Our new holiday Inkslinger is chock-full of gift ideas, large and small, funny, sad, serious, mysterious... There are books for people who love the earth or Greek drama or history, for those who love art and good fiction and sports. And puzzles. Have you seen our puzzles? There are books for adults, for children, and for those in between. Also, please, save the final six pages of this issue for the time when the frenzy of gift-giving is past, and the holidays have drawn to an end. They are meant to tide you over until spring, due to circumstances beyond our control (joyous circumstances—our Inkslinger designer, Hilary Dudley, will be welcoming her new baby into the world), we won't be able to publish a winter Inkslinger in February. Full of books out in January and February, these six pages are our way of insuring that even without the winter Inkslinger you’ll have new books on hand when the snow is piled high and you’ve run out of reading.

In addition to giving you good news about the books on our over-stuffed shelves, we wanted to look back over the year just ending and give thanks: for the river of good books that flows so ceaselessly, the flood of customers who return week after week bringing friends and family along in their wake, and the parade of authors who’ve visited, enlightened and entertained us: authors we’ve interviewed—from Pam Houston in the spring to Amor Towles in the summer to Madeline Miller in the fall, along with (on stage and on tree tour) Richard Powers—and, from other incredible events we’ve hosted this year, authors we love from Heather Armstrong to David Sedaris to Richard Russo, to Christopher McDougal (with his donkey sidekick) to Alexander McCall Smith (complete with kilt!), to name but a few. As gifts, their books are hard to beat, but the memories of their visits are beyond good—for us and, I’m sure, for all of you who were with us for their appearances.

However fraught our world becomes, our hope is that we give you joy and a sense of community at TKE. And may we all have a wondrous holiday season and peace in the New Year.

Our King’s English Holiday Calendar

Friday, November 29 – Saturday, December 7 Shift Your Spending with Local First and save 15% off all week long as our way of saying thanks for shopping at 15th & 15th!

Saturday, November 30, Small Business Saturday means 20% off everything ALL DAY!! 11 a.m. Local author Mark Pett will read and sign his new picture book, I’m Not Millie!

6 p.m. Bestselling authors Shannon Hale and Dean Hale will discuss and sign the latest in their Princess in Black transitional reader series, The Princess in Black and the Bathtime Battle. Location TBA.

Friday, December 6, 5-7 p.m. Our Annual Holiday Bash! Kick off your holiday season up and down the street at 15th & 15th! Take 20% off everything at TKE, enjoy snacks and good cheer, and meet your favorite local authors with new books this year including Pat Bagley and Jeff Metcalf (see page 2 for details), Will Bagley, Katharine Coles, Rod Decker, Stephen Trimble, Amy and Greg Newbold, Lisa Michele Church, Matthew D. LaPlante, Jennifer Adams, Scott Perry, Christian McKay Heidecker, Dan Schilling, Paula Longhurst, and Nicole Tomlin.

Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m. Grow your heart three sizes with a special appearance by The Grinch (and a reading, of course). Kids: bring your adults!

Sunday, December 8, 9 a.m. Books & Bagels! Betsy, Anne and Margaret will be there to show you some books they’re excited about for holiday gift-giving and to help match them to the people on your list. Holiday Cheer Abounds! Free Delivery in Salt Lake! Free Gift Wrap! And we can mail your out-of-state purchases for you too! 20% off from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

See Page 2 for Adult Calendar, Page 3 for Children’s Calendar
Beyond Fun for the Holidays!

Tuesday, November 19, 7 p.m. Add unusual travel destinations to your bucket list as Patricia Schultz discusses and signs 1,000 Places to See Before You Die: The World as You Have Never Seen It Before.

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m. Artist and designer Maya Lin will deliver a lecture entitled “At the Intersection of Art and Architecture” at the University of Utah’s Kingsbury Hall as part of the Tanner Humanities Center’s Tanner Lectures on Human Values. This is a free event but tickets are required and can be found at Tickets.utah.edu.

Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m. Longtime fly fisherman Quinn Grover will discuss and sign Wilderness of Hope: Fly Fishing and Public Lands in the American West.

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m. Sadie Hoagland will read from and sign her new collection of stories, American Grief in Four Stages.

Friday, November 22, 7 p.m. University of Utah Professor and local favorite Jeff Metcalf will read from and sign his new novel, Wacko’s City of Fun Carnival.

Saturday, November 23, 4 p.m. Eleni Saltas will sign her debut cookbook, All You Can Greek.

Monday, November 25, 7:30 p.m. U of U law professor Amos Guiora will discuss and sign his new book, Populist and Islamic Challenges for International Law.

Friday, November 29 – Saturday, December 7 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 30 ALL DAY!! Shop at TKE and all of your favorite local merchants as part of Small Business Saturday. At TKE receive a 20% discount all day!

Friday, December 6, 5:30-7 p.m. Our Annual Holiday Bash! Kick off your holiday season up and down the street at 15th & 15th! Take 20% off everything at TKE, enjoy snacks and good cheer, and meet your favorite local authors with new books this year including Pat Bagley and Jeff Metcalf (see above), Will Bagley, Katie Coles, Rod Decker, Stephen Trimble, Amy and Greg Newbold, Lisa Michele Church, Matthew D. LaPlante, Jennifer Adams, Scott Perry, Christian McKay Heidecker, Dan Schilling, Paula Longhurst and Nicole Tomlin.

Sunday, December 8, 9-11 a.m. Books and Bagels! Enjoy bagels and coffee while King’s English booksellers Margaret, Anne, and Betsy present books for holiday giving. We’ll wrap and mail for you, too!

Wednesday, January 1, ALL DAY. It’s our annual New Year’s Day Sale! Take 25% off all the books (and everything else) on the shelves.

Don’t miss our annual New Year’s Day Sale, Wednesday, January 1, ALL DAY!
Thursday, January 16, 7 p.m. Erin Morgenstern, bestselling author of *The Night Circus*, will read from and sign her new novel, *The Starless Sea*. Event location TBA. Tickets for this event can be purchased on Eventbrite.com and include a copy of *The Starless Sea*.

Thursday, January 16, 7 p.m. Authors Kimiko Hahn and Lindsay Lusby will read from and sign their works, *Brain Fever & Toxic Flora* and *Catechesis: A Postpastoral*, as part of the University of Utah’s Guest Writers Series. This event will take place at Finch Lane Gallery, 54 Finch Lane.

Wednesday, January 29, 7 p.m. Local poets Lance Olsen and Melanie Rae Thon will read from and sign their poetry collections, *My Red Heaven* and *The Bodies of Birds & The 7th Man*, respectively.

Thursday, January 30, 7 p.m. Jacqueline Balderama will read from and sign her chapbook, *Nectar and Small*.

Monday, February 3, 7 p.m. Poets Don Bogen and Paisley Rekdal, who is our Utah Poet Laureate, will read from and sign their works as part of the Westminster Poetry Series. This event will take place at the Kim T. Adamson Alumni House, 1840 South 1300 East.

Thursday, February 6, 7 p.m. Jennifer Tyler Lee will discuss and sign her new cookbook, *Half the Sugar, All the Love*.

Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m. Robert Lopez and Patricia Smith will read from and sign their works as part of the University of Utah’s Guest Writers Series. This event will take place at Finch Lane Gallery, 54 Finch Lane.

Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m. Author and historian, Ibram Kendi, will discuss and sign his new book, *How To Be an Antiracist*.

Thursday, February 20, 7 p.m. Katherine Arden will read from and sign her novel, *The Bear and the Nightingale*. This event will take place at the Provo Library at Academy Square, 550 North University Ave.

Friday, February 21, 7 p.m. Dr. John Florsheim will read from and sign his nonfiction book, *Lost and Found: Young Fathers in the Age of Unwed Parenthood*.

Saturday, November 30, 11 a.m. Local author and illustrator Mark Pett will read and sign his new picture book, *I'm Not Millie!*

Saturday, November 30, 6 p.m. Author duo, Shannon Hale and Dean Hale, will read from and sign *The Princess in Black and the Bathtime Battle*. Location to be announced.

Saturday, December 7, 11 a.m. Bring the entire family for our annual reading of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, with a visit from The Grinch himself!

Friday, December 13, 5-8 p.m. Favorite children’s book author and illustrator, Jan Brett, will read and sign her new picture book, *The Tale of Tiger Slippers*. This event is free and open to the public and will take place at Providence Hall Elementary School at 4795 West Patriot Ridge Drive, Herriman.

Saturday, December 14, 6 p.m. Neal Shusterman will read from and sign the finale in the Young Adult Scythe trilogy, *The Toll*. Tickets can be found at Eventbrite.com and include a copy of *The Toll*.

Tuesday, January 14, 7 p.m. Local author Tiana Smith will read from and sign her new YA novel, *How to Speak Boy*. This event will take place at the Provo Library at Academy Square, 550 North University Ave.
Extravagant and Extraordinary Books for Holiday Giving

by Betsy Burton

Women: Take Note

In this, the era of the #MeToo movement, books about trailblazing women make perfect gifts for the feminist in your life and for those who love them. Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea Clinton’s The Book of Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience (Simon & Schuster, $35), evocative tales of the amazing women who inspired this famous mother/daughter duo—from (to name a few) Rachel Carson and Chimamanda Ngozi to Wangari Maathai and Malala Yousafzai, Harriet Tubman to Mary Beard—is one wonderful example. Another is Smithsonian American Women: Remarkable Objects and Stories of Strength, Ingenuity, and Vision from the National Collection (Smithsonian Institution, foreword by Jill LePore, edited by Victoria Pope and Christine Schurm). Throw in a copy of Lindy West’s formidable and funny cultural critique, The Witches Are Coming (Hachette, $27), Margaret Atwood’s Booker Award-winning novel The Testaments (Nan Talese, $28.95), or Gail Collins’ smart and readable No Stopping Us Now (Little, Brown, $30), each or every one perfect for the emancipated women in your life.

The Environment in Living Color, Endangered and Otherwise

This is also the year we’re going green (and God knows we’d better!), protecting the land, fighting for it, living joyfully on it, submerging ourselves in its beauty with the help of two large and lavish new books on our parks, Treasured Lands: A Photographic Odyssey Through America’s National Parks, Second Expanded Edition (QT Luong photographer, foreword by Dayton Duncan, Terra Galleria, $65) and Jon Waterman’s equally lovely and informative National Geographic Atlas of the National Parks (National Geographic, $65). Add a paperback copy of Terry Tempest Williams’ The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks (Picador, $19) and you’ll have a seminal way to plan or savor your experience in our most precious national treasures.

Or, if you have a yen to wander further afield, Patricia Schultz’s 1,000 Places to See Before You Die (Deluxe Edition): The World as You’ve Never Seen It Before (Artisan, $50) is a trove of travel temptations, many in the world of nature, all rich in ideas, colorful, and chock-full of facts, while in David Yarrow Photography: Americas Africa Antarctica Arctic Asia Europe (David Yarrow, foreword by Tom Brady, Rizzoli, $95) its photographs of animals in the wild in are mesmerizing and magnificent. Equally mesmerizing and vivid, though gut-wrenching in the extreme, is National Geographic the Photo Ark Vanishing: The World’s Most Vulnerable Animals (Joel Sartore, foreword by Elizabeth Kolbert, National Geographic, $40), a gallery of threatened species, many of which still exist only by the grace of scientists and conservationists.

Cats of domestic varieties are nowhere more elegantly presented than in Walter Chandoha. Cats. Photographs 1942–2018 (edited by Susan Michals and Reuel Golden, Taschen, $50), a paean to domesticated felines that is as sophisticated in its humor and as sleek in its lighting and line as Helmut Newton’s work, and something any cat lover (every family has at least one) will treasure. Finally, speaking of species, a book already flying off our shelves is The Art of the Bird: The History of Ornithological Art Through Forty Artists (Roger Lederer, University of Chicago, $35), a lavishly conceived and gloriously colorful testament to the ways in which the intense observation inherent in both art and science reveal the mysteries of the natural world. Magnificent! Magnificent also describes the sumptuous tome Mountains: By Magnum Photographers (Nathalie Herschdorfer, Pietro Giglio, Prestel, $60), while the word magisterial perhaps better epitomizes Emmet Gowin and Robert Adams’ heartbreaking The Nevada Test Site (Princeton, $49.95), a book that bears shocking witness to the moonscapes created in our beloved West by 40 years of atomic bombs and radioactive waste.

Finally, for the truly daring, there are such diverse and dazzling books as Cam Nonan’s Wanderlust USA: The Great American Hike (Gestalten, $50) and America’s Great Mountain Trails: 100 Highcountry Hikes of a Lifetime (Tim Palmer, foreword by Jamie Williams, Rizzoli, $50). And, for those who don’t suffer vertigo, Climbing Rock: Vertical Explorations Across North America (photographs by Jesse Lynch and Francois Lebeau, foreword by Peter Croft, Rizolli, $50) and Great Cycling Climbs: The French Alps (Graeme Fife, photographer, Peter Drinkell, Thames & Hudson, $39.95) will provide a welcome adrenaline rush for the holidays. Whew!
How Wide the Sky

Visual Galaxy: The Ultimate Guide to the Milky Way and Beyond (foreword by Chris Hadfield, National Geographic, $50) is a deep dive into the past, present, and future of our home galaxy, the Milky Way. Spectacular photographs are converted into interpretive graphics, starting with the sun and moving outward into space where stars are born, black holes lurk, and planets of diverse size and anatomy spin through their orbits. Detailed maps and fascinating imagery from recent space missions make this the gift of the year for amateur astronomers. Consider also, Light from the Void: Twenty Years of Discovery with NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory (Kimberly K. Arcand, Grant Tremblay, Megan Watzke, Belinda J. Wilkes, Smithsonian, $45) which showcases rarely-seen celestial phenomena such as black holes, planetary nebulae, galaxy clusters, gravitational waves, stellar birth and death. Images start close to home and move from the Chandra launch outward into the solar system, through a nearby universe, and finally on to the most distant galaxies. Just imagine....

Life as Art, Art as Life

Our art shelves at TKE are jam-packed with a myriad of lavish books on individual artists from Rothko to Rembrandt to Rusty Brown, Basquiat to Kurt Beers. Match a taste for the modern with Mark Rothko: The Exhibitions at Pace by Arne Glimcher (Callaway Arts and Entertainment, $125), a comprehensive look at the prolific Rothko’s early modernist work and the way it widens and deepens into abstraction with his unprecedented use of color. Or, there’s the memorable Warhol on Basquiat: The Iconic Relationship Told in Andy’s Warhol’s Words and Pictures (edited by Michael Dayton Hermann, Reuel Golden and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Taschen, $70), an electrifying look at a complex and intriguing partnership between two groundbreaking artists, seen through photographs of both these two artists and their art. Fascinating. Finally, Kurt Beer’s 100 Sculptors of Tomorrow (Thames and Hudson, $60) features cutting-edge, often eye-popping work from the finest emerging sculptors worldwide.

A masterful match to those with reverence for the old masters is provided by any one of the three magnificent new volumes (or, for the gift of the century, all three) on the Dutch master: Rembrandt. The Self-Portraits (Volker Manuth and Marieke de Winkel, Taschen, $70) which contains over 80 works that not only reveal the artist himself from every possible perspective but also complex variations in light and angle, palette and patina as his art matured; Rembrandt. The Complete Drawings and Etchings (Erik Hinterdingend, Peter Schatborn, Taschen, $200) which provides, through 708 drawings and 314 etchings, a stunning reflection on the keen eye and depth of emotion that underlie all his work; and lastly, Rembrandt. The Complete Paintings (Volker Manuth, Marieke de Winkel, Rudie van Leeuwen, Taschen, $200) which reveals the master in all his glory, the intricacies of line, of light and shadow, each subject’s individual presence emerging through Rembrandt’s superb renderings of expression and of the trappings of power. Finally, in Leonardo da Vinci: Complete Paintings Revised (Pietro C. Marani, Abrams, $100), every known painting is discussed and analyzed, the glorious color plates have been refreshed, and three previously unattributed paintings have been added in a book every art connoisseur should have—while, for those who prefer the masters of later centuries, Basic Art Series: TEN in ONE: Impressionism (Taschen, $40) provides, in provocative text and magnificent color, the art and lives of Cézanne, Degas, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Renoir, Rousseau, Seurat, Toulouse-Lautrec, and van Gogh.

Whether in the form of graphic novels, comic books, comic strips, or minimal realism, books designed for graphic art fans abound on our shelves at TKE from Chris Ware’s Rusty Brown (Pantheon, $35), a brilliant new graphic novel telling complex, interactive, thought-provoking stories, to The Art of Nothing: 25 Years of Mutts and the Art of Patrick McDonnell (Lynda Barry, commentator, Abrams, $40) showcasing McDonnell’s years of comic strip (Mutts) and children’s book illustrations, graphic works beloved by fans of all ages and walks of life. These are books to remember at gift-giving times. As, for the aficionados of the art of design on the internet, is Web Design. The Evolution of the Digital World 1990–Today (Rob Ford and Julius Wiedemann, Taschen, $50) which explores the visual and technological advances of web design in rich graphic detail from 1998 to the eye-popping present.
Art Onstage: the Worlds of Music, Dance, and Film

For the Love of Music: A Conductor’s Guide to the Art of Listening (John Mauceri, Knopf, $25.95) by a protégé of Leonard Bernstein is a wonderful exploration of the birth and global spread of what we now know as classical music, and the ways in which this music evokes emotion and expresses meaning to all who listen. And speaking of listening, Listening for America: Inside the Great American Songbook from Gershwin to Sondheim (Rob Kapilow, Liveright, $39.95) brings to life songs by the composers of the great American songbook from Jerome Kern to Cole Porter, Ira Gershwin to Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers to Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, music beloved by millions (including my parrot, Bartok!); and Country Music: An Illustrated History (Dayton Duncan and filmmeister Ken Burns, Knopf, $35), a colorful and wildly entertaining companion to the amazing PBS special by the same name, virtually sings with the iconic music of vocalists from Hank Williams to Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton to Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash to Merle Haggard (who knew they shared a jail cell?); while Morning Glory on the Vine: Early Songs and Drawings (Joni Mitchell, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt $40) faithfully reproduces an exquisite hand-crafted book containing hand-written lyrics and poems, illustrated with Mitchell’s drawings. At the other end of the spectrum Music: A Subversive History (Ted Gioia, Basic Books, $35) tells the tales of outsiders and rebels whose names have been suppressed or forgotten but whose music often seeded mainstream music—and, in a category by itself, Guitar: The World’s Most Seductive Instrument (David Schiller, Workman, $35) is a slip-cased wonder of legend, lore, and full-color photographs of 200 famous guitars, a must-have for anyone and everyone who loves the guitar, its music or its history.

Jerome Robbins, by Himself: Selections from His Letters, Journals, Drawings, Photographs, and an Unfinished Memoir (Jerome Robbins and Amanda Vaill, Knopf, $40) showcases a man for all seasons, a choreographer extraordinaire who created the vernacular of American ballet, helped shape the New York City Ballet, and re-invented Broadway (“The King and I”, “Gypsy”, “Fiddler on the Roof...”); while the utterly entertaining The Movie Musical! (Jeanine Basinger, Knopf, $45) features such stars as Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly, Shirley Temple and Judy Garland, Elvis and Ann Margret; and the stunning The Style of Movement: Fashion & Dance (Ken Browar, foreword by Deborah Ory Valentino, introduction by Pamela Golbin, Rizzoli, $75) is a marriage of style and movement, as intriguing as it is glamorous.

The Written Word Illustrated: Fantasy and Horror

For writers of speculative fiction, few books are as beloved as Dune, which won the first Nebula Award. A new hardcover edition, brilliantly illustrated, Dune: Deluxe Edition (Frank Herbert, Ace, $40) reimagines in vivid color the desert planet Arrakis and peoples it with shadowy presences, making this the ideal gift for lovers of science fiction, as, for those whose speculative taste runs more to the gothic, does The New Annotated H.P. Lovecraft: Beyond
Arkham (H.P. Lovecraft, edited by Leslie S. Klinger, introduction by Victor LaValle, Liveright, $39.95). This final volume of the 2014 annotated edition reanimates 25 short stories and, like its predecessor, is rich with eye-opening annotations and rare images to tease the imagination. One final suggestion for an ideal book to stir the imagination is Archipelago: An Atlas of Imagined Islands (edited by Huw Lewis-Jones, Thames and Hudson, $35), a glorious paean to imaginary islands (such as that discovered by Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe) in which a host of international illustrators have imagined a fabulous archipelago of invented islands sure to beguile the illustrators, cartographers, and dreamers in your life.

Interpreting the Past

In The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts (Karen Armstrong, Knopf, $35) the Quran, Torah, and Bible, all too often coopted by fundamentalists who insist on literal interpretations, were, according to Armstrong, originally meant to be tools used to enable the reader to connect with the divine. Her fresh take on the sacred is illuminating in many ways, among them the similarities that may help us bridge our differences. As always her work is profound and inspiring. Inspiring in a different way is World War II: Infographics (Jean Lopez, Nicolas Aubin, Vincent Bernard, and Nicolas Guillerat, foreword by Jonathan Fenby, Thames and Hudson, $35), which provides an innovative and utterly imaginative way to deliver the facts of war. In World War II, using graphic art to pursue and connect over 60 themes from the Nazi concentration camp system to Operation Barbarossa to the American operation in the Pacific. Fascinating to consider, stunning to look at, this is the perfect gift for the armchair historian. As is FDR at War Boxed Set: The Mantle of Command, Commander in Chief, and War and Peace (Nigel Hamilton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $75). The definitive three-volume history that FDR did not live to write, this is the story of World War II from his perspective, showing his mastery of strategy, his vision, and how he overcame resistance in our country. Groundbreaking in culinary circles is American Cuisine: And How It Got This Way (Paul Freedman, Liveright, $39.95), hailed by critics as an impeccably researched look at our cuisine and its place in the culinary firmament. Freedman traces the regional roots of our cuisine and decries the plague of food industrialization, creating in the process an exciting picture of food in our country. Groundbreaking in another way is James Beard award-winning food writer Michael Ruhlman’s lavishly illustrated From Scratch: 10 Meals, 175 Recipes, and Dozens of Techniques You Will Use Over and Over (Michael Ruhlman, Abrams, $40), which looks at 10 favorite meals—everything from roast chicken to paella to the perfect omelet—adding imaginative and savory complexity to each, creating whole new meals, side dishes or variations for leftovers.

Creating a Delectable Present

No kitchen is complete without Joy of Cooking, so what better gift than Joy of Cooking: 2019 Edition Fully Revised and Updated (Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker, Ethan Becker, John Becker, Megan Scott, Scribner, $40) to replace the battered, food-stained copy in your pantry? Tried and true recipes are retried, retasted, and in some cases revised, and over 600 new recipes have been added to keep up with our nutrition-based, quick-cooked, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free times. Another publishing sensation in the culinary world is America’s Test Kitchen Twentieth Anniversary TV Show Cookbook: Best-Ever Recipes from the Most Successful Cooking Show on TV (America’s Test Kitchen, $40), the newest book from TV’s longest-running and most popular public television show, full of must-have new recipes and commentary from the show, all with the color and clarity we’ve come to expect from another kitchen staple.

A Little Bit of This, A Little Bit of That

For the gardener in your life, The Tulip: Twentieth Anniversary Edition (Anna Pavord, Bloomsbury, $60), a bible of earthly delights newly reissued and lavishly illustrated and updated, not only contains the fascinating history of the tulip, but also provides up-to-date facts about the newest and best varieties to dream about planting in your slumbering flowerbeds while your partner dreams his or her own way through the pages of NFL 100: A Century of Pro Football (National Football League, edited by Rob Fleder, foreword by Peyton Manning, Abrams, $50), perusing its infographics and statistics, its photographs of famous players, reading the NFLs history—or perhaps browses through the lavishly illustrated and informative The Story of Tools: A Celebration of the Beauty and Craftsmanship Behind the Tools of Handmade Trades (Hole & Corner, Pavilion, $32.50), covets the Lamborghinis and Alpha Romeos, the Jensen FPs or Porsche 918 Spiders in Beautiful Machines (edited by Gestalde and Blake Z. Rong, preface by Jan Baedeker, Gestalten, $69) or the ’62 Corvettes, ’57 Thunderbirds, 1930 Bimmers, the ’64 Shelby Cobras, Tesla Model Xs, or Aston Martin Vulcans in 100 Dream Cars: The Best of “My Ride” (A.J. Baime, foreword by Mario Andretti, Rizzoli, $45). Just hope he or she doesn’t ask for one of the above for Christmas or Hanukkah! Speaking of which, Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night!
Stocking Stuffers: Short Takes

**Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders: The Power of Human Migration and the Way That Walls and Bans Are No Match for Bravery and Hope**

Sending a powerful message about human migration, more than 50 artists have created postcards curated by the International Centre for the Picture Book in Society. Images and words from South Africa and Sweden, Chile and the Czech Republic, Iran and Indonesia—more than 25 countries in all—are now gathered into a stunning keepsake volume that is the perfect gift in this dark time. – Candlewick, $17.99

**Classic Krakauer, Jon Krakauer**

Fans of Krakauer will enjoy this trip through some of his most famous pieces previously published only in magazines. Caving in New Mexico, riding the Maverick, a catastrophic avalanche on Everest and wilderness therapy gone bad, are just a few of the experiences Krakauer describes. His storytelling skills shine in these stories. Great stocking stuffer. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, $15

**Be More RBG: Speak Truth and Dissent with Supreme Style, Marilyn Easton**

Whether you feel like your dream career is a million miles away, you’re struggling with your gym routine, or you want to change the world but don’t know how to start, ask yourself: What would RBG do? Then find the answers in Be More RBG, which is full of witty and wise quotes from Associate Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and tongue-in-cheek advice for every situation. – DK, $9.99

**Joy: 100 Poems**, edited by Christian Wiman

Ranging from Emily Dickinson to Mahmoud Darwish and from Sylvia Plath to Wendell Berry, the diverse and provocative works Wiman brings together are a kind of counter to the old, modernist maxim “light writes white”—no agony, no art. A timely reminder of the essential role joy plays in human life. – Yale, $20

**Pocket Queer Wisdom: Inspirational Quotes and Wise Words from Queer Heroes Who Changed the World**, Hardie Grant

WorldPride was held in the United States in 2019! These portraits and pearls of wisdom from the likes of Freddie Mercury, Virginia Woolf, Laverne Cox, Harvey Milk, and Audre Lorde mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and a half-century of LG-BTQA+ liberation. – Hardie Grant, $9.99

**Elemental Haiku: Poems to Honor the Periodic Table, Three Lines at a Time**, Mary Soon Lee

Perfect for scientists, poets, or anyone with a sense of humor these short, pithy lines such as: “Nickel, Ni: Forged in fusion’s fire/flung out from supernovae./Demoted to coins are both whimsical and memorable.” – Tenspeed, $14.99

**Leonardo da Vinci’s Flying Machines Kit: Paper Airplanes Based on the Great Master’s—Sketches That Really Fly, Andrew Dewar**

Among the most unusual of stocking stuffers, this remarkable new collection of paper plane models by renowned paper artist Andrew Dewar presents replicas of 13 of da Vinci’s most famous aviation inventions—most of which actually fly! In addition to detailed instructions, colorful diagrams, and sturdy pop-out paper pieces, this comes complete with launcher! – Tuttle, $14.99

**Peculiar Questions and Practical Answers: A Little Book of Whimsy and Wisdom from the Files of the New York Public Library**, New York Public Library, illustrated by Barry Blitt

They say that curiosity killed the cat but sometimes it can tickle the funny bone instead in these whimsically illustrated cartoon illustrations featuring the odd and sometimes beyond unusual questions encountered by the staff of the New York Public Library. Examples? “What kind of apple did Eve eat?” or “How many neurotic people are there in the U.S.?” or “Does anyone have a copyright on the bible?” – Griffin, $18.99

**Who Said That?: Take the Quote Quiz Challenge**, Owen Frank

Sitting around with nothing to do? One liners by everyone from Rene Descartes to Patti Smith, Mother Theresa to Charlie Brown to Mohammed Ali—along with a multitude of different ways to play the game—make this the perfect way to while away a snowy winter evening. – Workman, $9.95

**Cats Are the Worst, Bexy McFly, Megan Lynn Kott**

Watercolors and humor illustrate cat-attitude at its worst (or best), perfect for anyone blessed (or plagued) with cats in their lives. – Chronicle, $14.95
And finally, for those who just need to CALM DOWN, *52 Lists for Calm: Journaling Inspiration for Soothing Anxiety and Creating a Peaceful Life*, Moorea Seal, helps you to do just that! – Sasquatch, $16.95

Here’s a list of a few favorite novels, all new in paper, which would be welcome in the stockings (or mittens) of any booklover:

**The Overstory**, Richard Powers, Norton, $18.95

**Warlight**, Michael Ondaatje, Vintage, $16.95

**Virgil Wander**, Leif Enger, Grover Press, $17

**Bridge of Clay**, Marcus Zusak, Random House Children’s, $26

And some great nonfiction:


**On Desperate Ground**, Hampton Sides, Anchor, $17

**Mad, Bad, Dangerous to Know**, Colm Tóibín, Scribner, $18

**American Dialogue**, Joseph Ellis, Vintage, $17

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**WHAT OUR BOOK CLUBS ARE READING NOW**

All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.

**ROZ READS!**

Cost: $10 per evening paid to Roz.

Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.

See www.rozreads.com for details

- **December 2, 3, 4:** *Warlight*, Michael Ondaatje
- **January 27, 28, 29:** *Sula*, Toni Morrison
- **February 24, 25, 26:** *So Long, See You Tomorrow*, William Maxwell

**BRIAN SHORT**

2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

- **November:** *Duped: Double Lives, False Identities, and the Con Man I Almost Married*, Abby Ellin
- **December:** *Disappearing Earth*, Julia Phillips (this month we are meeting at a member’s home; email JoAnn at joeyship@gmail.com for directions).

**POETRY**

4th Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.

Contact Trudy for more information at ttodd@hotmail.com

- **January:** *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, Joy Harjo
- **February:** *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, Ross Gay
- **March:** *Incarnadine*, Mary Szybist

**SLC LESBIAN**

1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.

Anderson-Foothill Library, basement meeting room.

For more information, contact slc.lesbian.bookclub@gmail.com

- **January:** Break - No book club
- **February:** *Tell It to the Bees*, Fiona Shaw

**X NEWMAN**

New members welcome!

Contact Ken at kpjameson@gmail.com.

- **December:** *Before We Were Yours*, Lisa Wingate

**YA & WINE**

2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.

Please contact Sarah Cleverley (scler087@gmail.com) or Krysti Meyer (krystimuggle@gmail.com).

- **November:** *Ninth House*, Leigh Bardugo
- **December:** *The Afterlife of Holly Chase*, Cynthia Hand
The Testaments, Margaret Atwood

The Handmaid’s Tale sent readers into shock. As women’s rights were eroded and then taken away completely in the renamed land of Gilead, leaving them with no function but procreation, we asked ourselves, Could such a thing happen here? Unsettling to read in the 1980s when the book first came out, now, nearly 35 years later, in a time of massive, frightening change, for many of us who can’t see a path forward, it seems as if all of us are headed into some Gilead-like wilderness. The Testaments, Atwood’s sequel to The Handmaid’s Tale, provides a beacon in this dark time. Three women—one, the daughter of an escapee who’s been living in Canada; the second the daughter of a Gilead commander; the third the leader of the “aunts,” the group of women who hold power in Gilead, insuring the subjugation of their sisters—have all left records of a time when Gilead’s iron grip on its citizens is slowly eroding and hope is beginning to blossom. A blistering read that swings the reader from hope to fear and back again, The Testaments is impossible to put down and, once finished, fodder for thought and much discussion. We have a group forming at the store for just such a discussion, many other book groups are choosing it, and customers come into the store wanting to talk about it with booksellers—something we are always thrilled to do. I for one loved The Testaments and am giving it to everyone I know. – Betsy Burton, Nan Talese, Doubleday, $28.95

Frankissstein, Jeanette Winterson

During her stay in a dank and dreary house on Lake Geneva, 19-year-old Mary Shelley is inspired to write the story of a scientist who creates a new life. Her tale is told alongside Ry’s, a young transgender scientist in Brexit-era Britain who is falling in love with Victor Stein, an AI mogul leading a very public debate about artificial intelligence who is also performing some questionable experiments of his own in an underground laboratory. Stylistically evoking her earlier beloved novel Sexing the Cherry and shortlisted for the 2019 Booker Prize, Frankissstein is an audaciously powerful love story that weaves storylines into a novel that is an exploration of transhumanism, artificial intelligence and queer love by an author at the top of her game. – Rachel Haisley, Grove Press, $27

Wacko’s City of Fun Carnival, Jeff Metcalf

When Hub Walker gets arrested trying to buy a bottle of whiskey at the local liquor store, it sets in motion a chain of events only Jeff Metcalf could imagine. A high schooler, Hub has already had one or two run-ins with the law, and in his young mind, he was on his way to Juvie for sure. So when an opportunity arises to steal a cop car and escape, it seems like a good idea. One crazy thing leads to another and before we know it, Hub has fled to Wyoming and joined Wacko’s City of Fun Carnival. He seems well-suited to the carnie lifestyle—plenty of beer, interesting people and a beautiful barrel-racing cowgirl who steals his heart. But no sooner has the carnival pulled into Cheyenne than things begin to go sideways. You might ask where this story, by turns tender and hilarious, comes from; although written as a novel, many, if not all, of these events actually transpired! – Anne Holman, TKE Ink, $17.95

Olive, Again, Elizabeth Strout

In her sequel to the Pulitzer Prize-winning Olive Kitteridge, Strout brilliantly weaves together Olive’s narrative as an 80-year-old with that of her community’s, capturing moments of natural beauty even while dealing with its very human stories. This book is, quite simply, a masterpiece. “I do not have a clue who I have been,” is the thought Strout leaves readers with. I may not know myself, but I know a great novel when I read one! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random House, $27
teoric rise to success. Years later, Madison asks Lillian for a second favor. Lillian says yes again and rightly wonders if she will literally be able to survive this one. All bets are off in this novel where a brother and sister burst into flames whenever they feel upset. – Michelle Macfarlane, Ecco, $26.99

**On Swift Horses**, Shannon Pufahl

It is the late 1950s. The Korean War is over and Vietnam is just getting started. For brothers Julius and Lee, newly home on leave, getting out of Kansas and starting anew in San Diego means the beginning of their American Dream. For Lee, it’s about his new wife Muriel and the promise of a house in the suburbs. For Julius, things are less clear. These were still early days in the West—from the tops of hotels on Fremont Street in Las Vegas folks were watching atomic bombs blow up, and decency laws still lived on the books and in people’s minds. As we follow Julius and Muriel alternately, we see two people, part of the Greatest Generation, trying to be true to themselves.

– Anne Holman, Riverhead, $27

**Grand Union: Stories**, Zadie Smith

Smith’s range of writing in the 19 stories gathered here in her newest book show off her strength as a mature author. They offer something for everyone, some dystopian and/or post-apocalyptic, others political or social satire, still others historical fiction. These stories are often tough. As in all her fiction, Smith refuses to back away from hard subjects such as racism, aging or sexual experimentation. Her fans have a treat in store. – Jan Sloan, Penguin Press, $27

**She Was Like That**, Kate Walbert

Motherhood, with its many complicated emotions, takes center stage in Walbert’s new collection of short stories. Her books always pack a spare yet emotional punch and this collection is no exception. Women’s relationships with themselves and each other are always at the heart of her work, and here she delivers a nuanced look at gender with tales that range from that of a woman losing her daughter in the Times Square M&M world to one who runs into the former boss that made her choose between her career and a family. A master at revelation, Walbert shows readers some of those tucked-away feelings in the hearts of her characters, all recognizable. – Mackenzie Van Engelen-hoven and Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster, $26

**Divide Me By Zero**, Lara Vapnyar

Let go of what you think belongs on the pages of a novel and read this one. Notes to the reader, advice on math, geometrical illustrations, a pain scale poster, photographs of Leonid Brezhnev and George Bush—it all adds up in this complex story of a woman trying to make it in the world as a new single-parent, a woman whose own mother is dying. Vapnyar’s frank narrative style is as unflinching as her characters take on life. – Michelle Macfarlane, Tin House Books, $24.95

**The Starless Sea**, Erin Morgenstern

When Zachary Ezra Rawlins discovers a mysterious book in his university library, he enters magical doors to search for the starless sea. The magic of bees, keys, feathers and crowns appears to guide Zachary into secret worlds. Zachary and his two friends are at the core of the novel, but names change, locations rise and fall and time moves them through stories of life and death. There is no way *The Starless Sea* can be portrayed as a traditional novel with a simple beginning, middle and end. Both fantasy in the traditional sense and a 21st century video game, this book is an homage to stories, past, present and future in which characters move through time and space confronting the personification of myths, fairy tales, dreams and nightmares. Morgenstern has outdone herself in this follow-up to *The Night Circus*; old fans and new readers alike will be enthralled. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, $28.95

**Fleishman Is in Trouble**, Taffy Brodesser-Akner

Toby Fleishman is in trouble all right. He and his wife Rachel have been separated for only a couple of months, and she has gone AWOL. Even though he’s a successful New York City surgeon, raising two kids and paying for their private schools, camps, lessons, etc. is expensive—and hard without a partner to share the load. Add to that his new dating app filling up with nude photos of seemingly every available woman in Manhattan and beyond and Toby has much to consider. At times hilarious, this is a tender book about being forced to reexamine your life and the choices you’ve made so far. And then to choose differently. – Anne Holman, Random House, $27
Right after the Weather, Carol Anshaw
Cate, a set designer, stumbles across a violent scene in which her best friend is victim. The effect of Cate's response changes her life forever. Set in Chicago within the art world and told with exquisite prose, Anshaw has created characters who represent those found today, some functioning well and others barely existing in a world of sociopathy and addiction. Unforgettable, this strong novel follows Anshaw's successful Carry the One, which received Simon & Schuster's award for favorite book of 2012. – Sue Fleming, Atria, $27

The Giver of Stars, Jojo Moyes
Moyes' new novel introduces the reader to Eleanor Roosevelt's Pack Horse Library Initiative, an important part of the WPA program. We meet five women willing to brave the elements, the backwards ways and the sexism of Depression-era Kentucky to bring books, magazines, recipes, quilt patterns and literacy itself to the tiny communities of Appalachia. Moyes' story follows young English bride Alice Wright as she struggles to adapt to her new home, her cold and standoffish husband and her overbearing father-in-law. When she meets Margery O'Hare and learns of the Pack Horse Library, she finds some semblance of independence while doing her "civic duty." Alice is unaware and innocent of the long days, hardship and dangers that she and the other riders will face, but the friendships and camaraderie prove supreme. With impeccable research, Moyes brings this tale to beautiful and realistic life. I felt the bitter cold, the searing heat, and the beauty of the countryside under her sensory guidance. – Anne Stewart Mark, Penguin Random House, $28

One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder for the Spiritual and Nonspiritual Alike, Brian Doyle
Tender, funny, real, smart are all words that describe this diverse assortment of writings and musings by the late Brian Doyle. In everything from a letter to his brother Kevin and a narrative about meeting the Dalai Lama in which the two bond over sports, to the fraught topic of dealing with cancer, these short gems will make you gasp, chortle, shed a tear, and will challenge readers to make the most of every day. Not only is this a book you will treasure yourself, it will make the perfect holiday gift for anyone and everyone. I loved it! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Hachette, $27

A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith, Timothy Egan
Part travelogue, part history lesson and part search for life's meaning and the impact of faith on that search. Egan, prompted by family tragedy, sets out on his own personal search for God along the Via Francigena, a 1,200-mile route from Canterbury to Rome. The VF, now a well-travelled footpath, began when the Bishop of Canterbury travelled to Rome to visit the Pope in the year 990. Over the centuries the VF has become a major pilgrimage for those in search of the meaning of a "God-Belief," as well as for those merely looking for a strenuous holiday outing. Great maps and good story-telling make this a captivating book about man's search for the footings of faith. – Patrick Fleming, Viking, $28

The Body: A Guide for Occupants, Bill Bryson
In his latest, Bill Bryson, a true Renaissance man, has given us a tour-de-force tour of the human body in a detailed and revelatory look into this most complicated organism. Microbes, the workings of the heart and lungs, the skeleton, the intestines, the immune system are all examined and analyzed. Little-known anecdotes about the body are explained as only Bryson can do—with wit and intelligence. In terms that the layman can understand and appreciate, the man who walked the Appalachian Trail and explained the history of the house has now given us, through nearly five years of research, the very best layman's explanation of the workings of the human body. – Barbara Hoagland, Doubleday, $30
**Catch and Kill**, Ronan Farrow

2017: Farrow was working at NBC on a routine investigation when he started hearing rumors of a powerful movie producer whose predatory behavior was an ‘open secret’ in Hollywood. As he continued to dig, Farrow found the bones of stories that had been suppressed for years of actresses afraid to go on camera for fear of retaliation—all sickeningly similar to one another. At the center of this conspiracy of silence stood Harvey Weinstein, a man who didn’t seem to understand that when a woman said ‘no’ she meant it. Weinstein’s attempts to suppress yet another story about his behavior included a shady security firm staffed by ex-Mossad operatives, as well as private detectives who shadowed Farrow from New York to Los Angeles, staking out his apartment and hacking his phone. The National Enquirer brought intense legal pressure to bear on Farrow, his producer, and even his own network in order to bury the story. To his credit, Farrow kept going, defying NBC (who do not come out of this smelling of roses) and eventually taking his story to The New Yorker. A page-turning true-crime thriller that proves that one person can make a difference. – Paula Longhurst, Little Brown, $30

**The Witches Are Coming**, Lindy West

From the moment powerful men started falling like dominoes in the #MeToo movement, the lamentations began: this is feminism gone too far, this is injustice, this is a witch hunt. In The Witches Are Coming, New York Times columnist and author of the New York Times best-selling memoir and now critically acclaimed Hulu TV series Shrill, Lindy West turns that refrain on its head. You think this is a witch hunt? Great. Now you’ve got one. Darkly hilarious, West’s newest collection of insightful essays oscillates between heartbreak and humor so sharp it practically hurts. – Rachel Haisley, Hachette Books, $27

**The Book of Gutsy Women**, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton

An ideal gift to all of us, young, old, female or male, this is a book for mothers and grandmothers to sit and read with both the girls and boys in their lives. Not all of the subjects are well-known, but each has a story that needs to be told—and listened to! – Jan Sloan, Simon & Schuster, $35

**No Stopping Us Now**, Gail Collins

The history of older women in America is revealing, if not discouraging. In the early days of this country, a woman was considered elderly at 35. That judgment has pretty much continued up until the last 20 years or so. Collins guides us through a history of the progress made by women across the centuries from the “crone” sitting in the corner rocking someone else’s child, to the vibrant 70-year-old starting her own company. The days when a woman’s value ended when her child-bearing years were over seem to be past, but the struggle for equality continues. This book is a must-read for all women, particularly the young. We owe much to our foremothers. – Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, $30

**Mythos**, Stephen Fry

This retelling of the Greek myths is a blast. Spend a few hours with Fry as he recounts, illuminates and comments on those ancient deities and all of their hugely entertaining peccadilloes. Seriously, if you sleep around on Mount Olympus, you could be sleeping with your mother, your siblings, your pets, somebody else’s mother or their pets. They do (sleep around), murder happens, and then they do it all again. Better than anything currently on HBO! There are three pieces to this book: the actual myths, the cultural context that illuminates the ongoing presence of these stories in our world today, and Stephen Fry’s distinct voice, his repartee and wit. Add to all this its photos and illustrations and it’s a great gift! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Chronicle, $29.95

**Threads of Life: A History of the World Through the Eye of a Needle**, Clare Hunter

Far more than an entertaining survey of needlework, this debut work from Hunter weaves a history of the human race through its stitches. From the author’s early descriptions of the Bayeux tapestry, to Mary Queen of Scots, to British soldiers and prisoners of war, Hunter’s is a story told in panels both large and small and utterly captivating. Do not miss this one. – Anne Holman, Abrams, $26

**The Golden Thread**, Kassia St. Clair

When we think of archaeology we often think of the great golden and carved treasures unearthed in Egyptian pyramids. But how often do we stop to think of the hundreds of meters of linen painstakingly woven and wrapped around every single item in those pyramids? Like the Greek Fates, St. Clair has re-spun the
story of human civilization with an eye to textiles. From the origins of the word text, through the political feuds of the silk roads, to space exploration, to modern experiments with spider silk clothing, thread production is woven through our lives. This book is an evocative look at that weaving. I loved it. – Michaela Riding, Liveright, $27.95

Edison, Edmund Morris

Thomas Alva Edison was probably the most prolific inventor in history—and what wondrous inventions his were. Edison founded 120 companies to market them—from the electric lightbulb to the phonograph to the rechargeable alkaline battery—all invaluable to the modern world. His polymathic mind was never at rest, and the scope of his interests is hard to comprehend—botany, naval strategy, chemistry, medicine and more occupied his seemingly endless days. That he was nearly deaf from a young age made his life's accomplishments even more remarkable. Morris was given access to Edison's archives which reveal never-before-known aspects of the great man's life. Told in an interesting narrative style, from the end of Edison's life back through to its beginnings, the book succeeds in illuminating the life and times of one of history's most complicated geniuses. – Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $38

Plagued By Fire, Paul Hendrickson

Frank Lloyd Wright is one of the greatest architects of the 20th century; his designs are as lauded today as they were 100 years ago. In this stunning look at his life, Hendrickson portrays a man driven by his genius whose singular focus on his craft often left chaos in its wake. Father to six with his first wife, he abandoned this family for love of another woman who was ultimately murdered with great savi- agery at the first Taliesin, which was then burned to the ground. Hendrickson calls this book "a biographical portrait more than true biography" and in this he succeeds. It is a wide-ranging look at the world Wright lived in, the people who inhabited it, as well as the magnificent buildings he designed for it. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $35

Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign that Broke the Confederacy, Donald L. Miller

A must-read for American Civil War history buffs, this is a narrative about the western theater of the Civil War told in a style which reads more like a novel than a scholarly work. Miller supplies excellent maps and explanatory footnotes which aid in the understanding of this often-overlooked aspect of the American Civil War. Grant's titanic struggle with Robert E. Lee in the eastern theater is probably the better known of Grant's campaigns. But in this book we better understand why Grant was the most important Union general of the war and how his victory in western Mississippi became the turning point in America's most bloody and divisive conflict. – Patrick Fleming, Simon and Schuster, $35

Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War, S.C. Gwynne

Gwynne is one of my favorite authors. Specializing in American history, he gives us a new look at topics which have been written about numerous times. Yet he never fails to bring new insight and perspective. His latest, about the final year of the Civil War, is no exception. People will ask: “What more can possibly be written about the American Civil War?” Well, plenty, it turns out, especially in the hands of Gwynne. The last year of the Civil War is, arguably, the most important period of American history, and this compelling account of it is perfect for the serious and amateur history buff alike. – Patrick Fleming, Scribner, $32

Toil & Trouble, Augusten Burroughs

As far back as Augusten Burroughs can remember, he has always known things, inexplicable things that he should never have had any knowledge of. As a boy, when he told his mother about this, she had reassured him that it was completely normal, that they were both descended from a long line of witches, that all of Augusten's strange knowledge was actually witchcraft. In the world of Burroughs' newest book we learn that there are few coincidences yet plenty of magic. Ghosts are real, trees can want to kill you, houses are alive, and at the end of the day, love is the most powerful magic of all. Toil & Trouble is the chronicle of one person's journey to understanding himself as well as the strange world around him. This New York Times bestselling author is just as funny, terrifying, quirky and eccentric as always in his newest memoir. – Rachel Haisley, St. Martin's Press, $27.99

Year of the Monkey, Patti Smith

This slim memoir is more of a dream sequence than a factual account. As with many dreams, it is sometimes surreal, a nuanced rendering of her trips around the country, from Manhattan to San Francisco, Venice Beach to Tucson. Photos of the trips introduce each chapter and the title of the book comes from the “bad feeling” Smith says she had in the 2016 election—that being the year of the monkey in the Chinese zodiac. The political does enter into the memoir, but for the most part she reckons with the changes that we all face.
as we grow older and are forced to deal with loss, aging and shifts in
the landscape we call America in the 21st century. An elegant, wise
book that also offers, in rough form, hope for the world. – Jan Sloan,
Knopf, $24.95

How We Fight for Our Lives, Saeed Jones
Saeed Jones’s coming-of-age memoir is a
tour de force. Jones recounts his upbring-
ing as a gay black man in the South who
was raised by his single mother and
evangelical Christian grandmother. In
addition to writing about his childhood,
Jones addresses the combination of the
internal forces that continue to segment
his inner life, and the external forces in
modern America that isolate him from
his sense of self. Jones is a poet and his
prose retains those award-winning sensi-
tilities. His book is spare, evocative, and deeply moving.
– Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Simon & Schuster, $26

Passing, Michael Korda
Korda’s memoir about his wife’s battle
with metastatic melanoma is honest and
tender. Their lifelong love started with a
passion for each other, for horses, for the
life they knew they could build together.
Korda’s year-long memoir, which tracks
the trauma of her treatment and the
constant sense of impending tragedy, is
not just about his wife’s cancer—it is also
about Korda’s caregiving and his own
understanding of their shared experience.
Grief takes many forms. This memoir,
which starts with passion and ends as another kind of love story, is
a tribute to his wife that also implicitly honors his own integrity and
dignity. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Norton, $24.95

Ordinary Girls, Jaquira Diaz
A self-described “ordinary girl,” Diaz, in
her memoir, takes a frank look at how her
military service helped her gain confi-
dence and a stronger sense of self. After
an unstable childhood in Puerto Rico and
Miami that was peppered with a drug-
dealing father, homophobia, poverty, and
her own involvement in illegal narcotics,
she dropped out of high school to enlist
in the navy where she not only came to
terms with being a Latinx queer woman
but where she was also able to gain confi-
dence in that identity. Jones interlaces the story of her journey to self-
discovery with stories of Puerto Rican history—her own indomitable
spirit mirrored in that of her country’s.
– Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Workman, $26.95

The Cartiers: The Untold Story of the
Family Behind the Jewelry Empire,
Francesca Cartier Brickell
Brickell was given access to troves of let-
ters and diaries which chronicle the rise
of the House of Cartier. From modest
means to the pinnacles of wealth and
prestige, the Cartier family succeeded by
always looking to each other for support.
Before World War I, they were jewelers
to aristocracy around the globe, world
famous for buying and selling the most
precious jewels on earth. Their story
intrigues in part because their lives mirror the major changes in the
world of the 20th century, something Brickell admirably reflects. Her
personal approach to her family is insightful and compelling.
– Barbara Hoagland, Ballantine, $35

Labyrinth of Ice: The Triumphant and
Tragic Greely Polar Expedition, Buddy
Levy
Adrenalin junkies rejoice! Like Shackleton’s Endurance, Greely’s attempted trip
to the North Pole in 1881 reflects nature’s
unpredictable power as an uneven match
against the struggles of men to cope.
Greely, a renowned scientist and a born
leader, led a crew of experienced explor-
ers and scientists. If the trip had gone as
planned it would simply be a paragraph
in the history books. But Greely’s expedi-
tion, both horrific and heroic, did not go as planned. Reader, you
will want an extra blanket when you dive into this icy exploration of
man’s ability to survive. And you will end up asking, among other
things, just how unlucky could a bunch of guys be?
– Margaret Brennan Neville, St. Martins, $29.99 Editor’s note: avail-
able December 3

The Queens of Animation, Nathalia Holt
Without animation there would be no
Sleeping Beauty or Cinderella, both of
which still rank among the best known
and beloved of all the Disney creations.
So it is ironic that Walt Disney Studios
was a man’s world in the beginning.
Through the years women began to play
more important roles, however, slowly
overcoming prejudice as their talents and
creativity began to shine. Holt introduces
these unknown women to the reader,
outlining the difficulties they faced in a
business controlled solely by men. As their stories unfold we engage
in their struggles and admire their dedication to their craft. A tale
long overdue. – Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, $29
**NONFICTION**

*Sandworm*, Andy Greenberg

Computers control everything we rely on for our modern lives. Cyberspace is therefore at the forefront of a new war, the effects of which we occasionally feel rather than see, if only because the U.S. hasn’t suffered a real cyberwar—unlike the Ukraine, which has been hit with wave after wave of cyberattacks, devastating its economy to the point of collapse. It could be a taste of things to come.

Greenberg’s investigation into the team of hackers known as Sandworm is gripping, terrifying, and should be read alongside a copy of the Mueller report.

– Paula Longhurst, Doubleday, $28.95

*The Great Pretender*, Susannah Cahalan

“If sanity and insanity exist, how shall we know them?” This is the question behind the Rosenhan study, conducted in 1973 by a charismatic doctor who convinced eight healthy people to commit themselves to mental hospitals and then try to prove their sanity in order to be set free. That study upended the entire field of psychiatry. With twists and turns worthy of a mystery novel, this quick-paced read will linger long after you’ve finished, leaving you to question everything you think you know about the mind. Still, 46 years later, the study suggests new ways of understanding mental illness.

– Michaela Riding, Grand Central Publishing, $28

*All Blood Runs Red: The Legendary Life of Eugene Bullard-Boxer, Pilot, Soldier, Spy*, Phil Keith, Tom Clavin

During World War I, Bullard became the first African American military pilot to fly in combat, but that was only one facet of his amazing life. He fled rural Georgia at the age of 11, eventually landing in Europe where he discovered boxing. He acquired worldwide acclaim as the “Black Sparrow,” and settled in Paris to enjoy his good fortune. With the outbreak of World War I Bullard joined the foreign legion where he gained distinction as a fearless fighter pilot. After the war he returned to Paris, becoming a fixture in the café society of the ’20s. He was once again called to serve with the advent of World War II, this time working for the resistance. A book as mesmerizing as the remarkable man it describes.

– Barbara Hoagland, Hanover Square, $29.99

*Eight Days at Yalta: How Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin Shaped the Post-War World*, Diana Preston

This book is especially relevant now given our current geo-political situation in Europe, Crimea, Ukraine, Korea and China. It is near the end of World War II in Europe. The Soviet Army is steamrolling across eastern Europe and is only 80 miles from Berlin. Stalin appears to have all the cards: Roosevelt is terrified that the U.S. will have to invade the home islands of Japan by itself, and Churchill sees the power and prestige of Great Britain’s empire slipping away. All three leaders have much at stake as they meet in a back- wards resort area in the remote Crimean Peninsula. What they decide (and don’t decide) there will impact the world to this day and beyond. A very readable description of this pivotal face-to-face meeting, complete with great maps, a list of the main characters, and some quirky details of the conference give tremendous insight into what happened and why.

– Patrick Fleming, Atlantic Monthly Press, $28

**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

*Country*, Michael Hughes

*Country* is a thriller set during the Troubles. Its plot twists and turns its singing diction, laced with overtones of the *Iliad*, is sheer genius. Achill is an assassin whose mere presence paralyzes the SAS, but not his leader Pig, who takes Achill’s woman, and thus fractures the unity of their IRA border gang. Henry, the finest the SAS has to offer, is a man who has his own problems with the powers that be. Love flares and dies, tempers rise and fall, betrayal follows betrayal, all in a narrative recited with Homeric but Irish-intoned cadence: “Now we’re getting to it. Wait ‘til you hear...” Such is Hughes’ language in this pounding yet rhythmic recitation of fearsome events, the whole saga drenched in the rage-driven violence that sets pages and empires on fire. Men!, yet rhythmic recitation of fearsome events, the whole saga drenched to it. Wait ‘til you hear... “Such is Hughes’ language in this pounding yet rhythmic recitation of fearsome events, the whole saga drenched in the rage-driven violence that sets pages and empires on fire. Men!, this reader muttered aloud to herself a time or two. Although, as in the pages of Homer, women too have their elemental parts to play. Brutal, mythic, consuming—yet throughout there exists for the reader a compulsion to play the irresistible game of matching character to character. Trojan to Irish. Although patterning contemporary novels on Greek drama is becoming ever more common this is, as they say, one for the books.

– Betsy Burton, Custom House, $26.99

*To the Land of Long Lost Friends*, Alexander McCall Smith

Mma Ramotswe and her coterie of friends are alive and well in Botswana during one hot, dry summer. When an old friend reappears in her life and begins telling her about her family worries, Mma Ramotswe, as always, feels the need to help—even though it means her involvement in other families’ affairs. Meanwhile her assistants, Mma Makutsi and Charlie, who have inherited Mma R’s curiosity, find their own cases to solve. An unfailing
Sarah Jane moves from chicken farming to the military to life as a short order cook and baker—all before becoming a cop and then the acting sheriff of a small town. She's been a drifter, never satisfied, always wary of those around her. Just when she feels that she may have finally found a friend and a place in the world, that friend, the sheriff, disappears, and Sarah Jane's job is to find him. Sallis' characters are strong, and he creates a sense of place in rural American that is real. Jazz, a common element, reflects the rhythms of Sarah Jane's discordant life searching for a theme that has meaning. Don't become complacent in any one moment in this character's story because the music is sure to change. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, $23.95

The Butterfly Girl, Rene Denfeld
Naomi is the child finder. But there's one child she hasn't found—her sister. Naomi feels guilt at leaving her behind on the night she managed to escape their prison alone, running barefoot into the night. And that guilt won't be assuaged until she finds her younger sibling. The search takes her and Jerome to Portland where homeless children, runaways like Celia, walk the streets, bellies empty—easy prey for a killer with an eye for young girls. Naomi agrees to help hunt the killer in addition to her own personal search. Is she too distracted to realize that Celia could be next on the killer's list? – Paula Longhurst, Harper, $26.99

Good Girl, Bad Girl, Michael Robotham
Put off by the title, I came to this late. But once I began Robotham's newest mystery I couldn't put it down. Forensic pathologist Cyrus Haven has been asked to examine Evie, a young girl who was kidnapped, imprisoned for an indeterminate time and finally freed, only to be held hostage by social services. Cyrus offers her temporary guardianship, and the two live in uneasy stasis, Evie trusting no one, Cyrus...
preoccupied by a case he's involved in—the murder of a teenage girl. As the reader moves back and forth between their interior voices, our immediate fascination and growing affection is replaced by anxiety as the plot twists and turns in unexpected ways. Not only a great read that is awash in compassion and its close cousin empathy, this is also an insightful look at forensic pathology as well as the victims and perpetrators at the heart of that dark profession. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $27

The Second Sleep, Robert Harris

“What goes around comes around” might be the secret that The Second Sleep promises its readers. Set in 1468, almost Thomas Hardyesque with its somber, gloomy tones, this intriguing story unfolds over six days. When the young priest Christopher Fairfax travels to an isolated Wessex village to conduct a funeral for its beloved heretical priest, he finds it teeming with disturbing discoveries and ancient relics. Fragments of intricate glass, plastic devices with bitten apples, skulls and bones, and the Devil’s Chair are among the curiosities. When Fairfax reads the four church registries—all on yellowed parchment and containing the names of parish villagers “baptized-married-buried” dating from May 1597 to 2025—the mystery deepens. Readers will delight in following this cautionary tale of times past and present! – Carol Kranes, Knopf. $26.95

The Old Success, Martha Grimes

Richard Jury is having a drink with a colleague at a pub on Land’s End named (you guessed it) The Old Success, when he gets a call from the Scilly Islands where a corpse has washed ashore. As is typical in Jury’s world, more murders crop up, and he and his colleagues begin to investigate, trying to decide whether said murders are connected. Replete with the humor and whimsy readers have long come to expect from Grimes. – Betsy Burton, Atlantic Monthly, $26

Just Watch Me, Jeff Lindsay

From the creator of Dexter comes another anti-hero we can cheer for. Riley Wolfe targets a very narrow sliver of the population, the 1%, and is not above killing them if they get in his way. Riley needs an outrageous challenge and stealing the Iranian Crown Jewels might well be it. Helped by a beautiful art forger and pursued by a relentless FBI agent, can Riley pull off the impossible? Or will he die trying? – Paula Longhurst, Dutton, $26

The Glass Woman, Caroline Lea

Iceland in the 17th century is a place of runes and witchcraft, a place where young women live at the mercy of a superstitious population. Naive young Rosa plans to marry an older, rich man in order to save her mother and the village from the harsh winters and poor land. But rumors abound about Jon, his first wife, and her death. Told from both Rosa’s and her future husband Jon’s points of view, this novel is an old-fashioned tale reminiscent of gothic novels and Icelandic sagas. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Harper, $27.99

Treachery, S.J. Parris

A shipboard murder and a mysterious religious document place Giordano Bruno and his close friend Sir Philip Sidney in company with Sir Francis Drake. England is on the brink of war, and Drake’s fleet, anchored in Plymouth, is ready to put to sea in order to ambush the Spanish. But morale is fragile, and the expedition cannot sail until the murderer is caught. There are many suspects, and one of them could be a Spanish spy. – Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, $26.95

Now You See Them, Elly Griffiths

Edgar, Max, and Emma are back together in this, the fifth of the Magic Men Elly Griffiths mysteries. The three have their individual lives as police superintendent, movie star, and bored housewife. When a series of disappearing girls brings them together, they may have a mutual goal, but they are not yet ready to work as a team. Edgar has a new detective on the force, Max is diverted by his newly found daughter, and Emma, tired of being labelled “housewife,” is determined to return to her role as star detective. Griffiths tells a lively story which can be read alone. For the dedicated series reader, however, read The Zig Zag Girl in order to fully understand the complicated dynamics of this threesome. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Mariner Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $15.99
Did you know we offer free home-delivery—not just during the holidays but all year long? Nicks Burton and his companion, Ricky Hoffman, deliver anywhere within Salt Lake county limits—the day you order if you call before noon. What better way to simplify the holiday chaos? Just call in an order, and the next thing you know this smiling pair will appear at your door, book(s) in hand. You can even ask for gift wrapping!

Andromeda Evolution, Michael Crichton & Daniel H. Wilson

Project Eternal Vigilance is nearing 50 years old. Its mission—to detect further Andromeda strain outbreaks—is now looked on as a budget item to be redlined. But deep in the heart of the Amazon rain forest is a structure that appears to contain traces of AS1 and the same plastic-eating AS2 that had slowed down the space program. An elite team of scientists is sent in to contain the new outbreak. It includes roboticist James Stone, the son of the scientist who saved Earth from AS1. Not only has the virus returned, it has evolved, and no one is safe. – Paula Longhurst, Harper, $29.99

Cursed, Thomas Wheeler, illustrated by Frank Miller

Nimue takes on a very different role in this distinctly feminist retelling of the King Arthur legend. She is Fey and when her mother’s death puts the Sword of Power in her hand she reluctantly becomes the Wolf Blood Witch. Thomas weaves all of the other famous characters into Nimue’s world, so it’s no surprise that this retelling of the King Arthur story is coming to the screen. It is a truly cinematic read, magnified by the Frank Miller storytelling art. Simultaneously released as a Netflix series, this is a novel young adults will be drawn to. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster $24.99

The God Game, Danny Tobey

Come and play with G.O.D., by invitation only! This mysterious AI is said to be loaded with everything mankind knows about the big guy upstairs. At A.B. Turner High School Charlie, one of the group calling themselves the Vindicators, gets invited to play the game, but he’s still reeling over the loss of his mom. The game starts him off easy with supposedly harmless pranks. Soon other Vindicators, fiery code girl Vahni, student journalist Kenny, transfer student Peter and finally Alex, who lives for pranks and not much else these days, have joined in. What they haven’t yet realized is that this G.O.D. is the Old Testament variety who combines age-old tricks with hi-tech rewards and punishments. There may be nowhere they can hide if/when the AI turns vengeful. – Paula Longhurst, St Martins Press, $26.99

At Home for the Holidays

And don’t forget, you can get the latest NYT-bestselling audio books from us now. Download the Libro.fm app and start reading. For more info about any of these programs, you can visit www.kingsenglish.com or just call us at 801-484-9100 and we’ll walk you through it!

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“First, find a tree—a black Tupelo or dawn redwood will do—and plant yourself. It’s okay if you prefer a stoop, like Langston Hughes.” Thus begins Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander’s poetic love letter to the act and art of reading. As always Melissa Sweet, a Caldecott Honor winner, beguiles the reader with her colorful, winsome illustrations and collages. Because of its subject matter and lyrical language, How to Read a Book could easily be used in a classroom setting. – Harper, $17.99

This Book of Mine, Sarah Stewart, illustrated by David Small
And speaking of love letters, beloved wife-and-husband team Stewart and Small have written one of their own. This Book of Mine celebrates all the things books do for us. Enchant us. Comfort us. Transport us. Inspire us. Fabulous! (P.S. The New York Public Library’s iconic marble lions make a friendly cameo appearance.) – Farrar, Straus, Giroux, $17.99

Home in the Woods, Eliza Wheeler
When 6-year-old Marvel moves into the tar-paper shack in the woods with her large family after the death of her father, she can’t believe it will ever feel like a home. But as the months come and go, Marvel discovers all the ways there are to love a place. Based on the experiences of Eliza Wheeler’s grandmother, Home in the Woods is my favorite book of the season. – Random House, $17.99

Just Ask, Sonia Sotomayor, illustrated by Rafael Lopez
In this story inspired by her own diagnoses of diabetes when she was a child, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor introduces readers to a cast of differently-abled children who use their unique abilities to create a garden together. Just like trees and flowers, children grow in their own unique ways, and so “if you are curious about other kids,” Sotomayor advises young readers, “just ask.” – Philomel, $17.99

A Stone Sat Still, Brendan Wenzel
In his stunning Caldecott Honor book, They All Saw a Cat, Wenzel shows the reader what a cat looks like from different animals’ points of view. He returns to the subject of perspective, this time by examining the “life” of a stone that sits still “with the water, grass and dirt.” To some creatures, the stone is small and insignificant; to others it’s a veritable mountain. To some it’s a danger; to others it’s a haven. A Stone Sat Still is a wonderful introduction to the concept that we all see things differently, depending upon our vantage point. – Chronicle, $17.99

Explorers, Matthew Cordell
What happens when a young boy buys a toy dragonfly from a mysterious street vendor before entering a natural history museum with his family? Magic, of course! In this new wordless picture book, Cordell takes his readers (and his characters!) on a journey of multiple discoveries. Explorers is thoroughly delightful. – Feiwel and Friends, $18.99

Everyone Counts, Judy Sierra, illustrated by Marc Brown
Sierra and Brown (Wild About Books) combine their talents once again to create picture book that’s both visually arresting and fun to read aloud. When Takoda the Tiger Cub
decides to turn a “tumbledown mall” into a brand new zoo, he enlists his animal friends to help. But will everyone—no matter the size—be allowed to participate in the project? This is a counting book with heart. – Knopf, $17.99

**Fly!**, Mark Teague
Sometimes leaving the nest can be hard. REALLY hard. Especially when you’re a young bird who’s too scared to fly. Fortunately, a patient but firm mother can make all the difference. Teague’s wordless (and exuberant!) picture book is a whole lot of fun. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

**Just Because**, Mac Barnett, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault
In an effort to delay the inevitable, a little girl peppers her father with questions at bedtime. Why do birds fly south? What are black holes? Why do the leaves change color? Dad’s answers are both unexpected and charming. Barnett’s trademark humor is on full display here. Terrific! – Candlewick, $17.99

**I Wonder**, K.A. Holt, illustrated by Kenard Park
And speaking of wondering, this wonderful new picture book poses a series of imaginative, fanciful questions. What do clouds taste like? Does a grasshopper take hopping lessons? What do stars do during the day? Don’t be surprised if **I Wonder** will inspire you to ask questions of your own! – Random House, $17.99

**The Moose of Ewenki**, Gerelchimeg Blackcrane
A bull moose is a huge animal! When Mongolian elder Gree Shek shoots a female, he does not realize she has a calf until it follows him back to camp. That calf, which he names Xiao Han (Little Moose), cements his place in Gree’s life. Readers will be able to predict the arc of the story, but the ending will give this tale even more heft. Loved the illustrations too. – Margaret Brennan Neville, IPS, $19.99

**What’s Going on Here?**, Olivier Tallec
Pick up Tallec’s new book and things are guaranteed to get real funny, real fast. Why? Because flipping through the die-cut pages allows readers of all ages to create countless hilarious characters who are ready and raring to be the stars of their own stories. **What’s Going on Here?** is as entertaining as it is inventive. – Chronicle, $15.99

**Just Like Beverly: A Biography of Beverly Cleary**, Vicki Conrad, illustrated by David Hohn
Beverly Cleary famously gave us Ramona and Henry and Motorcycle Mouse. Now Vicki Conrad gives us Beverly Cleary in this informative and brightly-colored picture book biography. Youn Beverly, who yearned to read stories about real children who were as funny as she and her friends were, is especially appealing. – Little Bigfoot, $18.99

And check out these new titles by some of our local writers and illustrators!

**The Little Snowplow**

**Wishes for Snow**, Lora Koehler, illustrated by Jake Parker
The Little Snowplow returns in this charming story about a winter without snow. So, what’s a little snowplow to do? Will a special birthday wish work some late winter magic? Parker’s lively illustrations are a joy to behold. – Candlewick, $16.99
If Monet Painted a Monster, Amy Newbold, illustrated by Greg Newbold
What if Monet painted a monster? What would it look like? Or what if Escher painted one? Or Edward Hopper or Frida Kahlo or Whistler? Can you imagine the results? If Monet Painted a Monster is another terrific book in this educational and entertaining series created by wife-and-husband team Amy and Greg Newbold. Recommended! – Tilbury House, $17.95

I'm Not Millie!, Mark Pett
When it comes to nighttime rituals—eating dinner or taking a bath—Millie takes the shape of various non-compliant animals and refuses to do what her parents want her to do. Pett, himself a father, clearly understands this familiar family dynamic. I'm Not Millie! is an enormously likeable book. – Penguin, $17.99 Editor’s note: Mark Pett will be in the store for an event on November 30. Visit our website www.kingsenglish.com for details!

Holiday Picture Books
Is there a better holiday gift than a holiday book with a personal note written to a loved one on the flyleaf? We think not. When it comes to new holiday books, some years are definitely better than others. And this year—hallelujah!—is a good one. Some of our favorites follow.

Dasher, Matt Tavares
Everyone knows Rudolph's backstory. But before Rudolph arrived on the holiday scene, there were the original eight—Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen. This book is their origin story. We loved Tavares's gorgeous Red and Lulu, and we love this one, too! His illustrations are a feast for the eyes. – Candlewick, $17.99

Long Ago, on a Silent Night, Julie Berry, illustrated by Annie Won
Julie Berry is one of the most versatile writers for young readers working today. In this, her first picture book, she draws tender parallels between the first Christmas story and the joy today's parents feel at the birth of a child. This is a gorgeous holiday book. – Scholastic, $17.99

Little Robin's Christmas, Jan Fearnley
Little Robin has seven warm holiday vests—that is until he gives them away, one by one, to a host of shivering woodland creatures. Will Little Robin be left out in the cold? Not if a certain special individual can help it. Fearnley's new, sweet-natured book is enormously appealing. – Nosy Crow, $16.99

If I Could Give You Christmas, Lynne Plourde, illustrated by Jennifer L. Meyer
What would you give if you wanted to give Christmas to a little one? The pointiest, piney-est tree? The sound of chirping carolers? The greeting of friendly faces in the doorway? This little book is a big celebration of the holiday season's sights and sounds. A lovely gift choice for anyone who loves Christmas. – Disney Hyperion, $17.99

The Bear and the Star, Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Bethanne Andersen
When Bear awakes one morning and sees a new star on the horizon, he
knows it’s time—time to summon creatures from the east and west, the north and south to gather together and sing of peace. This is a beautiful book in every way. Andersen (who lives in St. George, Utah!) does the story’s lyrical language justice with her double-spread illustrations. – Greenwillow, $17.99

**The Tree That’s Meant To Be**, Yuval Zommer
A young tree realizes it’s not like the other trees in the forest. It’s small and uneven, so when people come looking for the perfect Christmas tree, they walk on by without taking a second look. To the animals who befriend it, however, this little tree is just right—the very tree that’s meant to be. – Doubleday, $17.99

**Angela’s Christmas**, Frank McCourt, illustrated by Raul Colon
In 1996 Frank McCourt published a gut-wrenching memoir about the desperate mother at the center of his childhood—Angela McCourt. This new picture book, featuring Angela as a child, is as gentle as *Angela’s Ashes* was fierce. Young Angela, worried about the baby Jesus in her parish church’s manger scene, sneaks him home to wrap him in a blanket and keep him warm. Colon’s burnished illustrations give the book a decidedly golden glow. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

**Board Books**
We also have some great new board book choices for the Ho-Ho-Holidays!

**All You Need for a Snowman**, Alice Schertle, illustrated by Barbara Lavallee
What do you need to build a snowman? “One small snowflake fluttering down” for starters—and the list grows from there. As always Lavallee’s illustrations are a joy to behold. This is a particularly nice choice for toddlers. – Houghton Mifflin, Harcourt, $8.99

**Christmas Train**, David Miles
All aboard! This clever new book invites young children (and their parents) to tour the North Pole AND count to 20 by hopping aboard the Christmas Train. Cut in the shape of a locomotive from glossy pressboard, *Christmas Train* can also be used as a freestanding holiday decoration. – Familius, $12.99

**Snow Still**, Holly Surplice
When the first snow flies, a little fawn discovers a sea of new possibilities for fun. With its simple text and simple illustrations, *Snow Still* is simply charming! – Nosy Crow, $8.99

**The Twelve Days of Christmas Cats**, Don Daily
This exquisite book, which celebrates all things feline, is now available in an oversized board book! The perfect gift for the kitty-loving kid in your life. – Apple-sauce Press, $12.95

And finally there’s . . .

**Santa Mouse**, Michael Brown, illustrated by Elfrieda de Witt
**MIDDLE READERS by Margaret Brennan Neville**

**Scary Stories for Young Foxes**, Christian McKay Heidicker
Seven kits searching for scary stories think they have found them in Bog Cavern—although the “storyteller” warns them that the tales might be hard to handle. Short trips into the anthology of horror alternate with the story of Mia and Uly. These young foxes, both fleeing for their lives, just might be able to survive hunger, humans (Beatrix Potter as you never imagined her), tyrants, and the “yellow,” if they work together. The interplay between the real world and the horror world is weirdly fascinating, but creepy. Crawl into your den with this book and make sure the door is locked! Terrific – Henry Holt, $16.99 (9 and up)

**Words on Fire**, Jennifer Nielsen
Thanks to Ruta Sepetys’ novel *Between Shades of Gray*, many readers are familiar with Lithuania and its fight for independence. It is 1883 and Russia has overrun Eastern Europe, outlawing everything that will sustain the culture and heart of Lithuania—including language, books and religion. Audra finds out that her parents are part of the resistance when they hand off a package that needs to be delivered. She is thrust violently into a world of repression and cruelty in which people are risking their lives and communities for books, for the power of the written word. Readers will be rooting for Audra, and for Lithuania. – Scholastic, $17.99 (10 and up)

**Dead Voices**, Katherine Arden
Scary is back! And so are Ollie, Coco and Brian (*Small Spaces*). This time these resourceful kids are going to spend a weekend at a ski resort. But right from the start, it is clear that this will not be an ordinary vacation. As Arden’s chiller unfolds and more and more horrifying information is revealed, our heroines and hero will have to outsmart evil yet again! Fans of *Small Spaces* will be very frightened and pleased! – Penguin, $16.99 (10 and up)

**The Beast, a Darkdeep Novel**, Ally Condie and Brendan Reichs
The Darkdeep reminded us how much fun it is to be scared! Although the Torch-bearers know they have a big problem to contend with, for the moment the Darkdeep is quiet. But Timber is not—beast mania is taking over while the Sheriff is still trying to figure out who vandalized the town. Add a sleazy publicity hound and the new “figments,” and the action ramps up! A great read—adventure and mystery with a dose of scary! – Bloomsbury, $16.99 (8 and up)

**The Good Thieves**, Katherine Rundell
Rundell is a spinner of tales that engage and charm readers. Vita and her mom are in New York City to help her grandpa settle his affairs when Vita finds out that a notorious developer actually cheated him out of his castle. She knows she wants to help but also knows she can’t do it alone. Vita finds assistance in unlikely places: a circus and the Bowery. Mystery, adventure, friendship and New York City in the 1920s will thrill Rundell’s fans! – Harper, $17.99 (8 and up)

**Weird Little Robots**, Carolyn Crimi and Corinna Luyken
Penny Rose doesn’t know anyone in her new neighborhood. Her only friends are the robots she makes—until she meets Lark. All of sudden Penny Rose and Lark are collaborating to create a new city for the robots, something that leads to adventure and challenges. A book about the magic of friendship, this is also about the magic of reading. Its rich illustrations are a bonus! – Candlewick, $16.99 (8 and up)

**Look Both Ways**, Jason Reynolds
Once again Reynolds uses a creative device to grab his audience, and once again, it works! This is “a tale told in ten blocks,” literally, 10 ways to get to the same place. Right from the start, when a bus falls from the sky, and the kids walking home both do and do not notice, you will be hooked. Reynolds’s surprising details and concise narrative let readers into each character’s life. His linked short stories and a smart ending make this another triumph for Reynolds. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99 (10 and up)
The Green Children of Woolpit, J. Anderson Coats
In this dark fairy tale loosely based on an old British legend, Agnes, who is working in the fields, hears cries from the forest. They lead her to a deep hole in which two children lie at the bottom, screaming. The kicker is, they are green. Clearly not human. This discovery will create a trial for the entire village, and Agnes, who is usually off daydreaming, must decide if she wants to follow the green children. True to its dark genre, there are no happy endings here. But it is so much fun to read! – Simon & Schuster, $17.99 (9 and up)

The Last Human, Lee Bacon
In order to save her family, Emma must leave the only home she has ever known, a bunker deep underground, to face a world in which XR believes there are no more of the terrible human beings on earth. Adventure, exploration, kindness and loyalty combine in a story that will surely remind thoughtful readers of some of the current strife in our country. – Abrams, $16.99 (9 and up)

The Ghost Collector, Allison Mills
Shelly can catch ghosts. And so can her grandmother. In their hair! Shelly loves helping her grandma. They send the lost souls they have captured on, helping their community in the process. But when her mom dies, Shelly’s gift/talent becomes hard to bear. First Nation Cree traditions anchor this moving story about acceptance, grief, and finding your best self. – IPS, $9.95 (10 and up)

Wildfire, Rodman Philbrick
Wildfires take up a lot of the news during the summer months all over the country. Philbrick’s novel about two kids trying to escape a devastating fire in the Northeast will keep your attention. When Sam and Delphy have to take desperate steps to save their lives, readers will root for the two kids. Philbrick includes a lot of information about wildfires. – Blue Sky Press, $17.99 (9 and up)

Douglas, Randy Cecil
Iris loves going to the movies. Douglas Fairbanks makes her swoon. One day she accidentally brings home a brave little mouse who happens to live in the old Majestic Theater. Iris names her Douglas and in a tale told in four acts we discover that Douglas wants to go home. Set in Bloomville, as in his last book Lucy, Cecil reveals much about the town in his brief text and intricate monochromatic drawings. I wonder what is going to happen in Bloomville next. This one is a charmer. – Candlewick, $19.99 (4 and up)

The Hippo at the End of the Hall, Helen Cooper
Ben has been looking for his dad all his life. When a mysterious invitation, delivered by bees, shows up, he knows that this might just be the answer to his search. As it turns out, the invitation has come from someone who thinks Ben might have the answers to another mystery. This tender-hearted romp, illustrated with charming, quirky art, is a wonderful read-aloud! – Candlewick, $17.99 (8 and up)

Someplace to Call Home, Sandra Dallas
Three siblings are trying to survive, to find someplace safe to make it through hard times. But everywhere they go people treat them as if they are bad. Their situation seems hopeless. So when the Carlsons offer a little help, the kids grab on. It takes a lot of hard work and courage on both sides to do the right thing in this story for today’s world that is also a glimpse into the past. – Sleeping Bear Press, $15.95 (9 and up)

Two Girls, a Clock and a Crooked House, Michael Poore
When Amy’s parents leave to prevent a mining company from destroying something valuable, she turns to her friend Moo for company. Amy and Moo can communicate without talking (Amy was struck by lightning which resulted in some special gifts, ESP being one of them!). The girls decide they want to go “somewhere,” but the Haunted Woods might not have been the best choice. The ensuing adventure makes for an interesting combination of environmentalism, friendship and magic that is also a very satisfying read. – Random, $16.99 (9 and up)
And one for the New Year!

**Mañanaland**, Pam Muñoz Ryan

Max, who lives with his father and has lots of loving family around, discovers that there is a very unusual reason for his Papa's obsession with protecting him. His father's family has been guiding illegal immigrants through their part of the country. Max's choice to help a young girl who is fleeing a terrible situation is revealing in a powerfully written and eloquent book about a family that guides refugees fleeing from an intolerable country with a cruel dictator/regime. Sound familiar?? Written outside of a specific time or place, the resultant blurriness makes this an "everyman's" story—an invitation to much-needed conversations. – Scholastic, $18.99 (9 and up)

**The Fountains of Silence**, Ruta Sepetys

Sepetys blows you away with a subject a lot of readers might not know about. Franco's Spain was a dark time when everyone did their best to ignore the evils of dictatorship. One of the most significant atrocities of the 20th century took place beneath their silence—the sale of babies, taken unknowingly from their parents after birth. Daniel and his parents have come to Spain in 1957 for business, vacation and adoption. Daniel, who wants to be a photographer, instantly “sees” the beauty of Madrid. But he cannot see what life is like for Ana and her family. This moving tale, fleshed out with unforgettable minor characters, works on every level as Sepetys skillfully reveals the hardships, the fears, and the horror of it all. Her previous work was anchored in her own stories. Here, wielding her narrative power with memorable and riveting grace, she leads us to the heart of another's saga. A great book from one of my favorite authors. – Penguin, $18.99 (12 and up)

**Loki: Where Mischief Lies**, Mackenzi Lee

Beautifully dressed, high heels and all, Loki stands in complete contrast to his brother Thor. When Odin sees the future attack of the undead on Asgard, Loki, in his heart of hearts, knows that his future is tainted. From Asgard to London, from sorceress to factory worker, he valiantly (sort of) tries to find his best self and be the son his father wants him to be. Local author and phenom Lee had the fun of writing an origin story about the “Trickster.” It is tightly plotted, often surprising, and a blast to read! – Hachette, $17.99 (12 and up) Editor’s note: signed copies available!

**The Merciful Crow**, Margaret Owen

Could not put it down! And isn't that the highest compliment?! The crows clean up during the plague, but they find there is no respect for the repellant work they do. When Fie and her family get trapped in the prince's plan, things could change. But delivering the prince and his hawk to safety might just be impossible. This is a clever and highly creative fantasy adventure. Our only problem will be waiting for the sequel. – Henry Holt, $18.99 (14 and up)

**The Girl the Sea Gave Back**, Adrienne Young

Tova knows she came from the ocean. Although she remembers nothing, she’s sure that she is a Truthtongue. Her skill is considered a curse among the Svelb for whom she is just an instrument. She resigns herself to a fragile existence—until the conspiracy to take the tribe to war becomes real. The other voice in this tale is that of Halvard, a young man who will be chieftain long before he wants to be. Both characters tell their stories through flashbacks, and both might, given the right choices, be able to change their own destinies. Set in a magical Viking world, this fantasy feels like it might be the retelling of a myth. Illustrations add a further dimension. – Wednesday Books, $18.99 (12 and up)

**Eight Will Fall**, Sarah Harian

Because magic has been outlawed, those possessed of it are forced to labor in the most awful places—so Larkin has to hide hers every day. She and seven other people on the fringes of this society are forced to descend into the underworld to fight an unknown beast that has put their world on guard. The monster is omniscient and scary. As the members of her crew are slowly killed, Larkin comes to realize that there is a mystery even larger than she had realized.... A fantasy adventure that feels a little like it should be in the horror section. – Henry Holt, $18.99 (12 and up)

**Scars Like Wings**, Erin Stewart

When her home was consumed by a fire Ava was severely burned, disfigured, and left an orphan mourning not only her parents but also her best friend and cousin. She knows that going back to high school will be even more painful, that all her worst fears will be confirmed. Ava’s account of her return to school will cap-
turing your attention and your heart from page one. Turns out that everyone has scars. Ava and the kids around her are all trying to figure out how to deal with “stuff.” Stewart magnifies Ava's grief and pain with interludes of poignant, tender poetry that allow an intimate interior view. Very readable, with touches of dark humor, this compelling story is an excellent debut novel from one of Utah’s newest authors. – Random House, $18.99 (12 and up)

Rated, Melissa Grey
In a creepy world where your numbers count (if they get too low, watch out!), six students at Maplethorpe Academy tell the story of their own ratings. When someone takes a stand against the system, graffiti appears on the front doors of the school and the founder’s statue is desecrated.

The consequences of such acts impact the entire community, forcing students to figure out what is real and what is not. Lots of interesting parallels with how social media is being used today. – Scholastic, $17.99 (12 and up)

The Downstairs Girl, Stacy Lee
By day, Jo Kuan is a lady’s maid in Atlanta in the 1890s. By night, she’s the famous yet anonymous advice columnist Dear Miss Sweetie. When her secret identity is nearly exposed, and with all of Atlanta talking about her column, Jo is forced to confront hard truths about her family, her past and what it means to be a Chinese American girl in the Antebellum South.

Optimistic, accessible historical fiction with a protagonist you’ll root for from page one. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Putnam, $17.99 (12 and up)

The Queen of Nothing, Holly Black
Black continues the story of Jude and Carden that began with The Cruel Prince. Exile does not suit Jude, so when the opportunity to return to Elfhame presents itself, she cannot say no. The Faerie Court, her father, Carden, and of course, her heart are just a few of the things pulling her back. Black’s Faerie world is wonderfully constructed in a rare series where each new book intertwines characters in new ways, enlarges the scope of their world and enchants readers. Just flat out fun to read! – MBN, Little, Brown, $19.99 (14 and up)

The Bone Houses, Emily Lloyd-Jones
There is a creepy, atmospheric spell to this book that is part Brothers Grimm, part Neil Gaiman, part folktale, part zombie novel. Ryn and her family have been tasked with keeping the local Bone Houses—the risen corpses in her town graveyard—under control. But when Ellis, an unassuming mapmaker, comes to Ryn’s small isolated village, the bone houses start leaving the forest, getting through the remnants of the iron fence and attacking. Ryn, who knows that she must fix this horror and that the old stories will tell her how to do it, sets off on a journey to break the curse that makes the dead walk and so save her family. We were both enchanted by the ominous, melodic prose of this dark fairytale. What a uniquely beautiful book. – MBN and MVE, Little, Brown, $17.99 (14 and up)
Hello Girls, Brittany Cavallaro and Emily Henry

A badass Thelma and Louise-esque feminist manifesto for any woman who has ever been told by a man to smile more. Winona and Lucille are girls from two different worlds who meet one night at a police station. They’re both battered and bruised, and they decide to team up—both to flee the violence awaiting them at home and to take back their own power from the men in their lives who have been allowed to shape their narratives. A razor-sharp, dark comedy that moves as fast as a stolen convertible. – MVE, Katherine Tegen Books, $17.99 (Age 14 and up)

Shatter the Sky, Rebecca Kim Wells

Maren will stop at nothing to rescue her girlfriend, even if that means leaving home and stealing a dragon egg from the emperor himself. But along the way she ends up uncovering sinister goings on in her kingdom. Empowering, diverse, and absolutely riveting. Anne McCaffrey and Tamora Pierce for a new generation. – MVE, Simon & Schuster, $17.99 (14 and up)

The Wicked, Rebecca Podos

A powerful family of women who somehow know when they will die is shaken when one of them perishes unexpectedly. It alters all their futures forever. Ruby, who has always been certain she would die young, suddenly sees a chance to change her fate. She is willing to do whatever it takes—until she finds out that magic comes at a price. This modern fable, infused with magic, culture and family, asks the timeless question of whether we can change our fates. – MVE, Balzer+Bray, $17.99 (14 and up)

The Good Luck Girls, Charlotte Nicole Davis

Westworld meets The Handmaid’s Tale. In the fantasy wild-West world of Arketta, five girls, known as the Good Luck Girls, are all branded and their cursed marks trap them in a life of prostitution. When Clementine, the newest of the girls, accidentally kills one of their customers, the girls go on the run, searching for a way to remove their binding tattoos and survive the brutal wasteland beyond their doorstep. A complex, modern Western that both leans into your favorite genre tropes and reinvents them, all centered on a squad of badass girls. – MVE, Katherine Tegen Books, $17.99 (14 and up)

Let’s Call It a Doomsday, Katie Henry

Ellis is obsessed with the apocalypse, and she’s sure the end is near. No one will believe her, until she meets Hannah, a girl who claims she knows exactly when doomsday will arrive. All Ellis has to do to learn the fate of the world is to help track down a mysterious prophet in their hometown of Berkley. Combining themes of religion, family, mental illness with a healthy dose of snarky humor, Let’s Call It a Doomsday was an unexpected, charming read that kept me guessing. – MVE, HarperTeen, $17.99 (14 and up)

Suggested Reading, Dave Connis

Suggested Reading is far too relevant for comfort, but necessary for that exact reason. When Clara finds out her school has been secretly banning books for years, she does the only logical thing: she starts a secret library of banned books from her locker. Deftly taking on questions of censorship and free speech but not simply a morality tale, Suggested Reading will make readers think about the books they’re picking up, and why it’s important to never surrender our right to them. – MVE, Katherine Tegen Books, $17.99 (14 and up)

The Lady Rogue, Jenn Bennett

It is the 1930s and Theodora’s father, a world famous archaeologist, is currently making his way through Romania and Bulgaria in search of Vlad the Impaler’s legendary Bone Ring. When he goes missing somewhere along the route, Theo and her father’s infuriatingly handsome assistant Huck set out to find him. Their quest leads them deep into the Carpathian Mountains on the heels of dangerous occultists and a centuries-old curse. This female-led Indiana Jones tale is a twisty thrill ride from start to finish. – MVE, Simon Pulse, $18.99 (14 and up)

A Treason of Thorns, Laura Weymouth

In an alternate Victorian England, all the magic afloat in London is contained in sentient houses. After her father commits an act of treason that sends one of the houses spiraling into disrepair and puts the magical stability of England in jeopardy, Violet is tasked with repairing the dilapidated house and the magic contained inside it. But the more she works on it, the more Violet finds her fate—and her life—tied to the house and its fate. This book is an atmospheric, spellbinding gothic historical fantasy with shades of Jane Eyre and The Secret Garden and a system of magic unlike anything I’ve ever read. – MVE, HarperTeen, $17.99 (14 and up)
There is nothing like a good field guide! Cryptid creatures are the animals (or other things??) that may or may not be real. Humankind has been striving for centuries to explain and verify that Sasquatch, The Loch Ness Monster and mermaids exist, but what makes this new guide really something are all the creatures you might not know about. Halls does a terrific job of combining the fiction with the facts about a plethora of creatures in a book that is going to make a lot of kids, and a few geeks, very happy! – Sasquatch, $16.99 (8 and up)

**Spies, Lies and Disguise**, Jennifer Swanson and Kevin O’Malley

Full of stories about the ingenious execution of tricks that the WWII Allies used to fool the Nazis. Swanson’s book will give readers another way to look at the war outside of its battles—a look at the brave people who put their lives on a different kind of line. Fake equipment and bases, camouflaged facilities and equipment, bouncing bombs and a dead corpse loaded with a new identity are just a few of the hoaxes outlined in this fascinating read. Photos, maps and illustrations add another layer of information. – Bloomsbury, $21.99 (10 and up)

**Infinite Hope: A Black Artist’s Journey from WWII to Peace**, Ashley Bryan

Ashley Bryan has been sharing his talent as an author and illustrator (Freedom Over Me, I Am Loved, Sail Away) for many years. With his new book he tells his own story of his time in the U.S. Army during WWII alongside countless other men of color who were expected to serve and die, despite being viewed as second-class citizens. America is still struggling with its racist past, and Bryan’s story illuminates the horror he witnessed during his four years in the military. He also shares examples of the caring, decent people he encountered during his service in a book that challenges us to remember to choose decency and kindness. The artwork/photography in this book is captivating and adds an intimacy to the story. **Infinite Hope** has award-winner written all over it! – Simon & Schuster, $19.99 (10 and up)

**Finding Narnia: The Story of C. S. Lewis and His Brother**, Caroline McAlister, Jessica Lanan

Narnia is a place that continues to capture the imagination of readers young and old. McAlister and Lanan give readers a picture-book biography that will make you love the classic series even more. The brothers had an idyllic life until their mom died of cancer. They left home for boarding school, and then for war and work, but through it all did their best to stay connected. When life finally brought them together, opportunities to create the Narnia books became a reality. – Roaring Book Press, $19.99 (any C. S. Lewis fan!)

**A Light in the Darkness: Janusz Korczak, His Orphans and the Holocaust**, Albert Marrin

Readers can count on Albert Marrin to clearly lay out historical events and biographies. Janusz Korczak, a Polish doctor, chose to stay with his orphans from the ghetto on the trains to Treblinka. Marrin not only retells the story of one man’s refusal to abandon his own humanity, he also gives readers an intimate view of the horrors of the Warsaw Ghetto. This is not a new story, but it is one that readers should never forget. – Random House, $19.99 (12 and up)

**Guts**, Raina Telgemeier

Telgemeier is willing to take on any subject. **Guts**’ main character is Raina, and her stomach is constantly churning. She is having a hard time dealing with food, friends, and school. Readers will not be surprised by Raina’s trials and tribulations, and will appreciate and admire her courage. Another true story that readers will love. – Scholastic, $12.99 (9 and up)

**White Bird: A Wonder Story**, P. J. Palacio

We have been waiting a long time for Palacio to publish a new book, and her graphic novel debut is extraordinary! Although **White Bird** begins with a character from Wonder, it quickly becomes its own story. Julien needs to interview his grand-mère for a school project. Grand-mère was once a young Jewish girl in the Free Zone of France where, as the Nazi influence spread, the danger to Sara and her family increased. As Grand-mère’s story unfolds, Julien sees how the bravery of a classmate and of neighbors might have been key in saving her life. Palacio encourages readers to understand how ALL people regardless of appearance, abilities, or religion deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness. She includes an extensive afterword with plenty of facts and notes. – $24.99, Random (10 and up)
A really nice trend in TKE’s kids’ room is the proliferation of intricately illustrated, thoughtfully designed, oversized books of nonfiction. Ostensibly for your kids, they are an easy source of answers for tough questions on everything from the cosmos to planet earth. And the collections of stories and mythology are books that your kids will ask for when they have kids! Look over the examples below, and come to the store to see even more wonderful choices.

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

*They Called Us Enemy*, George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott, illustrated by Harmony Becker

George Takei tells the story of his own family’s treatment after the attack on Pearl Harbor. While not horrific, Takei’s memories of his parents’ struggle with their many losses and humiliations are difficult. As an adult, his knowledge about what the Japanese internment camps were really about makes his recollections even more poignant and powerful. This memoir in graphic novel format is well worth reading—another story apropos of what is going on in our country right now. Kudos to Takei for the courage to go where man doesn’t want to go! – Random, $19.99 (12 and up)

*The Okay Witch*, Emma Steinkellner

Moth knows something is going on when all of a sudden strange things begin to occur: bullies stop bullying, her cat talks to her, her new friend gets the best role in the school play. Moth begins to find out about her own history and that of her hometown. Being a witch could be a good thing. Readers will be cheering for Moth in this addition to the graphic novel section. – Simon & Schuster $12.99 (9 and up)

*Stargazing*, Jen Wang

Christine does not really like Moon the first time they meet. But circumstances (parents!) continue to bring them together. Moon is being raised by her mom while Christine lives in a more traditional setting. Different in so many ways, both girls are looking for a true friend and for the chance to be themselves. Moon’s quirky behavior might ruin the whole thing, and Christine will have a tough choice to make. *The Prince and the Dressmaker* is a story that resonated with everyone that read it, and I think *Stargazing* will do the same! – First Second, $12.99 (9 and up)

**Books for the Whole Family—Perfect for the Coffee Table!**

by Margaret Brennan Neville

A really nice trend in TKE’s kids’ room is the proliferation of intricately illustrated, thoughtfully designed, oversized books of nonfiction. Ostensibly for your kids, they are an easy source of answers for tough questions on everything from the cosmos to planet earth. And the collections of stories and mythology are books that your kids will ask for when they have kids! Look over the examples below, and come to the store to see even more wonderful choices.

*Life: The First Four Billion Years: The Story of Life From the Big Bang to the Evolution of Humans*, Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Grahame Baker-Smith, Candlewick Studio, $24.99


*Overview, Young Explorer’s Edition: A New Way of Seeing Earth*, Benjamin Grant, Sandra Markle, Crown Books for Young Readers, $24.99


*The Illustrated Treasury of Classic Children’s Stories*, illustrated by Charles Santore Applesauce Press, $39.95

*Pictured Worlds: Masterpieces of Children’s Book Art by 101 Top Illustrators from Around the World*, Leonard Marcus, Abrams, $75
their political views in a dangerous world. Full of contrasts—dictators and freedom, leaving and belonging, fear and hope—Allende’s novel is possessed of perfect timing, and her prodigious talent radiates throughout. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, $28

**Greenwood**, Michael Christie (Feb.)

An abandoned baby hanging from a tree, two 9-year-old boys—sole survivors of a passenger train crash—an expensive tourist resort in one of the world’s last remaining forests: **Greenwood** is an amazing read. It’s filled with unpredictable yet believable events and sympathetic characters (billionaires and hobos alike). Its plot surprises. Its family relationships are tangled and complex. Events like “the crash” and “the withering” connect us to our past and future worlds. It abounds with mystery and scandal. Christie weaves these elements with both compassion and an intense almost scholarly connection to trees. The story first unspools—beginning in 2038 (with over-qualified tour guide Jake Greenwood) moving to 2008 (with carpenter/artisan Liam Greenwood) to 1974 (with environmental protestor Willow Greenwood) to 1934 (with the billionaire Harris Greenwood and his hobo brother Everett Greenwood) to 1908 (with the beginning story of Harris and Everett)—and then rewinds, ending back in 2038. The characters’ connections to trees are imaginative. Harris owns a vast lumber company. Everett lives in the forest and taps sugar maples. Liam makes wooden furniture. Willow sabotages her father’s tree-cutting machine. Jake earns a Ph.D. in botany yet works as a forest guide at Cathedral Arboreal Resort in British Columbia. Particularly satisfying is the story of Harris and Everett as they grow, fiercely competitive, developing survival skills—all told from the point of view of “we” the town. Chapters are short, character names distinct and easy to track, and the Greenwood Island setting is evocative of the novel’s final line: “A forest has always been the best place for a person to escape into.” A must-read novel! – Carol Kranes, Hogarth, $28.

**Weather**, Jenny Offill (Feb.)

Lizzie, a librarian, lives a piecemeal but fulfilling life, working part-time at the library and part-time fielding post-apocalyptic emails for a friend with a famous doomsday podcast. Lizzie has a husband and son she loves, a brother she’s trying to rescue. On the whole she seems happy—as we see in the fragments of narrative and interior monologue interspersed with the above-mentioned emails, snippets from philosophy and religion, jokes...all of which sounds beyond piecemeal but is actually amusing, moving (especially the scenes with her son), and great fun to read—until the emails darken along with her brother’s psychosis and the country’s politics. We realize that the weather has been steadily darkening, that the world suddenly seems more terrifying than amusing—that it has become, as Yeats would have it, a world in which, “the center will not hold.” The world we now live in. Startling us, dazzling us, devastating us, Offill can do more in fewer pages than anyone I’ve read in years. – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $23.95

**Apeirogon**, Colum McCann (Feb.)

Apeirogon, a “countably infinite” shape, describes McCann’s new book perfectly in that it evokes the countably infinite stories that we as humans tell ourselves and each other in our desire to make sense of an often senseless world. Set in Israel and Palestine, it is the story of Bassam Aramin, a Palestinian, and Rami Elmenanan, an Israeli, who have both lost daughters to the violent conflict between their nations. These two characters and their stories are real, the rest is fiction.

**Apeirogon** covers the larger themes of life: friendship, love, loss and belonging, and does so beautifully. However, the beating heart of the book—something that could cure all conflicts—comes in the exact center of the novel and is told by Rami….. “if they [the Palestinians] were anything other than objects to be feared, they would become real people.” The story itself is told in the manner of the 1001 tales in the Arabian Nights, with Bassam’s and Rami’s true stories in the middle of the book. Each vignette advances not only their tales but also the physical and emotional checkpoints that they must negotiate, small passages that stitch together story, history, nature and politics. A soaring, searing novel that is at once bleak and hopeful, this is also the physical and emotional checkpoints that they must negotiate, small passages that stitch together story, history, nature and politics. A soaring, searing novel that is at once bleak and hopeful, this is also the physical and emotional checkpoints that they must negotiate, small passages that stitch together story, history, nature and politics.
**Amnesty**, Aravind Adiga (Jan.)

Danny, who wears his vacuum on his back and hauls around his cleaning supplies in a backpack, came to Sydney legally but has overstayed his visa. Now he is trying desperately to stay under the radar. He cleans apartments and has a girlfriend, and, although he longs to obtain legal status, he's reasonably happy—until one of his clients is murdered. Danny believes he knows the identity of the murderer and, law-abiding man that he is, knows he should call the police. But he also knows that if he does he’ll be deported. Befogged by indecision he wanders the streets of Sydney, reliving his past, Bloom-like, even as he attempts to follow the routine of his daily life. Humor abounds, the tension ratchets up as the murderer draws near, and the reader’s affection and respect for Danny grows apace. Yet the dark tide that illegal immigrants are swept up in is also there on every page lending an all-too-vivid reality—under a dreamlike pall of absurdity—to the plight of those who, undocumented, live utterly adrift and at the mercy of the currents of present-day xenophobia. Nowhere has the plight of undocumented immigrants been so evocatively portrayed.

− Betsy Burton, Scribner, $26

**Run Me to Earth**, Paul Yoon (Jan.)

Set in Laos in the 1960s, this spare but powerful narrative tells the tale of three orphans and a dedicated doctor named Yang. The orphans have taken refuge in a bombed-out field hospital and become motorcycle couriers maneuvering across fields laced with unexploded bombs and under barrages of bombs from the air—until Yang arranges for the four of them to be evacuated on the last helicopter leaving the country. This begins a story that lasts decades, a poignant, tragic and beautiful work of historical fiction that once again solidifies Paul Yoon as a writer of remarkable talent. It will stay with you long after you finish the last page.

− Sally Larkin, Simon & Schuster, $26

**Interior Chinatown**, Charles Yu (Jan.)

“Generic Asian Man,” Willis Wu, is/are Yu’s protagonist(s) in a story set within story after story. Living in the shadows of his father, Sifu, the mysterious Kung Fu master, his mother, Young Dragon Lady, and older brother, Former Kung Fu Guy, Wu strives for what might prove unattainable—his own chance to play the part of Kung Fu Guy. Yu’s playful novel looks and reads like a movie script. But the stakes are high both in Wu’s real life and in a very real world of racism.

− Michelle Macfarlane, Pantheon, $25.95

**Heathcliff Redux and Other Stories**, Lily Tuck (Feb.)

From “a kiss in the kitchen” to a stranger’s bizarre emails, Tuck’s evocative stories surprise, sadden, and enlighten. Readers will appreciate her insightful and restrained visions of characters decidedly human, vulnerable with desires, regrets and unflinching revelations. In the novella of the title she skillfully interweaves passages from *Wuthering Heights* (which the narrator is reading) with a married woman’s off-handed, chatty prose confession of her affair with Cliff. A photograph of two couples dining in an Italian café inspires observation and imagination. Sadie—in a third and most melancholic tale—uses a dead swan to reveal feelings about her dreadful marriage and unfulfilled dreams. A forgotten act of violence resurfaces years later with the casual mention of an East River park. And in the final story, dozens of emails flood a woman’s presence and trigger memories of her past experience in the infamous Rajneesh cult. These five pieces by a highly accomplished writer will delight and satisfy (especially) female readers. – Carol Kranes, Atlantic Monthly Press, $23

**The Bodies of Birds**, Melanie Rae Thon

(Out now, event in Jan.)

Part poetry, part prose, wholly original and utterly, vividly visceral, Thon’s latest evokes light and dark, beauty and death, violence and hope—often on a single page—in three parts. The first, “In the Exclusion Zone,” is set in a present-day Chernobyl devoid of human life yet reclaimed by vines and willows and feral roses, owls and bears, storks and beaver. The second, “The Bodies of Birds,” is the interior monologue of a young Latina on her way home from a thankless cleaning job in a car driven by her father—a car headed toward her destruction. In the third, “Requiem in the Rain,” an imprisoned murderer learns patience, knows repentance while his sister remembers. Each is a paean to miraculous hope and to its antithesis, the raw pain of existence. Each evokes incandescent beauty and blinding pain. Thon’s words are benisons, her phrases and stanzas drenched in music. Her ability to inhabit each character’s interior, especially those of the outcasts and dispossessed, and to infuse every landscape with radiant life, has always been and continues to be a wonder. – Betsy Burton, New Michigan Press, $9, Editor’s note: Melanie Rae Thon will read at TKE with Lance Olsen on Wednesday, January 29, 7 p.m.

**Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line**, Deepa Anaparra (Jan.)

Jai, no scholar, is, at age 8, an ardent student of crime thanks to his consumption of true-crime shows on TV. When a classmate disappears he recruits his two best friends to help track the missing boy. So begins a search that takes them through the streets of the smog-engulfed basti (slum) where they live, on a hair-raising railroad trip to Mumbai on the Purple Line, back to their own basti to haunt the dumps and playing fields and markets as another child and then an-
other (and another) disappear. The police are indifferent, the fear-driven population turns restive, then enraged, and still children vanish. The game of detective the three friends have been playing gradually takes on darker and more frightening tones as they begin to take the possibility of evil Djinns seriously—to take evil seriously—in a novel that is by turns fascinating, riveting and heartbreakingly.

Dear Edward, Ann Napolitano (Jan.)
The unthinkable happens to Edward when he is only 12 years old. En route from New York to California, his family (his parents and brother), and every other passenger, die in an airplane crash. Edward’s miraculous survival catapults him to fame in a new world he is ill-equipped to face. Lacey and John, his aunt and uncle, as well as Besa, their neighbor across the street, and Shay, her daughter, all do their best to surround and support Edward as he grapples with his loss. Woven through Edward’s and his family’s story are those of the other passengers who do not survive. After the crash, their loved ones reach out to Edward hoping for something from him that he is not, as yet, prepared to share—his own memories of that day.

The Majesties, Tiffany Tsao (Jan.)
Who put the poison in the shark’s fin soup? And why? Readers find out the who immediately, but the why takes 254 pages. Two sisters, Estella (Stell) and Gwendolyn (Doll) from a wealthy Indonesian family enjoy all the luxuries money buys: education at Berkley, travel to Paris Fashion Week, Melbourne, sunny California to see Monarch butterflies. But beneath all this lurks a troubled marriage, the unsolved death at sea of an aunt, a controlling matriarch and—when “poison trumps all”—the murder of over 300 clan member-guests at a grandfather’s 80th birthday celebration. The sisters search for personal independence and redemption from the families’ sins, and “all the secrets we keep.” For me, one of the most interesting parts of this riveting and disquieting novel was the development of Doll’s fashion company, Bagatelle, a signature line of jewelry made from shimmering insects. You won’t put this book down, and you will appreciate the insights into the world of a Chinese-Indonesian dynasty. – Carol Kranes, Atria Books, $26

Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Fremont Mapped the West, Invented Celebrity, and Helped Cause the Civil War, Steve Inskeep (Jan.)
John C. Fremont began life in ignominy, born out of wedlock in a time and place where this very fact could foretell any chance of fame and fortune. He not only rose above his beginnings but went on to become one of the most famous men of the 19th century. His rise to prominence was largely directed at the hands of his wife, Jessie Benton Fremont, who was the daughter of a powerful senator and who took it upon herself to mold her husband into the celebrity he became. His feats as an explorer were unmatched—he accurately mapped much of what would become the American West, laid out the Oregon Trail, and almost single-handedly began the revolt that would put California into U.S. hands. He became the first Republican Presidential candidate to advocate for the abolition of slavery. Despite his defeat, he and Jessie, though Southern, remained adamantly anti-slavery. Throughout their long life together, John and Jessie faced the world as one. Their story is compelling and insightful. – Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, $30

My Autobiography of Carson McCullers, Jenn Shapland (Feb.)
While working as an intern at the Harry Ransom Center, Jenn Shapland comes across a collection of love letters between Carson McCullers and a woman named Annemarie—letters that cause Shapland to not only reevaluate her perceptions of McCullers but also her perceptions of herself. Perfectly timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the publication of The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, this is a haunting, resonant read regardless of whether or not you’ve read McCullers’ novels. Evoking the work of Robert MacFarlane and Helen MacDonald, Shapland’s first book hits that beautiful sweet spot between literary criticism, biography and memoir to create something that is truly a literary treasure. – Rachel Haisley, Tin House Books, $22.95

Citizen Reporters: S.S. McClure, Ida Tarbell, and the Magazine That Rewrote America, Stephanie Gorton (Feb.)
Long before the internet existed, Americans got their news from magazines and newspapers. During the end of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th, one of the most influential voices was McClure’s, a magazine that drew over 400,000 readers. S.S. McClure was the founding publisher of the magazine and Ida Tarbell was one of his prized reporters. Between the two of them they invented investigative journalism. In the process, they single-handedly brought about the demise of the Standard Oil monopoly. This was but one of nu-
numerous schemes and evildoers they exposed. McClure's also provided a platform for numerous literary voices. In the end, they molded the America we've inherited. This is a wonderful examination of a significant part of our history—and a reminder of its importance in today's perilous times. – Barbara Hoagland, Morrow, $28.99

**Hold On, But Don't Hold Still: Hope and Humor from My Seriously Flawed Life**, Kristina Kuzmič (Feb.)

You might not recognize the pretty woman on the cover of this memoir if you’re used to watching Kristina sitting in her clothes closet drinking coffee directly out of the pot (with a straw). But just read a few pages and you’ll hear the familiar warm and funny voice of the mom we’ve come to know and love via social media. Turns out, she’s had more than her share of struggles and while she’s come out on the other side, she remembers where she’s been hers is a practical and practiced view of life. You’ll laugh, you’ll cry, you’ll want to get in that closet and have a serious, and seriously hilarious kaffe klatsch!

– Anne Holman, Viking, $26


Justus Rosenberg was just 16 when his parents encouraged him to move to Paris from Danzig, Germany, in order to finish his education in a safer environment than the anti-Semitic atmosphere of Nazi Germany. But when World War II broke out and France was overrun, Rosenberg was stranded there and forced to rely on his wits to survive. Survive he did and, in the process, he became a fierce and invaluable member of the French resistance. His story is one of a young man who used his fluency in languages and his survival skills in a time of enormous peril. Rosenberg, who is now 98, has given us a powerful tale of an important time and place from someone who was at the center of it all. – Barbara Hoagland, Morrow, $28.99

**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

**Things in Jars**, Jess Kidd (Feb.)

In Kidd's third book she introduces us to the formidable Bridie Divine, a flame-haired female investigator in 19th-century London who has been hired to recover the kidnapped daughter of a Baronet. Young Christabel Berwick has strange powers, she can control the tides and she can see into anyone’s mind to pick out thoughts as easily as a skilled angler lands a trout. Bridie is assisted by her housekeeper Cora, rescued from the circus; by Ruby, a deceased boxer with spectacular tattoos; and by Inspector Rose of Scotland Yard. The rivers of London are rising from their burial grounds and threatening to turn London into a suburb of Atlantis. To find Christabel, Bridie has to revisit her past—a past she would prefer stay buried. But with a child's life at stake she will not fail, again. – Paula Longhurst, Atria, $27

**Cartier's Hope**, M.J. Rose (Jan.)

1910 New York. On the face of it, socialite Vera Garland and undercover reporter Vee Swan have nothing in common. Vera is the daughter of a retail tycoon and Vee thinks nothing of living in crowded, filthy tenements to uncover stories of injustice. Vee is Vera's alter ego, the woman who, encouraged by her father, feels that she can make a difference in the world. Vera has seen her share of tragedy too. A recent back injury, the loss of a beloved uncle and the devastating death of her father have pulled the rug from under her. A letter will change all that, shed light on a well-hidden family secret and set Vera, as Vee Swan, on a path to take down the man she holds responsible for her father's death. On that path stands Pierre Cartier, jeweler and showman extraordinaire, and the legendary Hope diamond said to bring bad luck to whoever owns it… – Paula Longhurst, Atria, $27

**The Missing American**, Kwei Quartey (Jan.)

Introducing Emma Djan, the daughter of a decorated police officer in whose footsteps Emma hopes to follow. Ghana’s police force, however, is now rife with corruption, and Emma is relieved of her boring duties when she refuses to do a ‘favour’ for a senior colleague. Now employed by the Sowah detective agency, Emma takes the case of Derek Tilson, an American who is searching for his missing father. Gordon Tilson, who met a beautiful Ghanaian widow online, flew over to surprise her and then vanished without a trace. Emma’s investigations will take her into the weird and dangerous world of fetish priests, online scammers and double-dealing at the highest levels. – Paula Longhurst, Soho Crime, $25.95
**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

*My Dark Vanessa*, Kate Elizabeth Russell (Jan.)

2000: Vanessa was 15 years old when she fell in love with Jacob Strane, her English teacher at an exclusive prep school. It was “soooo romantic.” She was noticed, she was special. 2017: Strane has just been accused of a pattern of abuse of the teenage girls he was supposed to be protecting. One of the girls reaches out to Vanessa, begging her to go public. Through the lens of therapy Vanessa begins to question her memories of the affair. Was she the instigator or the victim? Did Strane empower her or control her? Vanessa steps off the page and into your head; you’ll find yourself arguing with her over her decisions and the consequences. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $27.99

*First Cut*, Judy Melinke and T.J. Mitchell (Jan.)

Dr. Jessie Teska, the practitioner of one of the darker professions, forensic pathology, has left L.A. under a cloud and is starting a new job as medical examiner in a busy, understaffed office in San Francisco. The last thing she needs is trouble—but when a corpse her boss has deemed a suicide seems to her to be a homicide, she sets out on what will be a collision course with the status quo. Drugs and more death, bitcoin and more drugs, and yet more deaths fuel a tale that graphically evokes both her profession and her personal life—whether the topic is sex, viscera, or violence. A killer mystery (no pun intended) by the author of *Working Stiff* guaranteed to keep you up until the wee hours of the morning. – Betsy Burton, Hanover Square, $26.99

*The Rabbit Hunter*, Lars Kepler (Jan.)

Sweden’s politicians are being targeted by a terrorist. With one minister already dead, Saga Bauer of the security police is drawn into the case and so is Joona Linna, who is still serving his sentence for assaulting another officer. Linna targets the terrorist by insinuating himself into the man’s network and then carrying a vital message to the outside. What happens next puts Linna back in prison and Bauer on a plane to a secure facility in America where a witness waits. Bauer hopes this witness can tell her everything, that is if the woman hasn’t completely lost her mind. – Paula Longhurst, Knopf, $27.95

*The Golden Key*, Marian Womack (Feb.)

Queen Victoria is dead and London is in the grip of psychic mayhem. Mediums and nightly seances calling forth the spirits are celebrated and investigated in equal measure. One of these mediums, Helena Walton-Cisneros, has been enlisted by Lady Matthews to solve the decades-old disappearance of her three stepdaughters on the bleak Norfolk Fens. Before leaving London Helena meets young Samuel Moncrieff, who is mourning his lost love and having terrible nightmares about the same desolate area. Helena is travelling to—an area of dark magic, old superstitions, devil men and vanishing children. And sometimes those children come back… – Paula Longhurst, Titan, $14.95

*The Janes*, Louisa Luna (Jan.)

The Janes of the title are Jane Does; two anonymous young women who have been murdered. Their autopsies show they are little more than children, and forensic evidence indicates frequent brutal sexual assaults. They’ve been trafficked. Not a high priority for law enforcement. The San Diego police outsource the murders to Alice Vega and her partner Max Caplan, whom she calls in from across the country—but no sooner do they make some progress in the sex trafficking operation, than they are called off the case. By now emotionally involved, the pair continue their investigation, widening it to include the police and inadvertently stepping on the toes of a Mexican cartel. Threats, betrayal and violence ensue in this dark, fast-moving thriller. What the two rogue detectives discover isn’t pretty, but is so common in these sick times we live in that it’s hard to ignore. – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, $26

*Scrublands*, Chris Hammer (Jan.)

Martin, a burned-out war correspondent with a bad case of PTSD acquired in Gaza; Riversend, an Australian town still traumatized by the actions of a trusted priest-turned-mass-murderer who had killed several of the town’s residents the year before; the heat-scorched scrubland beyond that town; the inhabitants of town and bush, reluctant to talk: the major ingredients of this mesmerizing, deeply intelligent, beautifully written mystery. *Scrublands* examines far more than the whys of the shooting. Raw, riveting and as apocalyptic as a bushfire one minute, as thoughtful as a contemplative prayer the next, teeming with long-hidden secrets but also with love and fear and compassion, it probes at the anthill of human motivation and allows us to view what’s within, creating a storytelling wonder of a novel in the process. – Betsy Burton, Touchstone, $18
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