When The King's English first opened its doors at 15th & 15th in 1977, the street was full of small, locally owned businesses, it's true, but its look and feel were far different than in 2021. On the east side of 15th there were, in adjoining spaces, a beauty parlor and barber shop that had been perming and clipping their clientele in the style of another era for years, a gas station, a Realtor, a small drug store circa 1950. On the west side of the street, straight across from the gas station, there was another small drug store, a laundromat, another beauty salon from a more recent era, and a small, family-owned grocery store.

The King's English Bookshop struggled at first but as it slowly picked up more customers, Smokey’s, a record store, moved in next door. When our lease expired at the end of year one, instead of renewing, we bought the building, and a friend started Afterwords, a small restaurant, in the back (upstairs) half. It was popular (we still talk about their pot roast), and more and more people were in and out of all three businesses. Before long, a bakery, Tea and Trumpets, opened its doors and was an instant success.

And so it went at 15th & 15th, one new business after another opening until the drug stores had been replaced by an audio shop (this was in the day of stereos and turntables) and another Realtor respectively; a gift store opened in the space the laundromat had occupied; an amazing bagel shop, Brackman Brothers, for which people lined up down the length of the block on weekends, replaced the grocery store; and Glenda Bradley created the wonderful 15th Street Gallery on our side of the street. (continued on page 2)

A Block Party, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, June 5!

Celebrate Around the Block at 15th & 15th!

Businesses up and down the block will be out on their sidewalks with sales, treasures and treats—even artists at work!

Storytime with Rob on the lawn at 10 a.m., book signings with bestselling author and TKE bookseller Mackenzi Lee at 11 a.m. (Marvel’s *Gamora and Nebula: Sisters in Arms*) and Jeremy Pugh at 1 p.m. (*Secret Salt Lake City*) along with sidewalk activities all day long from chalk art to hula hoops, jump rope to hopscotch, as well as tables of tidbits from the restaurants will fill the sidewalks, while a jazz band (courtesy Caputo’s) will play live music.

So grab a friend, your kids, your pets, partners and neighbors and join us at 15th & 15th Saturday, June 5th, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.!
The sidewalks were often thronged with strollers (literally) and the patios of the spectacularly good restaurants and delis were packed. Such crowds disappeared during the year of COVID but, miraculously, we all seem to have survived the impact of the virus and the business downturn intact. Our award-winning locally owned establishments, whether chockful of books or art and gifts or serving up five-star meals and desserts, are open for business now. Although some still limit the number of customers and mandate masks, there is simply no better place in Salt Lake City, whether vaccinated or masked, to feed our senses and our souls than the block known around town as 15th & 15th. As you’re about to hear.

We asked each business owner on our block to say a word or two about the 15th & 15th neighborhood and also (because we are, after all, a bookstore) about a book they’re reading or have read and loved. Here, beginning on the east side of the street and working our way north from Kensington, crossing to the west at Emerson and heading south, is what they had to say:

Francesco Amendola, Sweetaly

I personally feel that 15th & 15th has a European feel, people walking along, talking… It feels like home to me [Francesco comes from the city of Cosenza in the Calabria region of Italy]. I love it here. There’s such a strong sense of neighborhood. It puts our business on a different level. As to books, my favorite, which I read in Italian and reread periodically, is The Betrothed [by Alessandro Manzoni]. Politics, injustice, romance—and the plague that hit Milan in 1630. It provides a thread to what the world is like today. And it’s a book that is in my heart always. I love good fiction, loved Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird.

Lucy Heller, 15th Street Gallery

There’s such a tight-knit sense of community here. We’re completely loyal to our customers and they are to us. And we’re completely loyal to local artists—more so than any other gallery, in the sense that we only carry local artists, even when it’s tempting to look beyond Utah. We feature them in our Gallery Strolls [held citywide the first Friday of each month] which bring art lovers from around the city to 15th. There are so many amazing artists right here in our state that we don’t need to be in the ultra-expensive art world outside Utah. As to books I usually read art and design books. A couple of my favorites are Live Beautiful [Athena Calderone] and Travel Home [Caitlin Fleming]. They both deal with creating spaces that feel like home, bringing what we love into our homes, putting soul in our homes—with art [and with books, we add as Lucy nods].

Ali Sabbah, Mazza

This neighborhood is great. I used to hang out at Smokey’s years ago but I didn’t really know how great the street was. There were businesses here back then, but not the same ones. I love the assortment of businesses here now. I love this neighborhood. Betsy, you created this, you know. With your bookstore. And with Local First. That was important. As to books, I’m usually reading several at a time. I’m in the middle of one I picked up from your store about the Knights Templar. It’s fascinating. And also one I found at Powell’s [in Portland] a year ago about the history of Zionism. It’s slow going, but interesting. And I recently got a book about spices from my manager for my birthday. Every page has a different spice, everything about each one and great textile illustrations that fit perfectly. I read one a day. That’s three of the books on my stack. There are a couple more but that’s enough!

Scott Evans, Finca

The way I feel about 15th & 15th is an extension of how I feel about 9th & 9th [where his restaurant Pago is located]. I spent years there [he also started another restaurant at 9th & 9th, East Liberty Tap House] and love neighborhood businesses that fit into their locations. But there’s something different about this, about 15th & 15th. It’s the neighborhood where I live, for one thing. And when I relocated Finca from downtown I wanted to somehow move it to a spot close to its original location [at 13th South, 11th East] so this was perfect—the right fit, the right spot. Even better than before. As to books, my favorite is Growth of the Soil by Knut Hamsun. I love quiet books like this that take patience to read and that resonate. It contains a Siddhartha-like quest, adventure, travel, the land itself… If you are patient reading it, it resonates.

Betsy Burton and Anne Holman, The King’s English Bookshop

When we opened the store [Betsy] people thought it was a terrible location. But it’s turned out to be the best. It’s grounded in neighborhood. In community. And [Anne] when I came back to Salt Lake and moved into the neighborhood I loved everything about it. The trees, my house, the bookstore where I hung out with my kids, the way you could walk to everything you needed, the grade school close by. I was so happy to be near The King’s English and over the moon when they hired me. I love this place. And I love this street. As to books I loved Bewildermment. Loved it. It’s the new book by Richard Powers coming this August and it’s so different from The Overstory [Power’s last book, which won the Pulitzer], so personal and moving. A story about a father and son that I couldn’t quit thinking about after I finished it [Betsy]. I wept over it. The troubled boy, his father trying so hard. But I also loved, loved Cloud Cuckoo Land by Anthony Doerr. He wrote All the Light You Cannot See which the entire staff adored. Still does. This one carries an ancient book through time and has the most wonderful characters you can imagine. Children whom he makes you care about so deeply. It’s unforgettable. When I finished Cloud Cuckoo Land [Anne] I told Betsy it was the best book I’d ever read. So it’s hard to choose [Betsy]. But then we shouldn’t have to choose, right? Everybody should read them both. They’re life-changing. [Anne] Both of them.

Giuseppe Mirenda, Trattoria di Francesco

We love the neighborhood. We feel at home at 15th & 15th. Italian culture is all about family and we found our home here in Utah. My favorite book is actually called La Cucina. It’s an old-school Italian cooking book. My grandma passed it down.

Leslie Seggar, Tulie Bakery

When I opened Tulie [on 7th South just off 9th East] I was already envisioning a second bakery at 15th & 15th. I’ve lived nearby forever, and it’s far and away my favorite neighborhood in Salt Lake. I was right, too, the neighborhood and the food we serve are a perfect fit. I love it here. As to what I’ve been reading, I’m in the middle of a book of essays by Rachel Kushner [The Hard Crowd: Essays 2000-2020] and they’re fascinating. All over the place—from motorcycle racing to refugee camps—wild. Can’t wait to get home and finish it.
Good Readers Make Great Neighbors Up and Down the Block at 15th & 15th

Jamey Chelius, Caputo’s Market & Deli
I really enjoy working at this Caputo’s (on 15th & 15th) because I get to see a lot of the same faces one to three, sometimes even four times a day. And because of that, personal connections are possible in this neighborhood that wouldn’t be possible elsewhere—downtown, or in an even larger city. It’s great. As for books, well, I’m reading *Chasing the Scream* [by Johann Hari]. It’s about the war on drugs. I’m also reading *Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat* [by Samin Nosrat and Wendy MacNaughton].

See you at the Block Party!
Light Perpetual, Francis Spufford

Beginning ominously on a South London Saturday, 1944: a rocket glides through the roof of Woolworth’s—“howling, ripping, splintering, shattering”—leaving 168 dead, 15 of them children “too young to be left at home.” In his acknowledgments, the author writes: “This novel is partly written in memory of those South London children, and their lost chance to experience the rest of the twentieth century.” In intricate, musically inspired prose and an ingeniously constructed plot, Spufford imagines the arc of five of those children, answering Who were they? and What futures did they lose? In five time periods, beginning when they were nine, the reader glimpses each life of Jo & Val (sisters), Vern, Alec, and Ben as that life unfolds in the bustling, ethnically changing world of 20th century London. The final period ends in 2009 when the five are 69. These periods and experiences, both extraordinary and ordinary, are often deftly connected by a memory; an encounter, a familiar London sight so that the reader travels with the characters as they move through their lives as bus conductors and landlords, swindlers and teachers, patients and inmates. Particularly notable is the writer’s ability to capture the voices of everyday Brits. The opening quote by Penelope Fitzgerald aptly celebrates this fine, exquisitely written novel: “The last word would belong, not to time, but to joy.” – Carol Kranes, Scribner, $27

The Living Sea of Waking Dreams, Richard Flanagan

Anna and her two brothers attend the bedside of their ailing mother in Tasmania while in the background the continent of Australia burns. Tommy had been caring for her until his two elder siblings, well-off, successful, self-assured, fly in and, in part due to their guilt over their long absence, almost immediately insist on increasingly extreme measures to ward off their mother’s death. This cruel familial landscape is set against the nightmarish backdrop of disappearing species and endless fires—a world in which people look at their phones incessantly, never at one another. Anna’s body parts begin to disappear as well, first a hand, then a knee, a breast…yet almost no one notices. As a metaphor for the roof of Woolworth’s, the author writes: “This novel is partly written in memory of those South London children, and their lost chance to experience the rest of the twentieth century.” In intricate, musically inspired prose and an ingeniously constructed plot, Spufford imagines the arc of five of those children, answering Who were they? and What futures did they lose? In five time periods, beginning when they were nine, the reader glimpses each life of Jo & Val (sisters), Vern, Alec, and Ben as that life unfolds in the bustling, ethnically changing world of 20th century London. The final period ends in 2009 when the five are 69. These periods and experiences, both extraordinary and ordinary, are often deftly connected by a memory; an encounter, a familiar London sight so that the reader travels with the characters as they move through their lives as bus conductors and landlords, swindlers and teachers, patients and inmates. Particularly notable is the writer’s ability to capture the voices of everyday Brits. The opening quote by Penelope Fitzgerald aptly celebrates this fine, exquisitely written novel: “The last word would belong, not to time, but to joy.” – Carol Kranes, Scribner, $27

Second Place, Rachel Cusk

How a painting, indeed a series of paintings (self-portraits, landscapes), evokes in the mind of a woman viewing them the feeling of a kind of freedom she recognizes she has never felt, the kind of freedom she knows is absolutely, and only, male. How the only words she can come up with to describe what the painter’s work could be saying are, “I am here,” form a quest within her. How that quest for something perhaps inaccessible to her, a woman, even in today’s world, will reveal to her a freedom perhaps better left unleashed. How this narrative’s slow reveal sits apposite the novel’s opening anecdote. How the anecdote, as unsettling as a nightmare, and as unreal, and as easily forgotten as dreams are, is itself easily forgotten as the larger story unfolds. How, nonetheless, as with dreams and nightmares, this anecdote holds within it the entire life of a story. Or, is it the entire story of a life? Cusk’s new novel is a quietly terrifying enchantment. – Michelle Macfarlane, Farrar, Straus, Giroux, $25

The Vixen, Francine Prose

Simon Putnam, who wanted nothing so much as to become a professor of folklore and mythology, finds himself working instead in a New York publishing house. It is early in the 1950s, McCarthyism is at its horrific height, and the first real editing task our hero (or is it antihero?) receives is The Vixen, a roman à clef featuring Ethel Rosenberg as a self-involved, highly sexed Mata Hari, bent on betrayal more for her own gratification than for love of Communism. Simon’s mother, a friend and admirer of Ethel Rosenberg, was devastated by her execution. But Simon, madly attracted (almost simultaneously) to the woman whom he displaced at the publishing house, to the ever-so-kind assistant to the publisher, and to the photograph of the gorgeous author of The Vixen over which he fantasizes—and to the publisher himself in a more platonic fashion—tries mightily to ignore his own guilt. With delicious irony Prose takes us on a journey through Simon’s erotic daydreams and their real-time aftermath, his not inconsiderable editing efforts, and his even more creative exercises in self-justification. To say Simon is a poor judge of character (particularly, although not exclusively, regarding women) would be crass understatement. As a comic character in the vein of Nabakov he’s a marvel—as is the novel he’s editing. But beneath Prose’s often hilarious and ever-entertaining plot machinations, thanks to her vivid details of daily reality and her virtuosic storytelling, a darkly trenchant picture of New York City circa 1953 begins to emerge, a portrait eerily similar to one of America today. Just as she did with pre-war Paris in Lovers at the Chameleon Club, she freeze-frames a pregnant moment in history, one when the world is atilt on its axis—gravitating toward good—or evil. – Betsy Burton, Harper, $26.99
Great Circle, Maggie Shipstead

This big, ambitious book—600 pages—spans a full century and focuses on Marian Graves, a fictional female pilot who disappeared in 1950 while attempting an unprecedented north-south navigation of the earth. Shipstead’s language is luminous, gorgeous; she creates unique, compelling characters with extraordinary experiences and offers an impressive array of historical research about aviation (especially female) which is seamlessly integrated into the story. We meet not only Marian and her twin artist brother, Jamie, but also Hadley Baxter, a disgraced Hollywood starlet who plays Marian in a film of her life. Hadley’s chapters at first seem interruptive but coincidences in her life and Marian’s provide an interesting perspective. Don’t miss this fine, deeply moving reading experience—one of the best I’ve had!
– Carol Kranes, Knopf, $28.95

First Person Singular, Haruki Murakami

Though shelved in fiction and billed as stories, this reader of Murakami’s newest book, First Person Singular, gets the sense that the “first-person” point of view here is Murakami himself. That this particular unreal-ish world of fiction could be read as Murakami’s art poetica. “A circle with many centers,” says the old man in “Cream,” the first story. Of course the old man disappears without a trace, and the young protagonist wonders if “it wasn’t some fantasy. He’d been there right in front of me, tightly gripping his umbrella, speaking quietly, posing a strange question, and then he’d left.” Funny, I myself thought when I read that passage, how it summed up my feelings whenever I put down any Murakami novel I’ve just finished. “On a Stone Pillow,” the second story, is about a young woman who writes tanka poems. “Tanka were basically a mystery to me,” writes the young protagonist. “If we are blessed,” he continues a little further on, “few words might remain by our side…. ready to serve as honest, fair witnesses.” Of the young woman who shared the poems with him, he writes: “Like two straight lines overlapping, we momentarily crossed at a certain point, then went our separate ways.” And yet, her words continue to haunt the narrator, just as Murakami’s words, his stories—their strange blurring of reality—haunt his readers long after the books in which they appear have disappeared from our hands. – Michelle MacFarlane, Knopf, $28

Popisho, Leone Ross

Every child born on the archipelago of Popisho arrives with a unique magical gift. One man flavors food through his fingers; a woman feels her vulva unexpectedly drop to the ground. (No worries, the pum-pums are easily reattached.) Ross’ uncanny creation echoes Márquez and Bolaño in its magical realism even as it mimics the structure and pacing of Joyce’s Ulysses. And, as these iconic authors have stretched our sense of the world, an encounter with the unique traditions, prejudices, and mores of Popisho will surely loosen us up, and, perhaps, help us better visualize the comic weirdness of our own lives.
– Becky Thomas, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $28

One Two Three, Laurie Frankel

The One Two Three in this novel are Mab, Monday and Mirabel—the Mitchell sisters—born and raised by their single mother in the small town of Bourne (no pun intended). As triplets they are as alike as they are different and all three are affected by the terrible truth that their town’s water supply was poisoned by a local factory and it has shaped (and misshaped) the inhabitants for years. As the book opens, the grandson of the original factory owner moves to town, bringing intrigue and a little bit of hope to the beleaguered residents. But it’s hard to fight big money, especially when jobs and health insurance are at stake. One, Two and Three are undaunted, however, and you’ll find yourself cheering from the bleachers for their success!
– Anne Holman, Henry Holt, $26.99 Editor’s note: Join us virtually on Wednesday, June 16, 6 p.m. for a conversation between Frankel and Rufi Thorpe, author of The Knockout Queen.

Leonora in the Morning Light, Michaela Carter

“When has marriage ever been about love?” Hmm. Certainly this evocative novel is about passionate, erotic love AND about art! 1937: Leonara Carrington—a 20-year-old socialite—falls madly in love with [married] artist Max Ernst—“his voice like warm whisky”—and follows him to Paris. There she is quickly thrust into the whirl of his Surrealist friends—Andre Breton, Pablo Picasso, Lee Miller, Man Ray, Salvador Dali. (As an 80-year-old successful artist she is asked “What was it like being with Max Ernst?” and she answers “It was perfect!”). 1940: France is in chaos as everyone is fleeing for the Spanish border—writers, artists, Jews. Max Ernst is a German citizen, Jewish, and under arrest. Hitler has declared modern art “degenerate.” In a very effective structure, the novel alternates between Leonora’s narrative in 1937 and Max’s narrative in 1940. She
reflects “The love of his art had pulled the man himself to her,” and their story continues along with Leonora's painting and her immersion in the world of art. Max talks to her about the unconscious "love notes" in painting—"the shapes of shadows or the smear of shampoo left on the tile in a shower." In 1940, when Max is arrested in southern France, he suffers immensely as he is packed into a train filled with "ghosts on a ghost train...made of ash and shadow, bones and loose skin." There he thinks constantly of "his girl." Will Leonora and Max find one another in this cruel, chaotic world, where Max must flee from an internment camp and Leonora is trapped in an asylum in Spain? Readers will relish finding the answer to this question as the novel's plot thickens when Max seeks help from the U.S. art patron, Peggy Guggenheim, who is aiding artists in escaping the Nazis. Because this novel is carefully researched and based on true events and historical figures, readers may also, as I did, peruse the paintings of both Leonora Carrington and Max Ernst by Googling them. A rich reading experience in love and art! "Paintings are for what is not sayable." – Carol Kranes, Avid Reader, $27

Mary Jane, Jessica Anya Blau

It's 1975. Mary Jane is 14 and about to become the summer nanny for Dr. and Mrs. Cone who live down the street in a lovely suburb of Baltimore. Her charge Izzy is a bubbly, red-headed, precocious 5-year-old whose room looks as if her toys have exploded all over the place. In fact the entire house appears to have been struck by a freak storm of clutter. Mary Jane's household, on the other hand, is the picture of Better Homes and Garden's perfection where straight laced routines rule. When Dr. Cone explains that a very special patient and his wife will be coming to the house to live for treatment of heroin addiction, Mary Jane is sworn to secrecy to protect their celebrity. Over the summer she will be exposed to sex, drugs and more than a little rock and roll, but she will also learn the comfort of familial love and acceptance in that very different sphere. A beautiful and humor-filled coming-of-age story, this is a perfect summer read. – Anne Stewart Mark, Custom House, $27.99

China Room, Sunjeev Sahota

Sahota's over-arching narrative toggles between two stories—one from 1929, the other 1999, the setting for both, Punjab. The reader gradually comes to understand that Mehar, a young bride in 1929, is great-grandmother to the son (now a heroin addict) of immigrant shopkeepers in a rural village in England. He arrives at his uncle's home in Punjab hoping to detox, somehow. Increasingly bound up with the young man's own story of provisional success in kicking his habit is the story of his great-grandmother's struggle to free herself from both the strictures of her culture as well as from her eventual more literal imprisonment within the China room. Married on the same day, along with two other young women, each to one of three brothers, all three women live in a household where they are servants to three sons and their mother. Only at night and for the single purpose of becoming pregnant are they summoned by the mother-in-law to lie in wait for their husband. In the dark, and without worldly experience, the young wives do not know to which man they've been married. Thus, it becomes possible that Mehar's real husband, who loves her, is not the man she has come to love, and possible as well for the man she has come to think of as her husband to actually be his brother. Her misdeeds, not of her own-doing, are rather a consequence of arrangements put in place by her greedy, controlling, and punitive mother-in-law. – Michelle Macfarlane, Viking, $27

Gold Diggers, Sanjena Sathian

Even the cover of this debut tells a tale. As you delve deeper into the story you'll find yourself flipping back to it to see the hidden pictures. The main character, Neil Narayan, narrates this novel from the time he's a young boy in Hammond Creek, a suburb of Atlanta, until we leave him as a young man, back in Georgia after a brief but certainly entertaining stint in Silicon Valley. Throughout, gold is the metaphor. For success, for happiness, for American assimilation from its Gold Rush days to South Asians in the suburbs. This is both a funny coming-of-age story and a serious look at the damage we can do to one another when we misunderstand what lies at the heart of each and every relationship. – Anne Holman, Penguin, $27

Songs in Ursa Major, Emma Brodie

Jane's chance for music stardom comes when Jesse Reid's motorcycle accident pushes her and her band onto the main stage of a summer music festival. When Jane's surprise breakout performance enchants the crowd, Jesse's agent takes note and signs them for an album and a national tour with Jesse's band. The media spotlight on Jane's growing romance with Jesse intensifies and threatens in turn to eclipse Jane's own enormous talent. Must Jane tie her dreams to the meteoric rise of Jesse Reid? Must she remain silent, effectively condoning Jesse's growing drug use, when, from her own perspective of experience, she knows of his sure fall? Must she also kowtow to the record label's head who hates her outspoken, independent nature? It seems she must—do all of this—or forego her growing career. Is the past that haunts Jane still alive? Is it something she can afford to share? Might it save her? Songs in Ursa Major has it all—music, sex and love in 1969! – Michelle Macfarlane, Random, 26.95

Malibu Rising, Taylor Jenkins Reid

In the 1980s, when the four siblings at the heart of this story came of age riding surfboards and working in their family's restaurant, "Pacific Fish (since 1956)," Malibu had not yet become an elite enclave of mansions and multi-millionaires. Now fame and fortune have arrived for at least one of them; Riva has a rising career as a model and has,
desperation unfolds against the backdrop of an old estate in the beautiful English countryside. Next to a ramshackle house with no modern plumbing, where chickens roam freely in the working garden next to it, Dot and her grown children live together and continue to scrape out an existence. Evenings they play and sing folk tunes handed down from generations before them. Dot's sudden death forces Jesse and Jeannie, 51-year-old twins, into survival mode. The blur of their grief obscures an already tenuous hold on existence in a world they have never learned to navigate well on their own. Working more and more at odds with each other, more and more at odds with the rural community surrounding them, relationships quickly deteriorate further, as does their will to live. What will become of this lovely and musically talented, yet headstrong and undereducated, duo? – Michelle Macfarlane, Tin House, 26.95

Morningside Heights, Joshua Henkin

After a brief, failed marriage, Spence Robin meets his student Pru Steiner at Columbia and they marry soon after. They have a child and a life they love. But Spence has a son from his previous marriage and as the years go by, he and his new family struggle to maintain that relationship. Then Spence begins to have memory lapses and life becomes complicated, especially after Pru meets a man whose wife is confined to a wheelchair. The twists and turns a life can take are tender and funny and, always, it's the children who have to pay for it. – Anne Holman, Pantheon, $28

The Five Wounds, Kirstin Valdez Quade

Against the backdrop of a traditional Good Friday procession in Las Penas, New Mexico, Quade’s Five Wounds gives the reader pause to consider what is, or can be, held holy in today’s world. The five wounds are the five generations of a family struggling. Or, the five wounds are the weights under which the family struggles—poverty, drugs, a lack of education, racism and societal indifference. Or, the five wounds are each of the five main characters. Amadeo Padilla, who is to play Jesus in this year’s celebration. An unlikely Savior, a néér-do-well, still living with and supported by his mother, Amadeo is father to 16-year-old Angel who is about to become a mother herself. Angel has just fled to her mother Marissa—who was herself a child bride—in Espanola. All rely on Yolanda, mother to Amadeo and grandmother to Angel, who, unbeknownst to any of them, is dying of brain cancer, even as she prepares to welcome her great-grandson, baby Connor. How these five individuals might somehow rise—despite generational wounding—to the occasion of gritty hope is what kept me turning from page one to the last all in one day. A great read. – Michelle Macfarlane, Norton, $26.95

Site Fidelity, Claire Boyles

Boyles’ setting for these stories is the American West in all its still raw, threatening and threatened beauty. Her characters and the land alike share in the loss of good prospects—from the loss of a father to the loss of one’s land to the loss of a way of life to the loss of beloved and endangered species to the loss of one’s livelihood, even to the loss of help, and with it the possible loss of a newborn. Alone and together—family, neighbors, friends and enemies—the characters in each of Boyles’ stories meet such head-on challenges with both tough grace and sometimes compromise. A must-read for all of us who live now in stark and precarious relation to a diminished natural world. – Michelle Macfarlane, Norton, $25.95

The Night Always Comes, Willy Vlautin

A brisk, bravely told tale occurring over one bleak, rainy weekend in Portland, Oregon. Lynette, one of the working poor, lives in a crumbling house with her mother and her mentally challenged brother. Already working two jobs and earning cash in less savory ways, can she and her mother combine enough resources to buy their little place before the landlord changes his mind? Can they finally have enough security to put their past behind them? Told in cinematic prose and gritty monologues, The Night Always Comes asks the difficult question: when the older areas of a city are gentrified, what happens to the people who can no longer afford to live there? – Anne Stewart Mark, Harper, $26.99

The Paper Palace, Miranda Cowley Heller

What shadowy passions motivate Elle, a 50+-year-old happily married woman with three children, to consider leaving her beloved husband, Peter, to begin again with her childhood friend, Jonas, whose confession, “I love Gina [his wife]. But I carry you in my blood stream” haunts her? That question creates strong tension in this
workmanlike romance novel. The author skilfully moves through a 24-hour present dramatically infusing it with her narrator Elle's past, which carries powerful secrets—a life of “choices I can’t have and one I don’t deserve to have.” The novel's action occurs primarily in New York City, London, and most importantly in the titular Paper Palace, her family's summer home on Cape Cod: “The place where, for me [Elle] things begin and end.” A perfect choice for readers who appreciate a genuine emotional dilemma in an intricately structured plot with a not-to-be-guessed ending. – Carol Kranes, Riverhead, $27

**Things We Lost to the Water,** Eric Nguyen

The fall of Saigon. Though Huong is pregnant, her husband decides they must flee. Through the night they walk, together with their young son, Tuán. Hands held tightly, they wade through the water from the beach to the boat that will take them to safety. As they begin to board, Huong feels her husband let go. He doesn’t make it. Alone, she gives birth to Bình on board. Somehow the three pull through and, months later arrive in New Orleans; Huong still hopes her husband has survived, that he will join them. The boys grow up thinking their father died en route. What Huong comes to know and how she makes a life for their young family is not something her boys can fathom. What to tell them of what they’ve lost to the water and what they may still lose to Hurricane Katrina is the question that drives Nguyen’s haunting story of death and survival. – Michelle Macfarlane, Knopf, $26.95

**Dust Off the Bones,** Paul Howarth

Today “Black Lives Matter,” but we need only turn back the clock (1885) and change the place (Central Queensland, Australia) to find a gripping parallel involving a slaughtered camp of Aboriginals—“a churn of crimson blood”—dumped into a crater filled with bodies and bones. The perpetrators are Native Police led by the cold-hearted, ruthless Inspector Edmund Noone. This finely-crafted novel, a sequel to Only Killers and Thieves, is rooted in historical fact. Readers will discover all they love in such epics: two orphaned brothers, long separated; a beautiful, rich widow; an enduring friendship; a well-meaning young lawyer; a crooked magistrate; and a man so evil and powerful, so feared that he may not be stoppable. Billy and Tommy McBride—"their parents and sister newly murdered—witness and participate in the heinous crime. Their participation fills them with "lies and shame and guilt," and when, 20 years later, they seek to make amends, a riveting trial results. This novel—full of surprises, whether from acts of cruelty or compassion—is set in the vast, dry Australian Outback and the towns of Brisbane and Adelaide and Bewley—"all blacks, and thieves, and killers." Look forward to an engrossing, absorbing read! – Carol Kranes, Harper Collins, $26.99

**A Passage North,** Anuk Arudpragasam

Two messages—a telephone call and an email—provide the focus for this reflective novel set in pre- and post-war Sri Lanka. Krishan, the book’s protagonist, receives a call that his grandmother’s former caregiver, Rani, has died under unexpected, perhaps questionable, circumstances. The news arouses his curiosity. An email from his former girlfriend, Anjum, the first since their breakup four years earlier, offers him “the possibility of communication without obliging substantive response.” Both these messages open memories for Krishan as he gazes beyond himself: through the window of his room, the keyhole of his grandmother’s room, and the windows of trains to Bombay with Anjum and on his way north to Rani’s funeral. These memories provide many lenses for the reader onto a world Western eyes know little about. The scenes of the grandmother’s trips to London and Rani’s village cremation are particularly notable. This sensitively-written novel offers many engaging and enlightening moments. – Carol Kranes, Hogarth, $27

**Tiny Tales,** Alexander McCall Smith

The perfect tiny book for those tiny minutes when you are avoiding cleaning the bathroom, each small tale is a humorous look at human nature and reactions to basic emotions. So, allow Pope Ron (the first Australian Pope) to teach you about friendship or Mr. Nariman to explain the importance of meetings in lifts, or a failed soprano to enlighten you regarding kindness. Interspersed throughout the book are wonderful graphic depictions of love and life by Iain McIntosh. For lovers of cats, I recommend “The Cats of Rome” for wise words from our feline friends. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Pantheon, $25.95

**Ariadne: a Novel,** Jennifer Saint

Before reading this novel, I could tell you how Ariadne came up with a plan to save Theseus and the young Athenian tributes from the Minotaur, but not that she escaped Minos with Theseus. Are you aware that Theseus immediately abandoned Ariadne on a deserted Island? Or that she met Dionysus on that island, married him and bore his children before she was turned to stone by Perseus and the decapitated head of Medusa? (spoiler alert) Or was she? This book makes abundantly clear how often, in myth, a woman is punished for a man’s indiscre-
tions. I did grow impatient with the book’s first-person narration. Saint’s Ariadne slips too often into basic reportage: I saw—I went—I said—I thought…. But this flaw, while distracting, does not negate the fact that we now have a full and fascinating retelling of Ariadne’s place at the very heart of the mythological universe. – Becky Thomas, Flatiron, $26.99

ON POETRY

The Stranger I Become: On Walking, Looking, and Writing.
Katharine Coles

Not a volume of poetry per se, this delicate, thoughtful, shimmering book begins as a walker’s reflections, an ambling traveler’s keen-eyed observations turn inward, snagged by introspective insights whether regarding words and their interplay, creativity and its genesis, metaphor. As, from inside-out Coles walks us through a poet’s musings—on her craft, on creativity, on her life, the lives of those she loves, on death—we travel with her along the internal map of her mind, her memory as she turns chaff into the subliminal, always the poet, and as she examines the process by which poems are born. Blessed and haunted by the words of poets she loves, opening up in new ways a verse by Emily Dickinson whose poetry haunts and dazzles, or by Ammons or Ashbery, Rekdal or Jori Graham— but always returning to her beloved Dickinson—she connects, reflects, creates metaphor, her musings pure poetry, this book poetry for all its prose as we follow Coles’ trail across a prairie, see with her “one clover and a bee” as she at once delves, bridges, illuminates. So yes, a volume of poetry after all. In the best way possible, each page its own private poem. – Betsy Burton, Turtle Point Press, $16

ON POETRY

A Whole World: Letters From James Merrill, James Merrill, edited by Langdon Hammer and Stephen Tenser

Not a journal, but a daily record nonetheless, this much-anticipated collection of James Merrill’s letters stands as a chronicle of the life of one of America’s foremost poets of the 20th century. Throughout his years Merrill wrote letters to everyone in his life—friends, family, fellow writers, lovers, his mother—from wherever he was in the world, about whatever he was doing, seeing, hearing, thinking, writing. He wrote to Blanche Knopf thanking her for the publication of his latest book and to Alice B. Toklas expressing his sympathy for her loss (theft) of Stein’s collection of art left to her in her will and wondering if they might meet up in Paris in early March of that year. And here is a small excerpt from one of countless letters to his “mama”: “I love the pictures taken at Miss Wick’s—they are so good—you look so wonderfully well + girlish. Keep up the good work.” His letters were part of a daily practice that honed his ear and eye. As Merrill explained once in an interview: A poet is a person “choosing the words he lives by.” – Michelle Macfarlane, Knopf, $45

NONFICTION

America on Fire, Elizabeth Hinton

This is a very tough book—an important book, but tough, nonetheless. The author chronicles the unrest in Black America from the 1960s forward and the response of the white establishment mainly through its enforcement arm—the police. Instead of using the old term “race riot” the author uses the term “Black rebellions” to describe such events. Most of us remember some event in past or in recent history where Black Americans in some urban center rose up to demand a voice and maybe even justice in response to some incident involving the Black community and policing. But when you see these incidents in sequence from the early 1960s forward and the response of the white establishment mainly through its enforcement arm—the police. The author covers the timeline of urban rebellion, police and white establishment response, commissions and studies as to the cause, implementation of programs to try to solve the problem, and does offer some hope. The timeline in the appendix of the book is in itself sobering. While the author from time-to-time downplays the role Black communities and individuals have had in inciting rebellions, that is understandable and even justified to some extent. The pendulum swings both ways but in the case of justice for American Blacks it has been a long and slow arc toward racial equality. – Patrick Fleming, Liveright, $28.95

On Juneteenth, Annette Gordon-Reed

Perhaps no one is better suited to tell the story of Juneteenth than Annette Gordon-Reed. A multi-generational Texan and history scholar, she lays out the genesis of the increasingly nationally cel-
of seven dissident doctors form a secret cabal and label themselves
reasons. No one is brave enough to call out the system, but a group
known in our lifetimes. – Sue Fleming, Knopf, $28

The Power of Awareness, Dan Schilling
The world can be a dangerous place and you don't have to be Special Ops in
Afghanistan to find yourself in a life-threatening situation. The good news is
Schilling has been that Special Ops guy, and he offers an entire book full of good
advice and common sense for staying safe in any number of circumstances. Filled
with exercises and examples, this is a quick read, filled with surprising humor;
my advice is to keep a copy in your car or backpack and practice! – Anne Holman,
Grand Central, $28

Editor's note: Dan Schilling will attend a virtual event at TKE on June 8, 6 p.m.

Freedom, Sebastien Junger
For much of a year Junger (The Perfect Storm, Belmont), accompanied by several
of his buddies, takes off on a walking trek beside the railroad lines in Pennsylvania.
Dodging railroad cops, the men sleep under bridges, cook over fires and drink
from creeks and rivers. Junger considers man's quest for ideals of community and
freedom insurgents, be they Apache or Taliban. Of their frequent success against
overwhelming armies he writes, “The central problem for human freedom is that groups that are well orga-
nized enough to defend themselves against others are well organized enough to oppress their own.” This thoughtful examination of our country and others’ struggle for or against freedoms should be made into a documentary. Until then this book makes for critical reading for these times. – Sue Fleming, Simon & Schuster, $25.99

Antitrust: Taking On Monopoly Power From the Golden Age to the Digital Age, Amy Klobuchar
Don't let the title scare you if you're not a lawyer. Anyone who cares about our
country must read this straight-forward and simply written book that shows
clearly how the concentration of economic power has increased over the past
decades to the point that it imposes a dire threat to our economic survival. Not
only does Klobuchar fully explain the failures of the government to uphold our
antitrust laws—or create new ones—in recent decades, the ways these
failures have negatively impacted possibilities for fair competition in America, but she has done so in direct, cogent language. She lays out the history of where we were two hundred years ago, and how,

The Premonition: A Pandemic Story, Michael Lewis
The characters in Lewis' latest book read like characters out of the latest thriller
by Robin Cook. There is the 13-year-old girl whose science project is based on
the transmission of airborne pathogens and develops into a much more serious
model of disease control. A doctor who is hired as the public health officer in Santa
Barbara, California and uses this local view to see what the CDC is missing—as
she later finds out—for purely political reasons. No one is brave enough to call out the system, but a group of seven dissident doctors form a secret cabal and label themselves

“The Wolverines.” They are in this fight, not for themselves, but to try
to limit the impact of a little-known, deadly disease in this work of
nonfiction that is as hard to put down as any heart-stopping novel.
As one reviewer for The New York Times put it; “I would read an
800-page history of the stapler if he (Michael Lewis) wrote it.”
– Jan Sloan Tempest, Norton, $30

The Plague Year, Lawrence Wright
Wright, well-known Pulitzer winner for
The Looming Tower, turns his journalistic
talent to chronicling the year 2020 from the
COVID pandemic to Black Lives Mat-
ter to the assault on the Capitol, all during
the last year of the Trump administration.
Wright brings events forward through in-
terviews with those involved each step of
the way. Matt Pottinger, Deputy National
Security Advisor, whose early alarm about
the virus was met with costly skepticism
provides a window into administrative
efforts and shortcomings. The attempts to develop a vaccine are seen
through the eyes of the many epidemiologists and immunologists
involved. Our quest to determine the root cause and first case of the
virus were stymied by the Chinese and, even today, those same efforts
continue, while mutations of the virus persist, most recently in the
UK, Brazil and an especially virulent strain in Africa. This reader
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over the decades, through the efforts of the trust busters, the anti-competitive forces were taken on, often successfully. She then goes on to detail how, with the advent of new technology and the failure of government regulation, we are faced with an even higher concentration of economic power in all phases of our lives. Efforts to challenge such consolidation may prove futile, and one can only hope that Klobuchar’s suggestions on various ways to turn the anticompetitive tide might prove successful. Don’t hold your breath, but you do owe it to yourself to understand the danger if we are to have any chance of containing it. So please, read this book! – Betsy Burton, Knopf, $32.50

Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy, Anne Sebba
Ethel Rosenberg has the tragic distinction of being the only woman executed in American history for espionage. The examination of how a wife and mother in 1950s America could have wound up convicted and executed for crimes that she may not have committed is ably outlined as Sebba delves into new evidence that has surfaced which shows the paranoia gripping the U.S. after World War II and the fear of Communism in the dark days of McCarthy. Ethel is seen as a tragic figure who had sympathy for Communism which she saw it as a mechanism to bring equality to all strata of society. How this led to her conviction and execution is a heartrending story of love and loyalty on her part and shame on the part of a judiciary who, knowing they had a weak case against her, persisted anyway. It is long past time for the life and times of Ethel Rosenberg to be revealed. – Barbara Hoagland, St Martins, $27.99

We Are What We Eat: A Slow Food Manifesto, Alice Waters
This book is life-changing. What we, as busy, need-to-get-it-done individuals, don’t realize is just how much the fast-food industry has infiltrated not just our food but all aspects of our lives. Waters has incorporated the slow food philosophy in her restaurant, Chez Panisse, from its inception in 1971. The original intention was to feed people good food in a time of political upheaval—and here we are again. The reader is made to realize that it is not the way of nature to have that avocado or peach or melon available to us all year. We are meant to enjoy the fruits of each season as they come to us. Those of us who enjoy melons or tomatoes year-round need to step back and take a look at the difference eating each of these in its season makes, causing us to be more appreciative and better able to enjoy them at their peak. It takes effort to make these changes, until we realize just what industrial farming has done not only to our land but also to the people who work it. It only takes a taste to encourage us to realize the importance of a culture that champions biodiversity, stewardship and seasonality in preparing the food that we put into our bodies. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Penguin, $26

Broken (in the best possible way), Jenny Lawson
How to blurb Jenny Lawson? “I was laughing so hard my kids came running from the other room to make sure I was ok.” Or “Read in public at your own peril, lest everyone back away slowly while you burst out uncontrollably. Come to think of it, that’s a great way to get people to back away.” Or “My husband came home, heard that specific pitch of laughter echoing across the house, and knew immediately it was Jenny Lawson.” From the start of her blog “The Bloggess,” to now with her third (or fourth, depending how you count) book, Lawson has delighted and disarmed in equal measure. Candid about struggles with physical and mental health, she also comes at the world with delight. She is astonishingly irreverent and lovingly kind, refreshingly honest and absurdly impossible. She is human. Which is to say weird. Which is to say the best friend you could ever ask for, as long as you are ok with your friend regularly shutting herself in the toy chest to avoid you because the world is just too broken right now. Which is to say the world is also just enough, because it makes possible a world with Jenny Lawson. And lucky for us, she’s written books so we can hang out even when none of us can put on pants. – Michaela Riding, Henry Holt, $27.99

The Anthropocene Reviewed, John Green
If you know any young-adult readers you may already be familiar with John Green and his numerous book and film credits. If not, no problem. With or without his award-winning credentials, his new collection of essays is exquisite. This book arose from podcast episodes aired from 2018 and matured through the COVID months. Framed around the idea of the “five-star scale,” Green reviews disparate items such as Super Mario Kart and the Lascaux Caves, Diet Dr. Pepper and Halley’s Comet. Each review item is, in his equation, one of many elements constituting the “Anthropocene”—the human-centered geological age in which we live. Green’s reviews read as essay, memoir, ode and elegy, all of which he masterfully composes and blends together. When he gives both “The Plague” and “Staphylococcus Aureus” one star and reserves his 5-star ratings for “Sunsets,” the movie “Harvey,” “Auld Lang Syne,” and a hot dog stand in Iceland, he offers us a unique and productive way to view the world we live in today. I give The Anthropocene Reviewed five stars. – Becky Thomas, Dutton, $28

The Secret to Superhuman Strength, Alison Bechdel
If you’ve yet to read Bechdel’s Fun Home or Are You My Mother?, start with her new graphic memoir! It will have you turning its pages both as fast and as
slowly as you are able. Who other than this MacArthur Fellow could create a delightfully serious mash-up of coming of age and coming out against the backdrop of fitness culture in the U.S.—1970s to present? Throughout, she weaves quotes and biographical anecdotes from writers, duos such as Wordsworth and Coleridge, Jack Kerouac and Gary Snyder. Though, far and away, Margaret Fuller—American journalist, women’s rights advocate, critic, translator, editor of Transcendentalism’s “Dial” magazine—is Bechdel’s loadstar. – Michelle Macfarlane, Houghton, $24

**Stampede: Gold Fever and Disaster in the Klondike**, Brian Castner

The end of the 19th century found the United States suffering from dire economic times, the worst in its short history. So, when news broke of a gold strike in Alaska’s Klondike, a stampede was on. The tale of this massive surge of humanity is one of epic proportions and mostly one of epic tragedy. Getting to the strike areas involved traversing mountain ranges that quickly took the lives of man and beast, neither being equipped to face nature at its harshest. The shanty towns that grew up were rife with violence and lawlessness. Castner views events through the lenses of the unique individuals who participated in the gold rush, thus bringing the story of the Klondike Gold Rush to breathtaking life. I couldn’t put it down – Barbara Hoagland, Double-day, $28.95

**The Woman They Could Not Silence**, Kate Moore

Wow. The newest book from Kate Moore (Radium Girls) is a compelling history, as inspiring as it is horrifying, of a time in America when married women had no legal rights. Women could be, as Elizabeth Packard was, indefinitely locked away (and abused) in insane asylums, simply because their husbands wished to be rid of them. Bereft of her freedom and her six children, but never her will or her wits, she fought back against not only her husband but also her powerfully arrogant “doctor.” Her fight grew to include not only her own freedom, but the legal rights of all American women and those suffering with mental illness. In her own words, “The more freedom I have, the more I want.” Elizabeth’s story is one we should all know, one we are all indebted to, and one we still need to take lessons in. – Michaeala Riding, Sourcebooks, $27.99

**Nothing Personal: An Essay**, James Baldwin

In this essay, Baldwin connects America’s fixation on eternal youth with its inability to face its past, its endemic loneliness with rampant consumerism. Written in 1964 as part of a larger group of essays set alongside images by Richard Avedon, “Nothing Personal” stands, sadly, as relevant today as it was 57 years ago. A foreword by Imani Perry and an afterword by Eddie S. Glaude, Jr. bookend this beautiful, slim hardcover. A wonderful gift for anyone, especially any graduate. – Michelle Macfarlane, Beacon, $18

**I Am a Girl from Africa**, Elizabeth Nyamayaro

In a remarkable and lyrical memoir Nyamayaro tells the story of her life from a small village in Zimbabwe to the United Nations. Her love for Africa and the philosophy of ubuntu (“I am because we are”) guides her into the humanitarian work that would take her around the world. She has worked at the United Nations in all areas of HIV/AIDs education and is the founder of HeForShe, a global mission to illuminate gender discrepancies. Her journey from a small isolated village to the world stage is not only remarkable but empowering. – Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, $28

**Mercury Rising**, Jeff Shesol

Just in time for the 60th anniversary of the American manned space flight program comes a book about the Mercury Program. The Soviets have launched Sputnik, raising two questions in the U.S.: 1) are Soviets that much more technically advanced than the U.S. and 2) if they can launch a satellite into earth’s orbit, does that mean they can launch an ICBM at the U.S.? This is the story of the American early space program with all its failures and successes. From the recently liberated German V2 Rocket scientists, to JFK and LBJ’s deep involvement in convincing Congress and the American people to spend vast sums of money, to the successful orbit of John Glenn in Friendship 7 (named by Glenn’s children) this is a tale that is all the more stunning considering our current political gridlock. Fascinating information coupled with personal insights into the people who made the first earth orbit a reality make this a great summer read! – Patrick Fleming, Norton, $18.95

**My Remarkable Journey: A Memoir**, Katherine Johnson, Joylette Hylick, Katherine Moore

Johnson rose from the backwaters of West Virginia to the heart of the American space program at NASA, a prodigy who became one of the “human calculators” who enabled the infant U.S. space program to eventually put a man on the moon. Her life and work formed the basis for the acclaimed book and the Oscar winning film “Hidden Figures.” Her long life encompassed enormous changes in
races attitudes, and the struggles she endured mirror these changes. Her life was a trailblazing example to all on how perseverance can change the world. – Barbara Hoagland, Amistad, $25.99

**The Ride of Her Life**, Elizabeth Letts

This is a retelling of a true story which captivated America in 1954 in which Annie Wilkins, a 63-year-old farmer from Maine, decides she wants to see the Pacific Ocean before she dies. Annie, who is dirt poor, doesn’t own a car or TV, and has never ventured very far from her hardscrabble Maine farm, decides to ride her horse from Maine to California to fulfill her dream. America in the post-WWII era was still a country of small towns, country roads, and was print-media dependent. So, as can be imagined, this story is picked up by local papers and radio stations as Annie makes her way East to West (sort of). She is accompanied by her trusty dog, Depeche Toi, and over-the-hill Tarzan, her Morgan, and then a second horse Rex, a Tennessee Walker. Although automobile and truck traffic is really in its infancy, still she must share the road with burgeoning traffic and is constantly battling the elements. Yet this is also a snapshot of a period in American history when people, often total strangers, were helpful and friendly to a “saddle tramp.” The hospitality described is heartwarming in what is almost a travelogue of sorts, made all the better by a great set of maps with which one can chronicle her trek to California—where she meets up with Hollywood celebrities and becomes one herself. Great summer read! – Patrick Fleming, Ballantine Books, $28


John Moses Browning, born into a pioneer Mormon family in Ogden, Utah, had, as was common at the time, little formal education. But his genius was apparent from his young years. Living in an area of the country which was largely uninhabited, he learned to shoot as a youth. He was quick to recognize the weapons then in common use were ineffective and could foresee ways to improve their usefulness. In years to come, Browning would invent and improve upon weapons that would revolutionize the world. His genius was his ability to see plans in his mind in three dimensions. Coupling this with the technical ability to implement those plans places him in the pantheon of geniuses, his impact on history matching that of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. That his inventions helped revolutionize weapons of war is a factor that does not negate his genius. – Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, $28

**The Invention of Miracles: Language, Power, and Alexander Graham Bell’s Quest to End Deafness**, Katie Booth

While Bell is best known as the inventor of the telephone, his path to this discovery was actually a sideways move from his original passion, which was teaching the deaf to speak. His mother was deaf, as was his wife; he therefore perceived the early versions of the telephone as speech reading machines. At the time the deaf community was torn between those who felt sign language was a way in which the deaf could integrate into the larger world and those who felt signing was dangerous. Unfortunately, for all his contributions to mankind, Bell remained a fierce critic of teaching the deaf to sign. Booth’s research adds an interesting component to the well-documented life of Alexander Graham Bell. – Barbara Hoagland, Simon & Schuster, $30

**The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation**, Malcolm Gladwell

Gladwell sets his telescopic sight on Guam, January 6, 1945. In the crosshairs of his latest book are Haywood Hansell and Curtis LeMay, two World War II Army Air Force Generals. Hansell represented a core group of Army airmen dubbed the Bomber Mafia whose vision grew out of a shared belief in the development of precision air bombing as the best way to avoid what they had witnessed from the air in the battles of WWI: the slaughter of millions of troops on the ground. A million soldiers died in the Battle of the Somme alone. What if war could be waged from the air instead on critical targets such as roads, bridges, train depots, munitions factories rather than men? In lieu of millions dead, precision strikes could cripple the enemy’s ability to even wage war, they believed. In the wake of WWI they set out to develop aircraft that could fly high enough to avoid enemy fire, far enough (and back) on one tank of fuel, and heavy enough to carry the bombs. Even more critical, they set out to develop Carl L. Norden’s “bombsight,” what became the Mark XV, the equipment eventually used by a skilled bombardier on board each B-29 to locate a target and to release its payload to land precisely where intended. As America’s involvement in the war intensified, where, wondered many, were the results of the war department’s investment in this vision? Enter Curtis LeMay, sent by General Lauris Norstad, to replace Hansell as head of the Twenty-first Bomber Command. LeMay, already the storied hero of bombing campaigns over Germany, held a radically different vision of how air battle could be waged in America’s war against Japan. The Bomber Mafia could have envisioned the feats of high-altitude precision bombing in today’s world—where an individual in a particular room could be “taken out” without destroying the floors below it—no more easily than they could have envisioned the fate of Hiroshima. – Michelle Macfarlane, Little, Brown, $27
**NONFICTION**

**From the River to the Sea: The Untold Story of the Railroad War That Made the West**, John Sedgwick

While the story of the first transcontinental railroad is a familiar one, the tale of the race between two railroad giants to see who could complete a rail line from Colorado to the coast is little known. They envisioned a railroad that would transport the silver riches of Colorado to the west coast; in purchasing the land, whole towns were created along the way, forging a path through tremendous mountain passes in the process. Their rivalry often turned to violence as they fought to see who would succeed first. Their story is a history of the West that hasn’t been thoroughly explored before; Sedgwick corrects that in this mesmerizing chronicle.
– Barbara Hoagland, Avid Reader, $30


When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor it unleashed a world war and tore apart the fabric of life for Japanese Americans. While many families revered their heritage, they were unflaggingly patriotic Americans. They were quickly disabused of the idea that their patriotism was unquestioned when, within days, the FBI swooped in and arrested entire families. That they persevered and were able to eventually wear the uniform of the United States is a story of unabashed patriotism and heroism. Their tales need to be told over and over to remind us all that being an American is more than the color of one’s skin or the shape of one’s eyes. Brown has brilliantly done just that. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $30

**Rooted: Life at the Crossroads of Science, Nature and Spirit**, Lyanda Lynn Haupt

Written by a scientist, this book uses cutting-edge science to support a truth that poets, mystics, artists and agriculture-based cultures have known all along: that life on this planet is much more radically connected than we realize. This important book asks the question of how we can best live on our imperiled planet. It is not only the effect we have on the planet, but ourselves. Take the time to take off your shoes and walk barefoot on a needle strewn trail, walk on the beach, walk where you have nothing between you and the earth. Take the time to just be and truly observe the animals that pass within your view. Take. The. Time. Calling upon the tradition of Thomas Merton, Mary Oliver and Rachel Carson, Haupt reminds us that it is at this crossroads of science and nature that we find true hope in nature. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Little, Brown, $27

**A Short History of Humanity: A New History of Old Europe**, Johannes Krause, Thomas Trappe, Caroline Waig

This book is an introduction to the intriguing new science of archaeogenetics, which blends together classical archaeology with DNA sequencing technology. These new techniques have enabled scientists to discover a new human form separate from what was previously known named the Denisovans and, through their research, to track the development of humans back 100,000 years. The migrations, cultures, and genetic mingling combined over the ages to create the inhabitants of Europe as we know it. The authors’ telling of this amazing story, a deep dive into the subject, is fascinating.
– Barbara Hoagland, Random House, $27

**Finding the Mother Tree, Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest**, Suzanne Simard

Kate Kellaway calls Finding the Mother Tree “A scientific memoir as gripping as any HBO drama series”...and it is. Simard weaves her life story growing up in British Columbia in a logging family with her early work and research working for a logging company. It was when she found that trees planted by the companies in clear-cut areas were withering and either dying or limping along in a sickly fashion that she set out to find the reason. She was fighting not only the “time tested” results of “established” forest management that favored the forest industry, but also the sexism inherent in a predominately male-dominated field. Her tale features science in action all the way through; in carrying out experiments on the effects of different herbicides on the land as well as the nursery trees, she discovers the ability of trees to communicate through what she calls the wood-wide-web, a complex web of fungi at the center of which is the mother tree. A fascinating look at this cutting-edge science is coupled with her personal story in this wonderfully complex, humane and insightful book. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Knopf, $27.95

**The Heartbeat of Trees: Embracing Our Ancient Bond with Forests and Nature**, Peter Wohlleben

As in his transformative The Hidden Life of Trees, Wohlleben asks that we view the earth from the angle of plants in general and trees (his vocation and the subject of his passion) in particular, rather than through the homocentric lens we typically employ. After comparing the various parts of human anatomy (and the roles each plays in the body’s functioning) to those of trees in order to illustrate the parallel nature of the ways each organism sees, smells, hears, digests, tastes, touches, he moves to circulation (blood in one case, water in the other) and makes an astonishing argument for among other
things, the sixth sense of trees, their memory, their heartbeat. Then, after a thoroughgoing discussion of how plants in general and trees specifically are beneficial to the earth, he moves on to discuss the ever-changing environment in which they exist, how they have been regarded (sometimes being used to the point of extinction, at other times worshipped) in history, the ways humankind is now being anything but kind to them, and the ways we can ameliorate the ever-accelerating destruction of not just forests but the earth. Wohlleben’s research is fascinating and far-reaching, his conclusions for the part seem innately “right” once considered carefully, and when, as happens occasionally, his arguments give one pause, still, his work seems not just revolutionary but critical to our survival. Besides, once having regarded trees through the spectrum of Wohlleben’s sensibility, you’ll never see the forest the same way again. – Betsy Burton, Greystone, $26.95

Around the World in 80 Trees, Jonathan Drori

The description by Nature magazine of Drori’s book as “One of the most quietly beautiful books of the year” is spot on. The beauty of Lucille Clerc’s illustrations as well as the expert writing of Drori take us on an unimaginably beautiful tour of our world through its trees. Trees not only provide us with beauty, but also aspirin, maple syrup, cork and quinine. The strange tales in this lovely volume range from self-mummifying monks to tree-climbing goats. A wonderful book to take on those meandering walks. You may not find these trees in your vicinity, but you will find some amazing facts about our beautiful world. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Laurence King, $19

The Hummingbirds’ Gift: Wonder, Beauty and Renewal on Wings, Sy Montgomery

A slim volume based on beauty and hope. When Montgomery has a chance to participate in the rehabilitation of a pair of abandoned hummingbirds, she flies from her home in Manchester, New Hampshire to the Bay Area to work with her friend Brenda Sherburn. The ensuing tale of following these peanut-sized creatures to adulthood is a story of love, patience, hope and, most of all, hard work. The hummingbird is a gift to us all; this book celebrates that gift and the people willing to literally give up their lives for hummingbirds. – Jan Sloan Tempest, Atria, $20

Murder at the Mission: A Frontier Killing, Its Legacy of Lies, and the Taking of the American West, Blaine Harden

The title of this book pretty much tells the story of how Manifest Destiny encouraged the settlement of the West. In so doing, the Native Americans who were the original occupants of the land were marginalized and killed. The mythology around the murder of Narcissa and Marcus Whitman and 11 others was propagated by yet another missionary, Henry Spalding. While the Whitmans and other mission-aries were instrumental in the flood of white migration to the Oregon Territory, Spaulding patently exploited the notion of a massacre by savages while also calling for the extermination of the tribe. The misplacement of the local Cayuse tribe and the frictions this displacement caused were the ultimate reason for the massacre. Harden ably reveals yet another sad tale of the mistreatment of Native Americans in white America’s quest to settle the West. – Barbara Hoagland, Viking, $28


From the author of Flamethrowers (which opens on Utah’s Salt Flats), Mars Room (a must-read fictional account of California’s female penal system), and Telex From Cuba (semi-autobiographical fiction), Kushner’s new book gives fans a bigger window into the life that formed this author of narrative settings, characters and themes that range from motorcycle racing in Utah to New York’s 1970s art scene to Italy’s late-20th century revolutionary movements to the sugarcane industry in mid-20th century Cuba to California strip clubs and a woman serving a life-sentence whose only real crime is self-defense. Her essays in Hard Crowd demonstrate just how hard-won great fiction usually is. Here is summer nonfiction that reads like fiction! – Michelle Macfarlane, Scribner, $26

Allegorizings, Jan Morris

Perhaps life is one long allegory, and Morris has made concrete the ephemeral concept. She writes these short letters or essays to a young generation offering advice through vignettes and images. Her word choice and sentence structure lull the reader into a calmness that feels good during this time of trouble as she writes about ice cream and luxury liners and sneezes and growing old. The book grows from the images of childhood to the reality of aging. Each piece is complete and leaves the reader smiling, remembering those ticks in life when the small things seemed so perfect. I will be buying Allegorizings as gifts for many years and for many young people. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Liveright, $24.95
**My Name Is Selma: The Remarkable Memoir of a Jewish Resistance Fighter**, Selma van de Perre

The eve of World War II brought untold horror and upheaval to millions of lives, none more than to young Selma van de Perre. In her 98th year, she looks back on the tragedy that enveloped her family and friends in her native Netherlands. Forced to live undercover to hide her Jewish roots, Selma became active in the Resistance until she was ultimately discovered and incarcerated. She was soon sent to the infamous Ravensbruck concentration camp. The story of her survival against all odds is one of courage and ingenuity. That she lived while so many of her family perished is a testament to her tenacity and determination to survive. – Barbara Hoagland, Scribner, $27

**Finding Freedom: A Cook's Story; Remaking Life From Scratch**, Erin French

While there are two new books about celebrated chefs, French tells a more personal story about her fight to leave the overwhelming influence of her father and his diner in Maine on the long road to opening her restaurant, The Lost Kitchen. In a book as compelling as a good novel, French leaves nothing out, including her trouble with addiction, the loss of her son to a manipulative husband who also took away her sense of self. Told with pathos and humor, her saga takes us on the journey from the absolute bottom in a rehab center to clawing her way back to the successful restaurant which Bloomberg named as one of 12 restaurants worth traveling across the world to experience and Time magazine named one of the world’s greatest places. This book about the large subjects of love, loss and redemption is told in a completely original voice.

– Jan Sloan Tempest, Celadon, $28

**Crying in H Mart**, Michelle Zauner

"H Mart is a supermarket chain that specializes in Asian food." This is Zauner’s brief explanation of her memoir’s title and the reason she cries: she lost her mother to cancer way too early and processes her grief by taking up Korean cooking with a vengeance. Zauner’s story begins as she learns of her mom’s diagnosis and continues over the course of her treatment, a bittersweet trip to Korea, and ultimately her death in 2014. Zauner is better known as the lead singer in her band, Japanese Breakfast. Amazing how a book can be so sad and so delicious at the same time. I’ll be recommending this to everyone who loves good books and good food! – Anne Holman, Knopf, $26.95

**Madhouse at the End of the Earth**, Julian Sancton

The end of the 19th century was an era of global exploration. The lure of adventure and glory drew many to risk their lives in the attempt to discover and conquer new lands. No area of the world drew more attention than the Antarctic and the race to reach the true South Pole. Into this race a young Belgian, Adrien de Gerlache, brought together an expedition consisting of people of several nationalities. The story of their ill-fated voyage and the grueling isolation they endured as their ship became locked in the ice makes for breathtaking reading.

– Barbara Hoagland, Crown, $30

**The Lost Boys of Montauk**, Amanda M. Fairbanks

The second worst nautical disaster in Montauk, Long Island, fishing history occurred in March, 1984. The captain of the fishing boat was a native of Montauk, married and the father of three sons. The Wind Blown left Montauk harbor on what appeared to be a normal commercial fishing trip only to be caught up in one of the Atlantic’s infamous nor’easters. The loss of four lives impacted the entire community and echoes of this loss continue today. Fairbanks’ book has been compared to The Perfect Storm as she delves deeply into the history of Montauk and the people and their relationships that led to this disaster. It’s a fascinating read.

– Barbara Hoagland, Gallery Books, $28

**Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty**, Patrick Rudden Keefe

This highly readable and utterly fascinating history could as well be entitled “The Secret History of Big Pharma from Valium to Oxycontin,” were the history of the Sacklers themselves, their endless machinations not only to make billions but to elevate their name and reputation in the process, not so astounding, compelling—and disgusting. Ironically, the end-result of all their dynasty-building efforts and their preoccupation with image made the Sacklers the most reviled of wealthy American families, the incalculable harm they’ve done to the hundreds of thousands of people their drugs have killed (costing our economy trillions in the process) forever destroying the good name they claimed to value. But the tale of their road to ignominy, the climb to glory that preceded it, is as colorful as it is cautionary, as fascinating in its detail as it is meticulous in its research, as scion Arthur manipulates everyone from the FDA to the IRS, the Kefauver Hearings to the Metropolitan, the Smithsonian and Harvard, not to mention his wives and brothers. As do his descendants unto the third generation as they follow in his footsteps. Astonishing, absorbing, sobering.

– Betsy Burton, Doubleday, $32.50
**MYSTERY/THRILLER**

**An Unlikely Spy**, Rebecca Starford

Evelyn Varley, a scholarship child whose best friend was the daughter of a wealthy industrialist, had long since learned to mask her true self—making her infiltration of groups potentially dangerous to Britain during WWII a second nature to her. The ability to deceive others is not, however, synonymous with the ability to witness the consequences of that deception unscathed; the marks left on her conscience by her betrayals are incalculably painful as the plot wends its way back and forth between 1939 and 1948. A thoughtful thriller in the vein of Kate Atkinson’s *Transcription,* this is as spellbinding a study of character and its propensity to bend morality into its self-justified opposite as I’ve read. I’d race through chapters at a time, riveted; stop, too anguished to go on; then pick it up again, too curious, too compelled by plot and character, to let go. Its history (based on a true story) is fascinating, the rise of fascism is chilling in our own present-day environment, and Evelyn Varley herself is a fictional creation that lingers in the mind. – Betsy Burton, Ecco, $27.99

**The Quiet Boy**, Ben H. Winters

This novel has (in spades) all the elements I love in a satisfying, well-written legal thriller and mystery: an intriguing and inventive plot with two alternating trials, one for malpractice (past) and one for murder (present). Jay Shenk is a cheerful ambulance-chasing lawyer running his “little law office that could.” Jay’s son Ruben and the Keeners—Beth, Richard, and Evie—provide well-developed family relationships. Finally, and central to the mystery, is the question of how a routine surgery has turned Wesley Keener—a young boy, brother and son—into a kind of golem “walking around in a circle—no expression—mouth slightly open, eyes staring straight ahead.” The murder victim is Professor Theresa Pileggi, a brilliant scientist who has concentrated on studying the brain and claims “I know what is wrong with the boy. Hire me. Write me a check and I’ll be happy to explain.” The two thrilling trials, for malpractice and murder, braid together jostling the reader back and forth in time. You’ll be kept in suspense until the final pages. Enjoy!!! – Carol Kranes, Mulholland Books, $28

**The Plot**, Jean Hanff Korelitz

“Good writers borrow; great writers steal.” (T.S Eliot but possibly stolen from Oscar Wilde). In a well-crafted, mysterious novel, the main character Jacob Finch Bonner—once praised as “new and noteworthy” for his first novel—has been relegated to a 2nd floor office in 3rd rate Ripley College’s low-residency MFA program, “demoralized” and “unequipped.” His credo: “When in doubt, encourage them.” And he does, until in the book’s inventive twist, he meets Fine Arts student Evan Parker, who claims to have a “blockbuster” story that will make him a millionaire. He tells Jake its plot. Time passes—until, discovering that his student had died a few months after the residency with-out publishing his “phenomenon”—Jake, “the failed writer,” who now possesses “this glorious thing,” STEALS it. In a few years, Jake is author of a 2 million copy bestseller, on *The New York Times* list as #1, and busy traveling to book signings all over the country (where incidentally he meets and later marries Anna, his perfect companion). All goes well until Jake receives his first threatening email: “You are a thief.” The rest of the novel covers Jake’s attempt to investigate who is sending these “whirling, howling-infused emails,” and in so doing discovers disturbing, dark facts about Evan Parker and his complex family life. Until its final pages, this novel raises valid, moral issues, presents believable characters—although its conclusion is, to say the least, improbable and unprepared-for. – Carol Kranes, Celadon, $28

**The Radio Operator**, Ulla Lenze

Josef is a quiet man whose life becomes a mixture of dreams and the reality of a world at war. As an amateur radio operator, he is a pawn of the Nazis yet, a bright man, he knows that he is being used. The novel follows him from Germany to New York in the 1930s and back to Germany after the war. America had its share of Nazi sympathizers in the ’30s, and Joseph’s talents are useful to them. Following the war he finds himself back in Germany with no work and no purpose. His involvement with the movement even after the war will take him to Argentina and the German enclaves in the New World. *The Radio Operator* is a powerful look at the use of propaganda and the manipulation of an ordinary man into a tool for the powerful. At a time when many novels are looking at WWII in Europe, this book offers a view of Germany and the Nazis in America. It would be a good side-by-side read with Philip Roth’s *The Plot Against America.* – Wendy Foster Leigh, HarperVia, $25.99

**The Maidens**, Alex Michaelides

Zoe’s close friend has been murdered, and Zoe begs her aunt Mariana Andros, a brilliant, recently widowed therapist, to put her patients on hold and come to Cambridge. Mariana soon becomes convinced that Professor Edward Fosca is killing his students and getting away with it. Fosca runs a private study group for select female students known as “The Maidens.” Fearful that Zoe could be in danger, Mariana is determined to expose Fosca as a killer—and she’ll put everything on the line, including her life, to save her niece. – Paula Longhurst, Celadon, $27.99
Mirrorland, Carole Johnstone
Reading Mirrorland is a trip to the hall of mirrors at the yearly carnival. The story is told from the point of view of Cat, on the search for her missing (identical) twin El, who disappeared while sailing off the Firth of Forth. Currently living in L.A., Cat returns to her childhood home in Edinburgh, refusing to believe that her twin is dead. Unexplained events occur as Cat relives memories in Mirrorland, the hidden cupboard locked away within their childhood house. Threatening notes appear under the front door, strange emails appear on her computer, and tensions build between Cat and El’s husband. Suspend your disbelief as you read the book because it is never clear what is truth and what is imagination. Once you begin reading, you must finish and, even then, who knows fact from fiction. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, $27

The Other Black Girl, Zakiya Dalila Harris
Who, exactly, is “the other black girl” in Harris’s debut thriller? Is it Nella, Vera’s editorial assistant, the novel’s main protagonist, painfully aware of how difficult it is to work in an office where everyone but the mail staff and cleaning crew is white? Or is it Nella’s savvy new office mate, Hazel, also black, who quickly makes her way (past Nella) to the top echelon of Wagner Books (number one in the world of publishing): “The other black girl” could also be Malaika, Nella’s best friend, or any one of the talented and beautiful, young women surrounding Hazel’s own world outside work. To back up to the novel’s prologue, who is the young woman we meet making a mysterious escape as she hastily boards a train heading to wherever is its “most northern stop?” Her identity lies at the heart of this novel depicting a world from which Nella too may have to make her own escape. – Michelle Macfarlane, Atria, $27

Auntie Poldi and the Lost Madonna, Mario Giordano
Donna Poldina is headed for her 61st birthday and it could be her last. A couple of late-night visitors from the Vatican raise Poldi’s investigative antenna, and by the time she’s relating her tale to her nephew (our narrator) she has watched an exorcism, floored the Holy See and been arraigned for murder whilst she and Vito Montana investigate a secret society which has spread its tentacles across Italy and deep into Poldi’s adoptive hometown. Can Poldi cheat Death (and his clipboard) again? – Paula Longhurst, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $24

The Bombay Prince, Sujata Massey
Enthusiasts of the Perveen Mistry mysteries will be thrilled by this latest episode in the life of the first female solicitor in Bombay. It is 1921 and the Prince of Wales arrives in India to see the country he will rule as king. The political scene is volatile with various factions opposing British rule and battling each other at the same time. Religious factions can be as dangerous as political ones. When a young female Parsi student asks for advice, Perveen is reluctant to take a stand and is horrified when the next day the student is found dead. Perveen feels obligated to find the student’s killer, a task which becomes doubly hard because of riots and uprisings in the city. As she questions men of power, the peril to her family grows; this is a dangerous time for women, for Parsi, for anyone with perceived connections with the British government. Massey’s endings leave the reader imagining the next step in the adventures of Perveen Mistry and eagerly awaiting book 4. – Wendy Foster Leigh, Soho, $27.95

Castle Shade, Laurie R. King
Mary Russell and Holmes travel back to Roumania where he had been masquerading as an archaeologist before Mary summoned him to Monaco over the Clarissa Hudson affair. Holmes, approached by Queen Marie (and subsequently Mycroft Holmes, much to Mary’s disquiet), is reluctantly investigating a threat to Marie’s young daughter. Marie has transformed her country from a backwater into a force to be reckoned with, and Mycroft suspects political motives are behind the threat. Holmes and Russell aren’t so sure; preceding the Queen’s arrival at Castle Bran, her summer home on the border with neighboring Transylvania, their nightly patrols outside the castle grounds uncover a clever campaign seeded with bitterness, playing on the superstitions of the villagers and the old legends of strigoi—known in the West as vampires. – Paula Longhurst, Bantam, $28

A Study in Crimson, Robert J. Harris
Not content with reviving Richard Hannay of The Thirty Nine Steps, Harris now turns his attention to the world’s greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes. The adventures of Harris’ Holmes (based on Basil Rathbone’s film portrayal) take place during WWII. In a blacked-out London a Victorian era horror is unfolding. Has the Ripper really returned from the dead? Holmes and Watson, summoned by Lestrade, race to prevent more killings, aided by American journalist Gail Prescott and (courtesy of Mycroft) suave intelligence officer Philip Raynor. Whilst others run for the air raid shelters, Holmes and Watson attempt to unmask a calculating enemy as bombs fall around them. – Paula Longhurst, Pegasus Crime, $25.95

MYSTERY/THRILLER
**Mystery/Thriller in Paper**

**Thunderball, Paula Longhurst**

Trouble seems to find Nikki Doyle wherever she lands; and I mean that literally as she’s taken up skydiving in this second in the series. She’d tagged along with her boyfriend Gavin and found she quite liked the feeling of falling toward earth and falling in love. But that comes to an abrupt end when he arrives at Stansted airport...in a coffin. What follows is a fast-paced game of cat and mouse with Nikki not knowing who she can trust as she tries to discover what happened to the man she loved. As always, murder and mayhem are also sprinkled with dry humor and surprise plot twists!  
– Anne Holman, Open Flame, $16.99

**The Last Bookshop in London, Madeline Martin**

Martin has written a sweet book full of hope even when set in the worst days of WWII, the blitz, and the hardships of war. Grace Bennett arrives in London without a reference or job but with the support of her friends. She works her way into the life of an old bookseller in Primrose Hill even though she hasn’t read much and would rather work at Harrods. War comes, friends die, bombs fall on bookshops throughout the city yet The Primrose Hill bookshop survives. As a bookseller, of course, I recognized the peculiar quirks of bookshop lives, and as a reader in the time of a pandemic, I also realized the comfort in a book which emphasizes kindness and survival.  
– Wendy Foster Leigh, Hanover Square Press, $16.99

**Speculative Fiction**

**Hummingbird Salamander, Jeff Vandermeer**

What does one do with the knowledge that the world as we know it may be forever lost? In a very near future of police drones, pandemics, and an onrushing environmental collapse, Jane (not her real name) is an ex-bodybuilder who has just received a mysterious taxidermied hummingbird of a now-extinct variety. An anonymous gift? A message? She soon learns it was left to her by Silvina, former heiress to an Argentinian industrialist who became an eco-terrorist before disappearing. As Jane delves deeper into the mystery of who Silvina was, what she wanted, and why she left her this strange message, the foundation of Jane’s carefully secured world begins to fall apart. Drawn into the ecosystem of international corporate secrecy as much as the ecosystem around her, Jane learns the hard way that there are people who don’t want her in-

**Rabbits, Terry Miles**

Welcome to the world of Rabbits! “The very nature of the game is secrecy, and the complex series of rules uncertain, but you can discover a great deal if you know where to look.” Video game maven K—we never learn what “K” stands for—spins this tale of intrigue at the Seattle arcade where some 40 eager fans gather. Carefully written, and alternating between plot events and K’s inner turmoil, the writer establishes a sense of dread and drama which draws in both K’s fictive audience and the reader. Example: On the lid of an old wooden box is “some kind of ceremonial image of a hare being hunted...eyes wide and wild, mouth partly open.” K is himself ensnared by his own spiel when he is approached by billionaire Scarpio (rumored winner of the 5th iteration of Rabbits under the code name Californiac) who asks for his help. K meets Chloe and the two, intending to “investigate,” are spurred on by curious and shattering events—possibly the game’s increasing difficulty. And the fun—or the “force out there, deadly, mysterious, powerful”—begins. Readers who want to discover the secrets of the universe, with possible “dimensional drifts,” will enjoy this investigation.  
– Carol Kranes, Del Rey, $28

**Speculative Fiction in Paper**

**The Beautiful Ones, Silvia Moreno-Garcia**

What happens when you combine the high society rules and melodrama of Bridgerton, a family of naturalists in a land of armadillos and beetles, and characters who are gifted with telekinesis? Simply this: an iridescent and delightful novel of manners. Nina was born to join the ranks of the Beautiful Ones in her first Grand Season. But she is also willful and can’t keep her telekinesis in check. When she meets Hector, a master telekinetic who has performed around the world, she is dazzled. But he came to town with a secret, and high society can be cruel. Luckily for them both, Nina is a quick study.  
– Michaela Riding, Tor, $17.99
**NEW IN PAPER**

**FICTION**

*Deacon King Kong*, James McBride
Sportcoat, an old man who drinks too much and gets into daily arguments with his dead wife, is so overcome by the ruination of his neighborhood at the hands of a baseball-star-turned-drug-dealer that, improbable as it may seem, the aging Deacon shoots said drug-dealer in front of God and the population of their South Brooklyn Housing Project. In a novel as boisterously funny as it is touching, as truth-telling as it is wacky, McBride weaves a tale of hilarity and wonder, proving the adage that home is where the heart is. I loved every page. – Betsy Burton, Riverhead, $17

*A Long Petal of the Sea*, Isabel Allende
In August, 1939, Pablo Neruda organized a refugee ship, the Winnipeg, to transport over 2000 Spanish refugees to Chile. Allende's new novel, inspired by this littleknown event, should strike a chord in our current unwelcoming world. Its main character, Victor Dalmau, is a medic on the Republican side during the Spanish Civil War until, knowing that only brutality will follow Franco, he flees to France, desperate to find his dead brother's fiancee and child. His plan is to convince Roser to marry him so she and the child can join him on the Winnipeg works. We follow their lives as they build a community, pursue careers, and search for their own identities in their adopted country. However when another dictator, Pinochet, shows up, the Dalmau family must once again consider their political views in a dangerous world. Full of contrasts—dictators and freedom, leaving and belonging, fear and hope—Allende's novel is possessed of perfect timing, and her prodigious talent radiates throughout. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Random, $16

*The Glass Hotel*, Emily St. John Mandel
Take a Bernie Madoff-like Ponzi scheme, a chic and difficult-to-get-to hotel on Vancouver Island, a touch of fantasy and a very diverse cast of characters and you've got what Mandel creates so well...a narrative that grips you on page one and keeps you on tenterhooks until the last page. I know we often say we go back and start a book over after we finish but this one I really did flip over and begin again because I wanted to experience it anew. And it's as if a newsreel has been running through my imagination ever since I finished it (the second time)! – Anne Holman, Vintage, $16.95

*The Mirror & the Light*, Hilary Mantel
Mantel's (Wolf Hall, Bring Up the Bodies) Thomas Cromwell alternately soothes and schemes his way through the present and through dreams of times past, so seldom surprised by the actions of others that when he occasionally takes aback the reader is stunned. Uncanny in his understanding of women, of the ambition that drives humankind, and of the currents of history, his is a character of Shakespearean stature. As is Henry Tudor's, arrogant, erratic, as insecure—and as cruel—as that of our most recent past president. Mantel's mind is not just brilliant but capacious enough to house the entangled narratives of recorded history, canny enough to recognize their complications and complexities—and to make literary (and emotional) sense of them. Enlightening, utterly involving and hundreds of glorious pages long, this is the perfect way to face and even embrace the coming hours, days, and weeks ahead, learning the lessons the past has to teach in the process. – Betsy Burton, Picador, $18

*Redhead by the Side of the Road*, Anne Tyler
Over the decades, Tyler's characters have become my friends. From the early days of Cody, Jenny, and Ezra in Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant to Macon Leary in The Accidental Tourist and more recently, Willa Drake in Clock Dance. They each offer a piece of themselves that I keep with me, causing me to smile when remembering their stories. And now we meet Micah Mortimer, a nice enough fellow but one so wedded to his routine that it threatens to undo even the tiniest bit of happiness thrust his way. An IT expert, he could make more money if he just upped his game a bit. He has a nice girlfriend who is looking for a little more but that would mean getting out of his routine for sure. He's a chicken-on-Monday, fish-on-Friday kind of guy; so what happens when a teenager materializes at his back door claiming to be his son? You'll have to become friends with Micah to find out! – Anne Holman, Vintage, $16

*Writers & Lovers*, Lily King
Most of Casey's friends have let go of their literary aspirations, settling for more practical careers or for marriage. But she writes and rewrites the novel she's determined to finish, taking her characters up and down the stairs of their lives even as her own mental balance starts to teeter. King regards Casey with a kind-hearted yet clear-eyed acuity that brings her to aching and believable life, her panic attacks and her waitressing feats limned with equal parts humor and empathy. Gorgeously written, perceptive, moving, this is a book any writer will love—as will anyone who has waited tables, waited for love, or for will-o'-the-wisp inspiration to strike. – Betsy Burton, Grove, $17
several succumbed to long-term altering effects. Those who escaped the diagnosis worried their own children would develop schizophrenia or some other form of mental illness. Research conducted on these family members by the National Institute for Mental Health has aided medical science in offering more accurate information to others whose families struggle with similar challenges. Kolker’s empathic and detailed presentation of this amazing story provides medical history and hope for those suffering from schizophrenia. – Sue Fleming, Anchor, $17

Death in Her Hands, Ottessa Moshfegh
This gripping mystery begins with a non-confession. A note left but no body to be found. The elderly widow who finds the note is completely shaken and takes us along on her journey. Lovers of Moshfegh’s writing will not be disappointed. Her dazzling way with words and her insights into the dark depths of the human mind captivate from the first sentence. – Michaela Riding, Penguin, $16

End of October, Lawrence Wright
When the Kongoli flu virus first shows up at an internment camp in Indonesia, the World Health Organization asks Dr. Henry Parsons to investigate. Although Henry is on his way home to his family and his CDC job in Atlanta, he agrees. Once at the camp he takes the usual precautions—mask and gloves—even though he’s in a hurry. By the time he finds the team of MSF researchers—all dead—and has quarantined the camp, his local driver has already left the camp headed for the Haj in Mecca unknowingly carrying the deadly virus. A global pandemic is coming, unleashing consequences no one is prepared for. This may be fiction but we are currently living it. – Paula Longhurst, Vintage, $17

Hidden Valley Road, Robert Kolker
In 1944, just before Don Galvin was to ship out with the Navy, he married his sweetheart Mimi. Returning from the Pacific, the couple eventually settled down in Colorado Springs where they raised 12 children, two girls and 10 boys—six of whom would develop schizophrenia. Living within this family became a nightmare for some, a haven for others. Over the years the boys were treated with a variety of drugs and other treatments and
Itty-Bitty Kitty Corn,
Shannon Hale, illustrated by
Leuyen Pham
Kitty thinks she is a unicorn
and does her best to con-
vince Parakeet and Gecko
of that fact. When Uni-
corn does show up, Kitty is
heartbroken because she realizes that the
way she sees herself is all wrong. But a little
imagination and kindness goes a long way
in reassuring her. Hale (local award-win-
ning favorite author at the bookstore!) and
Pham make a terrific team. We are looking
forward to their next collaboration. Editor’s
note: signed copies available! – Abrams,
$18.99 (3 and up)

What Will You Be?,
Yamile Saied Mendez,
illustrated by Kate
Alizadeh
Another local author,
Mendez, tells us the
story of a little girl try-
ing to figure out what
she will be when she gets older. Her abuela
lovingly guides her, and the ultimate result
is perfect. This is a companion picture
book to Where Are You From? – Harper,
$17.99 (3 and up) Editor’s note: signed cop-
ies available!

I’m a Feel-o-Saur,
Lezlie Evans, illustrated by
Kate Chappell
This book provides a great
way to explain all the dif-
ferent emotions children
experience. Happy-O-Saur
starts readers off, and is
joined by Shy-O-Saur, Bored-O-Saur, and
Angry-O-Saur. Terrific way to start or have
a conversation about feelings. Evans is
new to the local author scene, and we are
pleased to include her in our stellar list of
accomplished writers. Signed copies are
available. – Welbeck Publishing, $9.95 (2
and up)

We Love Fishing,
Ariel Bernstein, illustrat-
ed by Marc Rosenthal
Friendship and forgive-
ness stand out in this
very funny book about
a fishing trip that Bear,
Porcupine and Otter have planned. Squir-
rel wants in but hates fishing, so the four
friends have to find something they will all
love. Great read aloud! – Simon & Schus-
ter, $17.99 (3 and up)

Too Much Stuff!,
Emily Gravett
Magpies Meg and Ash are
expecting babies. They must
get ready! They need all
kinds of stuff. Everything, it
seems! Readers will quickly
figure out what is going on.
Gravett brings her quirky
style to the story and to the art. Charming
and funny. Time to clean out the nests! –
Simon & Schuster, $17.99 (3 and up)

Wishes, Muon Thi
Van, illustrated by
Victo Ngai
Van beautifully shares
her family story of
fleeing Viet Nam in
the 1980s. All they
wanted was a safe
home and her journey as a small child was
harrowing and dangerous. Our world is
full of refugees; readers are invited into this
scary experience and also asked to wish for
better results for others. The artwork tells
the story too, in a truly beautiful collabora-
tion. – Scholastic, $18.99 (4 and up)
Fred Gets Dressed, Peter Brown
TKE routinely sells Brown’s Mr. Tiger Goes Wild, a staff favorite! In Brown’s new book readers meet Fred, who likes to run around naked (very cute illustrations!). Fred finally ends up in the closet, trying on a variety of clothes. What will he pick? What will Fred’s parents think? Brown shares a personal experience in his new book. Eye-catching palette as well! – Little, Brown, $18.99 (3 and up)

Memory Jars, Vera Brosgol
Freda is desperate to save all the blueberries she has picked, and when her grandma reminds her that they will be saved in canning jars, it gives her an idea—Freda will need lots of jars to save all of her favorite things. But putting everything in jars has its own problems, and Freda has to figure out what to do next. Caldecott honoree Brosgol shares some complicated but obvious ideas in this clever, charmingly illustrated book! – Macmillan, $18.99 (4 and up)

Peace Train, Cat Stevens, illustrated by Peter Reynolds
Sound familiar? Reynolds puts a whole new spin on Steven’s famous song. The book is an invitation to sing along and also a reminder that everyone needs to get on board the Peace Train. Cheerful and happy. Let’s get that Peace Train up and running. – Harper, $18.99 (4 and up) Editor’s note: TKE has only a limited number of signed copies available.

Kiyoshi’s Walk, Mark Karlins and Nicole Wong
Kiyoshi is with his grandfather when he asks “where do poems come from?” And, of course he gets the answer as they go on their walk through town. Kiyoshi makes many observations while his grandfather shares haikus. Family, community, a sense of place all shine through the lovely story and poetry. – Lee & Low, $18.95 (5 and up)

Hidden Wonders!, Walter Wick
Finally Wick has written and photographed another Can You See What I See? book. This will engage readers of all ages and also take up a lot of their time as they examine each page. Wick has included an homage to his countless Japanese fans; every page includes Lucky, a waving cat who is a symbol of good luck! Perfect for a back seat on a summer road trip! – Scholastic, $14.99 (all ages)
**MIDDLE GRADE FICTION**

**Starfish, Lisa Fipps**
In this novel in verse, Ellie is sick of being bullied and fat-shamed, especially by her critical mother. Her one safe place is in the family pool where she feels weightless and free of humiliation, and can stretch out like a starfish. She has allies in her father, her therapist and her accepting new neighbor who just might help her unlock the fabulous person she is inside.
– Becky Hall, Nancy Paulsen Books, $17.99 (10 and up)

**Lightfall: The Girl & the Galdurian, Tim Probert**
The only life Bea has known is the quiet one in the forest, helping the Pig Wizard with tonics and tinctures for their community. One day she meets Cad, finds out that her world is in danger, and to make matters worse she and Cad return home to find the Pig Wizard missing. Bea and Cad set off on a quest to save the world and hopefully find Cad’s missing people. Charming, creative, it felt like a Miyazaki!
– Harper, $12.99 (8 and up)

**Heart of the Moors, Holly Black**
I’m a huge fan of Black’s work, and she does not disappoint with this latest novel about Maleficent and her godchild Aurora. Aurora is afraid to go to sleep, afraid that she might sleep another 100 years. With two kingdoms to rule, she has to rely on her own counsel. Something is going terribly wrong, and someone is not telling the truth. Is there a traitor among her people? Fans of this world will be thrilled with Black’s rendition of all the characters! – Disney, $17.99 (10 and up)

**The Dragon Path, Ethan Young**
Prince Sing wants adventure and to prove his worth to his clan. He is determined to lead them to the Old Land, hopefully to a better life. But on this quest they have to go through the Dragon Tribe and deal with an evil traitor. A conjured-up monster named Midnight could be the key in a book that reads like an Avatar episode.
– Scholastic, $12.99 (10 and up)

**Rescue, Jennifer A. Nielsen**
Readers of all ages can depend on Nielsen for interesting, historical fiction with strong characters. The Nazis have overrun France, and Meg, her mom and grandmother had said goodbye to her dad months ago when he left to join the Allies. Meg and her family, like so many others, were just trying to survive when a series of events thrust her into the war too. She needs to guide a family to the safety of Switzerland and will have to be strong, smart, and lucky to keep them out of the hands of the Nazis. Nielsen gives readers even more than Meg’s story with the clever (and highly entertaining) insertion of ciphers. Meg’s dad had left her with multiple puzzles, and she gets an important one when she takes on her mission. I am a huge fan of Nielsen, and her newest book is a fascinating, compelling addition to her body of work. This is for readers who like WWII, mystery, adventure, and/or strong girl stories! – Scholastic, $16.99 (9 and up)

**Ophie’s Ghost, Justina Ireland**
In Ireland’s middle-grade debut, Ophie and her mom have fled the ashes of their home in 1920s Georgia and headed to Pittsburgh, where they find lodging with extended family and employment in Mrs. Carruther’s grand mansion. Along the way Ophie learns that she’s able to see and communicate with ghosts—of which there are plenty. But the most interesting ghost is in the mansion itself, and its story is one that Ophie is determined to uncover. – Harper, $16.99 (8 and up)

**Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls, Kaela Rivera**
Calling on Hispanic traditions and myths, Rivera tells the story of Cece and her quest to find and free her sister from the scary criaturas. In Tierra del Sol the only people who have anything to do with the criaturas are the brujas, usually with terrible results. Cece will need to be a bruja herself and get help from an unlikely place to save Juana. TKE is excited to welcome Rivera to our list of terrific Utah authors. – Harper, $16.99 (9 and up)

**Editor’s note:** signed copies available!
MIDDLE GRADE GRAPHIC NOVELS

Squidding Around: Class Clown Fish, Kevin Sherry
Squizzard pulled a mean trick on a classmate and is sent to detention; even worse, he has to help clean out the basement. His friends are all going to the Cape Carnival, and he is both jealous and annoyed. But maybe helping create a new clubroom for all his friends at school will make things better. Engaging, silly, fun to read, this is a good fit for a young reluctant reader.
– Scholastic, $7.99 (8 and up)

Black Sand Beach: Are You Afraid of the Light?, Richard Fairgray
Scary is in! Dash and Lily are spending the summer at Black Sand Beach. It’s supposed to be a really nice vacation, but the house is a piece of junk, strange relatives are already there, the neighbors are weird, and the kicker—there are ghosts who want to talk to Dash. Maybe the publisher should have waited for Halloween, but readers who like scary will be happy!
Start of a new graphic series. – Scholastic, $12.99 (9 and up)

Witches of Brooklyn, Sophie Escabasse
Effie keeps seeing her aunties doing weird stuff but has no idea what is going on. It turns out magic is occurring, and Effie just might be magical too?!? She must figure out how she fits in, solve a few problems and come to terms with her family. Family, love, loss and magic all add up to a really nice story. First in a series! – Random, $12.99 (8 and up)

MIDDLE GRADE NONFICTION

National Park Maps, Abby Leighton
The USA is the proud home to 62 national parks. This compendium, organized alphabetically, gives readers just enough information to pique interest—and maybe start planning a trip to one of the parks. First one on my list, Black Canyon of the Gunnison! – Gibbs-Smith, $19.99 (all ages!)

How to Be an Art Rebel, Ben Street and Jay Daniel Wright
Street and Wright use well-known pieces of art to encourage readers not only to get to know art but also to figure out what they like. There is a humorous touch to their narrative and a refreshing point of view. Just because something is famous does not mean you have to like it! The book has photos of the art and artists and a funny guide named Leo who presents all sorts of information. Well-done, easy-to-read book that might make that trip to the museum a bit more fun for the whole family. – Thames and Hudson, $17.95 (6 and up, or anyone who complains about going to the Getty)

Desert Diary, Michael O. Tunnell
Tunnell, who brought The Candy Bomber to life for countless Utah kids, is going to do the same thing with 8-year-old Mae Yanagi and her time at Topaz. When Mae was in third grade she and her classmates were tasked with keeping a diary. Hers is the starting point for Tunnell and his exploration of Utah’s WWII Japanese internment camp. Diary entries, photos, and his thoughtful narrative add up to an important piece of our history. Shameful and racist as the internment was, Tunnell’s book will give readers of all ages reasons to be proud of our fellow citizens of Japanese descent and to work to prevent such things from ever happening again. – Charlesbridge, $19.99 (9 and up)

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre, Carole Boston Weatherford and Floyd Cooper
In 1921, after a young black man was accused of accosting a white woman, white Americans decided that they wanted to get rid of a thriving vibrant African American community in Tulsa that was called the Greenwood District. For more than 16 hours they looted, destroyed, and torched the businesses and homes of countless people, killing many. The story was buried where no one could find it—along with many of the victims. Many Americans do not know about the Tulsa Race Massacre; the 100-year anniversary is uncovering another piece of our history that must be brought into

Freaky Funky Fish: Odd Facts about Fascinating Fish, Debra Kempf Shumaker and Claire Powell
The illustrations will catch your eye, and the facts will keep you turning the pages. Some fish have to do really strange things to survive. This book has a ton of information packed into very small spaces, along with delightful (make you smile) illustrations. Great gift for a young fisher-person.
– Hachette, $17.99 (4 and up)
The Cat I Never Named, Amra Sabic-El-Rayess and Laura L. Sullivan
Amra was a teenager growing up in Bosnia in the 1990s. When war came and tore up her life, it was being whispered that among the terrifying things that were happening to Muslims, whole communities were being destroyed and persecution was rampant. Amra and her family were struggling just to survive when she found a stray cat. There was not enough food for a pet, but when the cat saved her family it became a symbol of hope. Amra recounts her story with clarity and compassion and also sends us a warning, that citizens of the world need to be aware of and work to prevent this kind of persecution from happening. – Bloomsbury, $19.99 (13 and up)

Gamora and Nebula: Sisters in Arms, Mackenzi Lee
It takes chutzpah to write stories about famous fictional characters, and Lee has it! Following up her exploration of Loki (great bad-boy story), Marvel challenged her to create a tale for the two daughters of Thanos. Gamora and her sister Nebula are both trying to steal the heart of the planet. Turns out their reasons, their memories, their loyalties, are all based on a horrifying and fragile foundation. Nice to see the girls blowing stuff up and maybe figuring out that working together could work out. Fast and fun read, a great addition to the Marvel collection. – Marvel Press, $17.99 (12 and up) Editor’s note: we are lucky to have Mackenzi on staff. You can get a signed copy!

Game Changer, Neal Shusterman
There is a lot of press about football and brain damage; Shusterman dives right into it with his story about Ash, a high school linebacker who has taken some serious hits on the field. But the last one was different—he feels like he has been knocked into another world. When it happens again and again, Ash must begin to figure out his new reality. Will he get stuck in the Elsewheres? Like every other Shusterman novel, the challenge is to recognize and explore larger ideas—in this case racism and homophobia. Shusterman actually manages to give this scary story some humor and a satisfying ending. Not quite Scythe but still a fast-paced entertaining read. – Harper, $17.99 (14 and up)

Amber & Clay, Laura Amy Schlitz
The Greek god Hermes relates this tale of a talented slave boy who works in clay and a pampered wealthy girl who honors Artemis as one of the little bears. Using artifacts to format her story, the author connects the tragedies of the two main characters who, through a death and a curse, help one another from beyond the grave. Even Socrates plays a role in the story. Complicated and uplifting, this novel is a must-read for lovers of Schlitz’s creative storytelling. – Becky Hall, Candlewick Press, $22.99 (12 and up)

Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story), Daniel Nayeri
Nayeri’s memoir is a gem of storytelling. He fled Iran when his mother was threatened for being Christian. He relates the confusion and anger of being bullied as he unravels the social expectations of becoming an American boy while attempting to hold on to the memories of his homeland. He says, “Memory is a patchwork story that is the shame of the refugee…It is the forgetting that hurts the most.” Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature. – Becky Hall, Levine Querido, $17.99 (12 and up)

The Electric Kingdom, David Arnold
A pandemic has given rise to flesh-eating flies! The fly flu has decimated the world and the few who survived are a target for the swarms. Nico needs to get some place besides New England, somewhere with more people. On her frightening journey she meets Kit and Deliverer and her quest to find people turns into something much larger. Arnold is a master storyteller, and this quirky, creepy novel with a plot that will keep even the best readers guessing would make a fascinating discussion about what life means. Is there any beauty in a decimated world? – Viking, $18.99 (12 and up)
The Girl from the Sea, Molly Knox Ostertag
Ostertag does a tremendous job in dealing with real-life issues; she has imagination, style, grace and (most important) kindness. Morgan’s parents are divorced, her brother is mad and she is gay. The only thing Morgan is going to do is nothing. Not a strategy with any positive effects...Terrific book! – Scholastic, $14.99 (12 and up)

Blade of Secrets, Tricia Levenseller
Ziva is a blacksmith who makes magical weapons, though her powers have to be kept secret. When she receives a commission to create a sword that will steal secrets for a dangerous warlord, she and her sister must go on the run to protect themselves—and the kingdom—from the blade she’s created. Levenseller writes page-turning, classic fantasy with modern sensibilities. Perfect for fans of Tamora Pierce, Shannon Hale, and Robin McKinley. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Feiwell and Friends, $18.99 (13 and up)

Luck of the Titanic, Stacey Lee
In 1912 Valora Luck sneaks aboard the Titanic in search of her twin brother and in hopes of convincing the head of Ringling Brothers Circus to take them on as acrobats. But her plans are derailed when, on a fateful night somewhere in the Atlantic, the Titanic hits an iceberg. Lee is a master of historical fiction, perfect for anyone who can’t get enough Ruta Sepetys and Elizabeth Wein. This book, inspired by the recently discovered six Chinese survivors of the Titanic, makes for a particularly poignant read about family, culture, and survival. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Putnam, $18.99 (13 and up)

Fire with Fire, Destiny Soria
The perfect urban fantasy! Two sisters descended from an ancient line of dragon-slayers must face their family legacy when one of them accidentally becomes bonded to a dragon she was supposed to kill, and the other is determined to exterminate it at any cost. After the intervention of a legendary sorceress, the sisters are pitted against each other in this sassy, snarky, fast-paced fantasy with a dash of romance and a lot of dragons. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Houghton, $17.99 (12 and up)

Dustborn, Erin Bowman
Delta lives in a post-apocalyptic wasteland, but there’s a secret map branded on her back that shows the way to a paradise where she and her family could have a chance at life. When mercenaries are sent to kidnap Delta but instead take her family, she sets off across the Wastes to find the long-promised Verdant...only to find that secrets lurk in paradise too. Part Mad Max, part True Grit, Dustborn is a cinematic, action-packed adventure you won’t be able to put down. – Mackenzie Van Engelenhoven, Houghton, $17.99 (13 and up)

Five Ways to Fall Out of Love, Emily Martin
Aubrey knows that love doesn’t last. She’s watched her parents’ marriage fall apart, and her own relationship with the boy next door ended spectacularly. So when sparks fly with a new guy—and that boy next door makes his way back into her life—Aubrey has to put all her ideas about love to the test or else risk losing the people most important to her. This smart, cynical rom-com with just the right amount of heart is perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Jennifer E. Smith. Romantic, funny, heartbreak-ing, AND there’s a cute dog—what more could you want? – Inkyard Press, $18.99 (13 and up)

Like Other Girls, Britta Lundin
Mara is tough, sporty, and unsentimental. But when her quick temper gets her kicked off the basketball team, she decides to join the football team, a move she thinks will cement her reputation as Not Like Other Girls. But then her actions inspire four other girls in her small Oregon town to join the team. At first, Mara is furious that these ditzy blondes will make her look bad. But slowly, as their presence on the team changes the school, their families, and their whole town, Mara realizes that being just like other girls might be the thing that makes her strong. A pitch-perfect queer sports novel with an enemies-to-lovers second-chance romance that challenges every trope about femininity and what it means to throw like a girl. – Freeform Books, (14 and up) Editor’s note: releases Aug 3
Kate in Waiting, Becky Albertalli

Albertalli is back! With her first solo venture outside the Love, Simon universe, she delivers a hilarious coming of age novel of every theater kid’s dreams. Kate and her best friend Anderson do everything together—they even develop impossible crushes on the same boys. This time, the cute new boy in drama club they’re both smitten with might actually be smitten back—but they’re not sure with which of them. Drama unfolds on and off stage as their school production of “Once Upon a Mattress” creates a backdrop for romance—but can their friendship survive? – Balzer + Bray, $18.99 (14 and up)

A Dark and Hollow Star, Ashley Shuttleworth

A serial killer is loose in Toronto. The Court of Fae has been here for centuries, unknown to their fellow occupants, the humans. Four LGBTQ kids end up being the key to saving both the immortal and human world. Whether they get along or not, each one is critical to solving the mystery. Shuttleworth, who often relies on fairy tropes, does a really interesting job with backstory. Her queer kid development also shines in this first in a duology. If you read this one, you will want to read the second. – Margaret Brennan Neville, Simon & Schuster, $19.99 (14 and up)

Thompson Closes Out Distinguished Career at Marriott Library

Over the course of his career Gregory Thompson, Ph.D. has received many honors and awards, authored, co-authored, or edited a dozen books and written more articles and reviews than one person can count. He has conducted countless oral histories, attended hundreds of community events, and raised millions in dollars and contributed collections. The list of presentations that Greg has given fills three pages on his resume.

All of this work, spanning Greg’s 54-year career, materializes in the 30 miles of archival shelving in Special Collections where the history of Utah and the American West is preserved.

On July 31 Greg will retire as Associate Dean of Special Collections, leaving that vast collection for all to use, explore, and enjoy in perpetuity, while leaving himself time to further explore the countless burgeoning shelves of the local bookstores he so loves to frequent. He will be missed at the library but ever welcome in our stores.

Happy Browsing!
Educator and Bookseller Nathan Spofford’s Equity Reading List for Grade Schools

Nathan Spofford, a full-time teacher (for 40 years +) and part-time (amazing) bookseller at TKE for more than a decade, has a resume that includes not only vast experience in elementary classrooms but also at the university level, teaching children’s literature to graduate students at Westminster College. In compiling an Equity Booklist for the Murray School District, he said in part:

“Our challenge as teachers, then, is to create as many experiences as possible to draw our students into reading, so they may grow into stronger, more knowledgeable readers…. The books on the Equity Booklist were chosen specifically for their potential to develop knowledge and promote equal treatment and opportunity. The books were also chosen to reflect the great variety of cultures and nationalities within a school community…”

Here, then, is Nathan's Equity List which, although it was made for the Murray School District, we hope will be of great benefit to parents and teachers everywhere:

SPECIAL EDUCATION
All Are Welcome, Alexandra Penfold, Suzanne Kaufman
Daniel’s Good Day, Mica Archer
Little Legends: Exceptional Men in Black History, Vashhi Harrison and Kwesi Johnson
Who Was Frederick Douglass, April Jones Prince
Who Did It First?, Julie Leung, Alex Hart, et al.

KINDERGARTEN
Black is a Rainbow Color, Angela Joy and Ekua Holmes
Be You!, Peter Reynolds
Tiger Days: A Book of Feelings, M.H. Clark and Anna Hurley
Antiracist Baby, Ibram X. Kendi
You Matter, Christian Robinson

FIRST GRADE
I Am Human: A Book of Empathy, Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds
La Princesa and the Pea, Susan Middleton Elya and Juana Martinez-Neal
Ohana Means Family, Ilima Loomis and Kenard Pak
The Day You Begin, Jacqueline Woodson and Rafael Lopez
A Family is a Family is a Family, Sara O’Leary and Qin Leng

SECOND GRADE
Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters, Barack Obama
Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History, Vashhi Harrison
Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story, Kevin Noble Maillard and Juana Martinez-Neal
The Bell Rang, James E. Ransome

THIRD GRADE
Word Collector, Peter Reynolds
Paper Kingdom, Helena Ku Rhee

FOURTH GRADE
Let’s Talk About Race, Julius Lester
The List of Things That Will Not Change, Rebecca Stead
Frederick’s Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass, Doreen Rappaport and London Ladd
The Undefeated, Qwami Alexander and Kadir Nelson

FIFTH GRADE
This Book is Anti-Racist, Tiffany Jewell
A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation, Barry Wittenstein and Jerry Pinkney
Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag, Rob Sanders and Steven Salerno
Equality’s Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America, Deborah Diesen

SIXTH GRADE
Ghost Boys, Jewell Parker Rhodes
Suffragette: The Battle for Equality, David Roberts
Rainbow Revolutionaries: Fifty LGBTQ+ People Who Made History, Sarah Prager
Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You, Jason Reynolds
Mañanaland, Pam Muñoz Ryan
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In the light of the moon, holding on to a good star, a painter of rainbows is now traveling across the night sky

Eric Carle, beloved artist, illustrator, and writer, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2021. Author of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Grouchy Ladybug* and *Papa Please Get Me the Moon*, among many wonderful books for children, Carle visited TKE more than once over the years and was always greeted by adoring throngs of children. Customers now grown recall those visits fondly, along with his books which have been beloved by children for several generations—and still are. Asked why *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has been so popular, Carle said in a 2019 interview, quoted by the New York Times, “It took me a long time, but I think it is a book of hope. Children need hope. You—little insignificant caterpillar—can grow up into a beautiful butterfly and fly into the world with your talent.” That hope and heart are written indelibly into the memories of children all over the world who loved the books of Eric Carle.

Lila Weller, who kept her family’s Salt Lake City bookstore humming for seven decades, has died at the age of 105. “I love books, and everybody that I meet loves books,” Lila Weller told The Salt Lake Tribune in August 2019. She was 103 then, and still came into the store nearly every day to work in the rare books section with her son, Tony. We at TKE had known Lila since the 1960s. In her quiet (and often wryly humorous) way she was as indelible a part of the book industry in Salt Lake as was her husband Sam and, later, her son Tony, daughter-in-law Catherine, and granddaughter Lila, all of whom survive her—and all of whom work at Weller Book Works. Lila will be missed by people in the book business everywhere.

Charles Lynn Frost
Sister Dottie passed away from colon cancer last week. Also known as Charles Lynn Frost, he was a good friend to the bookshop and we’ll miss him.