**America’s Favorite Humorist: David Sedaris**

by Anne Holman

David Sedaris is funny. But more than that, he taps into all the stuff every family has and somehow makes us laugh at it. In *Calypso*, his tenth book, Sedaris tackles two tough topics: his sister Tiffany’s suicide and his father’s aging. One response to these issues was to buy a beach house on the Carolina coast and name it, what else? The Sea Section (much to his father’s dismay). In this series of 21 essays, Sedaris examines his life before (and mostly after) his sister’s death, and also life in America from his and from his father’s viewpoints. **He’s coming to see us on Thursday, June 20th at 6 p.m.**! Tickets to his presentation are $20 and include a paperback copy of *Calypso*. Although the presentation will end around 7:30, if you just want to say hi, feel free to drop in after that. He (and we) will stay until everyone has had a chance to say hello.

**The Stars Are Aligned This Summer**

Thursday, June 13 – Sunday, June 16 Our semi-annual sale will be in full swing just in time for Father’s Day! Hardcovers 30% off, 40% off if you buy three or more, everything else (except special orders) 10% off!

**Thursday, June 20, 6 p.m.** America’s favorite humorist, David Sedaris, will be with us for his latest memoir, *Calypso*. Tickets available on Eventbrite.

**Tuesday, August 6, 7 p.m.** Author Karl Marlantes will read from and sign his new novel, *Deep River* (see page 22).

**Friday, August 16, 7 p.m.** TKE favorite Richard Russo will read from and sign his new novel, *Chances Are...* (see page 22).

**A Few of TKE’s Favorite Writers’ and Booksellers’ Summer Reads:**

Given the taste for summer and the beach that Sedaris’s book gave us, we asked some other writers who have visited us recently, along with some of our booksellers, what they were looking forward to reading this summer. Here are their responses—the first from one of our all-time favorite authors who’s coming to visit us on August 16 to talk about his new book, *Chances Are...* which we loved! (see page 22)

**Richard Russo, novelist:** I stop whatever I’m doing when a new Kate Atkinson novel comes out, but a new Jackson Brodie novel? After all these years? I can’t wait. (See *Big Sky*, page 14)

**Sue Fleming, bookseller:** Books I am looking forward to reading include: *The River* by Peter Heller, *Crimson Lake* by Candice Fox, *Debussy* by Stephen Walsh, *Machines Like Me* by Ian McEwan, and *Courting Mr. Lincoln* by Louis Bayard

**Amor Towles, novelist:** Each summer, I like to read in chronological order a handful of well-crafted mystery or suspense novels written by the same author. This summer, I’m going to read the five novels by John le Carré in which George Smiley is the primary character: *Call for the Dead* (1961), *A Murder of Quality* (1962), *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (1974), *The Honourable Schoolboy* (1977), and *Smiley’s People* (1979).

**Betsy Burton, bookseller:** I’m going to copy Amor Towles and read those exact same le Carré titles; I wonder whether I’ll love them this time as much as I once did (I’d guess that I will). I might throw in a Trollope or two, along with a couple of books due out in September, just in time for our 43rd birthday!

**Alyson Hagy, novelist:** What a wonderful request. Here are a few books I’m excited about reading this summer: *The Gulf*, Belle Boggs, *The Nickel Boys*, Colson Whitehead (see page 22), *Sabrina & Corina*, Kali Fajardo-Anstine, and *Deep Creek*, Pam Houston. Thank you for asking. Happy summer to everyone at The King’s English!

**Pam Houston, novelist and essayist:** I will be teaching this summer (of course) in some of my favorite places: Chamonix, France, Provincetown, Mass, on a raft in the Canyon of the Ladore, (continued on page 4)
Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m. Journalist Jana Riess will discuss her new book, *The Next Mormons: How Millennials Are Changing the LDS Church.*

Thursday, June 13 – Sunday, June 16 Our semi-annual hardcover sale will be in full swing just in time for Father’s Day! Hardcovers 30% off, 40% for three or more, everything else except special orders 10% off!

Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m. Mona Awad will join us to read from and sign her new novel, *Bunny.*

Thursday, June 20, 6 p.m. America’s favorite humorist, David Sedaris, will be with us for his latest memoir, *Calypso.* Tickets available on Eventbrite.

Saturday, June 22, 2 p.m. Local author John Bennion will discuss his two new novels, *An Unarmed Woman* and *Ezekiel’s Third Wife.*


Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m. Jennifer Pharr Davis will discuss her memoir, *The Pursuit of Endurance: Harnessing the Record-Breaking Power of Strength and Resilience at the Provo Library.*


Friday, June 28, 7 p.m. Novelist Lauren Kate will read from and sign *The Orphan’s Song.*

Friday, July 12, 7 p.m. Debut novelist Kimi Eisele will read from and sign her book, *The Lightest Object in the Universe.*

Saturday, July 13, 2 p.m. University of Utah alum Nicole Walker will return to read from and sign *The After Normal.*

Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m. Join us for our quarterly Local Author Showcase.

Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m. Megan Griswold will share her story in *The Book of Help: A Memoir in Remedies.*

Friday, July 26, 7 p.m. Christopher Ketcham will read from and discuss *This Land: How Cowboys, Capitalism, and Corruption Are Ruining the American West.*

Saturday, July 27, 2 p.m. Professor Kevin Allred will read from and sign his new book, *Ain’t I a Diva?*

Tuesday, August 6, 7 p.m. Author Karl Marlantes will read from and sign his new novel, *Deep River.*

Wednesday, August 7, 7 p.m. Stephen Trimble, editor of *The Capitol Reef Reader,* will share selections from the book.

Thursday, August 8, 7 p.m. Park City author Jack Parr will read from and sign his new mystery, *True Believer.*

Thursday, August 15, 7 p.m. University of Utah alum Joe Sacksteder will read from and sign his new short story collection, *Make/Shift.*

Friday, August 16, 7 p.m. TKE favorite Richard Russo will read from and sign his new novel, *Chances Are...*
Summer Events for Kids and Young Adults

If you’re in a band and decide to quit playing your instrument for three months, your performance will suffer. The same is true for reading. Studies show that NOT reading in the summer impacts students negatively. And this effect gets worse as kids get older. Since these same studies show that reading just four books over the summer will be enough to keep your students on track, by signing up for TKE’s Summer Reading Program—a five-book commitment—your kids will be ahead of the game! Besides, is there really any better way to spend summer afternoons than reading? Get yourself a book too, and read together!

Groups will meet for five consecutive Wednesdays, starting June 12. We’ll skip the July 4th week and finish up on July 17th. Each group runs for 50 minutes. Times, book lists and sign-ups are on the website (kingsenglish.com) and at the store. Cost is $60 per child. Book purchase is not required, but all books will be available at the store at a discount.

We are thrilled to introduce this year’s teachers, a group of talented, dedicated professionals:

Marianne Jenkins, who will be leading grades 1-2, began her teaching career in a shoreline town in Connecticut. She taught 5th grade after moving back to Utah and is currently teaching 4th grade at Rowland Hall. Among her favorite books growing up were The Secret Garden, Mrs. Pigglewiggle, and Where the Red Fern Grows. Her favorite picture book is The Paper Bag Princess.

Nathan Spofford is back again with 3rd and 4th graders and with the writing group. He has taught for more than 40 years, first in Jordan School District and currently in the SLC ELP program. Nathan, who moonlights as a bookseller at TKE, is one of just a few nationally certified ELP teachers in Utah. He brings incredible experience and enthusiasm to every group. He loves teaching. He also loves children’s books and has been an avid collector for nearly 50 years! We are thrilled to have him back.

Amanda Esko is a local teacher, storyteller and mother. She is a passionate advocate for children’s literacy and makes reading fun for children. Many of you will recognize Amanda; she does storytime on Thursdays and has also subbed in the Summer Reading Program. She will be leading the PreK-K group and the 5th and 6th graders.

Tara Pearce—a proud dog-mom to Beatrice—has always been enchanted by books. She teaches English and has a master’s degree from Boston University in multicultural literature. She started a book club at her school that allows students to discuss sensitive and relevant topics. She believes reading and talking about books can change the way we think and feel about others. She loves visiting independent bookstores around the world and is thrilled to be working at the very best one this summer. Tara will be working with the young adult group.

For class times and books see page 28.

Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. Megan Wagner Lloyd will join us for storytime with her new picture book, Paper Mice.

Tuesday, July 9, 7 p.m. Samantha Hastings will read from and sign her young adult novel, The Last Word.

Thursday, July 11, 7 p.m. Young Adult writers Elizabeth Eulberg and Brigid Kemmerer will read from and sign their new novels entitled, respectively, Past Perfect Life and Call It What You Want.

Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m. Young Adult author Becky Wallace will read from and sign Stealing Home.

Wednesday, July 31 Happy Birthday Harry Potter! Details to come!
and in Santa Fe at the Institute of American Indian Arts. Otherwise I will be at my ranch in Creede, and in late August I am taking my husband Mike to Iceland for his retirement present. Here are some things I want to read this summer: *The Overstory* (at last I will have time), *If Beale Street Could Talk* (have read every Baldwin but this one), Jericho Brown’s *The Tradition*, Amy Hempel’s *Sing To It*, Forrest Gander’s *Be With*. There are more but that is a start!

Anne Holman, bookseller: In case you think we booksellers read everything, summer is catch-up time for me. I’m going to read *Olive Kitteridge* so I’ll be ready for the new Elizabeth Strout, *Olive, Again* out this fall. And I’ve never read *The Night Circus* so I’ll do that, too, to get ready for Erin Morgenstern’s new book, *The Starless Sea*, also coming next fall.

Paula Longhurst, bookseller and mystery writer: Planning on going to the kite festival in Holland later this summer. Will be taking the new Nesbo, *The Knife*; the latest Jane Hawk novel; *Night Window* by Dean Koontz; and for some light relief, re-reading the first Ben Aaronovitch, *Rivers of London* aka *Midnight Riot* in preparation for his new novella, *The October Man*.

Wendy Foster Leigh, bookseller: Going to France in June and will take Simenon with me...size is perfect, love the style, they are French. I will also take the new Cara Black because it is set in Paris. As I finish them, I will leave them in hotel rooms or on the ship for someone else. During the summer here I catch up on the ARCs (Advanced Reading Copies) which fellow-booksellers feed me. My new favorites are *Flowers over the Inferno* and *The Execution of Justice* (for our mystery group).

Charlie Quimby, novelist: Summer still seems far away, as we sit here in Minnesota. But I can Imagine lounging at the water’s edge thanks to Rebecca Lawton’s *The Oasis This Time: Living and Dying with Water in the West*. In a series of engaging essays, Lawton spans time and geography to explore the relationship between water, desert and culture across the West.


Matt Richtel, mystery writer: Here’s one I highly recommend, easily overlooked as not-particularly-well-known, and very smart thriller: *Night Market* by Jonathan Moore. hit the right notes for me—noir-ish, smart, fast-n-twisty, payoff I should’ve seen coming ‘cause I write ‘em like that, or try to. would’ve been proud to pen that ending.

Wiley Cash, novelist: This summer I’ll be finishing *Days of Rage: America’s Radical Underground, the FBI, and the Forgotten Age of Revolutionary Violence* by Bryan Burroughs and Frederick Douglass: *Prophet of Freedom* by David W. Blight and reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kemmerer.

Cara Black, mystery writer: This summer I’m celebrating 20 years of Aimée Leduc, my Franco-American detective in Paris, with *Murder in Bel-Air* that comes out June 4. I’ll be on book tour in June and July and get to work on Aimée’s next Parisian investigation in August. I’ve got my summer
book reads list and it’s Francophile-centric: **Stick Together** by Sophie Héhauff, where a team of misfit Paris cops are shoved onto a cold-case team—it promises to be quirky, noir and laugh-out-loud funny in places. **Paris Diversion** by Chris Pavone, a sequel to his first book **The Expats**, finds the American family living now in Paris where the wife is an off-book intelligence officer and still has to do the school run. **Madame Fourcade’s Secret War** by Lynne Olson; I’m really looking forward to this book after hearing about it on NPR. It’s nonfiction so great to listen to while travelling. This is the little-known true story of a French woman who headed the largest spy network in occupied France during World War II.

**Margaret Brennan Neville, bookseller:** I’m saving **Under Land** by Robert Macfarlane for a summer trip where I’ll be reading it in the wide open spaces because it is about living underground, and I get claustrophobia just thinking about it. And (smile), Ruta Sepetys, one of my favorite authors, has a new book coming in the fall, **The Fountains of Silence.** I am also going to talk to one of our TKE mystery experts and try to catch up on really good (I actually mean really bad!) mysteries—the can’t-put-it-down, the-world-is-dark-and-violent kind. I’m looking forward to **On Swift Horses,** also forthcoming in November. Several of my co-workers have been very excited about it. Summer reading for us also means getting ready for Book Fairs! I am sure there are some gems waiting for me in all those boxes our receiver is unpacking!

**Karl Marlantes, novelist** (his new book, **Deep River,** is coming in July and he’ll visit TKE August 6): I can’t tell you what I’m planning to read. I never plan to read anything unless it’s part of being on a prize committee. I’m one of those readers who has a small stack by the bed. I cannot go on a trip without luging at least four books, and two or three audio books are always on the floor of the car, all because I never know what I’ll feel like reading (or listening to) when I have time to read. (This is mostly in the evenings, and is usually closed out by dropping the book when I nod off.) So, the best I can do is go up and look at the current short stack. Here it is:

**The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses Grant in War and Peace**, by H. W. Brands, an audio book read by Stephen Hoye. I’m amazed by **The Expats**, finds the American family living now in Paris where the wife is an off-book intelligence officer and still has to do the school run. **Madame Fourcade’s Secret War** by Lynne Olson; I’m really looking forward to this book after hearing about it on NPR. It’s nonfiction so great to listen to while travelling. This is the little-known true story of a French woman who headed the largest spy network in occupied France during World War II.

**Song of Myself With a Complete Commentary,** by Walt Whitman, the commentary by Ed Folsom and Christopher Merrill. I usually do one section a night. Whitman left me cold when I was younger, but now he just blows me away. I get a lot of help and insight from the commentary at the end of each section.

**One Bird One Stone: 108 Contemporary Zen Stories,** collected by Sean Murphy. I knew Paul Reps, one of the Zen masters who is quoted here, and I am a contemporary of some of the other people who are telling these amazing stories, so knew about them most of my adult life. The Zen tradition is alive and well in the modern world and the teaching capacity of its stories just as relevant.


**Blowin’ Hot and Cool: Jazz and Its Critics,** by John Gennari. Truly a nerd’s book, but for this nerd, utterly fascinating. It’s a book by a jazz critic about the history of jazz criticism. I used to read **Down Beat** when I was in high school, so I could look cool. I also managed to learn something from it. I’ve loved jazz since I was a child, breaking in on my father’s 78s of Armstrong, Shaw, Goodman, Hawkins, Webb, and then coming into my own stuff when Columbia Records recorded the first Brubeck.

**The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna,** originally recorded in Bengali by “M,” a disciple, translated into English by Swami Nikhilananda. It is a large volume, full of wisdom, now full of magic marker highlights and random scribbles. I usually read with a pen in my hand and often debate with the author that way. Ramakrishna was God, but then he says, everything is God.

**Victorious Century: The United Kingdom, 1800-1906,** by David Cannadine. I belong to a Jane Austen book club and recently was on the hook for presenting the politics and economics of the time Austen was writing. I got interested and have moved farther along in the century following her death. This book does a remarkable job of communicating 106 years of British and British Empire history at a time when someone else was policing the world.

**Yeats's Ghosts: The Secret Life of W. B. Yeats,** by Brenda Maddox. This book explores the automatic writing of Yeats’s wife, George (Bertha Georgie Hyde-Lees). Yeats very much believed in spirits and ever since Mrs. Whittey, the librarian of the library that shared the same building as the fire truck, ordered **The Celtic Twilight** for me from the Book Mobile, I’ve tended to go along with Yeats. Turns out, however, that I think Maddox doesn’t believe in spirits.

**The Honorable Schoolboy,** by John le Carré. Just finished it. Wonderful dive into British Intelligence during the Cold War. I like all of his stuff and just hadn’t gotten to this one. I’ve been to Hong Kong and he put me right back there again. He’s a favorite writer.

I regularly read **Sky and Telescope,** I’ve been interested in astronomy since a child. My cousin and I built a 9-inch reflector in his basement, which at best had intermittent use on the Oregon coast, but kept us occupied for an entire winter grinding the mirror. I also read **Foreign Affairs** and **The Economist** whenever they arrive to give me some perspective on the folly. **Editor’s note: What a list!**
Ask Again, Yes, Mary Beth Keane
As in Shakespeare's famous play, a boy and a girl from two houses 'alike in dignity' (in this case the homes of two Irish cops whose fates have turned these next-door neighbors against one another) fall in love, into that seemingly boundless sea of passion the bard described so brilliantly and that Keane too captures perfectly, achingly—but differently, not ending the bloom of perfect teenage love with death but instead following its course over years so that what might well become a tragedy of Shakespearean proportion develops at a slow boil. As the lives of Kate and Peter play out, so too do the lives of their parents and relations, from the time of their own blooming loves through the shoals and riptides of their respective marriages. This is a gripping, wise and bighearted novel whose characters come alive on the page, wowing the reader. I consumed it with a lump in my throat and a fast-beating heart and, in the end, found my hope in humanity renewed by that alchemy that can be found in only the best fiction. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $27

In West Mills, De'Shawn Charles Winslow
Azalea Centre knows who she is and what she wants, everyone else be damned. That attitude impacts just about everybody in the tiny town of West Mills, North Carolina, for better or worse. And that is the beauty of this debut novel. So much of what seems will be the worst turns out okay as folks forgive without forgetting and move forward. Told over the course of three generations, this is a beautiful story about strong women and the men of three generations, this is a beautiful story about strong women and the men who love them. – Anne Holman, Bloomsbury, $26

The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna, Juliet Grames
This is the story of Stella Fortuna, a stubborn girl by all reports, who almost died seven or eight times, depending on how you count. Born in a tiny Italian village with more than a hint of old-world magic, Stella eventually immigrates to America with her family. Across both continents she survives burns, evisceration, bludgeoning, drowning, rape, exsanguination, choking, and cerebral hemorrhage. After her final near-death, Stella stops speaking to her sister Tina for 30 years. Her granddaughter, who, by her own admission, has a hard time figuring out which secrets are for keeping, is determined to discover why. At once an intimate tale of one Italian-American immigrant woman, this is also the universal story of, among other things, all our beloved grandmothers. Ever the survivor, Stella Fortuna will grip your imagination and never let go. – Michaela Riding, Ecco, $27.99

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous, Ocean Vuong
The letter of a son to his Vietnamese ‘ma,’ written out of clustered memories, reaches back into childhood to a mother who gave life and joy to her child along with threats and smacks and the reality of pain. As we move deeper into the life of the letter writer, a man who has known almost unbearable loss, we learn of not only his own past but also that of his family. We witness his grief at the death of his first love, lost to drugs, but also his love for that man and, in a different way, his love for his mother—and hers for him. This is a letter like none other. It is haunting, poetic, passionate—truth-telling and, although fiction, it has the ring of truth—about life and its meaning, about culture and gender, about the things that separate us and also the things we hold in common, love being chief among them. – Betsy Burton, Penguin, $26

The Porpoise, Mark Haddon
Haddon’s newest novel is a tale begging to be read, a fast-paced retelling of the legend of incestuous Antiochus who was discovered by Appolinus of Tyre—whom Shakespeare once upon a time transformed into the heroic sailor Pericles. Haddon has instead given us Darius, a trust-fund charmer and, more importantly, the women in the story, with names and voices. Framed within a contemporary family, but layered with every era of literary magic, The Porpoise dips in and out of storytelling waves as easily as its namesake. Contemporary and ancient, mythological and all-too-real. – Michaela Riding, Doubleday, $26.95

Bunny, Mona Awad
Samantha, a lonely grad student who has finally come to the perfect place to write freely, is suffering from a bad case of writer’s block. She’s also friendless—until she meets the iconoclastic, free-spirited Ava. Together they mock “the bunnies,” a gooily sweet and utterly self-contained fluffle of young women in Samantha’s writers workshop who are so intensely bonded they address one another interchangeably as “bunny.” Samantha hates them all—until the bunnies invite her to participate in their own “workshops.” Suddenly she is no longer an outsider, is in fact a bunny herself, nameless and subsumed. What then transpires gives writers’ workshops a whole new name in this vividly ironic and scary look at the writing process at its communal worst. By turn hilarious, excruciating, horrifying, Bunny drills to the heart of loneliness, so improbably acute in one’s 20s, and to group psychosis, the pain engendered by group disdain—for one’s self or one’s work. But above and beyond all of that Awad considers the enigma of imagina-
tion, the mystery that lies at the heart of creativity. A novel as original as it is painfully familiar, as startling as it is thought-provoking. Wow. – Betsy Burton, Viking, $26

Editor's note: Mona Awad will read from and discuss her novel at TKE on Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.

Lanny, Max Porter

Porter’s (Grief Is the Thing with Feathers) new novel takes place in a small village outside of London where Lanny lives with his mother (who embraces his uniqueness), his father (who is ashamed of him), the eccentric, artistic neighbor Pete (who teaches him about art/life), and the unforgettable voyeur, Dead Papa Toothwort, a mythical monster who listens. When Lanny goes missing the villagers all have their own ideas about what’s happened to him, and the village begins to unravel, showing its true colors in the process. Lanny is a compulsive read, strange and wondrous. Porter literally plays with the words on the page so that they twist, cascade, shift, and change shape, taking you along for a wild ride as his short chaotic paragraphs create a sense of urgency, tearing through the pages to speed up time. I found myself rooting for Lanny as he fights against what society expects humans to be by just being himself, a curious weirdo, bundled up in innocence, trying to comprehend life. Aren’t we all? – Jamie Ortwein, Graywolf, $24

Paris, 7 A.M., Liza Wieland

Evocative and exquisite, this novelization of Elizabeth Bishop’s life centers on the one year she didn’t fully record in her journals, 1937, when she traveled from Vassar to New York to Europe, to Normandy and Paris. Bishop, accompanied by her college friends, toured like a typical graduate—but also quietly changed her life, falling in love with a German, meeting mentors, smuggling Jewish babies into convents. Wieland has stunningly imagined her way into Bishop’s mind before she became one of the most influential poets in America, filtering every adventure through a poet’s imagination—all words and meaning. The result is a poet’s novel, poignant to the last. – Michaela Riding, Simon & Schuster, $26.99

The Travelers, Regina Porter

Award-winning playwright and Iowa Arts Fellow Porter has completely blown me away with The Travelers. Beautifully written and intricately plotted, this nuanced and deeply immersive saga follows two families, one black and one white, over the course of the 20th century and on into the Obama administration. At its heart, this gorgeous debut novel explores America’s complicated relationship with racism and sexism through lyrical prose and unforgettable characters. Porter, who evokes the storytelling of such masters as Toni Morrison and Colson Whitehead, is definitely a new writer to watch. – Rachel Haisley, Hogarth, $27

Call Your Daughter Home, Deb Spera

This debut novel is set in South Carolina in 1924. The Civil War is still a not-too-distant memory, and the three main characters are descended from the horrors of it. Annie, the matriarch of the plantation where most of the action occurs, is attempting to help the women of her community, white and black, while trying to come to terms with her own family’s secrets. Retta, a freed slave, is trying to negotiate this landscape where freedom is a very relative term. And Gertrude, mother of four young girls, makes a daring move to free the five of them from her abusive husband. I needed a cold washcloth to battle the humidity as these women’s strengths and weaknesses played out across this very satisfying story. – Anne Holman, Park Row, $26.99

Lie With Me, Philippe Besson, translated by Molly Ringwald

The productive ambiguity of “lie” in its English title foreshadows Ringwald’s smart translation of Philippe Besson’s award-winning 1984 novel about an affair between two teenage boys in France. In its prologue the narrator, Thomas Andrieu, a middle-aged writer, catches impossible sight of a particular young man leaving the hotel lobby. It is someone he had known long ago, when both had been young. In chapter one, time has un-spooked backwards, and Thomas is 17 years old. The narrative gulf of the 23 years between will come to mark both the distance the speaker has traveled, and the difference rendered, in time. – Michelle Macfarlane, Scribner, $25

Orange World and Other Stories, Karen Russell

In her latest short story collection, Russell (Swamplandia) delivers eight wonderfully weird stories, each tale connecting to struggles we all can relate to: finding true love, showing up at the wrong party, being a new parent, striving for work perfection, seeking some inner peace and quiet, or figuring out just how much one should spend on a perfect ‘baby tornado.’ Russell’s stories offer up juicy slices of oddness and beauty, helping you get your dose of vitamin C, reading style! – Jamie Ortwein, Knopf, $26.95
closed borders, police raids, arrests and imprisonment. When one
try, whether by train or walking to the border with Spain, or by ship
with French police, or strategizing the safest routes out of the coun
as Marc Chagall and Hannah Arendt by falsifying papers, battling
attempts to rescue artists and writers such
reader follows breathlessly the harrowing
his relationship with an entirely fictional
mission—alongside an imagined one:
history—Varian Fry’s heroic life-saving
In this novel, the author gives us real
deported to Nazi concentration camps.
Rescue Committee with a clear mandate:
In 1940, American Varian Fry travels to
The Flight Portfolio
In 1940, American Varian Fry travels to
Marseille, France, to head the Emergency
Rescue Committee with a clear mandate:
to prevent artists and writers from being
deported to Nazi concentration camps.
In this novel, the author gives us real
history—Varian Fry’s heroic life-saving
mission—alongside an imagined one:
his relationship with an entirely fictional
Harvard classmate, Elliott Grant. The
reader follows breathlessly the harrowing
attempts to rescue artists and writers such
as Marc Chagall and Hannah Arendt by falsifying papers, battling
with French police, or strategizing the safest routes out of the coun-
try, whether by train or walking to the border with Spain, or by ship
to various ports in Africa. The ERC workers suffer many setbacks:
closed borders, police raids, arrests and imprisonment. When one

The Daughter’s Tale, Armando Lucas Correa
As difficult as this book is to read due to
the evil of the Nazi soldiers, it is equally
difficult to put down. A thoughtful, well-
told tale for any fan of historical fiction,
it’s also just a plain good read. Based on
a true story, it begins with a phone call to
Elise Duval, a reclusive woman in her 80s,
from an unknown woman and her daugh-
ter who have with them some letters
written in German. Elise has kept her past
shrouded in darkness, even to herself. But
she makes an appointment with the two strangers, and thus the story
begins. From its opening in New York City in 2015, Correa returns
to 1939 Berlin at the beginning of World War II. The tale continues
through the end of the war and portrays a mother’s lonely fight to
protect her two daughters after her husband dies. All of the questions
we have and the fears we experience are here: What is love? What is
life? How do we make choices in the face of devastating circumstanc-
es? ‘The Daughter’s Tale’ will live on in the imagination of readers
long after the last word has been read. – Jan Sloan, Atria Books, $27

The Electric Hotel, Dominic Smith
It is 1962 and young film student, Martin
Embry, has determined that Claude Ball-
ard’s groundbreaking work, “The Electric
Hotel,” should be restored and screened.
Strong on historical details that create its
compelling atmosphere, Smith’s narrative,
set in the early years of silent movie-
making, is told from the perspective of
85-year-old Claude. Still in love with both
film and one of its early vedettes, he has
washed up in an old Hollywood hotel that
has also seen better days. “The Electric
Hotel” was his “grand cinematic experiment,” but it has not been seen
since its debut in 1910. – Michelle Macfarlane, Farrar, Straus, and
Giroux, $27

The Flight Portfolio, Julie Orringer
In 1940, American Varian Fry travels to
Marseille, France, to head the Emergency
Rescue Committee with a clear mandate:
to prevent artists and writers from being
deported to Nazi concentration camps.
In this novel, the author gives us real
history—Varian Fry’s heroic life-saving
mission—alongside an imagined one:
his relationship with an entirely fictional
Harvard classmate, Elliott Grant. The
reader follows breathlessly the harrowing
attempts to rescue artists and writers such
as Marc Chagall and Hannah Arendt by falsifying papers, battling
with French police, or strategizing the safest routes out of the coun-
try, whether by train or walking to the border with Spain, or by ship
to various ports in Africa. The ERC workers suffer many setbacks:
closed borders, police raids, arrests and imprisonment. When one

The Most Fun We Ever Had, Claire Lombardo
Families are complicated, and every child
added to the mix makes them that much
more so. In this big, beautiful debut from
Lombardo, we follow the lives of David
and Marilyn Sorenson from their early
courtship through the births of their
four daughters and on into the girls’ own
adulthoods. Realistic in its portrayals, this
novel wings us back and forth between
truly disliking many of these charac-
ters one moment and loving them the
next—just as one might do in one’s own family. By the time I finished
this book, I felt I knew each of these people—what they looked like,
where they lived, how they thought about life. They will stay with me
for a long time. – Anne Holman, Doubleday, $27.95

The Guest Book, Sarah Blake
This novel may begin in 2019, but for
various members of the Milton family,
the setting for their lives begins in 1935,
when Ogden Milton buys an island off
the coast of Maine to please his wife, to
raise his children, and to entertain in the
gracious style of the period. The blood of
three generations of Miltons runs blue in
this tale that recounts the highs and lows
of the family and of those who visited and
signed their guest book. Although Ogden
Milton and his wife had secrets which
their grandchildren will never know, Evie, one of the final generation
to spend a summer on the island, is an historian who feels the need
to preserve the past. The story she uncovers reveals the prejudices
and bigotry that were once out in the open but are now hidden in the
memories of their decedents, forcing us to question our personal at-
titudes. A must-read. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Flatiron, $27.99

City of Girls, Elizabeth Gilbert
Gilbert’s latest novel examines the life of 19-year-old Vivian Mor-
ris who, kicked out of Vassar in 1940, is placed in the hands of her
eccentric theatre-producer Aunt Peg, owner of the Lily Playhouse in
midtown Manhattan. There, Vivian discovers a life of glamour, grit
and mayhem, a world where adults behave like children. She meets
showgirls, chain-smoking writers, a British-born grande dame and
her drop-dead handsome but not-too-bright film star husband. Viv-
ian brings with her her grandmother’s sewing machine and consid-
erable skill and fashion sense, instantly making herself indispensable to the theatre and its residents. But when she makes a tragic mistake, a scandal ensues that will take years to resolve. In this tale of sexual awakening and its repercussions and responsibilities Gilbert makes clear that female heroines’ punishment for their sensuality need not lead to their complete ruination. – Anne Stewart Mark, Riverhead, $28

How Not to Die Alone, Richard Roper
Andrew’s day job is finding the next-of-kin of those who die alone in his British town. And while he suffers from the same loneliness and isolation he perceives in the last effects of the recently deceased, he can’t admit this to any of his coworkers. A small white lie has convinced them all that he’s a doting father living with a successful wife in a beautiful house, when in reality he’s a bachelor, living alone in a dingy flat with only his model trains for company. Then a new coworker, Peggy, joins the office, and Andrew must decide between retaining the walls that have kept him isolated but emotionally safe, or letting someone in who could change or even hurt him. Packed with dry humor, yet with a giant heart at its center, this is a book I devoured with real delight. – Mackenzi Lee, Putnam, $26

A Bend in the Stars, Rachel Barenbaum
Meet Miri and Vanya Abramov, sister and brother just coming into their brilliancy, not only in their Russian Jewish community, but also in the larger world. As an eclipse approaches with Russia in the path of its totality, Miri is promoted to surgeon in her hospital, while Vanya, who has been corresponding with Einstein for a while now, is about to win the race to solve relativity. But with the Czar on the cusp of war with Germany, everything is thrown into chaos: Vanya goes missing, taking Miri’s fiancé with him, and it is up to her to find them both before it is too late. This beautiful novel has it all: history, science, mysterious strangers, murderous pasts, romance and daring escapes, all in the face of unspeakable prejudice. – Michaela Riding, Grand Central, $27

America Was Hard To Find, Kathleen Alcott
Alcott’s novel begins in 1957 in a bar in the Mojave Desert where sisters Fay and Charlie, estranged from their conservative right-wing parents, become bartenders. Forging silver spoons, Fay and Charlie serve cold beer, gin cut with lime, and hot steaks off the grill to thirsty NASA pilots. Fay Fern, the female lead, acts out in every possible way, while Vincent Kahn, talented, single-minded and determined to complete his mission, emerges as the male lead. During the hot summer of ’57, a torrid affair vaults Fay and Vincent into polar opposite orbits—Vincent aiming for the moon, while Fay heads into the radical underground. Life is in such upheaval in America that the country cracks apart, and people are lost on both sides. Nothing will ever be the same for anyone. The Apollo Space Program reaches dizzying heights, but the tragic Vietnam War plummets us into despair. Privileged consumers enjoy wine and the comfort of their clubs while the disaffected youth light up on drugs. This epic journey leaps from love to hate, glory to despair, ending in death for many, in a moving story told in picture-perfect language. America was hard to find in the ’60s; Alcott’s novel helps us understand why. – Bets Prouty, Harper Collins, $27.99

Fleishman Is in Trouble, Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Toby Fleishman is in trouble alright. He and his wife Rachel have been separated for only a couple of months, and she has gone AWOL. Even though he’s a successful New York City surgeon, raising their two kids in private schools, camps, lessons, etc. is expensive, and really hard without a partner to share the load. Add to that, his new dating app filling up with nude photos of seemingly every available woman in Manhattan and beyond, and Toby has much to consider. At times hilarious, this is a tender book about being forced to reexamine your life and the choices you’ve made so far. And then to choose differently. – Anne Holman, Random House, $27

Ver y Nice, Marcy Dermansky
Rachel Klein never meant to kiss her creative writing professor. She also never meant for him to become a houseguest at her mother’s sprawling Connecticut home, or for her mother to start a love affair with him—but she does, and it is all a very bad idea. Told from alternating points of view, this hilarious, sexy, horrifyingly spot-on drama makes for unbelievably smooth reading. Very Nice is the perfect summer novel to laugh and cry over. – Rachel Haisley, Knopf, $25.95
The Tenth Muse, Catherine Chung

Love in the world of mathematics: there is no need to understand mathematical problems, solutions, or proofs to enjoy this romantic story of a young woman’s search for acceptance. Katherine’s life is an amalgam of events that leave her feeling like an outsider. She is far too intelligent to be accepted in the man’s world of mathematics. And although her Chinese mother and American father have told her vague stories of her heritage, it is through her own search for her identity that she finally comes to realize her true place in the world. The Tenth Muse does not have a fairytale ending, but it does put the life of an intelligent woman into perspective. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Ecco, $26.99

Mistress of the Ritz, Melanie Benjamin

Claude Auzello, the manager of the Hôtel Ritz in Paris, along with his fiery American wife Blanche, inspired this novel that Benjamin calls a “big, fat, juicy story.” The Ritz itself becomes a main character as we walk its beautiful corridors, lobby, suites and bar, rubbing elbows with its guests: Chanel, Hemingway, Fitzgerald, Otto Stülpnagel, Hermann Goering, and communist sympathizers, all thrown together during the occupation of Paris. Its glamorous walls hide the turbulent marriage of Blanche and Claude, their secrets and their distrust of each other, as they play hostess and host, all the while resisting their German guests. But there is one secret that could destroy the veneer of glamor and bring down the Ritz itself. Based on real life, fleshed out in beautiful detail, Benjamin once again brings us a little-known tale of heroism at terrible cost. – Anne Stewart Mark, Random House, $28

Rules for Visiting, Jessica Francis Kane

May Attaway is a prickly yet passionate university botanist. After a childhood overshadowed by her reclusive mother, May is starting to worry that she might be following in her mother’s footsteps a bit too closely. Just awarded some time off in honor of a prize-winning tree she planted at the university and armed with a copy of Emily Post’s Etiquette and a suitcase named Grendel, she spends her vacation time visiting and reconnecting with her four oldest friends, unintentionally starting a movement called #fortnightfriends. What follows is an utterly charming story of analog friendship in a digital world, perfect for summer. – Michaela Riding, Penguin, $26

The Orphan’s Song, Lauren Kate

Venice in 1736 was known as the City of Masks, and Kate’s novel is a portrait of that exotic city, its music, its color, its intrigue— particularly during the decadence of Carnevale, which lasted for 40 days during which the masks stayed on day and night. Two young orphans, wards of the Hospital of the Incurables, find each other, are separated, and struggle to survive amidst musicians, gamblers, courtesans, and powerful men. Violetta is a singer selected for the Incurables “coro,” who dreams of obtaining her freedom; the masks allow her to live a secret life away from the Hospital of the Incurables. Mino is a violin maker and repairer whose search for the mother who abandoned him takes him into the darker side of Venice. Both live lives filled with individual dangers until the inevitable happens—the masks they wear are removed both physically and metaphorically. The book is at once an historical romance and a mystery that builds to a dramatic climax. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Putnam, $26

The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West, David McCullough

As part of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Revolutionary War, England ceded vast tracks of what was then called the Northwest Territory. This encompassed what we now know as the states of Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Land was offered to veterans of the war and in the process the Northwest Ordinance was created—which, remarkably, called for freedom of religion, free universal education and the prohibition of slavery. McCullough concentrates his study on the formation of Marietta, Ohio, and the principal settlers who gave up everything in the east to establish a city in the wilderness. Their lives were rife with danger, not only from the indigenous peoples they were supplanting, but also from the uncertainties of weather, illness and accidents. That they not only survived but created a thriving community, is a testament to their resilience. This story, as told by a master historian, adds important pieces America’s saga of expansion and settlement. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, $30

Spying on the South: an Odyssey across the American Divide, Tony Horwitz

In the mid-1850s Frederick Law Olmsted was still years away from being the visionary landscape architect and creator of America’s most famous park, New York’s Central Park. He and his brother John left their New York farm for a trek through...
the antebellum South and across Texas to Mexico. It was during this arduous trip that Olmsted formulated his concept of nature as an uplifting space for all people, rich and poor alike, to enjoy. Horwitz does his best to follow in Olmsted's footsteps, despite the radical changes wrought by approximately 150 years of so-called progress. Olmsted's reflections are contrasted with Horwitz's and together their perspectives provide a mesmerizing examination of the American landscape in all its permutations, physical and philosophical. Horwitz is a wonderful guide and storyteller. This is one of his best. – Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, $30

Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee, Casey Cep
In 1977 Alabama, Reverend Willie Maxwell was shot dead while attending his foster daughter’s funeral, the fifth suspicious death in the Reverend’s family in eight years. Stranger still, the Reverend held (and collected) multiple insurance policies on each family member, and though he had been tried for a few of the deaths, he had been acquitted each time. His vigilante killer, Robert Burns, an uncle of the foster daughter, confessed to the crime immediately, but was acquitted in a sensational trial. After selling To Kill A Mockingbird, renowned American author Harper Lee latched on to this story, using it as an opportunity to hone the reporting skills she had practiced while working with her friend Truman Capote on his bestselling In Cold Blood. She sought to tell the tale with a fierce fidelity to truth, but facts in this case were in short supply, and myths about the Reverend seemed to abound and obscure the details of what might or might not have actually happened. While reporting on the publication of Go Set a Watchman in 2015, New Yorker writer Cep found a more interesting story in the unfinished book Lee had been working on for decades. In a stunning work of literary history, debut author Cep sifts through memory, recollection, and primary sources to tell us the thrilling tale of a strange and unsettling legal case, one that also sheds light on one of America’s most famous and elusive authors. – Rachel Haisley, Knopf, $26.95

The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777, Rick Atkinson
Eminent historian Atkinson turns his attention to the American Revolution in this, the first in a three-volume history, introducing the characters and situations that ultimately led to outright rebellion. That a rag-tag militia successfully confronted a rigidly organized British army is stirring and revelatory. Atkinson’s detailed history introduces the amazingly diverse characters who lived and fought during this period from King George III to Benjamin Franklin to George Washington to a cast of misfits and geniuses who guided the struggle for independence. A fascinating tale brilliantly told. – Barbara Hoagland, Holt, $40

A Good American Family: The Red Scare and My Father, David Maraniss
Pulitzer Prize-winning author Maraniss movingly recounts what is at least in part a family story of the period in the early 1950s when the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) held hearings in which citizens were denounced as un-American for their political activities. Maraniss’ father was one of those forced to appear before the committee. He lost his job and was blacklisted for five years, causing enormous damage to his family. This very personal tale is only one of the many tragedies of that time. Maraniss weaves a vivid picture of fear run amok during a period of political dysfunction, all the while evoking a potent warning that such mass hysteria could happen again. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, $28

Underland: A Deep Time Journey, Robert Macfarlane
This sequel to The Old Ways is an epic, global exploration of our relationship with darkness, burial and what lies beneath the surface of both mind and place, taking us through deep, geologic time, into the present, and on into the future. We travel with him from Arctic sea caves to the catacombs of Paris to the northeast border of Italy and Slovenia, exploring deep recesses that have been inhabited off and on for eons. One of the most compelling sections in Underland is Macfarlane’s exploration of the network beneath the earth’s surface and the ways trees communicate with the help of common fungi—a factual example of “forest wisdom.” From the life-affirming influence of trees to the deep hiding places where nuclear waste will be stored for thousands of years, Macfarlane explores our fascination with, and dread of, that which exists out of our sight. This book will absolutely change the way you look at the world—and the way you interact with it. – Jan Sloan, Norton, $27.95

The Map of Knowledge: A Thousand-Year History of How Classical Ideas Were Lost and Found, Violet Moller
Moller’s subtitle ably sums up an expansive book which tracks the core texts of Euclid, Ptolemy and Galen as they make their way from the library of Alexandria through major centers of learning from Baghdad to Cordoba, Toledo, Salerno, Palermo, and finally to 15th century Venice in its prime of book printing. Stemming from what she had come to understand as a gnawing gap in her education, Moller seeks to document the critical influence of the medieval Arab world on European culture, exploring those cities where free thought was treasured and examining how the knowledge of the Arab world and of the ancient Greeks was not only saved, but allowed to flouri-
ish. Scholars in each of these cities shared classical ideas and thus gave the modern world access to vast vaults of accumulated wisdom. Møller’s project and her easy prose vastly expand the reader’s view of today’s world of knowledge. – Michelle Macfarlane and Barbara Hoagland, Doubleday, $30

**The Buried: an Archaeology of the Egyptian Revolution**, Peter Hessler

Bringing the same intelligence and eloquence to Egypt with which he wrote about China, Hessler describes moving to Cairo with his wife and twin daughters in 2011, just as the Arab Spring was gaining strength. The original plan was that he and his wife would learn Arabic, explore the neighborhoods of Cairo, and research the history and the archaeological digs of Egypt. The resulting portrait of this country and its people is told through Hessler’s contacts, ranging from his gay translator to Sayyid, the man who collects the garbage for the building in which the Hesslers live. During his travels south into the area of “the buried” (the archaeological digs), Hessler runs into Chinese immigrants selling lingerie to the women of the conservative villages in the area. Their interactions are enlightening, revealing the varying ways the different cultures interpret their environment. Hessler draws connections between contemporary politics and the ancient past in a story told with compassion and humanity in this must-read for anyone wishing to truly understand the recent revolution. – Jan Sloan, Penguin, $28

**Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis**, Jared Diamond

This far-ranging and insightful book by the author of *Guns, Germs and Steel* looks at seven nations and how each faced and solved a national crisis—Finland, Japan, Germany, Indonesia, Australia, Chile and the United States. Diamond offers a formula for analyzing these crises and the actions taken to resolve them. He then takes us on an interesting country-by-country tour, viewed through a bi-psycho-social prism, which leaves us with a unique understanding of each, along with a roadmap to their, and the world’s, future. – Patrick Fleming, Little, Brown, $35

**Grinnell, John Taliaferro**

George Bird Grinnell was born into a well-established New York family in 1849. During his long and distinguished life, he became the foremost proponent for the protection of vast sections of the American West. In so doing, he crossed paths with the major figures of his time and was instrumental in the creation of the Audubon Society and the Boone and Crockett Club as well as being an early advocate of what we now know as environmentalism. Taliaferro, who had access to over 40,000 pages of correspondence and notebooks, aptly conveys the importance of this fascinating and important figure in saving and preserving vast tracts of the west. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, $35


Thousands of Chinese laborers came from southern China to California to work for the Central Pacific Railroad Company in the 1860s. Many were killed by the harsh climate of the Sierras and the very dangerous job they did painstakingly cutting through rock. Some returned home after their work was done (they had a strong cultural belief that they should be buried with their ancestors in order for their spirit to rise) and some stayed on, using their skills to build other railroads or to work in the gold mines of the West. The history of who these men were and how they survived while maintaining their own cultural traditions amidst prejudice and unfair treatment (they were 90% of the workforce and were paid a lower wage than the other 10%, who were white), as well as the history of the strike which lasted for a week in the summer of 1867, fills a critical gap in our own Utah history as the 150th anniversary of the CPRR and the UP meeting at Promontory Point is being commemorated. Western history buffs will enjoy this read. – Deon Hilger, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $28

**Black Death at the Golden Gate**, David K. Randall

At the turn of the 19th century San Francisco was a city that had grown exponentially after the discovery of gold at Sutter’s Mill. Unfortunately, it had grown at such a rapid pace that sanitation had taken a back seat to expansion. When a Chinese immigrant died from what appeared to be bubonic plague, the powers that be settled into denial, ignorance and racial profiling. The disease spread but the city’s government blamed the Chinese community and went about setting up a quarantine of Chinatown. Thanks to this cover-up, the transmission of the disease continued unabated until the federal government finally intervened with a massive effort to discover its locus. Through the work of federal health officers, it was at last understood that fleas infecting rats were the culprits. The 1906 earthquake accelerated a second massive outbreak of the disease, which was only contained after a concentrated effort to eradicate rats. The story of how San Francisco was saved from an epidemic of bubonic plague reads like a thriller even more electrifying because it really happened. – Barbara Hoagland, Norton, $26.95

**The Volunteer**, Jack Fairweather

To uncover the fate of thousands interned at a mysterious Nazi camp, a young Polish resistance fighter, Witold Pilecki, volunteered for an audacious mission: to intentionally get captured and transported to the new camp in order to report back on what was happening. The
name of the camp was Auschwitz. Over the next two-and-a-half years Witold forged an army within the camp to sabotage facilities, assassinate Nazi informants and officers and smuggle out evidence of terrifying abuse and mass murder. This account was completely erased from the historical record by Poland’s Communist government, and the story has remained almost unknown to the world, until now. Fairweather has provided fabulous maps and photos to complement his deep research into this unknown hero. A must for World War II history readers.

– Sue Fleming, Custom House, $28.99

Sea Stories: My Life in Special Operations, William McRaven
A terrific book by one of our nation’s most thoughtful and decorated military leaders, 4 Star Admiral William H. McRaven, navy SEAL, now retired. He may have seemed an almost “Forrest Gump” type but was in fact involved in almost all of our nation’s special operations since before 9/11. Employing a breezy style which makes this a pleasure to read, McRaven retells, from the inside, stories from the past 30 years that you may remember from media coverage. A thoughtful warrior, McRaven gives us a snapshot of the highest military thinking, based on a core belief in civilian control of the military and its actions. After reading this great book, I came away with a reaffirmation that our military leaders are exceptional Americans. I am sure you will too. – Patrick Fleming, Grand Central, $30

Four Hours of Fury, James M. Fenelon
One of the least-written-about campaigns of the Second World War, Operation Plunder began on March 24, 1945. The coordinated crossing of the Rhine River by both Infantry and airborne troops, Plunder involved soldiers from the United States, Britain and Canada. The airborne component of the assault was known as Operation Varsity and consisted of the U.S. 17th Airborne Division and the British 6th Airborne. It was the largest aerial assault in their history, dropping 16,000 soldiers on a single objective in a single day. Fenelon, in his first major historical work, uses official documents, oral histories and first-person interviews to write a comprehensive and thrilling book which documents the planning, execution and mistakes of both the Allies and the German defenders. The airborne assault lasted four hours but the ultimate battle took place over four days and culminated in an Allied victory. It was Operation Plunder that paved the way for a final push into Germany and, several weeks later, the meeting with the Russians on the Elbe River that ended the European war.

– Jack Mark, Scribner, $30

Normandy ’44, James Holland
Just in time for the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion of Nazi Europe, this has got to be the definitive book on the re-taking of France from Hitler. Maps galore and insights into well-known personalities like Montgomery and Eisenhower are detailed alongside vignettes of other less well-known characters like the meteorology staff who correctly predicted a one-day break in the gale force weather that allowed for Eisenhower to say: “Let’s Go.” A comprehensive review of the Allied invasion and the first 70 days of the campaign which led to the end of WWII in Europe 11 months later, this is a very readable book, a must for historians or anyone interested in this pivotal chapter in world history. – Patrick Fleming, Atlantic Monthly, $35

The Guarded Gate: Bigotry, Eugenics and the Law That Kept Two Generations of Jews, Italians, and Other European Immigrants Out, Daniel Okrent
Late in the 19th century, the so-called science of eugenics made its debut. An offshoot of Darwinism, it became popular with a range of individuals as diverse as Calvin Coolidge and Margaret Sanger. The widespread belief that some nationalities were intrinsically inferior gave rise to the harshest immigration laws in American history. Okrent introduces the large cast of characters who made up the bulk of the adherents to this abhorrent philosophy—some genuine eccentrics and some just plain evil. How the science of heredity could be so twisted is elucidated clearly by Okrent, as is the connection between the eugenics movement in the United States and the rise of Nazism.

– Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, $32

The Way Home: Tales from a Life Without Technology, Mark Boyle
Have you ever wanted a simpler life? To eschew all the modern conveniences like computers, the internet, electricity, and fast food for a hand-built cabin on a small-holding in Galway, Ireland? This is what Boyle chooses to do, and here he chronicles the first year of his new way of living. It’s an existence of blood and sweat, and a rediscovery of the natural world we seem hell-bent on destroying in a book that is equal parts modern-day Walden, canary-in-the-coal-mine, and a curated reading list. – Paula Longhurst, OneWorld, $24.95
Nonfiction

Rough Magic: Riding the World’s Longest Horse Race, Lara Prior-Palmer

The Mongol Derby is the longest endurance horse race in the world—1,000 kilometers across the wide-open spaces of Mongolia. Racers from around the world train for years to participate. So when a 19-year-old British woman with little training decides, almost on the spur of the moment, to join the race, her chances of completing even a portion of the grueling event seem remote. Although Prior-Palmer had grown up around horses, she entered the race with little preparation. Her thrilling story of not only completing the event but also becoming its first female champion is historic, filled with luminous descriptions of the glories of the Mongolian steppes, and tells vivid tales of the punishing realities of 1,000 kilometers on horseback. The language is as lyrical as the unique voice she brings to this white-knuckle adventure story. – Barbara Hoagland, Catapult, $25

Once More We Saw Stars, Jayson Greene

In a freak accident, Greene’s 2-year-old daughter was killed and, in a fraction of a second, his life and world were upended. This memoir portrays the agony of his loss and how Greene and his wife slowly faced a future without their beloved daughter. In the initial days after the accident, their grief was absolute. But gradually they found a way forward in this story of unfathomable anguish followed by the illuminating and beautifully revealed understanding that there could still be beauty and purpose in life. This is a heartbreaking and uplifting memoir. – Barbara Hoagland, Knopf, $25

Naturally Tan, Tan France

If you love “Queer Eye,” you’ll love this memoir by style guru Tan France. With the same candor, humor, and heart he brings to the show, Tan discusses the racism he faced growing up in England as a Pakistani immigrant, coming out to his family at age 34 and finding personal acceptance, and falling for a Mormon cowboy from Utah. This book was an absolute joy to read. It will tide you over until the next season of “Queer Eye” drops on Netflix. – Mackenzi Lee, St. Martin’s, $27.99

Searching for Sylvie Lee, Jean Kwok

The immigrant experience transcends boundaries as one Chinese family finds itself experiencing internal conflicts and external alienation in both New York City and the Netherlands. Sylvie is a hard-working Chinese woman who succeeds in the business world even as her private life falls apart. Time with her extended family in the Netherlands is not happy, yet she wishes to be there with her dying grandmother. When her mother and father in New York City stop hearing from her, her sister Amy goes in search of her, only to discover complications within the family and divisions which need to be faced. The story, told through the voices of Sylvie’s mother, Amy’s questions, and Sylvie’s discoveries, leaves the reader with a picture of the importance of family and community. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, $26.99

Stay Sexy and Don’t Get Murdered, Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark

Kilgariff and Hardstark bring the same honesty, humor, and radical vulnerability to their memoir that they do to each episode of their hit podcast, “My Favorite Murder.” This book is equal parts hanging out with your best friends dishing about life, and listening in awe to two incredible storytellers who recount not only some of the darkest events in history but also some of the dark struggles they’ve overcome in their own lives. True crime tales interspersed with the authors’ misadventures make for an empowering and riveting read. SSDGM, murderers! – Mackenzi Lee, Forge, $24.99

Mystery/Thriller

Big Sky, Kate Atkinson

Jackson Brodie, against type, is living in a seaside cottage with his teenage son Nathan with whom he is trying to forge a better relationship. His latest case, investigating an unfaithful spouse whose peccadillos Brodie’s client can’t seem to get enough of, is dead boring. And Julia, his ex-lover and Nathan’s mother, is alternately irritating and hurtful. But after he saves a potential suicide from leaping off a cliff, salving his self-image in the process, Brodie perks up. It’s a good thing, too, because things heat up dramatically as he becomes embroiled in the lives of three golfing buddies, all members of a club that once housed famous (or rather infamous) pedophiles. The trio’s present-day activities won’t stand up for long to the scrutiny that is Jackson Brodie’s stock-in-trade in this fifth in a series that is as witty, surprising and chaotic as real life. – Betsy Burton, Little, Brown, $28

The Body Lies, Jo Baker

Traumatized and forever haunted by a violent assault, a young woman moves away from her husband in London to become a university teacher in a remote English village. Isolated, she feels comfortable...
and safe, but her creative writing students submit stories which confront her with violence and death. Some of these submissions form part of the narrative of this novel as, in classroom sessions, the students respond to one another’s work in insightful ways, questioning what is truth and what is fiction. Living alone with her 3-year-old son, inundated with too many classes, too much administrative work, too little time for her own writing, this teacher begins to recognize herself as a character in the edgy, dark novel of one of her students who has become obsessed with her. How this plays out is the focus of a compelling narrative as the woman’s roles of wife, mother, teacher, and sexual predatory object converge to threaten her very existence. Those interested in trying their hands at writing or in teaching creative writing may find this novel of particular interest. — Carol Kranes, Knopf, $25.95

Confessions of Frannie Langton, Sara Collins
We first meet Frannie Langton, a Jamaican slave accused of murdering her employers, while she is in prison awaiting trial, though she does not seem to know what happened or how she came to be covered in blood on that fateful night. What Frannie can tell us is her story, from her childhood on a Jamaican plantation to her apprenticeship to an unethical scientist to the events that brought her to London and into a passionate and forbidden love affair. Partbildungsroman, part love story, and part crime novel, this terrifically paced gothic thriller is a keen analysis of race, class, and oppression told in a brilliant voice, a beautifully written debut novel perfect for fans of Sarah Perry, Emma Donoghue, and Margaret Atwood. — Rachel Haisley, Harper, $26.99

Conviction, Denise Mina
Glaswegian Mina, best known for her noir Garnet Hill trilogy, has created an unforgettable character in Anna McLean, whose name, it turns out, is an alias, and who is far from the unhappily married well-to-do Edinburgh housewife she appears to be. Anna has a past she’s kept successfully buried for years—until the day her husband leaves her for her best friend, taking their two little girls and inadvertently exposing her to sudden publicity. Almost instantly her past catches up with her and, accompanied by her best friend’s wronged husband, an anorexic and hypersensitive has-been rock star to whom social media is second nature, she sets out on a journey to disinter the long-buried truth. Informed by a blog exposing a crime that may connect to her own past and spurred on by growing terror, the two run for their lives in a hyperactive thriller that uncovers truth, unlayers character and in the end forces Anna to face herself. A wonderful read, resonant characters and themes, and one of the most memorable last lines I’ve ever read. But no peeking! — Betsy Burton, Mulholland, $27

The Last House Guest, Megan Miranda
Avery Greer’s parents’ death in a car wreck left her broken and feral; Sadie Loman saved her. Avery, a Littleport, Maine, native and Sadie, pampered but smart and rich, are more like sisters than best friends. The Lomans own most of the rentals in this quaint seaside town and Avery manages those properties for them. But Sadie’s apparent suicide drives a wedge between the Lomans and the locals, and a year later, as a memorial for Sadie looms, Avery stumbles across a dark secret about her hometown—one that may have gotten her best friend murdered. — Paula Longhurst, Simon & Schuster, $26

Joe Country, Mick Herron
If your thing is witty thrillers and you haven’t read Slow Horses, first in the series peopled by the denizens of that home for failed spies, Slough House, do so at once. If you have, I can think of no more enjoyable way to escape the doldrums of summer than Herron’s latest. Louisa’s taken some vacation time to search for the missing son of a dead lover, the most recent inhabitant of Slough House is trying to prove the kiddie porn on his computer is a plant, River Cartwright is busy tracking his slippery and beyond-dangerous father, while Jackson Lamb, flatulent, alcohol-soaked, supine, is driven upright by a series of lethal attacks on his charges. By turns hilarious and moving, cynical and gut-wrenching, Joe Country combines the sly irony of Waugh and the introspective tone of le Carré in another riveting and ingenious thriller. Herron is fast becoming the current master of the genre. — Betsy Burton, Soho, $26.95

The Body in the Castle Well, Martin Walker
Bruno, chief of police, is not simply a policeman. He may serve fine wines and gourmet dishes at his dinner parties in his off time, but he is the heart and soul of his community and understands its strengths and weaknesses. When a young American art historian is found dead at the bottom of a well, Burno’s investigation takes him into the art world and to memories of the French resistance in WWII. The victim had been studying with M.de Bourdeille, an art historian and injured resistance fighter whose fortune came from selling a collection whose attribution may be dicey. Add to this mix her powerful father, an ex-convict-turned-falconer, and a concert...
celebrating the famous jazz singer Josephine Baker, and you have a complicated plot complete with the landscape and the cuisine of St. Denis. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Pegasus Crime, $25.95

Disappearing Earth, Julia Phillips
Set in a place most readers will have to look up, Kamchatka, a remote peninsula in northeastern Russia, the story feels both foreign and recognizable. Turns out being a woman is never easy: Not anywhere. When two little girls are abducted, every mother’s worst nightmare, the event ripples through communities that don’t even know about it. Mothers, sisters, girlfriends all have to deal with the same issues, many unthinkable, that plague women everywhere. Multi-layered, complex, fascinating, this combination novel and mystery pulls you in and won’t let go. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Knopf, $26.95

Magic for Liars, Sarah Gailey
Ivy Gamble has always pretended that she never wanted to have magic powers like her estranged twin sister Tabitha. Instead, Ivy has an almost-sustainable career as a private investigator, an empty apartment, and a bit of a drinking problem. When her sister’s boss, the headmaster of a prestigious school for magic, asks for Ivy’s assistance investigating a suspicious death on campus, all the lies that Ivy tells herself about her sister begin to unravel. Blending the best elements of favorite mystery writers such as Ruth Ware and Ben Aaronovitch, Gailey evokes the magic and character dynamics of Lev Grossman’s The Magicians and Tana French’s Dublin Murder Squad in this fun, fast-paced mystery. – Rachel Haisley, Tor Books, $25.99

The Assassin of Verona, Benet Brandreth
This riveting historical/literary mystery combines a brilliant use of language with the creation of a fictitious Shakespeare and his coterie of actor friends and political enemies. In this second Brandreth mystery, Shakespeare is an English spy in Catholic Venice who, with skills learned on stage, can at once charm audiences and amaze them with his swordsmanship. He and his actor friends have learned the names of Catholic spies in England and must now return home through the dark forests of Verona to defend Queen Elizabeth from assassins. The forests contain bandits and the castles contain powerful and cruel men. Various plots converge among the trees, and Shakespeare meets with one powerful young woman who might well become part of an upcoming series. The Shakespearean language reflects the author’s role as the rhetoric coach to the Royal Shakespeare Company. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Pegasus Crime, $25.95

If She Wakes, Michael Koryta
It starts with a distracted driver who plows into two people, killing one and putting Hammel College student Tara Beckley into a coma. Abby Kaplan, the insurance investigator sent to assess the scene, is convinced the accident was staged—something she should know since she has been a professional stunt driver. Tara, locked inside her own body, can see and hear what’s going on in her hospital room, and she knows that she and her family are in danger from a baby-faced assassin who has already left a trail of bodies. – Paula Longhurst, Little, Brown, $27

Whisper Network, Chandler Baker
A heart attack in the shower means that the position of CEO at Truviv just fell open, and Ames Garrett is poised to take the top spot. Ames is a ‘good guy,’ a ‘family man’ but to the women at Truviv he’s someone you warn other women about—in whispers of course. Lawyers Ardie, Sloan and Grace have all felt his stifling influence on their careers. And Ardie’s friend, the building’s custodian Rosalita, well, she’s seen things she wishes she hadn’t. When Ames sets his sights on Katherine, a new young Truviv associate, the women decide that enough is enough. But the events they set in motion could destroy their careers, their credibility, and their lives. Will they whisper or shout? – Paula Longhurst, Flatiron, $26.99

The Satapur Moonstone, Sujata Massey
This second in the Massey mystery series is as good as the first. As the only woman lawyer in Bombay in 1922, Perveen Mistry, Esq. has been recruited by the state to go to Satapur in the Sahyadri mountains in order to resolve a dispute between the widow and the mother of the last ruling maharaja. She is the perfect liaison between women in purdah in a remote palace controlled by servants and relatives who have secret grievances and evil intentions. The landscape in the book is vivid and the characters well developed—plus, it puts modern-day religious and political dilemmas into perspective. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, $26.95

Paper Sons, S.J. Rozan
Although she knows no one there, Chinatown PI Lydia Chin has preconceived ideas about the Mississippi Delta. Her latest client is her mother (which means this job has no payday) who wants her to clear the name of Jefferson Tam, a cousin Lydia has never met. Fresh from a family history lesson, and with partner Bill in tow, she heads for the delta where she finds cousins galore—one of them running
for office. This pair of ‘Yankees’ from the big city start stirring up trouble as soon as they drive into town. And how on earth is Lydia supposed to clear a man who has just that morning engineered his escape from jail? – Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, $25.95

Westside, W.M. Akers
She may be small, and she may specialize in “tiny” mysteries, but Gilda Carr has a way of getting into big trouble. She lives on the Westside in a violent, fantasy Manhattan. As she goes in search of a white leather glove for an eastside matron, the story develops amid a complicated hodge-podge of characters and locations. Akers does a fine job of choreographing the escapades of Gilda and the world of bootleggers, smugglers and crime bosses and, in the process, she creates a vivid image of a surreal Manhattan. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Harper Voyager, $22.99

The Never Game, Jeffery Deaver
“Anything you can do to find Fee, please!” Frank Mulliner’s daughter Sophie has gone missing, the cops have tagged her as a runaway, and Frank is offering a $10,000 reward for her safe return. Enter Colter Shaw, tracker son of a reclusive survivalist family. Soon Colter’s knee-deep in trigger-happy gamers, Silicon Valley tech titans, and cops who think he might’ve kidnapped Sophie himself. Colter realizes that someone is bringing the video game ‘Whispering Man’ to life: there are 10 levels in that game, and Sophie Mulliner was only level one... – Paula Longhurst, Putnam, $28

The Paris Diversion, Chris Pavone
Kate Moore, whose marriage is hardly based on trust, is trying to manage her family and the small group of spies that make up a division she directs in Paris while, unbeknownst to her, husband Dexter is engaged in a high-wire piece of financial skullduggery, a terrorist plot is hatching at the Louvre, and corporate shenanigans are about to impact the stock market in head-spinning ways. The fate of the characters involved hangs by a thread in the 12 hours in which Pavone’s latest thriller, fourth in his ex-pat series, takes place. – Betsy Burton, Crown, $27
FiCtIoN

The Overstory, Richard Powers
Reading Powers’ novel, new in paper, is a bit like reading the Bible—it’s voluminous, lyrical, passionate, compelling, chockfull of fascinating characters, of tales that span years and continents, and beneath its overarching, endlessly compelling story lies one central truth: in this case, the truth of trees. Unlike the Bible, The Overstory is grounded in science as intriguing as the tales it tells, as fascinating as the cast of characters who trek the forests and track the pathways of the internet. Powers pulls us into. A research scientist, two voracious readers, an artist, an engineer, a statistician, a techie to the nth degree, trees of every imaginable variety, all interact across species and interests and inclination in a breathtaking book that enchants you, angers you, takes away your hope, gives it back… The ride of a lifetime. The ride of our collective lifetime. Our overstory. Do not miss it. Give a copy to everyone you know. Spread the word. This is a life-changing book. – Betsy Burton, Norton, 18.95

The Mars Room, Rachel Kushner
Romy Hall is at the beginning of serving two consecutive life sentences; she doesn’t really have any plans for her life, nor does she have any regrets. Her mother is on the outside, looking after Romy’s young son, while Romy sits in prison, merely surviving in this industrialized world of posturing, pageantry and violence. The Mars Room, Kushner’s most recent installment in an incredible body of work, follows the lives of a handful of vibrant, vivid characters in prison—reminiscent of Piper Kerman’s Orange Is the New Black, but with a grittier cast of characters and much stronger writing. Kushner is a master of her craft: her characters are luminous and unforgettable, but also deeply flawed and utterly human. – Rachel Haisley, Scribner, $17

Warlight, Michael Ondaatje
The aftermath of World War II shed a lurid glow across the world long after the last bombs were dropped in 1945. In London the lives of two children, Nathaniel and Rachel, were caught in that eerie glow when their mother disappeared, leaving them in the care of “The Moth,” a stranger they’d met once. Still attending school in the day, the pair entered a strange new world in the evenings, their home a sort of night circus with The Moth its impresario, his sidekick “The Darter” ever-present, and a menagerie of mismatched urban dwellers from beekeepers to opera stars, dog smugglers to ethnographers to spies. From the laundry room in the bowels of the Hotel Criterion in Piccadilly Circus to the vacant London houses Nathaniel invaded with his first love Agnes to night journeys with Rachel and The Darter in mussel boats on the Thames, life became a moonlit kaleidoscope of lurid and larger-than-life people and experiences. Their naiveté in the often magical and as often nightmarish parent-free world they were learning to inhabit is the stuff of this brilliant novel—along with the aftermath of their abandonment as they come of age and enter adulthood. As breathlessly told as The English Patient, and as profound, as poignant as The Cat’s Table, and as haunting, Warlight surpasses both in the light it sheds on our aloneness, on our unadmitted needfulness, on the ways war can warp our lives, and on what we try so hard to bury in the darkness of unacknowledged memory. Brilliant doesn’t begin to describe it. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, $16.95

There, There, Tommy Orange
Hilarity, tragedy, wit, irony, beauty, pain, violence, humor: the stew of life that is lived by urban Indians on the streets of our cities and the classrooms of our schools. Orange strings characters together with exuberant virtuosity, shining light on their affections, their addictions, their loyalties—even if misplaced—their sorrows, their sacred rites, their rage, their hopes (too often ill-fated) as they slowly gather for the Oakland Pow Wow around which, one way and another, those hopes cluster. We fret and stew with them, fantasize with them, shrink with fear for them until we think our hearts will break as this extraordinary new talent takes us into their heads and their hearts, giving voice to their inner worlds, vivid substance to the urban world that is their home, too often a place not of community but of alienation. Sometimes voices make us listen, help us see past our own need to ignore, deny. This one certainly does, and it’s past time it happened. – Betsy Burton, Vintage, $16

The Only Story, Julian Barnes
Barnes (Sense of an Ending) has written a story about mourning, about memory, and ultimately about love. The narrator, Paul, is remembering and telling the story of his first love as a young man, an affair with an older woman that set his life on a path of highs and lows, due to a devotion that lasted decades. But as Paul reminisces, that initial burst of unrelenting passion evolves into a different story, one involving a woman’s life that is full of other people—an abusive husband, daughters, therapists—none of which fit easily into the initial explosion of desire. Paul’s parents loom large in the tale because of his youth, and as reality intrudes and his innocence is eroded, Paul is left ruminating on the power of love, literally for the rest of his life. If your book group had a memorable discussion about On Chesil Beach, you should put The Only Story on your reading list. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Vintage, $16
The Feather Thief, Kirk Wallace Johnson

Exotic birds were quickly (some completely) eradicated for their lucrative skins and feathers during the 1700s and 1800s because of the demand for decorations to adorn the hats of ladies and gentlemen. Now, long after regulations and protective societies have been organized to protect these beautiful birds, the internet has opened a way for the illegal sale of the same feathers—for tying flies for fishermen. These gorgeous feathers are worth staggering amounts of money. As the author was relaxing on a fishing trip, his guide began to tell him the tale of a young man obsessed with fly-tying, who in 2009 broke into a British museum and stole hundreds of thousands of birds’ skins and feathers. Johnson then set out to discover what had happened to this young man and to study his—and humankind’s—destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature. – Sue Fleming, Penguin, $17

Atlas of a Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America, Craig Childs

Fierce and fearless environmentalist Childs leaves the Southwest of some of his best-known works (Finders Keepers, Soul of Nowhere) and investigates the ancient land bridge between Asia and North America, reporting some startling findings. Yes, some of the First People did cross the land bridge thousands of years ago but that wasn’t the only way they came over. One of the things we love about Childs is that he totally immerses himself in whatever topic he writes about, whether it’s the stealing of ancient artifacts or figuring out how to walk across the desert in search of water without getting scorched. In this new travelogue, Childs begins at the beginning—over 25,000 years ago—and traces our ancestors’ journey to the present day. Prepare to be wowed! – Anne Holman, Vintage, $17

Tip of the Iceberg: My 3,000-Mile Journey around Wild Alaska, the Last Great American Frontier, Mark Adams

From the best-selling author of Turn Right at Machu Picchu comes a definitive account that follows the explorations of John Muir, Edward H. Harriman, Edward Curtis and others in 1899 into the Alaska Territory. Adams retraces their expedition in a 3,000-mile journey beginning with Ketchikan in the Alexander Archipelago, continuing through Glacier Bay and Juneau, up into the Wrangell Mountains

Clock Dance, Anne Tyler

Willa Drake is that certain woman who watches her life unfold in front of her, seemingly unable to effect change. She’s the kind of character Tyler does best; we love Willa, even as we yell at her to choose a different path, stand up for herself, get off the plane! She’s of my mother’s generation; be kind, be quiet, and so aptly drawn by Tyler it feels like I’m sitting in my old living room again watching my mom watch my dad read the newspaper. – Anne Holman, Vintage, $16.95

The House of Broken Angels, Luis Alberto Urrea

Big Angel is dying of cancer. He’s 71 and has planned his upcoming birthday as a celebration and a farewell; when his mother dies, he hastens her funeral to create a sort of double header, her funeral, followed immediately by his birthday—which could turn into his funeral at any moment—back-to-back on two successive days. What follows is pure chaos, joyful one minute, heartbreaking the next, then laugh-out-loud funny or wracked with high drama or drenched with sex, or with affection or all of the above, sometimes simultaneously. Big Angel transports himself along halls and in and out of rooms in real time and wanders across borders and years in past time, revisiting scenes emblazoned in memory, creating new ones in the present accompanied by his wife, his children, his siblings (especially Little Angel) in a blissfully good novel that is at once mythic and utterly, compellingly human. – Betsy Burton, Back Bay, $16.99

Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man’s First Journey to the Moon, Robert Kurson

It is 1968, Americans are challenging the Soviets for supremacy in space, and the race is neck and neck. The United States is trying to live up to the vision of John F. Kennedy in which America will land on the moon before the end of the 1960s. The Apollo Program is designed to go to the moon in a series of 11 missions starting in 1967, with Apollo 1 scheduled for liftoff in late February of that year. Tragedy strikes and the three-man crew is killed in a launch pad fire. The nation (still raw from the Kennedy assassination) questions the moon mission; meanwhile the Soviets are ready for their own manned moon flight. But a series of Apollo missions takes place led by an extraordinary group of American astronauts who, despite immense danger, push NASA to follow Kennedy’s vision. Apollo 2 and 3 are canceled and then unmanned; Apollo 4, 5, and 6 are flawed by technical issues; manned Apollo 7 makes it into Earth orbit to test lunar components; and in late 1968 (the chapter recapping 1968 alone made this book worth reading), NASA decides to take a daring chance and take Apollo 8 to the moon, to remain in lunar orbit for three days during the Christmas holiday before returning to earth. This is an excellent re-telling of that momentous mission, and of the people (including the families) involved with Apollo 8. – Patrick Fleming, Random House Trade Paper, $18
to Anchorage and Fairbanks, out to the Alaska Peninsula, on to Nome, and lastly, to Shishmaref, one of the towns voting to relocate because they will soon be consumed by the ever-encroaching sea. Glaciers, bears, native peoples, the economy, natural disasters, global warming and history. It's all there, wonderfully proportioned. I loved this book and highly recommend it to any reader who enjoys a well-written travelogue, those curious about our 49th state, and those who plan to visit.
– Sue Fleming, Dutton, $16

The Flying Tigers: The Untold Story of the American Pilots Who Waged a Secret War Against Japan, Sam Kleiner

In the late 1930s, a rag-tag group of young Americans volunteered to fight the Japanese for China. Led by charismatic Claire Chennault, these pilots flew dangerous missions over China, Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam in their B-40 airplanes. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, their exploits kept a rattled America from despair. Kleiner tells the dramatic story of the covert operations flown by these heroic young Americans and reveals the people behind the legend of the Flying Tigers. – Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, $17

Editor's note: not just a great read but a great Father's Day gift!

How to Change Your Mind, Michael Pollan

Michael Pollan's newest work ventures into the deeply interesting if slightly taboo world of hallucinogens and psychedelics. How to Change Your Mind is a charming narrative adventure into the intersection of humans and the natural world, discussing not only mind-altering psychedelics but also our perceptions about consciousness, humanity and emotion. Pollan's gift as a narrator (he sounds like an old friend sitting across the kitchen table) makes reading his latest work not only fascinating but also pure pleasure.
– Rachel Haisley, Penguin Press, $18
aquarium. When one of their own (the most odious) is nearly killed and they try to protect an MP who’s in danger, things quickly go from bad to worse—as is usual for the denizens of England’s most under-appreciated (sometimes for good reason) house of spies. Herron’s wry sensibility and dead eye for the greed, ambition, and self-importance that rule Britannia are on full display in his sixth of the Slough House series. Read it and weep—while you’re laughing yourself silly.
– Betsy Burton, Soho, $15.95

**Blood Standard**, Laird Barron
Isiah, a Maorian mobster banished from Alaska who winds up in upstate New York, is a man with not just an odd background but a peculiar sense of morality as well. Not in the least bit squeamish when assigned to assassinate someone, he draws the line at exterminating a herd of walruses—the reason he’s been exiled. When a teenage girl is kidnapped, his sensibilities are equally offended and, when offended, Isiah is formidable. He’s also quick-witted, fast-talking and funny, a sort of Sam Spade, at least in his own mind, who may just offer the best new possibility for the budding crime series of the decade. Loved every page.
– Betsy Burton, Putnam, $9.99

**Greeks Bearing Gifts**, Philip Kerr
It’s 1957, and Adenauer is Chancellor of a Germany in the beginning stages of post-WWII recovery. Ex-Berlin police detective Bernie Gunther, who’s been washing bodies in a Munich morgue hoping to avoid recognition, is suddenly promoted to insurance investigator and consequently finds himself in Greece. The claimant he is sent to interview is promptly murdered, and Gunther must yet again deal with Nazis and his own dark history as he pursues a killer wanted by the Greek Police for war crimes. An eerily apt finale to Kerr’s extraordinary creation—the unforgettable antihero Bernie Gunther.  – Betsy Burton, Putnam, $16

**The Death of Mrs. Westaway**, Ruth Ware
Life hasn’t been kind to Hal Westaway; her mother died when Hal turned 18, she now runs a tarot card reading booth down on Brighton Pier and is in debt up to her eyeballs. When a letter arrives from a Cornish solicitor naming Hal as a beneficiary in a substantial bequest, she realizes very quickly that the letter was sent to the wrong person. But she’s desperate enough to employ her cold reading skills in an attempt to claim the money. She may soon regret that decision, for old Mrs. Westaway lived in a house full of secrets, some of them shameful and some of them deadly.
– Paula Longhurst, Scout, $16.99

---

**WHAT OUR BOOK CLUBS ARE READING NOW**
All are open to the public and meet at the bookshop unless otherwise noted.

**ARMCHAIR TRAVEL MYSTERY**
3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *The Reaper*, Peter Lovesey
July: *Heart of Barkness*, Spencer Quinn
August: *The Education of Justice*, Friedrich Duerrenmatt

**BRIAN SHORT**
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson
July: *The Witch of Lime Street*, David Jaher

**SECOND MONDAY**
2nd Monday of the month; 7 p.m., $5
June: *Little Fires Everywhere*, Celeste Ng
July: *The Secret Token*, Andrew Lawler
August: *Summer Break*

**ROZ READS!**
Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
See www.rozreads.com for details.
$10 per evening paid to Roz
June: *Summer Break*
July: *Women Talking*, Miriam Toews
August: *Augustown*, Kei Miller

**SLC LESBIAN**
1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at the Anderson-Foothill Library
June: *Heart Berries: A Memoir*, Terese Marie Mailhot
July: *When Katie Met Cassidy*, Camille Perri

**YA & WINE**
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
June: *Lovely War*, Julie Berry
July: *Sadie*, Courtney Summers
August: *Trickster’s Choice*, Tamora Pierce

---
Chances Are..., Richard Russo

If there were doubts in anyone’s mind that Richard Russo is one of America’s greatest novelists, his latest will put those doubts to rest. Three men in their late 60s, fast friends in college—one a musician, one a book editor, one a commercial real estate developer—are meeting at the house in which they parted ways nearly 50 years before. It was from this house that, a few months after the first Vietnam lottery numbers were called (as if that event weren’t world-shaking enough), a young woman with whom all three were secretly in love disappeared. Sounds like a mystery, right? It’s certainly paced like one, and it’s true that the need to know propels the action. But the characters of all three, not to mention that of the woman they love, are at the heart of Chances Are.... As is history. Russo can tell a story like no one else. He’s as compassionate as he is funny, beyond wise, and his grasp of this country’s past is as sure as is his knowledge of its people—the ways class and war and gender can divide us, the ways we so often bridge its divides despite all, the struggles we have in common and those that separate us in ways that seem irreconcilable. Granted, I came of age during the 60s when the war in Vietnam rocked all our worlds, so perhaps I’m an easy mark, but I loved Chances Are... Truly loved it. And whatever your age, chances are you will too.
– Betsy Burton, Knopf, $26.95

Editor’s note: Marlantes will read from and discuss Deep River on Tuesday, August 6, 7 at p.m.

The Nickel Boys, Colson Whitehead

It is the early 1960s and nothing can save Elwood Curtis from the Nickel Academy. No surprise that Whitehead (Underground Railroad) is taking on another tough subject. Nickel Academy is based on the infamous Dozier School for Boys, a reform school in Florida that murdered more than 100 kids and abused more children than history will know or admit. Curtis, who has been raised by his grandmother and really kept to the straight and narrow, is planning on going to a small black college and is completely unprepared for the horrors of Nickel Academy. This academy, like the rest of those in the South, is segregated, and the treatment of the black kids is worse than vicious. Curtis tries to hang onto his hope for a future, literally in the face of evil. But this is Jim Crow America. His story is devastating, and although the fact that he somehow manages to survive the academy is somewhat hopeful, for the rest of his life he is haunted by that evil and by the complete moral failure of the so-called Nickel Academy. This powerful novel haunts me and always will. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, $27

Turbulence, David Szalay

This work of fiction opens with a pair of three-letter codes—LGW-MAD. Subsequent pairs, the reader comes to understand, represent each particular flight linking the lives of Szalay’s main characters. In the initial story, the “first flight,” an elderly woman falls sick. In the second, MAD-DSS, the man she sat next to continues home to face a tragedy. Witness to this tragedy is the pilot of flight DSS-GRU, Szalay’s third character/story. Etcetera. Neither a novel, nor a collection of short stories, Szalay’s work comes, nonetheless, to encompass a world, quite literally. Considered separately, each story is exquisitely simple and moving. Taken together they form a complex whole, gathering resonance as they accrete. An amazing book, layered, haunting, memorable. – Michelle Macfarlane and Betsy Burton, Scribner, $24

The Vexations, Caitlin Horrocks

Eric Satie composed beautiful, quiet piano pieces, often written to accompany poems. The vexations of the title refer to a two-line piece which Satie composed with the instructions that the performer should play those musical phrases 840 times. Strange? Very. As was Satie. This most remarkable novel tells the complicated story of the Satie family: Erik, brother Conrad, sister Louise, and two others who played important roles in Erik’s life—Suzeen Valadon and Philippe, a young Spanish poet who collaborated with Erik during his early years in Montmartre. Only Louise’s story is told in the first person,
giving that sad tale an intimacy and immediacy which threads throughout the novel. And we have the locations: primarily Paris during la Belle Epoque; Honfleur, where Erik and Conrad grew up; and, for Louise, Le Harve, Saint-Côme-du-Mont, Paris, Buenos Aires. Horrocks’ account of Erik Satie’s strange existence and the tragic life of his sister is fascinating; I loved The Vexations and can highly recommend it! – Deon Hilger, Little, Brown, $28 (July 30)

The Bastard Brigade: The True Story of the Renegade Scientists and Spies Who Sabotaged the Nazi Atomic Bomb, Sam Kean

World War II found the Allies and the Axis frantically trying to outdo each other in bomb-making capability. The idea of nuclear fission was in its infancy and each side had scientists working to outpace the other. Kean’s book introduces the scientists and the spies who worked on this most important mission and, in the process, tells an incredible story of the misfits and heroes who saved the world from Nazi domination while giving birth to the nuclear age in the process. Nobel Prize winners and rogue spies with their sometimes hair-brained schemes proliferate in this astonishing look at an under-examined facet of World War II. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $30

Escalante’s Dream: On the Trail of the Spanish Discovery of the Southwest, David Roberts

By the author of Alone on the Wall, which was made into the movie “Free Solo,” Roberts’ new book is an account of Escalante’s ill-fated mission to chart a new route from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to the Spanish missions in California. Roberts and his wife Sharon set out to follow, as closely as possible, Fathers Escalante and Dominguez’ route. Using Escalante’s first-person journal as a guide, they delve into an intriguing part of our Western history. The reader is also privy to Roberts’ personal journey as he faces a recurrence of his cancer. Filled with history from the perspective of current-day car camping, this is both a historical journey and a keen look at the beauty and nature found along the route. A completely gratifying read. – Jan Sloan, Norton, $26.95

This Land: How Cowboys, Capitalism and Corruption Are Ruining the American West, Christopher Ketcham

Approximately 450 million acres of the American West are managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service. Of this vast acreage, 270 million acres are allocated to open grazing. The enormous devastation to the fragile ecosystems of these acres is the core of Ketcham’s indictment of the mismanagement of our precious lands. This in-depth examination covers the history of the settlement of the West and the politics that have led to the ravaging of land supposedly managed for the American people. The analysis Ketcham provides is as vast and encompassing as the land he wants to protect. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $29 Editor’s note: Ketchum will discuss This Land Friday, July 26, 7 p.m.

The Second-Worst Restaurant in France, Alexander McCall Smith

Food writer and traveler, Paul Stuart is now in France attempting to put the finishing touches on his book, The Philosophy of Food, and to escape from his girlfriend and her two cats. A guest of his eccentric cousin Chloe in her rented house in the French countryside, he becomes an actor in the complicated lives of the restaurant owners, the land owners, the waitress and his cousin’s secret life. Any McCall Smith book will be complicated and funny even as his characters agonize over life’s great mysteries. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Pantheon, $25.95 Editor’s note: due July 16. Alexander McCall Smith due at TKE in person on Tuesday, October 29!

True Believer, Jack Carr

Once this book settles into its highly intricate, authentic story, it propels the reader along on a journey with its reluctant hero, an ex-Navy SEAL who confronts double agents, corrupt politicians, merciless killers and plots bigger than 9/11. Former Navy SEAL Carr’s second book features protagonist James Reece, a grieving widower and a domestic terrorist who is also terminally ill. Strictly under cover, Reece travels solo across the ocean to a remote, exclusive hunting camp in Mozambique where he uses his military skills to thwart poachers. There he is discovered by a SEAL friend, now working for the CIA to track down terrorist activity, who convinces Reece to assist the same government that once tried to kill him. The terrorist activity is presented to the reader in short 2-3-page chapters that seem to inter-
Black Sun, Owen Matthews
A poisoned young physicist; a tenacious KGB investigator from Moscow; testing of a bomb 3000 times more powerful than Little Boy at Hiroshima; a city in deepest Russia that doesn't exist; model, deviant citizens; these are the threads skillfully interwoven in Black Sun. Taking place over 10 days—the countdown to detonating the SRDS-220 "device"—the novel's action shifts from Inspector Vasin's probing interrogations of the scientists to the military to stacks of documents of corruption to explanations about nuclear fission. Can "a weapon so powerful that even the most pig-headed general would never use it" be a deterrent to war? Can this weapon be so powerful that it can literally set the world on fire? The answers to these questions are considered in a text that is authentically and powerfully written by an author/journalist who has worked in Russia. On the human side, what the main character, Major Vasin, discovers will change him from an honest man to one capable of spinning tales and forever carrying the weight of deception. Black Sun, a descriptive label of the bomb, is based on a true story of the "Tsar Bomb," detonated at Mityushikha Bay on October 30, 1961. – Carol Kranes, Emily Bestler Books/Atria, $27 (July 30)

Under the Cold Bright Lights, Garry Disher
The local snake catcher in the quiet suburb of Pearcedale got more than he bargained for when he went after a copperhead—he unearthed a body buried under a concrete slab. Melbourne police bring in formerly-retired detective Alan Auhl who works on a small team that investigates unsolved homicides—like John Elphick, whose daughters still think he was murdered, and Dr. Neil, the black widower whose guilt Auhl has so far failed to prove. While working on the 'slab man' case, the black widower resurfaces with an unlikely accusation. Auhl will go to any lengths to see justice done this time. – Paula Longhurst, Soho, $27.95

Stone Cold Heart, Caz Frear
Cat Kinsella, first introduced in Sweet Little Lies, is back and, if anything, brasher, although still inclined to question her own instincts (which are usually sound). She's filled with dread one minute, feisty to the point of foolhardiness the next and painfully conflicted (with good reason) about her family. Cat lives for her job. Charged with identifying the murderer of a young woman from Australia, she and her colleagues increasingly come to believe the obvious suspect to be Joseph Madden, an intensely narcissistic ne'er-do-well who brutally abuses his wife and is suspected of doing worse to other women. But then there's the wife herself, who's hardly a truth-teller. And the in-laws. And the daughter... As Cat steeps herself in the dynamics of dysfunctional family life, she is forced to reconsider her own relatives—and, who knows, perhaps even learn something about herself in the process. Meanwhile, the puzzle she sets out to solve is knotty in satisfying ways, the tension keeps the pages turning, and the solution surprises—just the ticket for escape from the coming summer doldrums. – Betsy Burton, Harper, $26.95

The Reunion, Guillaume Musso
Heiress Vinca Rockwell ran off with her philosophy teacher Alexis Clement. The stunning redhead was last sighted being driven by Clement through the gates of exclusive Saint-Exupery prep school in sun-drenched Nice. Vinca was never seen again. Her friends, Maxime, Thomas, and Fanny, return for the school's 50th anniversary celebrations. They haven't spoken to one another since graduation but now they have no choice—the old gymnasion is slated for demolition to make way for a new complex and the trio knows that a body is buried inside the walls of the gym because they helped put it there. Someone else knows their guilty secret and is systematically taking revenge on the witnesses from that fateful night in 1992. A tragedy is about to unfold, one 25 years in the making. – Paula Longhurst, Little, Brown, $28

Killing with Confetti, Peter Lovesey
Read one Peter Diamond mystery and you want more. As head of the Criminal Investigation Division, Diamond has grown both professionally and personally throughout 17 previous books. His current assignment is security at the wedding of the Deputy Chief Constable's son to the daughter of the notorious crime boss Joe Irving, who has just been released from prison and now plans to give his daughter the wedding of the century, paid for by his ill-gotten gains. Irving is surrounded by enemies from rival gangs, and Diamond reluctantly protects him although he doesn't relish the thought of hobnobbing with the Chief Constable's crowd. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, $27.95

The Gomorrah Gambit, Tom Chatfield
From a garden shed in East Croydon, hacker and activist Azi Bello can communicate with the world. There are very few people he trusts, but fellow-hacker Sigma is one of them and she's on the run from some very bad people. Enter the mysterious, and to Bello, scary,
‘Anna.’ She and her fellow agents need Bello’s help to save Sigma and get her intel, and he can only do that IRL (in real life). By helping Sigma, whom he is falling for, Bello may be leading both of them into danger. Chased from the depths of East Croydon, via Berlin, to the glittering tech hubs of Silicon Valley with a taciturn but deadly German, Bello’s estranged best-friend-turned-tech-Wunderkind by his side, Bello must save innocent victims on the other side of the globe with only his wits and a laptop. – Paula Longhurst, Mulholland, $27

The Golden Hour, Beatriz Williams
Romance, intrigue, murder, and sex on the beach: what more could you ask for in a summer read? Told by Leonora (Lulu) Randolph, the Lady of Nassau, gossip columnist for a stateside magazine with her own spurious past, one can almost smell the ocean breeze and feel the heat as she passes mysterious brown-paper parcels between shadowy figures. Add possible treasonous doings within the Bahamian Government House where the Duke and Duchess of Windsor preside, two world wars spanning multiple continents, the unbounded love between a gorgeous German Baroness and a pumpkin-headed Scot, and you have all the ingredients for a rich, simmering, hard-to-put-down read you’ll want to savor over a cold gin and tonic or dry martini pool- or beachside. – Anne Stewart Mark, HarperCollins, $26.99

Hope Rides Again, Andrew Shaffer
The Obama-Biden bromance that began in Hope Never Dies returns. Joe Biden is on a book tour. He’s tired and wants to go home to his wife but must make one more stop in Chicago on St. Patrick’s Day to see his friend, former President Barack Obama, who has set up a meeting with a fundraiser for a possible Biden 2020 bid. Biden can’t even get into the building without the help of Michelle, who rescues him on her way to lunch with Oprah. Soon Biden and Obama are hanging out in the green room looking for Obama’s Blackberry which appears to have been stolen. Biden thinks he knows who took it, and he, Obama, and Secret Service agent Steve go out onto the raucous (and dangerous) streets of Chicago in search of their suspect, stumbling onto a conspiracy as deep as Lake Michigan—which is where they’ll wind up if they’re not careful. – Paula Longhurst, Quirk, $14.99

The Saturday Night Ghost Club, Craig Davidson
Niagara Falls in 1980: Jake Baker was a 12-year-old with the summer stretching out before him. Little did he know how much the events of his twelfth year would affect the course of his life: making new friends, the Yellowbirds; falling in love for the first time; and the ‘Saturday Night Ghost Club’ hosted by Uncle C, an eccentric conspiracy theorist with an occult shop and a ‘bat phone’ for the conspiracy de jour. What begins as harmless fun soon uncovers a dark conspiracy involving some townsfolk Jake knows very well. – Paula Longhurst, Penguin, $16

The Lightest Object in the Universe, Kimi Eisele
When the end came it wasn’t by nuclear fire. It was due to a government that imploded under the pressure of its own corruption, to an epidemic that didn’t discriminate, and to zero electricity. Only pockets of humans remain in the new, unplugged world. Beatrix, a fair trade activist, returns to her West Coast neighborhood and tries to help rebuild its community. Carson, a former high school principal, leaves New York on foot, determined to reach his love Beatrix. On this odyssey he comes across the best and worst of mankind, including bands of ‘Pilgrims’ drawn towards a ‘promised land’ by a charismatic preacher who broadcasts his sermons to the nation. Will Carson and Beatrix be re-united? What kind of life will arise from the ashes of our old one? Is there hope for humanity? For fans of Station Eleven, Dog Stars and The Last. – Paula Longhurst, Algonquin, $26.95 Editor’s note: Eisele will join us on Friday, July 12, 7 p.m.
**Children’s Picture Books**  
by Anne Edwards Cannon

*Baby Day*, Jane Godwin and Davina Bell, illustrated by Freya Blackwood

“Today is baby’s birthday. There’s going to be a party. Happy baby!” Thus begins this perfectly happy picture book about a perfectly happy day for a (mostly) happy baby and baby’s baby friends. Blackwood’s charming illustrations capture the sweet and funny chaos of Baby World. Simon & Schuster, $17.99

*Let Me Sleep, Sheep!*, Meg McKinlay, illustrated by Leila Rudge

What happens when the sheep you’ve been counting at night suddenly materialize in your bedroom? You know—IN THE FLESH! Answer? Um. You probably won’t be falling asleep any time soon. *Let Me Sleep, Sheep!* is an original, witty riff on a time-honored evening ritual. Candlewick, $15.99

*Babymoon*, Hayley Barrett, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

“The house is hushed. The lights are low. We’re basking in a newborn glow.” This lovely picture book introduces readers to the concept of the “babymoon”—a term midwives use to describe the period when parents and their newborn get to know one another. Like Barbara Cooney’s classic picture book, *Miss Rumphius*, this is better suited for an adult sensibility and as such would make a perfect gift for a new mother or father. Candlewick, $16.99

*A Piglet Named Mercy*, Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

Do you and your children love the eminently lovable Mercy Watson, star of the Mercy Watson series for beginning readers? Then you’ll enjoy this adorable origin story about baby Mercy and how she ends up living with Mr. and Mrs. Watson (and their neighbors) on Deckawoo Drive. Van Dusen’s familiar, exuberant illustrations are especially suited to the picture book form. Definitely recommended! Candlewick, $18.99

*Dandy*, Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Charles Santoso

Daddy hates the dandelion growing in his perfect front yard. His daughter Sweetie, however, treats it like a pet—a pet, in fact, named Charlotte. Every time Daddy makes a move to get rid of Charlotte, Sweetie is there to save the object of her affection. But what will happen to Charlotte when Sweetie leaves for a swimming lesson? Will Daddy (and the other neighborhood fathers) finally get the perfect yard of their Dad Dreams? The answer may surprise and delight you. Little, Brown, $17.99

*Sweety*, Andrea Zuill

One of our very favorite new picture books of the season, *Sweety* is about a mole rat who enjoys identifying different varieties of
fungi, performing interpretive dances, and talking about her doll. In other words, she’s unusual, even by naked mole rat standards. Although she is kind and generous, Sweety’s unique interests isolate her. Can she, will she, ever find “her people?” Zuill, author of the fabulous and funny Wolf Camp, scores again. Schwartz & Wade, $17.99

The Little Guys, Vera Brosgol
Caldecott Honor recipient Brosgol follows up her debut picture book Leave Me Alone! with this story about tiny creatures who find strength in numbers—so much strength, in fact, that they run roughshod over the forest’s other inhabitants. Can anything stop their (mini) reign of terror? And what, if anything, will they learn about power and how to wield it? The Little Guys is a fable for our times. Roaring Brook, $17.99

Rosie and Rasmus, Serena Geddes
Rosie is a lonely little girl who wants a friend. Rasmus is a lonely dragon who wants to fly. When these two finally meet, a special kind of magic happens. Rosie and Rasmus is gently sweet without being saccharine. Geddes’s illustrations are especially appealing. Aladdin, $17.99

The Book Hog, Greg Pizzoli
The Book Hog looooooooves books! He loves everything about them—the way they feel and the way they smell.

The Book Hog loves books so much that he spends his days scavenging for books everywhere—used bookstores, yard sales, and even dumpsters. The only problem is that Book Hog doesn’t know how to read. Imagine the pleasure he experiences when that begins to change. Pizzoli’s new picture book is as kind-hearted as it is entertaining. Disney Hyperion, $16.99

Go, Bikes, Go! Addie Boswell, illustrated by Alexander Mostov

This Book of Mine, Sarah Stewart, illustrated by David Small
Like The Book Hog, this new picture book by the husband-and-wife duo Stewart and Small is a love letter to (you guessed it!) books. More subdued in both tone and look than The Book Hog, This Book of Mine too, is bursting with affection for the book you can hold in your hand and in your heart. Recommended! FSG, $17.99

Editor’s note: available August 27
Children’s Picture Books

Unicorn Is Maybe Not So Great After All, Bob Shea
Sick of unicorn stuff yet? Even if you are, you’ll probably enjoy Shea’s sequel to his good-hearted title Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great. By now people are used to Unicorn’s special magic (dude can make it rain cupcakes), so he comes up with a plan that’ll make everyone sit up and REALLY take notice. But what happens if that plan backfires in a big (also messy) way? Thank goodness he has a true friend in Goat. Disney Hyperion, $17.99 Editor’s note: available July 9

Camp Tiger, Susan Choi and John Rocco
We all have fears. Choi and Rocco’s collaboration places a tiger in the middle of a boy’s family on their annual summer camping trip. Growing up means facing your tiger, and welcoming him in. Our boy does it beautifully! Art you cannot forget! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Putnam, $17.99 (4 and up)

If I Was the Sunshine, Julie Fogliano and Loren Long
In a book that invites readers, young and old alike, to notice the sun, the grass, the creatures, every page is a request for each of us to pay attention to and enjoy the world around us. Rhythmic text and lovely illustrations work seamlessly together. I hope Fogliana and Long work together again soon. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster (all ages)

Summer Reading Program

Begins June 16!

Pre-K/K – 6 p.m. Amanda Esko
• Moon’s First Friends, Susan Leonard Hill
• Is 2 a Lot: An Adventures with Numbers, Annie Watson and Rebecca Evans
• The Book Hog, Greg Pizzoli
• Let Me Sleep, Sheep!, Meg McKinlay
• Hello Lighthouse, Sophie Blackall

Grades 1-2, 6 p.m. Marianne Jenkins
• Go for the Moon, Chris Gall
• Ida and the Whale, Rebecca Gugger
• Camp Tiger, Susan Choi
• Charlie & Mouse: Book 1, Laurel Snyder
• Hello, Fiona Woodcock

Grades 3-4, 7 p.m. Nathan Spofford
• Moonshot, Brian Floca
• Saving Winslow, Sharon Creech
• Dream Within a Dream, Patricia MacLachlan
• Harriet the Invincible, Ursula Vernon
• Origami and Poetry, Robin Clover

Grades 5-6, 7 p.m. Amanda Esko
• Rocket to the Moon, Don Brown
• Wolf Called Wander, Rosanne Parry
• How I Became a Spy, Deborah Hopkinson
• Song for a Whale, Lynne Kelly
• Our Castle by the Sea, Lucy Strange

Young Adult, 7 p.m. Tara Pearce
• The Giver (graphic novel edition), Lois Lowry, adapted by P. Craig Russell
• Darkdeep, Ally Condie and Brendan Reichs
• Spy Runner, Eugene Yelchin
• Uglies, Scott Westerfeld
• The Line Tender, Kate Allen

Writing Group, 3rd grade and up, 8 p.m. Nathan Spofford
• Writing Magic, Gail Carson Levine (please read the first section prior to class)
• Share Your Smile: Raina’s Guide to Telling Your Own Story, Raina Telgemeier
**Sweeping up the Heart**, Kevin Henkes
Henkes' new middle reader shines with kindness and empathy. Amelia lost her mom at a young age and is not close to her dad. She has filled the holes in her life with her loving nanny and her growing skill at pottery. When her dad says no to spring break, Amelia is really upset—until she meets Casey at the pottery studio. As they begin to find some comfort in one another's revelations, they slowly come to realize that other people have problems too, and their growing self-knowledge helps them both. It has been a long time since we have had a novel from Henkes—it was worth the wait! Harper, $16.99 (9 and up)

**Dream within a Dream**, Patricia MacLachlan
Louisa and her brother are going to spend the summer with their grandparents on Deer Island. But what 12-year-old wants to spend the summer on a dull island with old people? Louisa wants to be a writer and knows that there will be nothing on this quiet backwater of a place to interest her. But meeting George helps her see things in a different light. Watching her grandparents figure out how to deal with changes in their lives also gives her another point of view. A gem from one of the staff’s favorite authors, this short tale is loaded with tenderness and love. Simon & Schuster, $16.99 (9 and up)

**Spy Runner**, Eugene Yelchin
It is post WWII and Americans are guarding against the “Communists.” Even a whiff of communist suspicion can result in loss of a job and worse. Jake and his mother have been struggling since his dad went MIA during the war. His best friend’s dad, a colonel at the nearby base, leads the way in protecting the community from the Red threat. When Jake’s mom lets a Russian rent the upstairs room, Jake is desperate to prove that the tenant is up to no good. Yelchin writes about things that most Americans aren’t familiar with. The pixelated, slightly out-of-focus, black-and-white photos add a distinct, slightly creepy, flavor to this compelling and sometimes surprising read. Henry Holt, $17.99 (10 and up)

**A Wolf Called Wander**, Roseanne Parry
Swift’s pack is destroyed, and he is on his own in a big scary world where, as a young wolf in the western U.S., he has to work hard to stay alive. Parry skillfully imagines Swift’s search for home, telling the story from the wolf’s point of view. As a breed, wolves are usually cast as evil predators, but Parry challenges that prejudice with her vivid imagining of Swift's struggle to survive. Richly illustrated and based on an actual wolf, this is a treat to read. Greenwillow, $16 (8-12)

**Planet Earth Is Blue**, Nicole Panteleakos
Nova is on the autism spectrum, barely verbal, but obsessed with outer space. The entire world is gearing up for the space flight by teacher Christa McAuliffe, and Nova is desperate for her sister to join her in time for the liftoff. Debut author Panteleakos does a masterful job of telling a thrilling story, and Nova’s voice comes shining through, despite her struggles. Wendy Lamb Books, $16 (8-12)

**The Remarkable Inventions of Walter Mortinson**, Quinn Sosna-Spear
Walter’s parents run the local mortuary, Moormouth, and Walter is doing his best to stay as far away as possible from the family business. But when his latest invention literally turns the mortuary into a crazy mess, his mother puts her foot down. Meanwhile Walter has been invited to study with a famous scientist and is willing to do anything to get to Flaster Island. So, in the company of Cordelia, his one-eyed classmate, he runs away in the family hearse. A weird fantasy entirely different from the last 10 you have read, this is quirky, fast-paced and a little bit on the dark side. Flat out fun! Simon & Schuster, $17.99 (9 and up)

**Song for a Whale**, Lynne Kelly
Iris can fix old radios and do anything on the computer but, because she is deaf, most of her classmates think she is kind of dumb. When she finds out about a whale that has a different kind of song, one that scientists have never heard, Iris just knows that she can help. She uses all her skills to create a song for this isolated whale—and ends up helping herself in the process. This terrific book shows what bravery looks like and how vital communication can be. Realistic fiction at its best! Random, $16.99 (9 and up)
**MIDDLE READER**

*The Next Great Paulie Fink*, Ali Benjamin

Caitlyn Breen is forced to move to the back woods of Vermont where her mother enroll her in a NOT-school. There are 11 kids in her class and each one is stranger than the last. But strangest of all is the fact that their favorite classmate, Paulie Fink, hasn’t even returned from summer break. The kids are determined to figure out why, but meanwhile Caitlyn must judge a contest to fill Paulie Fink’s shoes. – Becky Hall, Little, Brown, $16.99

*Secret Soldiers*, Paul B. Janeczko

It is hard to imagine that any army could pull off the deceptions that the U.S. 23rd Special Troops did during WWII. Using a wide variety of tricks, including fake equipment, dummies, decoys, sonic cars, broadcasts, this unit dedicated itself to coming up with a multitude of “tricks” to deceive the Nazis. Janeczko uses maps, photos, and individual histories to tell this story of the “Ghost Army,” whose work had dramatic impact on various battles and was pivotal in the Allie’s success. A fascinating tale. Candlewick, $19.99 (10 and up)

*Questions I Am Asked About the Holocaust*, Hedi Fried and Alice Olsson

Fried, a Hungarian Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust, realized after the war ended that she needed to tell and retell her story, answering questions when she was asked. Her direct answers to some of the many questions she has fielded shed new light on this terrible event. The unique format lends power to this caution that we must never forget. Scribe, $20 (10 and up)

**YOUNG ADULT**

*The Last Voyage of Poe Blythe*, Ally Condie

Poe Blythe lives in a troubling world run by the Admiral and his council. When Poe and Call are out on a dredge, mining for gold, Call is murdered by raiders. After his death Poe lives for revenge and winds up going to work for the Admiral. But when sent out on a breakthrough trip, Poe must reassess her place in the world—and her view of herself. Fast-paced adventure, clever details, and a hint of romance, plus an ending that will leave readers excited for the rest of Poe’s story. Condie’s fans will be thrilled. Penguin, $18.99 (12 and up) Editor’s note: signed copies available!

*Lovely War*, Julie Berry

The Greek Gods continue their epic and eternal battles, carried out in the midst of human beings trying to live out their own short lives. Ares and Aphrodite have been caught (again) by her husband, Hephaestu and, desperate to keep this a secret from Mount Olympus, Aphrodite tries to gain time, appealing to her husband with a story about why love and war are inseparable. Hazel and James, along with Aubrey and Colette, are at the center of the human part of a novel in which WWI looms on the horizon and the world is changing quickly. Aphrodite, along with a variety of her fellow-gods, shares the details of the humans’ loves, sorrows, talents, losses, the discrimination that occurs, war, and perhaps, redemption. Berry is not afraid to take on current issues through a wide range of characters and storylines. Mythology may frame the whole, but each individual story movingly reflects reality. I can’t wait to see where Berry goes next. Viking, $18.99 (12 and up) Editor’s note: signed copies available!

*Within These Lines*, Stephanie Morrill

WWII impacted communities worldwide. Morrill’s story about two kids, one Japanese American and one Italian American, depicts the losses and the pain that are so much a part of the history of our fellow citizens during one of America’s most fraught periods. Taichi and Evalina have just discovered that they might be more than friends when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurs. His family is brutally ripped away from their home and sent to the Manzanar Relocation Center. Both are desperate to keep in touch, but each discovers that being honorable can be costly. The terrible history of the Manzanar camp is revealed through Morrill’s thoughtful story of two kids who want to be together despite what their world is telling them. Blink (Harper), $17.99 (14 and up)

*White Rose*, Kip Wilson

Resistance shows up in so many ways during WWII. Wilson tells the tale of Sophie Scholl, a young woman who paid the ultimate price. She, her brother, and some of their friends made up an anti-Nazi group called the White Rose, committed to doing anything they can to fight fascism and the violence that comes with it. This fictional retelling of Sophie’s courage and her commitment to doing what is right is poignant and will make readers wonder if they are capable of doing the same thing. Versify, $17.99 (12 and up)
**YOUNG ADULT**

**Aurora Rising**, Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff

The authors of *The Illuminae Files* come through again in a book that is part science fiction, part adventure, has a touch of romance, and plot twists that keep the reader turning the pages. Ty, a star at his academy, has terrible taste in friends. He has rescued Aurora from a centuries-long cryo-sleep but, as it turns out, she was hidden for a reason, and now everyone in space is looking for her. Ty, who just wanted to help her, might now have to save the galaxy. Great cast of characters and a lot of fun to read! Random, $18.99 (12 and up) Editor's note: signed copies available!

**Enchantee**, Gita Trelease

Paris, 17th century Versailles, magic, family, intrigue, and romance all add up to a great read. Camille is doing her best to keep herself and her sister safe. Her only option for earning money is impersonating a duchess and gambling in the overwrought halls of Versailles as the tale blooms into a magical adventure/mystery. As Camille becomes more and more incensed by the over-indulgences at the court, especially in light of how hard most Parisians’ lives are, she sees that there has to be an alternative. Yet the revolution may crush all that she loves. Trelease uses history, art and fashion to embellish a wondrous tale. Flatiron, $18.99 (12 and up)

**Let’s Go Swimming on Doomsday**, Natalie Anderson

In modern-day Somalia, Abdi is forced to go undercover in the same terrorist organization that kidnapped and turned his brother into one of their soldiers, the jihadi group Al Shabaab. There, Abdi finds that his brother Dahir has become a true believer. Worse, Dahir will not help Abdi in any way. Going back and forth in time, readers follow Abdi’s dangerous path through the Al Shabaab and, hopefully, his rescue.

The Al Shabaab pieces of the book are both disturbing and fascinating—Anderson opens a small window into something very scary, yet leaves readers with a little bit of hope. Penguin, $18.99 (12 and up)

**Dig**, A.S. King

King is famous for surreal books that grab hold and don’t let us go. Her latest tells the tale of five teenagers who are trying to understand their family’s history, to figure out who they are, and to ease the pain caused by long-guarded secrets and the insecurity of growing up. It recounts the history of a family that began in a remote rural potato field and ended up in highly developed suburbia and is weird, fascinating, and ultimately so satisfying. Like all his others, King’s new book is hard to describe because it consists of so much more than mere plot. Dutton, $17.99 (15 and up, lots of language)

**Feminism, Is...**, Alexandra Black, Laura Buller, Emily Hoyle and Dr. Megan Todd

A lot of people think feminism is a bad word, but what it really signals is a need to fight for change. Early feminists recognized that women and men needed to be treated equally. It is a struggle still going on today. When you ask someone if they think that men and women should be paid the same wage for the same job, people say YES. Yet that is not the reality. This book succinctly lays out the history and struggles of “feminists” all around the world. Using the trademark DK format, it is informative, accessible and reasonable. DK, $12.99 (12 and up)

**Better With Books**, Melissa Hart

At The King’s English we have always believed that a book is the perfect place to find yourself, to start a conversation, to see the world in a kinder way. There are a lot of subjects that kids and grownups are sensitive about. Hart tackles an interesting list and provides recommended titles for each subject. Adoption and foster care, body image, LBGTQIA+, mental health, and poverty are just a few of the subjects included in the book. Most of her title picks are aimed at the 10 and up crowd. This book will be a terrific asset for parents, librarians, and social workers. Sasquatch, $19.95 (12 and up)
THE INKSLINGER

Editor: Betsy Burton

Publisher: Betsy Burton
Designer: Hilary Dudley

Copy Editors:
Anne Brillinger
Deon Hilger
Michelle Macfarlane

Inkslingers:
Betsy Burton
Ann Cannon
Patrick Fleming
Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Becky Hall
Deon Hilger
Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman
Carol Kranes
Sally Larkin
Mackenzie Lee
Wendy Foster Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Michelle Macfarlane
Anne Stewart Mark
Jack Mark
Margaret Brennan
Neville
Bets Prouty
Michaela Riding
Jan Sloan

THE KING’S ENGLISH BOOKSHOP
MATCHING BOOKS TO READERS SINCE 1977
1511 SOUTH 13TH EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84103
801-484-9100 | WWW.KINGSENGLISH.COM

15TH STREET
1519 S 1500 E SLC 84105 801.468.1515

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

Stop in for unique art, gifts, and accessories.

Art | Gifts | Framing | Private Event Rental
Open Monday—Friday: 10am-6pm