Authors Headed to TKE This Summer

Where They’re Going Next and What Books They’re Taking Along

Terry Tempest Williams
This summer, I will be traveling to 12 national parks sharing The Hour of Land with park visitors from Yellowstone to Yosemite to Acadia National Park in Maine. In my bag, I will be carrying Louise Erdrich’s exquisite novel, LaRose, filled with hard-edged truths of Indian children, boarding schools, and passages so beautiful about what mothers teach their children that I just keep rereading them as poetry. Speaking of poetry, I will also be carrying C.D. Wright’s collection of poems published right before her death, The Poet, The Lion, Talking Pictures, El Farolito, A Wedding in St. Roch, The Big Box Store, The Warp in the Mirror, Spring, Midnights, Fire & All. Here is a sentence: “He wanted to get down on his knees with the language and dig with both hands.” I so love this as an image of both the impulse and necessity to write. Alongside my binoculars and bird book, I will also be taking Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses, by Robin Wall Kemmerer, a biologist, lyrical writer, and an enrolled member of the Potawatomi Nation. “Slowing down and coming close, we see patterns emerge and expand out of the tangled tapestry threads.”

Richard Russo
I’m all over on this tour. It’s been a while since I’ve done a southern swing, but I’ll be visiting my pal Ann Patchett’s store in Nashville and another in Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson will be a literary thrill, as I’m finishing up the correspondence of Ross Macdonald and Eudora Welty. Later on in the summer my wife and I will tool around the Cape and Vineyard and visit some favorite stores there. I’ll have with me the new Maggie O’Farrell, which just arrived in galleys and the last Kate Atkinson, which I missed when it came out. in Nashville and another in Jackson, Mississippi. Jackson will be a literary thrill, as I’m finishing up the correspondence of Ross Macdonald and Eudora Welty. Later on in the summer my wife and I will tool around the Cape and Vineyard and visit some favorite stores there. I’ll have with me the new Maggie O’Farrell, which just arrived in galleys and the last Kate Atkinson, which I missed when it came out.

Alan Furst
I will be reading Agents of Empire, by Noel Malcolm. It is about the sixteenth century, the Ottoman Empire, and the Venetian Republic, as seen through a powerful Albanian family. I love big, broad political histories, and this one looks very promising. I will also recommend the magnificent writer Bill Finnegan, who won a Pulitzer for his book Barbarian Days. This you will not put down. It’s about growing up as a surfer in California and Hawaii.

TKE Events This Summer!

Thursday, June 2, 7 p.m. Craig Johnson gallops into town with The Highwayman (at the Viridian Events Center).

Saturday, June 4, 2 p.m. Grillmaster Steve Raichlen returns with Project Smoke: Seven Steps to Smoked Food Nirvana.

Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m. Terry Tempest Williams presents The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America’s National Parks with special guests, The National Parks band (at the Rose Wagner, call store for details).

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. Indie fave Richard Russo joins us for Everybody’s Fool.

Thursday, June 9, 7 p.m. Debut author Liz Kay reads from and signs Monsters: A Love Story.

Friday, June 10, 7 p.m. Alan Furst will read from and sign his new thriller, A Hero of France.

Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m. Kate Holbrook and Matt Bowman discuss Women and Mormonism: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.

Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m. Judith Freeman will read from and sign her memoir, The Latter Days.

Find more events on page 2 and 3!
Where They’re Headed and What Books They’re Taking Along

Cathy Haruf

The new Richard Russo, *Everybody’s Fool*, sounds like great fun and also a new Sebastian Faulks since I just read *Birdsong* and loved it. I’ll stick them in my bag for my trip to Salt Lake—or buy them at The King’s English when I get there.

Serena Burdick

I’m driving across the country with the family, so after Salt Lake City we’re headed to Yosemite, San Francisco, L.A., and then back the southern route to the Grand Canyon, New Mexico, Nashville and up the East Coast to our home in New England. Books I’m bringing: Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels (all 4), *The Queen of the Night, All the Light We Cannot See, Gilead* and *Middlemarch*.

Liz Kay

After some time in SLC, I’ll be back in my other hometown of Omaha, and then off to California. Two books I’ll definitely be packing (if I haven’t already devoured them by then) are Pamela Erens’ *Eleven Hours*, and Kristen-Paige Madonia’s *Invisible Fault Lines*.

Kate Holbrook

What a happy question! I am lucky to share a family cabin with my cousins that provides a great setting for luxurious hours of reading. Right now I’m planning to read: *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Through the Valley of the Shadows* by Samuel Brown, *At Home with Madame Chic* by Jennifer L. Scott, and *A Manual for Cleaning Women: Selected Stories* by Lucia Berlin.

Brad Watson

I’m coming down through Colorado to SLC, then to Santa Fe before heading to Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida—then Boston and back to Mississippi before going back to Wyoming. I plan to have my 1988 Cadillac packed with clothes, boots, books, water, jerky, a bit of strong drink, maybe a shotgun. In case I have to sleep in the Caddy on the side of the road. For reading, when I have the chance: *The Sympathizer, Euphoria*, Lily King; some more of Vladimir Sorokin (just read that strange book, *The Blizzard*); Spell of the Tiger, Sy Montgomery (her book plus maybe other man-eater tales, for pleasure and research); and a collection of some new and older Jim Harrison, in honor of his recent death. Possibly a volume of Czeslaw Milosz poems.

Judith Freeman

In August, when my book tour has finished, my husband Tony and I will visit our friends Louise and Ralph who live in an old stone farmhouse in Provence, near the lovely hilltop village of Bonnieux. We spent 10 days there last summer, surrounded by olive groves, grape vines, and lavender fields, eating from the garden, making meals together at night, lounging by the pool on the really hot summer afternoons, and at the end of that time we all vowed this was something we should do every year. Perhaps I’ll take Edna O’Brien’s new novel, *The Little Red Chairs* (how great she’s still writing such profoundly interesting novels in her eighties), and maybe a book my friend Rae recommended some time ago, *Mademoiselle: Coco Channel and the Pulse of History*, by Rhonda K. Garelick—it seems the perfect book, combining interests in fashion, history, and French culture—and a fascinating woman. And since I always take a book of poems on a journey—I’ll pack Ursula K. Le Guin’s most recent book, *Late in the Day* - a beautiful little volume, with a preface and afterward I can read again, and again.

Serena Burdick

I’m driving across the country with the family, so after Salt Lake City we’re headed to Yosemite, San Francisco, L.A., and then back the southern route to the Grand Canyon, New Mexico, Nashville and up the East Coast to our home in New England. Books I’m bringing: Elena Ferrante’s Neapolitan novels (all 4), *The Queen of the Night, All the Light We Cannot See, Gilead* and *Middlemarch*.

Summer Roadtripping!

What are you reading?
Where They’re Headed and What Books They’re Taking Along

Brodi Ashton
I’m going to the beach in San Diego, and I’m bringing The Orphan Queen and The Mirror King by Jodi Meadows!

Kiersten White
I’ll be heading to Comic-Con, with the slim story collection The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter in my purse just in case I have downtime!

Matthew J. Kirby
I’ll be traveling to Monterey to teach for a week at the Cal State Summer Arts program, and then later I’ll be at San Diego Comic Con. Probably some family vacation in there somewhere, too. Though my back won’t like me for it, I plan to take The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss to finish reading, and its even more massive sequel, The Wise Man’s Fear.

Christian McKay Heidicker
I’ll be spending a week in Carmel with my girlfriend, who’s turning twenty-six, and mother, who’s turning seventy. Like many writers I don’t do well on vacations, so I’ll be tempering my anxiety with Gone with the Wind (on audiobook), The Vorrh by Brian Catling (in flippity-book), and Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, which I’ll be reading aloud to my girlfriend. She’s never read the books or seen the movies! When Hagrid was hauled off to Azkaban in Chamber of Secrets, she gasped and asked if he was going to be the prisoner in the third book! Luckiest guy in the world right here.

Sarah Beard
This summer my family and I will be heading to Zion National Park and then to southern California to enjoy some beach time! I’ll also be starting a writing MFA program at Vermont College of Fine Arts, so I’ll be flying out there for my first residency. For both trips, my suitcase will be stocked with a mixture of YA romance (I’m a huge Kasie West fan and her next book releases in July) and non-fiction writing books (some on my VCFA reading list include Jack Bickham’s Scene and Structure and Ray Bradbury’s Zen and the Art of Writing.

Wendy Terrien
We’re planning a trip to London because I need to do some research for Jason’s (my main character in The Rampart Guards) next book. Plus, I admit it, I love London. So it will be a lovely way to work. Because it’s a long flight, and a long trip, I get to pack lots of books. I’ll take Jeffery Deaver’s new book, The Steel Kiss. He’s so good at mystery and twists when you least expect them. I also hope to have Promise of the Scholar, soon-to-be-released book two in The Expatriates series by Corinne O’Flynn. And I’m taking Shantaram by Gregory David Roberts. It’s been on my to-be-read pile for too long, and I’m excited to finally dive into it. I might also throw in A Discovery of Witches by Deborah Harkness, and Shift by Hugh Howey, and Lake of Fire by Mark Stevens...what can I say — there’s so much to read! And I can’t sleep on airplanes, so I’m always happy to settle in with a good book.

Summer Events for Kids and Teens

Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m. A trio of teen authors including Brodi Ashton, Cynthia Hand, and Jane Meadows joins us for My Lady Jane.

Saturday, June 11, 11 a.m. Join us for a special storytime with Andrea Zuill and Wolf Camp.

Saturday, June 11, 7 p.m. Local author Sarah Beard debuts her teen novel, Beyond the Rising Tide.

Saturday, June 18, 7 p.m. Debut author Christian McKay Heidicker will read from and sign Cure for the Common Universe.

Saturday, June 24, 4 p.m. Becky Wallace returns with The Skylighter.

Friday, July 8, 7 p.m. Victoria Schwab will be here with her teen novel, This Savage Song.

Saturday, July 16, 7 p.m. Kiersten White returns to Salt Lake with And I Darken.

Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m. Wendy Terrien comes home to read from and sign The Rampart Guards.
**Everybody's Fool**, Richard Russo
You don't have to have read and loved *Nobody's Fool* to love Richard Russo's long-awaited sequel but it doesn't hurt, since everyone you loved and hated and loved to hate is still spinning out his or her days in their small burdened New York town, the difference being that now the threat of mortality looms over them all. The book begins with a bang (literally) at a funeral (I defy you not to laugh) and includes in its snappy narrative adultery, friendship, abuse, death, community, the environment, new love, yearning for days gone by—and some of the funniest scenes in modern fiction. Russo's characters—whether indelibly etched in our brains or new acquaintances—so roil each other's lives that his novel, while in a broad sense a tale of everyman (and woman), is at once so sad, so wildly and improbably funny, so painfully true on every level that it feels acutely personal. I'm not sure how he does it, but I do know that Russo is an American treasure. And while I trust he has many novels left to write, for now at least this is his capstone. I couldn't put it down, and I can't quit smiling. – Betsy Burton, HarperCollins, $27.99

**The Noise of Time**, Julian Barnes
This stunning new novel, Barnes' first since winning the Man Booker prize for *The Sense of an Ending*, is set in 1936. Dimitri Shostakovich has written a new opera, and Stalin, who has suddenly taken an interest in his music, has denounced this latest work. How do you stay true to your music and to yourself in an atmosphere of fear and repression? How do you even survive? Questions addressed in this fascinating look at a complex and brilliant musician caught up in turbulent times. “What could be put up against the noise of time? Only that music that is inside ourselves—the music of our being—which is transformed by some into real music. Which, over the decades, if it is strong and true and pure enough to drown out the noise of time, is transformed into the whisper of history.” – Sally Larkin, Knopf, $25.95

**LaRose**, Louise Erdrich
At the heart of Louise Erdrich's new novel are the children: Dusty, accidentally killed by LaRose's father, LaRose himself, loaned half-time to Dusty's mom and dad in a shattering act of atonement, LaRose's sisters, his new sister Maggie. And then there is the first LaRose, an 11-year-old child sold by her mother and abused by one white man, rescued by another, many generations before. Erdrich's fiction hovers between the Objewbe and white worlds, flying across generations—as, in this case, five LaRoses float into and out of a tale told as oral history, as family saga, as ancient myth and harsh reality, all twined in ways that lend dimension and magic to both the past and the present. Erdrich has created, over her lifetime, the single most comprehensive saga of interrelated families in American fiction and *LaRose* is one of, perhaps the, most brilliant of her creations. – Betsy Burton, HarperCollins, $27.99

**Wintering**, Peter Geye
Eighteen-year-old Gustav Eide joins his father Harry for a “wintering” experience, spending months in Minnesota’s harsh borderlands during the winter, following earlier voyagers. The events that unfold set Gus on a path that troubles him far into his future. Years later, his elderly, demented father walks away into another winter scene, not to return. Berit Lovig, who has loved Harry since she was 16, listens as Gus unfolds the saga of his win-

dering in a beautiful tale, told with such precision it has been likened to Kent Haruf’s *Plainsong*. – Sue Fleming, Knopf, 25.95

**Everyone Brave Is Forgiven**, Chris Cleave
In this huge and hugely passionate novel set during WWII, Chris Cleave sweeps us from the London blitz to the Ritz to the tenuous British front in Malta, sweeping us off our feet in the process. On the day war is declared in England, Mary North signs up, imagining glory but winding up in an abandoned school, teaching the few children left in London following the evacuation. She promptly falls in love with teaching, with one student in particular, and with her superintendent, whom she has alternately charmed and harassed into hiring her. So begins an alternately besetting and horrifying portrayal of war writ large across the landscape of the world and particularized in the lives of those who lived through its horrors—powerful, compelling and unforgettable. - Betsy Burton, Simon & Schuster, $26.99

**Barkskins**, Annie Proulx
Not for the faint of heart, Annie Proulx’s 700+ page novel *Barkskins* has the sweep and heft—and the density—of the seemingly endless forests that once covered our continent. It chronicles the fate of those forests along with those who made timber their lives, beginning in 1693 and moving back and forth across centuries, following two families over time—one of Dutch ancestry, the other of American Indian/French lineage. Proulx urges us along dark forest trails into stump-ridden clearings, along watery trade routes to China and New Zealand and South America, telling us tales of traders and timber barons and sea captains, of lovers and husbands and wives, of scientists, visionaries and murderers. Through it all, as cultures are destroyed or changed unutterably, lands denuded, whether by axe or by fire, in the end the
earth itself becomes a character, its persona woven of changing seasons and brutal storms, falling trees and angry oceans and endlessly striving men and women. This isn’t a novel to keep you up at night but one to remind you who you are and how you came to be—and where you are, and are not, going. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $32

**The Girls**, Emma Cline
The basic plot of Cline’s debut novel will be familiar to anyone who knows the Charles Manson story: at the close of the ‘60s, wayward youth fall under the spell of a charismatic psychopath with lethal consequences. But this is much more than a fictional account of that infamous death cult; it’s a book that explores deeply why a young girl would join a cult in the first place, which is to say** The Girls** is really a book about, well, girls—where they fit in, where they belong. Cline’s storytelling is so confident, so well crafted, that it’s hard to believe this is a debut. – Kenneth Loosli, Random House, $27

**My Last Continent**, Midge Raymond
Deb Gardner is a conservation biologist who studies the various penguin species at the bottom of the earth. Keller Sullivan is a Boston attorney who has lost his family and is trying to find himself on the same continent of ice. Deb’s role as a biologist and tour guide for passengers aboard a small expedition vessel contradicts her desire for aloneness with the study of her penguins. Moving backwards and forwards in time, she describes her relationship with Keller, with passengers, with the Antarctic, at the same time slowly sharing her experience with the worst disaster aboard an ocean liner in one of the most remote places on earth. – Sue Fleming, Scribner, $26

**Zero K**, Don DeLillo
While not a masterpiece like *White Noise, Libra, or Underworld*, this is still a terrific novel that veers close to the sci-fi/post-apocalyptic genre that dominates today’s popular culture with a story about a cultlike, top secret cryogenic + nano-technology program that promises a new post-death life for people wealthy enough to buy in. However, it has more to do with the pre-apocalypse than the post-, more to do with how families cope with end-of-life decisions. Which makes** Zero K** something of a philosophical novel at heart, so don’t go into it expecting a lot of flash-bang action—be prepared for some emotional heaviness, especially on the subject of family. It made a great companion piece to Margaret Atwood’s *The Heart Goes Last.*
– Kenneth Loosli, Scribner, $27

**Homegoing: A Novel**, Yaa Gyasi
Spanning almost 300 years, Gyasi’s tale is of two Ghanian half-sisters: Effia “the Beautiful,” who ends up “married” to a white man managing the burgeoning business in the slave trade, and Esi, who is on her way to America as a slave. Both women, ripped from their families and homes, are grappling with fear of the unknown and the horrors of slavery. Gyasi follows their stories through many generations. The brutality of the tribal wars at home is overshadowed only by the barbarity of slavery in America, and time does not diminish the familial memory of terror. The repercussions reverberate all the way into the 20th century. Really we are all living with this inhumanity, and this book will stay with readers for a very long time.
– Margaret Brennan Neville, Knopf, $26.95

**The Translation of Love**, Lynne Kutsukake
Canada had its own form of internment camps during WWII. At the end of the war the internees were given the choice of moving east of the Rocky Mountains or deportation to Japan. Thirteen-year-old Aya Shimamura has to go to a Japan she does not know when her father chooses to return there. Her life in post-war Japan is lonely until her seatmate Fumi asks her to write a letter in English. She wishes for General MacArthur’s help in finding her missing older sister. The General’s staff receives thousands of letters daily from needy but proud men and women, and this particular letter comes to the attention of two Japanese-American translators. One has spent the war on the General’s staff, and one was trapped in Japan at the beginning of the war. Each character sees occupied Tokyo from his or her point of view, the surviving Japanese possessed of conflicting emotions of humility and anger while the Japanese-American characters are confused as to what their role is in this conquered country. By artfully intertwining these viewpoints Kutsukake gives us a new way of seeing WWII Japan and its relationship with America.
– Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, $25.95

**City of Secrets**, Stewart O’Nan
In 1945 a Jewish survivor of the German death camps finds his way to Jerusalem and is immediately pulled into an underground cell for resistance fighters against the British Mandate. O’Nan’s concise and sparsely stark account of a true event occurring that year at the King David Hotel that has haunted him is a tale for those interested in Israeli history or in the way a young disenfranchised man or woman can get caught up in events soon beyond their control—something as true today as it was then. A remarkable book. – Sue Fleming, Viking, $22
The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks, Terry Tempest Williams

Taking us through American national parks and monuments, their history, their present reality, the rocks and birds and trees of them, traveling through place, the memory of place, its history, somehow, whether through the spectrum of poetry or personal story, natural history, history, or science, *The Hour of Land* reveals the very bones and sinew of our country. A redheaded woodpecker, Theodore Roosevelt’s grief, Terry’s straight-backed father, a horseback ride with her husband through the terrain of the Civil War—slowly, place by place, our country begins to emerge. The South’s Civil War outlook is linked to that of today’s Sagebrush Rebellion here in the West; a planned wall in Big Bend to the inevitable desecration of nature; fratricidal rage to the glorious indifference of the Arctic; righteous rage to the devastation of oil spills, of the earth; Alcatraz to injustice everywhere. The conflagration of Glacier National Park sets the pages on fire and yet the monument to Cesar Chavez offers the possibility of change: *The Hour of Land* is at hand. Terry Tempest Williams has literally shown us our country, its physical body, the bones of its history, the urgent reality of our roles in its future. A manifesto that everyone must read and then act upon.

– Betsy Burton, Sarah Crichton Books, Farrar, Straus, Giroux, $27

*Editor’s note: Terry Tempest Williams will be at the Rose Wagner Theater on Tuesday, June 7, 7 p.m.*

The Latter Days: A Memoir, Judith Freeman

For anyone who grew up in Utah, is a child of the ’50s, or who wants to understand what it means to be Western, female and Mormon, *The Latter Days* by Judith Freeman is revelatory. Not in the sense that it gives away secrets about Mormonism. There’s nothing revealed here that anyone who’s spent time with Mormons doesn’t already know. Rather, it puts the reader in the heart of a family and a culture and time and makes the experience of growing up in that crucible here in the West seem familiar, knowable. Not outside or ‘other.” Freeman’s experience with boys, with siblings, with elders, with her mother and most of all with her charismatic abusive father, are universal. Her coming of age, chaffing under the constraints of a religion that on the one hand was comforting, inclusive to believers, and on the other exclusive, shaming, is pretty universal too. The part that isn’t, the characteristics that are particularly Mormon, seen through the prism of a tough but vulnerable girl and young woman, her vision now both softened and sharpened by the hindsight of age, is—I’ll say it again—revelatory. No longer out of hurt or a need for revenge but out of a desire to give a true accounting. – Betsy Burton, Pantheon, $28.95

*Editor’s note: Judith Freeman will join us at TKE on Tuesday, June 28, 7 p.m.*

The Gene: An Intimate History, Siddhartha Mukherjee

Mukherjee, author of *The Emperor of All Maladies*, explains genetics and its profound influence of heredity on our lives. He weaves the story of his own family to exemplify how conditions with uncles, cousins and other family members come to be. In as fascinating a work as his previous book on the history of cancer, Mukherjee begins with the history of the study of genes, from its mythical beginnings to the solid science of today. I highly recommend this book for anyone even remotely interested in nature and science. – Sue Fleming, Scribner, $30

Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War, Mary Roach

Coming from the author of *Bonk, Spook, Packing for Mars* etc., you know that *Grunt* is going to be a mix of science and ‘eww!’ This book isn’t going to tell you how to treat PTSD or build a more lethal weapon. What it will do is give you an insight into what scientists can do to keep our military personnel healthy—from fabrics that will stop them from bursting into flames to ear protection that won’t leave them deaf at the end of their operational tour. There’s even a quick trip into the attempted development of shark repellent and operational stink bombs. On a more serious note, Roach highlights an injury that most of us have never heard of (warning: it will make grown men cross their legs!), tells us about ‘surgeon’ maggots, gets sleep-deprived on a submarine and explains the sound submariners don’t want to hear at 300 feet below. Above or below, she takes us along for the ride, seatbelts and sick bags optional. – Paula Longhurst, Norton, $26.95

White Sands, Geoff Dyer

This unique travel book takes us on a witty, inquisitive exploration of some well-known, as well as not-so-well-known destinations from the Forbidden City in Beijing to the Watts Towers in Los Angeles to...
the Spiral Jetty in Utah. Dyer, in elegant prose, explores more than just "place," examining the why and what of the places we choose to explore and forcing us, even in those pieces that are laugh-out-loud funny, to look at our own reasons for travel and at what we expect to gain from it. He explains that when we travel we pack with us images and memories that we have long had—sometimes for our entire lives—in a must-read book, not for the answers it may have about a desired destination, but for the questions that we should ask before we go. – Jan Sloan, Pantheon Books, $25

**Paper: Paging Through History**, Mark Kurlansky

Kurlansky is the master of the single-topic book. Other authors who write in the genre aren't as prolific as Kurlansky with *Salt*, *Cod*, *Birdseye*, et al., and in *Paper*, he combines the topic of paper and our relationship with writing and the writing medium to tell a short history of human civilization. It is a fascinating read, perfect to take on vacation and also a great topic for a casual discourse at a summer cocktail party. Before reading this book, it would never occur to most of us how much paper has shaped who we are in the modern world. – Patrick Fleming, W.W. Norton, $27.95

**Valiant Ambition**, Nathaniel Philbrick

With many books based on history you can always learn something new, but a book about the American Revolution and George Washington—what more can possibly be written? Well, it turns out, a lot—especially when the story is in the hands of Philbrick. He gets us into the big battles of the Revolutionary War while also letting us in on the small battles mainly involving the personalities of well-known historical figures, British and American alike. This book is a fluid read, has great maps, and explains the Revolution in the context of the 18th century in a way that makes you admire George Washington all the more even while understanding and sympathizing with Benedict Arnold. A must-read for the casual or serious historian and those fans of Nathaniel Philbrick. – Patrick Fleming, Viking Press, $30

**Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt, His Cowboy Regiment, and the Immortal Charge up San Juan Hill**, Mark Lee Gardner

Gardner has become one of my favorite Western writers, and this book keeps him high on my list. If you are a fan of

**To Hell on a Fast Horse**, his great story about Billy the Kid, or *Shot All to Hell*, the narrative of Jesse James and the Northfield Minnesota raid, you will love this telling of Theodore Roosevelt's gambit in the Spanish-American War. Well researched, this is also full of great photos and maps which make the retelling of this chapter in late 19th century American history a pleasure to read. You will come away with a new understanding of the complex personality that was Theodore Roosevelt and the real dedication his soldiers felt to him. – Patrick Fleming, William Morris, $26.99

**Elizabeth: the Forgotten Years**, John Guy

Elizabeth I reigned for 44 years over the British Isles, and volumes have been written about her rule. Guy's toiling through archives of these years has revealed a treasure trove of new information and insight into her reign, particularly the later years. She could be volatile, spiteful and autocratic, but she clearly took control of the management of her kingdom despite a universal patriarchal attitude that a woman could not rule. Guy's research lends added texture to a fascinating and complicated woman and her life. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $35

**The Secret War: Spies, Ciphers, and Guerillas 1939-1945**, Max Hastings

Probably the definitive book about espionage associated with World War II, Hastings' new book is a tour-de-force retelling of all of the spying, code breaking, and guerrilla warfare during the six years of WWII by all of the major players (Germany, Britain, U.S., Russia, and Japan). Could have been a long read if not for Hastings' great writing and the way the book is organized—global, sweeping strategic/political aims intermingled with moving personal stories of raw courage and grit. This is a good summertime read for the serious history buff. – Patrick Fleming, Harper-Collins, $35

**The Romanovs: 1613-1918**, Simon Sebag Montefiore

This history of the Romanovs is as vast as the land they ruled. This storied dynasty was framed by the lives of two fragile sons—Michael as the original Romanov and Alexei as the martyred last. In between, there were sometimes brilliant and sometimes erratic autocratic tsars and tsarinas. During the 18th century there were a series of female rulers, an almost unheard of event among the Western nations, the most famous being Catherine the Great. At the same time, Russia was ruled in a totally despotic manner, almost medieval in the rights and privileges of the aristocracy, with the tsars and tsarinas viewed as practically religious icons. Montefiore has been privileged to have access to documents newly
Eighteen forty-three saw serious differences emerge between FDR and Winston Churchill as to where and how Europe should be liberated from German occupation. There were polite but fiercely argued disputes between the two on whether the Allies should accomplish the job of liberation by a direct attack across the English Channel or through a Mediterranean-centered strategy centered in Italy and Eastern Europe. As the year and the war wore on, Roosevelt gradually prevailed in his disputes with Churchill on Allied military strategy. He also firmly restrained and overruled powerful American military chiefs, General George Marshall and Admiral Ernest King. Readers will come away from this volume feeling that in 1943 Roosevelt was a commander in chief of the first rank, as effective as Lincoln during the Civil War. Hamilton's work is a major literary and historical achievement. – Lawrence Leigh, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $30

The View from the Cheap Seats, Neil Gaiman

Gaiman’s nonfiction is as accomplished and fascinating as his stories and graphic novels, and here is a collection of the best speeches (commencement and otherwise), essays, and forewords he has written to date. Every piece contains Gaiman’s unique view of the world—from his days as a journalist interviewing an unknown Terry Pratchett to the ‘door falls off a plane incident’ while traveling with Diana Wynn Jones to why you should never ever give your 10-year-old daughter a Stephen King novel. Gaiman’s voice echoes in your head as you read, making each piece of advice, each story, each warning seem very personal. – Paula Longhurst, William Morrow, $26.99

Betrayal at Little Gibraltar: A German Fortress, a Treacherous American General, and the Battle to End World War I, William T. Walker

Goaded by a desire to find out more about an uncle killed in WWI, Walker stumbles across a story about a heroic American expeditionary army assault on an almost impregnable German fortress on the Meuse-Argonne Front during the last few months of the war. The Germans had managed to stop and roll back the 1918 summer offensive on the Western Front in which American Forces had been fed piecemeal into the battle. Pershing, fed up and wanting a unified

Pinpoint: GPS and the Quest for Perfect Knowledge, Greg Milner

GPS may seem cutting-edge to most of us but it turns out that we are putting all our eggs into a technological basket from the ‘70s, which is when the Global Position System satellite network was conceived. The U.S. Air Force tried its hardest to strangle the project through lack of funding. Proven by the first Gulf War and used for such diverse things as turn-by-turn directions, monitoring seismic activity in earthquake zones, and trading on the stock market, this is a fascinating look at a technology that has stealthily invaded every aspect of our lives. – Paula Longhurst, W.W. Norton, $27.95

The Way to the Spring, Ben Ehrenreich

This heartbreaking story about the lives of ordinary citizens in Palestine gives us a glimpse into what it is like to live in the West Bank under increasingly suffocating rules as well as physical obstacles, including fences that separate homes from fields, checkpoints and barriers. Ehrenreich spent the past three years living off and on with different Palestinian families to try to come to an understanding of existence under these conditions. Using his talents as a novelist, he tells their stories with power and grace. A must-read, especially in these times. – Jan Sloan, Penguin Press, $28

Joe Gould's Teeth, Jill Lepore

If you were expecting something like The Secret History of Wonder Woman, this delightfully weird little book is equally terrific but very different. While it’s well-researched (as all Lepore’s work is), it’s also a quick and breezy read, with Lepore employing a less academic, very conversational tone. At times, she even inserts herself into the story, recounting trips to libraries and archives and providing a glimpse into the working life of a professional historian. And a historian could not ask for a better subject than Joe Gould, who declared himself the most important historian of the 20th century as he embarked upon a quixotic quest to document history in real-time as expressed in conversations. He called it oral history, and he spent his life working on an ambitious all-encompassing survey, but the final work never seemed to materialize. It was even suspected he never wrote it at all, and Gould left notebooks for the project all over the country in the course of his strange and winding life. He is one of those true history mysteries, a real enigma, and Lepore’s book leaves you wondering if someday you yourself might find a long-forgotten trunk full of Gould’s notebooks in a dusty attic. – Kenneth Loosli, Knopf, $24.95

Joe Gould’s Teeth, Jill Lepore

If you were expecting something like The Secret History of Wonder Woman, this delightfully weird little book is equally terrific but very different. While it’s well-researched (as all Lepore’s work is), it’s also a quick and breezy read, with Lepore employing a less academic, very conversational tone. At times, she even inserts herself into the story, recounting trips to libraries and archives and providing a glimpse into the working life of a professional historian. And a historian could not ask for a better subject than Joe Gould, who declared himself the most important historian of the 20th century as he embarked upon a quixotic quest to document history in real-time as expressed in conversations. He called it oral history, and he spent his life working on an ambitious all-encompassing survey, but the final work never seemed to materialize. It was even suspected he never wrote it at all, and Gould left notebooks for the project all over the country in the course of his strange and winding life. He is one of those true history mysteries, a real enigma, and Lepore’s book leaves you wondering if someday you yourself might find a long-forgotten trunk full of Gould’s notebooks in a dusty attic. – Kenneth Loosli, Knopf, $24.95

Pinpoint: GPS and the Quest for Perfect Knowledge, Greg Milner

GPS may seem cutting-edge to most of us but it turns out that we are putting all our eggs into a technological basket from the ‘70s, which is when the Global Position System satellite network was conceived. The U.S. Air Force tried its hardest to strangle the project through lack of funding. Proven by the first Gulf War and used for such diverse things as turn-by-turn directions, monitoring seismic activity in earthquake zones, and trading on the stock market, this is a fascinating look at a technology that has stealthily invaded every aspect of our lives. – Paula Longhurst, W.W. Norton, $27.95

Commander in Chief: FDR’s Battle with Churchill, 1943, Nigel Hamilton

Hamilton won a National Book Award for his initial volume on the first year of America’s entry into World War II, part of a multivolume project on Franklin Roosevelt as commander in chief during World War II. In this second volume Hamilton tells us of Franklin Roosevelt’s performance as commander in chief in 1943, the year the Allies went on the offensive in Europe and in the Pacific.
American Force under his direction, was assigned the Meuse-Argonne sector with its defensive position of Montfaucon (Mountain of the Falcons) held by the Germans as a key observation post with a secret piece of equipment. The doughboys assaulting the position, despite being mauld by veteran German defenders, were about to succeed when they were undermined by one of their own—their commanding general. The Americans did prevail but suffered 122,000 casualties, making this campaign one of the bloodiest in American military history. Military and history fans will love this book with its terrific pictures and excellent maps plus great background on the key characters involved in the war. – Patrick Fleming, Scribner, $28

**Mystery/Thriller**

**The Highwayman**, Craig Johnson

It's hard to wait for the next Walt Longmire mystery but every so often, Johnson gives us the gift of a novella which not only tides us over but also gives us a glimpse into other parts and people in and around Absaroka County, Wyoming. In The Highwayman we meet Rosey Wayman of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. She's smart and experienced, and she's afraid she's losing her mind. A fellow HP, Bobby Womack, keeps trying to contact Rosie during her late night shifts, 12:34 a.m. to be exact. The trouble is, Womack's been dead for years. What does he want? And why is he choosing Rosey? - Anne Holman, Viking, $20

**Missing, Presumed**, Susie Steiner (coming June 28)

Detective Manon Bradshaw is lonely when we first meet her. She's tried internet dating (with sadly hilarious results), tried throwing herself into her work, but is dangerously close to despair. She welcomes the news of a new case: the disappearance of a young woman whom a massive man- or in this case woman-hunt does not turn up; the putting together of the pieces—or rather the people—of the puzzle that's hers to solve; the intriguing suspects themselves. The father is a Royal Surgeon, a man of fame and distinction; the mother's a frustrated feminist who has sacrificed for husband and daughter; the boyfriend is improbably good looking; the best friend appears to be holding something back, the victim herself seems increasingly unknowable. And then there's Manon's personal world—her colleagues for good and ill, her estranged sister, a man she meets. Steiner's agility with plot, her ability to create character, and the pulsing tension that winds through the book, not to mention Manon herself—irascible, rash, often foolish but as often doggedly smart, and improbably kind—pull this above humdrum so-called genre fiction and into the territory of Kate Atkinson's *Case History or* Derek Miller's *Norwegian by Night*. May it be the first of many! - Betsy Burton, Random House, $27

**Fatal Pursuit**, Martin Walker (coming June 30)

Readers who like classic cars, classic food, and a classic French chief of police will enjoy Walker's latest. At the moment the center of Police Chief Bruno's life is the annual fête in St. Denis, the heart of which is a classic car parade containing The Bugatti Type 57 Atlantic which may have been the most beautiful car of its time. There were only four made; any now in existence would be worth millions. And where there's money, there's murder. A local scholar is killed as the car parade begins, and Bruno finds himself attempting to solve the murder while taking part in a car race and meeting with a beautiful Parisienne whose local kin is involved in a family feud. Nothing comes easily for Bruno, but he'll put the pieces together and solve the case while preparing a gourmet dinner with the best of the local wines. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Knopf, $25.95

**The Muse**, Jessie Burton, (coming July 16)

Odelle Bastien, a Caribbean émigré in London working in the Skelton Art Gallery in 1967, becomes involved in the mystery surrounding a rare painting by an enigmatic artist from the '30s. The scene then shifts to Spain of 1936 and Olive Schloss, a timid but passionate painter and the daughter of a Viennese Jewish art dealer. The family's entourage in a rented finca on the southern Spanish coast includes Teresa, a young housekeeper, and her half-brother who is fighting in the Civil War but who dreams of being another Picasso. Moving back and forth between the 1960s and the 1930s, with a woman serving as focal point in each era and Odelle the link between past and present, Burton explores the mysteries of creation and ambition in the art world as she did in her best-selling novel, *The Miniaturist*. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Ecco, Harper Collins Publishers, $27.99

**The Asset**, Shane Kuhn (coming July 12)

Operation Red Carpet just recruited its new leader, Kennedy, and he'll tell you that the job interview was terrifying. This CIA ghost operation is intended to prevent a terrorist attack which, if the Red Carpet team can't stop it, will leave the U.S. a shattered wreck. The team is desperate for intelligence; they don't know the nature of the attack but have an idea of the time frame: they have 63 days to save America. Then worse news reaches...
them. The terrorist has caught wind of their plans and deployed an asset of his own. With his team falling around him, it’s up to Kennedy to prevent catastrophe. But how can he do that when he’s been declared a fugitive? Fasten your seatbelt, this is one hell of a ride. – Paula Longhurst, Simon & Schuster, $26

**The Woman in Cabin 10**, Ruth Ware *(coming July 19)*

Another twisty little psychological thriller from the author of *In a Dark, Dark Wood*. Laura (Lo) Blackstock’s new assignment is the trip of a lifetime: a boutique luxury liner cruising the fjords. Ten cabins, great food, sparkling conversation and a person overboard whom no one else seems to miss….Lo’s long buried investigative reporter instincts are awakened and keep her digging when everyone else says she should stop. The port of Trondheim and the authorities are a day away, the wifi’s not working and another body just went overboard… – Paula Longhurst, Scout Press, $26

**Charcoal Joe**, Walter Mosley

Fans of Easy Rawlins will be pleased to know that Easy is back in L.A. along with his band of friends. L.A. in the late ’60s, a haven for hippies and drugs, retains its racial biases and the underlying cruelty of its underworld. When tough guy Mouse appears with a request for Easy to aid a friend’s son arrested for murder, Easy can’t refuse. The young African-American, Seymour, top of his class at Stanford and a bright star, has been found by the body of a dead white man. Easy, who has learned his “coolness” through experience, will work within a racist society to clear the man even while his own love life is falling apart. Mosley’s secondary characters are as quirky and appealing as the major ones, and it is exciting to become part of his world once again. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, $26

**Wilde Lake**, Laura Lippman

Luisa (Lu) Brant has been elected to the position of State Attorney of Howard County, Maryland, a position her father held before her. Her brother and his friends had been all-important in the newly planned Columbia, Maryland. The family and relationships with the community are the core of this legal novel as Lu’s life moves back and forth from the 1960s to 2015. But, how many memories are accurate and how does truth vary according to the points of view of the characters and due to distance from the event? Lu’s first case is the baffling of a woman by a mentally disturbed man who seems to be a drifter unknown to those in the community. However, coincidences and details come to life as Lu begins to ask questions the answers to which make her even more curious. What is the truth of her family’s involvement in an old rape case? What skeletons will be unearthed as she pursues her search for justice? Lippman acknowledges her homage to Harper Lee and *To Kill a Mockingbird* as Lu’s curiosity awakens her interest in the part family and community secrets play in the search for justice. – Wendy Foster Leigh, William Morrow, no price

**Security**, Gina Wohlsdorf

Manderley is the jewel in the crown of the Destin Management Group, a private resort like no other, boasting unparalleled luxury, and, on the night before the opening, a ruthless killer roaming its halls and picking his targets off with deadly precision. His orders are to turn the grand opening into a blood bath, and the staff doesn’t even know they’re in any danger. Only hotel manager Tessa knows what goes on on the twentieth floor, and up there two pairs of eyes are watching her: the killer and the man who would save her life—if his own weren’t hanging by a thread. – Paula Longhurst, Algonquin, $25.95

**Before the Fall**, Noah Hawley

The OSPRY 45XR sits on a private runway at Martha’s Vineyard ready to receive passengers; tonight it’s a media mogul and his family, their private security, a couple of their wealthy friends and Scott Burroughs, a middle-aged artist whose time might be about to come. And it does, just not in the way he intended. Sixteen minutes after takeoff the plane plunges into the ocean killing all on board except Scott and 4-year-old JJ who are both tossed into the spin cycle of the 24-hour news stations. The NTSB and the FBI are involved almost immediately and Scott is their only witness. One news channel in particular, ALC, is presenting speculation as fact, painting Scott not as the humble hero but as the cause of the crash. Among all the distortion and lies peddled by ALC, a real investigation is progressing, but even the investigators are swayed when they see the subjects of Scott’s paintings. Hawley mixes the backstories of the other passengers and crew on the plane with the consequences of the crash. JJ is now the sole heir to a massive fortune, his aunt Ellie wants what’s best for the boy whereas her greedy husband thinks they can treat JJ like an ATM, spending the boy’s inheritance as their own. A great summer read. – Paula Longhurst, Grand Central, $26

**Murder on the Quai**, Cara Black

In this powerful prequel to the Aimee Leduc mystery series, Aimee is a struggling, working-class medical student battling an aristocratic world. It is 1989, and the Berlin Wall has just come down. When Aimee’s father leaves Paris for Berlin on a secret mission asking Aimee to help with their family detective agency,
she discovers a murder connected to Nazi gold and the execution of the citizens of a French village during WWII. The investigation piques her interest in the world of the private detective, and suddenly medicine doesn't seem as interesting. For avid followers of Aimee, this book answers puzzles Black has created in the previous 15 books, taking readers not only to Paris but also into rural France, the dark world of Berlin, the East German Stasi, and European intrigue, introducing them to characters they have heard about but never met. Murder on the Quai is a commentary on the power of humans to survive evil through whatever means necessary. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, $27.95

Lost and Gone Forever, Alex Grecian
Walter Day stepped into Jack the Ripper’s carriage and fell off the face of the earth. Most of his old colleagues at Scotland Yard have stopped looking for him, thinking him dead. Walter’s wife Clare and his ex-colleague Nevil Hammersmith are the only two who believe Walter is still alive. One year later Nevil is running a private enquiry agency, Clare his only client, when an employee of Plumm’s Department Store goes missing and his brother hires Hammersmith and his assistant Hatty Pitt to locate the missing man. At the same time a much changed Walter Day escapes his prison, and the secret society that Walter’s mentor was involved with hires a pair of foreign assassins to take care of Jack before he can kill the rest of their members. What could possibly go wrong? – Paula Longhurst, Putnam, $27

The Strings of Murder, Oscar de Muriel
In a London terrorized by Jack the Ripper, heads are rolling at Scotland Yard. Inspector Ian Frey’s is one of them; in less than a day he has lost his position, his fiancée and his home. He arrives in Edinburgh in disgrace, attached to a unit that hunts ghosts and other supernatural phenomena. His boss is the eccentric and mercurial ‘Nine Nails’ McGray. Together the foppish inspector and the ghost-hunting detective must lay to rest rumors of a Ripper copycat in the case of a murdered musician, a locked room and a cursed instrument said to have been played by the devil himself. – Paula Longhurst, Pegasus, $25.95

Smoke, Dan Vyleta
In a book possessed of all the qualities of smoke, the vapor, the landscape is England and the characters represent sharp class divisions. Evil takes on a physical property in the form of smoke which emanates from a human as he or she feels anger or lust. It is all well and good for the lower classes to be covered in soot from their passionate and lustful thoughts and actions, but the aristocracy should be white and clean. When instead they begin to show gray tinges of soot, revolution is in the air. Thomas Argyle and Charlie Cooper attend a prestigious boarding school where they meet the cruel Julius Spencer. The three come into conflict during Christmas at the home of Thomas’s uncle Baron Naylor, where Lady Naylor is experimenting with the origins of smoke. When Thomas and Charlie discover her secrets, they and her daughter Livia flee to London, now themselves stained in this fantastical and disturbing book. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Doubleday, $27.95

Stiletto, Daniel O’Malley
Her majesty’s supernatural secret service is back. The Checquy and their sworn enemies, The Grafters, are moving towards an alliance. Peace talks, brokered by Rook Myfanwy Thomas, are about to take place at the Checquy’s headquarters in central London. Tensions are high. A single spark could lead to war between the two supernatural superpowers with the hapless British public right in the firing lines, and that spark could be created by Pawn Felicity and Grafter Odette, two women who absolutely can’t stand each other. Even in the middle of peace talks, supernatural threats still exist, like the strange outbreak of killer crystals countrywide, recent transplant patients sleepwalking into oblivion, and a burial site in North Wales that contains one very pissed-off occupant not to mention the conspiracy theorists noisily picketing the Checquy’s offices. Stiletto is still a mashup of Monty Python, Dr. Who and Torchwood with all of the horror/humor of the original Rook. The four-year wait between books has been well worth it. – Paula Longhurst, Little Brown, $26

“When we press books upon one another—authors on their publishers, publishers on booksellers, booksellers on readers—we are doing what we’ve always done and always for the same reason. You’ll like this, we tell each other. This is worth your while. This will cheer you up. This will break your heart. This will help you understand. Here, right here, is your new best friend, this book.” - Richard Russo
The Tsar of Love and Techno, Anthony Marra (coming July 19)
The title story of this stunning collection begins dead-center in the book’s 300+ pages. Which is appropriate since it connects the book’s disparate pieces into one dazzling whole. Suddenly you realize what you’re reading is more novel than collection, a sweeping tale of Russian history’s cruel ironies in which memory is the incandescent heart. In the first tale, which takes place in 1937, a failed portraitist whose job is to expunge the images of the disloyal from all paintings and photographs replaces the faces of those he’s supposed to remove with that of his dead brother. The next tale, “The Granddaughters,” is a kind of Greek chorus of village gossip in which the image that doomed our painter is brought to life in the form of a dancer and her progeny, and we are introduced to each of the characters whose intersecting lives this amazing book from 1937 forward to the era of technology—whether in Kirovsk, high above the Arctic Circle, St. Petersburg, or Chechnya. At its heart are star-crossed lovers whose fates are woven from tale to tale and into our hearts; the love of brothers; and of mothers and fathers. If there is betrayal it is that of the state in a story with the breadth of scope and the depth of feeling of the finest literature.
– Betsy Burton and Anne Holman, Hogarth, $16

Our Souls at Night, Kent Haruf
Old age is more than the accumulation of years and the disintegration of body parts, more than fond memories and rueful regrets. It also implies an accumulation of wisdom—despite the brain plaque—wisdom that recognizes the comfort of lying close to someone late at night, the pleasure of whispered conversations in the dark. Haruf began Our Souls at Night with this premise in mind. One evening when Louis Waters, a widower of many years, is home alone as usual there’s a knock on the door. It’s Addie Moore, a widow he knows only slightly. She has a proposal for Louis: not marriage, not even co-habitation, but rather nighttime visits—not with sex in mind but simple companionship. To his own surprise, Louis agrees. And so begins their story, one that involves gossip in the town, tension with children, a needy grandchild, baseball, a border collie, and all the rural pleasures and pains that mark classic Haruf territory. If Kent Haruf’s previous novel gave benediction to our final act, death, Our Souls at Night provides a haunting and lovely grace note. We mourn his passing but will treasure forever the legacy he left: books rich with truth and grace with a simplicity that only the greatest art can achieve.
– Betsy Burton, Vintage. $15 Editor’s note: Cathy Haruf, Kent’s widow, will be at TKE Thursday, July 27, 7 p.m., to talk about Haruf’s last book and his life.

Did You Ever Have a Family, Bill Clegg (out now)
Bill Clegg’s fiction debut is a novel of family extinguished, literally. Deep in the night a house burns to the ground and only June, who couldn’t sleep, escapes the conflagration. In the house are her daughter and fiancé, her lover, her ex-husband. All lost. For June, all that’s left is grief that’s unendurable. For Lydia, the mother of June’s lover, only emptiness. June gets in her car and drives. Lydia withdraws into an empty house. But without intentionally reaching out, both women make connections that draw them further out into the world and deeper into the past—while the reason for the fire ticks away in the reader’s mind. Bill Clegg has a raw talent for shining light on the workings of people’s hearts and heads, and his skillful weaving of their stories into a skein of family makes a sense at once harsh and kind of all their collective, connected pasts.
– Betsy Burton, Gallery/Scout Press, $16

Slade House, David Mitchell (coming June 28)
Mitchell does it again in this compact thriller that may or may not be a sequel to The Bone Clocks. Companion piece or spin-off is perhaps a better description. Slade House is tucked away down an alley behind a pub with a small, mysterious iron door that only appears every nine years. Invited in by a strange brother and sister, the unique and unfortunate souls who enter that door are never heard from or seen again. Spanning 50 years from the late ’70s to the present, this little novel will make you feel as if you have dropped inside an Escher drawing and will keep you up at night as you hurtle to the conclusion discovering the secrets of this haunted-house story as only Mitchell can reveal them.
– Anne Stewart Mark, Random House, $16

Best Boy, Eli Gottlieb (out now)
I fell in love with the autistic protagonist Todd Aaron on page one, and on that same page felt a stab of empathy for his mother that nearly felled me. I read on, about their moment of parting; about Todd’s relatively happy life for the ensuing 41 years in the Payton Living Center; about his brother who came to visit him occasionally; about the new roommate, the attractive new “villager,” and worse, the disturbing new employee at the center. Todd’s literal mind and exact reporting make for the wryest of commentary, and some scenes are howlingly funny. His own misperceptions can be funny one minute, shattering the next, and his perceptions can be so acute they startle. The book swings from past to present in tandem with his mind as a scent rekindles memory or sparks fear—or laughter or longing—in
the present. But it’s when past and present begin to merge that the book totally ignites—along with the reader’s heart. I wish everyone would read *Best Boy*. I suspect that in time almost everyone will.

— Betsy Burton, Norton, $14.95

### This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!

**Jonathan Evison (out now)**

Fans of Evison’s *Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving* will delight in this new book which, like his last, has been built around a smaller cast of quirky and unique characters, many of whom resemble people we already know, would like to know or wish we didn’t know. Moving through nearly 80 years of Harriet Chance’s existence on earth, visiting all the pivotal moments that have shaped her, Evison delicately opens up the life of his novel’s namesake in a poignant homage to the quiet strength of a wife and mother whose life has flashed by and who finds herself, of a sudden, in her final years. Tragic, funny, and transcendent, Evison’s fourth book is a fine addition to his oeuvre.

— Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, $17

### Sweet Caress, William Boyd (out now)

A novel in the form of a memoir, *Sweet Caress* is William Boyd’s fictional tale of Amory Clay, a woman who records society, war, fashion, in photographs that define the ages through which she lives beginning with a blurred snapshot of her family in their idyllic country home. Her first job is with her uncle, a London society photographer. In an attempt to establish herself as an artist in her own right, Amory travels to Berlin, and when her shocking photographs cause more of a stir in London than she had bargained for, she heads for New York to work for a newspaper magnate whose interest in her is more than merely professional. Half this fascinating tale is told from the perspective of Amory, age 69, by now a photojournalist for decades. Her photographs, scattered throughout the novel, accompany a narrative that crosses continents and decades, taking the reader from generation to generation, war to war. As in the prize-winning novels *Any Human Heart* and *Restless*, Boyd artfully and engagingly captures the historical currents of the ages he portrays, the wars that beset us—and the ceaseless, mysterious need that is in the heart of each of us.

— Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, $17

### The Small Backs of Children, Lidia Yuknavitch (coming July 28)

Lidia Yuknavitch’s outstanding new novel is only 208 pages long, its prose sleek and spare, but make no mistake—this is a heavy book. It’s a lyrical, sexual, and brutal narrative about being an artist, especially a female artist. There are no characters per se, at least not in the traditional sense. Nobody has a name; instead there is a proliferation of artistic personae: the writer (the protagonist), the poet (an ersatz lover), the photographer (a different kind of seductress), the filmmaker (the writer’s present husband), the playwright (the writer’s brother), the painter (the writer’s ex-husband), the performance artist (now the painter’s lover), and so on. At the center of the story is a prize-winning photograph from an Eastern European war—a photograph of an explosion and a girl. The explosion atomizes the girl’s family, her entire world, and yet in this moment she becomes the organizing element of every other character’s life. When the writer falls ill, her coterie decides to retrieve this girl from Europe and bring her back to America to help the writer recover. Since the photo was taken, the girl too has grown up to become an artist, a woman who uses every trauma she has endured—hunger, rape, war—and every bodily fluid she can conjure to produce the physical makings of her art. Her presence proves to be as destructive as it is restorative. *The Small Backs of Children* is an affirmation of the contradictory forces of art and the novel concludes with a series of conflicting alternate endings that comprise a last, convincing statement about the artist’s power to stave off finality, her power over death, her power to create.

— Kenneth Loosli, Harper Perennial, $14.99

### The Book of Aron, Jim Shepard (out now)

As Jews are herded into the Warsaw Ghetto and the Nazi noose slowly chokes off all means of survival, we travel on the heels of a small boy into overcrowded apartments, along dangerous streets, through warrens of underground passageways. Aron, never an easy child, is always in trouble. His friends, a pack of wolves, sneak in and out of the ghetto to find food, bartering with helpless widows who are willing to give up the shawls on their backs in exchange for food for their families. But our wolf-children have families too—families they help support with their ill-gotten goods. The morality of survival. The ghetto is a complicated place, patrolled by the so-called Yellow Police, Jews used by the Nazis to maintain control through blackmail and threats which mere children are ill-equipped to handle. And then there’s internationally known Janusz Korczak who runs the orphanage where it is assumed his charges will be safe. When Aron finds his way to the side of the compassionate Korczak and the relative safety of the orphanage, we long for the boy’s survival: I can’t say whether our wish is granted, but I can say that I’ll be hearing Aron’s young voice—at once knowing and innocent, full of anger and of yearning, frightening and infinitely touching—for the rest of my life.

— Betsy Burton, Vintage, $15.95

### I Saw a Man, Owen Sheers (coming July 12)

A man in search of a borrowed screwdriver enters the open door of his neighbors’ house. He calls out but no one answers. He takes a step inside, then another. The man of the title is Michael Turner, a successful author of immersive journalism who has recently published a book in New York to rave reviews. But between the publication and the present much has happened to Michael. We didn’t know. Moving through nearly 80 years of Harriet Chance’s existence on earth, visiting all the pivotal moments that have shaped her, Evison delicately opens up the life of his novel’s namesake in a poignant homage to the quiet strength of a wife and mother whose life has flashed by and who finds herself, of a sudden, in her final years. Tragic, funny, and transcendent, Evison’s fourth book is a fine addition to his oeuvre.

— Aaron Cance, Algonquin Books, $15.95

**This Is Your Life, Harriet Chance!**

**Jonathan Evison (out now)**

Fans of Evison’s *Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving* will delight in this new book which, like his last, has been built around a smaller cast of quirky and unique characters, many of whom resemble people we already know, would like to know or wish we didn’t know. Moving through nearly 80 years of Harriet Chance’s existence on earth, visiting all the pivotal moments that have shaped her, Evison delicately opens up the life of his novel’s namesake in a poignant homage to the quiet strength of a wife and mother whose life has flashed by and who finds herself, of a sudden, in her final years. Tragic, funny, and transcendent, Evison’s fourth book is a fine addition to his oeuvre.

— Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, $17

### Sweet Caress, William Boyd (out now)

A novel in the form of a memoir, *Sweet Caress* is William Boyd’s fictional tale of Amory Clay, a woman who records society, war, fashion, in photographs that define the ages through which she lives beginning with a blurred snapshot of her family in their idyllic country home. Her first job is with her uncle, a London society photographer. In an attempt to establish herself as an artist in her own right, Amory travels to Berlin, and when her shocking photographs cause more of a stir in London than she had bargained for, she heads for New York to work for a newspaper magnate whose interest in her is more than merely professional. Half this fascinating tale is told from the perspective of Amory, age 69, by now a photojournalist for decades. Her photographs, scattered throughout the novel, accompany a narrative that crosses continents and decades, taking the reader from generation to generation, war to war. As in the prize-winning novels *Any Human Heart* and *Restless*, Boyd artfully and engagingly captures the historical currents of the ages he portrays, the wars that beset us—and the ceaseless, mysterious need that is in the heart of each of us.

— Betsy Burton, Bloomsbury, $17

### The Small Backs of Children, Lidia Yuknavitch (coming July 28)

Lidia Yuknavitch’s outstanding new novel is only 208 pages long, its prose sleek and spare, but make no mistake—this is a heavy book. It’s a lyrical, sexual, and brutal narrative about being an artist, especially a female artist. There are no characters per se, at least not in the traditional sense. Nobody has a name; instead there is a proliferation of artistic personae: the writer (the protagonist), the poet (an ersatz lover), the photographer (a different kind of seductress), the filmmaker (the writer’s present husband), the playwright (the writer’s brother), the painter (the writer’s ex-husband), the performance artist (now the painter’s lover), and so on. At the center of the story is a prize-winning photograph from an Eastern European war—a photograph of an explosion and a girl. The explosion atomizes the girl’s family, her entire world, and yet in this moment she becomes the organizing element of every other character’s life. When the writer falls ill, her coterie decides to retrieve this girl from Europe and bring her back to America to help the writer recover. Since the photo was taken, the girl too has grown up to become an artist, a woman who uses every trauma she has endured—hunger, rape, war—and every bodily fluid she can conjure to produce the physical makings of her art. Her presence proves to be as destructive as it is restorative. *The Small Backs of Children* is an affirmation of the contradictory forces of art and the novel concludes with a series of conflicting alternate endings that comprise a last, convincing statement about the artist’s power to stave off finality, her power over death, her power to create.

— Kenneth Loosli, Harper Perennial, $14.99

### The Book of Aron, Jim Shepard (out now)

As Jews are herded into the Warsaw Ghetto and the Nazi noose slowly chokes off all means of survival, we travel on the heels of a small boy into overcrowded apartments, along dangerous streets, through warrens of underground passageways. Aron, never an easy child, is always in trouble. His friends, a pack of wolves, sneak in and out of the ghetto to find food, bartering with helpless widows who are willing to give up the shawls on their backs in exchange for food for their families. But our wolf-children have families too—families they help support with their ill-gotten goods. The morality of survival. The ghetto is a complicated place, patrolled by the so-called Yellow Police, Jews used by the Nazis to maintain control through blackmail and threats which mere children are ill-equipped to handle. And then there’s internationally known Janusz Korczak who runs the orphanage where it is assumed his charges will be safe. When Aron finds his way to the side of the compassionate Korczak and the relative safety of the orphanage, we long for the boy’s survival: I can’t say whether our wish is granted, but I can say that I’ll be hearing Aron’s young voice—at once knowing and innocent, full of anger and of yearning, frightening and infinitely touching—for the rest of my life.

— Betsy Burton, Vintage, $15.95

### I Saw a Man, Owen Sheers (coming July 12)

A man in search of a borrowed screwdriver enters the open door of his neighbors’ house. He calls out but no one answers. He takes a step inside, then another. The man of the title is Michael Turner, a successful author of immersive journalism who has recently published a book in New York to rave reviews. But between the publication and the present much has happened to Michael. We didn’t know. Moving through nearly 80 years of Harriet Chance’s existence on earth, visiting all the pivotal moments that have shaped her, Evison delicately opens up the life of his novel’s namesake in a poignant homage to the quiet strength of a wife and mother whose life has flashed by and who finds herself, of a sudden, in her final years. Tragic, funny, and transcendent, Evison’s fourth book is a fine addition to his oeuvre.

— Aaron Cance, Algonquin Books, $15.95
incomplete—until he met Caroline, a for-

eign correspondent with her own impres-

tive credentials and a taste for danger The
two fell in love and built a nest in Wales

where they start to build toward a full life
together. A life cut short when she trav-
elled to Pakistan on a story. We also learn
the backstory of Michael’s neighbors,
husband Jason, wife Samantha, daughters
4-year-old Lucy and 7-year-old Rachel, as
Michael slowly makes his way deeper into
their house. From the beginning we know
something fateful is about to occur, but
Sheers builds the tension slowly, draw-
ing us into the lives of all involved—into the tale of how they became
involved with one another. The writing is mesmerizing, the surprises
explosive—even to the last page. – Betsy Burton, Anchor, $16

Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-
Eight Nights, Salman Rushdie (coming
July 12)

It may not be immediately apparent to
math-averse book people, but the title of
Salman Rushdie’s new novel adds up to
one thousand and one nights—perhaps the most [in]famous duration of time
associated with storytelling. Rushdie’s
riff on The Arabian Nights tells the story
of an exceptional jinna (a female jinn or
genie) who leaves the world of her kind
and falls in love with a series of hu-
man men. Her unlikely offspring live unaware of their supernatural
heritage, but as the slits that allow jinni to travel between their world
and ours begin to open up, she seeks out her progeny to alert them to
their powers. Soon “strangenesses” begin to occur with regularity, the
fabric of reasonable society comes apart and the War of the Worlds
(between the human world and the jinni world) begins. This book
gives you everything you want from a Rushdie novel—wild wit and
humor, earthy characters, his unique style of magical realism mixed
with almost classical romance, Joycean wordplay, and a truly epic
storyline that spans millennia. It’s perfect for fans of Rushdie’s earlier
classics Midnight’s Children and The Moor’s Last Sigh.
– Kenneth Loosli, Random House, $16

The Truth According to Us, Annie Bar-
rows (out now)

In the same delightful vein as The Guern-
seyc Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society,
Annie Barrows takes us to 1938 Mac-
donia, West Virginia, where Layla Beck
has been forced by her wealthy father,
under the auspices of the Federal Writ-
ers’ Project, to write the town’s history.
Upon arrival she is like a fish out of water
and soon discovers that the family she
boards with carries secrets from and is
entangled with the deep past of the town.

West Virginia charm and southern hospitality abound, and readers
will enjoy the light-hearted view of 12-year-old Willa Romeyn, the
stuffy attitude of Layla Beck, along with all the other oddly appealing
characters Barrows has created in this perfect summer read. – Vivian
Evans, Dial, $16

The Sunken Cathedral, Kate Walbert (out
now)

In a novel of voices, often inventively,
expansively footnoted, Walbert weaves
together a multitude of tales, at first
emanating from a painting class taught
by a down-at-the-heels artist in a down-
at-the-heels New York tenement. The
one we hear first is that of Helen, who
paints a world catastrophically immersed
in water. But two of her classmates, old
friends, long-time New Yorkers, both of
whom survived WWII in Europe and
are long-since widowed, form the heart of the novel. They seem
indomitable despite their age, listening to each other’s tales, propping
each other up, helping each other move forward, however slowly.

Until, suddenly, Simone is gone and Marie is left alone. Elizabeth,
her upstairs neighbor, provides some comfort, joining the chorus in
full-part harmony in the process. As do Jules, Marie’s son, and others
from the neighborhood, an actor, and an architect, all part of their
community. Walbert gets at some interesting issues as she scores her
latest choral symphony—the ways in which community, whether in a
class or a neighborhood, connects people, the ways we remain alone
however close our connections, the ways the past informs the pres-
ent, the ways age and infirmity expand and contract our universe, the
ways our profligacy afflicts our world—but most of all the ways our
interior lives assimilate and hold, at least in memory, our hurts, our
hopes, our satisfactions, our terrors, our loves. Pure Walbert, purely
stunning—as always. – Betsy Burton, Scribner, $15.95

And West Is West, Ron Childress (out
now)

A hand hovering over a control; a ques-
tion about what the camera is reveal-
ing; an order from above. And so lives
change—just as they do in another part of
the U.S. where another finger hovers over
another button while a distracted mind
calculates odds. Once again a button is
pushed and once again lives change. The
control in the first instance is in the hands
of Jessica, a drone pilot in the Nevada
desert, who sees innocents enter her
target area but is ordered to fire anyway. The button in the second
instance is controlled by Ethan, whose specialty is calculating the
impact of terrorism on the markets of the world and who, with one
push of a button, one miscalculation he may or may not have made,
is cast out like Jessica, adrift in a world with which he is not prepared
to cope. Through the eyes of Ethan and Jessica, both on the run, both
searching for a way to get at the truth of what has happened, the story
expands, explodes, pulling us into intersecting lives and into the web
of technologies the impact of which we’re just beginning to under-
stand. And West Is West is not just a great read, it’s eye-opening in
terrifying ways. – Betsy Burton, Algonquin Books, $15.95
**NUMERO ZERO**, Umberto Eco (out now)

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

– Betsy Burton, Mariner, $14.95

**AMONG THE TEN THOUSAND THINGS**, Julia Pierpont (coming June 14)

Among the ten thousand things Julia Pierpont notes in her achingly funny and uncannily accurate novel of a family in trouble are the feelings that drive teenagers, the bewilderment that besets children when faced with the puzzling tangle that is the adult world, the sometimes unbridgeable spaces between adults. Jack, an artist who’s self-involved but a pleasant enough fellow, has an affair. Wife Deborah, who’s not the most self-aware person although a good mother, already knows he’s been unfaithful, but finds out more than she can face when the mistress sends a box of incriminating letters to the family’s apartment. Trouble is, it’s the daughter who opens the box, reads the letters, shows them to her brother who also reads them before showing them to Deborah. Shock waves follow and gradually the tangle of connection that binds families begins to loosen, a process that’s fascinating to watch even as we suffer with them, feel empathetic pain for them all. Pierpont portrays her characters with an ocean of compassion and an insistent honesty that is disconcerting. No false sentiment here. Reminiscent in a way of early Margaret Atwood in its compassion and an insistent honesty that is disconcerting. No false sentiment here. Reminiscent in a way of early Margaret Atwood in its

– Betsy Burton, Random House, $16

**MUSE**, Jonathan Galassi (out June 28)

At once poetic, satiric, deliciously dishy, **Muse**, Jonathan Galassi’s novelistic tell-all, is at once a hymn to and send-up of the publishing industry. It is also a booklover’s dream-come-true. Paul Dukach works for Homer Stern, an iconic, savvy, narcissistic, book-loving pirate known for his foul mouth, his determination, his machina-

Our Book-a-Month Club is available in six and twelve-month increments and makes a lovely gift for the reader in your life (or yourself for that matter). Sign up today and receive a first edition hardcover especially chosen for our readers each month. Call the store for details.
**The Mountain Story**, Lori Lansens (coming July 12)
Wilfred ‘Wolf’ truly intends to take his own life on his 18th birthday on the same mountain that took his best friend, but a bee sting and three ladies derail all that. Nola, Bridget and Von are initially convinced that search and rescue will find them before they run out of food and water although the mountain, beautiful and rugged, is home to a host of natural predators, including snakes and hypothermia. As hours become days Wolf and his companions forge a bond that, for the survivors, will last long beyond their experiences. – Paula Longhurst, Gallery, $16

**The Festival of Insignificance**, Milan Kundera (out now)
Milan Kundera’s new book is a very French, very short novella about the navel. That is to say, it is a story that explores the sexual relations between men and women in philosophical terms. In the course of just over one hundred pages, the novella touches on questions of births, mothers and cutting the umbilical cord, whether Eve possessed a navel, not to mention the physical location of woman's seductive power. Characters include a middle-aged bachelor who speaks to a portrait of his mother (and she speaks back), an out-of-work actor working as a waiter who pretends to be a bachelor who speaks to a portrait of his mother (and she speaks) and a couple of inveterate womanizers with very different methods of seduction. One of these womanizers argues that the best way to seduce a woman is to appear insignificant for "insignificance is her natural endowment,” while his companion argues that the best way to seduce a woman is to appear “more than enough motives to incriminate a cast of murderers. Once again, George has given us ample opportunity to escape into the world of Lynley and Havers as well as to delve into murder most vile. Terrific. – Michelle Macfarlane, Little Brown, $12

**The Oregon Trail**, Rinker Buck (out now)
When Rinker Buck left journalism and decided to follow the original Oregon Trail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Baker City, Oregon, he didn't count on two important things—his brother Nick and Nick’s feisty Jack Russell terrier, Olive Oyl. Fortunately for Rinker and for us, the trio stayed together over the course of 2,000 miles, many broken axles, and terrible weather. The Buck brothers discovered, mile by mile, the real history of the trail and the stories of the people who fought, stole, and died crossing it. Fascinating as that history is, astute as is his social commentary, *The Oregon Trail* is often laugh-out-loud funny. A perfect summer read, especially if you are planning a covered wagon ride of any distance. – Anne Holman, Simon & Schuster, $16.99

**Hold Still**, Sally Mann (out now)
Sally Mann’s memoir *Hold Still* un-nerves and captivates the reader in much the same way her photographs uneasily enthral the viewer. While Mann does address the period of her family and artistic life during the making of her images for *Immediate Family*, as well as the controversy over them that catapulted her to national prominence following its publication in 1992, her memoir gives a long, rich and disturbing overview of her life within its larger context of the South, its history, and her and her ancestors’ place within it. The book is as much a portrait of her literal place within the world as it is a series of self-portraits: a wild child raised more by Gee-Gee—her family’s African-American housekeeper—than by her distant mother or doctor-father; a troublesome, renegade high school beauty discovering analog photography with her boyfriend in a darkroom; a rash young married woman struggling with money, having children, and holding on to her artistic vision. As a photographer, and now in her memoir, Sally Mann bears both artistic and very personal witness to privilege, racism, sexism, family, motherhood, and death. – Michelle Macfarlane, Little Brown, $12

**A Banquet of Consequences: A Lynley Novel**, Elizabeth George (coming July 5)
Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers has been forced to sign a transfer request to Berwick-upon-Tweed which Detective Superintendent Isabelle Ardery keeps on her desk waiting for Havers’ next wrong move. Havers, on the other hand, is frantic to get back into the game of solving murders and is willing to risk the horrors of a transfer to do so. When a prominent feminist dies of an apparent heart attack, Havers is drawn into examining the death, which is more complicated than it appears. Lynley does his best to guide her in a prudent direction during the investigation, but, as usual, she goes her own way. In the process, she uncovers more than enough motives to incriminate a cast of murderers. Once again, George has given us ample opportunity to escape into the world of Lynley and Havers as well as to delve into murder most vile. Terrific. – Barbara Hoagland, Penguin, $16

**The Last Four Days of Paddy Buckley**, Jeremy Massey (out now)
Paddy Buckley is an undertaker in Dublin where he is respected and beloved by colleagues and the community at large. One fateful evening he accidentally runs over and kills the brother of the town’s most terrible crime lord. Now the fun begins. Literally. Often hilari-
ous, Paddy takes us through four days of friendship, love and loyalty. I’d recommend it to anyone with a love for the Irish, for a great story, or with curiosity about the undertaker’s business. – Sue Fleming, Riverhead Books, $16.95

Dry Bones, Craig Johnson (out now)
There’s a new girl in town. Jen, who may be the largest and most intact dinosaur ever discovered. The problem is, she’s found on Danny Lone Elk’s ranch on the Cheyenne reservation and Danny turns up dead only days later. The High Plains Dinosaur Museum would love to have her but so would the Feds, the Smithsonian, and just about everyone else. While Walt Longmire is trying to solve the murder and protect the bones, his daughter Cady arrives with 5-month-old Lola for a visit to Grandpa. What should be a happy reunion turns tragic, and mother and daughter return to Philly with Deputy Sheriff Victoria Moretti in tow. There’s never a dull moment in Absaroka County, and this is no exception. Fans will love this cliff-hanger and wait anxiously for the next book. Save Jen! – Anne Holman, Penguin, $16

Six and a Half Deadly Sins, Colin Cotterill (out now)
It is 1979 and Dr. Siri Paiboun is still philosophizing with his aging cronies and his wife, Madame Daeng, concerning the politics of Laos, China, Cambodia, and Vietnam. He cannot resist the urge to explore and solve puzzles; therefore, when he receives an unmarked package containing a hand woven “pha sin” and discovers a human finger in the hem, he and Madame Daeng must set out for the north on the trail of six and a half sins and a message sewn into the skirts. Getting to the north calls for a little ingenuity and a lot of Dr. S’s friends, who march into political chaos on the northern Laos border and become the victims of a personal vendetta. Readers eagerly awaiting another of Cotterill’s Laotian mysteries won’t be disappointed by Six and a Half Deadly Sins. The writing is a mixture of pathos and humor, and Cotterill combines reality and a little magical realism in the portrayal of Dr. Siri. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho Press, $15.95

Yellowstone Standoff, Scott Graham (out now)
Science and nature collide in the third installment of the National Parks mystery series. Yellowstone’s bears have a people problem. It has been two years since a fatal bear attack on a pair of wolf researchers in a part of the park so far from civilization that you need a satellite phone to call for help. Reluctantly, the rangers are letting researchers back in, among them archaeologist Chuck Bender and his family. Chuck has been contracted to survey a find of serious histor-
TRANSITIONAL READERS

Of Mice and Magic, Ursula Vernon

Harriet the Invincible was a great beginning to another creative, engaging transitional series from author Ursula Vernon (Dragonbreath series), and book two does not disappoint! Boredom has set in, and Harriet does NOT want to take up anything remotely princess-like. Then she finds out that 12 mice princesses are cursed! If anyone can save the day it is she. Witches, moles, a forest made of silver, a black river that eats princes…read it and smile. I love Harriet!
– Dial Books, $12.99 (8 and up)

The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horder, Shannon & Dean Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

The Hale/Pham team does it again! This time Princess Magnolia has to save the kingdom from a very unlikely group of monsters. In the third book in a series that resonates with all the things we loved in the first two, princesses and monsters are all wrapped up in a great story with terrific illustrations. – Candlewick, $14.99 (5 and up)

MIDDLE READERS

A Dragon’s Guide to Making Your Human Smarter, Laurence Yep & Joanne Ryder

Miss Drake is so proud of Winnie who is headed off to the magical Spriggs Academy—until she uncovers a terrible plot to kidnap Winnie and must use all of her dragon talents and magical skills to keep her “pet” safe. But it turns out that Winnie has talents too. This is the second in a series, aimed right at new middle readers. Like the first book, it’s funny and gentle, jam-packed with adventure and magic, perfect for the tender-hearted. – Crown Books for Young Readers, $16.99 (8 and up)

Wolf Hollow, Lauren Wolk

While WWII occupies all the adult attention in rural western Pennsylvania, Annabelle’s world is changed when Betty moves in with her grandmother. At first Annabelle thinks that Betty’s mean behavior will improve after she gets used to her new home. But quite the opposite: Betty’s hurtful and cruel actions ramp up, and the cost is heartbreaking, especially when they involve homeless WWI vet Toby. Now everyone in her community will have to make a choice. This is a powerful debut, ideal for families to read together. – Dutton, $16.99 (10 and up)

Some Kind of Happiness, Claire LeGrand

Finley’s parents are struggling, and their last-ditch attempt to fix their marriage means that Finley must spend the summer with grandparents whom she has never met. Finley’s way of dealing with problems is to retreat to her fantasy world, Everwood, but when she arrives at Hart House and discovers the wild forest behind, she finds even more than her beloved Everwood offered. LeGrand takes on difficult issues in this finely written novel: divorce, estrangement, guilt, cancer and depression. All are handled with kindness and care. The result is both loving and hopeful. – Simon & Schuster, $18.99 (10 and up)

The Ballad of a Broken Nose, Arne Svingen

Bart’s life is far from nice. His mom is perpetually out-of-work, they live in a very small subsidized apartment, and he often goes hungry. All he wants to do is survive the middle-school bullies and sing opera, and he does everything he can to stay under the radar. Until Ada (cute, nice, and can’t keep a secret) finds out that he can sing. All of a sudden the true nature of Bart’s life is revealed—with some scary consequences—and he must make decisions about what he really wants to be, do, and who he is. Who knows, maybe Ada has done Bart a favor. Funny, smart, and a touch heartbreaking. Opera, which should be playing while reading this debut novel, is a metaphor for Bart and his life. – Margaret K, McElderry Books, $16.99 (10 and up)

Towers Falling, Jewell Parker Rhodes

It takes a lot of courage to try to explain an event like 9/11 to kids (5th graders) who were not born when it happened, but Rhodes handles it with grace and dignity. The story starts with Deja, who lives at the homeless shelter and is nervous about her new school. She quickly becomes friends with Ben, another new kid, and Sabeen. All three have their own baggage, and readers clearly see that history is important and that what we know and don’t know make a difference in our decisions. This story literally has a view of lower Manhattan, and the new One World Tower. I loved it. – Little Brown, $16.99 (Note: reading level is listed for 8 and up, but I think I would recommend 10 and up)
The Beetle Boy, M. G. Leonard

When Darkus loses his father under mysterious circumstances, his entire life is turned upside down. He’s put in foster care until his bachelor Uncle Max, who agrees with Darkus that there is no way that his dad left him, finally shows up.

As unlikely new friends and a rhinoceros beetle join forces with Darkus and Uncle Max, it turns out that they are fighting a larger battle than they imagined, one that involves evil scientist/fashion designer Lucretia Cutter. And she is more than evil! This novel is fast-paced, highly imaginative, a lot of fun.

– Scholastic, $16.99 (9 and up)

Booked, Kwame Alexander

Nick loves soccer, but hates the dictionary. His life still seems ok—until bullies, his parents’ problems, the crush he can’t act on, and an injury all change his point of view. Dealing with “stuff” is hard, and Nick needs all sorts of help. Alexander keeps it real, the poems are tight and right to the point. Readers will have only one question: what sport will be next?

Another terrific book from Newbery winner Kwame Alexander! – HMH Books for Young Readers, $16.99 (10 and up)

Raymie Nightingale, Kate DiCamillo

Raymie, Louisiana, and Beverly are entering the Little Miss Central Florida Tire Competition, all for completely different reasons. Raymie thinks winning will bring her dad back, Louisiana desperately needs the money (literally for food!), and Beverly, well, she really wants to sabotage the pageant. Between doing good deeds and learning to twirl a baton, the girls find out that friendship can work in many different ways. They have to deal with losing loved ones, with abandonment, and with each other! DiCamillo has once again created a world where readers root for the main characters. Quirky, charming, completely believable, add some laughter and you have another example of the best of children’s fiction. – Candlewick, $16.99 (10 and up) Editor’s note: signed copies available!

Ms. Bixby’s Last Day, John David Anderson

Three boys, Topher, Brand, and Steve, are lucky to be in Ms. Bixby’s class. She’s a special teacher, and when she gets sick and can’t even come to the goodbye party, the boys know they have to do something. Among the three of them, they decide to somehow give her that last day, although it takes courage and stubbornness to pull this off. Each boy tells his personal story about the impact that Ms. Bixby has had on him. This will make a great read-aloud for teachers! Touching, satisfying, realistic fiction. – Walden Pond Press, $16.99 (10 and up)

Hour of the Bees, Lindsey Eagar

Carolina’s grandpa, whom she has never met, is not doing very well—selling his house and moving him into a nursing home is going to take all summer. What she’d thought was going to be a summer of friends and the pool instead becomes the reality of the bone-dry boonies of New Mexico. But Carolina starts to see something else in her grandpa and in the story he weaves about the tree of immortality. The drought is affecting more than the land, and Carolina must find her way with or without the water! This is a lovely blending of reality and magic with an unusual touch of sophistication. I loved it! – Candlewick, $16.99 (10 and up)

The Raven King, Maggie Stiefvater

Book IV and the final tale in The Raven Cycle is finally here, and Stiefvater does it again! The boys, who have found the ancient king, move in and out of Glendower, desperate to save Gansey’s life and to save the world too. This last book is dark, full of ominous stories and fears, but is balanced by the presence of light in intriguing places. Stiefvater manages to keep all of the different story lines intact and still surprise her fans. I am going to miss Ronan, and Gansey, and Blue. I wonder where Stiefvater will take us next. – Scholastic, $18.99 (14 and up)

This Savage Song, Victoria Schwab

Kate lives in a split world and is willing to do anything to get home to her father, whether he wants her or not. Setting her latest school on fire has done the trick, and she is back in North City. August needs to help his family prevent another war from starting, and the one way he can do that is to get close to Kate, despite the possible consequences. Their fathers, brothers fired up to rip each other’s throats out, live in a world full of monsters—of all kinds. Two cities, one populated by humans the other by monsters, are in conflict, and readers will be surprised by the plot twists in this fast-paced fantasy tinged with romance. This is part one of a two-book series and is a terrific read. – Greenwillow, $17.99 (14 and up) Editor’s note: Victor Schwab will be at TKE on Friday, July 8, 7 p.m.
**_NONFICTION**

**Breath to Breath**, Craig Lew

A first-person narrative using poetic prose, this is a dark story that readers will not be able to forget. Lew shows the reader, with very few words, how devastating abuse of children can be. Seventeen-year-old William has been sent to live with his father, someone he has not seen for years. William's history of bad behavior follows him everywhere, as does the unidentified dark shadow that overwhelms all of his best intentions. When William becomes desperate to save another child's life, regardless of the consequences, light shines on everyone, and the shadows are revealed. Although there is hope at the end, readers are left wondering what will happen to William. Graphic content. – *Little Pickle Press*, $19.95 (high school and up)

**Ada's Violin**, Susan Hood

The slums of Paraguay are the setting for this unusual biography. Ada and her peers know that staying off the streets might save them from working in the landfill. When her grandma signs her up for music lessons, at first she's excited—until it turns out that teacher Favio Chavez does not have enough instruments. But the solution is right there in the landfill where handmade instruments begin to appear. Ada and her fellow musicians are the start of something big as creative thinking, courage and support give these kids born in poverty a chance. Ada is an inspiration, and strong, meaningful art gives this biography even more power. – *Simon & Schuster*, $17.99 (5 and up—and anyone who believes in the power of music!)

**Splat! The Most Exciting Artists of All Time**, Mary Richards

Page by page, from cave paintings to Andy Warhol, Richards escorts readers through an impressive list of artists, and explains the reasons they are in this book. Full-color photos accompany every spread. Art movements, techniques, and trends all add up to a readable romp through the art history of the world. There is also a dictionary of art terms. Interesting and easy to read. – *Thames and Hudson*, $19.95 (10 and up)

**Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons**, Sara Levine

Skeletons and bones are interesting for readers of all ages. Levine presents basic skeleton vocabulary and definition by comparing animals and humans; cute photos and challenges to answer questions make this a great text for budding scientists! One of the 2016 Beehive Winners, this book is only available in “library binding,” which means it will last a long time on your shelf. – *Lerner*, $26.65 (5 and up)

**Anything but Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrman, Queen of Magic**, Mara Rockliff and Iacopo Bruno

Addie was born in 1853, and from the start she was a girl who knew her own mind. She was able to follow her dreams by taking risks and staying true to herself. When she met famous magician Alexander Herrman it was a match made in heaven! Addie's flair and personality made her an instant asset to her husband's act, and when he passed away, Addie was able to keep the act going. Unheard of for a woman! Rockliff and Bruno (*Mesmerized*) are a terrific team! Can't wait to see what they do next. – *Candlewick*, $17.99 (6 and up)
Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game, John Coy

The Civil Rights movement conjures up stories of bigotry and violence, but there are some positive stories as well. In 1944 two basketball teams met in an unknown moment in American history. Men from Duke University Medical School, the best basketball players in North Carolina, met secretly to play the best team from the North Carolina College of Negroes. Both teams were breaking the law by playing each other and they went so far as to hang quilts over the windows so no one could look in. It took 22 more years for this to happen again. Courage comes in many forms. – Lerner, $17.99 (6 and up)

Orangutan Orphanage, Suzi Eszterhas

From the cover photo on, readers will be drawn into the world of baby orangutans. Borneo, one of just two places that orangutans can still be found in the wild, is the site of this animal refuge. As many as 300 orangutans are sheltered there; most are orphans and/or injured, and many people are working hard to save these amazing animals. Eszterhas combines information with draw-you-in photos of the orangutans. Animal lovers will adore this book! – OwlKids, $17.99 (6 and up)

Clara, Emily Arnold McCully

Captain van de Meer finds Clara (an orphan rhino) in the early part of the 18th century and is determined to take her back to Europe where kings, courts and ordinary people will be so excited to see this mythical animal. Van de Meer and Clara forge a bond as he struggles to move her and keep her in food. Everywhere they go Clara is greeted with amazement in a story that is a window into the excitement and awe that goes with discovering something new and wonderful. McCully does her usual great job! – Schwartz and Wade, $17.99 (all ages)

Miss Mary Reporting, Sue Macy

Mary Garber was a tomboy; her dad took her to baseball games. She loved sports, and when she followed her dream of being a sports reporter, she broke ground for countless women. The illustrations add color and power to a bio worth reading. Mary Garber is the kind of person I would love to have dinner and a conversation with. – Simon &Schuster, $17.99 (5 and up)

Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America, Gail Jarrow

Jarrow (Red Madness and Fatal Fever) has a deft touch with diseases, epidemics and death, diving right into the history of the Bubonic Plague in the U.S. and showing that it is not just a scary footnote from the Dark Ages. She clearly lays out the details of the disease, shows the historical impact and then reveals that you can still get the dreaded, life-threatening illness. All of this with illustrations and photos! Fascinating, startling, sometimes gross—all-told, a terrific read. – Calkins Creek, $18.95 (9 and up)

Pink Is for Blobfish, Jess Keating

From the eye-catching, startling cover to the very last page, readers will be amazed that there are so many pink animals in nature. Doesn’t their color scream “Dinner!” at predators?? Just the right amount of text and facts make this nonfiction book a lot of fun to read, and read again! – Knopf Books for Young Readers, $16.99 (all ages)

Hilo Saving the Whole Wide World, Judd Winick

I loved the first Hilo, and the second one is great too. Hilo, alien robot boy, has clearly found a place to be, and when earth is threatened he knows that with the help of his friends he can save the world. Winnick tells a great story, fun, funny (except for the cliffhanger ending) and a great read for all ages. – Random House Books for Young Readers, $13.99 (8 and up)

Brothers Unite, Justin LaRocca Hansen

Tuck and Hudson have a mom who likes to “collect” stuff from yard sales; when the boys discover through the stuff she’s collected from their weird neighbor that he has superpowers, they decide that they can be a force for good. That decision takes them to places that readers can’t imagine. A creative story that will surprise and illustrations that make the story a bit dark give it added dimension. – Dial Books, $10.99 (9 and up)

Red’s Planet, Eddie Pittman

Foster child Red longs for a chance to live in Paradise. When she is accidentally cap-
tured by a UFO she ends up somewhere that is definitely not paradise and definitely not Earth. It turns out that Red is now a stowaway on a spaceship that houses a huge collection of rare creatures from all over the universe. But when the spaceship has its own problems and crashes, things seem to get even worse for Red. Creative, funny, and full of adventures that add up to a great start for a new series.

– Amulet, $9.95 (9 and up)

The Nameless City, Faith Erin Hicks

Kaidu, on his first trip into the nameless city, meets Rat at a crossroad that has been conquered so routinely, it does not have a name. Kaidu is in the military school and Rat lives on the streets. Their interests and desires are so different they are a source of what seems insurmountable conflict in what ultimately becomes a story of friendship. The art work reflects a careful study of ancient China. Although aimed at middle readers, I can see older readers picking this book up too. It is vibrant, fast-paced and challenges readers to think differently. Graphic novel fans will be looking for book two. – First Second, $14.99 (9 and up)

Girl & Gorilla: Out and About, Rick Walton, illustrated by Joe Berger

Best friends Girl and Gorilla decide to go to the park. But how will they get there? Gorilla’s ideas aren’t always practical. Good thing he has Girl. For years local author Rick Walton has beguiled national and local audiences alike with his witty picture books, and Walton’s particular gifts are on full display in this new book: his sense of fun, his kindness toward his characters, and his use of language that builds toward a satisfying punchline. Berger’s cartoon-infused style feels just right for this story. Harper, $17.99

Hello, Hippo! Goodbye, Bird!, Kristyn Crow, illustrated by Poly Bernatene

Local author Kristyn Crow scores again with her new picture book about a “pesky bird” who just will NOT take no for an answer—especially from the solitary hippo he tries to befriend. Will his persistence pay off? Crow gets the voices of her characters just right, making Hello, Hippo! Goodbye, Bird! a pleasure to read aloud. (Crow, by the way, dedicates the book to Rick Walton, who has mentored an entire community of successful writers for young readers.) Knopf, $15.99

The Bear and the Piano, David Litchfield

“One day in the forest, a young bear cub found something he’d never seen before.” So begins the story about a...
CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOKS

There Is a Tribe of Kids,
Lane Smith
“There was a colony of pen- guins. There was a smack of jellyfish. There was a pod of whales.” Lane Smith has fun with the concept of collective nouns in this visually arresting picture book about a child who’s on a quest to find his own kind. In the simplest language possible, There Is a Tribe of Kids speaks about the beauty of diversity and the comfort of community. Roaring Brook Press, $18.99

The Pirate Jamboree,
Mark Teague
Well, here’s an interesting pirate fact: when pirates get together, pirates know how to party. Party on, Pirates! The only thing they fear is the Mother of all Pirates, who is literally . . . a mother, the kind that tells you to clean up your room. Teague’s energetic illustrations are always a joy to behold, and it’s nice to see a book featuring both girl and boy pirates. Aaaargh! Orchard Books, $17.99

Are We There Yet?
Dan Santat
“The car trip to visit Grandma is always exciting! But after the first hour, it can feel like an eternity. You might find yourself saying

There is a TRIBE of KIDS

LANE SMITH

baby bear who finds a piano and (with enough practice, of course!) learns to play it. He plays so well, in fact, that fame comes call- ing. But is fame enough to make a bear happy? An enchanting fantasy.

Clarion, $16.99

Flora and the Peacocks,
Molly Idle
Oh, Molly Idle! Please never stop with this fabulous bird thing you’ve got going on! First there was Flora and the Flamingo. Then there was Flora and the Penguin. And now, in what may be the most beautiful book of them all, there’s Flora and the Peacocks. In this wordless story, Flora must learn how to turn three into a company instead of a crowd. Lovely! Chronicle, $17.99

It’s Only Stanley,
Jon Agee
The wonderful Jon “Lit- tle Santa” Agee never ceases to entertain. In his newest picture book, the Wimbledon family is repeatedly awakened during the night by their precocious dog, Stanley, who seems to have some strange plan of his own. But what is it? The answer will surprise and delight young children . . . and their parents, too. It’s Only Stanley, in fact, is a good example of a picture book that works well for a variety of audiences. Dial, $17.99

It’s Only Stanley

JON AGEE

There Is a Tribe of Kids

LANE SMITH

There Is a Tribe of Kids

LANE SMITH

The Pirate Jamboree

MARK TEAGUE

Are We There Yet?

DAN SANTAT

Clarion, $16.99

Flora and the Peacocks

MOLLY IDLE

Flora and the Peacocks

MOLLY IDLE

It’s Only Stanley

JON AGEE

There Is a Tribe of Kids

LANE SMITH

The Pirate Jamboree

MARK TEAGUE

Are We There Yet?

DAN SANTAT
things like, ‘Are we there yet?’ Santat’s new picture book is a witty riff on this familiar question with buoyant artwork that visually demonstrates how loooooong a journey can feel when you’re a kid sitting in the backseat of a car. Any family that has undertaken a road trip will appreciate this book’s big humor. Little, Brown, $17.99

**Before We Met**, Laura Krauss Melmed, illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong

This lovely new picture book celebrates the affection an expectant mother already feels for her unborn child. The illustrations—done in subdued tropical shades—match the text’s dreamy mood. Reminiscent of *I Loved You Before You Were Born* by Anne Bowen, *Before We Met* would make an ideal gift for a new mother. Beach Lane Books, $17.99

**Be Glad Your Dad Is Not an Octopus!** Matthew Logelin and Sara Jensen, illustrated by Jared Chapman

Be glad your dad is not an octopus, because he would always win at tag. And if he were a snake, he’d probably shed his skin in front of your friends. And if he were a unicorn, no one would believe you. Considering the alternatives, you should just be glad your dad . . . is your dad. This brightly-colored, funny new book is especially good for reading aloud. Little, Brown, $16.99

**My Old Pal, Oscar**, Amy Hest, illustrated by Amy Bates

It’s impossible not to read this picture book without getting a little lump in your throat. Or even a big one. The story addresses the grief a person feels after the loss of a pet and the reluctance he or she may feel about loving another animal. Hest once again demonstrates her talent for writing about the bond between children and their pets, while Bates’ watercolor-and-pencil illustrations are deeply appealing. Recommended. Abrams, 16.95

**I Won a What?** Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Robert Neubecker

What happens when your parents promise that you can keep whatever you win at the carnival’s goldfish booth—and you just happen to win a whale? This good-natured picture book celebrates the curveballs life throws our way. Park City resident Robert Neubecker’s happy illustrations underscore the story’s high humor. Knopf, $17.99

**Have a Look, Says Book**, Richard Jackson, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Richard Jackson, a longtime children’s book editor, has written a love poem to books and how they transport us to
other mindscapes when you turn that first page. As a narrative, the story may not make much sense to young listeners, although they will certainly enjoy its language. Adults will have a greater appreciation for the book’s premise, but both can enjoy Hawkes’ colorful illustrations. Atheneum, $17.99

*Ideas Are All Around*, Philip C. Stead

Writers are frequently asked where they “get their ideas from.” Stead invites us to take a walk with him on a day when he has no ideas. Along the way, we see the world through Stead’s eyes and understand how artists collect inspiration. This is one of those picture books that will appeal more to an adult than to a child. It could, however, be used to great effect in a classroom setting. Roaring Brook Press, $18.99

*The Jungle Book*, by Rudyard Kipling and illustrated by Don Daily

The release of Disney’s new live-action version of “The Jungle Book” reminds us that TKE carries several different editions of Kipling’s classic. One of them is a lovely picture book version, with illustrations by the late Don Daily. Applesauce Press, $18.95

*Let’s Play*, Herve Tullet

Tullet has constructed his richest book yet. Reading it requires attentiveness, flexibility and a strong ability to be silly! Young and old will follow the yellow dot all the way to the end of its travels, and then will start all over. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Chronicle, $15.99

*Frank and Lucky Get Schooled*, Lynne Rae Perkins

From the very beginning, readers understand that both Frank and Lucky are the best of friends. Both are learning all sorts of things. Frank is good at reading, and Lucky is even better at listening. This charming tale of a dog and boy gives adults a terrific opening for showing that you can learn things in all sorts of ways! A charmer! – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, $17.99

*Bear’s Big Breakfast*, Lynn Rowe Reed and Brett Helquist

Bear just woke up from hibernation and he’s hungry. In this terrific read-aloud, a study in words that start with the letter “B,” Bear knows he needs to eat but can’t remember exactly what he wants. Rollicking text and expressive illustrations all add up to a very satisfying story. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Harper, $17.99
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.
May: The Brotherhood of Book Hunters, Raphael Jerusalmy
June: The Mystery of the Lost Cezanne, M.L. Longworth
July: Pro Bono, Seicho Matsumoto
August: Murder at Cape Three Points, Kwei Quartey

BRIAN SHORT BOOK CLUB
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
May: Necessary Lies, Diane Chamberlain
June: And West Is West, Ron Childress

INSIGHTS TO CONSERVATION BOOK CLUB
1st Tuesday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
May: All the Wild That Remains, David Gessner
June: Hour of Land (event)
July: Roads in the Wilderness: Conflict in Canyon Country, Jedediah S. Rogers

MARGARET’S BOOK CLUB
2nd Monday of the month, 7 p.m.; $5
May: Dead Wake, Eric Larson
June: Nobody’s Fool, Richard Russo
July: Florence Gordon, Brian Morton
August: Summer break

NEWMAN CENTER
Meets monthly at the Newman Center at U of Utah; Contact Barbara Bannon, 801-583-4289
May: Signs Preceding the End of the World, Yuri Herrera
*NOTE: Titles are chosen one month prior.

ROZ READS!
Last Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. See www.roz-reads.com for details. $10 per evening paid to Roz
May: H Is for Hawk, Helen MacDonald
June: Summer break
July: The Secret Scripture, Sebastian Berry
August: Outline, Rachel Cusk

SLC LESBIAN BOOK CLUB
1st Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
Contact: Nicki Hill nickihi@gmail.com or 801-362-9665
May: The Last Nude, Ellis Avery
June: Uncovered, Leah Lax
July: Give It to Me, Ana Castillo

SLOW FOOD UTAH BOOK CLUB
3rd Wednesday every other month; visit slowfoodutah.org for more details.
May: The Bees, Laline Paull
July: The Triumph of Seeds, Thor Hansen
September: Loving the Earth, Carlo Petrini

YA AND WINE
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m.
May: Passenger, Alexandra Bracken
June: Truthwitch, Susan Dennard
July: A Study in Charlotte, Brittany Cavallaro
Jennifer Adams
Off to the Shakespeare Festival and taking Ally Condie’s Summerlost.

Ann Cannon
I’ll be sitting on a beach in Southern California reading Free Days with George, which is a story about a Newfoundland (I have one!) that surfs. Good times, people.

Linda Gurrister
While on our early spring vacation in Arches I read A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara and The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson. I hope to spend many short summer trips reading H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald, then The Sympathizer by Vietnam Thanh Nguyen, and last but not least finish Maggie Stiefvater’s quartet, with The Raven King.

Paula Longhurst
Flying to the land of tulips and clogs with Thrice the Brinded Cat Hath Mewed by Alan Bradley, Last Days of Night by Graham Moore and Surrender, New York by Caleb Carr, all coming later this summer.

DawnAnn Owens
I’m planning to spend some time in Southern Utah, walking and reading. First up is Everybody’s Fool by Richard Russo. He is coming to King’s English on June 8, and I’m looking forward to meeting him. Next up will be Our Kind of Traitor by John le Carré, because I’m excited for the movie coming out in July. My daughters and I love to read and discuss books, our next choice is The Summer Before the War by Helen Simonson. Happy reading everyone!

Whitney Berger
I will be spending as many evenings at our cabin as I can, reading the new Jennifer Niven, Holding up the Universe, and the new Chris Cleave, Everyone Brave is Forgiven.

Will Oakland
Rafting down the Salmon River in Idaho offers plenty of reading time, limited only by how many books you can cram into your ammo can. I will be taking Dark Matter by Blake Crouch and The Last Days of New Paris by China Mieville, two summer releases I am looking forward to.

Rachel Haissly

Margaret Brennan Neville
We are going camping—Tetons, Yellowstone, Dinosaur National Monument—and I’m taking two highly anticipated sequels, Book 2 of the Ember in the Ashes series, A Torch Against the Night (can’t wait!!) and the sequel to The Six of Crows, Crooked Kingdom. On the adult side, Lab Girl by Hope Jahren, The Red Knight by Miles Cameron and hopefully the new Ian McEwan, Nutshell.

Wendy Foster Leigh
Getting ready for the autumn in England. I take a supply of Simenon mysteries because they are little gems and can be packed easily. When finished with a book, I put a note in it and leave it in the plane or coffee shop... I just hope someone else enjoys it. Simenon wrote over 70 Maigret novels so I am not running out of good stories.

Anne Brillinger
I’ll be on my backyard chaise (no interminable TSA security lines there!) with a cold one always within reach and a pile of books on the patio table to last until Labor Day, novels and authors that have been on my must-read list for decades. Middlemarch is first up; Trollope’s on deck.

Sue Fleming
We are headed up through Maine and into the Canadian Maritimes. Will be rereading several old favorites and one new: Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea by Jules Verne, The Shipping News by Annie Proulx, and The Invisible Life of Ivan Isaenko by Scott Stambach.

Anne Holman
I started reading Finnegan’s Wake about 30 years ago and am now on page 30. So I may get in another page but I’ll most likely re-read Outlander. Seriously, I can’t wait to read The Mothers, a fall debut from Brit Bennett and On Trails: An Exploration by Robert Moor.

Betsy Prouty
Both coasts call. In June we’ll be in San Diego and San Francisco and I will be reading Richard Russo’s Nobody’s Fool. While my husband is finishing it, I’ll reread Everybody’s Fool. For the quick flights to California I am packing several quick reads including The Trouble with Twins, Bittersweet & Gucci. The trip to Massachussetts and Maine is longer so one hefty book, Rightful Heritage by Douglas Brinkley, I consider it my duty to have a hardcover book when I am on a plane.

Betsy Burton
I’d like to see for myself (with luck, later this summer) some of the territory from Terry Tempest Williams’ The Hour of Land, re-reading her words in the shadow of the trees and cliffs and battlefields of the parks and monuments she wrote about with such eloquence. But next week I’m going on a busman’s holiday, heading for California with a suitcase full of books reviewed by fellow-Inkslingers which I’ve not yet read along with a couple of Trollopgrams (I’ve long been working my way joyfully through the 80+ Trollope novels on the top shelf of my bookcase) and Killer Angels by Michael Shaara which my husband says it’s past time for me to read (he likes books as much as I do—one requirement of an ideal marriage).

Jamie Ortwein
Well, well. I am going to Munich and I am still deciding on my choices! Obviously this will depend on space inside my backpack. I am thinking about wandering about with A Tramp Abroad by Mark Twain and perhaps Ripley Underground.

Nathan Spofford
We are heading for the Oregon coast near Newport. My bag of books will include: The Wild Robot by Peter Brown, Draw the Line by Laurent Linn, Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman, and Highly Illogical Behavior by John Corey Whaley.

Jan Sloan
Mainly traveling in the west to various National Parks. I’m taking A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara and some great book rep picks from Random House.
Indie Bookstore Day a Success!

Thanks to Caputo’s, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Mazza for helping us make the second annual Indie Bookstore Day a fabulous celebration! We made new friends and shared exclusive IBD items with people from all over the city. Looking forward to an even bigger and better celebration in 2017!

INKSLINGER’S INKSLINGERS

Anne Brillinger
Betsy Burton
Ann Edwards Cannon
Hilary Dudley
Vivian Evans
Patrick Fleming
Sue Fleming
Rachel Haisley
Deon Hilger
Barbara Hoagland
Anne Holman

Sally Larkin
Wendy Foster Leigh
Lawrence Leigh
Paula Longhurst
Kenneth Loosli
Michelle Macfarlane
Anne Stewart Mark
Margaret Brennan
Neville
Jan Sloan

Many thanks to Equitable Life & Casualty Insurance Company for its help in printing this edition of the Inkslinger.