Wohlleben published two years ago on the interconnected nature of trees and the ‘social nature’ of their ecosystems. Not only gorgeous but fascinating, informative, and as groundbreaking as the root systems of the trees it discusses. And in the literary world, a book published this spring with trees at its heart that is jaw-dropping in artistic terms and equally informative is The Overstory by Richard Powers (Norton, $27.95), a novel about people whose lives and fates are tangled in the lives and fates of trees. Voluminous, lyrical, passionate, compelling, this is our pick for the novel of the year. And awe-inspiring in a different way, as visually stunning as only Art Wolfe can be, Trees: Between Earth and Heaven (Earth Aware Editions, $75) illustrates in Wolfe’s magnificent photographs, and in the text by Gregory McNamara, not just the the wonder humans have felt about trees for millennia but the many ways humankind has integrated trees into culture and spirituality over history and pre-history.

EAST OF THE SUN

All three of the above books have one theme in common: interconnection, whether between or among species or ecosystems. They also clearly illustrate, as do the above-mentioned Lost Words and This Immeasurable Place, an awareness of the dangerous precipice on which our world rests. Renowned wildlife photographers Peter and Beverly Pickford emphasize the vulnerability and fragility of the last untouched places on the planet in their epic visual story, Wild Land (Thames and Hudson, $65), taking us from Africa’s savannas to Tibet’s highest peaks, Alaska’s expansive system of rivers and lakes, to the Antarctic Ocean and pairing stirring adventure with exquisite and exotic landscape—who could ask for more?

But there is more, as is evident in Carn Honan’s follow-up to Wanderlust, The Hidden Tracks: Wanderlust—Hiking Adventures off the Beaten Path (Gestalten, $60, available November 2), which guides the reader along scenic but little-known trails toward pristine hiking destinations around the world, through old-growth forests and among the world’s largest sand dunes. Or for those who’d rather bike than walk, Cycling Paradises: 100 Bike Tours of the World’s Most Breathtaking Places to Pedal by Claude Droussent (Universe, $30) is a carefully curated guide, organized by terrain, from family-friendly urban sightseeing tours to epic rides off the beaten path, each trip fully illustrated and including details about length, estimated duration, elevation, difficulty, and points of interest.
WEST OF THE MOON

However magnificent these far-off lands, few places can match those close to home. Two books track western wilderness trails in uncommon and memorable ways that make them ideal gifts for lovers of the land we inhabit here in the West. In The Grand Canyon: Between River and Rim (Rizzoli, $50) photographer Pete McBride, along with river runner Kevin Fredarko and best-selling author Hampton Sides, takes us on a gripping adventure story, hiking the entire 750 miles of Grand Canyon National Park—from the Colorado River to the canyon rim—capturing images from vantages where no other photographers have ever stood. In a similar vein, The Continental Divide Trail: Exploring America’s Ridgeline Trail by Barney Scout Mann and Nicholas Kristof (Rizzoli, $50) explores an iconic wilderness footpath not for the faint-hearted. With more than 250 spectacular contemporary images, historical photos and documents from the Continental Divide Trail Coalition archives, this book makes the trail come alive for both veteran hikers and armchair travelers alike.

AVIAN RAPTURE

The gift of a lifetime for those who thrill to the sound of birds, Bird Songs: 250 North American Birds in Song by Les Beletsky (becker&meyer!, $50) draws from the collection of the world-renowned Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, profiling 250 North American birds alongside colorful illustrations and including a digital audio player that provides the corresponding song for each bird (including the rediscovered ivory-billed woodpecker!). Or, stun the bird lover in your life with The Wall of Birds: One Planet, 243 Families, 375 Million Years by Jane Kim and Thayer Walker (Harper Design, $45), another treasure from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology—the epic 2,500-square-foot Wall of Birds mural depicting the 375-million-year evolution of birds from the Great Gray Owl to the Great Blue Heron, the Atlantic Puffin to the Lilac-Breasted Roller, the Common Ostrich to the Emperor Penguin, the Splendid Fairywren... the list goes on for 243 families of birds! Yet another gift of wonder is The Splendor of Birds: Art and Photographs from National Geographic by Jonathan Baillie (Foreword) and Catherine Herbert Howell (National Geographic, $75), an elegant collection of the best artwork and photography from the National Geographic archives depicting the magnificence of birds while also tracking the tremendous growth in our avian knowledge over the last 130 years, as well as the new frontiers in technology and observation. Exquisite gifts all three, for those who keep their eyes on the skies!

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

For those whose gazes are more grounded, what better look at the creatures that roam the earth than Animal Kingdom: A Collection of Portraits by photographers Randal Ford and Dan Winters (Rizzoli, $40), featuring such engaging portraits as that of a young male lion cub seeming to sport a rebellious mohawk, a chimpanzee adopting a pensive pose, a curious duckling cocking his head at the camera, as Ford’s wide ranging camera captures images of birds and big cats, Arabian horses, and Big Horn sheep, (to name a few), revealing the individual characters of the animals that share the Earth with us. As, in a more science-based way, does Animal: Exploring the Zoological World edited by James Hanken (Phaidon, $59.95) through more than 300 captivating images across time from every corner of the globe, all carefully curated to tell the tale of animal life from the first cave paintings, through extraordinary medieval bestiaries and exquisite scientific illustrations, to iconic paintings, contemporary artworks and the incredible technological advancements that will shape our futures. Including works by some of the great names in zoology, such as Conrad Gessner, Charles Darwin and John James Audubon, as well as celebrated artists and photographers, indigenous cultures and lesser-known figures who have made important contributions to the study and representation of animals throughout history, this is an armchair zoologist’s dream come true.

For those whose ardor is centered on a single species, the horse, the book of the year, perhaps the decade, is Bob Langrish’s World of Horses: A Master Photographer’s Lifelong Quest to Capture the Most Magnificent Horses in the World by the world’s premier equine photographer, Bob Langrish, with lively text by Olympic equestrian gold medalist Jane Holderness-Roddam (Storey, $40), the culminating collection of a brilliant photographer who has traveled six continents in search of the most compelling horses in their native habitats from the Mongolian steppe to city streets. Dramatic, poignant and personal, Langrish’s photos serve as testament to the ancient and abiding horse-human relationship and are a treasure for the equestrian in your life, armchair or otherwise.

And for those whose animal dreams date back to a time that might give some of us nightmares, curator of mammals at the American Museum of Natural History Ross D.E. MacPhee’s End of the Megafauna: The Fate of the World’s Hugest, Fiercest, and Strangest Animals, illustrated by Peter Schouten...
beyond our own planet, revealing the enabled the human race to explore far mechanical breakthroughs that have unmanned and the technological and space exploration, both manned and the history of U.S. and international is a comprehensive illustrated guide to Roger D. Launius (Smithsonian, $40) World to the Extraterrestrial Future Space Exploration: From the Ancient scale, the unparalleled beauty of our own home planet. Or, on a broader journey on the International Space Station, the vastness of space, and (Knopf, $40), a breathtaking collection of photos documenting his Infinite Wonder: An Astronaut’s Photographs from a Year in Space Any armchair astronomer has to have a copy of astronaut Scot Kelly’s BROTHER EARTH, SISTER SKY For those more fascinated by the flora that carpet our world than the fauna that prowl its surfaces, the perfect gift this year is Smithsonian: Flora: Inside the Secret World of Plants (Smithsonian Institution, DK, $50), an exploration of the plant kingdom from tiny mosses and delicate ferns to vibrant blooms and stately palms, packed with sumptuous photos and crystal-clear illustrations and filled with fascinating stories of how plant roots and leaves communicate with their neighbors, how flowers use color and scent to interact with—and manipulate—the creatures around them. And for those simply in love with their gardens—and with creating a palate that turns cultivation and arranging to art forms, Flower Color Guide by New York’s pre-eminent floral designers Darroch Putnam and Michael Putnam (Phaidon, $35) is the ultimate color-by-color flower reference guide, showcasing 400 flowers at their peak in stunning images and including an appendix with tips on flower care, notes on how to prepare vessels and a list of suggested color schemes. A book that speaks to the most seasoned flower enthusiasts as well as those just beginning to explore the possibilities of gardens and of flowering arranging.

FLORAL FEVER

The cooks in your life will have to have—will want to have—Ottolenghi Simple: A Cookbook (Tenspeed, $35). Yo...
There are cookbooks this year from every corner of the globe from the Americas to Europe to the Mideast. New from France, François-Régis Gaudry presents (and yes, it’s as exuberant as its long subtitle would indicate) Let’s Eat France!: 1,250 specialty foods, 375 iconic recipes, 350 topics, 260 personalities, plus hundreds of maps, charts, tricks, tips, and anecdotes and everything else you want to know about the food of France (Artisan, $50), a joyful, colorful, compulsively readable French food bible containing classic recipes, profiles of French food icons and a region-by-region index of each area’s famed cheeses, charcuterie, and recipes. A book you’ll open anywhere—and never want to close. Unless it’s to open Marianne Magnier Moreno’s French Cooking at Home (Harper Design, $50), which takes you carefully step by step, beginning with fundamental recipes to the techniques that are the heart of French cooking: sautéing, roasting, grilling, braising, poaching, with helpful photos for every step and an illustrated glossary providing detailed instructions and photography to help you perfect your culinary skills, including plating, decorating, preparing meat, cutting and cooking methods, and key utensils!

Traveling eastward from the gastronomic heart of Europe, this year Alfons Schuhbeck presents a rare, comprehensive collection of German recipes—from authentic traditional dishes to contemporary cuisine—The German Cookbook (Phaidon, $49.95). 500 recipes from the distinct regional culinary cultures include both beloved traditional cuisine and contemporary dishes, showcasing the culinary cultural history of the country. Traveling even further abroad, Salma Hage’s The Mezze Cookbook: Sharing Plates from the Middle East (Phaidon, $39.95) is a vibrant collection of exciting, exotic, and sharing-plate recipes from across the Middle East, whether vegetarian, meat- or fish-based, from the James Beard-winning author of The Middle Eastern Vegetarian Cookbook. And bringing exotic cuisines closer to home, Modern Greek Cooking: 100 Recipes for Meze, Entrées, and Desserts by Pano Karatassos and Jane Sigal, with photos by Francesco Tonelli (Rizzoli, $37.50) features 100 best-loved recipes served at Chef Pano’s award-winning Atlanta restaurant, Kyma, paying homage in the U.S. to the flavors and traditions of Greece, while Greek wine expert Sophia Perpera provides wine pairings! Finally, wherever you are, a hot new culinary trend is captured in The Noma Guide to Fermentation: Including koji, kombuchas, shoyus, misos, vinegars, garums, lacto-ferments, and black fruits and vegetables by René Redzepi and David Zilber (Artisan, $40) which shares new techniques for fermentation—the “secret sauce” behind every dish at Noma, a world renowned restaurant, and one of the most important food topics today—offering revolutionary knowledge and original recipes for home cooks and professional chefs alike.

What is food without wine? What is life without wine? There are alternating opinions on the subject, of course, but if you come down on the side of the gods, an idea for those whose lives do involve food and wine is Season: Wine Country Food, Farming, Family, and Friends by Justin Wangler and Tracey Shepos Cenami, which treats wine not as an afterthought to pair with a dish, but as a starting point for that dish to spring from. Chefs Wangler and Shepos Cenami and pastry chef Robert “Buttercup” Nieto share more than a hundred of their favorite recipes for everything from special occasions to everyday meals including complete menus and ideas for seasonal celebrations, user-friendly tips on growing and sourcing produce from a master culinary gardener, and wine-pairing notes from master sommelier Michael Jordan. And for those who take their drinks apart from as well as with their meals, Charles Schumann, The American Bar: The Artistry of Mixing Drinks illustrated by Gunter Mattei (Rizzoli, $29.95), the classic bar guide that launched a generation of cocktail lovers is back—completely updated. With 500 recipes and an easy-to-use index arranged by drink categories, this bar book is replete with fascinating stories behind the genesis of each cocktail, its creators, and component liquors—as well as a guide to bartending equipment and a glossary of bar terms and measurements.

BIBLIOPHILES’ DELIGHTS, ILLUSTRATED & OTHERWISE

1,000 Books to Read Before You Die: A Life-Changing List by James Mustich (Workman $35) encompasses fiction, poetry, science and science fiction, memoir, travel writing, biography, children’s books, history, moving across cultures and through time to present an eclectic collection of titles, from the expected pillars of literature—Jane Austen and Toni Morrison, Virgil, Dante, Dickens and Tolstoy, Franz Kafka and Simone de Beauvoir—to new and unexpected choices like Citizen by John le Carré next to Ursula K. Le Guin next to Harper
Lee. In total, more than 6,000 titles by 3,500 hundred authors are recommended! What a gift for the reader in your life!

Another bibliophile’s delight is *Daemon Voices on Stories and Storytelling* (Knopf, $30) in which Philip Pullman, internationally best-selling author of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, takes us on a spellbinding journey into the secrets of his art—the narratives that have shaped his vision, his experience of writing, and the keys to mastering the art of storytelling, charting the history of his own enchantment with story—from his books to those of Blake, Milton, Dickens, and the Brothers Grimm, among others—and delves into the role of story in education, religion, and science. At once personal and wide-ranging, *Daemon Voices* is both a revelation of the writing mind and the methods of a contemporary master, and a fascinating exploration of storytelling itself that will thrill the hearts of booklovers.

Scholars and literati alike will like *Ernest Hemingway: Artifacts from a Life* by Michael Katakis (Scribner, $30), a beautifully designed book chockfull of photographs, documents and other paraphernalia illuminating the mind and the day-to-day life of one of our most famous authors, with a foreword and afterward by his son and grandson. Notes for future novels, letters to publishers and to friends, give us up-close and intimate details that collectively offer an intriguing picture of a man we thought we knew. Fascinating. As is *The Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht* (Liveright, $49.95, available Dec 4), a treasure for any lover of 20th-century poetry. Widely celebrated as the greatest German playwright of the 20th century, Bertolt Brecht was also a great—and prolific—poet. Written between 1913 and 1956, these poems reflect the technical virtuosity of an artist driven by bitter and violent politics, as well as by the untrammeled forces of love and erotic desire.

**LITERATURE AS ART, ART AS LITERATURE**

Glorious too, in a very different way, is Melissa McCormick’s *The Tale of Genji: A Visual Companion* (Princeton, $45, available November 1), an illustrated guide to Murasaki’s tale, widely considered the world’s first novel. McCormick provides a unique companion that combines discussions of 54 of its chapters with paintings and calligraphy from the *Genji Album* (1510) in the Harvard Art Museum, the oldest dated set of Genji illustrations known to exist.

Coming forward several centuries, *The Books of Earthsea: The Complete Illustrated Edition* by Ursula K. Le Guin, illustrated by Charles Vess (Saga, $59.99), celebrates the 50th anniversary of the timeless and beloved *A Wizard of Earthsea* with a complete omnibus edition of the entire Earthsea chronicles, including over 50 illustrations illuminating Le Guin’s vision of her classic saga—with a new introduction by the author and illustrations by renowned artist Charles Vess—specially commissioned and selected by Le Guin, to bring her refined vision of Earthsea and its people to life in a totally new way. This is a major publishing sensation this season. So, too, is *The Great Tales of Middle-earth: Children of Húrin, Beren and Lúthien, and The Fall of Gondolin* by J.R.R. Tolkien and Christopher Tolkien (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $75), a beautiful boxed set of the final novels of Middle-earth packaged together for the first time, thus completing Christopher Tolkien’s lifelong achievement as the editor and curator of his father’s (J.R.R. Tolkien) manuscripts.

And then there’s *The Art of C.G. Jung: The Foundation of the Works of C.G. Jung* (Norton, $85, available November 20), still another publishing marvel, a lavishly illustrated volume of Jung’s visual work, from drawing to painting to sculpture which includes a selection of the most striking images from *The Red Book*, paintings, drawings, and sculpture, and five previously unpublished essays from the world-renowned founding figure in analytical psychology and one of the 20th century’s most vibrant thinkers. And in a very different way art illuminates—literally—faith in *The Grand Medieval Bestiary (Dragonet Edition): Animals in Illuminated Manuscripts* from noted artist Christian Heck and head of rare books at the Bibliothèque d’Agglomération de Saint-Omer, France, Rémy Cordonnier (Abbeville, $75), a magnificent volume in which 587 colorful images center on the animals that were a constant presence in illuminated manuscripts throughout the Middle Ages—not only in bestiaries but in every sort of manuscript, sacred and profane, from the Gospels to Romance of the Rose. A glory and a wonder! And finally, on the heels of Walter Isaacson’s beloved new biography last fall, *Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing* by Martin Clayton, foreword by HRH The Prince of Wales (Rizzoli, Electra, $40, available November 2), the most comprehensive collection of Leonardo da Vinci’s drawings, provides another intimate look at the mind and hand of a towering genius.
A broad look at what seemed to be a waning force but is now pivotal to humankind in new ways is Neil MacGregor’s *Living with the Gods: On Beliefs and Peoples* (Knopf, $40, available October 30) which uses the same format as *A History of the World in 100 Objects* to illuminate the changing relationship between faith and society, tracing the ways in which different societies have understood and articulated their places in the cosmic scheme and examining mankind’s beliefs not from the perspective of institutional religions but according to how shared narratives have shaped societies—and what happens when different narratives run up against each other. Timely, to put it mildly.

A spiritual and literary treasure coming in December is *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary* (Norton, $125), Robert Alter’s brilliant translation of the Hebrew Bible which brings poetry and immediacy along with generous commentary together in a definitive edition of the Hebrew Bible. And *Sacred Spaces: The Awe-Inspiring Architecture of Churches and Cathedrals* by Guillaume de Laubier and Jacques Bosser (Abrams, $60) is a visually breathtaking survey of Christian churches and cathedrals from St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome to Notre Dame in Paris, to Saint Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow. Whether Catholic, Protestant, or Orthodox; made of wood, stone, concrete, or glass; Roman, Gothic, Baroque, or modern, the places of worship featured in this richly produced volume present an extraordinary overview of Christianity’s architectural and cultural history.

**LESSONS IN AMERICAN HISTORY**

Pete Souza, author of *Obama: An Intimate Portrait*, brings us a powerful tribute to a bygone (sob) era of integrity in politics, *Shade: A Tale of Two Presidents* (Little Brown, $30). Chief Official White House Photographer Souza tells the tale of the Obama and Trump administrations by juxtaposing his own unforgettable images of President Obama framed by the tweets, news headlines, and quotes that defined the first 500 days of the Trump White House, a reminder not just of what we have now but also of a President who was a courageous defender of American values. Another reminder of such men may be found in Doris Kearns Goodwin’s *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* (Simon & Schuster, $30) which looks at four of our most influential presidents: Abraham Lincoln, Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson, all of whom faced personal crises that could have ended their political lives, but instead became determined to lead the nation through the trials and tribulations that could have rent the country apart. And distinguished historian Jill Lepore, in *These Truths: A History of the United States* (Norton, $39.95), has tackled the entire history of the United States, from the writing of the Constitution, to the Civil War, to world wars and the tragedy of 9/11, giving a voice to all those who have gone before us. Her book is a civics lesson that should be required reading for all Americans, said Barbara Hoagland in our fall *Inkslinger*.

A president who faced what was certainly one of the most difficult periods in American history was Ulysses. S. Grant. In *The Annotated Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* (Liveright, $45, available November 3) editor Elizabeth D. Sameť’s annotations brilliantly integrate with the compulsively readable text penned by a dying president and commissioned by Mark Twain! As a history goes, this is as good as it gets. And going back to our beginnings, editor David K. Allison’s *The American Revolution: A World War* (Smithsonian, $29.95, available November 3) is an illustrated collection of essays that explores the international dimensions of the American Revolution and its legacies both in America and around the world.

**HELL HATH NO FURY**

Two galvanizing books just out describe the volcanic anger of women today. *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women’s Anger* by Soraya Chemaly (Atria, $27) explains the power behind #MeToo in cogent, clarion tones, detailing the pervasive suppression of female anger in Western civilization from infancy through adulthood in all walks of life, examining misogyny, violence, pornography, their toxic impacts on us and the unbridled anger that they should arouse—anger that can be used to combat them. And *Good and Mad: The Revolutionary Power of Women’s Anger* by Rebecca Traister (Simon & Schuster, $27) tracks the history of the often suppressed anger of women, the stratagems that have been used to gag that anger, whether political or personal, the massive power our collective anger, once unleashed, could and should, generate. Give one to your daughter or friend—or better still, to your husband or son!
MAPPA THE PAST
Whatever else may be said of history, mapping illuminates it in terms of facts and art alike. *All Over the Map: A Cartographic Essay* by Betsy Mason and Greg Miller (National Geographic, $50) takes us from dragon-infested seas to outer space in a dazzle of maps that track history as well as the art of cartography, while the 140 detailed maps in *Smithsonian History of the World Map by Map* (DK, $50) tell the story of pivotal episodes in world history, from the first human migrations out of Africa to the space race.

PLAY ON: MUSIC AND FILM BROUGHT TO NEW LIFE
A must-have on the shelves of classical music aficionados this year is Robert Philip’s *The Classical Music Lover’s Companion to Orchestral Music, 1700–1950* (Yale, $50, available Dec 4) which is not only a comprehensive guide covering 400 of the most frequently performed works by 68 composers over 250 years of orchestral music, but also a book which reveals both the essence of difficult music and the subtleties of straightforward music, illuminating the composers’ intentions in the process.

On a very different note, no pun intended, there are books on musicians who were icons in their eras, chief among them, Johnny Cash. Alan Light’s *Johnny Cash: The Life and Legacy of the Man in Black* (Smithsonian, $40, available October 30) reveals Cash’s personal and professional life through largely unpublished material from the Cash family, tracing Cash’s personal story, his commercial musical successes, his death, and his legacy. And two contemporaneous musicians (hard as that is to believe) may be seen at work in one intensively creative slice of their lives in Yoko Ono’s *Imagine John Yoko* (Grand Central, $50), the definitive inside story of the making of the legendary album and all that surrounded it.

HOLIDAY CHEER
Whatever our religion, point of view, cultural inclinations, there comes a day (or two or three) each year on which families and friends gather to celebrate. And what better joint activity as such gatherings grow wearying or in need of a little pick-me-up than a book? Especially if it’s interactive! Most of us have read Harry Potter books, together as a family or alone, so Kevin Wilson’s *Harry Potter: A Pop-Up Guide to Hogwarts* (Insight Editions, $75), an exhilarating, interactive guide to the iconic school of witchcraft and wizardry featuring spectacular pop-up re-creations of key locations inside and outside Hogwarts castle, is not only a must-have collectible but a wonderful way to have a memorable collective browse while sitting together trying to digest holiday dinners. And if your druthers are a collective browse through nature in the pages of a book, both Robert Frank Hunter’s *Sounds of Nature: World of Birds* (Wide Eyed Editions, $22.99) and Hazel Maskell and Eleanor Taylor’s *A Year in Nature: A Carousel Book of the Seasons* (Laurence King, $21.95), each crafted for children but chockfull of interactive joy for adults as well, help you listen to and identify birdsong and surprise yourself with the hidden delights of the changing seasons. On a cautionary note, *Beyond the Sixth Extinction: A Post-Apocalyptic Pop-Up* by Shawn Sheehy and Jordi Solano (Candlewick $65) offers a popup vison of the world we’re rapidly creating (to our sorrow) and some of the surprising (and life-saving) ways nature might adapt!

On a cheerier note, for those who celebrate Christmas, a wonderful read aloud is Nigel Slater’s *The Christmas Chronicles: Notes, Stories & 100 Essential Recipes for Winter* (Fourth Estate, $35), his diary and stories illustrating Slater’s love for winter, its fables and its family feasts. Or if the macabre is more your style there’s Tim Burton’s *The Nightmare Before Christmas Pop-Up: A Petrifying Pop-Up for the Holidays*. Burton’s iconic film seen through the prism of Matthew Reinhart’s extraordinary popup art (Disney, $65) which is gratifyingly ghoulsh and sure to elicit giggles and shrieks from adults and children alike.

If planning’s your thing on these holiday occasions, whether you’re alone, with family, with a partner or friend, *Journeys of a Lifetime, Second Edition: 500 of the World’s Greatest Trips* (National Geographic, $40, available October 23) features 500 celebrated and lesser-known destinations around the globe from the daring to the merely memorable, complete with stunning photography, full-color maps, and practical tips, including how to get there, when to visit, and how to make the most of your journey! And finally, whoever you are, wherever you are, there’s always a new edition of *Ripley’s Believe It Or Not!,* this year marking 100 years (Ripley, $49.95, available November 3), a congregation of the weird, the eccentric, and the amazing which you can take turns reading aloud to the sound of laughter, cheers, boos, gasps, giggles and groans. Just the note to strike at the end of a year to end all years! Happy Holidays to all and to all a goodnight.
Bridge of Clay, Markus Zusak

Five brothers, a menagerie, a murderer and Michelangelo—a memorable cast of characters. Throw in bridge building, track training, horse racing, courting, grieving... the craziness at the heart of the Dunbar boys' rough and tumble lives. They make it through, somehow, despite all that is thrown at them. When I finished it, I wanted to read it again, to watch the boys get out of bed, off the sofa, and pick up the bits and pieces in order to live another day. The narrative is complex, rich in character, texture and plotting, and the story bursts at the seams with heart and humanity. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Knopf, $26 Editor's note: Zusak will read from and discuss his novel Saturday, October 20, 7 p.m. at Rowland Hall's Larimer Auditorium.

Virgil Wander, Leif Enger

The little town of Greenstone, Minnesota, is a faded sort of place, the prosperity provided by mining and manufacturing long gone, as is its local almost-hero, a nearly-famous baseball player who disappeared in a plane somewhere over Lake Superior a decade back. His good friend Virgil still runs the local theater, selling popcorn to the two or three customers who come in of an evening—until, heading home in a snowstorm one night, Virgil sails off the road, floating toward certain death in the waiting water... Improbably rescued in the nick of time, Virgil has lost some memory (including his favorite adjectives) but gained a second chance at life, evidenced in the new way he looks at old friends, his openness to new ones. A colorful cast of characters—ranging from the vanished ball player's son, ex-wife, and a father he had never known to the staff at city hall where Virgil works part-time to the vanished ball player's son, ex-wife, and a father he had never known to the staff at city hall where Virgil works part-time to the giant sturgeon who haunts the local waterways to the unsavory Adam Leer—make for a big-hearted and thoroughly entertaining read. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly, $27 Editor's note: Leif Enger will read from and discuss his novel new novel November 2, 7 p.m.

All the Lives We Never Lived, Anuradha Roy

Myshkin adores his mother Gayatri, who brings joy and color into their family's life even as she resists what it takes from her—time and opportunity to paint, to dance, to simply be herself. An old friend, a German painter, reenters her life, and her relationship with her husband, already deteriorating, spirals downward. Gayatri flees, leaving her 9-year-old son behind, bereft. Meanwhile the Nazis, now allied with Japan, broaden their front to include Asia... Years pass, and at 60 Myshkin begins to explore the reasons for his mother's flight, first through the aggregation of memories reawakened as he puts pen to paper and then through his mother's letters and those of her friends. It's hard to miss the parallels to authoritarian governments, to nationalism, as Myshkin's search widens and facts accrete, but at its heart this is an intensely personal novel of familial love, the benison it can be, and the prison of it; Myshkin lives in such a prison, hampered by the things he has purposefully forgotten in a tale in some ways reminiscent of Ondaatje's Warlight. Roy is at the absolute pinnacle of her form here, her writing fluid and evocative, her characters and their histories layered and fascinating, her structure complex and yet emotionally satisfying as she skillfully braids together the strands of family love, a mother's love with the need for autonomy and the complexity of the choices forced upon those who refuse to relinquish the idea of freedom. – Betsy Burton, Atria, $26 Editor's note: available November 20

A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl, Jean Thompson

National Book Award nominee Thompson's newest novel follows three generations of women in a small midwestern town through their successes and disappointments in an atmospheric and moving saga stretching from World War II to the present. Thompson's prose is elegant and haunting, her writing sensual and earthy, drawing readers in and enveloping them in her insights and struggles. A beautiful piece of fiction, A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl is a surefire hit for fans of Kate Morton and Jessica Shattuck's Women in the Castle. – Rachel Haisley, Simon & Schuster, $26

Paris Echo, Sebastian Faulks

Enchanting aptly describes Faulks' novel, not in any cringe-worthy sense. Quite the opposite, as becomes apparent when we meet its two major characters: Tariq, a young Moroccan boy who drops out of school and boards a plane to Paris to get away from home hoping to find out something about his Parisian mother, and most of all to acquire the carnal knowledge thus far denied him; and Hannah, a scholar deeply involved in documenting the lives of Parisian women during the occupation, who rents Tariq a room. And no, these two mismatched human beings do not fall in love. What they do is enlarge one another's sense of the world in seemingly accidental ways that raise questions, demand answers, and slowly change the shapes of one another's worlds. There are other equally fascinating characters: the odd people Tariq encounters on his rambles across the city; Hannah's British friend Julian and the intensively, achingly alive women brought to their success and disappointment. Thompson's prose is elegant and haunting, her writing sensual and earthy, drawing readers in and enveloping them in her insights and struggles. A beautiful piece of fiction, A Cloud in the Shape of a Girl is a surefire hit for fans of Kate Morton and Jessica Shattuck's Women in the Castle. – Rachel Haisley, Simon & Schuster, $26

Paris Echo, Sebastian Faulks

Enchanting aptly describes Faulks' novel, not in any cringe-worthy sense. Quite the opposite, as becomes apparent when we meet its two major characters: Tariq, a young Moroccan boy who drops out of school and boards a plane to Paris to get away from home hoping to find out something about his Parisian mother, and most of all to acquire the carnal knowledge thus far denied him; and Hannah, a scholar deeply involved in documenting the lives of Parisian women during the occupation, who rents Tariq a room. And no, these two mismatched human beings do not fall in love. What they do is enlarge one another's sense of the world in seemingly accidental ways that raise questions, demand answers, and slowly change the shapes of one another's worlds. There are other equally fascinating characters: the odd people Tariq encounters on his rambles across the city; Hannah's British friend Julian and the intensively, achingly alive women brought to vivid life in her interviews. I loved this book. – Betsy Burton, Henry Holt, $27 Editor's note: available November 6

Unsheltered, Barbara Kingsolver

Willa Knox and her husband lost their jobs and were forced to move to a home they inherited in Vineland, New Jersey, a town built at the end of the 19th century as an idyllic community developed by
a greedy despot. While her home falls down around her ears Willa must care for her aging and ill father-in-law and newborn grandson. This same home is the setting for a story set a century earlier in which Thatcher Greenwood and his bride, mother-in-law and step-sister find themselves in the same uninhabitable dwelling. Thatcher struggling to defend the new Darwinism in his teaching position in a school run by a Creationist, toady to despot Landis, creator of Vineland. Greenwood’s only friends are the real-life Mary Treat, a biologist, and a newspaperman determined to hold Landis responsible for those who live in his community. Reminiscent of A.S. Byatt’s Possession, and Tom Stoppard’s “Arcadia,” Unsheltered is the story of two families in two centuries who must discover how to survive in a world of massive cultural shifts. At once political and historical, poetic and prophetic, it is storytelling at its beautiful and elegant best. – Anne Stewart Mark, HarperCollins, $29.99

The Waiter, Matias Faldbakken

If you enjoyed the restaurant scenes in A Gentleman in Moscow, you will be delighted to meet the head waiter at The Hills, a very old Norwegian restaurant that is home to regular patrons, a long-standing staff, and above all, tradition. He is not quite as constrained as Stevens in Remains of the Day, but he definitely appreciates the long-standing daily patterns that have been his and the restaurant’s over the years, knowing what his regular patrons want before they ask. His friend (perhaps his only) Edgar visits the restaurant almost every other day with his daughter Anna. Into this comfortable routine steps the “Lady Child,” and everything changes. – Anne Holman, Scout Press, $26

Listen to the Marriage, John Jay Osborn

The author of The Paper Chase has novelized a partially autobiographical experience, a time when his own marriage was disintegrating. Set in the office of a psychiatrist who is listening to a husband and wife unravel as they sort through their feelings and woes, its most fascinating aspect is its point of view: the internal monologue of the therapist as she listens to each of them, questions them both, sometimes bleakly assessing what she hears and sees, sometimes seeing glimmers of hope. This is a quiet book but one that scratches the itch of curiosity those in therapy occasionally have concerning the thoughts of their own therapists. What is she thinking? Although for the most part I was fascinated, I wondered, as I read, what my therapist (and I have a great one) was going to think about its accuracy. Maybe I’ll give her a copy and find out. – Betsy Burton, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $25

House of Gold, Natasha Solomons

At the heart of this new historical fiction by Solomons is a Jewish banking family preceding and during the turmoil of the First World War. The House of Goldbaum (much like the Rothchilds) had been financing Europe and Britain, and their influence is great: “Such is the power of the Goldbaums that on dull days, it’s said, they hire the sun just for themselves.” Greta is a member of the Austrian branch of the family, and, in order to keep their Jewish heritage a priority, she must marry within the family, so a wedding to her British cousin Albert must be arranged. She must say goodbye to her dear brother Otto and move to a foreign land where her betrothed is also less than enthusiastic. As they struggle to form a marriage, rumblings of war begin to affect their banking business, while pogroms in Russia weigh heavily on the conscience of the family. Rich with complex characters and descriptions of the gilded age, this is a sweeping narrative of the time and of a family enduring the unraveling of their relationships, their business, and their Jewish identity in the early 20th century. – Anne Stewart Mark, Penguin, $26

The Girl They Left Behind, Roxanne Veletzos

A young Jewish couple flees for their lives on the dark streets of Bucharest in the middle of a frozen winter night in 1941. Their 3-year-old daughter shivers as she waits for them in vain on the steps of an unfamiliar building. Years later, while Hitler’s war rages around them and despite an ever-present threat that she doesn’t fully comprehend, the girl thrives in the home of her prosperous and loving adoptive parents. But when the Red Army finally engulfs the city amidst tears of joy, few suspect that their liberators are merely their newest captors. The Soviets have drawn the Iron Curtain across the continent, and Eastern Europe is trapped behind it. Based on the life of the author’s own mother, this is a captivating, masterful depiction of the uncertainty of civilian life during war, the invincibility of determination and the price of freedom. – Elisa Eames, Atria Books, $26.99
Look Both Ways: A Double Journey
Along My Grandmother’s Far-Flung Path, Katharine Coles

I’m over the moon about Katharine Coles’ new book. A fevered chase through diaries, letters, and a family’s collective memory sends readers hurtling through the history of Coles’ grandparents, both intrepid explorers and trained, astute scientists, one a woman who found herself sidelined by oil companies and eventually by her husband as well, traveling with him to far-flung outposts only to be expected to set up homes rather than camp while her husband traversed one tract of wilderness after another. Coles, at first silent witness to diary accounts of broken promises and deep frustration, her grandmother’s intermittent but passionate rebellion, her grandfather’s concomitant frustration and growing anger, becomes an active if after-the-fact participant, traveling doggedly, daringly to each far-off, often dangerous, always transitory home, dancing with them in imagination as she examines her own relationship to her husband—her love for him uneasily counterbalanced by her determination to remain free. In twin love stories we watch a woman ahead of her time battle the strictures of that time, a woman in a far different era doing the same, examining in the process the delicate balance between love and freedom that must take place in a truly feminist life, the delicate balance between honesty and compassion that must exist in a truly successful marriage. Rapturous, wise and lyrical, fascinating in terms of history, science, and social custom, deeply moving, this hybrid biography/memoir is as transcendent as the best of novels, fierce, dazzling and true. – Betsy Burton, Turtle Point Press, $18.95

Editor’s note: meet Hampton Sides in person on Wednesday, October 17, 7 p.m. at TKE

Accessory to War: The Unspoken Alliance Between Astrophysics and the Military, Neil DeGrasse Tyson and Avis Lang

Although the science of astrophysics has been tied to military technology throughout human history, during the past hundred years the two fields seem to have become more and more inseparable, increasing the tension between the impulses to discover and to create and those to dominate and to destroy. In unpacking this connection, Accessory to War deftly takes the reader through the history of physics and astrophysics as they relate to warfare, bringing us to the present day when most successful astrophysicists are forced to work for the globe’s vast military industrial complex in one way or another. DeGrasse Tyson brings his sharp intelligence and conversational writing style to his newest book, creating a compulsively readable and absolutely fascinating look into the real-world applications of physics and astronomy. This will definitely make a great gift for a wide swath of nonfiction readers: those curious about our universe, those curious about our planet and each other, lovers of science writing, and anyone with a penchant for military history. – Rachel Haisley, Norton, $30

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A Life, Jane Sherron De Hart

This expansive biography of Ginsburg took the author 15 years to complete. The Supreme Court justice has been a pivotal voice in American jurisprudence for decades. Growing up Jewish during World War II influenced her desire for justice for the underdog which has led to her advocacy for gender equality. Her mother inspired her feminist ideals which were a driving force in her life. De Hart eloquently reveals the life and times of this most extraordinary woman—a hero to many and an example for all. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $35

On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War’s Greatest Battle, Hampton Sides

Wow—another riveting tale by Hampton Sides! I literally could not put this book down. Even better than his great Ghost Soldiers, this is the recounting of the desperate battle for survival of the 1st Marine Division at the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea in 1950. The 23,000 Marines are surrounded by 225,000 of Chairman Mao’s Communist Chinese Forces near a remote reservoir deep within mountainous North Korea, only 100 miles from the border with China. It is early winter and the temperature plunges to 25 degrees below zero while the winds from Siberia howl over the marines’ battlefield on the west side of the reservoir and a U.S Army Division on the east side of the same reservoir is overrun and destroyed. General MacArthur and his subordinates continue to doubt reports from the field and insist that Marine General O.P. Smith continue his push north to the Yalu River…This battle has been written about many times but what makes this version different is Sides’ style and his telling of the story from the perspective of the soldiers who fought and died. I give this book a high recommendation. – Patrick Fleming, Doubleday, $30

Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know: The Fathers of Wilde, Yeats, and Joyce, Colm Tóibín

In a book as eccentric and brilliant as its subjects, Tóibín takes us first to Dublin in the waning days of the 19th century, a time when everyone (or everyone of a certain class and level of education) knew everyone else, attending the same schools, walking the same streets (shades of Bloom), dining with one another—a small contained community, Irish to the bone and proud of it. We then meet
three fathers—each brilliant, all flawed in ways that preclude their achieving the heights they dream of: Wilde a polymath capable of any and everything yet helter-skelter in his focus, unbridled in his self-opinion and in his consequent behavior; Yeats, too focused—unable to finish paintings which did not exactly match his vision; Joyce, the consummate storyteller who drank too much to focus much at all. And, we meet their famous sons, writers all. The fascination of the book (or one of them) is the ways the traits of each father influenced, for good or ill, the life and the work of his son, the way writing became for each son the crucible in which to mix what he inherited and what he learned from his father into art. So, both a fascinating book about father-son relationships and an irony-laced look at Dublin which is historically and socially acute. But also a book about writing in the profoundest way imaginable—one that captures both the propulsion toward and the very act of creation. Tóibín’s errant mind is intensely interesting and his writing is divine. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $26

**Presidents of War**, Michael Beschloss

This expansive history explores how presidents—from James Madison and the War of 1812 to LBJ and Richard Nixon in Vietnam—handled being at war, each conducting himself differently from the others. In Beschloss’ view, they all made fatal mistakes and missteps which were tragic—and also proof of their fallibility. During America’s various wars, the presidents were attacked brutally by the opposition, and their responses varied from defiance to grace under pressure. This history reminds us that there have been turbulent times in the past which the country has had the strength to endure.

– Barbara Hoagland, Crown, $35

**American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us**, Joseph J. Ellis

The focus of this philosophical dialogue is a deep dive into the writings and views of Jefferson, Adams, Madison, and Washington and how those views relate to the 21st century. Whether it be the nation’s original sin, slavery, or economics, or how America relates to the rest of the world, Ellis presents a cogent examination of how views expressed in the 18th century reverberate today. With all the diatribes we are currently plagued with, it’s heartening to read Ellis’s careful ruminations on the complexity of issues that have haunted this country since its inception.

– Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $27.95

**The Corrosion of Conservatism**, Max Boot

Boot, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and longtime conservative writer, resigned his membership in the Republican Party the day after Donald Trump was elected president. His newest book is a thoughtful look at the radical changes in the Republican Party since the advent of Trump and Trumpism. He laments the end of moderation in his former party but also assails the Democratic Party as being too progressive. He calls for the formation of a third party which would encompass the good parts of each of the current parties. While he views this as politically unrealistic, he sees the future of the current Republican Party to be bleak. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, $23.95

**There Will Be No Miracles Here**, Casey Gerald

Gerald was born in Dallas to a mentally ill mother who abandoned the family when he was a youngster. His father was lost to drug addiction soon after, and Casey was primarily raised by his grandmother and a sister who was only two years older than he. Casey’s story could easily have been one of loss and grief, but instead it is a testament to hard work and loving support, primarily from the women in his life. He was recruited to play football at Yale which took him to a world unlike anything he had ever imagined. He went on to an MBA from the Harvard Business School and powerful positions in Washington and on Wall Street. Still, his voice is unique in that he constantly challenges his reaction to events around him. Not once does he lament his background, but rather he has a clear-eyed view of how privilege provides a vehicle to perpetuate the class system.

– Barbara Hoagland, Riverhead, $27

**Living with the Gods: On Beliefs and Peoples**, Neil MacGregor

A beautiful book by MacGregor (author of the *The World in 100 Objects*) using art and literature of the world to illustrate mankind’s search for knowledge, truth, and his place in the cosmic scheme. The author starts with why humans need to believe in something larger than themselves and their collective need to believe as a group. He explores the values of many cultures and the art which they used to symbolize their beliefs or faiths. A beautifully illustrated book in which the art is worth as much as the text. – Patrick Fleming, Knopf, $40

**Schumann: The Faces and the Masks**, Judith Chernai

Chernai has done a remarkable job of telling Schumann’s life story: from his childhood, to his years as a young student (meeting Clara who was only a child), to his musical development, his compositions, his friendships (the one with Mendelssohn particularly complicated), his life with Clara and his recurring illnesses. The private life he had with Clara and his
public musical life were complicated by a family history of instability and his worsening mental illness, brought on by syphilis as a young man and leading, in the end, to his institutionalization. A sad but fascinating story of the Romantic Era, this biography will be enjoyed by all who love Schumann’s music, professional and amateur musicians, and music history buffs. — Deon Hilger, Harper, $30

Year of Wonder: Classical Music to Enjoy Day by Day, Clemency Burton-Hill

If you want to broaden your appreciation of music in general and find out about different musical composers throughout the centuries, here is a lovely way to expand your horizon. Burton-Hill suggests a piece of music to listen to each day of the year. With each suggestion is a short (usually two-paragraph) description of the number, the times of the composer, and meaning of the piece. And of course each is available through YouTube. What a delightful way to learn more about music! — Deon Hilger, Harper, $25.99

Operation Columbia: the Secret Pigeon Service, Gordon Corera

In the dark days after Dunkirk, it was commonly agreed that the Germans would almost certainly invade Great Britain. The ability to obtain current information on troop movements became vitally important. Radios were primitive and trying to transmit written information could take months. Thus enters into history the Army Pigeon Service. Pigeon fanciers (of which there were dozens) were asked to contribute to the war effort by allowing the army use of their pigeons. The RAF would be utilized to parachute the pigeons into occupied territories, each one carrying a message in the local language asking for information on troop movements, munition placements, and any other general information which could be used by the allies. Once the pigeons were released with their valuable information, they would fly back to their home nests. While some written information could take months to be received, pigeons could relay the same in a matter of hours. This little-known slice of World War II history is an informative joy from start to finish — the idea of pigeons in parachutes participating in the repulsion of the Nazis is a glorious vision. — Barbara Hoagland, Morrow, $28.99


Writing with a style that reads not unlike a legal thriller or a true crime narrative, bestselling author and legal scholar Carter has crafted a beautiful, compelling tribute to his grandmother, Eunice Hunton Carter, an African-American lawyer who is most famous for devising the strategy that sent 1930s mob boss Lucky Luciano to prison. This biography is thoroughly researched, well-written and ultimately fascinating in its treatment of criminal law and civil rights. Not only was Eunice Carter an incredibly resilient and ambitious woman, she and her family seemed to be at the epicenter of African-American society during the Harlem Renaissance, an excellent background and setting. A must-read for anyone interested in 20th century history. — Rachel Haisley, Holt, $30

The Library Book, Susan Orlean

Using the disastrous 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Public Library — the damage it did, the recovery of the books not totally consumed, the actor suspected of setting it — as fulcrum for an examination of libraries in general, of the sometimes brilliant, often eccentric characters who populate them, the communities in which they exist, and the directions in which they are moving, Orlean propels the reader into the world of books and libraries with her customary blend of curiosity, acute reportage, and brio. Bristling with amazingly dedicated characters; alive with intrigue; drenched in book fact, book lore, books, this is perfect for bibliophiles, for lovers of true crime, for readers of any and every type. — Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $28

The Fabulous Bouvier Sisters: The Tragic and Glamorous Lives of Jackie and Lee, Sam Kashner and Nancy Schoenberger

This latest look at the lives of Lee Bouvier Radziwill and Jackie Kennedy Onassis provides an intimate description of their relationship as sisters as each struggled to carve out a place for herself in the turbulent times of the mid-20th century. Lee was generally considered more flamboyant and outgoing with a natural talent for beguiling anyone who came into her world. Jackie was always the shy intensely private sister, and, in that, their lives seem logically to be the inverse of the other. This is a wonderful read, an illuminating look at two of history’s most famous sisters. — Barbara Hoagland, Harper, $28.99

Insane Mode, Hamish McKenzie

This is not a tell-all, it’s McKenzie documenting the electric car revolution that will hopefully finally derrail Big Oil and strike a fatal blow to the combustion engine. Sure, Elon Musk is a character, a visionary, a genius, a man who has said “If you’re going through hell, keep going.” His money and his forceful, somewhat abrupt personality have kept Tesla afloat (sometimes barely) where other companies would have sunk without trace. This book details the company’s somewhat faltering first steps all the way through to the early versions of the ‘Autopilot’ self-driving Model S. An engrossing read. — Paula Longhurst, Dutton, $28
**The Game, Harvard, Yale and America in 1968**, George Howe Colt

The headline in *The New York Times* was “Harvard Beats Yale, 29-29.” Colt follows the Harvard and Yale football teams during the 1968 fall season when college football was still an amateur sport rather than professional as it is today. Coming into “The Game,” both teams are 8-0 and it ends in one of the most unlikely comebacks in college football history as Harvard, with no time left on the clock and down by 16 points with 42 seconds to play, somehow ties the score. Colt weaves in all the events of a tumultuous 1968, including Vietnam and the assassinations of MLK and RFK. The cast of characters includes Brian Dowling, Cal Hill, Carn Cozza, Vic Gatto, Tommy Lee Jones, even Meryl Streep. A book for those who want to look back into ’60s campus life and all the difficulty and turmoil that was going on while two great teams were giving people a diversion from these troubles. – John Neville, Simon & Schuster, $27

**In the Hurricane’s Eye: The Genius of George Washington and the Victory at Yorktown**, Nathaniel Philbrick

Another great book by Philbrick which focuses on the closing months of the American Revolution and George Washington’s strategy to force an end to the war. Washington, at this point, is the revolution and only his single-minded pursuit of victory is keeping the young United States of America from dissolving from within. The Continental Congress is a mess and cannot find a way to finance the war until Benjamin Franklin charms the French Monarchy into sending soldiers, a significant part of their navy, and agreeing to loan or underwrite the American war effort. Great accounts of significant battles, both land and sea, that finally tip the balance toward America and her French allies, and excellent maps and illustrations, especially of the naval engagements between the British and French fleets, make this perfect for the history lover. – Patrick Fleming, Viking, $30

**Rampage**, James M. Scott

General Douglas MacArthur’s dogged determination to free his beloved Manila from the Japanese and to rescue thousands of interned American and Allied civilians and prisoners of war is told in magnificent, minute, and bloody detail in *Rampage*. While not declaring Manila an open city as MacArthur had done in 1942, General Tomoyuki Yamashita had ordered his subordinate, Admiral Sanji Iwabuchi, to destroy the harbor and then join him in the hills. Iwabuchi decided he would fight on; his force of 16,000 naval personnel and Marines turned Manila into a honeycomb of fortifications that resulted in bloody street fighting. In the end his entire force was wiped out and an estimated 200,000+ Filipino civilians were killed. Not for the faint of heart, the battle is retold using official military histories and with brutal, disturbing frankness from eyewitness accounts of the massacres the Japanese inflicted upon the population in their desperate attempt to delay MacArthur. – Jack Mark, Norton, $32.95

**Einstein’s Monsters**, Chris Impey

Everything you wanted to know about black holes from their original discovery to detection methods to what happens when two gravity wells collide. Impey dispels visions of an always-on galactic vacuum cleaner, replacing them with a more elegant but no less enigmatic inhabitant of our solar system. – Paula Longhurst, Norton, $26.95

**The Battle of Arnhem: The Deadliest Airborne Operation of World War II**, Anthony Beevor

This is an action-packed book recounting the horrific Allied airborne operation called Market Garden in late September, 1944. Market Garden was conceived by the egocentric British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery as an alternative to General George Patton’s thrust through eastern France into Germany. In just three months after the successful Allied landing at Normandy, the Allies seemed to have the German Army on the run. Montgomery was miffed that Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower was not deferring to his plan to swing north through Holland and cross the lower Rhine near Arnhem. Not many of the other Allied generals thought it was a good idea, but Montgomery harangued Eisenhower unceasingly until Eisenhower gave in. What ensued was a disaster for the Allies and also for the Dutch people who had welcomed the British and American paratroopers as liberators only to see the Germans crush the invasion and seek revenge upon the Dutch. Full of maps, unit descriptions, and order of battle information that is usually lacking in books of this type, this is great for history buffs. – Patrick Fleming, Viking, $35

**The Reckonings**, Lacy M. Johnson

Johnson is constantly asked what she wants to happen to her kidnapper and rapist. Her answer is one of startling clarity and compassion. This is essential reading for those hoping to grapple with our human capacity to destroy and to create in equal measure. From wrongful executions to grieving widows and parents, from rapists to their victims, for racism, for pollution, for all the ways in which humans hurt one another, these essays invoke a timeless wisdom, speaking truths about what we foolishly still call unspeakable horror and tragedy. – Michaela Riding, Scribner, $26
**Lethal White**, Robert Galbraith
Billy Knight, a disturbed young man, walks into Cormoran Strike's offices, says he saw a young boy murdered and runs away before Strike can question him further. Strike has paying clients coming out of his ears, and Billy didn't hire him. There's just one problem—Strike believes him. Add in the tension created by his partner Robin's ill-conceived marriage and all the ingredients of a surpassingly good mystery are present in the fourth in this highly acclaimed series. And Galbraith (aka J.K. Rowling) doesn't disappoint! – Paula Longhurst, Mulholland, $29

**The Witch Elm**, Tana French
Toby has always coasted through life, happy-go-lucky, knowing that if he falls flat on his face, his parents will come running. Only his luck might've run out. After a night out with his mates, Toby disturbs a couple of burglars, and they beat the hell out of him, leaving him for dead. The police assigned to his case are not exactly sympathetic. Toby is playing down his injuries, guzzling painkillers to keep functioning, and about to step into an even worse situation when he and his devoted girlfriend are talked into babysitting Uncle Hugo at his big old house in the country….This is a stand-alone novel, not part of the Dublin Murder Squad series. – Paula Longhurst, Viking, $28

**Kingdom of the Blind**, Louise Penny
Armand Gamache and Three Pines reemerge like a scene from “Brigadoon” complete with all the dangers of the Quebec winter and the moral dilemmas of its residents. Gamache receives a request to be the “liquidator” of a will of an unknown woman called the Baroness. This mysterious request leads to a remote farmhouse and murder, but that is just one portion of the puzzle in *Kingdom of the Blind* where the one-eyed man is king. Followers of the Penny novels understand the complicated relationship between Gamache and his son-in-law and the power structure of the Surete du Quebec. Penny weaves plots slowly, methodically. It is not until the final chapters that readers realize how passionate Gamache has become and how quietly he controls the actions of all around him. Perhaps the book can be read as a stand-alone, but why? Begin at the beginning with *Still Life* and immerse yourself in the life of Three Pines. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur Books, $29.99 *Editor’s note: available November 27*

**The Clockmaker’s Daughter**, Kate Morton
Morton's latest novel is a compelling ghost story reminiscent of *Rebecca* or *Possession* with a beautiful and welcoming manor house at its heart. In the summer of 1862, a group of Victorian artists lives there until tragedy strikes: a woman is killed, a model vanishes, a priceless jewel is lost. From then on to the modern day, the house attracts a host of lonely seekers, bound together by the lure of the past. A literary mystery of delightful suspense. – Michaela Riding, Atria Books, $28

**A Ladder to the Sky**, John Boyne
Maurice Swift wants to be a famous writer and is willing to do anything to achieve that goal—literally anything. Boyne has created a character that is self-serving and disgusting at the beginning and, as the story progresses, continues on a downward spiral thanks to his gruesome, creepy, disgusting choices. Like Dorian Gray, Maurice Swift is completely amoral, and is FASCINATING. The novel reflects the places and personalities of the latter part of the 20th century. I am not sure I “liked” this book, but I could not put it down. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, $27

**The Feral Detective**, Jonathan Lethem
Lethem has returned to his roots, ladies and gentlemen! He has written another detective novel, his first since *Motherless Brooklyn*. Set in and around Los Angeles, *The Feral Detective* is the story of Phoebe, a bold woman filled with gusto and sarcasm, who enlists the help of detective Charles Heist (what a name!) to find her friend's daughter. The novel is filled with quirky characters, a wilderness commune, an opossum that lives in a desk drawer, and other expected Lethemian goings-on. *The Feral Detective* will sweep you up in a weird and rollicking adventure. – Jamie Ortwein, HarperCollins, $26.99

**The Comforts of Home**, Susan Hill
His last case almost killed him, but fate isn't done with Simon Serrailler yet. Most of Simon survived and now he's on sick leave on the bleak island of Taransay where he gets involved with the case of a missing local woman whom his visiting nephew Sam was the last one to see alive. He's also looking into a cold case which has been reignited by the oxygen of new publicity. Back in Lafferton, a string of arson attacks is running the police force ragged, while Simon's sister Cat is trying to settle down with her new husband (Simon's boss), but the unexpected arrival of the family patriarch, Richard, could throw a wrench into that relationship; Simon's return to Lafferton and subsequent re-opening of a cold case he feels was mishandled leads to explosive consequences. – Paula Longhurst, Overlook, $26.95
My Sister, the Serial Killer, Oyinkan Braithwaite
Plain, practical Korede seems to be forever cleaning up the messes (both literally and figuratively) of her beautiful, sociopathic younger sister, Ayoola, who has an unsettling tendency to kill her boyfriends in this mordantly funny thriller set in present-day Nigeria. Debut novelist Braithwaite’s sly, understated narrative paired with her sharp, wickedly witty voice perfectly accents the novel’s underlying questions about beauty, family, gender, and complicity in this unforgettable adventure of a read. – Rachel Haisley, Doubleday, $22.95

November Road, Lou Berney
Set against the backdrop of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, November Road is a dark, haunting tale of love and violence that tells the story of smooth, loyal mob lieutenant Frank Guidry, who has found himself knowing too much about the “crime of the century.” On the run from his powerful boss, Guidry’s rule is to keep running and not to stop, but as his pursuers inch closer, he can feel the proverbial noose tightening around his neck. When Frank sees Charlotte, a young housewife, and her two young daughters stranded with a broken-down car on the side of the road, he senses a perfect cover and offers them a ride. Charlotte is also on the run from an unhappy marriage and willingly takes off with Guidry, their predicaments rapidly mirroring into a deeper connection. Guidry soon finds himself falling for Charlotte, but how can he balance that with the hit man who is dogging his every step? – Rachel Haisley, Morrow, $26.99

The Collector’s Apprentice, B.A. Shapiro
Shapiro takes the reality of the art world and twists it into fictional scenarios which art lovers will recognize as close—but only close—to truth. In 1922, Paulien Mertens is alone in Paris after being abandoned by her lover, a con man who has stolen from her family and other art collectors. She uses her knowledge to attach herself to a rich American collector who takes her with him to Philadelphia, and when the collector is killed, she is accused of his death. A mystery concerning his death and the world of the Impressionists and Post-Impressionists with a little Hemingway and traces of the Barnes Collection thrown in for spice, this is perfect for those interested in the art of the period. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Algonquin Books, $27.95

Watching You, Lisa Jewell
You can just picture it: a hilly street in an expensive neighborhood in Bristol, England. The pub is just here and the excellent high school is just there, and things are just as they should be. Yet everyone is watching everyone—from upper-story windows, from backseats of cars, from the bus stop. Who is minding his own business and who is up to no good? In truth, very few of the neighbors are minding their own business, and a select few are really getting up to no good. You don’t know who the bad guy is until the very end! My favorite kind of mystery; you can read it in a night! – Anne Holman, Atria, $26

The Burglar, Thomas Perry
Thieving in Beverly Hills is keeping Elle Stowell from getting a real job, but her burglary career may be coming to a sudden end. Elle walks in on a blood-soaked murder scene at a wealthy art dealer’s house, and there’s a snuff tape with Elle as a walk on and live part at the end. She steals, doctors, and returns the tape and in so doing goes from thief to target. The police have no leads so she uses her skills to investigate why somebody with a lot of resources wants her dead. – Paula Longhurst, Mysterious Press, $26

Forever and a Day, Anthony Horowitz
Agent 007 is dead, found floating face down in the harbor in Marseilles. He was investigating a puzzling anomaly in the drug trade, and back in London M has to select his successor. James Bond is about to become a double O. – Paula Longhurst, Harper, $26.99

Shell Game, Sara Paretsky
The thing I love most about V.I. Warshawski is her implacable nature. Violence doesn’t stop her. Lack of sleep doesn’t stop her, and neither does a dauntingly complex tangle of motive and circumstance. Nor does the law itself, if it gets in the way of justice. Shell Game is a case in point. A niece who’s disappeared in suspicious circumstances and the nephew of a close friend suspected of murder entangle her with everyone from ICE to the corporate villains to the Russian mob, all trying to shut her up, shut down her investigation, stop her altogether. But no one can stop the indomitable V.I. Warshawski in a novel that hurtles like a bullet toward…but that would be telling. – Betsy Burton, Morrow, $27.99
**Little**, Edward Carey

*Little* is a big book, a page-turner filled with scrumptious details of anatomy, wax sculpture, and the French Revolution. An orphan, Marie, is renamed Little by all around her but particularly her benefactor the sculptor, Curtius, who teaches her to create wax body parts. With the sculptor, she moves from Alsace to Paris and into the home of a domineering woman who controls their lives. Danger is always lurking in a dark, forbidding Paris. Little is talented and kind and finds herself a stranger to the intrigue in the palace of Versailles in the midst of royalty and revolution. She escapes prison and death and keeps her head on her shoulders when others are losing theirs as she meets both royalty and rogues. The book is a romp filled with famous names and events and small, delightful illustrations. The final chapters bring the intrigue of 18th century France into focus. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Riverhead, $27

**Harvest of Secrets**, Ellen Crosby

In Atoka, Virginia, winemaker Lucie Montgomery is shocked to find old bones on her property outside the family cemetery during the harvest season at Montgomery Estate Winery. Evidence points to a young woman’s murder centuries ago. Then when a former acquaintance, Playboy and heir to the famous French De Marignac winery, shows up as the new head winemaker at a neighboring winery, he shares his fear that someone is out to kill him. A light mystery, full of twists and turns. – Sue Fleming, Minotaur, $26.99 Editor’s note: available November 6

**Mycroft and Sherlock**, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse

London 1872; young Sherlock Holmes is driving his brother Mycroft to distraction. He has developed an interest in macabre crimes, like the series of unsolved murders currently plaguing the capital. Mycroft tries to distract him, but the older Holmes soon finds himself investigating the same case as Sherlock from a different angle. Only problem is that neither Holmes will communicate with the other, and their failure to pool their considerable resources is going to get one of them killed. Abdul-Jabbar’s characters leap off the page in this cracking good read. – Paula Longhurst, Titan, $25.99

**The Red Ribbon**, H.B. Lyle

So, what happened to the Baker Street Irregulars when Sherlock retired? Lyle imagines their usefulness to the newly-formed Secret Service. Wiggins, an ex-soldier and ex-irregular, finds his training useful in finding German spies for Captain Vernon Kell and the secret intelligence service, which is in danger of being shut down by Special Branch, Churchill, and upper-class politicians. Kell’s men move from elegant brothels to upper-class Belgravia and from Whitehall to German prisons. *The Red Ribbon*, the second in Lyle’s series, is a quick read for those who enjoy an historical mystery with curious details of life in 1910 London. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Quercus, $26.99 Editor’s note: available November 16

**The Girl from Berlin**, Ronald H. Balson

When the owner of a Chicago Italian restaurant begs a lawyer and an investigator to travel to Tuscany to aid his aunt in a land dispute, off they go in a fast-moving legal drama. The dispute involves a powerful corporation and an elderly woman who has been on the land since WWII. In Germany in the ’30s, a talented Jewish violin prodigy who played for the Berlin Philharmonic, Ada Baumgarten, traveled from Germany to Mussolini’s Italy, her Nazi enemies following her. Now the Chicago lawyers must reach back into the war years to find evidence for the aunt’s right to the land—evidence somehow involved in the tale of Ada. Told through a bound, handwritten manuscript from the past, her tale finally merges with a modern legal adventure replete with lies and corruption. – Wendy Foster Leigh, St. Martin’s Press, $27.99

**Prague Spring**, Simon Mawer

Ellie, smart, complicated, fragile, has talked her friend and fellow-student James into a trek across Europe. Their relationship teeters on the brink of sexual, and the resultant push-pull is an ever present reality. As is the threat of Soviet aggression which looms over the blossoming freedom in 1968 Prague, where they wind up—Dubček still in power but Brezhnev massing troops at the Czech border. In Prague, the lives of the two students intersect with those of Sam Wareham, First Secretary of the British Embassy, and Czech student Lenka Konečková with whom Sam is falling rapidly in love. A wonderful setup for a thriller, full of defecting musicians, rebellious students, soldiers and spies, the threat of invasion increasing the danger surrounding them, the erotic tension between them. An elegy to a time of hope, this is not just about the harsh lessons of history but also about the ways passion bends perception. Mawer, an engaging storyteller, is an assured and elegant writer. – Betsy Burton, Other Press, $17.95 Editor’s note: available November 13
**SPECULATIVE FICTION**

**Scribe**, Alyson Hagy
Atmospheric and sensual, Hagy’s prose smolders against its setting: a post-apocalyptic American future in which the aftermath of civil war, outbreaks of deadly disease, and the increasing isolation and factionalization of the remaining population create a hostile world in which only the toughest, cleverest, and least feeling of people seem able to survive. *Scribe*’s narrator makes her living writing letters, a lost skill that few possess in this world. When a strange man with unclear motivations requests a letter, ghosts of the past seem to return, and all sorts of calamity are released. Hagy’s prose evokes Cormac McCarthy’s western fiction and Meagan Hunter’s conflicted femininity, while her imagery reminds one of the subtle darkness of Lucia Berlin’s short stories. This deceptively slim volume about the power of words and storytelling packs an unforgettable punch.

– Rachel Haisley, Graywolf Press, $16

**An Elderly Lady Is Up To No Good**, Helene Tursten
Tursten must have enjoyed writing this peculiar story of murder and morality about Maud, a lady who, at 88, lives alone and likes it. She has saved her money and now enjoys travel and the niceties of her large, inherited, rent-free, flat in downtown Gothenburg, Sweden. If others covet the beautiful flat or interfere with her peaceful existence, they should beware. Maud has simple ways of solving problems which often involve violence. In a subtle reference to Tursten’s popular Detective Inspector Irene Huss mystery series, the detective is called to the flat where Maud has found a dead body. Perhaps now Maud will be called to account for previous escapades. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, $12.99  Editor’s note: available November 18

**Marylebone Drop**, Mick Herron
Herron’s perfect short is set in a wintry London where there are spies and The Park and The Hub and of course the devious Lady Di—and a new candidate for Slough House? Fischer’s cafe in London isn’t the place you’d normally witness anything odd. Except Solomon Dortmund knows odd; noticing odd things has kept him alive in a very dangerous business. Even though Solly is long retired, his tradecraft is etched into his old bones and he knows a drop when he sees one. John Batchelor is an also-ran spook who does the ‘milk run’; he has one shining star on his resume, the recruitment of BND asset ‘Snow White’. John’s job is to keep the old spies comfortable in their dotage. In five years or less his job will just disappear. Running an agent isn’t something The Park thinks John is capable of but Solly’s information is about to change John’s life... – Paula Longhurst, Soho Press, $7.99

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

**Belonging: A German Reckons with History and Home**, Nora Krug
A graphic novel that is actually a memoir, this is unlike anything I have seen: the story of a woman who moves from Germany to the U.S. in the ‘80s only to have everyone question her about being a Nazi. She decides to go on a quest to uncover her family’s past in order to hopefully find her own place in the world. Filled with photographs, historical documents, and original artwork, Krug’s literal and figurative layers will leave you breathless. The amount of heart and detail (it’s completely handwritten!) put into her memoir is stunning. I love this work of art so much, I’ve read it twice. – Jamie Ortwein, Scribner, $30

**The Dream Daughter**, Diane Chamberlain
If you had the power to step back into the past, would you? If you knew the future, how would that knowledge affect the present? How much would you tamper with the lives of others in order to save a loved one? Confronted with sudden, startling possibilities, Carly must hurriedly determine not only the course of her life and that of her loved ones but also whether or not her unborn daughter deserves a chance to escape her own fate. Once the die has been cast, Carly finds that she must fight again and again to remain on the strange path that she has chosen. A compelling read, *The Dream Daughter* raises intriguing questions about the ethics of time-travel while exploring how to bear a twist of fate beyond our worst fears. – Elisa Eames, St. Martin’s, $27.99

**We Sold Our Souls**, Grady Hendrix
What happens when the frontman in your metal band sells your souls to the devil without you knowing? What happens when his big blow-out farewell music festival is actually a ritual that might just cause the apocalypse? Will you have what it takes to fight the oncoming evil with your wits, vast knowledge of heavy metal trivia, and your electric guitar? Kris Pulaski certainly does. When she finds out this exact thing is happening to her, she must gather her courage and gear up for one of the greatest performances of her life. This raucous novel will have you on the edge of your seat and head-banging your way through a fast-paced thrill ride. – Claire Margetts, Quirk Books, $24.99
**SPECULATIVE FICTION**

*The Forbidden Door*, Dean Koontz
The Arcadians use their media to paint rogue FBI agent Jane Hawk as the worst kind of murderer and intend to ‘adjust’ Clare and Ancel Hawk to back up their fake narrative. Jane knows nothing of this; she is driving like hell to rescue her 5-year-old son Travis because if he is captured, Jane’s spirit and heart will be broken. Her rescue plan brings some strange bedfellows together: criminals, former law enforcement, and an old retired wig maker. What she doesn’t know is that in their haste to flood the remote area where Travis is hidden with ‘adjusted people,’ the Arcadians have made a mistake, one that could play to Jane and her team’s advantage if it doesn’t kill them first.

– Paula Longhurst, Bantam, $28

*The Little Shop of Found Things*, Paula Brackston
A perfect combination of ghosts and time-travel, *The Little Shop* contains a sympathetic but nasty ghost who blackmails Xanthe Westlake into sailing back through time to rescue her daughter. Xanthe has the ability to recognize the power and history of found objects, a talent commonly possessed by those involved in the antique trade. Her discovery of a silver chatelaine from the 1600s forces her back into the 17th century where she meets a cast of characters who care for her as she cares for them. But, she must return to the present and her mother and the village in which they will start a new life. Brackston has created a wonderful escape novel for quiet times with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, St. Martin’s Press, $27.99

*Murder on Millionaires’ Row*, Erin Lindsey
Beginning as a traditional mystery, Lindsey’s book veers off-course when a “shade” interferes with police investigations… Rose Gallagher, Irish housemaid, is on a search for her employer who has been kidnapped by a Five Points gang. She is persistent and foolish, going into bars and warehouses which a young woman should avoid. Her employer turns out to be a Pinkerton detective. If only the villains had just been a Five Points Gang, her life would have been simple; however, these villains make use of ghosts and the supernatural. The book is a combination of historical mystery and speculative fiction with lively descriptions of New York City in its Golden Age.

– Wendy Foster Leigh, Minotaur Books, $19.99

---

**Some of TKE’s Bestselling Paperbacks This Year**
(how many have you read?)


*Killers of the Flower Moon*, David Grann

*Sing Unburied Sing*, Jesmyn Ward

*Lincoln in the Bardo*, George Saunders

*The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead

*News of the World*, Paulette Jiles

*Back Cast: Fly Fishing and Other Such Matters*, Jeff Metcalf

*Manhattan Beach*, Jennifer Egan

*All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr

*Dry*, Jane Harper

*Exit West*, Mohsin Hamid

*Pachinko*, Min Jin Lee

*Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline

*Crazy Rich Asians*, Kevin Kwan

*Dark Matter*, Blake Crouch

*Autumn*, Ali Smith

*Women in the Castle*, Jessica Shattuck

*Norwegian by Night*, Derek Miller

*Lab Girl*, Hope Jahren

*Americanah*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*Celine*, Peter Heller
Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Smith has gathered poems penned in communities across the urban and rural byways of our country by poets from Mark Doty to Joy Harjo, Layli Long Soldier to Solmaz Sharif, all of which will awaken our empathy, our understanding, our grief and our joy, in *American Journal: Fifty Poems for Our Time* (Graywolf, $14); and Thomas Merton’s *Silence, Joy* (New Directions, $11.95), edited by Christopher Wait, is an eclectic collection of poems and prose nuggets at once calming, joyous, wise; while Kathleen Hill’s *She Read to Us in the Late Afternoons: A Life in Novels* (Delphinium, $14) is a brilliant work on the ways literature can illuminate critical passages in our lives, enlightening and sometimes even transforming us. Brooke Rothshank’s *Tiny Gratiﬁcations* (Parallax, $18.95) adds art to the mix, offering 52 charming, miniature, tempera paint images of mundane items accompanied by mindfulness meditations offering new perspectives on gratitude. All ideal for almost anyone of an introspective bent.

For those who prefer life out on the town to a life of quiet, *Hip Hops: Poems about Beer* by Christopher Keller (Everyman’s Library, $14.95) offers up poems by everyone from Keats to Poe to Carl Sandberg (“Honkey Tonk in Cleveland Ohio!” Who knew?) celebrating the brewskies we guzzle with such glee, while on a more literary note (sort of) *Are You There God? It’s Me, Margarita: More Cocktails with a Literary Twist* (Running Press, $15), Tim Federle shaves and stirs 49 cocktails, 10 nonalcoholic, along with a panoply of bar bites and bar games all cleverly illustrated by Lauren Mortimer. Cheers!

For the cat lover in your life there’s Leonard Michaels’ *A Cat*, with an introduction by Sigrid Nunez (Tin House, $18.95), a compendium of feline behavior and a love letter to that most elusive and elegant of pets; for the cowboy in your life a collection in no way elegant but pithy, no question, *Western Plums in Gerd de Lay’s Cowboy Wisdom: Over 200 Quotes about the Old West*; for the punster in your life there’s *The Snuggle is Real: A Have a Little Pun Collection*, punningly illustrated by Frida Clements (Chronicle, $14.95); while for the murderously inclined (perhaps after hearing too many puns), we suggest P.D. James’ fiendishly clever *Sleep No More: Six Murderous Tales* (Vintage, $15).

For the literati in your life there are some wonderful novels new in paper, among them (on another fiendishly clever note) *Hag-Seed: William Shakespeare’s The Tempest Retold* by Margaret Atwood (Hogarth, $15); the prodigious and darkly humorous sequel to *Portrait of a Lady*, John Banville’s *Mrs. Osmond* (Vintage $15); the lyrical, brilliantly truth-telling *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward (Scribner, $17); Paddy Doyle’s haunting novel of memory, *Smile* (Penguin, $16); and Joan Silber’s wry and involving *Improvement* (Counterpoint, $16.95).

If it’s the gift of nonﬁction you’re bent on giving, try Kurt Anderson’s *Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500 Year History* (Random House, $18). How did that happen, anyway? Could it be our predilection for feelings over facts? No comment. But there’s also *Nomadland: Surviving America in the 21st Century* (sense a theme here?) by Jessica Bruder (Norton, $16.95). And ﬁnally, from a bit earlier this year but one helluva a read, one that gives another angle on the tale of how we came to be who we are, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann (Vintage, $16.95). Impossible to put down, impossible to forget.

Finally, lest we leave you on a dark note, if you haven’t read the first book by the author of the new and equally funny *The Shakespeare Requirement, Dear Committee Members* by Julie Schumacher (Anchor, $14.95) do so at once! And give one to everyone you know inside and outside of academia along with *News of the World* by Paulette Giles (Morrow, $15.99) neither brand new but both great reads guaranteed to cheer up the grumpiest among us—even during the holidays!
WHAT OUR BOOK CLUBS ARE READING NOW
All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL MYSTERY
3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
October: Betrayal at Iga, Susan Spann
November: Spider Woman’s Daughter, Anne Hillerman
December: Portrait of a Murderer: A Christmas Crime Story, Anne Meredith

BRIAN SHORT
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
October: Whistling Past the Graveyard, Susan Crandall
November: Circe, Madeline Miller

SLC LESBIAN
1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
Contact: Nicki Hill | nickihi@gmail.com | 801-362-9665
October: Vanishing Twins, Leah Dieterich
November: We Are Never Meeting in Real Life, Samantha Irby

SECOND MONDAY
2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m. $5
October: Between the World and Me, Ta-Nehisi Coates
November: Balcony in the Forest, Julien Gracq
December: Holiday Break

ROZ READS!
Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. Cost: $10 per evening paid to Roz. See www.roz-reads.com for details.
October: The October Country, Ray Bradbury
November: Sing, Unburied, Sing, Jesmyn Ward
December: Holiday Break

YA & WINE
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
October: The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein, Kiersten White
November: The Loneliest Girl in the Universe, Lauren James
December: The Astonishing Color of After, Emily X. R. Pan

THE WAFTING SCENT OF LAVENDER
THE SONG OF THE CIGALES
SUNSETS AND PERCHED VILLAGES
MARKETS AND WINERIES
ANTIQUES AND HISTORICAL SITES
COME AND EXPERIENCE THIS AND MUCH MORE AT LE LAVANDIN, A LUXURY BED AND BREAKFAST IN PROVENCE
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS AND ITS HOST GEORGIA PERRIN BALL AT WWW.LELAVANDINPROVENCE.COM TAKING RESERVATIONS NOW FOR THE 2019 SEASON.
INKSLINGER'S INKSLINGERS
Anne Brillinger
Betsy Burton
Ann Cannon
Hilary Dudley
Elisa Eames
Patrick Fleming
Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Deon Hilger
Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Wendy Foster Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Claire Margetts
Anne Stewart Mark
Jack Mark
Margaret Brennan Neville
John Neville
Jamie Ortwein
Michaela Riding

15TH STREET
1519 S 1500 E SLC 84105  801.468.1515

Join us for Gallery Stroll every third Friday of the month!

Stop in for unique holiday gifts, accessories, and original art.

Art | Gifts | Framing | Private Event Rental

Open Monday-Fridays 10am-6pm
Saturdays 10am-5pm
art@15thstreetgallery.com

Libro.fm Audiobooks, now giftable.

The King's English Bookshop
Matching books to readers since 1977
1511 South 15th East, Salt Lake City, Utah  84103
801-484-9100 | www.kingenglish.com