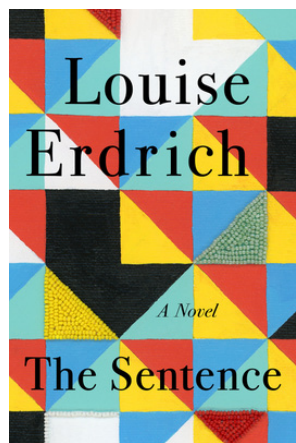


NOW is the New December!

by Betsy Burton

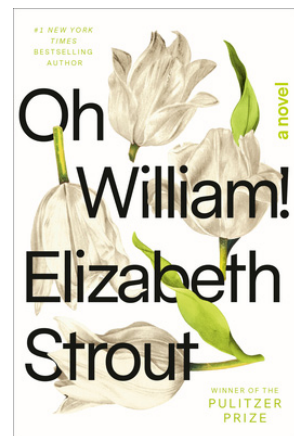
Shipping lanes are jammed worldwide, ports snarled, deliveries behind by weeks. But at TKE our shelves are full, our recommendations fulsome. NOW is the time to think about holiday giving.

And What Better Gift Than a Book? Answer: A Stack of Books



Matching books to people is our mission and our passion at TKE, and this year there is literally a perfect pair (or, better yet, stack) of books for the love(s) of your life, whether her/his/their ardor be kindled by poetry, the environment, the kitchen, art, or rock and roll. And it's so *easy*. If, for example, your beloved loves fiction, two novels recently published by a couple of our best living writers (both recipients of major awards, both featured on the front page of our last *Inkslinger*, both on the NYT bestseller list), *Bewilderment* by Richard Powers (Norton, \$27) and *Cloud Cuckoo Land* by Anthony Doerr (Scribner, \$30), have much in common—gloriously imagined stories, brilliant writing and a fierce love of the environment. A perfect pair in other words—especially signed! Or, if you're

building a lovely literary stack, throw in Louise Erdrich's often funny, haunting (literally—it's a ghost story set in a bookstore!) and darkly brilliant new novel *The Sentence* (Harper, \$28.99), Judith Freeman's spellbinding *MacArthur Park* (Pantheon, \$28), or Elizabeth Strout's blissfully good *Oh, William!*—or, from summer, Thomas Flanagan's unforgettable *The Living Sea of Waking Dreams* (Knopf, \$27.95). We'll gift wrap and label, ship, deliver or put out for pickup in our TKE Book Shack which-ever books you order.



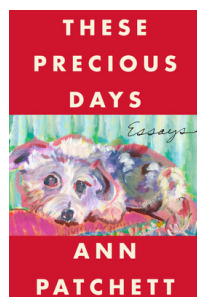
There. One down and many more to shop for. Is there a hiker in your life? Tim Palmer's colorful and narrative-driven *America's Great Forest Trails: 100 Woodland Hikes of a Lifetime* (Rizzoli \$55), both a guide and an inspiration, or Colin Thubron's *The Amur River between Russia and China*, which follows that mythic river from its origin in Mongolia, capturing in shimmering prose the quiet of the steppes, the tangled history of Mongolia, Russia and China along its banks, as Thubron, undaunted at 80, (*continued on page 2*)

What's Happening at The King's English Bookshop

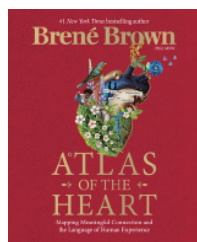
Baskets are Back! As we fling ourselves into the holiday season, we're conscious of the space limitations in the bookshop. Until the end of the year we will again use baskets to limit the number of people in the shop at any given time. It's easy! Grab a blue basket when you come in and return it when you leave. If there are no baskets available when you arrive, you'll know your turn is coming soon. We appreciate all you're doing to help us by shopping online and via phone for pickup in our Book Shack! And by keeping those masks in place. We're all in this together!

Saturday, November 27, all day long! Celebrate Small Business Saturday at TKE

Thursday, December 2, 6 p.m. MST Ann Patchett! The King's English Bookshop proudly joins other independent bookshops around the country in presenting Ann Patchett in conversation with Laura Dern discussing *These Precious Days: Essays* (see page 16) on Crowdcast. Please purchase your \$37 ticket—which includes one hardcover copy of *These Precious Days*, sales tax and shipping within the U.S.—on Eventbrite. You will receive your



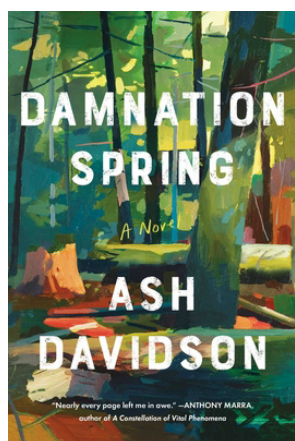
Crowdcast link and password within 24 hours of the event.



Thursday, December 2, 6 p.m. MST The King's English Bookshop and Random House invite you to join #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Dr. Brené Brown for a special, one-night-only, virtual event to launch *Atlas of the Heart* (see page 19). Please purchase your \$40 ticket—which includes a hardcover copy of *Atlas of the Heart*, as well as sales tax and shipping within the U.S.—on Eventbrite. You will receive your Zoom access code 24 hours prior to the event.

Books But Not Bagels: Do your out-of-state and in-state shopping early! Sunday, November 28th, 9 a.m. Margaret Brennan Neville and Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven will talk kids' books for parents and grandparents on Zoom. **Sunday, December 6th, 9 a.m.** Calvin Crosby, Anne Holman, and Betsy Burton will help match new books to those on your lists on Zoom. Events are free, but reserve a place on Eventbrite! **Zoom link will have discount code, 15% off** book purchases from attendees 11-4 p.m. both days. And, we'll wrap, we'll ship, we'll deliver!

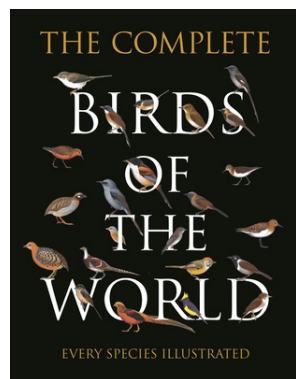
A Stack of Books



(continued from page 1) makes his way downriver on foot and horseback, train, boat and car. Or Ash Davidson's riveting novel *Damnation Spring* (Scribner, \$28), a saga of old-growth forests, a dying timber industry, and vividly imagined people. Hard to put down and harder to forget. As in a very different way is *Underwater Wild: My Octopus Teacher's Extraordinary World* by co-founders of the Sea Change Project, Ross Frylinck and writer/photographer/filmmaker Craig Foster, known for "My Octopus Teacher" from Netflix, along

with world-famous naturalist Jane Goodall (Mariner/Houghton, \$50). Part memoir, part natural history and pure wonder. Wondrous too is a book that reminds us of another vision of the natural world, the incomparable *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Milkweed, \$18).

If the naturalist in your life is possessed of a scientific bent and would rather browse than hike, *Micro Life: Miracles of the Miniature World Revealed* (DK, \$50) combines science with spectacular macro- and micro-photographic images to reveal a hidden (and utterly fascinating) living world, while the comprehensive and fully illustrated *Natural History* (DK, Smithsonian Institution, \$50) showcases over 5000 species in vivid color and reflects the latest scientific understanding of the kingdoms of life. No naturalist's library should be without either. Or, for your well-read naturalist, nothing suits better than Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes' rich and wonderful biography of the famed biologist and thinker, often called the natural heir to Darwin, *Scientist: E.O. Wilson: A Life in Nature* (Doubleday, \$30). Throw in a copy of Wilson's own *Tales from the Ant World* (Liveright, \$17.95), brand new in paper for a perfect pairing!

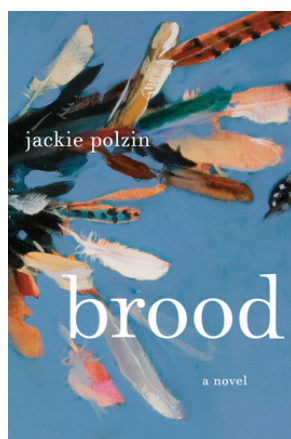


A bird in the hand is worth two as a gift.... Your birder will adore *The Complete Birds of the World: Every Species Illustrated* by Norman Arlott and Ber van Perlo (Princeton, \$65) which spans the breadth of bird life across the planet in a single-volume, large-format reference book illustrating (literally) every species in the world! Heart-stopping in its beauty and chockfull of information, it's hard to imagine anything more lovely in the world of birds—although *Birds of America* (Prestel/Penguin,

\$50), which accompanies impeccably reproduced images of Audubon's original watercolors with an introduction by world-renowned ornithologist David Allen Sibley, is equally lovely in an entirely

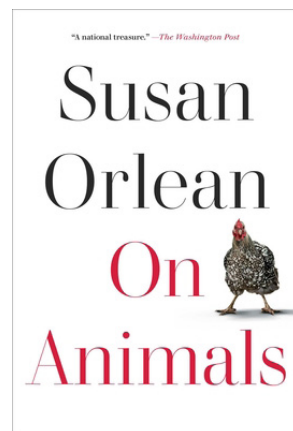
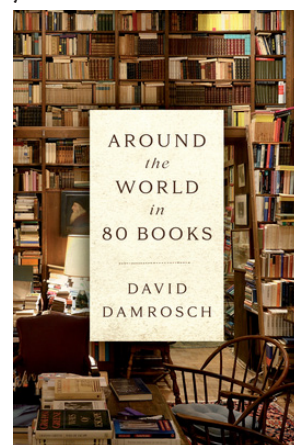
different way. For the gift of a lifetime, pair the two—or match one or the other with a bird of a different feather, Rosemary Mosco's *A Pocket Guide to Pigeon Watching: Getting to Know the World's Most Misunderstood Bird* (Workman, \$14.95), a guide, yes, but a quirky and irreverent piece of natural history as well. Or, throw in a paperback copy of Helen MacDonald's *H is for Hawk* (Grove, \$16) or the far older but equally memorable T.H. White's *The Goshawk* (NYRB, \$16.95).

For the animal lover you love, the lively and likeable *On Animals* by the incomparable Susan Orlean (Avid \$28) examines, through a series of fascinating and entertaining tales, the many ways human beings interact with the animals with whom we share our homes, our habitats, our lives, in one way or another—from dogs to donkeys to pigs to pandas to cats large and small. Pair that thoroughly entertaining (and informative) volume with the tale of the absolutely incorrigible and irresistibly lovable Speck in *The Speckled Beauty: A Dog and His People* by Rick Bragg (Knopf, \$26), and you can ignore your beloved for days, secure

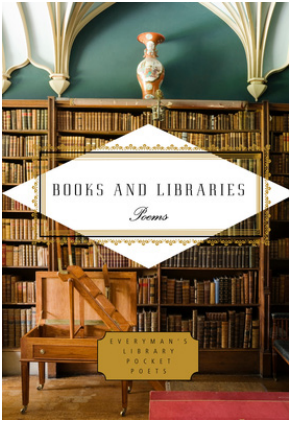


in the knowledge that he/she/they will be thoroughly occupied and amused. On a cautionary note, he/she/they might decide that a dog is a must after reading the Bragg and surprise you with your very own cuddly (but yet-to-be-housebroken) puppy. Or worse, take the Orlean to heart and invest in a hutch of rabbits, a loft of pigeons—or a brood of chickens. If the later becomes an obsession, pair *Brood* by Jackie Polzin (Doubleday, \$24), a slim, lovely gem-of-a-novel about a woman who exorcizes her grief by raising and mothering a brood of—you guessed it—chickens!

Books about books make the perfect gift for the bibliophiles on your list, and there are many such. Aside from Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo Land*, decidedly a book about books (perhaps my favorite such ever written—I loved it even more than *The Name of the Rose*), there are many to share with the literati in your life. In *Around the World in 80 Books: A Literary Journey* (Penguin, \$30) David Damrosch, chair of Harvard University's Department of Comparative Literature, having been grounded by COVID, considered from his armchair 80 exceptional books from around the globe from London to Venice, Tehran and points beyond, via authors from Woolf and Dante to Nobel Prizewinners Orhan Pamuk, Wole Soyinka, Mo Yan, and Olga Tokarczuk. Perhaps pair this one with a plane ticket or two? Or to find out what a well-known psychoanalyst makes of the books we

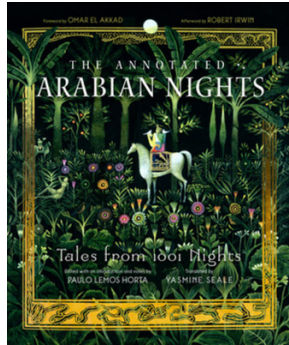


A Stack of Books

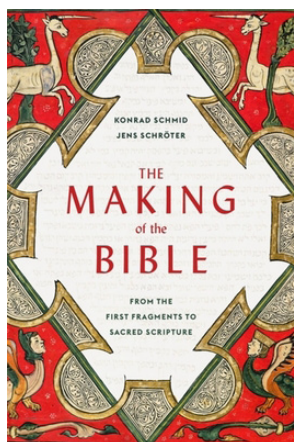


love. Zadie Smith calls this a beautiful book and I agree. As is, in a less challenging (but totally charming) vein, Andrew Scrimgeour's *Books and Libraries: Poems from the Everyman's Library Pocket Poets Series* (Random, \$15.95), a lovely, literally pocket-sized hardcover featuring poets from Catullus to Shakespeare to Borges, Dante to Cavafy to Wislawa Szymborska.

For the book-obsessed in your life who think in pictures as well as words, there are some lavish new illustrated classics, chief among them *The Annotated Arabian Nights: Tales from 1001 Nights*, a lyrical, contemporary translation by poet and writer Yasmine Seale, with annotations and commentary by Paulo Lemos Horta (Liveright, \$45), of Shahrazad's dazzling stories, some of which are newly incorporated thanks to Lemos Horta's extensive original research. Starring such well-known figures as Aladdin and Sinbad along with little-known heroines like sly Dalila among many others—the tales and commentary alike ground us in the time and inform us about all manner of period details (including ghouls and jinn and other supernatural beings) in this ground-breaking edition gloriously illustrated with art from India, Iran, Iraq, and Turkey, etc. A rich new edition of the forever haunting collection that is bedrock in our literary tradition, this belongs in every bibliophile's library!



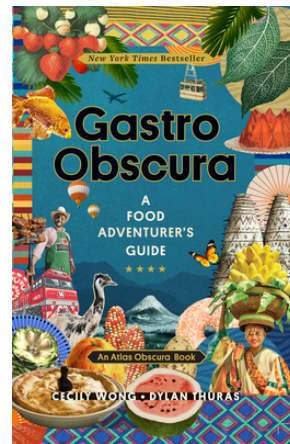
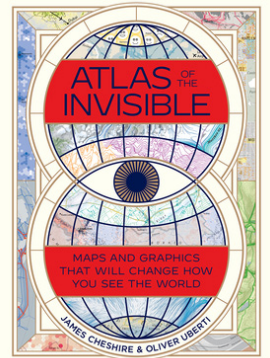
As, in a very different way, does another book replete with groundbreaking research, *The Making of the Bible: From the First Fragments to Sacred Scripture* by Konrad Schmid and Jens Schröter (Belknap, \$35). Moses did not author the five books of the Torah, nor did The New Testament evolve from the old—rather, they developed in parallel—facts which intermingle the history of Judaism and Christianity in new ways to consider in this erudite and fascinating history of another cornerstone of our world, the Bible. Sacred in a different way, *The Lord of the Rings Illustrated*



Edition (Mariner, \$75) contains J.R.R. Tolkien's original artwork in an absolutely gorgeous, hand-sewn collector's edition that is the

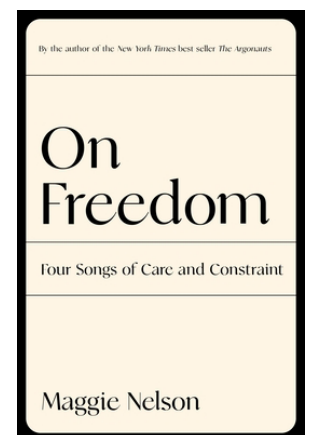
perfect gift for the Tolkien lover in your love life—or for anyone who loves fantasy for that matter.

Speaking of illustrations, every year there is one book that leaps to the fore visually, and this year it is *Atlas of the Invisible: Maps and Graphics That Will Change How You See the World* by James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti (Norton, \$40). Extolled by scientists and reviewers alike, this stunning example of the rewards of thinking outside the box presents our past, our present and our future in a series of maps and diagrams, charts and illustrations that measure everything from our happiness to the impact of climate change by mapping our undersea cables and overhead cell phone towers, gathering data, extrapolating from it to better understand where we are and where we are headed, answering hard questions which will allow us to either joyfully or fearfully face our future. Gorgeous and enthralling, it belongs not on a shelf but on your coffee table where no one will resist picking it up—and having picked it up, no one will be able to put it down.

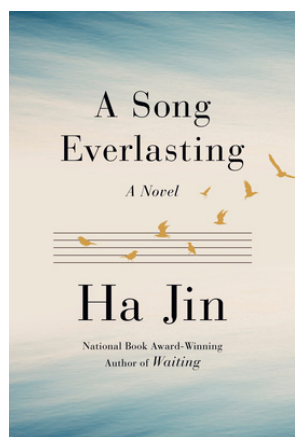


The same can be said of another stunning if unusual atlas, *Gastro Obscura: A Food Adventurer's Guide* (Workman, \$42.50). As the sorely missed Anthony Bourdain well knew, there are all sorts of odd and interesting ways of experiencing the wonders of the world at large, and food is one—as *Gastro Obscura* creators Cecily Wong, Dylan Thuras, and Atlas Obscura demonstrate, taking us on adventures far different from the usual, using food as the gateway. They investigate not just geography and politics à la Bourdain, but also history, art and a myriad of the interesting pursuits of humanity through the ages and across continents. Endlessly fascinating, its heavily annotated color plates give us page upon page of surprising and delicious (or not) examples to astonish us—from beer made from fog to vending machines that dispense full pecan pies to four million women gathering to make rice pudding—while tantalizing and instilling wonder with surprising byways of food history and mystery (not to mention “how to try it” instructions), in one of the most browsable, colorful, odd and exotic new books to grace a coffee table (or, for the excessively curious, the kitchen counter) of either the traveler or the gastronome on your list and in your life.

Finally, for the one you aim to please most—yet who is perhaps hardest to please, someone who wants answers, whatever the price—three challenging books for challenging times: for those possessed of hardy hearts and steel-trap



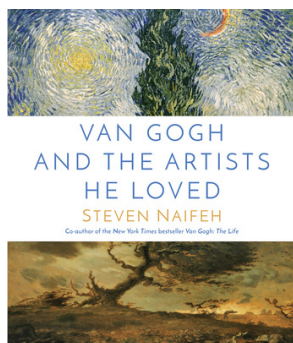
A Stack of Books



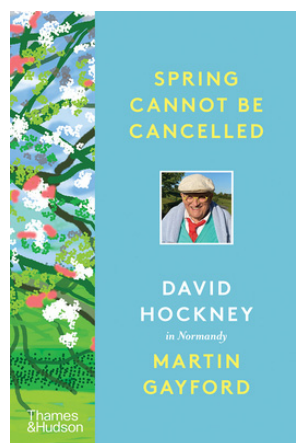
minds, literary and cultural critic Maggie Nelson's *On Freedom: Four Songs of Care and Constraint* (Graywolf, \$27) examines freedom from the perspective of pop culture, academia and her own life, offering no pat answers but suggesting that we reclaim the concept of freedom rather than allowing the word and idea of it be co-opted; Ha Jin's *A Song Everlasting* (Pantheon, \$28) likewise looks at freedom from more than one angle in a novel about a man who has a chance to live a life in keeping with his aspirations and the price such a

choice might exact; while Ruth Ozeki's *The Book of Form and Emptiness* (Viking, \$30) is a magical narrative which poses another thorny question: Who, and what, gets to say "what is real?" In attempting to answer, Ozeki evokes what seems an entire tapestry of what is real, books being chief among them.

The people we love have different ways of seeing what's real and what isn't—in pictorial terms, whether their preference be for classical or groundbreaking art, illustrations, graphic art or graffiti, there is a book (or pair of books) to please their palette. *Van Gogh and the Artists He Loved* (Random, \$40) by Steven Naifeh, the co-author of the bestselling *Van Gogh: The Life*, draws on correspondence, principally with his brother Theo, as well as Van Gogh's own work, to argue that the famous painter developed his style in part by immersing himself in, experimenting with and copying the styles and the works of other painters, from Édouard Manet and Georges Seurat to Jean-François Millet. And in a different time and place, Wolf Kahn likewise developed a bolder vision during his last decade, again influenced by the artists of his time, our time, as seen in *Wolf Kahn: Paintings and Pastels 2010-2020* (Rizzoli \$60), as William C. Agee, Sasha Nicholas and contributor J. D. McClatchy make clear in a vivid and compelling look at Kahn's oils and pastels, a blend of realism and abstraction, that grew ever more brash and vibrant as he aged.

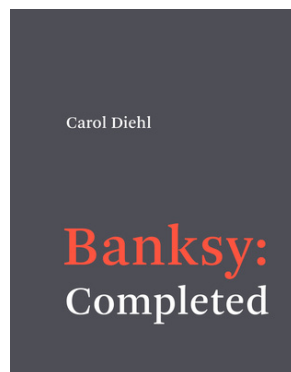


On a different note, *Spring Cannot be Cancelled: David Hockney in Normandy* (Thames & Hudson, \$24.95) which came out earlier this year and is based on a conversation between Hockney and his dear friend, art critic Martin Gayford, reflects the artist's desire not to set fire to the universe in his old age but rather to sit quiet at sunset and savor the tranquility that is so evident in his art—along with the sense of wonder that is ever his trademark. A sort of retrospective, it is in an odd way a match to another artist looking backward over a career, Judy Chicago. Both



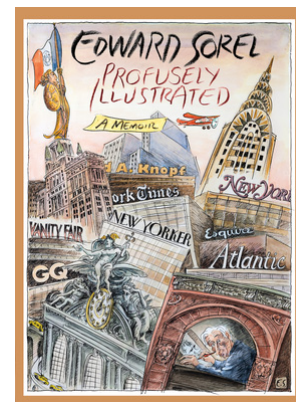
are true to an original vision, if strikingly dissimilar in the form their

work takes. *Judy Chicago: In the Making* accompanies the first exhibition to offer a thorough overview of Chicago's career, delving deeply into the work of the artist lauded by feminists, reviled by critics, from "The Dinner Party" forward, and includes excerpts from sketchbooks, journals, and preparatory drawings, as well as bringing together a selection drawn from every major period of her art. And, again from an iconoclastic feminist perspective, in *Original Sisters: Portraits of Tenacity and Courage* (Pantheon, \$30) internationally acclaimed graphic artist Anita Kunz (while in Covid lockdown) began to research women who deserved to be famous—many of whom were instead unsung heroes. The result of that research is astonishing in terms of both her vivid, often haunting, portraits and her ardent pursuit of her subjects—a compilation of women, only some of whom you've heard about, who have literally changed the course of history—again and again. As Roxane Gay says in her forward, "Anita Kunz reminds us that women's history is the world's history. She reminds us that much of the culture we take for granted exists by the grace of women's ingenuity. This is a book that demands that we continue to interrogate why women and their historical contributions are, all too often, overlooked."



Iconoclastic in a most profound way is the work of Banksy. In *Banksy: Completed* by Carol Diehl (MIT, \$39.95), we see the substance within the invisible (or at least rarely seen) Banksy as Diehl probes the anonymous artist's political and conceptual artworks, his street murals, paintings, installations, and writings, and Academy Award-nominated film, "Exit Through the Gift Shop," as well as the dramas that unfolded after the discovery of Banksy's often covertly

installed works. The ultimate trickster working outside the system, Banksy was adored by the public, reviled by art critics (sound familiar?) for his darkly funny, always radical, social commentary—whether apparent in spray paint on walls, in installations, protests, film or in his writing—which revealed the chasm between art as collected by the wealthy (to add to their portfolios) and art as the vehicle of social expression. The same may be said of *Profusely Illustrated: A Memoir* by Edward Sorel (Knopf, \$30) which paints an unforgettable self-portrait of Sorel's Depression-era Bronx childhood, his 1960s graphic design firm, his marriages and children, and his evolution from a "young lefty" into an older one working in magazines and newspapers, books, murals, cartoons, and comic strips, his cartoons as scalpel-sharp as his commentary in lampooning American cultural and political life. The man *The Los Angeles Times Book Review* called "our best political cartoonist" sets



A Stack of Books

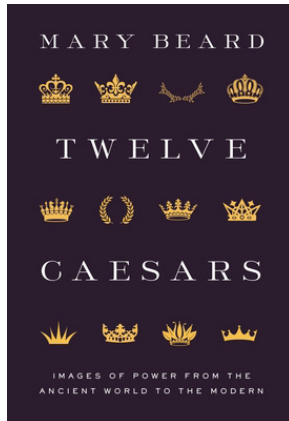
his story against the backdrop of American presidents, from FDR's time to the present day, in prose as wickedly pointed as his artwork, revealing in the process the kaleidoscopic ways in which the personal and political collide in art.



The invisible are recorded in a very different way in another pandemic project, a book we lauded last year and many of you tried to order, but the publication of which was delayed until now, *The Moon Is Behind Us* (Steidl, \$40). Terry Tempest Williams' responses to the deeply moving portraits of people from across the world by Fazal Sheikh (each image chosen from one year's work—over 30 years!) form an exchange as deep as the human soul, their visions broadening their perspectives, until both artists achieve startling clarity and also vulner-

ability, honesty.

Images become telling in a very different way in Mary Beard's brilliant *Twelve Caesars: Images of Power from the Ancient World to the Modern*. The choices made by the artists, not necessarily truth-telling but the opposite, convey everything from adulation to ambivalence to misdirection over 2000 years of art and cultural history. Recreated in marble, bronze, silver, and gold, in cameo and coins, painting, and ceramic, in colossal size and in miniature and more recently in movies and caricatures—the “twelve Caesars” determine our image of the face of power. Says Margaret Atwood, “What better escape from the woes of our present day than rolling around in the intrigues of the Roman Empire? Naughty Caesars! Pictures too! Avidly I plunge in!” Finally, images that capture the face of a city abound in *New York: An Illustrated History* by Ric Burns, James Sanders, and Lisa Ades (Knopf, \$75). Newly revised to bring ‘the big apple’ into the 21st century, this is a gift that will warm the hearts of those who love New York—and our numbers are legion.

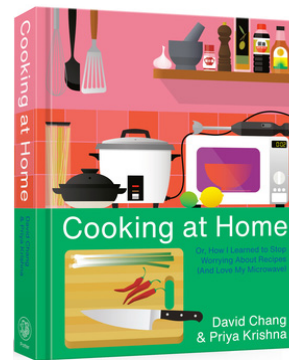
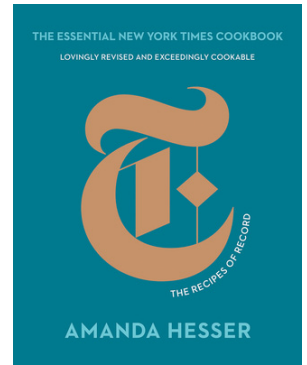


Our next subject, kitchens and those who love them, is of prime importance to those of us who are lucky enough to live with or date culinary artists since, presumably, we dine off the results of their culinary endeavors. So why not choose a cookbook that will tickle your own fancy (or taste or curiosity) as well as theirs? If, for example, the center of your gustatory longing lies in the middle east, in *Ottolenghi Test Kitchen: Shelf Love: Recipes to Unlock the Secrets of Your Pantry, Fridge, and Freezer* (Clarkson Potter \$32), Noor



Murad and National Book Award-winner Yotam Ottolenghi have compiled 86 wonderful recipes that utilize food from your shelves

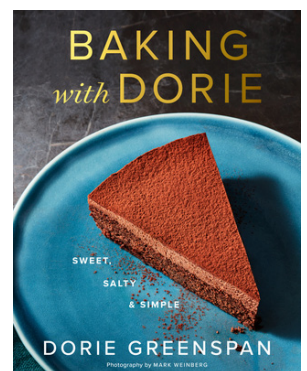
waiting to be part of a tantalizing, colorful meal, at once exotic and familiar, from One-pan Crispy Spaghetti and Chicken to Sweet Potato Shakshuka. Or, for the painstaking epicure who seldom strays far from home and follows recipes closely and obediently, thus producing gourmet meals of delicate perfection for you to savor, nothing meets the moment better than *The Essential New York Times Cookbook: The Recipes of Record* by Amanda Hesser (Norton, \$55), the once-in-a-generation update of the classic James Beard Award-winning cookbook with 120 new (but instantly iconic) dishes added to her mother lode of more than a thousand recipes. Ina Garten's comment? “A gift from heaven. These are recipes I'll use over and over again—and I'm starting with Rao's meatballs!” I think I will too.



Perhaps the polar opposite of that august cookbook, *Cooking at Home: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying About Recipes (And Love My Microwave)* by David Chang (*Eat a Peach*) and Priya Krishna (Clarkson Potter/Random, \$35) uses recipes not as scripture but as mere guidelines, points of reference from which an adventurous chef can track his/her/their way along flavorful byways by adding or omitting a pinch of this or that, or take labor- (and

mess-) saving shortcuts, all the while adhering to the principle à la David Chang, of “making something as delicious as possible in the least amount of time possible.” And Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, “the doyen of Italian cooking,” couldn't agree more. In *Lidia's a Pot, a Pan, and a Bowl: Simple Recipes for Perfect Meals* (Knopf, \$29.95), she and co-author Tanya Bastianich Manuali offer more than 100 homey, simple-to-prepare recipes—from Spinach, Bread, and Ricotta Frittata to One-Pan Chicken and Eggplant Parmigiana, Penne with Cauliflower and Green Olive Pesto to Balsamic Chicken Stir-Fry—all requiring fewer steps and fewer ingredients (not to mention fewer dirty pots and pans!) without sacrificing any of their flavor. And on a similar theme, Dorie Greenspan, in *Baking with Dorie: Sweet, Salty & Simple* (Houghton Mifflin, \$35), uses ingredients available at the corner grocery store in easy and accessible recipes that often combine in surprising ways—such as foot-long cheese sticks made with cream puff dough, gouda, and cumin. And her signature “salty bakes,” all easy to riff on, are as delicious as the photographs by Mark Weinberg make them appear to be. I know—the baker in my house has tried a few.

There are, in addition to the above, three uniquely interesting cookbooks that caught the attention of Calvin Crosby, TKE's new majority owner (and no mean chef), which he hopes you will consider for those to whom you think



A Stack of Books

they would appeal, along with some of Calvin's favorite Rock musicians. He and I both wish you a happy holiday and a peaceful New Year, rich in books and love.

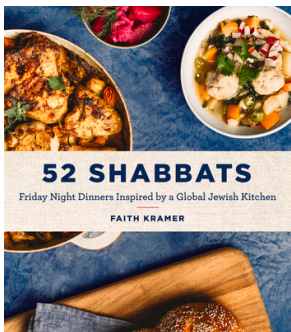


In *Cravings: All Together: Recipes to Love* (Clarkson Potter, \$29.99), the sometimes controversial, always unfiltered celebrity home cook Chrissy Teigen has returned with a new cookbook filled with 100+ all-new recipes. Her essay in this book is not pretentious; it is approachable, humorous, and genuine—and encouraging, no matter your level of cooking skills. This book comes out of cooking and cooking and cooking during the shutdown. I grew

up in the kitchen and think those formative years really instilled in me the love of food and the art of feeding people. I especially love that in *Cravings* she involves her children as much as possible in the kitchen and follows the recipes while allowing for creativity. The Greekish Roast Chicken with Potatoes and Feta is an incredible take on traditional roasted chicken, upgrading it with a garlic rub and Mediterranean flavors. Not to be missed is her version of Chick Pea Crunch Wraps (vegetarian cuisine meets Taco Bell), and her Sweet Blueberry Sour Cream Pie (does anyone remember Frontier Pies?) is a nostalgic joy. *Black Food: Stories, Art, and Recipes from Across the African Diaspora* (Color Books, \$40), on the other hand, ventures far from the kitchen even while celebrating it. Bryant Terry, an NAACP Image Award winner, a James Beard Award-winning chef and educator, and the author of *Afro-Vegan* (delicious, flavorful, and approachable recipes) and *The Vegetable Kingdom* (gorgeous!), is renowned for his activism and his efforts to create a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system. Currently the chef-in-residence at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco, he creates programming that celebrates the intersection of food, farming, health, activism, art, and culture.

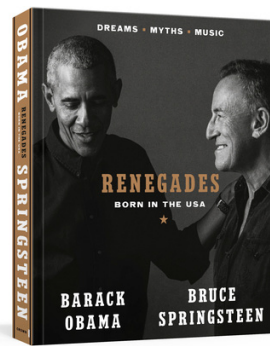


Black Food is a tribute to the Black food culture not just here in America but around the world, celebrating Black culinary ingenuity and the history of food from the Black point of view. Essays, recipes, and art combine to make this book an incredible work of art filled with history and deliciousness. The recipe for Sweet Potato Pie from Jenné Claiborne is beyond excellent. Terry's work lives at the intersection of grace and piquancy—as does that of Faith Kramer in *52 Shabbats: Friday Night Dinners Inspired by a Global Jewish Kitchen* (The Collective Book Studio, \$32.50). Kramer is a food writer (18 years at Food & Wine) and recipe developer concentrating on the foodways, history, and customs of the Jewish diaspora. Her new book brings to life the ways history and location have influenced Shabbat over the cen-



turies, her essays compelling and her writing and directions clear and approachable. She has included recipes that have you rethinking not only Shabbat but all dinners year-round with dishes such as Matza Ball and Pozole Chicken Soup (genius!) and Pickle Brined Chicken (delicious use for pickle brine!), Tahini Mashed Potatoes and Challah Fritters.

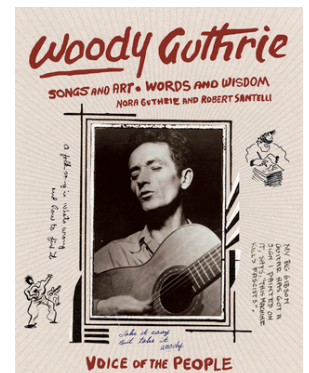
On to *The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music*, by Dave Grohl. Grohl, frontman for the Foo Fighters and the drummer for Nirvana, has delivered a collection of essays filled with topics on everything from his childhood and his own experiences with parenting to the formation of both his iconic bands, his activism, and memories of rock and roll greats such as Paul McCartney, Iggy Pop, and Tom Petty. And, music to the collector's ears (or eyes in this case), he has included memorabilia, lyric sheets, and posters from his archives over the past 30 years—while *The Beatles Get Back* (Callaway Arts & Entertainment, \$60), the quintessential gift for fans of the band that changed rock and roll forever (and the official companion book to Peter Jackson's acclaimed documentary of the same name), is based on 120 hours of discovered audio and 55 hours of restored film recordings made while the Beatles were writing and recording "Let It Be." Images include many unpublished photographs of the Beatles by Ethan A. Russell and Linda McCartney. And then there's *Renegades: Born in the USA* (Crown, \$50) by Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen.



Barack and Bruce? Are you kidding me? Two legendary men who happen to be friends host a podcast together, *Higher Ground*, discussing their enduring love and respect for the United States of America—even given the current contradictions and challenges we are facing today. They have included more than 350 photographs, exclusive bonus content, and never-before-seen archival material.

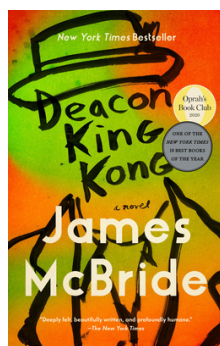
Finally, for those you love who prefer folk to rock, there's *Woody Guthrie: Songs and Art - Words and Wisdom* (Chronicle, \$40) in which Woody Guthrie's daughter Nora Guthrie teams with American music expert Robert Santelli to create a magnificently intimate curated collection and tribute to one of our greatest folk singers and songwriters. They use Woody's own words and art to tell his story, sharing the passion for politics that is so clear in his powerful words. His views on topics still relevant today include those on immigration, economic inequality, war, corruption from capitalism, patriotism, and environmentalism—and his strong belief in inclusion for all—as well as never-before-published lyrics and writing. Personal testimony from contemporary writers and musicians such as Arlo Guthrie and Rosanne Cash on his continued relevance today round out this moving tribute. "All of my words, if not well put nor well taken, are well-meant." - Woody Guthrie

So are ours, and in that vein, we hope you take as much joy as we do in filling the lives of your loved ones with books. Adios, Shalom, Peace.



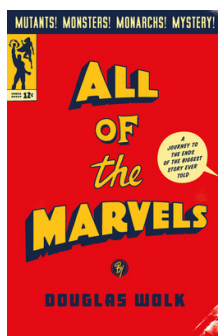
Stocking Stuffers

Aside from the myriad wonderful books new (and not so new) in paper that would make terrific gifts—among them a couple of novels that are wonderfully fun and just plain wonderful, *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride (Riverhead, \$17) and *Perestroika in Paris* by Jane Smiley (Anchor, \$16), three that are deadly serious and wise when we need wisdom, *A Burn-*



ing Testament (it's breathtaking) by Terry Tempest Williams (Eakins Press, \$10), *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson (One World, \$17), and *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (Knopf, \$16.95)—there are some newly published titles you might tuck into a stocking, either because they're interesting, silly, a fit for someone for whom you're in search of a gift, or just because.

For anyone on your list interested in expanding his/her/their literary horizons, *Bibliophile: Diverse Spines* by Jamise Harper, illustrated by Jane Mount (Chronicle, \$18) offers dozens of themed, illustrated book stacks—Classics, Contemporary Fiction, Mysteries, Cookbooks, and more—all with an emphasis on authors of color and authors from diverse cultural backgrounds, along with a look inside beloved bookstores owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and reading



recommendations from leading BIPOC literary influencers. Or, on a very different note, *All of the Marvels* by Douglas Wolk (Penguin, \$28) is a graphic work that allows us to see the culture of the past 60 years through the fun-house prism of the Marvels of comic book fame, from Dr. Dread to Dr. Doom. As fascinating as it is entertaining, a great gift for any and every-

one drawn to the marvel of the Marvels, from comic book fans to cultural geeks to Lit Crit. gurus.



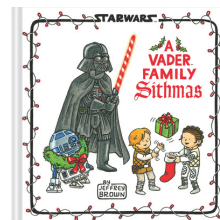
And, for fans of a different sort, *Murakami T: The T-Shirts I Love* by Haruki Murakami, translated by Philip Gabriel (Knopf, \$25), is an eccentric, yet surprisingly apt gift for those who love Murakami (we are legion). It includes not only pictures of Murakami's most beloved t-shirts from around the world but also a grab bag of his (newly translated) essays on every-

thing from the joy of drinking Guinness in local pubs across Ireland to Hawaiian surf culture in the 1980s. And, on a very different fashion front, for the shoe addict in your life, *Shoes* by Raissa Bretaña (Abbeville \$12.95) might just be the most entertaining (or insulting if you're trying to leave a message about the state of your/their closet) gift imaginable, a small but dazzling compendium of 250 shoes from the 17th century to the hot designers of the present.



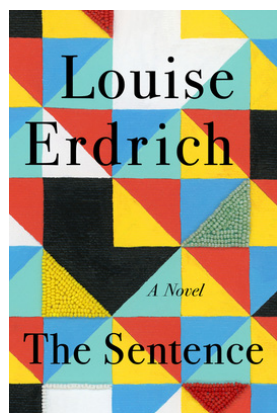
There are books small in size or price on all manner of odd things this year—from Legos' *Instructions Included: A Little Life Advice from LEGO Minifigures* by Aled Lewis (Chronicle, \$15) to *Star Wars: A Vader Family Sithmas* by Jeffrey Brown (Chronicle \$14.95)—along with side-

lines galore all over our store to stick in the stocking you're trying to fill. But my personal cup of tea (aside from an exotic tea bag or two) is a paperback mystery by Tana French or Donna Leon, an obscure Anthony Trollope, or (you might not believe this but it's true) an out-of-print Nancy Drew. To each his own and for each the perfect gift for stockings large and small!



Happy holidays! *And to All A Good Night!*





The Sentence, Louise Erdrich

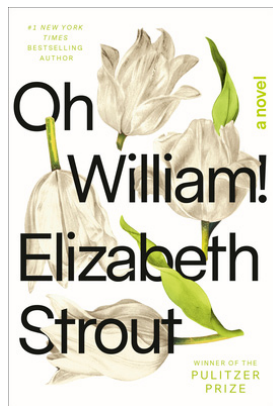
Because Calvin and I have loved (and read) Louise Erdrich's books with equal passion since coming across her astonishing *Love Medicine* many years ago (Calvin's favorite is *The Plague of Doves*, Betsy's *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*), we decided we'd review her new book together. A book by our favorite author, set in a bookstore? What's not to love? But despite our ongoing passion for Erdrich, we've never been as smitten as this. Hilarious one

moment, devastating the next, *The Sentence* tells the tale of Tookie, ex-con, present-day bookseller in an independent bookstore called Birch Bark Books, owned by, you guessed it, Louise Erdrich. Erdrich does have a bit part in her novel, but it is the booksellers who shine, their brains teeming with titles and authors, their hearts in thrall to their customers' desires as they make endless lists, trying to come up with the perfect book for this one or that one (usually—but not always—succeeding). They live their store. They love their store... Trouble is, that store is haunted. By a customer, Flora. A woman so persistent in her annoying behavior that she's already a legend among the booksellers before she dies and refuses to go away, shuffling invisibly from section to section as Tookie tries to ignore her. Tookie has more problems than a mere ghost, however. Her step-daughter, no fan of Tookie's, has come—not to visit but to stay. And she's pregnant. And likely to make waves in what has been a very good marriage. Worse, COVID has come to town, at first closing the bookstore down and then turning it into a book warehouse with no customers but Flora—who's becoming more problematic by the day. And if this sounds madcap and funny, it is, sublimely so. Full of characters we love, books we adore, a life we know and love. Until it isn't funny at all. Until we're witnessing on the page the impact of the global pandemic we've all been living through, the systemic racism that has come to a boil in city after city, the blistering rage we've all felt, are all feeling—reflected in Flora's rage. Not to mention the helplessness. The horrifying daily-ness of the devastation is so painfully familiar that evocative doesn't begin to describe it. Erdrich's ability to illuminate the present we're living—along with the dark past that haunts us all—to lace it with sly humor, yes, and with compassion and love, but to tell us the truth in stark terms, turns *The Sentence* into a profound and profoundly moving book, one neither of us will ever forget.

– Betsy Burton and Calvin Crosby, Harper, \$28.99

Oh, William!, Elizabeth Strout

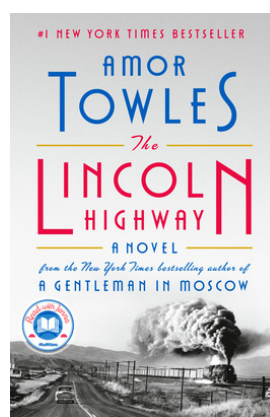
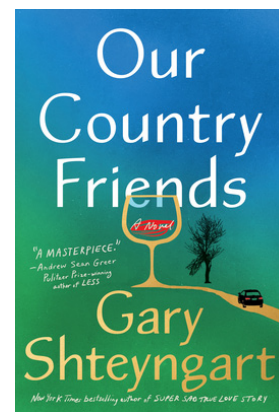
Oh, my! Has there ever been a writer whose characters work their way into the inner chambers of our hearts so effortlessly? Or who allows us to see one another quite so plainly? Sometimes in stark and merciless relief, but with compassion, always? Lucy Barton's second husband has died and she's still grieving when her first husband, William, asks a favor of her. Well, not *exactly* then, there are plenty of asides and explanations, forays backward and forward as we wend our way toward



what he wants (how Strout achieves this wondrous and often very funny layering is a mystery and a miracle). But in the end it turns out that William wishes Lucy to accompany him on a trip. One that involves a past he hadn't known existed. And if that sounds mysterious, it is—the way all family secrets are until they encounter the light of day. And the light of day is what Strout sheds on the human condition (and on marriage, on families) more than almost any writer alive—in *Oh, William* even more than in her previous fabulous novels. I loved every page, I loved every character, and I understood them (and myself) in new ways by the time I had turned the last page. Revelatory is one word for her work. Illuminating another. But the end result, at least for this reader, was pure joy. – Betsy Burton, Random House, \$27

Our Country Friends, Gary Shteyngart

Reminiscent of the movie "The Big Chill," Shteyngart's newest and most ambitious work to date starts in March of 2020, using his unique filter and wry wit to tell the story of the emotional toll of navigating life during a pandemic. *Our Country Friends* reads like a classic work of fiction à la Anton Chekov, portraying the complexities of modern friendships, love and betrayal. Shteyngart's ability to create and then entwine unique, believable characters with tension, drama, and sophisticated humor is especially effective in this work, set in upstate New York at the country home of a celebrated Russian author, his psychiatrist wife, and their daughter as they are joined by friends and friends-of-friends to weather the pandemic. Six months later, romances, betrayal, intrigue, and trouble have taken their toll on the group as relationships change, evolve, and erode. *Our Country Friends* is Shteyngart's most remarkable work since his beloved bestseller, *Super Sad True Love Story*. – Calvin Crosby, Random House, \$28

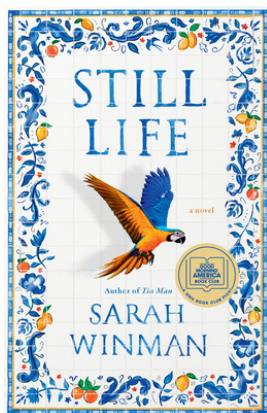


The Lincoln Highway: A Novel, Amor Towles

How hard it must have been to write another book after reader/bookseller favorite *A Gentleman in Moscow*! Towles takes readers back to 1954 Nebraska and introduces us to Emmett, who is getting out of juvie. Emmett knows that it is time to start anew, but his plans are tossed out the window by his little brother Billy and two fellow inmates, Duchess and Woolly, who have managed to sneak out of the work farm. Creative structure in the novel

gives the characters the chance to tell their individual tales—and as the ragamuffin boys start on their quest, it will be up to Emmett to stay true to his story. Towles' new book is so satisfying; the contrasts—good and bad, rich and poor, love and loss—will keep readers turning the pages. I loved it. Can't wait to see Towles' next book!

– Margaret Brennan Neville, Viking, \$30



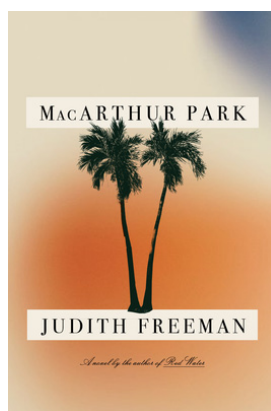
Still Life, Sarah Winman

Well, now I can say I've read my favorite book of the year. Set in Florence and London from the tail end of WWII through the following four decades, this lush novel carries with it the ghost of E.M. Forster's *A Room with a View* and a cast of characters worth befriending. It all starts with a chance encounter—Ulysses Temper, an English soldier advancing through desert-villages, finds Englishwoman Evelyn Skinner, a middle-aged art historian on a mission to secure the art gems all over

Tuscany. Together they share a wonderful evening in a deserted wine cellar. After the war he returns to his London community, centered around a pub called The Stoat and Parrot. But that night never leaves him and sets into motion a life full of unforgettable moments worth remembering. – Michaela Riding, Putnam, \$27

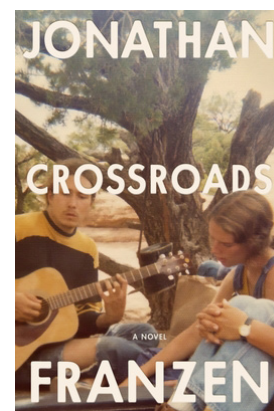
MacArthur Park, Judith Freeman

Although I've long loved Freeman's work, whether novel, memoir or biography, I've never been this head-over-heels before. Two women, best friends as children in northern Utah, take utterly dissimilar paths as they enter adulthood, their lives conjoining briefly years later in L.A. before they again part company. Reconnecting as they enter old age, they are as different from one another as they ever were—Jolene having lived life in Paris as a flamboyant feminist known worldwide for her outré performance art, Vera, the voice of the novel, living quietly near MacArthur Park. A successful writer, she's married the man Jolene had left behind and is only beginning to wonder about the inner workings of that marriage. The childhood friendship is a rolling current beneath the reality of their wildly divergent lives, providing counterpoint to the different paths they've taken, the seemingly mismatched characters they possess. All of which is beautifully structured, culminating in the journey they embark on near the novel's end. Traveling from L.A. across the desert and into the Great Basin on a journey in some ways reminiscent of Jack Burden's interior journey during his car trip in *All the King's Men*, their pasts unfold with the miles—the difference being that Jack was young, his self-revelation false, while the conversations of the two women and Vera's attendant musing as they draw ever closer to home reveal the past with terrifying clarity. Fascinating in terms of art, literature, music, fulsome in its Jamesian examination of women's friendships, their relationships with men, with work, with one another, *MacArthur Park* is constantly surprising, endlessly fascinating, compulsively readable. But be prepared for revelations concerning your own life, illuminated in the reflected light of theirs. An exquisite novel by an author at the pinnacle of her brilliant career. – Betsy Burton, Pantheon, \$28



Crossroads, Jonathan Franzen

The early 1970s is the setting for the most recent book by this acclaimed author. The Hildebrandt family of five are each facing a crisis of the soul. Father Russ is an associate pastor of a Protestant church outside of Chicago where he nurses a perceived rebuke from the teenagers in a student youth group. His grievance leads him to a series of actions that will impact not only himself but also his three very different children and his long-suffering wife. Through alternating chapters, Franzen delves deeply into the characters as they struggle with faith, love and the modern world. The crisis each contends with is brilliantly and thoroughly examined by this master of language in the first of a planned trilogy. – Barbara Hoagland, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30



The Morning Star, Karl Ove Knausgaard

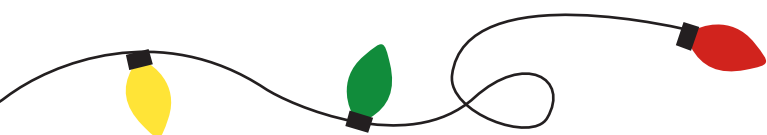
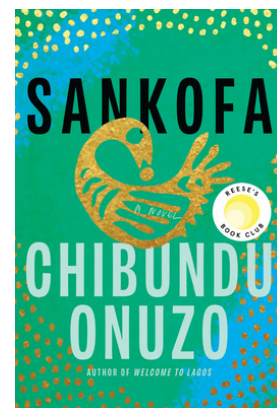


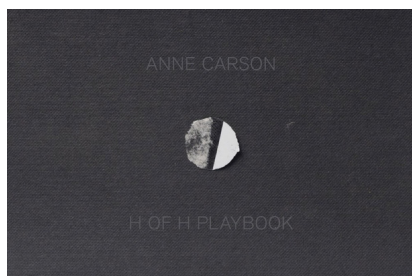
Strap in and hold on tight. Knausgaard's newest novel charts the imagined lives of nine individuals living along Norway's coast when a new star appears in the sky one morning. It burns big, bright and close all day, all night and into the next day and the earth keeps revolving. It is strange though how, aside from the giant star's inexplicable appearance and the season's unusually hot weather, nothing changes. The characters carry on with their travel, their work, their party plans;

they get drunk, they get high, they care for their children, for their elderly parents, they preach sermons, comfort the dying and bury the dead. Weird occurrences do seem tied to the star's appearance, but then again it could all be coincidental. Outright alarming, however, is a set of gruesome killings which seem to align with the star's appearance. Don't they? And if they do, what might it all mean? A tour de force by Knausgaard who has bent his art of storytelling in yet another way. – Michelle Macfarlane, Penguin, \$30

Sankofa, Chibundu Onuzo

Anna is on a journey to discover the father she never knew. As a biracial child of the African diaspora raised alone by her Welsh mother, she has learned not to hope—until she finds a piece of the puzzle in a journal left behind in her mother's belongings. Her father's voice shines through intimately, and Anna feels almost maternal toward his struggles as an African man in 1970s' London. In his words she finds a mirror of her own experiences of not belonging. But the past is not the present, and when she finds him, everything is so much more complicated. Belonging is more complicated. Thoughtful, direct, and moving. I absolutely loved it. – Michaela Riding, Catapult, \$26.





H of H Playbook,
Anne Carson

The Autobiography of Red, Carson's first retelling of the mythology of Herakles, forever altered the trajectory of my reading. Her new retranslation/retelling of Euripides' play is yet another

cataclysmic reading event. Carson sets her "play" in a trailer park; her hero wears overalls, his family worries about the border police. She converts the Labours of Herakles into labor, offering up a critique of capitalism, and all the miseries that come with life. "All those years, all those Labours... The Labours have to be done and that is that." Carson's Greek chorus chants "Remember Lenin in a factory hat / declaring the dictatorship of the proletariat," channeling the rhythms and rhymes of modern Rap. Like Carson's *Nox*, *H of H Playbook* is a facsimile of an Artists' Book comprised of blocks of text pasted onto pages of original drawings and abstract illustration. The book appears to deteriorate right along with its hero, a slash of thick red paint, the sole illustration of Herakles murdering his family. Like so much of Carson's previous work, the glory of this project lies in empowering classic literature to speak of today's world. – Becky Thomas, New Directions, \$22.95

Burntcoat, Sarah Hall

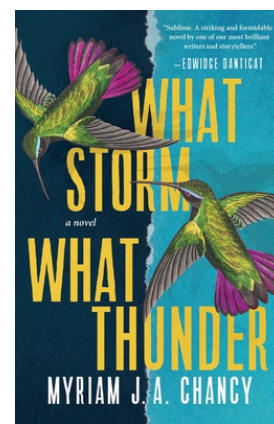
Years ago, Edith Harkness survived the AG3 pandemic—barely—but now she's in the midst of another relapse, another debilitating and potentially fatal round of bizarre symptoms for which medication can provide only minimal relief. She still inhabits *Burntcoat*, the old warehouse-turned-apartment/studio she purchased before the pandemic, inside of which she has fashioned massive sculptures from meticulously treated wood—bold works that have required all her creative, intellectual, and physical energies; have made her famous; and have fascinated, enraged, and befuddled viewers from around the world. She has just completed her final piece: a commissioned national memorial honoring the million who have died in her country alone, and the steadily increasing number of initial survivors who will eventually die from relapses. Presently, while waiting for her collaborator-assistant to remove the memorial from her studio, Edith reviews her past: a personal saga filled with sorrow, adventure, creativity, and two great loves, both deceased—her mother and Halit, the immigrant with whom she began a love affair just before the pandemic hit and with whom she took refuge inside *Burntcoat* during the lengthy lockdown. *Burntcoat*, the book, is Edith's retrospection. The first-person narrator's rapidly alternating yet seamless use of past and present tense for herself and her unwavering use of second-person present tense with Halit result in an enigmatic, multi-layered present shared by the central characters and the reader. Moreover, the narrator's pervasive "you" places the reader in Halit's position, allowing her to simultaneously observe Halit as a distinct character and share his space as Edith's partner. Every indulgent sex scene—and there are many, all daringly frank—is at once an expression of intimacy between the two



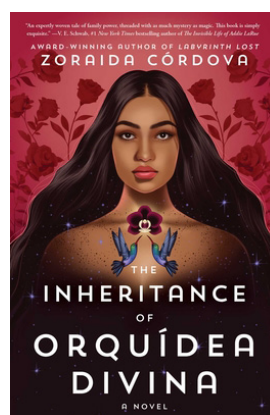
central characters and between narrator and reader, a shared time and space for a literary ménage à trois. More generally, boundary lines within and between the realms of space, time, and dimension are blurred; the physical merges with the spiritual, the actual with the imagined or dreamed, the creator with the creation. Additionally, the story is told in a way that paradoxically fuses fighting and surrender—as ideas and as a two-pronged response to life's difficulties and sorrows. The result is dark but strangely positive, even hopeful. A compelling read—an eloquent depiction of the life-affirming powers of artistic creation and intimacy. Perfect for our present circumstances. – Karlyn Bond, Custom House, \$27.99

What Storm, What Thunder, Myriam J. A. Chancy

Award-winning author Chancy is a Haitian-Canadian-American writer who has masterfully crafted a fantastic novel of the day a 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. In a character-rich story with a strong sense of place and time, Chancy artfully navigates the natural disaster and life in Haiti, introducing us to an ex-pat, a drug dealer, parents devastated by the loss of their children, not to mention a "secret daughter" who is possibly the voodoo spirit of death. Each character is brilliantly brought to life, uniquely compelling, fiercely imagined, deeply haunting. *What Storm, What Thunder* is a stunning reckoning of disaster trauma and a poignant testimony of hope—and the beauty of the human spirit. – Calvin Crosby, Tin House, \$27.95



The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina,
Zoraida Córdova

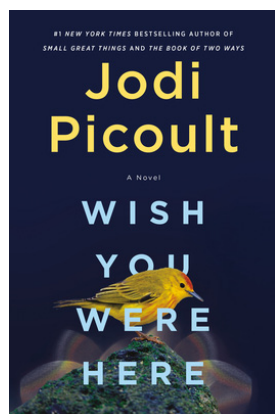


Orquídea never leaves her home at Four Rivers; her large family must always come to her. But the wine never runs out, and the house and the land seem to hum with a vibrant if elusive life. Her children and grandchildren do not know why Four Rivers is such an extraordinary place. The last time she calls all the family home, it is for her funeral and their inheritance. As some of her grandchildren try to figure out the mystery of her life and her gifts,

other members of the family are being destroyed; Miramar, Rhiannon and Rey are desperate to figure out why as the novel moves back and forth between Orquídea's life and her family's present-day quest for resolution. Steeped in culture and family and a multi-layered magical realism that gives it a cinematic effect, *Inheritance of Orquídea Divina* is a great read! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Atria, \$27.99

Wish You Were Here, Jodi Picoult

"Life happens when you least expect it, but that doesn't mean you can't have a blueprint in your back pocket." Diana O'Toole knows exactly what she wants from her life: marriage by the age of thirty, a home in the suburbs, two kids, two dogs and enough money in the bank to cushion an emergency. Already an art specialist for Sotheby's, she's sure her dreams will come true once she secures a famous



painting from an even more famous rock and roll widow and her medical internist boyfriend, Finn, proposes on their upcoming trip to the Galapagos Islands. But then a virus that should have stayed continents away hits New York City, and Finn announces he must stay at the hospital. Of course, she should go without him; the trip is paid for, and this will all blow over soon. Reluctantly, Diana goes, only to find herself stranded in lockdown on an island with no Internet and almost no mail service. Unable to communicate with the outside world, her outlook on her life

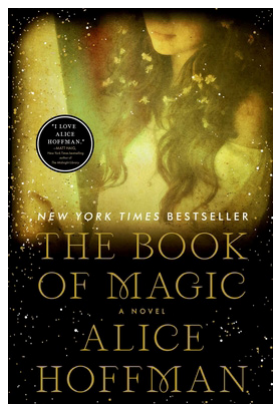
begins to evolve. In the heart of Darwin's theories, nothing looks as it appears. When she returns will her life have altered?

– Anne Stewart Mark, Ballantine, \$28.99

The Book of Magic, Alice Hoffman

Generations ago, a curse set the Owens family on a path of loneliness, lost love, and tragedy for those who do love. In her last of the books about this highly entertaining and engaging group of women (which include *Practical Magic*, *Magic Lessons* and *Rules of Magic*), Hoffman lets Jet and Franny see what their work has wrought. Their nieces, Kylie and Antonia, have been shielded from the story and their own magic by their mother Sally's denial. When Jet hears the deathwatch beetle, she and Franny know it is time for action, time to kill the curse if they can, with or without Sally's help. This novel is a charmer, an antidote to all that is grim, and Hoffman clearly tells readers that with or without magic, love is the answer. Fun read!

– Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster, \$27.99 *Editor's note: readers do not have to read the earlier books to enjoy this one!*



Fight Night, Miriam Toews

Swiv and Elvira are in a competition to write the best letter to the unborn sibling and grandchild, they lovingly call Gord. Caught in the middle is the partnerless expectant mother. And all three generations are trapped in a tiny house in Toronto where a real estate baron they call Jay Gatsby comes by at least weekly to try to buy their property so he can re-develop it. Meantime Swiv has been expelled from school and Elvira is doing her damndest to homeschool her in the finer subjects

of the “fireman’s carry” and tying a tourniquet, while playing online Scrabble and watching re-runs of “Call the Midwife.” She was a nurse after all. Told mostly in Swiv’s precocious 9-year-old voice, this delightful, funny and often heartbreaking read is a valentine to mothers and daughters ferociously fighting to keep a hold on their lives in the best way they know how. – Anne Stewart Mark, Bloomsbury, \$24

Small Things Like These, Claire Keegan

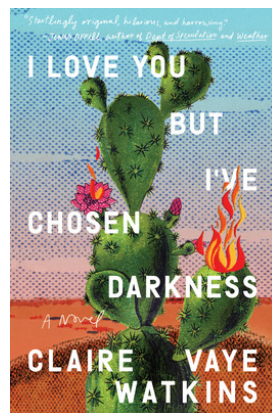
On the day before Christmas Eve, Bill Furlong opens the coal shed at the convent and discovers a young girl, freezing and malnourished. He’s even more shaken when she asks if he’s seen her baby, who should be fourteen weeks by now. The resistance he gets from the Mother Superior when he takes the girl back to the main house is unsettling. We know all too much about the Magdalene Laundries of Ireland, and, while they no longer exist, they operated until well into the 20th century as supposed asylums for “fallen women,” many of them very young girls. Their stories are not unlike what we are now learning about the Indian schools across the U.S. and Canada. *In Small Things Like These*, what Furlong does over the course of the next two days will change his and his family’s lives forever. The question I ask myself at the end of the story is what would I do? What would you do?

– Anne Holman, Grove Atlantic, \$23

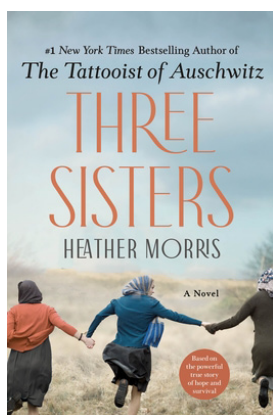


I Love You But I've Chosen Darkness, Claire Vaye Watkins

Watkins—professor, writer, wife, and new mother—is en route from Ann Arbor to Reno for two engagements connected with the recent publication of her new novel. While there, she will be reuniting with three friends she hasn’t seen in years, one of whom will pick her up at the airport. But Claire has been weeping during the whole flight. Oppressed by marriage and motherhood, she has fallen prey to angst-ridden reflections on her family’s past. (Her father had been a member of Charles Manson’s “family” for years before finally breaking free; her addiction-burdened mother had been triumphantly sober for years before a fatal opioid crisis; she and her sisters had barely survived—and were still suffering aftershocks from—their poverty-stricken, rudderless childhoods.) Claire finally arrives in Reno, convenes with her friends and manages to survive her book-related events, but her downward spiral continues unabated. She postpones her trip home, travels to her old stomping grounds in the Mojave Desert, flees to the coast with a new lover, heads back to the desert (alone), then proceeds to Vegas where she picks up her sister, returning with her to their old family home (what’s left of it) in the tiny town of Tecopa. Will chasing her past do anything to bring clarity to her present? Can her little family remain intact? Does she want it to? This novel/memoir is a terrifying account of postpartum depression and, more generally, the degree to which a human being can suffer from—and be molded by—the inexplicable workings of the body and the vagaries of fate. The general darkness, however, is penetrated by flashes of humor, warmth, compassion, and redemption. – Karlyn Bond, Riverhead, \$27



FICTION



Three Sisters, Heather Morris

Cibi, Magda and Livia, three young girls living in Slovakia, make a promise to their father that they will always stay together and take care of each other. In 1942, when the Hlinka Guards come for Livia, Cibi does the only thing she can and goes with her littlest sister, as Magda, under the protection of a Christian doctor, hides in the local hospital. Livia and Cibi are sent to Auschwitz and survive by doing whatever they can to remain alive. Befriending the guards, hauling bricks, sorting the

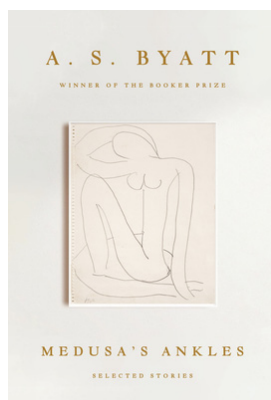
belongings of the other captives, taking messages...anything. When, eventually, Magda is also sent to the camp, the three renew their vow: to survive, to live, to stay together. After the grueling ordeal of the camp and a death march as the war comes to its conclusion, the three make their way back to what is now Communist Slovakia, where it becomes crystal clear that the three Jewish girls are still not welcome. Rescuing their mother's candlesticks and family photos from Magda's clever hiding place in the family home, they make their way across Europe and eventually to the new Zion. Told in harrowing detail, this is a rewarding end to the *Tattooist of Auschwitz* trilogy. Morris' interviews with many of the survivors at the conclusion of the novel are stellar. – Anne Stewart Mark, St. Martin's, \$28.99

SHORT STORIES

Medusa's Ankles: Selected Stories,

A.S. Byatt

"What do we know is true and what do we merely believe is true?" Sometimes a writer herself can seem as intimidating as what she writes about—as has been the case with A.S. Byatt. But *Medusa's Ankles*, a selection of Byatt's shorter fiction, taken from five different collections from 1987 to 2003, is far more intriguing than intimidating. The title story alone, "Medusa's Ankles," in which, despairing of her looks, a woman goes berserk at the hairdresser and smashes up the salon, is enough to make you want to pull your own hair out. As borrowed from David Mitchell's superb introduction, the following brief summary of only a few of the selected stories gives hints of Byatt's rogue range, genre-mixing, and super intellectual creativity: "Dragon's Breath," dragons in the service of a fever-dream parable; "Cold," a fairy tale with a feminist twist; "Doll's Eyes" which flirts with Gothic horror, "The July Ghost," a portrait of a mother who has lost a child and an agnostic ghost story (subtle, poignant, and ever so trippy); "Precipice-Encurled," a set of framed narratives about the poet Robert Browning; "The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye," metaphysical by way of being a narratologist's tale.... Take your time with these stories, and expect the unexpected, whether reading a fairy tale or historical realism, cleverly referenced art, philosophy, or science, themes from Romantic and Victorian literature and 'inter-species' romance. And remember these assurances from one of Byatt's most avid fans: "Being less clever than A.S. Byatt



SHORT STORIES

is no reason not to read her. You can always look the allusions up."

– Valerie Kittel, Knopf, \$28

How High? – That High, Diane Williams

Williams' stories are tiny—most barely reach two pages, and some are just a few sentences. Her characters do not have elaborate backstories; there are no vivid settings here. What do her stories have, then? Wit, in spades; compression; a deceptive easiness that reminds me of painting—or a dirty joke. These are experimental stories, yes, but they are also hilarious and moving, deeply preoccupied with the human mind and its strange ironies. Reading Williams is like watching lightning strike brilliantly, then disappear into the dark—these stories leave a searing impression on the retina. – Lindsey Webb, Soho, \$25



Hao, Ye Chun

Signs as language. Language as signs. Ideograms. Alphabets. Chinese. English. Hao means "Good, yes, okay. The most common word in Chinese." In Chun's first story, "Stars," hao is the only word the young narrator is left with after a stroke. Where is the "good" in that she wonders? Women, past and present, in China and in America, literate and illiterate, pregnant, delivering, delivered, supporting children, often without support of their own, fearful, searching amidst chaos.

How to find their way to what is good—a new town, a new country, a new life, a husband, an education, work, survival—is their common, underlying, undying, and sometimes dying, dilemma. "Hao," a drawing in the sand. "Hao," Chun's good short stories. *Hao*, don't miss this beautiful collection! – Michelle Macfarlane, Catapult, \$26

Five Tuesdays in Winter, Lily King

Only the best storytellers can take you to another life in 20 pages or less. Following on the heels of her novel, *Writers and Lovers*, Lily King's new short story collection is about family life, the secrets young girls hold (whether they want to or not), and young love in its various iterations. Capturing with acuity and humor the darker impulses of us all, whether children, teenagers, or adults, this is vintage King slipping seamlessly from irony to honesty, rage to humor to heartfelt compassion. The perfect stocking stuffer for the person in your life who doesn't have enough time to read for pleasure and needs something great when they do. – Anne Holman and Betsy Burton, Grove, \$27



SHORT STORIES



When Things Get Dark: Stories inspired by Shirley Jackson, edited by Ellen Datlow

In “Hag” by Benjamin Percy, 7-year-old Lyra says, “I don’t like scary stories.” To be honest, none of these 18 short stories is REALLY SCARY, but they absolutely do reflect the sensibility of the seminal writer of horror and mystery fiction, Shirley Jackson, in their fantasy, dark fantasy, and horror. And this is just what Ellen Datlow, herself a 40-year veteran editor of science fiction/fantasy fiction and

recipient of numerous awards, promises the readers of this anthology. Many of these stories involve houses (some haunted, some not), some involve murder (of a patient, whole families, random victims), some involve rejection (a mother puts her 4-year-old daughter out with the give-away trash and a sign “Take Me, I’m Free”), one features a woman who gets younger rather than ages, some involve writers, some involve teachers. In my favorite, “Skinder’s Veil” by Kelly Link, graduate student Andy Sims is trying to finish his dissertation when he agrees to take over a house-sitting job in rural Vermont. RULES: he is to let anyone (or thing—deer, bear, porcupine, mist) in who comes to the back door, but to refuse entry to the owner, who will knock at the front door. Well... Read this delightful, often “chilling, human, poignant, and strange” collection, BUT NOT JUST BEFORE BEDTIME! – Carol Kranes, Titan Books, \$24.95

FICTION NEW IN PAPER

Performance Art: Stories, David Kranes

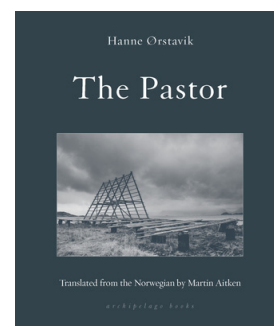
Kranes’ stories each address, as the title indicates, the world of performance art—from standup comedy to the fine art of eating glass and fire, from acting in Hollywood to knife throwing in carnivals, sleight-of-hand artistry to derring-do à la Evel Knievel or the escape escapades of a Houdini. Each tale is imbued with a dose of realism—and humanity—in its depiction of what drives such performances (to impose order on the—so often insane—world it explores); what drives people to such a world in the first place; the fears that lurk in the hearts of the performers or of those who observe, admire, or detest them; how such extremes can open life up but also become an end in themselves, distorting, and in the end denying, life. The themes? Performance insecurity, expectation insecurity, performance to defeat insecurity, performance to control insecurity, control period, performance as art, performance as vanity, performance to meet expectations, insecurity in art; art versus performance (painting versus acting), and, in one of my favorite stories, how even the least performative of arts (photojournalism) can become a kind of vivid, shaming striptease. Kranes’ writing is beyond imaginative, his rich descriptive powers everywhere apparent in these tales illuminating new angles on the West we think we know but which ever surprises us. – Betsy Burton, University of Nevada Press, \$22



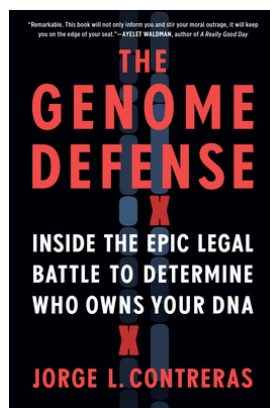
FICTION NEW IN PAPER

The Pastor, Hanne Orstavik, translated by Martin Aiken

Where does a pastor find comfort? From the Bible? From whiskey? From a hook-up with a geologist? From her doctoral research of an 1852 Sami rebellion? From a friend’s “happy, weightless laughter?” Liv, an intense, reticent theologian and new pastor of a remote Norwegian town, drives to the hospital, to a seminar, to the home of a dead 19-year-old parishioner, looks out the window of her room at the bleak, flat Norwegian landscape—the snow, ever-blowing wind, rain and cold. Liv is haunted by the death of a new friend, Kristiane, by memories, by her vision of herself as “made of very hard bone with not a single part of me that was soft...” In this cold, dark, and moody novel the reader is immersed in Liv’s world—passages that question the unpredictable and cruel power of language and the inexplicable nature of imagination. Ending simply and somewhat abruptly, the novel reminds this reader of Liv’s prayer, “Have mercy on me.” – Carol Kranes, Archipelago Books, \$20



NONFICTION



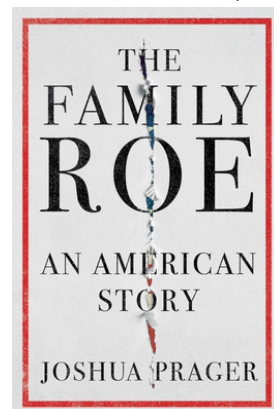
The Genome Defense: Inside the Epic Legal Battle to Determine Who Owns Your DNA, Jorge L. Contreras

Attorney Chris Hansen could not believe that the U.S. Government was issuing patents for human genes to the biotech industry. He could not accept that a patent could be given for a person’s DNA—the very stuff that makes us, us. Nor could he believe the travesty of women being charged ridiculous fees to test for hereditary breast and ovarian cancers, tests they desperately needed—all because Myriad

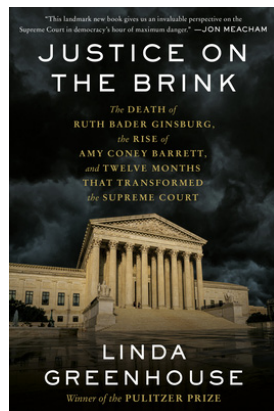
Genetics had been able to patent the famous BRCA genes. He knew he had to sue them to stop this. University of Utah professor and Harvard educated lawyer Jorge L. Contreras, one of the nation’s experts on human genetics law, joined Hansen and his team in investigating the civil rights case AMP v. Myriad, interviewing hundreds of people connected to the case: activists, scientists, physicians, former patients, and cancer survivors. He weaves their narratives together with confidence and clarity as he unlocks the science and morality involved in this landmark case. – Calvin Crosby, Algonquin, \$27.95

The Family Roe: An American Story, Joshua Prager

Roe v Wade has been the law of the land since its Supreme Court win in 1973, but the law’s implementation has been as controversial as the original decision. As states have rolled back the ability of a woman to determine her own reproductive course, the Supreme Court is on the verge of possibly revoking the entire



law. Prager's exhaustive history of Roe is an important landmark and examination of the people at the heart of the original decision. He minutely researched the life and times of the original "Jane Roe," a woman as complicated as the times in which she lived. Her story and the story of the people both pro-choice and pro-life who exploited her is revelatory, an important addition to the library of *Roe v Wade* books. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, \$35



Justice on the Brink: The Death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Rise of Amy Coney Barrett, and Twelve Months that Transformed the Supreme Court, Linda Greenhouse

The time of COVID will produce epic novels and real-time narratives. Greenhouse is a highly respected legal writer and reporter, and her resume includes a Pulitzer Prize. Although this book is not a quick read, it was written in a compressed timeframe that begins August 2020 and concludes August 2021. The technical

summaries of current and past Supreme Court and lower court rulings are necessary but require some careful reading back and forth as Greenhouse progresses through the twelve months. What is invaluable in this book is tracking through the convoluted cases and the multi-decade-long game to greatly influence religious freedom and practice. As COVID-related cases are beginning to work their way through the courts, religious freedom and practice are eerily in play. This is a moment in time where we have three solid conservatives (Associate Justices Alito, Thomas, and Gorsuch); four justices who still have a professional lifetime to evolve (Associate Justices Kagen, Sotomayer, Kavanaugh, and Barrett); a solid liberal (Associate Justice Breyer); with Chief Justice Roberts guiding the court. Read this book if you want to see the machinations of law working their way through the courts over decades, not just the last twelve months. For readers west of the Mississippi, you will be reminded of how East Coast-centric the Supreme Court is. There are thirteen Federal Judicial Circuits that represent the entire country. There are nine Supreme Court Justices, all of whom have highly respected East Coast credentials. There are three women on the Supreme Court. Surveys are indicating a declining interest in religion among the younger generations. This book is a depressing reminder of the lack of diversity in such a revered institution. – Stephanie Mackay, Random House, \$28

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story, Nikole Hannah Jones

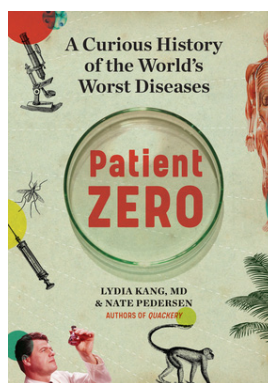
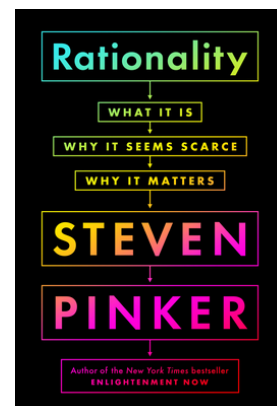
The controversial 1619 Project is now in book form, expanded, and updated, yet still as provocative as ever. Perhaps even more so because of the controversy surrounding them, these essays and artistic offerings reveal much about our current and historical understanding of race and slavery in America. And what better place to begin understanding a controversy than where it all started? This is not a book to passively absorb. This is a book to consider and to actively engage with. All in the pursuit to better understand, as in Natasha Tretheway's newly included poem, "how



ordinary it seems, injustice—mundane / as a trip to the store for bread. And I know / this is about what has always existed, / side by side, in this country..." – Michaela Riding, *One World*, \$38

Rationality: What It Is, Why It Seems Scarce, Why It Matters, Steven Pinker

This comprehensive look at a trait that we, as modern humanity, pride ourselves on, was actually what the so-called primitive hunter-gatherers used in their pursuit of prey. Rational analysis was required to stalk an animal; today it is used to make good business decisions. What does rationality mean? Essentially, it is a set of rules and tools that help us eliminate biases, bigotry and superstitions, what Pinker calls the "cognitive illusions" that stand between us and our clearest perception of reality. Written with great insight and humor, *Rationality* enlightens and inspires. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Viking, \$32

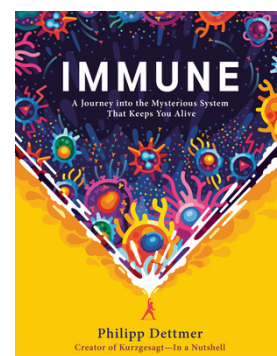


Patient Zero: A Curious History of the World's Worst Diseases, Lydia Kang, MD and Nate Pedersen

Full of fascinating tidbits, like the fact that 95% of humans are naturally immune to leprosy (Hansen's Disease), that the legendary bubonic plague is still around and pops up from time to time, that in fact the only two diseases that have ever been officially eradicated are smallpox and rinderpest, the real gem of this book is in its contextualization of those tidbits. The social, scientific, and political realities—in short, the humanity—that these stories of outbreaks tell us. Because even though we learned about polio in school, did we really grasp the effort it has taken to almost eradicate it worldwide? Because although we've heard about the Spanish Influenza, did we hear the stories of racism that sprang up in San Francisco because of it? And have we ever even heard of the outbreaks of Ergotism in 1950s France that led to village-wide hallucinations (experimentation with the fungus was later used to create LSD)? If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it's that we can never learn enough about these diseases, because while we have become better at defeating them, they will continue to accompany us. Best to be well-informed. – Michaela Riding, Workman, \$27.50

Immune: A Journey into the Mysterious System That Keeps You Alive, Philipp Dettmer

This beautifully designed and illustrated volume could easily be your next coffee table book, but it is too packed with information to be relegated to that oblivion. The author's ability to render the complexity of the immune system, the second most complex after the brain, into a fact-packed, easily readable book is nothing short of amazing. Each of the 45 chapters explores an element of this system, including how viruses attack and are repelled. The bright,



full-color graphics and immersive descriptions make for an engaging look at one of the most important systems in our body—and even better, a book that families could easily read together. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Random House, \$35



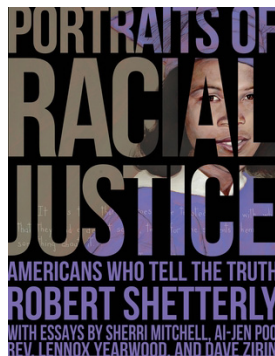
Orwell's Roses, Rebecca Solnit

Solnit's new book provides surprising solace and connection during this time of COVID when grief and disconnection are so raw and real. An initial glance at the title might evoke ho-hum assumptions about the symbolism of roses and references to Big Brother. Not so with Solnit's narrative. With great skill, depth and insight, she creates an inspirational "series of forays from one starting point, the gesture whereby one writer planted several roses." Solnit's first stop is her visit to

George Orwell's cottage and garden in the Hertfordshire countryside where he began tending his roses in 1936. This classic British pastoral setting was life-affirming for a man who had directly experienced the Russian Revolution, the Irish War of Independence, the Spanish Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Spanish flu and the emerging Cold War. In her own COVID isolation, Solnit revisits the horrors of war, totalitarianism, colonization, illness, pandemics, exploitation and annihilation that defined Orwell and the larger Modernism movement. She pays homage to Orwell by taking the reader to some surprising destinations in order to examine the co-existence of beauty and horror in, for example, the tensions with Stalin's lemons and genocide, Nazis and lilacs, English gardens and slavery, the strength of roses and the frailty of Orwell's body. Orwell's life prepared Solnit well for her closing foray into the beauty and horrors of our contemporary world—she concludes by drawing a direct line from Orwell's pastoral roses to the brutal rose industry in Colombia that feeds the insatiable American market of today. Both will survive well beyond the time of COVID. – Stephanie Mackay, Viking, \$28

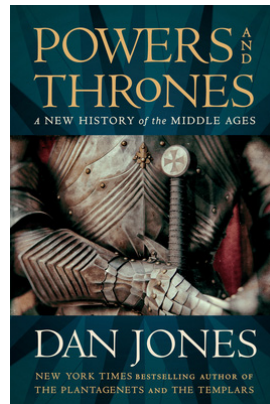
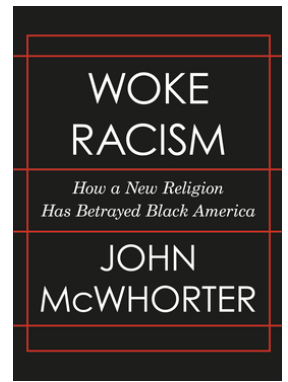
Portraits of Racial Justice: Americans Who Tell the Truth, Robert Shetterly

Portrait artist Robert Shetterly is best known for his portrait series, "Americans Who Tell the Truth," (it was also made into a book) which began in response to U.S. government actions following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Towers in New York City. Shetterly undertook the project to deal with his own grief and anger by painting Americans who inspired him. His new **Portraits of Racial Justice: Americans Who Tell the Truth** begins with a collection of essays that set the tone and prepare the reader for his 50 stunningly reproduced full-color portraits of legendary racial justice activists of the past and present. He starts by honoring Michelle Alexander and continues alphabetically through to Dave Zirin as the final honoree. Each portrait is accompanied by a brief biography highlighting his/her/their achievements in a highly diverse array of people of different ages, races, points of view, and struggles. – Calvin Crosby, New Village Press, \$35



Woke Racism: How a New Religion Has Betrayed Black America, John McWhorter

A controversial book that is a must read. Written by McWhorter, who is Black and professor of Linguistics and American Studies at Columbia University, this book confronts the "woke" movement, saying that no matter how well-intentioned, it is doing more harm than good to the Black community. He compares the stain of "whiteness" they refer to as the stain of original sin in the Bible and goes on to equate the proselytizing of the so-called "Elect" of the movement to that of Evangelical Christians. It is, in his words, a new religion requiring us to suspend belief in various ways. In taking on Ta-Nehisi Coates and Ibram X. Kendi, Mr. McWhorter gets into sacred territory for many, but he at least starts the conversation and gives us ideas to begin our own conversations with others. This is not to say that we should give up on reading Mr. Kendi, Mr. Coates and Ms. Di Angelo (who wrote **White Fragility**); rather it adds to those important books on our stack, introducing us to another viewpoint in our efforts at understanding the problem of racism in our communities. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Penguin, \$26

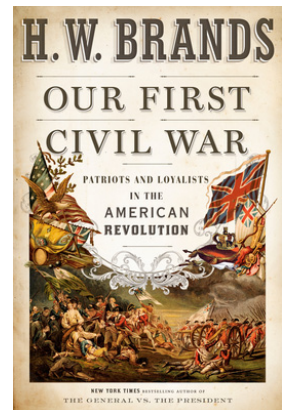


Powers and Thrones: A New History of the Middle Ages, Dan Jones

While the Middle Ages are sometimes referred to as the Dark Ages, Jones reveals a thousand-year history of turmoil and change that impacted half the world. After the sack of Rome in 410, the land encompassing modern Europe and the Middle East was a world of conquest, exploration and transition. The tensions between the Christian church, Islam, and the rise of powerful monarchies were driven by a change in climate, pandemics and mass migration—all issues that resonate today. Jones ably tackles the complex forces that impacted the lives and culture of the times in a manner that engages and enlightens. His is a masterful exploration of a time and place. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, \$35

Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution, H.W. Brands

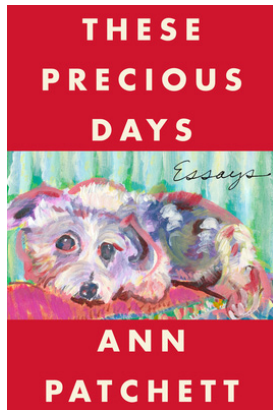
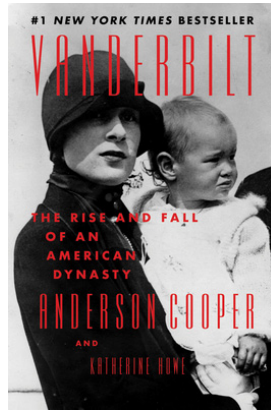
Why did Benjamin Franklin become a fervent backer of the American break from Great Britain while his son pledged his loyalty to the British? Why would some prosperous landowners and businessmen risk all to back the revolution while their neighbors did not? Brands examines these issues in an enthralling treatise on the nuances of attitudes that pit neighbor against neighbor and father against son. We are accustomed to hearing about the heroes of the Revolution without the context of what brought them to revolt. Brands' is a valuable contribution to the library of books about the American Revolution. – Barbara Hoagland, Doubleday, \$32.50



Vanderbilt: The Rise and Fall of an American Dynasty, Anderson Cooper, Katherine Howe

In his newest book, *New York Times* bestselling author and acclaimed journalist Anderson Cooper chronicles the rise and fall of his mother's family, a legendary American dynasty. Cooper partners with the notable historian Katherine Howe to bring a candid and objective point of view to his family's history. In the early 19th century Anderson's great-great-great-grandfather Cornelius "the Commodore"

Vanderbilt, at a very young age, began to work on his father's boat ferrying supplies in New York Harbor, never imagining that he would build two empires, one in shipping and one in railroads. He would prove to be a ruthless and cunning man obsessed with money, accumulating wealth and the opulence and excesses in which he was able to indulge himself. The story follows the ups and downs of the Vanderbilt family, both those who amassed riches and those who lost them, up to the current day. As the title suggests, this is a vivid portrait of a renowned American dynasty; Cooper holds nothing back. – Calvin Crosby, Harper, \$37



These Precious Days, Ann Patchett

While many of these essays have appeared in the *The New Yorker* and other publications, as a collection, they shine with Patchett's humor and clear-sightedness. Whether it's describing her life with not one but three fathers, walking her dog at 6:30 a.m. (late!) or reflecting on her life as a writer, each of these short vignettes provides a window into one woman's life. Patchett's honesty is one of the things I love most about her writing and it is on full display here. She knows who she is

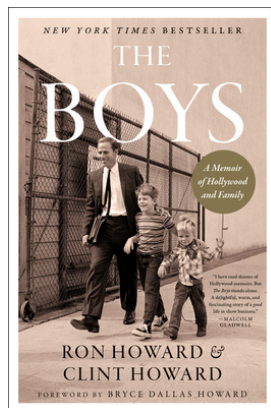
and has spent a lifetime learning what she wants and doesn't want.

– Anne Holman, Harper \$26.99 *Editor's note: join us virtually on Thursday, December 2, at 6 p.m. when Ann will be in conversation with actress Laura Dern.*

The Boys, Ron Howard and Clint Howard

Rance Howard came from an Oklahoma farm life, chose acting as a career, and became the wonderful father and manager of two of television's most recognized sons, Ron and Clint. He and his wife Jean set aside their own hopes and aspirations to guide, teach, mentor and protect their boys from the dangers of Hollywood and the oft-known "child-actor syndrome."

Told in a heartwarming and confessional dual narrative, *The Boys* is a valentine to their parents and a hope-filled view of this close-knit family of four. – Anne Stewart Mark, William Morrow, \$28.99



People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present, Dara Horn

Although the title for this essay collection is sure to grab your attention, it's the thoughtfulness between the pages that will compel you to read this in one sitting. Yes, the Holocaust and Anne Frank are here, and it is so much more than the stories we think we know. I've read Horn's novels and always find their Jewish themes fascinating; but these essays are filled with painful truths that I didn't know I needed to hear. For example, I

didn't know who Varian Fry was, and I'll never think of Shakespeare's Shylock the same way. This short collection changed my thinking about so many things. – Anne Holman, Norton, \$25.95

Lightning Down, Tom Clavin

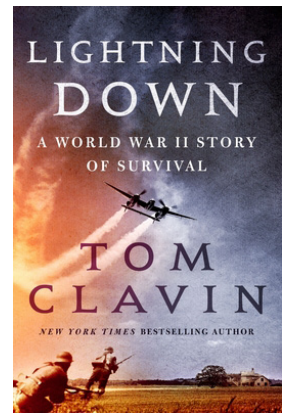
Of the numerous personal stories that have recently emerged from the dwindling number of World War II veterans, not many are more compelling than that of Lieutenant Joe Moser. In the able hands of Clavin, a storyteller extraordinaire, Moser's tale of his journey from a small rural town in Washington to fulfilling his dream of becoming a pilot, finally flying his beloved P-38 Lightning Fighter, being shot down over France, ultimately surviving the terrors of Buchenwald

and a difficult but successful re-entry into civilian life is recounted in a dramatic and very readable fashion. Buchenwald, a name that conjures the unspeakable horrors of Nazi Germany, was not supposed to house military prisoners—yet Moser and 167 other Allied flyers, in defiance of the Geneva convention, were sent there. They were beaten, denied adequate food and shelter and threatened almost daily with execution. Luckily, a New Zealand officer was able to defy the camp commandant and ultimately alert a Luftwaffe officer to their plight. Appalled by this breach of military law, he informed his commanders and, in a quirk of fate, Hermann Göring himself intervened to have the flyers relocated to a regular POW camp. Their privations did not cease, but they were alive and were able to survive. Moser's re-introduction to civilian life was not easy. No one believed he had been in Buchenwald. Not until forty years after the war did the government acknowledge that the story was true. Moser didn't mind—he was home, married and living contentedly back in Washington.

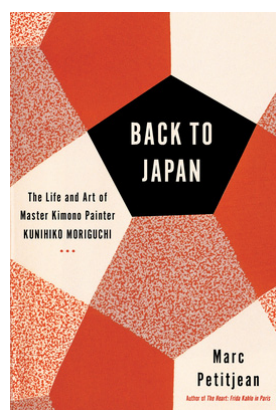
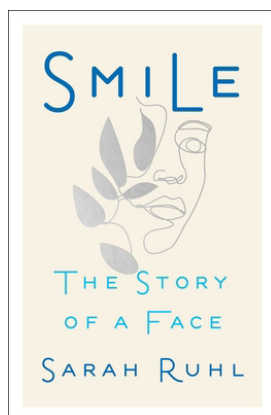
– John Mark, St. Martin's, \$29.99

Smile, Sarah Ruhl

Suddenly, after giving birth to twins, Ruhl cannot smile. She can only stare. Worse, she feels stared at. Worse still, she dreads feeling not seen. She is one of the 5% who do not recover within a year of contracting Bell's Palsy. Symmetry versus asymmetry. Her twins are beautiful and healthy but half of her face has literally fallen. Ruhl's questions in *Smile* abound. What is beautiful? What is fearful? Who, or what, has framed her own fearful symmetry? Was this her fault, the fault of her mind, her mental state, the pregnancy, the stress of balancing motherhood and work? Was her prolonged, potentially



indefinite, case simply bad luck or a series of poor treatments? And who is she now—to herself, her children, her husband—without a smile? If one's outer expression drives inner emotion, could one hope to be happy without the nerves and muscles needed to smile? And what of the eyes that relate to one's smile? She could not smile with her eyes, as photographers sometimes ask their subjects to do. She could not close her eyes even to avoid her baby's finger, to keep out salt water or sand at the beach, to feel romantic while kissing her husband. How to deal with her feelings of helplessness, sorrow, anger, resentment, even rage, in the midst of her own life's otherwise fullness—her three children, her supportive partner, her successful career as a playwright? “There is so much that a mirror, or a camera, cannot see. Neither cameras nor mirrors can see history, memory, love.” *Smile* is Ruhl's rumination on her stricken state. It extends to anyone struggling with the loss of feeling whole and well in one's body. It extends especially to women—at any age and in any state of bodily transformation—culturally conditioned to be seen as pleasing, both willing to please and pleasing to the eye. – Michelle Macfarlane, Simon & Schuster, \$27



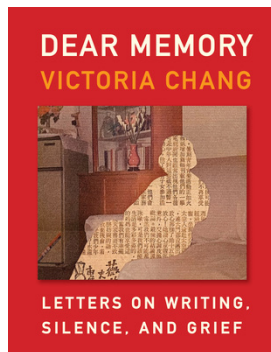
Back to Japan, Marc Petitjean

French film maker Petitjean introduces readers to the creative arts of Kunihiro Moriguchi, Master Kimono Painter and Japanese Living National Treasure. Petitjean met Moriguchi through mutual friends in Kyoto and went on to become a friend and the chronicler of his work and life. The book is small, the reading so detailed and thoughtful that it should be savored in much the same way as the tea ceremony is described in the early chapters of the book. Moriguchi spent time in

France in the 1960s during his attempt to break free of the past, but he was drawn back to his father and his heritage and his realization that he could draw from the past and create for the future. He is now exhibited in museums in the world. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Other Press, \$25

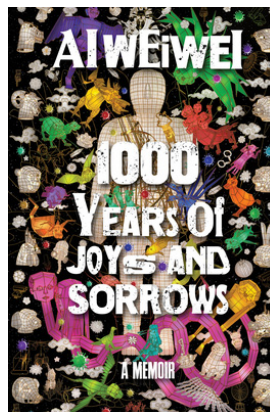
Dear Memory, Victoria Chang

In the attempt to reconstruct her family's silent past, Chang has written a series of letters to family, friends, lovers, teachers, to a childhood bully, to Silence, to Body, to Reader, even one to Ford Motor Company posing essential questions—When were you born? And where? What did your mother do? Your grandmother? Who was your father? Your grandfather? Why do I have freckles on my nose? Why is my mind so restless? Dear Mother, Dear Grandmother, Dear Sister, Dear Father, Dear Grandfather, Dear Daughters, Dear Teacher, Dear Body—Chang addresses each. And though most of her questions



remain unanswered/unanswerable, they compel, as do the images, extant traces of her past, that Chang has interwoven with the letters—photographs, affidavits, emigration and citizenship papers, social security cards, a marriage certificate, floor plans—artifacts that include her own body, in what is ultimately an ode to memory.

– Michelle Macfarlane, Milkweed, \$25



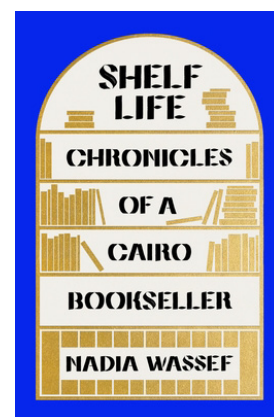
1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows: A Memoir, Ai Weiwei and Allan H. Barr

In 2010, Chinese artist Ai Weiwei filled an entire gallery at the Tate Modern with hand-painted, porcelain sunflower seeds. A hundred million of them. And this new memoir tells the story of that exhibition and so much more. Weiwei's life cannot be separated from the history of Mao or China's cultural revolution, nor can his story be told without honoring his father's struggles. In 1967 Ai Qing, a well-respect-

ed poet, was told his life was too “cushy” and was sent for “remolding” to a place known as “Little Siberia.” For five years his nine-year-old son slept beside him in a mud bunker and supported him as he cleaned latrines. This was not the first time Ai Qing was exiled and will not be the only time his son runs afoul of the Chinese Government. Not a year after the success of the Tate exhibition, Ai Weiwei is arrested by the Chinese government and imprisoned for 81 days. Portions of this memoir might well have been authored by Kafka, yet throughout, Ai Weiwei's voice rings strong. The book begins with the father, moves on to the son, and forecasts the future for the grandson. Ai Weiwei is a storyteller, preaching the importance of social justice and creative freedom through both works and pictures. Readers may be lovers of history, visual arts, architecture, or social justice. His portrayal of the plight of the artist in modern China will never be forgotten. – Becky Thomas and Wendy Foster Leigh, Crown, \$32

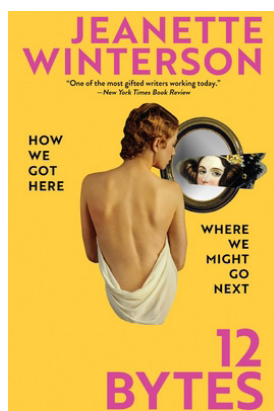
Shelf Life, Nadia Wassef

Part memoir, part love letter to Egypt, to bookselling, to the family we form and the family we're born with, Nadia Wassef chronicles her dream of setting up the Diwan bookstore branches in Cairo. Each chapter is a section of the store. Nadia and her partners Hind and Nihal are three women who battled red tape, censorship and the ever-looming patriarchy with grit, grace, guile and—in Nadia's case—more than a few swear words! – Paula Longhurst, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27



12 Bytes: How We Got Here, Where We Might Go Next, Jeanette Winterson

Mostly known for her fiction (*Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* and most recently *Frankenkiss*), Winterson clarifies why she's written the 12 essays that make up her latest non-fiction, explaining, “I wanted to get a bigger picture of AI, by considering religion, philosophy, literature, myth, art, the stories we tell about human life on earth, our sci-fi movies, our enduring fascination/intuition that there might be



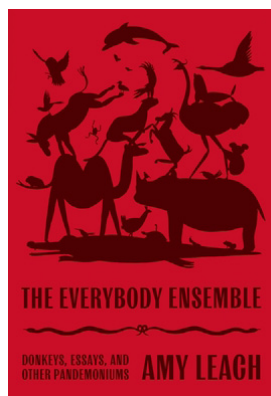
more going on—whether it's ET, aliens or angels." In the first section alone, in down-the-rabbit-hole fashion, Winterson explores a history of AI (rather than Artificial Intelligence, she thinks of it as Alternative Intelligence) that moves from the likes of Mary Shelley, Ada Lovelace, and Alan Turing to more familiar names such as Karl Marx, Tim Berners-Lee (father of the internet), and Mark Zuckerberg, weaving together transistors, steam-powered looms, logic and classical music to provide context for a technology that very few understand, but many

likely fear. In a later essay, she explores how Buddhism, Gnosticism, and Greek myths portend various near-future technologies that postpone old age and also some that prevent or prolong death. Winterson's intertwining of literature (classic and contemporary), popular culture, along with headlines from New Scientist and Wired makes for fascinating (but never linear) reading. From digital cloning, sexbots for rent, and gendered data dumps to seamless embodied AI in our lives, her essays bring up technological occurrences most of us haven't considered. She makes connections that, once you finish the roller coaster ride, raise the awareness that "as AI develops itself toward AGI—superintelligence—homo sapiens might be on the way out. Who knows?" It's scary stuff, but it's also amazing. Nevertheless, Winterson doesn't leave her readers scared witless; she manages to conclude with a (simple albeit long shot) way to save humanity. (P.S. Winterson's "Selected Bibliography" provides an excellent reading list for readers interested in making holistic sense of our technological world.) – Laurie Wood, Grove, \$27

***The Everybody Ensemble*, Amy Leach**

Reminiscent of Lewis Carroll in tone, these essays are quirky, funny and, most of all, humane. A book about life in all its wonder and pandemonium, *The Everybody Ensemble* is full of unexpected wisdom and sounds a wake-up call to the state to which our interconnected world has brought us. The perfect antidote to the time in which we find ourselves.

– Jan Sloan Tempest, Farrar Straus and Giroux, \$25



***Collective Wisdom: Lessons, Inspiration, and Advice from Women Over 50*, Grace Bonney**

Bonney created "Design Sponge," a lifestyle guide across all media, and authored the perennial favorite, *In the Company of Women*, a book that celebrates and acknowledges women in business, industry and art. Bonney is back with a book that considers the often-overlooked wisdom of women as they age. She spotlights amaz-



ing women across race, geography, and experience. Her interviews dig deeply into cultural influences as well as the perceptions of aging

women and the challenges they face. She has included beautiful photos to add impact to this, her life's work. Bonney is committed to raising awareness, lifting up women's voices, supporting them—so much so that the women who contributed their stories share in the proceeds from this book. – Calvin Crosby, Workman, \$35

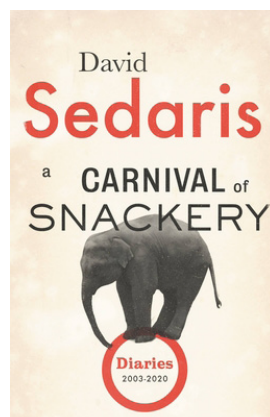
***Life, I Swear*, Chloe Dulce Louvouezo**

I was honored to recently lead a discussion with Chloe Dulce Louvouezo for her book, a gorgeously illustrated essay collection that has inspired the podcast "Life, I Swear" which has Louvouezo in conversation with some famous and some not-so-famous Black women who reflect on self-acceptance, healing, race, and identity from their perspectives as women of color. The book confronts their pain, helps in their healing and achieving wholeness, and finds connections for Black women. Louvouezo includes her own path to growth and essays by Eniafebiafe Isis Adewale, Lauren Ash, Gabrielle Williams, Lindsey Farrar, Nneke Juli, Elaine Welteroth, Meryanne Loum-Martin, Lili Lopez, Deun Ivory, and others. – Calvin Crosby, Harper Design, \$29.99



***A Carnival of Snackery: Diaries, 2003-2020*, David Sedaris**

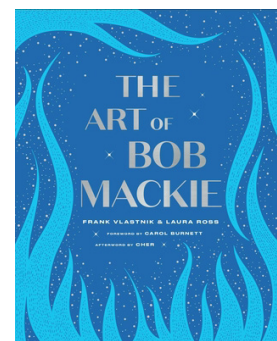
We all know Sedaris is funny—sometimes very funny—but what I, at least, didn't know is that he's that way pretty much all the time, at least on paper. Pick up this book and read an excerpt from almost any page and you'll start laughing. Sometimes in outrage, sometimes with an accompanying groan, sometimes with a salacious snort, more often with a guffaw. His subjects, depending on the time and place, range from moles to porcelain slaves, to swimming (with poo



in the water), London to Paris to Fayetteville, Arkansas, Trump to wine stores, Anthony Fauci to sex-workers to the Supreme Court. No self-involved journey of discovery here, this is an anecdotal, random, and very funny look at life through the eyes of my favorite humorist, someone who skewers himself with the same joyful abandon with which he perforates his enemies. Bravo! – Betsy Burton, Little, Brown, \$32

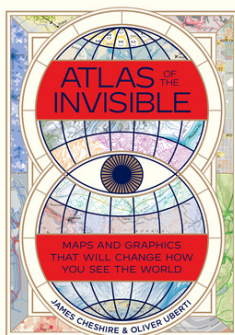
***The Art of Bob Mackie*, Frank Vlastnik and Laura Ross**

An homage to the legacy of Bob Mackie as an artist and master costume designer famous for designing for film, TV, and stage, this is a compendium of the designer's work, illustrated with sketches and beautiful photos which showcase his genius across the decades. He created the famous Marilyn Monroe nude illusion dress in which she performed "Happy Birthday Mr. President" to JFK; he was the genius that fashioned



NONFICTION

Carol Burnett's clothing with the curtain rod and drapes when she spoofed "Gone with the Wind;" and he won an academy award for the costumes for Diana Ross in "Lady Sings the Blues." Mackie is probably most famous for dressing his notable muse Cher for her TV shows and concerts, and for the award dresses that helped launch her stratospheric rise to fame in the early '70s. Besides documenting his brilliant and original work, the book includes a forward from Carol Burnett and an afterword by Cher. – Calvin Crosby, Simon and Schuster, \$50



***Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience*, Brené Brown**

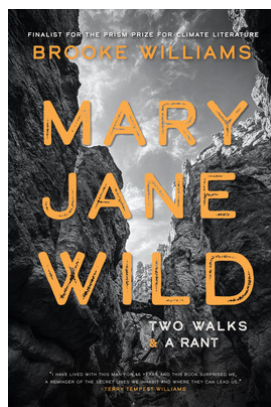
Sociologist and noted author of *Dare to Lead* and *Daring Greatly*, Brown takes a new look at how we reconnect after the global disruption of the current pandemic with her book, *Atlas of the Heart*. She brings her years of experience and decades of research to the creation of an intense and detailed encyclopedia of emotions, behaviors, and the thinking that

makes us human, that defines our lives. Her atlas features vibrant, full-color original illustrations. – Calvin Crosby, Random House, \$30

NONFICTION NEW IN PAPER

***Mary Jane Wild: Two Walks and a Rant*, Brooke Williams**

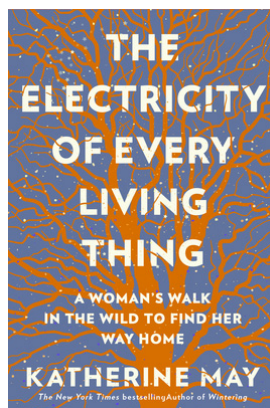
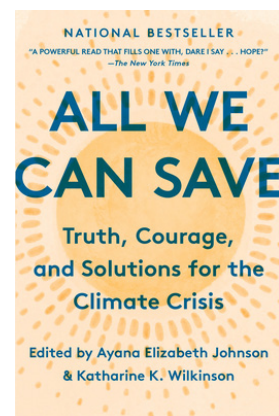
A wilderness and land advocate, writer Brooke Williams has a connection to our Utah landscape that reflects the divine and is filled with respect for the land and the first people who inhabited it. No wonder that, in his desire to make sense of the onset of the Trump presidency in 2016 and then again as the 2020 results were confirmed in favor of Joe Biden, his quest has been to seek an answer to the question, "What has happened to America?" Williams' mystical place of clarity is southern Utah's Mary Jane Wilderness where he ventures forth, guided by coyote with all the mystical symbology that implies, accompanied by the noise of his four imagined demons: "TIP" ("Trump Is President"), the single minded "WHID" ("What Have I Done" with my life?), the always frantic "YATT" ("You are Totally Toast") and the feminine demon "LISBB" ("Life is Still Beautiful, But..."). His observations and his brilliantly thought-out theory on why some people are fueled by greed and a scorched earth mentality broke my established assumptions on the subject. His walks and his rant create a strong argument that by connecting or returning to a respect for nature we can heal all people and the earth itself. – Calvin Crosby, Homebound Publications, \$18.95



NONFICTION NEW IN PAPER

***All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson**

All We Can Save is a book of essays and poetry by over 50 authors, all women, whose wide range of voices represent the environmental movement. The renaissance that is blooming in that movement through the engagement of more and more women in issues involving climate change shows how effective leadership rooted in compassion, connection and collaboration, which is characteristically feminine, can be. Curated by two climate leaders, this book is a celebration that leads along a path toward the conviction indicated by its title—all we can save. – Jan Sloan Tempest, One World, \$18



***The Electricity of Every Living Thing*, Katherine May**

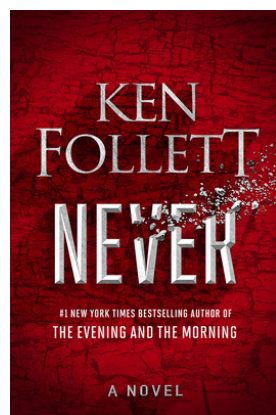
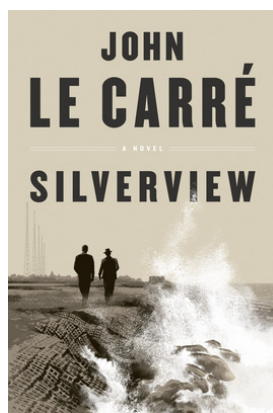
In 2015, May (*Wintering*) took on the 630-mile South West Coast Path in England amid feelings that life and career were getting on top of her. Married to H and bringing up her handful-of-a-young son, the chance comment of a radio show interviewer, that "his autistic son needs to write everything down or else he won't be able to take it in" strikes a chord in her. When she realizes the interview is about adults coping with Aspergers, May, whose own coping mechanisms to 'fit in' have been honed her whole life, begins to see herself in a whole new light. – Paula Longhurst, Melville, \$17.99

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Silverview, John le Carré

It's hard to believe that this is the final book by the man known everywhere as the finest spy novelist of our times (and one of our best novelists, *per se*). But perhaps it's even more difficult to believe that a man close to 90 could write a novel which, although short, is possessed of such complexity and moral depth—and better, one which has a bookseller as a protagonist! Julian Lawndesley, a well-to-do financial trader has left London and the high life in his prime to run a small bookshop in a seaside town. Perhaps because, despite the sophistication of his former career, he is a neophyte in the book business, when a Polish émigré with deep book knowledge and heady ideas walks in, our hero is intrigued. As he gets to know more about Edward Avon—and, in the end, his family—Julian learns his new friend has many faces, one of them that of a past MI6 agent; that Avon's wife, an ex-agent as well, is dying of cancer, that her relationship to her husband is ambiguous to say the least; and that their daughter is possessed of a surprising degree of hostility to both parents. An even more tangled skein involves a spy named Proctor who is following Avon's present movements and winnowing through his past—especially as it relates to Bosnia, where Avon worked for the government under the code name Florian. Complexity upon complexity winds its way into the plot in typical le Carré style, leaving the reader wondering and guessing, sympathies torn as the threads of past and present begin to merge and personal and political loyalties war, while Julian inadvertently plays bit parts and watches from the sidelines. In short, quintessential le Carré, brooding, layered, ambiguous, labyrinthian, and suspenseful—what could be better? – Betsy Burton, Viking, \$28



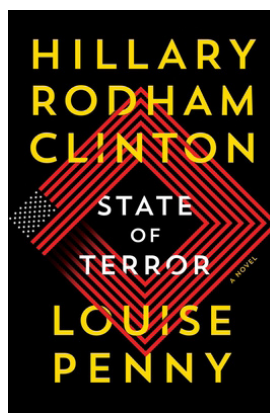
Never, Ken Follett

Follett's latest novel explores his curiosity about what it would take to start an "accidental" World War III. His cast of characters comes from the White House, a CIA station in Chad, the Sahara Desert and an uninhabited Japanese island. The tale opens with the U.S. president, Pauline Green, working to influence other countries to create an arms-control resolution in the UN while celebrating a CIA-led special operation in Libya. President Green states, "Every catastrophe

begins with a little problem that doesn't get fixed." And so it goes in this page-turner of escalating crisis and international tension. Follett never disappoints. – Sue Fleming, Viking, \$36

State of Terror, Louise Penny and Hillary Rodham Clinton

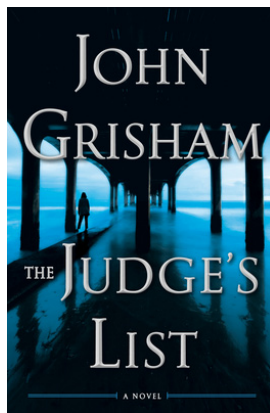
Ellen Adams, a political opponent of the new President, has, to her surprise, been named Secretary of State. Although she quickly discovers the appointment to be a political ploy, still, she is possessed of the power of her high office—a good thing when a coded message is delivered by a young FSO worker and a bomb is detonated almost immediately in London, followed by another in Paris. The mystery of their origin and the subsequent targets of the bombers, the stuff of



this tense and readable thriller, involve a tangle of Pakistani, Irani and Afghani politics, along with aspirations of a group of terrorists to which these complicit countries have—intentionally or not—given birth. Clinton's expertise as Secretary of State and Penny's at penning well-plotted mysteries make this not only riveting and frightening, but also as informative as any primer on present-day politics of the Middle East. Fascinating and page-turning, it has the added benefit of a feminist cabal of capable women. – Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster/St. Martin's, \$30

Small Pleasures, Clare Chambers

A good mystery keeps you guessing, a good romantic love story—the same. When both genres are covered in one book you know you're in for a fine time reading beside the fire. In Chambers' *Small Pleasures* a few more irresistible features are thrown into the mix: the setting and main character (Jean Swinney) are quintessentially British, it's the late 1950s, and at age 40 Jean still lives with her demanding and socially anxious mother. One more thing. In response to the local paper's article "Men No Longer Needed for Reproduction," a woman is claiming that her daughter is the result of a virgin birth. As the paper's features editor (and only female), Jean is sent to investigate. After interviewing the woman, Jean isn't saying she believes her, but she hasn't found any reason to disbelieve her either. *Small Pleasures* entertains with wry and dry British humor, stirrings from the past, heartbreaking romance, love triangles, mother/daughter struggles, and...miracles. One suggestion I would make to you dear readers is to skip the first page of the opening chapter's historical foreshadowing. It gives a bit too much away if you're someone who likes guessing to the very end. – Val Kittel, HarperCollins, \$25.99



The Judge's List, John Grisham

Jeri's father, a professor of law, was killed 20 years ago, and the case has long been cold—except in her capable and determined mind. A professor of political science, she has used every minute of her spare time to track her father's killer and has finally found a trail. One that ties his possible identity to the deaths of at least six other victims, all of whom were killed under identical circumstances and all of whom had adversarial contact with one man—a sitting judge. She appeals to Lacy

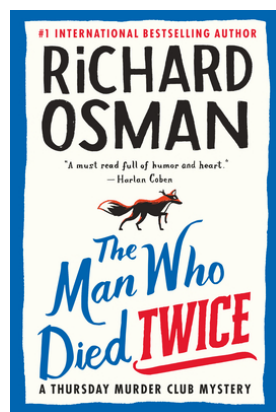
Stolz (from *The Whistler*) who works on the Board of Judicial Conduct (BJC) and who at first resists Jeri's pleas. Although Lacy slowly becomes convinced of the evidence the professor has gathered, there's something of which neither is aware—the lethal technological talent possessed by this judge. In a tale that is tense, intriguing in terms of

MYSTERY/THRILLER

the byways of the judiciary, and fascinating (but frightening) in terms of the powers sitting judges wield, their freedom to do wrong seems almost unfettered—except, at least in this case, by the BJC. Who knew? – Betsy Burton, Doubleday, \$29.95

Death at Greenway, Lori Rader-Day

In the midst of war, feelings are raw and those left behind by the deaths of loved ones find themselves hurting mentally and physically. Bridey Kelly, who has lost her family and her dream of becoming a nurse, is sent to Greenway House, Agatha Christie's home, to care for 10 evacuated children. The house and the community hold secrets and grudges, and when a body washes up nearby, Bridey, realizing it is murder, is frightened and confused—especially when her fellow nurse disappears. Because the reader sees the story through Bridey's confused mind, the landscape of the novel is tense, and it is easy to lose oneself in the chaos of the moment. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, \$27.99



The Man Who Died Twice,

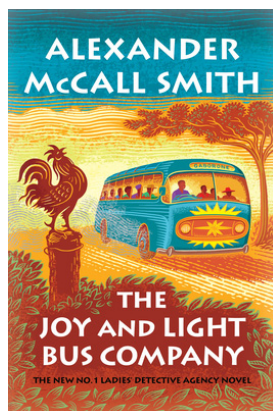
Richard Osman

In this second *Thursday Murder Club* novel, our friends from Coopers Chase retirement community quickly find themselves embroiled in another mystery or two, and the dust has barely settled on their earlier excitement. As the story begins, Ibrahim is mugged and badly hurt while walking in town. Elizabeth is surprised to see a long-lost acquaintance has moved next door. Ron's grandson is coming for a visit, and Joyce is crocheting

friendship bracelets (with sequins) for charity. What do any have to do with the others? Plenty as usual. Set an evening aside to read this and be prepared to laugh! – Anne Holman, Pamela Dorman Books, \$26

The Joy and Light Bus Company, Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith returns with the 22nd installment of No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency, giving us another intriguing, well-conceived masterpiece. Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni attends a course called "Where Is Your Business Going?" hoping to build his already successful Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors. But an opportunity presents itself when an old friend encourages him to mortgage the business. He seeks out Mma Makusi and Mma Ramotswa for guidance regarding the risks. Gathering over a cup of red bush tea, the women consider the ideas, knowing that friendship and humor can solve any problem. – Rob Eckman, Pantheon, 27



SPECULATIVE FICTION



Civilizations, Laurent Binet (translated by Sam Taylor)

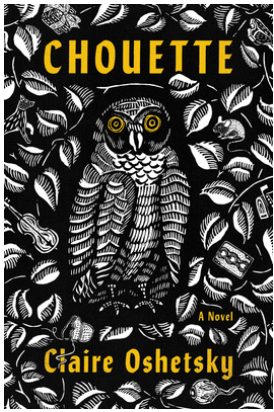
Back and forth across the Atlantic, Binet moves the reader through a looking glass of historical encounters with alternative outcomes. Freydis, daughter of Erik the Red, blessed (and cursed) with his wanderlust, leads her brother and other families, cattle and horses included, sailing first west then south, then further and further south past Cuba. Along their way the Greenlanders meet tribes of people they call Skraelings with whom they

sometimes fight and sometimes exchange knowledge of metal-working, farming. Stopping finally in Panama, they settle and intermarry. Binet's compendium of historical alternatives picks up next with fragments from the "journals" of Christopher Columbus who arrives in the New World on schedule, armed and looking for gold. In short order, his ships are scuttled, his men are killed, and he dies in captivity. Just a generation later, during a prolonged Incan civil war that has pushed one army to the Atlantic, Atahualpa faces certain defeat against his brother. His "chronicles" narrate first his decision to flee (with what army he has left) in ships they build following the design of the scuttled remains of Columbus's fleet. With added help from their captive Cuban princess, Higuénamota, who learned Spanish as a child from said Columbus, her family's slave, the Incans cross the Atlantic, arrive in Lisbon, find refuge in a fortified monastery, and find ways to communicate enough to survive. Fighting skills honed by years of war, political savvy, uncanny luck and the fact they had nothing more to lose, they more than merely survive. Under Atahualpa's leadership they bring peace and prosperity to a European theatre riven by complex allegiances and Protestant uprisings against the Catholic Church. The "chronicles" catalog success after Incan success in their new Land of the East. Francois I, Catherine de Medici, Luther, Montaigne and even Miguel de Cervantes make appearances in Binet's imagined history of how fabulously otherwise the world as we know it could have been. – Michelle Macfarlane, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$27

Termination Shock, Neal Stephenson

In Stephenson's new novel, the next dozen or so years look something like this: feral, violent hogs have taken over vast areas of interior Texas; ever-mutating pandemics are more or less permanent fixtures of daily life; Houston rarely dips below 110 degrees, requiring suits that double as air conditioners and creating thousands of American climate refugees. It's in this context that a billionaire secretly gathers a handful of world leaders and pitches them his Big Idea, which promises to halt sea-level rise and cool the atmosphere. But this plan carries global consequences, most of which will be impossible to predict. Fans of this legendary author will love this funny and prescient climate thriller. – Lindsey Webb, Morrow, \$35





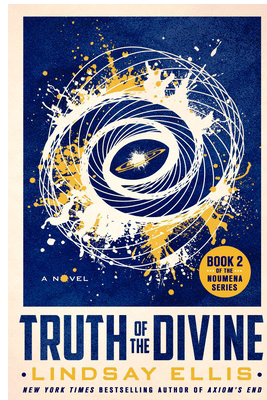
Chouette, Claire Oshetsky

Tiny, a concert cellist married to a lawyer, begins her story, “I dream I’m making tender love with an owl. The next morning I see talon marks across my chest.” Tiny is pregnant. She announces to her husband, “This baby is an owl-baby,” despite a sonogram deemed “perfectly normal.” During the birthing, Tiny hears the doctor dictate “Tufted head, yellow eyes...chitinous scaling.” But does she really? What is this book? A tale of psychosis, a parable, an allegory of mother-

hood, a fantasy? It doesn’t really matter, just as the exact nature of the baby named Chouette doesn’t matter. This is a story of all children born different in some way and how all their families move through stages where they attempt to change them. At some point, hopefully, these children are allowed to evolve into who they are. Parts of this book are disturbing; Tiny and Chouette make nightly visits to a nearby field so the owl-baby can catch and eat her own food, acceptance taken to the absurd. At her father’s insistence, Chouette’s brain is implanted with a device to make her normal—the other end of the irrational. Tiny insists on allowing her daughter, whatever she is, to be who she is. Chouette wins, yes, but Tiny, ultimately, is left alone. A strange, unnerving story, but important and unforgettable. In telling her story, Tiny mentions several classic cello pieces which are all listed in the back of the book. What an experience, reading this book while listening to the soundtrack. – Becky Thomas, Ecco, \$24

Truth of the Divine, Lindsay Ellis

This second installment in the Noumena quintet finds Cora relaying messages between an increasingly exasperated Department of Homeland Security and the extra-terrestrial Ampersand, who is being held prisoner but who refuses to speak to anyone but her. As the world awaits more information about the aliens, their presence has ignited a public debate: what legal rights do extra-terrestrials have on U.S. soil? If they’re not human, do they enjoy human rights? As Cora and Ampersand’s safety evaporates and these debates turn more and more reactionary, the two must confront the peculiarities of their



relationship and what they mean to each other. This was a surprising and exciting continuation of the series, a must-read for anyone who loved the first book. – Lindsey Webb, St. Martin’s Press, \$28.99

A Spindle Splintered, Alix E. Harrow

Zinnia has always known she’d never live past the age of twenty-one. But she never expected her end would come via pricking her finger on a spinning wheel and falling into a parallel dimension where she meets another princess doomed to be a bystander in her own life. Together

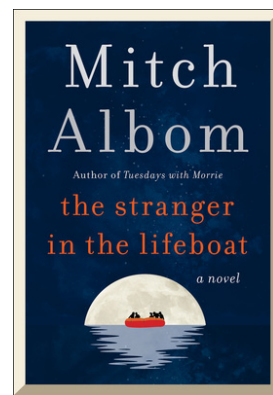


they rally to take back their lives. Don’t be fooled by the size of this book—this story packs a lot of punch in its few pages. With pop-y, smart, reference-heavy prose, Harrow rewrites the familiar story of Sleeping Beauty and catapults it through time and space, turning a story about a girl forced to sleep through her life into an empowering tale of women joining forces to wake up. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Tordotcom/Macmillan \$17.99

The Brides of Maracoor,

Gregory Maguire

Maguire’s *Wicked* was a phenomenal success well before the long-running hit Musical based on the book. Twenty-five years after its publication, Maguire is taking us back to his thoroughly imagined land of Oz with a new series. The first book is *The Brides of Maracoor*, and with it, we start a new adventure with Elphaba’s granddaughter, Rain. Now 17 years old, Rain is lost and comes to the mysterious land of Maracoor, where she is rescued and taken in by an all-female community devoted to arcane religious practices. When war comes to Maracoor, Rain’s magical abilities come to the attention of the land’s Overseer in a captivating tale of beautifully imagined lands with characters one never tires of. This book has me craving the next chapter in Rain’s adventure, eager to explore more of this newly created part of Oz. – Calvin Crosby, Morrow, \$28.99



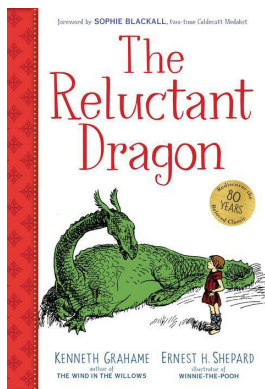
The Stranger in the Lifeboat,

Mitch Albom

Adrift in the Atlantic Ocean for three days after their mega-yacht, which carried some of the most important and richest people on Earth, is wracked by a violent explosion, ten people in a lifeboat spot another man in the water. They row to him and pull him aboard. One survivor proclaims, “Thank the Lord we found you.” “I am the Lord,” says the stranger. Thus begins Albom’s best work since *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Eventually the boat drifts over two thousand miles and washes up on the island of Montserrat, seemingly empty. However, a diary kept by one of the original survivors is discovered and against all regulations the local police captain retains and reads it. A story of mystery, survival, doubt, discovery, faith and belief is revealed. We learn of the lives and fate of those who remain. The lifeboat drifts aimlessly, supplies run short, quarrels ensue and those onboard wonder why, if the stranger is the Lord, he doesn’t save them; all except a little girl who doesn’t speak yet exudes kindness and love and accepts the stranger as he is. As each crisis grows, a seeming miracle happens to prolong survival. Yet the arrival on Montserrat is not the end. The lifeboat has one last mystery remaining, and a message so profound that it affects all mankind. A true page-turner. I read it in one sitting. – John Mark, Harper, \$23.99.

Children's Chapter Books

MIDDLE READERS

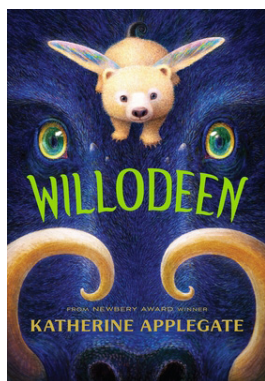
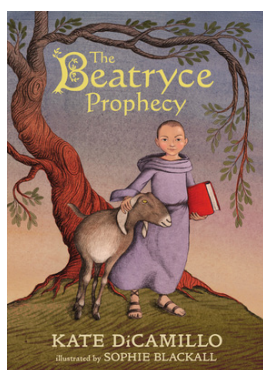


The Reluctant Dragon, Kenneth Grahame

It is a pleasure to put this classic, which was originally published in 1938, in reader's hands. Grahame (*Wind in the Willows*) tells the tale of a boy who comes to realize that the newly discovered dragon he fears is not a fire-breathing monster. He must now figure out what he can do to save his new friend from the dragon-slayer, St. George. A very clever solution will charm the kiddos! – Holiday House, \$8.99 (7 and up)

The Beatryce Prophecy, Kate DiCamillo and Sophie Blackall

What a combo—DiCamillo and Blackall!! Fans of both will be thrilled. When Brother Edik finds Beatryce, dirty, shaking, and smelling like a goat, he knows that things are going to change quickly, and they do. Beatryce puts her own life on the line to save all those whom she loves! DiCamillo weaves stories, words, ideas together with a touch of magic and the empathy and kindness we have come to expect from her; this novel will be the go-to book for the holidays. Loved the story, loved the illustrations! – Candlewick, \$19.99 (8 and up)



Willodeen, Katherine Applegate

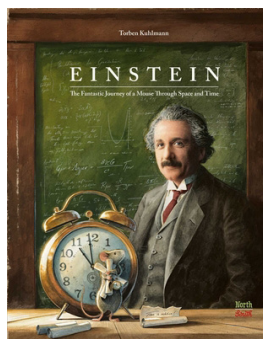
Another staff favorite, Applegate's new book deals with the problems in the environment. Willodeen and her friend Connor are convinced that the "screechers" are more important than the rest of the villagers know. No one wants to take it seriously until the hummingbirds fail to return to the village on their annual migration, impacting the community's wellbeing, and Willodeen is forced to speak up for them.

I love her spunk and her fierce belief! Nice

way to start a conversation about what we can do to help our world survive. – Feiwel & Friends, \$16.99 (8 and up)

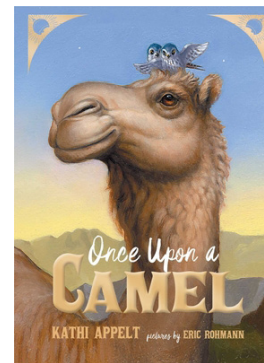
Einstein: The Fantastic Journey of a Mouse Through Space and Time, Torben Kuhlmann

Einstein and his theory of relativity inspire Kuhlmann to add again to his Mouse Adventures, sending the mice to solve a problem and ultimately to entertain us! He gives readers text and illustrations that are so rich and so easy to go back to over and over again. Ingenious is the perfect word to describe this fourth book in the series. – Northsouth, \$22 (8 and up)



Once Upon a Camel, Kathi Appelt

Zada, an aging camel put out to pasture in Texas (yes, camels in Texas!), must find the stamina and wits to save her neighbor's kestrel chicks from a devastating storm. Little ones are always distracted by stories, and Zada has many good ones to share during their journey to safety. Zada's life lights up the dark moments that the three of them go through, keeping readers enthralled. Appelt was inspired by the actual report of camels in Texas and by the power of story. This tale will make a great read-aloud. – Simon & Schuster, \$17.99 (8 and up)

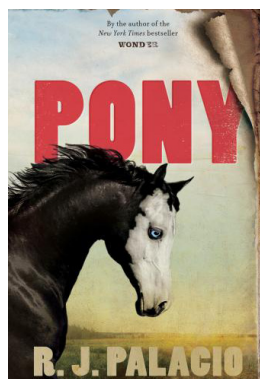


Frankie & Bug, Gayle Forman

This book deserves all of the praise it is getting! Although Bug's summer has been ruined because her big brother does not want to spend it with her on the beach in Venice, California, her neighbor's nephew is coming for a visit and might just be able to turn things around. This is what realistic fiction should be: authentic, kind, with more than a few surprises. I loved it and I'll be thrilled to get it into the hands of readers (of all ages). – Aladdin, \$17.99 (8 and up)

Paradise on Fire, Jewel Parker Rhodes

Once again Rhodes offers readers not only the sensitive and meaningful take on racism we expect from her, but also an intimate portrayal of a tragedy. Addy is going to a camp in California; her grandma thinks that it will help her. Addy, along with five other big city kids of color, are going to learn how to hike and camp. When the Paradise fire starts, they find themselves stranded in the middle of this catastrophe, and Addy's unique skills might just save them. Addy is a memorable character, brave and smart. Rhodes is willing to take a hard look at a lot of very difficult things in our society as Addy tries to deal with both her past and her present. Her experience will be pertinent to so many readers! Another terrific read from one of my favorite authors. – Little, Brown, \$16.99 (8 and up)



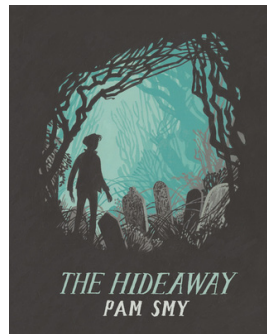
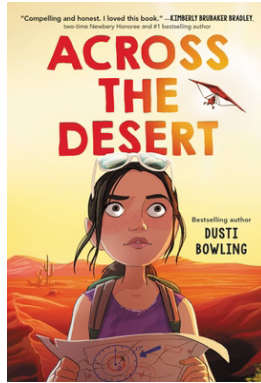
Pony, R.J. Palacio

Palacio gave us Auggie and his world, showing readers that relationships count in *Auggie and Me*. She takes that idea even further in this brave and tender story. When the "Pony" returns to his house after his father's abduction, Silas knows in his heart that this is the sign that he must go and help. Silas and his only friend Mittenwool, who happens to be a ghost, will

need all of their smarts and courage to accomplish this task. Clearly, Palacio has done a lot of research, but although it may be an historical novel, it resonates with magic, both literally and emotionally. The past is a part of the characters as well as the present, and their smarts, their losses, and all the love they have known are woven into the tale. Readers have waited a long time for Palacio to write another story and they will not be disappointed. One of the must reads of the season! – Knopf, \$17.99 (10 and up)

Across the Desert, Dusti Bowling

Jolene, a big fan of the “Desert Aviator,” loves watching Abby fly her lightweight plane over the desert. But when she sees the plane go down, Jolene knows that she might be the only person who can help Abby survive. Jolene has long dreamed of flying, but her first venture into the desert will be on foot. Her home life is tough—her mom suffers from addiction problems and is no real help to her daughter. Figuring out her own power is a big part of Jolene’s story. Girls with grit, courage and smarts are common in Bowling’s books. – Hachette, \$16.99 (9 and up)



The Hideaway, Pam Smy

Smy (*Thornhill*) delves into scary again, but this time not the paranormal kind. Billy has run away from home and family, and the authorities are looking for him. Billy, whose own account of events is interspersed with the narrative of his home life from his mom’s point of view, has a life filled with abuse that is difficult to bear. To make matters worse, he’s hiding in a graveyard which makes for an even

creepier version of the grief he feels. But the reality of Billy’s life is that he and his mom must come to grips with the stress and turmoil in their family. Like *Thornhill*, this is an illustrated novel and the black and white drawings add power to the moving story. – Pavilion, \$19.99 (9 and up)

Fast Pitch, Nic Stone

Shernice is a star on the Firebirds, the only U12 softball team made up of kids of color. Things are looking good for their run at the championship this year, until suddenly things in Shernice’s life go haywire. A family mystery and maybe even a crime come bubbling to the surface, and when the all-white teams treat the Firebirds like scum, Shernice is not up for all the stress. Stone loosely connects this story to her last middle grade book, *Clean Getaway*. Stone’s novels are what diversity in kid’s books should look like! – Random, \$17.99 (8 and up)



We are Family, LeBron James and Andrea Williams

The Hoop Group is the only team that Jayden wants to play on! He has worked hard to be the best basketball player, and, when the season and team fall apart, Jayden and his friends are sick with disappointment. The five kids only have hoops in common and must figure out what they want to do. James, a great role model, is now adding “author” to his resume. – Harper, \$17.99 (8 and up)



Final Season, Tim Green

Ben loves his football—his dad is a retired NFL star and his brothers are local all-stars. He just knows that he is destined for the big league. But when his dad is diagnosed with ALS, probably caused by football, Ben’s life is turned upside down. Suddenly Ben, his teammates, and his family all have to cope with so much more than a game. Green does not shy away from dealing with the “monster” that is part of football now, and he deals with it



sensitively. – Harper, \$16.99 (9 and up)

Tiger Skin Rug, Joan Haig

Lal and Dilip must join their dad in Scotland, but they long for their home in India. Their new house is full of all sorts of odd things, including the “tiger skin rug.” When the tiger comes to life, he promises to help them go home if they can fulfill an old vow. Part magical adventure, part mystery with a quest, the many twists and turns will keep readers enthralled. Haig’s novel has an old-fashioned charm that will make both young and old readers happy. – Europa Editions, \$17 (8 and up)



What Lives in the Woods, Lindsay Currie

Scary is back! Fans of *Small Spaces* will be thrilled with *What Lives in the Woods*. When Ginny finds out that her dad’s job is taking their family away for the summer, ruining all of her plans, she is mad. Especially because the old, abandoned mansion they move into is CREEPY, the woods look like a place for scary creatures, and the house is literally ticking. Ginny, her brother Leo, and her new friend Will all have to come to terms with the unexplainable, scary things happening—and maybe

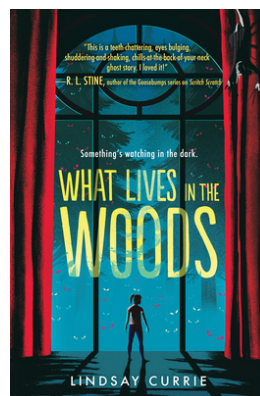


figure out what is going on without getting hurt, or worse! Clever use of Agatha Christie tropes adds a sophistication to this middle reader. – Sourcebooks, \$7.99 (9 and up)

MIDDLE READERS



Loteria, Karla Arenas Valenti

Combining a great story, Mexican culture, and magic, Valenti tells the tale of Clara, a young girl who is blessed and cursed by Life and Death (Death prefers the name Catrina). When her young cousin Estaban discovers a drawing that Clara made for him imprinted on the trunk of El Arbol (the tree with the widest trunk in the world) he recognizes trouble, and the family knows that they must take his premonition seriously. Soon Clara and her family are enmeshed in the game that Life and

Death are playing. Family, commitment, free will and maybe a little luck play a part in Clara's ability to change that game in this combination of magic and mythology complimented by charming illustrations. – Knopf, \$16.99 (9 and up)

Beasts and Beauty, Soman Chainani

This is a collection of fairytales readers will recognize. But, as they read each story, they will feel completely turned around. Chainani empowers the princesses, the beasts, as well as the readers in this beautifully illustrated and fierce retelling. – Harper, \$17.99 (10 and up)



The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne, Jonathan Stroud

In a tale set in the future in England, two young criminals accidentally meet up after Scarlett's last heist. Their unwilling partnership is formed when Scarlett agrees to guide Browne to safety. But as they navigate through what is left of Great Britain, Scarlett comes to realize the most dangerous thing in England right now might just be the person she's with. Stroud is great at



world-building, at creating richly detailed places and adding overlays of wry humor that make the characters even more intriguing—and fun to read about! – Knopf, \$17.99 (10 and up)

Walking in Two Worlds, Wab Kinew

Combining the traditions of the Anishinaabe tribe with the gaming world, Kinew opens a window to the power of an Indigenous community. Bugz has an amazing life in her online world; she has channeled her ancestors' powers to keep an alt-right clan in its place. In the real world she is dealing with her shyness, poor self-image, and family stuff. Into this mix comes Feng, a young man from Western China. Both of these kids understand historical trauma and loss. Both have found a lot of comfort in the Floraverse. And both know that they have to figure out what's possible, what they can do. Kinew does a terrific job integrating

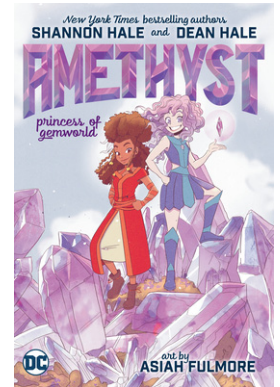


tribal/rez life with the Floraverse. Both the natural and the online worlds feel authentic. A surprise ending too. Looking forward to the next chapter in Bugz and Feng's lives. – Penguin, \$17.99 (10 and up)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

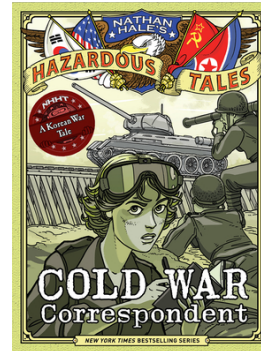
Amethyst, Shannon Hale & Dean Hale

Local favorites Shannon and Dean Hale dip into the DC Comic world again with a retelling of the story of one of the most popular Princesses of Gemworld. When "Amy" finds out that she is really a princess, not an ordinary middle grader, she must figure out who she really is. This is a very satisfying and fun read, a terrific introduction to Gemworld. – DC Comics, \$9.99 (8 and up)



Cold War Correspondent, Nathan Hale

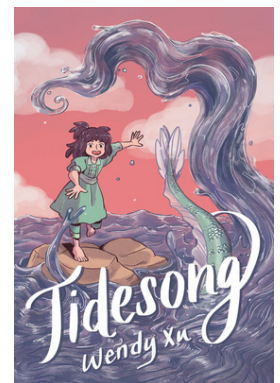
Hale's band of storytellers take on the Korean War and one of the only female reporters of the time. Marguerite Higgins worked for the *New York Herald Tribune* and was in Seoul when North Korea invaded South Korea. She had to flee along with the military and the citizens. Despite the scary circumstances, she kept working, knowing her stories were important. Higgins was willing to put her own life in



jeopardy in order to keep on reporting. This book is packed with lots of facts; Hale fans will be thrilled with the new edition to the NHHT library. – Amulet, \$14.99 (8 and up)

Tidesong, Wendy Xu

Sophie wants to get into the best magic school possible. She is sent away to work on her skills but ends up helping at home instead and starts to work on training herself. She is making a mess of things—until she ties her magic to a dragon named Lir and, all of sudden, Sophie can do all sorts of things—maybe even use the combined magic to pass one of her very difficult exams. Tough spot. What kind of magician does Sophie want to be? – Quill Tree,



\$12.99 (8 and up)

Treasure in the Lake, Jason Pamment

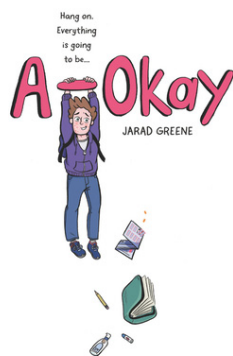
Iris and Sam want adventure; their day-to-day life in Bugden is dull, dull, dull. Following an ancient dry riverbed sets them on a path to more adventure than they ever dreamed of. A hidden city and long-forgotten stories are magnets for them both, but Iris and Sam have to figure out what friendship really means. A couple of intriguing twists in this story! – Harper-Alley, \$12.99 (8 and up)



GRAPHIC NOVELS

A-Okay, Jarad Greene

Jay has acne which starts out small but progresses to awful pretty quickly. He can see only the pimples, and he thinks that's all his peers can see too. When teasing turns into bullying he is forced to figure out how to deal with it. Loosely based on the author's own experiences, this story feels authentic. Easy to imagine kids liking it too. – HarperAlley, \$12.99 (9 and up)



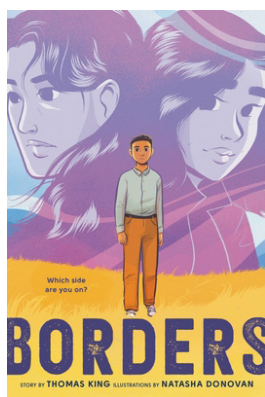
Barb The Last Berzerker, Dan & Jason (Dan Abdo and Jason Patterson)

Barb is always able to save the world. But Witch Head is going to make it tough this time, causing Barb to make some hard choices. Things might improve when she is able to see her mom, in this rip-roaring adventure. Fans will be happy to know that book 2 comes out in April of 2022.

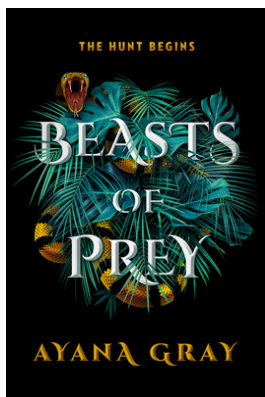
– Simon & Schuster, \$14.99 (8 and up)

Borders, Thomas King, illustrated by Natasha Donovan

A twelve-year-old boy wants to go to Salt Lake City with his mom to see his big sister. At the U.S./Canadian border, when they proclaim their citizenship as Blackfoot, they are not allowed to go any further. A quiet protest results in an examination of identity and the questioning of where individuals actually belong. King, with his Indigenous background and his talent at storytelling, shines a light on yet another common struggle that our neighbors and fellow citizens have to deal with. – Little, Brown, \$24.99 (9 and up)



YOUNG ADULT



Beasts of Prey, Ayana Gray

Koffi is an indentured servant, basically a slave, tasked with taking care of the magical animals at the notorious Night Zoo. When something inside of her shatters, her magic releases all the animals, taking down the Night Zoo and creating mayhem. Her only hope is to flee into the Greater Jungle, created over 100 years ago when the Rupture devastated the land. Ekon, a warrior in training for the dangerous Sons of the Six, must find and stop her. Both of these characters have ulterior

motives; they are trying to save themselves as well as someone they love. A very creative world, populated with all sorts of different kinds of magic, this is a page-turner that will leave readers wanting more. – Putnam, \$18.99 (12 and up)

YOUNG ADULT

Terciel & Elinor, Garth Nix

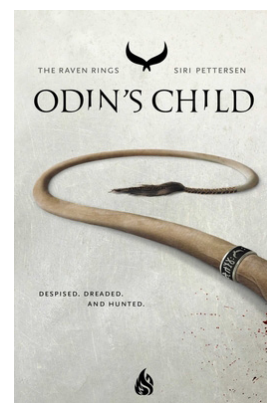
It has been over 30 years since Nix introduced readers to the Old Kingdom. *Sabriel* is still considered a standard for fantasy fans. This latest installment is the prequel and tells the story of Sabriel's parents. When a horrifying creature appears at Elinor's home, a curious couple shows up to help, setting her on the path to meet Terciel, to discover her own magic, and to join the never-ending struggle of the Abhorsens against the Dead. Fans will be thrilled to watch a relationship develop



and to read some of the origin story of the Abhorsens. Hopefully this is the start of more stories set in the Old Kingdom. – Katherine Tegen/Harper, \$19.99 (12 and up)

Odin's Child: Book 1 of The Raven Rings, Siri Pettersen, translated by Sian Mackie and Paul Russell Garrett

Published in 2012 in Sweden, this terrific fantasy has finally made it to America. Hirka was adopted as a baby, and she is not sure why. Everyone else has a tail, a manifestation of great magic. Hirka's dad knew that no tail meant that she was a child of Odin, of the Rot. As it gets closer to the Rite, a ritual that makes public one's individual power and talents, Hirka knows she is in trouble since two other characters, engaged in a power struggle, are willing to do anything to get what they want, including revealing Hirka's secret. This compelling fantasy is a great world-building story overlaid with Norse mythology. Can't wait to read books 2 and 3. – Arctis/Simon & Schuster, \$19.95 (13 and up)



The Monsters of Rookhaven, Padraic Kenny

World War I is over, and the losses are overwhelming. The citizens of Rookhaven made a promise to Mirabelle's family generations ago to provide them with whatever they needed if they would not terrorize the village during times of war. Mirabelle has been raised to believe that members of her family are monsters: her uncle can transform himself into a grizzly bear, her aunt is made up of spiders, and Enoch has wings. But when Mirabelle discovers that



something wants to destroy her and her beloved family, she learns that you cannot tell a monster by what it looks like. Despite the dark turns of this story, it is ultimately a book about kindness. The Irish have a deft touch with storytelling. – Henry Holt, \$16.99 (11 and up)

You've Reached Sam, Dustin Thao

Julie thinks her life is on a perfect path, getting ready to finish high school and go away to college with her boyfriend Sam. But when Sam dies, she loses all sense of direction. In a moment of desperation, she calls Sam's phone, just wanting to hear his voice, and her world is rocked again because he answers. Grieving and desperate, Julie cannot give Sam up. What she does next is heart-wrenching. Get out the Kleenex when you read this one. – Wednesday Books, \$18.99 (12 and up)



Bluebird, Sharon Cameron



In 1946, Eva, having fled the devastation of World War II, ends up in New York City. At first glance Americans would think she's a refugee, striving to find normalcy. But Eva has a far more staggering goal: to find the Nazi who escaped justice. Eva's father had designed a mind-control experiment that was on the verge of changing the war. Eva is desperate to keep the Bluebird Project out of Soviet and U.S. hands. Combining history with a well-crafted story, Cameron (*The Light in Hidden Places*) gives readers another look at the horrors of the war and the courage it took to survive it. – Scholastic, \$18.99 (12 and up)

Gilded, Marissa Meyer

Serilda and her father live on the outskirts of the village, and both wonder what has happened to her mom. Serilda has a bad reputation—her stories are outlandish, sometimes downright outrageous, and the villagers avoid her. When one of her tales catches the attention of Erlking and his undead hunters, she finds herself in a horrifying predicament: the king believes that Serilda can spin straw into gold! Not a typical Rumpelstiltskin retelling! Rather, this is an alternate story in which Meyer has crafted a dark, highly imagined world, filled with secrets and curses. Fans of *Cinder* will be thrilled! – Feiwel & Friends, \$19.99 (12 and up)



Vespertine, Margaret Rogerson

As a young child, Artemisia managed to survive possession by an ashgrim and her family's rejection. She was sent to the Gray nuns, who take care of the dead, making sure that the souls are sent off, because being possessed by a spirit can be a death sentence. When Artemisia's world starts to explode, revelations about the dead, about the spirits, and about how the world really works, put her on a path that could destroy

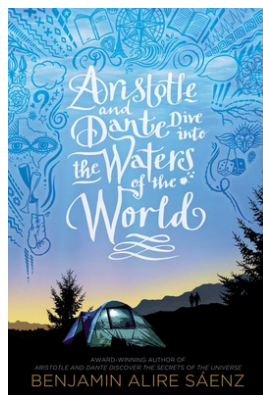
her and the world. Rogerson (*Sorcery of Thorns*) has a highly imaginative and deft touch with world building and character revelation. It is a combo that makes her books a blast to read! Looking forward to the sequel. – Simon & Schuster, \$18.99 (12 and up)

Into the Bloodred Woods, Martha Brockenbrough

Ursula and Albrecht each inherit half of their kingdom but Albrecht, who wants the whole thing, invades and mercilessly takes what he wants. Ursula knows that she will have to be more than she ever thought she could be in order to save herself and her kingdom, since Albrecht is willing to do anything to control his world. She must unite her people, including all of the magical beings in her kingdom. Using familiar stories, including fairy tales, Brockenbrough weaves predictable tropes into a dark and fun read. – Scholastic, \$18.99 (13 and up)



Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World, Benjamin Alire Sáenz



While it is always wise to approach the new sequel of a well-loved book with a bit of restraint, *Aristotle and Dante Dive into the Waters of the World* feels immediately warm and comfortable, like a visit from treasured friends. The protagonists face the expected challenges of the 1980s, notably homophobia (both internal and external) and the AIDS crisis, not to mention high school and pending adulthood.

Saenz deftly guides characters and readers alike through this time of extraordinary change with the poise and grace so characteristic of his storytelling. He offers much to think about along with poignancy, pathos, kindness and love—both within families and between Aristotle and Dante as they grow, change, and find sustenance in the waters of the adult world. – Nathan Spofford, Simon & Schuster, \$19.99 (14 and up) *Editor's note: an added pleasure—the audio version of this book, like its predecessor, is performed by Lin-Manuel Miranda. It is exquisite and available at Libro.fm.*

EDGY (Teens and Up) by Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven

Roxy, Neal and Jarrod Shusterman

A unique, speculative fable about the opioid epidemic in America. Two siblings, Isaac and Ivy, crave relief from the troubles standing in the way of their dreams, so they each turn to a different drug, personified here as deities—Roxicodone and Adderall. As the siblings each set off on their own path of destruction, a rotating narrative between gods and humans keeps the story moving at the fast, impossible-to-put-down pace we all know and love from the Schustermans. If you like *Dry*, this is your new favorite. – Simon & Schuster, \$18.99





Some Faraway Place, Lauren Shippen

If you are a fan of the “Bright Sessions” podcasts, or like the idea of superheroes in therapy, this one’s for you! Though it’s the third in the podcast’s companion novels, it can be read as a standalone. When Rose discovers she has the power to create, shape, and invade dreams, she starts using it as a way to escape the struggles of her own reality. But, as they say, with great power comes great responsibility. For fans of the previous books—*The Infinite Noise* and *A Neon Darkness*—as well as anyone

who loves *The Dream Thieves* by Maggie Steifvater. – Tor, \$18.99

Once Upon a Broken Heart, Stephanie Garber

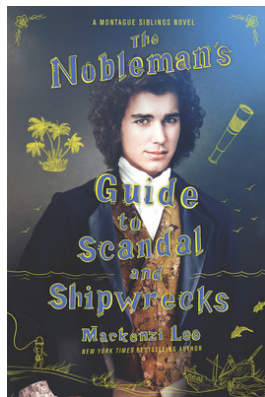
Caravale fans, rejoice! We are back in the lush, enchanting world of *Caravale*, *Legendary*, and *Finale*! This story follows a new character, Evangeline, who, heart-broken when her suitor picks her sister over her, prays to the dangerous Prince of Hearts and makes a deal with him that can only end badly. With cameos from first series favorites but enough new magic to stand on its own, fans and newcomers alike will revel in this sumptuous start of a new spinoff series. – Flatiron Books, \$19.99



The Nobleman’s Guide to Scandal and Shipwrecks, Mackenzi Lee

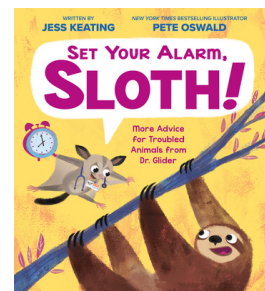
Everyone’s favorite chaotic 18th-century siblings are off on one final adventure! In the wake of Adrian Montague’s mother’s death, he discovers a broken spyglass she left behind and follows it on an adventure across Europe that has him tangling with ghost ships, pirate courts, and his own long-lost siblings. A must-read for fans of the series—and the author is a King’s English bookseller, so signed copies are available! – Margaret Brennan Neville,

Katherine Tegen Books, \$18.99



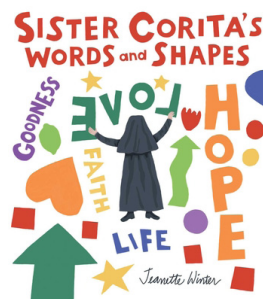
Set Your Alarm, Sloth, Jess Keating, illustrated by Pete Oswald

Clever, funny and full of facts, this book will grab your young animal lover from the first page. Dr. Glider gives advice to each animal on how to take care of some very interesting problems. Oswald’s art amplifies the fun! – \$17.99, Scholastic (4 and up)



Sister Corita’s Words and Shapes, Jeanette Winter

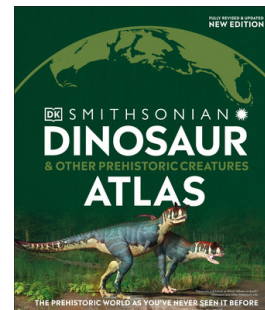
Picture book biographies frequently explore the lives of people whom readers do not know. Winter is a master at this! Sister Corita, who taught in L.A., was an activist who wanted to bring peace and love to the world through her art. Her archbishop disapproved of her, and after 30 years, she left the convent, moved to Boston and kept on



being both an artist and activist, determined to be her best self! Her art lives on, still communicating her message! – Beach Lane, \$17.99 (6 and up)

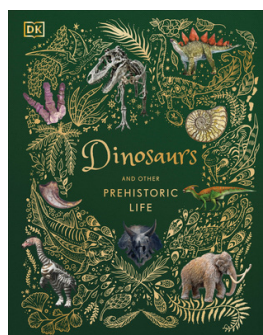
Smithsonian Dinosaur Atlas, Smithsonian

This new and updated edition looks at prehistoric life, using full-color realistic art, graphs, maps and so much more to reveal the most fascinating information about dinosaurs and the other creatures from earth’s ancient history. A must-have for young dinosaur lovers. – DK, \$21.99 (9 and up)



Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Life, Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan

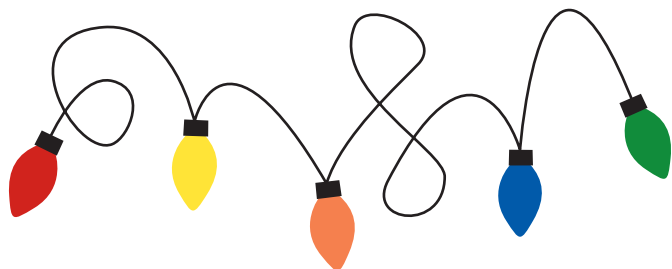
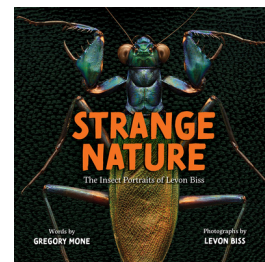
Photographs and art bring each page to life, starting with the Paleozoic era and continuing through the ages to illustrate different animals and plants. Clear text and pronunciation guides take us right to the heart of each species in this beautiful book that readers of all ages will return to over and over again. – DK, \$19.99 (anyone

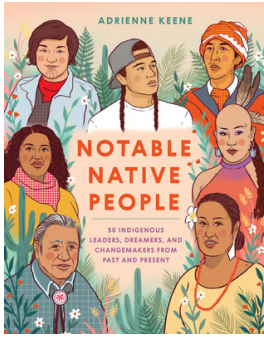


who is interested in DINOSAURS!)

Strange Nature: The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss, Gregory Mone

Absolutely stunning photos are the first things that catch your eye when you open this book. Color, texture, and detail will draw the reader in, and then you’ll want to know what you are looking at; Mone’s text compliments Biss’s photos perfectly with narrative and lists of facts. Bug lovers of any age will appreciate this book. And photographers will be engrossed. – Abrams, \$18.99 (7 and up)



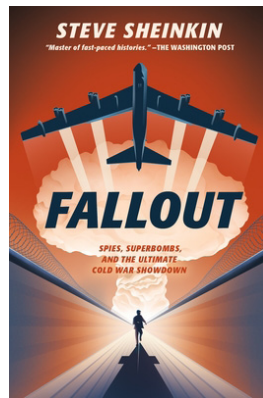


Notable Native People, Adrienne Keene
Keene's book has brief, one-page biographies and engaging portraits of 50 Native Americans. Many will recognize such names as Jim Thorpe, Tommy Orange, Kyrie Irving to name a few. But even more interesting are those whom you might not know. Like other American communities, American Indians are diverse, talented, hardworking contributors to our country. Keene also presents current and ongoing

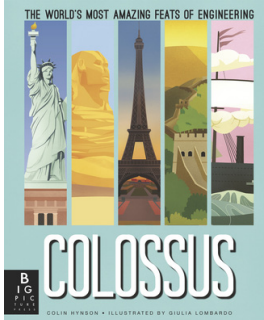
issues that our Indigenous citizens are dealing with. Americans are trying to come to terms with the past—knowing and recognizing the first Americans is a good start! – Ten Speed Press, \$18.99 (all ages)

Fallout, Steve Sheinkin

Sheinkin, one of my favorite authors, takes on the Cold War weapons race and the looming world-ending crisis it caused. It all starts when the U.S. uses the atomic bomb on Japan; the Soviets are determined not to be left behind. Secrets are everywhere, along with the spies trying to ferret them out. There are so many intricacies in this history that readers will take a sigh of relief when they realize that mankind has (so far) managed to get out of this without the detonation of another world war. Sheinkin's book, fascinating and very accessible, is well worth reading. – Roaring Brook, \$19.99 (10 and up)



Colossus, Colin Hysson, illustrated by Giulia Lombardo



Oversized books provide authors and illustrators more opportunities to share their talents! This book shows readers some of the most amazing engineering feats in the ancient world from the Sphinx to the Great Wall of China and, more recently, from Palm Jumeirah to the 101 Skyscraper in Japan. For readers of all ages who want to explore how things were built as well as some of the science behind these achievements, this book is worthy of your coffee

table! – Candlewick, \$19.99 (anyone who is interested!)

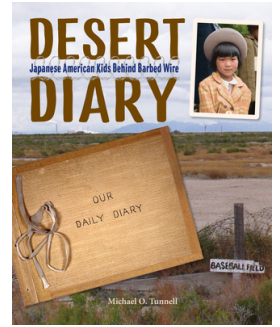
The Deadliest Diseases Then and Now, Deborah Hopkinson

Readers can count on Hopkinson to render nonfiction in a readable and meaningful way. In her latest book, which takes on Covid-19, she clearly shows that pandemics are nothing new. From the plague, the Great Mortality, the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, to our current struggle with Covid, Hopkinson lays out the facts and highlights the heroes. She shares heartbreaking personal stories, adding information for budding scientists in the appendices. This combination of history, science and story adds up to a fascinating book. – Scholastic, \$7.99 (9 and up)



Desert Diary, Michael O. Tunnell

Tunnell, who wrote *The Candy Bomber* several years ago, delves back into Utah and WWII stories about American citizens sent to the internment camp Topaz, near Delta. Mae Yangai was a third-grader and, along with her classmates, she kept a diary of their time behind barbed wire. These diaries are the foundation of what should be a well-known story. Although not new, this poignant and personal book is must-read for kids of all ages. – Charlesbridge, \$19.99 (9 and up)



When Can We Go Back to America?

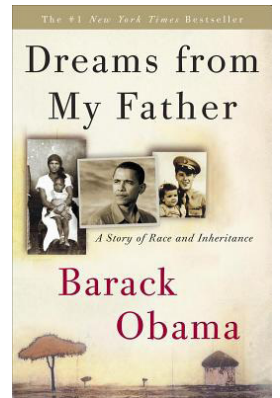
Susan H. Kamei



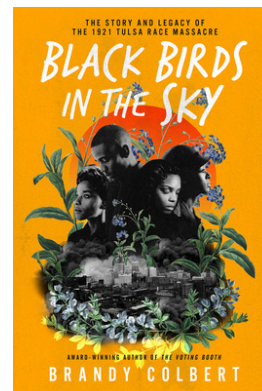
The voices and stories of more than 130 young people who were sent to the Japanese American internment camps are the foundation of this book. The American government forever changed the lives of these children, their families, their neighbors. Each story is compelling. Kamei did a terrific job of capturing their personal narratives and integrating them into this comprehensive look at a black mark on American history. Comprehensive appendices make this a more complete picture of the internment camp system. – Simon & Schuster, \$22.99 (12 and up)

Dreams From My Father, Barack Obama

Anyone interested in Obama's life, how he grew up, his mom and grandparents, dealing with racism, will see so many of the things that impacted his adult life in this wonderful book. The complexities of the father he did not know are revealed and explored, giving the readers an intimate view of Obama and his desire to know and integrate facts/truth into his life. This is President Obama's memoir, written for younger readers. – Random, \$18.99 (12 and up)



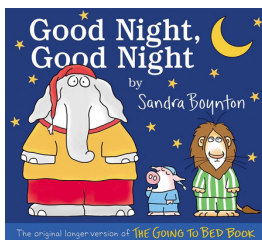
Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, Brandy Colbert



100 years of hiding a story of blatant racism.... 100 years of concealing the horrific torture and murder of a community and the destruction of so much property. I would like to say I was surprised to find out about the Tulsa Massacre. Sadly, I was not. Colbert does a fine job laying out the foundational background, personalizing the horrors with individual accounts. No one is asking "why" anymore, but instead,

we are demanding to know when we are going to accept our past and act differently. Disturbing and powerful, this is a call to action! – Balzer & Bray, \$19.99 (12 and up)

Children's Picture Books by Margaret Brennan Neville

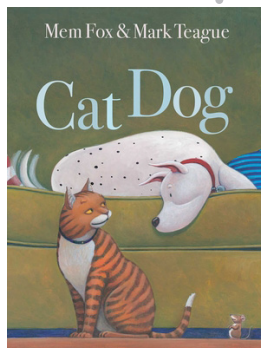


***Good Night, Good Night*, Sandra Boynton**

When the first edition came out in 1982, everyone recognized a classic in the making! This longer version of a book that we still sell hundreds of copies of every year now has redrawn artwork! Let's all go below, get ready for bed and enjoy it! – Simon & Schuster, \$17.99 (everyone!)

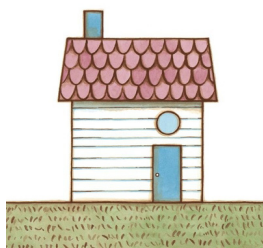
***Cat Dog*, Mem Fox & Mark Teague**

Cat, Dog and Mouse are up to something! Sparse text will give your young audience plenty of opportunities to come up with their own ideas, while Teague's art will make you smile. Dog should remind fans of Teague's earlier work. Read and reread this new picture book from two icons in the world of children's books! – Simon & Schuster, \$17.99 (3 and up)



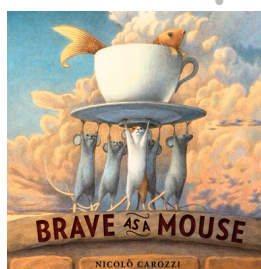
***A House*, Kevin Henkes**

Fans will recognize this sweet little book with Henke's trademark art immediately. A series of questions show readers a home and some of the things that it can contain—including a welcoming family and pets. This is a simple, captivating look at what a house is and, if you are lucky, what it can be. – Harper, \$18.99 (2 and up)



***Brave as a Mouse*, Nicolo Carozzi**

A mouse and his goldfish friend are happy to play with each other. But when the cats decide it might be snack time, mouse must do something to save his friend. Clever story accompanied by beautiful illustrations make this a wonderful choice! And a staff favorite! – Random, \$17.99 (3 and up)



***Bear is a Bear*, Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Dan Santat**

Everyone who has ever had a "lovie" will think this book is perfect! All the places Bear is part of a small girl's world add up to a lifetime of love. And she will never forget! The illustrations make readers smile and Bear come alive. Another staff favorite.



– Harper, \$18.99 (3 and up)

***It Fell from the Sky*, The Fan Brothers**

Seeing the Fan Brothers always gets our attention. Their new book is another quirky triumph of storytelling. Readers will explore the impact of the object that fell from the sky and have no problem finding it on each page. The bugs think it is the "most amazing thing that they had ever seen." Spider sees opportunity—until something else comes out of the sky. The monotone artwork is richly detailed and the object shines on every page! The surprise ending adds to a wonderful adventure. – Simon & Schuster, \$17.99 (4 and up)



***Time is a Flower*, Julie Morstad**

"Time is a story..." In her lovingly illustrated exploration of the idea of time, Morstad starts with something small (a clock) and takes readers all the way to "story." Eye catching artwork makes the tale hop off the page. This one is a charmer! – Tundra, \$16.99 (3 and up)



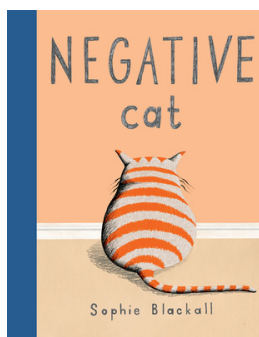
***Ten in a Hurry*, Lo Cole**

This clever counting/color book format will remind readers of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, as it follows ten fish trying to get to school. Vivid colors and cute story make this a great way to learn how to count! – Sourcebooks, \$17.99 (2 and up)



***Negative Cat*, Sophie Blackall**

A little boy has been asking for a cat EVERY DAY for over a year and his parents finally give in. But the cat, Max, who comes home from the shelter, is not happy. All the other cats are fuzzy, cuddly, playful. The family wants to send Max back. But, it turns out that Max likes to read stories! Perfect ending! Blackall is a staff favorite; her creativity and kindness are apparent in her stories and in her art! – Penguin, \$17.99 (4 and up)



Children's Picture Books



Bright Star, Yuyi Morales

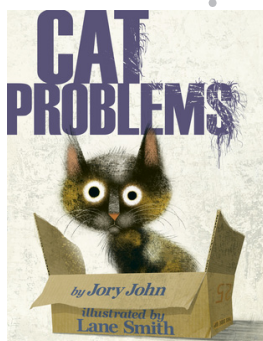
A young fawn is born into a world that is strange, beautiful and full of many other creatures. If she can only find out what they all are and how the world fits together, she can be bigger than the barriers that hold her back. Morales, who wrote and illustrated *Dreamers*,

brilliantly opens a window into desert life and challenges readers to see themselves as bright stars!

– Holiday House, \$18.99 (4 and up)

Cat Problems, Jory John and Lane Smith

Told from Cat's point of view, this is a small, somewhat silly world in which a poor cat wonders where the sunbeam is, what is that big vacuum monster doing in his space, where is the wet food, not the dry food. Cat can only express himself and hope that someone is listening. Probably not though!



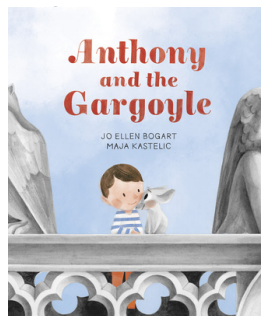
Readers will chuckle as Cat shares all his complaints. – Random, \$17.99 (3 and up)

Song for the Snow, Jon-Erik Lappano

Freya misses the snow, the crisp air, the crunchy ground, the silence of the storm. Her long-



ing is magnified when she is given a snow globe that plays an old-fashioned song. Freya wonders if there might be a little magic left in the world when in no time, she, her family, friends, the whole town is humming or singing the song. Charming! And, maybe it will help our need/wish for more snow this winter! – Groundwood Books, \$19.99 (6 and up)



Anthony and the Gargoyle, Jo Ellen Bogart

From the very first page, readers are welcomed into Anthony's story and the lovely illustrations. Anthony has a very special "love" that might belong somewhere else. Careful attention to all the details reveal a family story, connected by memories, and love. Francophiles

will adore this book! – Groundwood Books, \$19.99 (6 and up)

Little Witch Hazel: A Year in the Forest, Phoebe Wahl

Hazel spends her time helping all the creatures in the forest, rescuing an egg, solving a mystery and checking in on all her friends. When she gets lost, however, Hazel will need help. This lovely four-story picture book has an old-fashioned feel to it that will appeal to readers of all ages. It is 96 pages, longer than a traditional picture book and will keep a young audience entranced with Hazel's adventures! – Tundra, \$19.99 (4 and up)



Gifts That Keep on Giving to Children

The new Elf Emporium was built with love by the Evershed family (longtime, wonderful customers at TKE) to honor their sister Patti, who has been a great part of the Festival of Trees for the past 5 years—and who now has terminal cancer.

All items in the Elf Emporium are designed with children in mind and include toys, games, books, stuffed animals, clothing, gifts for teachers, friends, neighbors and so much more, each donation is a "Gift of Love."

If you would like to donate, visit <https://intermountain-healthcare.org/foundation/festival-of-trees>.



Gifts That Keep on Giving to the People and the Land



You've heard the news by now: the Biden Administration's proclamation restoring Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante is reverberating across the country. The restoration of these monuments has touched so many lives and people — and that's why it's never been about the land.

Bears Ears is about healing and the acknowledgment of First Nations who have called it home. There is a story in this place, and in this movement, and it will be a story that we'll be learning how to tell for a long time. It also marks the beginning of how many of you have stepped into this movement.

We are getting registered to vote. We have two Navajo county commissioners in office. We are in a steady flow of healing change. This has been made possible by the people. There is more work that lies ahead to protect sacred sites. We must use the power of our communities and our democracy to protect our land, air, and water.

We have to continue to educate, participate, and acknowledge where this movement is heading — and what it means for future generations. Celebrate with us, and please consider supporting the work ahead.

Ahéhee (Thank you), Isaac, Dalene, and Tara

To learn more about the Rural Utah Project visit ruralutah.org or @ruralutahproject. To donate, visit ruralutah.org/support or mail a check to 323 S 600 E, Suite 130, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.



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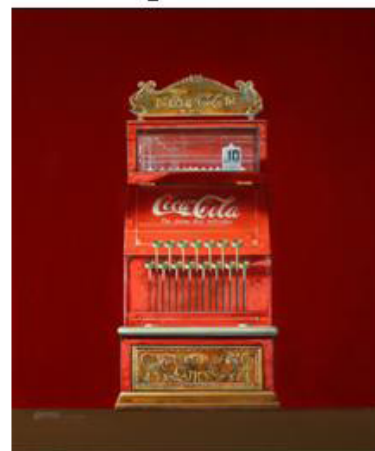
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