Need Gift Ideas? Just Ask Our Customers

Here's what our customers have loved all year long in hardcover fiction. Some are brilliant, some light, some just great reads. There are also picks from all over the store, whether mystery, nonfiction or children's, sprinkled throughout this issue, just look for stockings!

*All the Light We Cannot See*, Anthony Doerr - Scribner, $27
*Our Souls at Night*, Kent Haruf - Knopf, $24
*The Buried Giant*, Kazuo Ishiguro - Knopf, $26.95
*Last Bus to Wisdom*, Ivan Doig - Riverhead, $28.95
*Spool of Blue Thread*, Anne Tyler - Knopf, 25.95
*The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah – St. Martin's Press, $27.99
*Did You Ever Have a Family*, Bill Clegg – Gallery/Scout, $26
*Fishbowl*, Bradley Somer – St. Martin's Press, $24.99
*Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped In an Ikea Wardrobe*, Romain Puertolas - Knopf, $22.95
*Purity*, Jonathan Franzen – Farrar, Strauss, Giroux, $28

Save 15% on Small Business Saturday!

**Indies First!** 15% discount all day! Rosemary Wells will sign books at 11 a.m., and authors will participate as booksellers throughout the store: Join Julie Checkoway and Jeff Metcalf, Jennifer Adams, Kristyn Crow, Jennifer Jenkins, Mark Pett, Rubin Pingk, Emily Wing Smith and TKE booksellers.

**Thursday, December 3, 5-7 p.m.** Our holiday party! Take 20% off and visit with Pat Bagley (cartoonist extraordinaire), Mark & Caralyn Buehner (*Merry Christmas, Mr. Mouse*), Julie Checkoway (*The Three-Year Swim Club*), Leo Espinoza (*Jackrabbit McCabe & the Electric Telegraph*), Kate Harrington & Mary McIntyre (*Savor*), Lora Kohler (*The Little Snowplow*), Jeri Parker (*Unmoored*), Donna & Jim Poulton (*Painters of Grand Teton National Park*), and June Williamson (*Thai Food Made Easy*).

**Saturday, December 5, 11 a.m.** The Grinch visits for Story time.

**Think Indies First on Small Business Saturday, November 28th!**

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, authors are giving thanks to independent bookstores all over the country as a way of showing their support on Small Business Saturday. Think **Indies First!** Save 15% all day while authors you love—from Rosemary Wells and Jennifer Adams to Julie Checkoway and Jeff Metcalf—hand sell you books along with the booksellers at The King's English. And don't forget TKE’s annual holiday party **Thursday, December 3, 5-7 p.m.** with local authors galore and **20% off** everything!

**Imagine this:** If we all shift just 10% of our spending to local businesses, on a yearly basis, $1.3 billion will stay in our Utah economy! So think **Indies First** all week long as our 15% discount continues in support of the **Local First Utah Shift Your Spending Campaign** which runs through December 5.

**FREE SAME DAY DELIVERY IN SALT LAKE CITY!**
WILDERNESS IN IMAGES

Tom Mangelsen, one of the world’s most renowned nature photographers, has been tracking a family of Grizzlies, Mother Grizzly 399 and her generations of cubs, for a decade. The result is *Grizzly: The Bears of Greater Yellowstone* (Rizzoli, $60), a spectacular look at some of the world’s most awe-inspiring creatures and their equally inspiring habitat—Yellowstone and the Tetons. Photographer Mangelsen and the author, environmental writer Todd Wilkinson, are coming to town! Get a signed copy of this breathtaking and groundbreaking volume for the love of your life at TKE’s event (see page 1) or pick one up at the store. And, speaking of magnificent Western wilderness areas, *Painters of Grand Teton National Park* by Donna and James Poulton (Gibbs Smith, $75) allows us to see the Tetons through others’ eyes—those of artists across two centuries. What better way to celebrate the creation of the national parks on this the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service than the gift of this magnificent volume featuring painters such as Edward Hopper, Thomas Moran, and others. The Poultons will be at TKE’s Holiday Party on Dec. 3, signing their book which, along with the Mangelsen, is one of the season’s best gifts for those who love wilderness.

Another stunning book that looks at our national parks more broadly in terms of space and time is *National Geographic: The National Parks: An Illustrated History* by Kim Heacox (National Geographic, $50). Gorgeous, comprehensive, fascinating. Or, for a very different sort of armchair journey, mystery writer Peter May of *The Lewis Trilogy* fame, chronicles the spare, lovely corner of the world where his dark and moody tales are set in haunting prose and images in *Hebrides* (Quercus, $26.99), perfect for those who love mysteries or, for that matter, Scotland.

For those who have a more active take on the wilderness, *The World’s Most Extreme Challenges: 50 Feats of Endurance from around the Globe* by Paul Moore (Bloomsbury USA, $34) takes readers from the North Pole to the Nile to the Iditarod trail, whether by foot or by sled or on by kayak, while *Alone on the Wall* by Alex Honnold and David Roberts (Norton & Company, $26.95) chronicles, in words and images, Honnold’s death-defying solo climbs of the world’s most dangerous peaks—without ropes. There is no better book this year for the mountaineer in your life (although let’s not give him or her any ideas about forsaking safety….)

THE WORD AS IMAGE

Art or Nature? It’s hard to say which moves the heart more. But whatever your personal preference, everyone would agree that one of the most spectacular books of the year is *Florence* by Ross King and Anja Grebe (Black Dog & Leventhal, $75). The Uffizi, the Pitti Palace, the Duomo; 2000 paintings and frescos; 2500 full-color images; a lively and informed text…ANYONE who loves art will cherish this book. Forever. As they will the glorious and insightful *Portraits* (Verso, $44.95) in which John Berger, one of the masters of art writing in our time, walks us through a gallery of portraits stretching back in time to the caves of Lascaux and forward to today, placing art in the context of the culture which gave rise to it. For a modern sensibility, Cees W. de Jong’s *Piet Mondrian: The Studios* (Thames & Hudson, $50) shows us not only the stages of a modernist’s art, but through the lens of Mondrian’s work the successive stages of modernism as well. A very different path into the modern world is evident in *Beloved Dog* (Penguin Press, $29.95), evokes the dogs in her life in her own inimitable style. Then there’s the ‘out there’ *Varigic’s Miscellany of Curious Maps* (Harper Design, $35) in which Martin Vargic maps the wilderness of the ultra-modern—from maps of websites worldwide to maps of stereotypes to maps of You-Tube and music—ironically all cloaked in the style of the antique and the arcane.
Finally, a sweeping intellectual look at the world of art is *Keeping an Eye Open* (Knopf, $30), Julian Barnes’ collection of the Booker Prize-winning novelist’s erudite and fascinating art essays, tracing the world of modern art history from Romanticism to Modernism. In *Looking at Pictures* (New Directions, $24.95) on the other hand, Robert Walser’s responses to art are simply delightful to read, each only a few pages of insight, charming confessions and more like short stories than art essays.

**A WILDERNESS OF WORDS**

For those from 16 or 96 who love reading, love the touch and feel of books, and adore Jane Austen, the most lavish and loving gift imaginable is *Jane Austen: The Complete Works* (Penguin Classics, $159), a gorgeous boxed set that includes everything from her novels to her juvenilia. And for those who remember childhood literature fondly and want to know more as an adult about the books they loved, publisher W.W. Norton, known for its exquisite and informative annotated editions, has published two such this year, each $39.95, both long on scholarship and beautifully illustrated: *The Annotated Alice*, a 150 anniversary edition of Lewis Carroll’s classic, and *The Annotated Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Both are treasures that shed light on the authors, the text and the times—important additions to anyone’s library.

For those who love the Bard, the gift beyond all others is *The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606* (Simon & Schuster, $30) in which James Shapiro, one of our great popular historians of Shakespeare, returns with a thoroughly researched and yet very readable account of historical events in England, in the process shedding light on the Bard’s three 1606 compositions, “Macbeth,” “King Lear” and “Antony & Cleopatra.” And *Presenting Shakespeare: 1,100 Posters from Around the World* by Mirko Ilić and Steven Heller (Princeton Architectural Press, $50) is a stunning compendium of theater posters for Shakespeare’s plays spanning centuries and continents—a one-of-a-kind visual feast for any Shakespeare enthusiast. Or, wrap up a copy of the three plays being performed at The Utah Shakespearean Festival next summer in Cedar City along with a ticket! While you’re there, consider that if the Bard had the power to look at the world from our 21st century perspective, knowing as he did the power of the written word not only to narrate history but to change it, he’d have loved *100 Documents That Changed the World* by Scott Christianson (Rizzoli, $29.95), a book that takes us, word by word, document by document from The Magna Carta to The Gettysburg Address, from the Apollo Flight Plan to Wikileaks. And he’d no doubt have penned a stunning play with Assange at its heart…

For the poet in your life there are all sorts of riches from which to choose, among them: *Erratic Facts* (Grove Press, $24), Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Kay Ryan’s new collection of poems that shows how much power she packs into her short lines and spare poems, bringing to mind Theodore Roethke and Robert Creeley; *Felicity* (Penguin Press, $24.95), Mary Oliver’s new collection of love poems in which every lovely page is a meditation on love and human connection; or slip *Cathay* by Ezra Pound (New Directions, $15.95), a centennial edition of his seminal work of Chinese-English poetry into a holiday stocking along with *The Best American Poetry 2015* (Scribner, $18.99), Sherman Alexie (guest editor) & David Lehman (series editor). With names both familiar and new, this collection of recent work will be read and re-read for years to come.

And finally, sure to please the literati in your life and perfect for holiday stockings, Bohumil Hrabal’s *Mr. Kafka and Other Tales from the Time of the Cult* (New Directions, $14.95) offers whimsical and sometimes enigmatic tales that bring 1950s Czechoslovakia to life with Hrabal’s characteristic verve and witty prose, while *The Hollow Land*, by Jane Gardam (Europa, $15) addresses with humor and charm the shifting changes in the countryside, constant tensions between country and city life and the community’s efforts to hang onto their way of life for future generations. Too big for stockings but a perfect addition to any reader’s library is *100 Years of The Best American Short Stories*, edited by Lorrie Moore and Heidi Pitlor (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $30), which takes us from Hemingway and Faulkner to Paley to Alexie all telling their tales in different cadences, each speaking to our hearts.
MUSIC OF THE SPHERES

Perhaps the most direct route to our hearts is music and whatever your tastes, they’ll find a match on our shelves. If classical is your thing, John Paxman’s In Classical Music: A Chronology (Overlook, $49.95) takes us from Bach and the baroque to Glass and the modern in a book that looks at composers, their environments, and the musical movements of which they are a part. Comprehensive and lavishly illustrated, this is ideal for musicologists and neophytes alike. On a very different note (no pun intended), in Unfaithful Music & Disappearing Ink (Blue Rider Press, $30), Elvis Costello, one of the most verbally talented musicians of this or any era, has produced a typically wordy but always moving memoir about his unique and extremely lengthy career as a post-punk pop singer, while Philippe Margotin and Jean-Michel Guesdon’s Bob Dylan: All the Songs is a marvel of information brilliantly showcased by the creative publisher (Black Dog & Leventhal, $50). And finally, for lovers of Ol’ Blue Eyes, Sinatra: The Chairman by James Kaplan (Double-day, $35) and Sinatra 100 by Charles Pignone (Thames & Hudson, $60) with forewords by Tony Bennett and Steve Wynn and afterwards by his three children chronicles the life and times of “The Chairman of the Board.” Officially approved by the family, it’s chock full of new photos from the family archives.

THE ART OF THE KITCHEN

Jacques Pépin: Heart & Soul in the Kitchen. (Rux Martin/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $35) laces 200 recipes from simple suppers with frank views on everything from the local food movement to molecular gastronomy and personal tales. As entertaining as is the PBS series to which it is a companion volume, it belongs in the kitchen of every chef, amateur or otherwise, as does 100 Recipes: The Absolute Best Ways to Make the True Essentials (America’s Test Kitchen, $40) in which America’s Test Kitchen has tried, re-tried, and determined the best way to simplify, inspire and reimagine old recipes, creating wonderful new variations for our time. Finally don’t forget Nigella Lawson (she wouldn’t let us) whose Simply Nigella: Feel Good Food (Flatiron Books, $35) contains 150 recipes from brunches to suppers to feasts—from the simple to the sumptuous. Happy eating, happy reading, and to all a goodnight.

THE TSAR OF LOVE AND TECHNO, Anthony Marra

The title story of this stunning collection begins dead-center in the book’s 300+ pages. Which is appropriate since it connects the book’s disparate pieces into one dazzling whole. Suddenly you realize what you’re reading is more novel than collection, a sweeping tale of Russian history’s cruel ironies in which memory is the incandescent heart. In the first tale, which takes place in 1937, a failed portraitist whose job is to expunge the images of the disloyal from all paintings and photographs replaces the faces of those he’s supposed to remove with that of his dead brother. The next tale, “The Granddaughters,” is a kind of Greek chorus of village gossip in which the image that doomed our painter is brought to life in the form of a dancer and her progeny, and we are introduced to each of the characters whose intersecting lives people this amazing book from 1937 forward to the era of technology—whether in Kirovsk, high above the Arctic Circle, St. Petersburg, or Chechnya. At its heart are star-crossed lovers whose fates are woven from tale to tale and into our hearts; the love of brothers; and of mothers and fathers. If there is betrayal it is that of the state in a story with the breadth of scope and the depth of feeling of the finest literature. – Betsy Burton and Anne Holman, Hogarth, $25

EYES, William H. Gass

Following last fall’s reissue of his seminal In the Heart of the Heart of the Country, William Gass returns with a new collection of short fiction that looks at how we see things and, more provocatively, how things see us. Some of these stories are narrated by objects—in one story, the narrator is a folding chair in a man’s barber shop and it shares its impressions of its fellow chairs and the people who sit on them; in another, the narrator is the piano and its fellow chairs and the people who sit on it; in yet another, the narrator is the piano and its fellow chairs and the people who sit on it. “The Granddaughters,” is a kind of Greek chorus of village gossip in which the image that doomed our painter is brought to life in the form of a dancer and her progeny, and we are introduced to each of the characters whose intersecting lives people this amazing book from 1937 forward to the era of technology—whether in Kirovsk, high above the Arctic Circle, St. Petersburg, or Chechnya. At its heart are star-crossed lovers whose fates are woven from tale to tale and into our hearts; the love of brothers; and of mothers and fathers. If there is betrayal it is that of the state in a story with the breadth of scope and the depth of feeling of the finest literature. – Betsy Burton and Anne Holman, Hogarth, $25

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to travel between their world and ours begin to open up, she seeks out her progeny to alert them to their powers. Soon “strangenesses” begin to occur with regularity, the fabric of reasonable society comes apart and the War of the Worlds (between the human world and the jinni world) begins. This book gives you everything you want from a Rushdie novel—wild wit and humor, earthy characters, his unique style of magical realism mixed with almost classical romance, Joycean wordplay, and a truly epic storyline that spans millennia. It’s perfect for fans of Rushdie’s earlier classics Midnight’s Children and The Moor’s Last Sigh. – Kenneth Loosli, Random House, $28

And West Is West, Ron Childress

A hand hovering over a control; a question about what the camera is revealing; an order from above. And so lives change—just as they do in another part of the U.S. where another finger hovers over another button while a distracted mind calculates odds. Once again a button is pushed and once again lives change. The control in the first instance is in the hands of Jessica, a drone pilot in the Nevada desert, who sees innocents enter her target area but is ordered to fire anyway. The button in the second instance is controlled by Ethan, whose specialty is calculating the impact of terrorism on the markets of the world and who, with one push of a button, one miscalculation he may or may not have made, is cast out like Jessica, adrift in a world with which he is not prepared to cope. Through the eyes of Ethan and Jessica, both on the run, both searching for a way to get at the truth of what has happened, the story expands, explodes, pulling us into intersecting lives and into the web of technologies the impact of which we’re just beginning to understand. And West Is West is not just a great read, it’s eye-opening in terrifying ways. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin Books, $26.95

Hotels of North America, Rick Moody

Rick Moody’s output has been uneven and controversial—one of the most notorious takedowns in all of literature was Dale Peck’s review of Moody’s PEN-award-winning memoir, showing how he could be on top and bottom all at once—but his newest novel could be a real crowd-pleaser. It’s an always-funny and frequently hilariously novel told in the form of brief online reviews of hotels, motels, inns, and even big-box store parking lots—any place a traveler might find himself passing a night away from home. The traveler/reviewer is Reginald Edward Morse, a former financier turned motivational speaker who is not above employing some dirty tricks (such as bringing his own dead cockroaches to stage an infestation) in order to gain a discounted price. One might think of Morse as a twisted version of Anne Tyler’s Macon Leary (aka the Accidental Tourist) as written by Richard Brautigan. Unlike his Internet-hating contemporary Jonathan Franzen, Moody has moved his fiction comfortably into the 21st century with this web-inspired comic novel that sometimes feels like Fawlty Towers in reverse. – Kenneth Loosli, Little, Brown, $25

Numero Zero, Umberto Eco

Eco’s short but excellent book is more cautionary tale than suspense novel and satire is at its center. Set in Milan in 1992, it supposes that a failed academic is hired to ghostwrite a memoir based on a nascent newspaper that is to be a heroic example of journalism at its best. The staff of the paper, when not failing to report stories that might negatively impact their patrons, brainstorm stories out of vapor by grouping together unrelated facts until they are made to seem significant, simply because they’re being reported. Until suddenly, a reporter stumbles across what could actually be a story: a theory that Mussolini was never executed after the war, but was spirited away, until an attempt could be made to bring him back. Which had happened 20 years before, in a coup attempt that failed because El Duce died before the takeover could occur. A whacked-out conspiracy theory or truth? A question that becomes more pressing when the reporter is murdered. Numero Zero looks at the forces that have battered Italy since the war, whether political, journalistic, or religious, with the eye of a cynic, a caustic tongue, and a scathing sense of humor. – Betsy Burton, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $24

The Blue Guitar, John Banville

Oliver Orme is both a successful and a failed artist. He’s made enough money to return to his hometown with a beautiful young wife and buy the big house on the hill, but he has stopped painting, leaving him a bit listless. Oliver is also an admitted kleptomaniac—he likes to steal things that will certainly be missed, like one half of a set of ceramic figurines or a special book of poetry or, worst of all, his friend’s wife. His muse gone and his philandering discovered, Orme becomes the bête noire of his small-town coterie, so he sits down to write his narrative as a way to hold together a life that seems to be unraveling before his eyes. It’s a subtle novel, but it’s classic Banville; it has a lot to say about art, love, deception, family, class and the shiftiness of human relationships. – Kenneth Loosli, Knopf, $25.95

Slade House, David Mitchell

Mitchell does it again in this compact thriller that may or may not be a sequel to The Bone Clocks. Companion piece or spin-off is perhaps a better description. Slade House is tucked away down an alley behind a pub with a small, mysterious iron door that only appears every nine years. Invited in by a strange brother and sister, the unique and unfortunate souls who enter that door are never heard from again. Spanning 50 years, from the late 70s to the present, this little novel will make you feel as if you have dropped inside an Escher drawing and will keep you up at night as you hurtle to the conclusion
**TO STOCK YOUR STOCKINGS:**
**CUSTOMER FAVORITES THIS YEAR IN FICTION**

*Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel - Vintage, $15.95 (dystopian with an artistic difference)

*The Red Notebook*, Antoine Laurain – Gallic Books, $14.95 (a francophile’s delight)

*Euphoria*, Lily King – Grove Press, $16 (anthropology, sensuality, history—a pulse-racer)

*Nora Webster*, Colm Tóibín - Scribner, $16 (hidden strengths, hidden truths—unforgettable)

*Dear Committee Members*, Julie Schumacher – Anchor, $14.95 (unforget-tably funny)

*The Painter*, Peter Heller - Vintage, $15.95 (art, fishing, love, violence—and great writing besides)

*Americanah*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - Anchor, $15.95 (spellbinding)

*My Brilliant Friend*, Elena Ferrante - Europa, $17 (first in a fabulous trilogy)

*The Children Act*, Ian McEwan - Anchor, $15 (intense and clever)

*Tell the Wolves I’m Home*, Carol Rifka Brunt - Dial Press, $16 (unforgettable child protagonist)

*The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*, Jonas Jonasson - Hyperion, $16 (unforgettable century-old protagonist)

*Lowland*, Jhumpa Lahiri - Vintage, $15.95 (exquisite tale of two worlds)

*The Dog Stars*, Peter Heller - Vintage, $15.95 (exquisite tale of a world disappearing)

*Where’d You Go Bernadette*, Maria Semple - Back Bay, $14.99 (darkly funny)

*Mink River*, Brian Doyle - Oregon State University, $18.95 (quirky and gorgeous)

*All That Is Solid Melts into Air*, Darragh McKeon - HarperPernnial, $14.99 (gorgeous, harrowing)

*Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, Rachel Joyce – Random House, $16 (an odyssey you’ll never forget)

*Brooklyn*, Colm Tóibin - Scribner, $15 (even better than the movie—and the movie is fabulous)

*Narrow Road to the Deep North*, Richard Flanagan - Vintage, $15.95 (exquisitely painful)


*Language of Flowers*, Vanessa Diffenbaugh – Random House, $16 (romantic and engaging)

*We Are Called to Rise*, Laura McBride – Simon & Schuster, $15 (the side of Vegas you never knew)

*Look for the stocking throughout this issue to find other customer favorites!*
FICTION

The Improbability of Love, Hannah Rothschild
Annie, an aspiring chef, finds the perfect gift for her former lover. It is a small painting found in a dusty junk shop. The painting, in the style of Watteau, eventually becomes the center of a major sale at a London auction house and attracts the attention of the international rich who are prepared to fight for it. As a chef Annie is an artist and is hired by the rich and famous to create themed dinners, but her knowledge of art is limited. She doesn’t realize that others are looking at her not as a cook but as the owner of an important art work and are plotting devious means of acquiring the piece. In the course of verifying the work, she meets a young guide at the Wallace Collection who falls in love with her and leads her through the maze of art scholars and greedy dealers who compete for ownership with whatever means available. The painting itself is also a narrator within the book and reveals its travels from France to Russia and into the world of Nazi Germany and stolen art. Author Hannah Rothschild offers a fictional look behind the curtains of the art world which can be read as a piece of crime fiction or a comment on the business of art. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Alfred A. Knopf, $27.95

After You, Jojo Moyes
In this delightful sequel to Me Before You, Lou finds herself drifting in the wake of Will’s death, unable to move on, unable to live the life he charged her with at his death. After an extraordinary accident she wakes to discover she must return to more judgments from her family, her friends and everyone who knows her. Lou has been resigned to her grief support meetings, her dreadful job and her barely-lived-in apartment until her complacency is disturbed by a knock on her door. A young woman inserts herself into Lou’s sloppy existence; forced back into the Traynors lives, she must once again find a way to carve an identity for herself. Surprises abound as we sail along on this funny, affecting ride as Lou tries to find her happy-ever-after. – Anne Stewart Mark, Pamela Dorman Books, $26.96

Silence and Song, Melanie Rae Thon
Hope in the face of despair. A single fragment of line in the prose poem connecting the two ecstatic, shattering pieces that are Silence and Song, a book that takes us into the hearts and souls of the dispossessed and of those who try to save them. In “Vanishings” a thief tears up the Saguaro cactus, killing what he can’t steal; a car careens off the road, bodies flying out. Brothers struggle across hot sand, bodies blistered; a good Samaritan brings water into the desert, wanting to help; a boy with a gun, filled with the pain of thorns, bad drugs, cruelty; a mother playing Chopin; a teacher in love with her students, children for whom pain is the fabric of life, nightmares their memories. Then “Translation,” the poem at the book's heart. Again children. And “Requiem:” a brother and a sister living the poetry of urban violence, of scorched earth, of a home where nothing is safe, except the insistence of the garden. This braided with the poetry of Chernobyl, of scorched earth now safe harbor to what is wild. Hope braided with despair. – Betsy Burton, New Michigan Press $16.95 Editor’s note: Thon will read at The King's English Bookshop at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 23 with poet and novelist Noy Holland.

The 7th Man, Melanie Rae Thon
Brief, ecstatic, searing, The 7th Man is an interior prose poem from the heart of a man who has helped to perform 131 executions, part of the team who take turns rehearsing and then escorting and strapping down the victims. His interior monologue takes us from pride in his team to the reality of bearing witness, an act that eventually brings the executions to life, cracking open the executioner’s life and giving him another in the process. Thon, like no one else alive, captures the pain and the ecstasy of our existence, its harrowing, too-often brutal nature, and the transcendent joy of soil and of souls, making sense of the urge to hurt and the will to rescue, the unbearable loneliness and the solace that makes life bearable. Her slender volumes speak volumes about humanity in all its agony and its undying glory. – Betsy Burton, New Michigan Press, $9

FICTION PAPER

City of Clowns, Daniel Alarcón & Sheila Alvarado
Artist Sheila Alvarado illustrates Daniel Alarcón’s moving short story about coming to terms with his philandering father and exploring Lima’s vast collection of bizarre street performers. – Kenneth Loosli, Riverhead, $27.95

Nimona, Noelle Stevenson
For younger readers, Nimona, which was shortlisted for the 2015 NBA Young Adult Literature prize, started as a webcomic. In book format this graphic novel is a blast to read, a romp that puts science fiction into a medieval setting and mixes up the good and the bad guys. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, $12.99

GRAPHIC NOVELS
**Mystery/Thriller**

**A Banquet of Consequences: A Lynley Novel**, Elizabeth George
Detective Sargent Barbara Havers has been forced to sign a transfer request to Berwick-upon-Tweed which Detective Superintendent Isabelle Ardery keeps on her desk waiting for Havers’ next wrong move. Havers, on the other hand, is frantic to get back into the game of solving murders and is willing to risk the horrors of a transfer to do so. When a prominent feminist dies of an apparent heart attack, Havers is drawn into examining the death, which is more complicated than it appears. Lynley does his best to guide her in a prudent direction during the investigation, but, as usual, she goes her own way. In the process, she uncovers more than enough motives to incriminate a cast of murderers. Once again, George has given us, the reader, ample opportunity to escape into the world of Lynley and Havers as well as to delve into murder most vile. Terrific. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $28.95

**The Reflection**, Hugo Wilcken
Lovers of black and white noir films will identify with the tone and plot of **The Reflection**, set in 1948 New York. Psychiatrist David Manne rents an upscale office simply for show and is satisfied picking up jobs from the police—during one of which he is convinced that something is not quite right with the suspect he is to interview. His curiosity gets the better of him, and he attempts to aid the suspect and investigate the strange hospital to which he has been sent. Through a series of twists and turns Manne ends up with the man’s ID, trapped in the hospital and in the role of the patient, involved in a case of mistaken identity or amnesia or, perhaps, paranoia. The book caters to the human fear of losing a personal identity—one where the psychiatrist as the patient is unable to convince others of his sanity. Hugo Wilcken has created a sympathetic character in this well-written thriller. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Melville House, $25.95

**A Killing in Zion**, Andrew Hunt
When a polygamist leader and his bodyguard are murdered, the anti-polygamy squad of the Salt Lake Police Department faces the mixed messages which come from the police, the politicians, and powerful polygamous leaders. Art Oveson, deputy sheriff, is caught in the middle of these forces. He has strong feelings about the evils of the polygamous sects and takes it upon himself to care for a young mute girl found at the scene of the crime. She seems to be at the center of the conflict. Oveson attempts to solve the crime and thwart the dealings of the various sects who are now moving down to the Utah-Arizona border. He is passionately opposed to plural marriage and the illegal actions of the groups. His passion puts him into danger along with his friends and the young people he tries to protect. Andrew Hunt may live in Canada but his knowledge of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Mormon history makes the mystery come alive. Those who live in Utah will enjoy the picture of the state in 1934 and those who know nothing about Utah will read this as a picture of a curious place and curious people. An action novel, it is also a discerning look at the violence that can result from religious extremism and a warning to those who ignore that violence. – Paula Longhurst, Minotaur Books, $26.99

**The Searcher**, Simon Toyne
Solomon Creed just walked away from a plane crash and only knows his name because it is sewn into the jacket he’s wearing. His past is clouded and his future could be very uncertain indeed because the town he’s walking towards, Redemption, Arizona, holds many secrets—secrets he must uncover to save a man named James Coronado, someone he has never met. While Solomon may have some unusual skills, time travel isn’t one of them, which is a shame because James Coronado was buried that morning. All Solomon has to help him is Coronado’s widow, Holly and a book by the Reverend Jack Cassidy, Redemption’s founder. The plane had been carrying a precious cargo and the man that cargo was destined for will raze the town to the ground himself to get it. Toyne, author of the **Sanctus** series, gives us the start of another taut page-turning trilogy. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $26.99

**Norwegian by Night**, Derek B. Miller, Marinier, $14.95 (An old man and a boy running for their lives…)

**Slow Horses**, Mick Herron, Soho, $9.99 (funny tale of spies and betrayal)

**Ghostly**, collected and introduced by Audrey Niffenegger
A collection of ghost stories perfect for dark winter nights, **Ghostly** features haunted houses, haunted cottages, paintings that move, magic and cats—to name just a few ghastly details, all told by masters of the genre including Poe, M.R James, Kelly Link, Neil Gaiman, P.G. Wodehouse, Saki and Niffenegger herself. Whether you want that sense of creeping unease, full-on scares or a laugh or two there’s something for everyone here.

– Paula Longhurst, Scribner, $28

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– Paula Longhurst, Scribner, $28
The Witches: Salem, 1692, Stacy Schiff
The Massachusetts Bay Colony in the late 1600s would appear to have been overrun by the Devil, who infiltrated the colony via witchcraft. Founded by the Puritans who fled Europe in order to practice their religion in the way they saw fit, the colony was a rigidly run theocracy. The Devil was as real as night and day, and once the accusations of witchcraft began flying a kind of mass hysteria took hold. Schiff has done a brilliant job of untangling this most incredible story. The reasons are complex and ultimately tragic for the innocents who were put to death. Schiff brings alive a story that to the modern mind beggars comprehension as she draws us into the world of 17th century New England. That world was a frightening place which became even more terrifying with the realization that anyone around you could be a pawn of the Devil. –Barbara Hoagland, Little Brown, $34

Prisoners of Geography, Tim Marshall
Marshall has used his experience as a war correspondent and leading authority on foreign affairs to produce a most marvelous and timely collection of maps of 10 critical countries, regions and continents. His description of the natural geologic boundaries of the continents and how they have either safeguarded people or left them unprotected, and how leaders used them in strategic ways, is fascinating. This geopolitical landscape helps one to recognize current events and why decisions are made. I can't leave it alone and keep referring back to it to help explain the news of the day. It will rest on my bookshelf next to Guns, Germs and Steel and Why Nations Fail. – Sue Fleming, Scribner, $26

Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA, Roberta Kaplan, Lisa Dickey
Edie Windsor and Thea Spyer were in a committed relationship for over 40 years but were denied the legal recognition of marriage in the United States would convey. When Spyer died, Windsor was forced to pay enormous estate taxes because their Canadian marriage was not recognized. Roberta Kaplan became lead attorney in the case that would ultimately come before the United States Supreme Court which would then declare the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional. This decision was one of the major civil rights cases that led to the eventual ruling on marriage equality throughout the country. Kaplan and Windsor's story is captivating from both a personal and a legal standpoint, and the details of their fight for equality are an important part of civil rights history. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, $27.95

Home Is Burning: A Memoir, Dan Marshall
For those who grew up in Holladay as a non-Mormon, this tale of coming of age in Utah in the 80s, which is intertwined with the painful reality of coping with the death of a parent, will resonate in ways that might make you flinch or cry but will also make you laugh. Up-roariously. Dan grew up with a pack of siblings in a sprawling house in Holladay set squarely in the center of a heavily Mormon neighborhood. His father was a prominent newspaper figure and was not Mormon. Nor was Dan's mother. She was, however, fierce, to put it mildly. Her stratagem for coping with disapproving neighbors? Open all the windows and drop among many other expletives, the f-bomb—at the top of her voice. Her big boisterous family gleefully followed her example. When the book opens Dan, who is in LA working in PR, learns that his beloved father has ALS and that his mother is again battling recurrent cancer. Dan goes home, and the ensuing tale of fart jokes, profanity and death, laced with hilarity and howling pain, is raw, honest and profound. Had Dan never moved away, the anger which is part of growing up as an outsider here might have dissipated at least in part. Salt Lake has changed, as we all know. But he left and his memories evoke a time that may have passed but which we all remember. His mixing of those cultural memories with family pain and family hostility and family love hits home. Ouch. – Betsy Burton, Flatiron Books, $27.99

The White Road, Edmund de Waal
Edmund de Waal, whose first book, The Hare with Amber Eyes, focused on inherited Japanese Netski and his travels through Asia and Europe to find their origins, is both a writer and ceramicist. He has worked with porcelain, his current obsession, for 25 years, and it is the basis for his pilgrimage to the three “white hills” of China, Germany and England. He portrays both the process of creating porcelain and the fixation throughout the ages with possessing “white gold” in a book that is a history of porcelain, its geography and its effect on those who create it and those who acquire it. He begins in China in Jiangxi province and the first of the three hills where it has been produced for 1000 years and then moves on in the footsteps of the Jesuits to France and then Germany and the second hill, explaining the role of the philosophers, Spinoza and Leibnitz. At the third hill, close to his home in Cornwall, the land of the Quakers, he tells the stories of the commercialization of the white clay by Wedgewood and of the clay in North America in the Cherokee nation. He then brings the reader into the modern age through the porcelain works at Dachau. De Waal's 400-page book is autobiography as well as history, told in the simple, white tone of a ceramicist who works alone at his wheel creating beauty out of clay. A big and complicated book, this is worthy of quiet and thoughtful reading. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $27
Lafayette in the Somewhat United States, Sarah Vowell

I'm not sure how someone who knows so much can be so funny when imparting what she knows, but Sarah Vowell has that knack. Her latest saga, long on history, short on boring, high on humor, begins with a question: How did the Marquis de Lafayette win over the stingiest, crankiest tax protestors in the world? Vowell then proceeds to answer that question with an improbably funny saga that manages to give you a vivid, witty picture of not only the brash young Marquis but our founding fathers as well. The young Marquis dashes about on his horse, ignoring wife, child, and king, shuttles nervously back and forth as the French finally arrive, to end regarding America with rosy adoration. Vowell both skewers and admires this view of us, making clear what a fractious, uneasily bound-together lot we Americans are and always have been, and how naïve our hero. Vowell never met a joke she didn't like, and her weaving of present-day politics, the personal and the past with history lights up that past until it illuminates the present.

– Betsy Burton, Riverhead Books, $27.95

Pacific, Simon Winchester

Simon Winchester delivers this seemingly eclectic narrative of 10 incidents occurring in the Pacific which appear to be unrelated—but as he tells the back story on each incident the reader sees how inter-related they are. Winchester, with his sharp British wit, writes in a quick style making a compelling case for the pivot away from the Atlantic and to the Pacific by arguing that the United States (and Canada and Mexico to some degree) are really Pacific Rim nations and that the future interests of the U.S. lie with the Pacific and her people, including the Chinese. From the birth of surfing and the California beach culture it spawned to the nuclear explosions on remote Pacific atolls to Australia and its emerging role to the potential for confrontation with an increasingly militarizing China, Winchester blends all 10 incidents together, providing some terrific insight into the history and future of the Pacific and why it matters to the United States.


PT 109, William Doyle

William Doyle, author of numerous works focusing on American militaria, re-tells the story of PT 109 and the impact its saga had on JFK and America. Early in the South Pacific campaign of WWII, the United States is out-gunned and over-matched by the Japanese military. The U.S. has decided to make its stand, in order to protect its ally, Australia, in the Solomon Islands and at Guadalcanal. Intense fighting occurs on land and sea with the two opponents evenly matched, even though the U.S. has very poor aircraft and other equipment when compared to Imperial Japan. Into this mix is flung a Patrol Torpedo (PT) boat force. PT boats are just glorified large speed boats made out of wood and equipped with faulty torpedoes that malfunction about 75% of the time. This is the story of JFK as commander of PT 109. His father, Joseph Kennedy Sr., has pulled strings to get the sickly JFK a combat command with an eye toward future Kennedy political ambitions, never imagining his son would be tested in a way not many other men of his age could endure. This is a great read for anyone, even those of us who think they know the story of PT 109 and JFK, as it gives a perspective as only 75 years of elapsed time can.

– Patrick Fleming, William Morrow, $27.99

Empire of Self: A Life of Gore Vidal, Jay Parini

Gore Vidal was not only a 20th century literary icon, he was also an iconoclastic critic of his age. He came in contact with virtually every notable figure of his time and usually had something acerbic to say about each of them. Parini was a close friend of Vidal and, thus, has had unprecedented access to documents, letters and reminiscences of those who were close to both men. The figure we see in this ambitious biography is brilliant as well as troubled. Gore Vidal was not only a man of his time, but a man of the world, and we are lucky to have access to his life through the eyes of a friend who is a skilled biographer as well.

– Barbara Hoagland, Double-day, $35

My History, Antonia Fraser

Fraser’s earliest days were spent in an aristocratic family in pre-World War II Britain. Her parents were both deeply involved in politics, while Antonia was mesmerized by history; it was the one constant in her life, and she researched and wrote one magnificent historical biography after another including Mary, Queen of Scots, The Wives of Henry VIII, and Faith and Treason. This memoir is a lyrical celebration of a time and place that has largely disappeared, and a great companion to the memoir she wrote on her marriage and partnership with Harold Pinter (Must You Go?).

– Barbara Hoagland, Double-day, $28.95

Elizabeth, Renaissance Prince, Lisa Hilton

While there are a multitude of biographies of Elizabeth, Hilton has delved into the life of this Tudor monarch from a slightly different perspective, giving us a more nuanced portrait as a result. From her birth until her death, Elizabeth’s life was one long invention; she created one
of the most successful courts in Europe using her femininity to cover the iron will that allowed her to govern a nation and confound her fellow rulers. Hilton also details Elizabeth’s loves and how she subjugated these loves to the necessity of rule. It’s an unusual and insightful look at an always fascinating woman and time in British history.  – Barbara Hoagland, Houghton Mifflin, $27

We Were Brothers, Barry Moser

When the last surviving member of a family writes a memoir, that person has license to say what he wants to say, with little resistance from others. Barry Moser, the incomparable book printer and illustrator who has created vivid and memorable illustrations for classic books ranging from The Holy Bible to Alice in Wonderland, has written a lovely tribute to his now-deceased brother, their family and the Southern world they all lived in. While he worries that his recollections are one-sided, I can say with confidence that his family would approve of We Were Brothers, which is set at the base of the Appalachian Mountains in Chattanooga, Tennessee during the last century. While Moser’s illustrations are black and white, with rendered realism bordering on the photographic, this book is written in vivid color. Moser and his older brother Tommy are typical of brothers growing up in the same household who, on the way to independent adulthood, fail to truly connect with each other. Their differences continue to grow and when the two men finally engage, both wanting some resolution before they are dead, the cultural and social differences between them create an emotional chasm that they struggle to cross. The message here is clear: do not wait until a loved one dies to make amends.  – Rob Eckman, Algonquin Books, $24.95

Lady Bird and Lyndon, Betty Caroli

Marriage is a complicated relationship and the marriage between Lady Bird and Lyndon Johnson was more complicated than some. While a brief look would indicate Lyndon was the driving force in that relationship, Caroli posits that Lady Bird was the guiding hand that led him to the presidency. A sad and lonely childhood forged a personality of steel and determination that belied her soft Southern manner. She was a shrewd businesswoman and skilled politician who wooed those whose approval she (and Lyndon) needed. That she also managed the oversized personality of her husband is revelatory, as is the information that Lyndon quite likely suffered from bipolar disorder. Her life was complicated and Caroli has done an admirable job of revealing this very personal struggle when choosing between his two great loves: Hadley and Pauline. After his near-death experiences surviving two consecutive plane crashes, Hemingway and Hotchner spent the next eight months together as Papa told him of the painful period, never before discussed, when he lived in Paris, wrote The Sun Also Rises, and was in love with two women at the same time. Beautiful reminiscences and frank confessions take us to the bohemian world of Paris in the 20s, the bullfights in Spain, the sultry days of Key West, and of Cold War Cuba. We see inside the mind of someone who struggled with his knowledge of his own mortality and existence of his immortal soul during the 100 days when he had to decide between his first and second wives. Photographs from Hotchner’s own collection grace the pages and we hear from one of his dearest friends of Hemingway’s greatest mistake.  – Anne Stewart Mark, St. Martins, $19.99

Hemingway in Love, His Own Story, A.E. Hotchner

Hemingway’s biographer Hotchner (Papa Hemingway) has written a wonderful and touching account of the loves and lives of one of our favorite authors. Taken from the words of Papa himself, entrusted to Hotchner, this lovely little memoir tells of his very personal struggle when choosing between his two great loves: Hadley and Pauline. After his near-death experiences surviving two consecutive plane crashes, Hemingway and Hotchner spent the next eight months together as Papa told him of the painful period, never before discussed, when he lived in Paris, wrote The Sun Also Rises, and was in love with two women at the same time. Beautiful reminiscences and frank confessions take us to the bohemian world of Paris in the 20s, the bullfights in Spain, the sultry days of Key West, and of Cold War Cuba. We see inside the mind of someone who struggled with his knowledge of his own mortality and existence of his immortal soul during the 100 days when he had to decide between his first and second wives. Photographs from Hotchner’s own collection grace the pages and we hear from one of his dearest friends of Hemingway’s greatest mistake.  – Anne Stewart Mark, St. Martins, $19.99

NONFICTION STOCKING STUFFERS

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold, Daniel James Brown – Penguin, $17 (boats, wood, rowing, endurance, history...and a great read besides)

Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson – Spiegel and Grau, $16 (most important nonfiction about justice in a decade)

My Beloved World, Sonia Sotomayor – Vintage, $15.95 (most important justice appointed in this decade)
Counting Lions

**Counting Lions**, Katie Cotton, illustrated by Stephen Walton
At first glance, this is just a counting book, but wait! In present tense, the text describes the qualities and behavior of each of 10 threatened species, and the charcoal drawings are breathtaking. The end pages offer more information about each animal. – Candlewick Press, $22 (all ages)

**The 50 States**, Gabrielle Balkin
Well-researched and graphically engaging, this book is a great family resource. It’s filled with information, including an overview of each state, and a map which identifies important events, places and people, moments to remember, key facts (like state bird, flower and tree, name origin, statehood date, and more). – Wide Eyed Editions, $30 (7-12)

With beautiful visuals by an award-winning illustrator, this luxurious edition of the first book in the series makes a great gift for the child who is just discovering Harry Potter. – Scholastic, $39.99 (8 and up)

**Historium**, Richard Wilkinson and Jo Nelson
Looking at six of the continents, the authors present us with museum artifacts that illuminate their ancient cultures. This beautiful oversized book is a welcome addition to family libraries. – Candlewick Press, $35 (8-12)

**Maps**, Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinska
This oversized book of maps of the continents and countries includes fun illustrations of animals, places and events from each place. The capital, language, population and area are given for each country. – Candlewick Press, $35 (all ages)

**Pierre the Maze Detective**, Hiro Kamigaki
Pierre is a detective but he is a specialist who only works on mazes. Find the objects on each page by traveling through the mazes. A new take on *Where’s Waldo*, this will challenge the best sleuths. – Laurence King Publishing, $19.95 (7-12)

**The Wonder Garden**, Kristjana S. Williams
Travel through five habitats to learn about 80 different animals in this lavishly illustrated oversized information book. – Wide Eyed Editions, $30 (8-12)
Merry Christmas, Mr. Mouse, Caralyn Buehner, illustrated by Mark Buehner

The husband and wife who brought us the sensational Snowmen at Night return with a charming new holiday title. Merry Christmas, Mr. Mouse follows the adventures of a mouse family as they discover Christmas for the very first time. In the process, readers are invited to re-discover the season's pleasures for themselves—as well as to search for a cat, a rabbit and a T-Rex hidden in each illustration. – Dial, $17.99

How to Catch Santa, Jean Reagan, illustrated by Lee Wildish

It’s been so satisfying to watch local author Jean Reagan extend her New York Times best-selling “How To” series—How to Babysit a Grandpa, How to Babysit a Grandma, How to Surprise a Dad. And now (just in time for the holidays) Reagan offers some fail-proof tips for trapping the jolly old elf himself. Wildish’s visual details add to the book’s high humor. – Knopf, $17.99

Zombelina Dances the Nutcracker, Kristyn Crow, illustrated by Molly Idle

Utah author Kristyn Crow and Caldecott Honor illustrator Molly Idle team up again for another Zombelina story. This time our favorite dancing zombie lands the role of Clara in “The Nutcracker” Ballet. But (as usual) Grandpa Phantom can’t resist interfering. How can Zombelina assure that the show will go on? As always, Crow displays a pitch-perfect ear for rhyme. – Bloomsbury, $16.99

The Twelve Days of Christmas, Alison Jay


A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens, retold for young readers by Adam McKeown, illustrated by Gerald Kelley

And speaking of classic Christmas “carols” . . . . Dickens’ iconic holiday tale is given new life in this picture book re-telling of Ebenezer Scrooge and his three holiday visitors. A nice addition to the family Christmas canon. – Doubleday, $17.99

Click, Clack, Ho! Ho! Ho!, Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Betsy Lewin

Devoted readers of the Click, Clack series know that Farmer Brown’s animals always keep things interesting—even (especially!) during the Christmas season. Thank goodness Santa Claus knows exactly what to do with a chimney full of barn critters. – Atheneum, $17.99

The Reindeer Wish, Lori Evert, photographs by Per Breiehagen

The family who created The Christmas Wish and The Tiny Wish returns with another story about young Anja, who wishes for a puppy to keep her company but winds up with a baby reindeer named Odin instead. In spite of the gorgeous photographs, parents may find themselves thinking a pet dog isn’t such a bad option after all. – Random House, $17.99

Song of the Stars: a Christmas Story, Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Alison Jay

People interested in finding a fresh take on the traditional Christmas story will appreciate this lovely tale about the natural world’s joyful celebration of the child’s birth. First published in hardback in 2011, this board book version is particularly well-suited for very young children. – Zonderkidz, $7.99
*Ho, Ho, Ho, Happy Holidays in Pictures for Children cont’d*

**The Not Very Merry Pout-Pout Fish**, Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Hanna

In his quest to find the perfect Christmas gift for each of his friends, Pout-Pout Fish runs out of time. What’s a poor fish to do? While the book’s message—that the best gifts come straight from the heart—feels familiar, Hanna’s wacky illustrations give it a refreshing spin. – Farrar Straus Giroux, $16.99

**The Smallest Gift of Christmas**, Peter H. Reynolds

When Roland sees the small size of his present on Christmas morning, he’s disappointed. Roland wants big. He wants bigger. He wants biggest. But is biggest always the best? While not new this year, *The Smallest Gift of Christmas* is still a witty and relevant take on the things that matter most. – Candlewick Press, $10

**Marguerite’s Christmas**, India Desjardins, illustrated by Pascal Blanchet

Wow. How do you describe a Christmas story about aging and its attendant issues—_isolation, loss, fear—that also manages to be kind and even light-hearted? The word “unusual” doesn’t begin to describe this handsome book about an elderly woman whose plans for Christmas Eve are interrupted by a family with car trouble. Kudos to Enchanted Lion Books for taking on such original projects. – Enchanted Lion Books, $19.95

**Dear Santa, Love, Rachel Rosenstein**, Amanda Peet and Andrea Troyer, illustrated by Christine Davenier

Rachel Rosenstein loves celebrating her family’s Jewish holiday traditions—searching for the afikomen on Passover, blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, eating latkes during Hanukkah. But when Christmas rolls around, Rachel wants Santa to visit her, too. Will he? An appealing book for families of all faiths. – Doubleday, $17.99

**The Day the Crayons Came Home**, Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers

Daywalt and Jeffers follow up their monster hit, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, with this wry sequel wherein the AWOL crayons discover that being on their own isn’t everything it’s cracked up to be. Like its predecessor, this picture book is both original and hugely entertaining. – Philomel, $17.99

**The Good Little Book**, Kyo McClear, illustrated by Marion Arbona

This thoroughly charming new title follows the adventures of a book that is “neither thick nor thin, popular nor unpopular” and the boy who loves it. Why does the boy love the book so much? Because it’s the one that turned him into a reader—which is why the boy is so upset when he loses the book. Will the two ever be reunited? – Tundra, $16.99

**Tucky Jo and Little Heart**, Patricia Polacco

Although there is a strong editorial prejudice these days against text-heavy picture books, Polacco continues to write the longer, heartfelt stories for which she is deservedly famous. Tucky Jo, based on a true story told to Polacco by a WWII vet who served in the Pacific theater, is one of her very best. It serves as a powerful testament that men and women are capable of great humanity, even during times of war. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

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**Children’s Picture Books by Ann Cannon**
**Lenny & Lucy**, Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead
When Peter and his faithful dog, Harold, arrive at the family’s isolated new home, he is troubled by the dark expanse of woods beyond the bridge. So he creates two guardians—Lenny and Lucy—who watch over the house. A sweet and subtle look at the nature of friendship. – Roaring Book Press, $17.99.

**The Queen’s Hat**, Steve Antony
The Queen is on her way “to visit someone very special” when the wind snatches the hat right off her royal head. Where the wind takes it—as well as the Queen and her trusty guards—provides the reader with a hat’s eye view of London. Witty and imaginative, *The Queen’s Hat* is one of the staff’s favorite books of the season. – Scholastic, $16.99

**Little Tree**, Loren Long
Created by the author and illustrator of the Otis series, this is a truly special picture book. Because it refuses to shed its leaves each fall, Little Tree can’t grow. This riff on the importance of letting go will appeal to both children and adults. Wonderful! – Philomel, $17.99

**Is Mommy?**, Victoria Chang and Marla Frazee
Text and illustrations come together perfectly in this romp of a picture book! A toddler loves his or her mommy above all others, and this darling exploration of that love will make everyone smile. Plan on reading this out loud over and over again. Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster, $15.99

**The Little Snowplow**, Lora Koehler, illustrated by Jake Parker
None of the big trucks on the mountain think the Little Snowplow will be up to the task of clearing roads once winter sets in. But the Little Snowplow is eager to prove them wrong. Will he succeed? Koehler, a librarian in the Salt Lake County library system, scores with this winning picture book debut. As always, Parker’s energetic illustrations are guaranteed to entertain both children and their parents. – Candlewick, $15.99

**Louis I, King of the Sheep**, Olivier Tallec
Translated from the French, this is the whimsical story of an ordinary sheep that stumbles upon a crown one day and declares himself to be king. Children will enjoy the amusing illustrations. Adults will appreciate the sly biting references to the French monarchy of yore. – Enchanted Lion Books, $17.95

**Who Done It?**, Olivier Tallec
“Who didn’t get enough sleep? Who played with the mean cat? Who’s shy about dancing?” The endlessly amusing Tallec scores again in this mostly-wordless picture book that asks astute young readers to pick out the “culprit” in a line-up of adorable characters. – Chronicle, $15.99

**Dewey Bob**, Judy Schachner
Fans of the *Skippyjon Jones* series know that when it comes to creating appealing critters, author and illustrator Judy Schachner has few peers. Her newest character, Dewey Bob, is a young raccoon who is a natural-born collector. But when he tries to collect friends, Dewey Bob learns an important lesson: finding friends is easier than keeping them. This big-hearted book will appeal to picture book lovers of all ages. – Dial, $17.99
Children’s Picture Books

Robo-Sauce, Adam Rubin, illustrated by Daniel Salmieri
The creators of the enormously popular Dragons Love Tacos return with this energetic story about a boy who concocts a special sauce that turns him into a robot. It’s all fun and games and laser beams for the boy robot . . . until the book itself turns into a robot. After that, young readers are on their own. What they do with a robot book is up to them.

– Dial, $18.99

Shark Detective!, Jessica Olien
Shark, who loves detective shows on TV almost as much as he loves eating potato chips, decides to open his own agency. Clients are hard to come by, however, because Shark is—you know—a shark! And people flee when they see him. Will Shark ever realize his dream of becoming a detective? Sublimely goofy.

– Balzer + Bray, $17.99

Jack Frost, William Joyce
The latest title in Joyce’s Guardians of Childhood series tells the story of Jack Frost and how he came to be. While the story itself packs an unexpected emotional punch, Joyce’s distinctive art (as always) carries the day.

– Atheneum, $17.99

Inside This Book (Are Three Books), Barney Saltzberg
Inside this book there are three books. Literally. Our young narrator, Seymour, explains why: “My mom made us books with blank pages.” Seymour and his two siblings fill the pages with stories of their own, which will no doubt inspire young readers to do the same. A nice choice for teachers (and parents!) who are interested in finding a book that can be used as a starting point for a child’s own writing projects.

– Abrams, $15.95

The Whisper, Pamela Zagarenski
A teacher loans a little girl who loves to read a special book. But the girl is disappointed when she realizes the book is wordless—until she realizes she can create magical stories of her own as she thumbs through the book’s pages. Zagarenski’s stunning illustrations are nothing short of magical.

– Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $17.99

The Wonderful Things You Will Be, Emily Winfield Martin
“When I look at you/And you look at me,/I wonder what wonderful/Things you will be.” With her unique visual style, Martin creates another wonderful picture book in her Dreamers series, which includes Dream Animals and Day Dreamers. The perfect gift for a baby shower!

– Random House, $17.99

Fire Engine No. 9, Mike Austin
Reminiscent of Little Golden Books’ iconic The Fire Engine Book (illustrated by the great Tibor Gergely), Austin’s colorful new title will appeal to lovers of fire trucks, no matter their age.

– Random House, $16.99

B Is for Bear: a Natural Alphabet, Hannah Viano
Paper artist Viano dedicates B Is for Bear to “all of those who let children run a little wild, climbing trees and splashing in puddles. It is worth all the laundry and lost mittens.” Viano’s affection for the natural world is on full display in this beautiful alphabet book with images inspired by the great outdoors.

– Little Bigfoot, $16.99

“Birds two by two . . . leaves three by three.
Look around your world. What do you see?” Another book that draws its inspiration from nature, *What in the World?* is a numbers primer with a soothing visual style. – Beach Lane, $17.99

**The Full Moon at the Napping House**, Don and Audrey Wood

What happens when it’s the middle of the night and EVERYONE—a granny, a child, a poodle, a cat, and one little mouse—is too restless to sleep? Children who grew up listening to *The Napping House* will want to read this brand new sequel to children of their own. Like the original, this is a perfect book for sharing aloud. – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $17.99

**Waiting**, Kevin Henkes

A new picture book by Kevin Henkes (*Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse*) is always a cause for celebration. The story in *Waiting* is quiet—maybe too quiet. Five toys sit by a window and observe the world outside. But Henkes’ pastel illustrations are too good to miss. – Greenwillow, $17.99

**Holey Moley**, Lois Ehlert

At 80 years of age, Lois Ehlert is still creating colorful, tactile books for children. Holey Moley, the story of a mole searching for a new home, showcases Ehlert’s trademark interest in the natural world, as well as her bright and bold collages. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

**Poppy’s Best Paper**, Susan Eaddy, illustrated by Rosalinda Bonnet

Anybody who has ever written a paper will recognize herself or himself in Poppy, who does everything short of settling down to work on an assigned essay. The problem is that Poppy wants to be a writer when she grows up—and can’t understand why the teacher doesn’t love her papers. A clever take on distractions, jealousy, and how NOT to get a paper written. – Charlesbridge, $17.95

**One Word from Sophia**, Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail

Sophia is an extremely verbal and verbose little girl with big ideas for her upcoming birthday (a giraffe is involved). But there’s one little word that Sophia needs to say to make her wishes come true . . . . – Simon & Schuster, $17.99

**Happy!**, Pharrell Williams

“Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof! Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth!” Fans of Williams’ toe-tapping chart-topping song “Happy!” may also enjoy his picture book of the same name. Photographs and illustrations accompany the song’s upbeat lyrics. – Putnam, $19.99

**Color Dog**, Matthew Van Fleet, photography by Brian Stanton

Could there be a more entertaining way to teach toddlers their colors than by showing them amusing pictures of dogs? ANSWER: No. (Obv.) And when the book featuring all those amusing pictures is also interactive, you have a surefire hit on your hands. – Simon & Schuster, $19.99

**Imagine a World**, Rob Gonsalves

“Imagine a world . . . where the beauty that has fallen can find a way to fly.” With its surreal images and sentiments, Gonsalves’s new companion picture book to his previous titles (*Imagine a Place, Imagine a Night, Imagine a Day*) fits nicely into the Picture-Books-For-Adults category. This beautiful book is worth a second and third look. – Simon & Schuster, $17.99
How Machines Work: Zoo Break!, David Macaulay

Macaulay brings his famous touch to this interactive look at how to escape from the zoo, which is also a funny and interesting device to explore construction, or in this case de-construction of buildings and objects. The book has lots of moving parts, including gears, levers, flaps, pop-ups, and hidden surprises throughout. – DK, $19.99 (7 and up)

Creaturepedia: Welcome to the Greatest Show on the Earth, Adrienne Barman

This is a playful animal book organized by categories like “The Big-Eared Beasts,” “The Fierce,” and “The Pretty-in-Pinks.” Drawings that are colorful and eye-catching will give readers something to comment on every page. With very few words it manages to be entertaining and witty; it is also very nicely put together on every page. With very few words it manages to be entertaining and witty; it is also very nicely put together on every page. – Wide Eyed Editions, $22.99 (5 and up)

Koala Hospital, Suzi Eszterhas

Fans of A Little Book of Sloth will be thrilled by Koala Hospital. Eszterhas, who has been photographing wildlife all her life, explores the world of koalas and the dangers that man has introduced into that world. The photographs are endearing and the narrative will make readers want to do anything they can to help the koalas. Part of the proceeds of the book go to the preservation of this fascinating species. – Owlkids, $17.95 (7 and up)

A Friend for Lakota, Jim and Jamie Dutcher

Lakota is at the bottom of his pack, and things look pretty bad until his older sibling Matsi sticks up for him, and Lakota has a chance to grow up. Lakota and his wolf pack are found in the Sawtooth Mountains where the Dutchers have been following them for more than six years. Informative and insightful, this book explores the dynamics of a wolf pack, and the accompanying photographs bring the story to life. – National Geographic, $16.99 (7 and up)

Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower, Greg Pizzoli

Robert Miller, who was born in 1890 in the Czech Republic, would not be Robert Miller for very long. A precocious, smart kid, he turned into a famous con man whose exploits caused him to change his name more than once and took him all over the world—including Chicago and a gig with Al Capone. But his most famous con was selling the Eiffel Tower. Unbelievably entertaining, proving again that you can’t make this stuff up! Pizzoli uses a mixed media art format that is both entertaining and unusual. – Penguin, $17.99 (7 and up)

Hiawatha and the Peacemaker, Robbie Robertson, illustrated by David Shannon

The story of Hiawatha is moving and evocative; Robertson tells it with great reverence. The Iroquois set an unprecedented example, showing how different tribes, different people, can work for peace. Picture book fans will recognize the colorful and dynamic work of David Shannon which brings the story to life. I love the art! – Abrams, $19.99 (8 and up)

It’s Your World: Get Informed Get Inspired & Get Going, Chelsea Clinton

Clinton starts with the premise that every child, every individual can change the world. The book is set up like the sub title: first information, then inspiration, then concrete ideas on how to affect change. Some of the subjects Clinton covers include poverty, education, gender equality and global warming. Very readable and constructive. Clinton has a strong compassionate voice. We have signed copies at the bookstore! – Penguin, $18.99 (10 and up)

Big Top Burning, Laura A. Woollett

A nonfiction retelling of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus fire in Hartford, Connecticut, on July 6, 1944, this book follows individual circus attendees, some of whom lived, and the 167 who did not make it out of the circus tent. The author explains the ongoing detective and forensics studies. Readers will be swept away by this interesting depiction of life and disaster in middle-class America during the 1940s. – Becky Hall, Chicago Review Press, $18.95 (Ages 10 and up)

Lincoln’s Spymaster, Samantha Seiple

Most readers know that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. What many readers do NOT know is that there were earlier attempts on his life. In one of them Allan Pinkerton and his staff changed the course of the Civil War. Seiple starts this biography with that startling story. Pinkerton, who left England because he was in trouble with the law himself, was a smart and wily detective. He needed all of those talents when he was chasing gangs and robbers—not to mention saving the life of the President! A fast-paced adventure, this is all true! – Scholastic, $17.99 (10 and up)
**Children’s Nonfiction**

*This Side of Wild*, Gary Paulsen

We know Gary Paulsen is an outdoorsman. We know he is an animal lover. We also know he is a storyteller. In his new book, he tells us the real-life stories that are fodder for his fiction, claiming that the animals he has known have taught him lessons and made him a better person. My favorite is the story of Gretchen, the dog who truly communicated with him. If you love animals, you will love these stories. – Becky Hall, Simon and Schuster, $16.99 (10 and up)

*When the Earth Shakes*, Simon Winchester

When the earth moves—whether due to earthquakes, volcanoes or tsunamis—terrible things happen. Winchester brings all of his experience (*Krakatoa, The Man who Loved China*) to the task of presenting this information in a thoughtful and accessible way. Illustrations and photographs support the strong narrative in a book that is both a historical and geographical look at the movements of the earth. – Penguin, $18.99 (11 and up)

*Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*, M.T. Anderson

This biography follows the life story of famous Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich. His genius and his talent showed up when he was very young, and the worldwide attention his work attracted probably saved his life. Against the backdrop of 20th century violent war-ridden Russia, Shostakovich survived in a page-turner ideal for readers who love history, WWII, music and great narrative, whether young or old. Definitely one of my favorite books of the year. – Candlewick Press, $24.99 (12 and up)

*The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower or John Howland’s Good Fortune*, P.J. Lynch

Lynch, much beloved for his illustrations in *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathon Toomey*, shares with readers the true story of John Howland, who actually fell off the Mayflower. This incredible tale, combined with Lynch’s masterful, compelling artwork, make for a standout in narrative nonfiction. Lynch brings the teenage boy to life as he leaves family and England, endures the long grim boat ride and undergoes the extreme hard work of surviving—and finally, chooses his own future. Readers, young and old alike, will see the seeds of America in Howland’s story. This is the first book in which Lynch is both author and illustrator. Can’t wait to see what he does next. – Candlewick Press, $17.99 (any age)

**Middle Reader**

*The Marvels*, Brian Selznick

Selznick does it again, this time in a combination of art and narrative that, unlike *Wonderstruck*, starts and ends with Selznick’s trademark drawings. The time is 1766, and a shipwreck, a dragon, an angel, a vibrant theater, immediately draw the reader in. Decades later we meet Joseph, running away from school, desperately hoping that the uncle he has never met will help him. This is ultimately a story about running away and finding more than you could ever have imagined. It is tender and full of hope and heart. Selznick is a genius. – Scholastic, $32.99 (9 and up)

*The Thing about Jellyfish*, Ali Benjamin

After her best friend dies, Suzy quits talking. There has to be an explanation, and she starts trying to figure out the reason. That’s when she discovers that jellyfish sting more people than anyone knows—something that could be the answer as her quest to understand Franny’s death first closes off her world and then, surprisingly, opens it back up. This is a book that feels totally authentic. I loved it. – Little Brown, $17 (9 and up)

*The Blackthorn Key*, Kevin Sands

This novel starts with the warning “do not try this at home,” definitely motivation to keep reading! Debut author Kevin Sands does not disappoint. Christopher was literally saved from the short life of an orphan by Master Benedict and his need for an apprentice. Learning how to be an apothecary is fraught with perils, and in this case the political ones are even riskier than making gunpowder. When Master Benedict is murdered, Christopher and his friend Tom are in more danger than they know. Solving the mystery of the murder takes cunning, daring and a bit of luck. Part adventure, part mystery, part history, this is a very satisfying read. – Aladdin, $17.99 (10-14)

*The Entirely True Story of the Unbelievable Fib*, Adam Shaughnessy

Prudence might be the only person who could actually see the mysterious invitation, and it might be the only good thing in her life right now. Her quaint New England town is covered by dark, foreboding clouds that are not moving. Her teacher saddles her with the new kid, ABE, and a stranger is asking them to help find magical creatures. All of a
sudden they are forced to decide if they believe in magic! An ancient connection to the Vikings and their gods turns out to be more real than Pru and ABE could have guessed; they're challenged at every turn. Clever and smart, fast-paced, this book will not only have readers turning pages, but also searching for Norse myths. Great start for new author Adam Shaughnessy! – Algonquin, $16.96 (9-12)

**Adam & Thomas**, Aharon Appelfeld

Adam and his mother walk into the forest at sunrise. The last thing she says before she leaves him is, “Don’t be afraid. You know our forest very well and everything that’s in it. I’ll try very hard to come this evening.” She does not return. Adam and another student from school, both 9-year-old Jewish boys in World War II, are alone and must learn to exist in the forest. The voice in this beautiful tome is innocent and hopeful. It breaks your heart and lifts your soul. – Seven Stories Press, $18.95 (8-12)

**Rules for Stealing Stars**, Corey Ann Haydu

Home life is not good for Priscilla and her three older sisters. Their mom is falling apart again, and their dad can’t remember anything. When the girls discover the magic world in their closets, they at first think it’s a comfort. But the magic comes with a price. Priscilla has to believe in herself, share the truth and find the magic in other places too. This novel takes on serious issues but leaves readers with hope! I loved the intersection of real life and magic. – Harper, $16.99 (10 and up)

**Diary of a Mad Brownie**, Bruce Coville

Angus Cairns, a brownie who is bound by a curse to continue serving the McGonagall family, must travel from Scotland to the USA to find his new human. After a harrowing journey (involving a selkie) he finds Alex, who turns out to be the messiest kid ever. But Angus is committed to being the best brownie which involves cleaning up, playing tricks and trying to keep the other part of the curse secret. Told in diary and letter form, this novel is funny, full of magical creatures, part family, part adventure, all adding up to a romp. Bruce Coville continues to surprise and delight readers. – Random House, $16.99 (8 and up)

**The Tale of Rescue**, Michael J. Rosen, illustrated Stan Fellows

Dog lovers of all ages will be thrilled with Rosen’s new book about a farm dog, a heeler, who rescues a stranded family. The family, from Florida, is up in Vermont to experience the cold and the snow, but when the blizzard starts and they cannot find their way to shelter, things get very scary. Interesting writing and rich art give this story some heft not usually seen in novels this size! – Candlewick Press, $14.99 (9 and up)

**My Diary from the Edge of the World**, Jodi Lynn Anderson

Gracie’s world, full of dragons, mermaids, giants, and lost souls, seems familiar to her. Until a Black Cloud appears. She and her family flee, trying desperately to stay ahead of the Black Cloud because it means that someone in her family is going to die. This tale about Gracie’s attempt to save her little brother ends being much more—an unlikely adventure/fantasy wrapped up in tender awareness of family and what is truly important in family life. – Simon & Schuster (9 and up)

**The One and Only Ivan**, Katherine Applegate

This book is a remake of the Newbery Award winner. The oversized full-color edition has larger print and the original illustrations have added color. The story of Ivan was inspired by the real life Shopping Mall Gorilla. – Harper, $24.99 (Ages 8-12)
"Friends for Life," Andrew Norriss

Francis is the kind of kid who gets bullied in middle school. He has learned to hide his love of fashion and designing clothes. Avoiding trouble, he eats his lunch alone on the playground until he meets Jessica. She needs a friend too but for different reasons. She is a ghost. These two are joined by another boy and girl who are also friendless. The question they all ask though is Why is Jessica still on earth? They know ghosts usually appear if there is some kind of unfinished business. What is it that Jessica needs to do? – David Fickling Books, $17.99 (8-12)

"The Accident Season," Moira Fowley-Doyle

Every October Cara and her family are subject to accidents, injuries, even death. Family curse or coincidence, no one really knows or cares to investigate. Cara, dealing with all the typical high school issues, gets swept up in the disappearance of her classmate, Elsie. And to tempt the fates she and her siblings are going to throw the most outrageous Halloween party ever. It is clear that this October is going to be different. Mystery, infused with magical realism and self-realization tinged with a touch of romance, this book has a moody, dark feel to it, peppered with moments of color and light. Fowley-Doyle turns this October tale appropriately set in Ireland, into the must-read book of the fall! I couldn’t put it down. – Kathy Dawson Books, $17.99 (16 and up)

"The Hired Girl," Laura Amy Schlitz

I was surprised by this novel. Janet is a runaway, from a terrible home/father. With support from her deceased and much-loved mother, Janet manages to escape and ends up a servant in a strict Jewish household in Baltimore. Janet’s story is complicated by her lies, her age, her religion, her naivety. The Rosenbach’s household is so different from anything she has known before. I loved the complexities of her exploration of Judaism. Janet loves to read, and references to her beloved stories are scattered throughout the novel! Newbery winner Schlitz portrays the struggling 14-year-old serving girl perfectly. – Candlewick Press, $17.99 (12 and up)

"Six of Crows," Leigh Bardugo

Bardugo’s ("Shadow and Bone") fan base is going to get a lot bigger with her new novel; it grabs readers from the very first page. Kaz Brekker, who is offered a job kidnapping someone from the depths of the most ferocious kingdom, enlists the help of an unlikely group of fellow untouchables. This novel is fast-paced, its world is complex, and the characters are fully developed. It is an adventure, a fantasy and even a bit of a romance. The only criticism I have is that it had to end, and I have to wait until next year for the sequel. – Henry Holt, $18.99 (12 and up)

"Trouble is a Friend of Mine," Stephanie Tromly

Zoe’s life has changed because of her parents’ divorce. When Digby shows up on her front porch, she knows he’s trouble, but she can’t seem to say no to him—especially because she realizes that his family situation is worse than hers. Tromly (an INDIES INTRODUCE author!) has written a mystery/adventure with quirky characters who do not like each other, but still click, in some weird ways. This is what a YA book should be—smart, funny, surprising, and a terrific read! – Penguin, $17.99 (12 and up)

"Court of Fives," Kate Elliott

Jessamy is stuck between two worlds; she’s not a Patron and not really a commoner either, and when her father’s status changes, her life becomes much harder. She does have a talent that could make a difference to her family. She has been sneaking out to train for the Fives (think American Ninja Warrior here!). But her efforts are complicated by feelings for another trainee. Elliott has done of a great job of creating a strong female lead who has to be competitive and strong. – Little Brown, $18 (12 and up)

"Nightfall," Jake Halpern and Peter Kujawinski

Because the “Long Night” is coming. Marin, along with her family, is getting ready to leave the only home she has known. She, her brother Kane and her friend Line do not understand why they have to leave the island, or the curious, downright weird preparations the adults are taking. But when they are accidentally left behind, they find out. The island’s true occupants are on a rampage to reclaim their homes and get rid of any trace of the humans. Marin and the boys must risk life and limb to find a boat and flee this horror. Great story and clever plotting make this a thriller you will not put down. – Henry Holt, $18.99 (12 and up)

"Dumplin’," Julie Murphy

Willowdean Dickinson, affectionately nicknamed Dumplin’ by her former beauty queen mother, is a fat girl who refuses to apologize for her existence—or her size. Sharp-witted and heartbreakingly funny, "Dumplin’" is for any girl who has ever felt too fat, too ugly, or not
good enough. Dumplin’ speaks from the soul and she’s perfect. 
– Rachel Haisley, Balzer+Bray, $17.99 (14 and up)

13 Days of Midnight, Leo Hunt
Luke’s father passed away, leaving him a “Host” and a locked copy of “The Book of Eight.” Turns out that means eight demons are now at his beck and call, sort of. Luke needs to kick the demons out of his house, send them back to hell, and find his mother. Although he manages to get a little bit of help from classmate Elza, he has no idea how to take on this new role of necromancer—but if he does not figure it out quickly the world will be a much scarier place. Set in a small town in England, this novel is atmospheric, moves very quickly, and is just scary enough! – Candlewick Press, $13 (14 and up)

Stone Rider, David Hofmeyr
In Adam’s world, a world everyone wants to get out of, the only way to escape is on a motorcycle. Adam thinks he can win the Blackwater Trail race, a brutal, harsh, test of all the riders’ abilities and their equipment. Such races are performances or contests for the Watchers, a fact that gives Stone Rider a dark dystopic feel. Set in a perpetually dry dusty environment, the book has a Western flavor but with a biomechanical bike instead of horses. Non-stop action, strong story, and an appealing girl add up to an entertaining read. – Random, $18.99 (14 and up)

A Madness So Discreet, Mindy McGinnis
Grace was sent to an insane asylum by her father, a terrible punishment that is pushing her literally to the brink of madness. Her rescue comes when the attending doctor realizes that her potential, her mind, is not completely gone. He offers a way out but payment is helping him with his detective work as a criminal psychologist. This is a Gothic mystery set in the 19th century featuring a strong female lead. Compelling read! – Harper, $17.99 (14 and up)

The Appearance of Annie Van Sinderen, Katherine Howe
Howe (Conversion) again combines an historical moment with modern sensibilities. Wes has just arrived at NYU for a summer term on filmmaking. While helping a fellow classmate film a séance, he meets Annie who is beautiful, provocative, but somehow ‘off.’ Annie’s search for a lost ring is only part of Wes’s desire to help her; he has never met anyone like her before. Part mystery, part historical fiction, part romance, two stories are wound together in a fascinating and compelling way. This is a page-turner aimed at sophisticated readers. – Penguin, $18.99 (14 and up)

The Truth Commission, Susan Juby
Three friends, juniors at an exclusive art academy, form the Truth Commission. Normandy, Dusk and Neil decide that knowing the real story is best, but that comes back to haunt them when someone turns the table, pushing them to look at their own lives. Normandy tells the story, drawing readers into her life. The narrative is accentuated with text messages, footnotes, comments to her writing teacher, and an occasional illustration (these are art students!). Revealing secrets and feelings is harder than anyone thought but on the upside the consequences are better than anyone could imagine. Friendship, family, loss, and potential are all part of the story. Readers will laugh and cry over this smart, witty, very real book. – Penguin, $18.99 (14 and up)

Nimona, Noelle Stevenson
Shortlisted for the 2015 NBA Young Adult Literature prize, Nimona started as a webcomic. In book format this graphic novel is a blast to read, a romp that puts science fiction into a medieval setting and mixes up good and bad guys. Nimona pushes herself onto Ballister as his sidekick—and when he finds out she is a shapeshifter, the ongoing duel with Goldenloin shifts! I can’t wait to read the next one. – Harper, $12.99 (12 and up)
**Forthcoming Next Year or Beloved in the Past: The Best Books to Begin 2016**

**MIDDLE READER**

**Salt to the Sea**, Ruta Sepetys (January)

Most readers know the big story of WWII, but it is the individual voices that we remember. Ruta Sepetys proved this with her brilliant first book, *Between Shades of Gray*. In her new novel she puts faces on a tragedy that few people know about, the 1945 sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff in the Baltic Sea. In multiple voices, Sepetys slowly and carefully reveals the individual stories of the war as thousands of people run from the Russian army and the horrific devastation they wreak. Joanna, a nurse in training and Florian, an art preserver, are the anchors, struggling to survive and to get everyone in the group to the coast. The minor characters, the cobbler and the little boy, Ingrid the blind girl add a poignant depth. They and thousands of other refugees are hoping there is room on a ship that will take them even farther away from Stalin's rampage. One of Sepetys's strengths is her inclusion of details that give her work such authenticity. Everything from the Amber Room to the earless rabbit adds up to one of the most powerful books I have read in a long time, a story infused with hope. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Philomel, $18.99

**A Night Divided**, Jennifer Nielsen (January)

When the Soviets erect the Berlin Wall, Gerta's life changes dramatically. Her family is now divided because her dad and middle brother are on the West side and cannot come home. Everywhere she turns the guns are pointing at her and her friends. Doesn't everyone want to escape? Is she the only one who wants to be free? When she spots her dad on the other side doing a strange dance, Gerta thinks there might be an opportunity, although she and her brother will have to take some very scary chances. Nielsen does a great job showing readers how repressive East Berlin must have been in a book that shows off her storytelling skills in a compelling way. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Scholastic, $16.99 (10 and up)

**Pax**, Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Jon Klassen (February)

**Pax** is a thoughtful, tender novel about a boy who knows right from wrong and a pet that knows all humans are not bad. Peter's young life takes a turn for the worse when his father, who is going to join the military, forces him to give up his beloved pet fox, Pax. Left at his grumpy grandfather's house with no hope of any comfort, Peter knows he must find Pax. His quest takes an unusual turn when he is forced to spend a couple of weeks with a veteran who can't come to terms with her own life. Meanwhile, Pax must learn to survive in the wild, a far more difficult task. In alternating voices, Peter and Pax tell their stories of abandonment and struggle, and also expose the reader to an intimate and terrible view of war. You have to read this novel to experience its power. The ending will surprise readers, and the book will inspire countless conversations. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, $16.99 (8-12)

**Summerlost**, Ally Condie (March)

Cedar Lee, her mother and brother Miles have moved to a new summer home in Iron Creek hoping to heal after Cedar's father and special-needs brother were killed in a car accident. Cedar gets a job, a new friend and a mystery to solve as her family forges a new life as a threesome. This is tender, at times funny and always thought-provoking. Ally Condie has moved into middle grade with a beautiful new story. – Becky Hall, Dutton, $17.99 (10 and up)

**FICTION**

**Your Heart Is a Muscle the Size of a Fist**, Sunil Yapa

Victor, who has been roaming the world since he was 16, is back in Seattle, living beneath an underpass. It’s 1999 and the World Trade Organization protests are just beginning; what happens during that violent, world-changing day is told from his point of view, from that of his father, who is the Chief of Police, and from that of two other members of the police force, a Sri-Lankan diplomat, and two protesters who believe in non-violence. The action is propulsive, the mix of perceptions and of warring impulses creates visceral tension, and the philosophical questions surrounding WTO, both globally and domestically, are fascinating. Yapa's debut novel brims with compassion for the worst of its characters and asks the unanswerable questions at the heart of our existence. – Betsy Burton, Lee Boudreaux Books, $26

**The Guest Room**, Chris Bohjalian (January)

Bohjalian again draws on his Armenian ancestry to highlight a contemporary dilemma. Young girls are kidnapped from Armenia by Russians and turned into sex slaves; three of these young women eventually brought to New York City from Moscow, create mayhem, murder and treachery within the family of Richard and Kristin Chapman and their 9-year old daughter, Melissa. At a bachelor
party gone horribly wrong, events occur swiftly; in their wake none of those attending or their families would ever be the same in this page-turner which examines moral consequences. – Sue Fleming, Doubleday, $26.95

**Fallen Land**, Taylor Brown (January)

During the Civil War years, Callum, a 12-year-old Irish immigrant-turned-horse-thief, and Ava, a 16-year-old survivor of the latest raid on her home-stead by both blue and gray coats, team up to outdistance bounty hunters and independent marauders. Their trail moves through the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina into Georgia where Sherman has recently marched, burning much of the country. During these final years of war two outcasts are attempting the impossible—to survive and perhaps find a home. – Sue Fleming, St. Martin’s Press, $25.99

**The Knife**, Ross Ritchell (February)

Ritchell taps his personal experience as a former member of the 75th Ranger Regiment, a U.S. Special Operations Command direct-action team, in this, his first novel. Reminiscent of Tim O’Brien’s Vietnam novel **The Things They Carried** and of the more recent **Redeployment** by Phil Klay, it tells the tale of five men with a special ops squadron. The “forever war” they are inserted into time and again is so authentic and so heartbreaking it leaves one breathless. Readers will not look at news headlines the same again. – Sue Fleming, Blue Rider Press, $16

**Thirteen Ways of Looking At a Fat Girl**, Mona Awad (February)

Sluiced with the acid of irony, awash with humor and peppered with angst, Mona Awad’s short story collection, **Thirteen Ways of Looking At a Fat Girl**, is a 13-part wonder. As Awad pulls us into the existence of Lizzie, a girl who weighs more than she wants to and later a woman who diets obsessively, we see her from inside and from outside—from the ways she sees herself to the ways others see her, to, most tellingly, the ways she sees others see her. The 13 tales, linked chronologically, form a near-novel as the protagonist comes of age binging on food and sex she supposes others see her. The 13 tales, linked chronologically, form a near-novel as the protagonist comes of age binging on food and sex that shock and understated descriptions, this is the stuff of real talent, an astonishing debut. – Betsy Burton, Penguin, $16

**Free Men**, Katy Simpson Smith (February)

In 1788 three men meet in the southern woods of what is now Alabama: Cat, an emotionally scarred white man from South Carolina on the run after abandoning his home; Bob, a black man fleeing slavery on a Pensacola sugar plantation; and Istillicha, a Creek Indian edged out of leadership in his village and bound by honor to seek retribution. In the few days they spend together they commit a shocking murder and are thereafter tracked by a Frenchman, Le Clere. Each of these four men tells his story in this historic novel based upon actual events. – Sue Fleming, Harper, $26.99

**Real Tigers**, Mick Herron (January)

Slough House is a dumping ground for many a bumbling intelligence agent, and River Carter has earned his place in the midst of these so called “slow horses.” It is not that the slow horses have any great love for each other, but when one of their midst is kidnapped, their loyalty emerges. The leader of this strange bunch, Jackson Lamb, realizes that they are caught in the midst of a power struggle in the higher echelon of the security services. He gathers them together and spurs them into a strange, disjointed action: In order to free their comrade, they must steal into the secure world of Regent’s Park, headquarters of the security service. Herron has an irreverent style and a jaded view of MI5 and the world of spies and secrecy. This is book three in the **Slough House** series, and readers who became enamored of River and the other second-rate spies will enjoy the further adventures of the “slow horses.” – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, $26.95

**The Road to Little Dribbling**, Bill Bryson (January)

It has been 20 years since Bryson wrote **Notes on a Small Island**, a travel narrative of Great Britain. Now a newly proclaimed British citizen (proudly holding both American and British citizenship), he embarks once more on a quest to find the best and worst of England along what he has dubbed “The Bryson Line,” traveling south from Bognor Regis to the northern tip of Scotland, Cape Wrath. With his matchless instinct for the funniest and the quirkiest and his unerring eye for the idiotic, the bewildering and the
ridiculous, he offers acute and perceptive insights into all that is the best and worst of Britain today. An absolute must for the Anglophile or anyone who might consider traveling to our “Mother Country.” – Sue Fleming, Doubleday, $28.95

**When Breath Becomes Air**, Paul Kalanithi (January)

Doctors are supposed to be invincible. They are supposed to have all the answers to all our problems. We go to them to enter this world, leave it, and for about everything in between. In this memoir, an aspiring young resident, Dr. Paul Kalanithi, must come to terms with his own mortality as he is diagnosed with cancer in the midst of a neurosurgical residency. It is a lovely piece about life, death, passion, and love. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves the writing of Atul Gawande and Abraham Verghese. It’s also an important read for everyone who is interested in medicine and literature. – Rosie Neville, Random House, $25

**The Sound of Gravel**, Ruth Wariner (January)

“I am my mother’s fourth child and my father’s thirty-ninth.” So begins this powerful memoir of a woman who grew up in a fundamentalist Mormon family. Her father was the son of Alma LeBaron, who founded the Colony of LeBaron in the Mexican desert south of El Paso. Ruth, her mother, and an ever-increasing number of siblings, lived in an adobe house with no electricity or running water. Within the polygamist community, service to the church and to a husband who may or may not have provided for his family took precedence over any individual desires, especially if you were female. That Ruth not only survived but flourished as she ultimately took responsibility for her younger siblings is remarkable. Her memoir is a tribute to a young woman’s determined sense of self despite almost unsurmountable odds against her. Fascinating. – Barbara Hoagland, Flatiron, $27.99

**Thomas Murphy**, Roger Rosenblatt (January)

Thomas Murphy—poet, singer of the oldies, friend of the down-and-out, card shark, raconteur, piano bar player, bon vivant, and all-around good guy—contemplates his sunset years. Through stream-of-consciousness, he relives his boyhood on Inishmaan, a small rocky island off the west coast of Ireland; his adult years in his beloved New York City; his avoidance of a neurologist (a visit insisted upon by his daughter who is convinced he is losing his mind); and his uncanny but timely meeting with Sarah, a blind woman who will soon lose her husband to cancer. Lyrical and poetic, often hilarious, this is one of the sweetest of literary works I have enjoyed for some time. – Sue Fleming, Ecco, $24.99

**Dead Presidents**, Brady Carlson (February)

Carlson is a humorous writer, sort of a Bill Bryson-lite, and his book is chock full of interesting bits of history and wacky happenings associated with the mortal remains of the dead American presidents. He groups them into such categories as: well-liked during life; rich or poor when they died; died in office, etc. He then researches and visits the final resting place of each and answers age-old questions like “who is buried in Grant’s Tomb” and who died of poisoning? This is an easy read for the person who wants to go beyond what is written in our history books about our presidents. – Patrick Fleming, Norton, $26.95

**Mesa of Sorrows**, James F. Brooks (February)

The Anglo understanding of the history of the Pueblo is clouded at best. The Hopi and Zuni are very protective of their history and culture as well they should be. Then add in the Spanish Conquistadors’ savage pacification of these Pueblo Indians and you get a perfect mystery, full of conjecture about what really happened at this pueblo on Antelope Mesa. Brooks is an academic and weaves a tale based on folklore and science to help us understand the events on this isolated Arizona mesa in 1700, illuminating another consequence of European conquest of North America. Great for anyone interested in the history of the Southwest. – Patrick Fleming, Norton, $26.95
And for those who would like to sit down with an old and cherished friend, here are TKE’s old loves revisited each month as promised, along with the Indie Next Backlist picks for January and February:

**Indie Next Backlist Titles for January**
- *Plainsong*, Kent Haruf
- *Cutting for Stone*, Abraham Verghese
- *The Devil’s Highway*, Luis Alberto Urrea

**Indie Next Backlist Titles for February**
- *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
- *Nickel & Dimed*, Barbara Ehrenreich
- *A Fine Balance*, Rohinton Mistry

**TKE January Backlist Titles**
- *Two Old Women*, Velma Wallis
- *Old School*, Tobias Wolf
- *Tracks*, Louise Erdrich
- *Lying Awake*, Mark Salzman
- *The Air We Breathe*, Andrea Barrett

**TKE February Backlist Titles**
- *Of Love and Shadows*, Isabel Allende
- *Stoner*, John Williams
- *The Second Coming*, Walker Percy
- *Three Weeks in December*, Audry Schulman
- *World’s Fair*, E.L. Doctorow

**A Selection of Signed Copies**

We are fortunate this season to have an abundance of signed books for your holiday gift-giving. Call or visit us online to see these authors and many more.

**Bonnie Jo Campbell**  
**Ann Cannon**  
**Julie Checkoway**  
**Jennifer Checkenbko**  
**Frank Cole**  
**James Dashner**  
**John Flanagan**  
**Jessica Day George**  
**Chris Grabenstein**  
**Lily Havey**  
**Laura Kohler**  

**Valynne Maetani**  
**Sally Mann**  
**Jennifer Nielsen**  
**David Pace**  
**Jean Reagan**  
**Brian Selznik**  
**Clare VanderPool**  
**Rosemary Wells**  
**Brooke Williams**  
**Terry Tempest Williams**
WHAT OUR BOOK CLUBS ARE READING NOW
All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL MYSTERY
3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
November: The Hidden Child, Camilla Lackberg (Sweden)
December: The Ides of April, Lindsey Davis (Rome)
January: Minotaur, Barbara Vine (Essex)
February: Murder at Cape Three Points, Kwei Quartey (Ghana)
March: Speakers of the Dead, J. Aaron Sanders (New York City)

BRIAN SHORT BOOK CLUB
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
November: The Life We Bury, Allen Eskens
December: Endurance, Alfred Lansing

INSIGHTS TO CONSERVATION BOOK CLUB
1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
November: Canyon Sacrifice, Scott Graham
December: Howl, Susan Imhoff Bird

GAY MEN’S BOOK CLUB
3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m.
at Sprague Library
November: The Stupidest Angel, Christopher Moore
December: Cloud Atlas, David Mitchell

MARGARET’S BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday of the month; 7 p.m., $5 per evening paid to Margaret
November: Euphoria, Lily King
December: Holiday Break
January: Northanger Abbey, Jane Austen
February: The Power and the Glory, Graham Greene
March: City of Thieves, David Benioff

NEWMAN CENTER
Meets monthly at the Newman Center at U of Utah. Contact Barbara Bannon, 801-583-4289
November: All the Light We Cannot See, Anthony Doerr

ROZ READS!
Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. See www.roz-reads.com for details. $10 per evening paid to Roz
November: Nora Webster, Colm Tóibín
December: Holiday Break
January: Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Part 1
February: Americanah, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Part 2
March: Lila, Marilynne Robinson

SLC LESBIAN BOOK CLUB
1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at TKE. Contact: Nicki Hill nickihi@gmail.com
November: Apocalypse Baby, Virginie Despentes
December: Holiday Break
January: The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse, Louise Erdrich
February: Holding Still for as Long as Possible, Zoe Whittall
March: Sub Rosa, Amber Dawn

SLOW FOOD UTAH BOOK CLUB
Open to the public; 3rd Wednesday every other month; visit slowfoodutah.org for more details.
November: Savor, Kate Harrington
December: Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss of Foods We Love, Simran Sethi
January: Julia’s Chocolates, Cathy Lamb

YOUNG ADULT
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
November: I’ll Give You the Sun, Jandy Nelson
December: Holiday Break
INKSLINGER’S INKSLINGERS
Anne Brillinger
Betsy Burton
Ann Cannon
Hilary Dudley
Rob Eckman
Patrick Fleming
Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Becky Hall
Deon Hilger
Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Wendy Foster Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Kenneth Loosli
Anne Stewart Mark
Rosie Neville
Margaret Brennan Neville

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