



# OFF THE SHELF

S P R I N G • 2 0 0 6

## How much do Amazon and big box stores contribute to the Truckee Community?

As your local independent we bring author events to Truckee and support local authors.

As your local independent we donate to many local community organizations and literacy programs.

We employ local people who are well-read and eager to recommend their favorite books to you.

When you buy in your community your sales tax dollars support schools, social services and public agencies.

## Independent Bookstores: The Perks

Bookshelf Stores get lots of ARCs - pre-publication Advance Reading Copies of books for reviewers and booksellers to preview. To thank you for your patronage we are having a special event for our "frequent buyer" cardholders:

**During the last week in April (4/24 -5/1) buy any book\* with your frequent buyer card and choose an ARC for free.**

Try a new author, a new genre, or a kid's book. We will have lots of mysteries, general fiction and non-fiction, many children's books, and some audio books. Many are not even out yet.

By spending that \$20 for a frequent buyer card, you tell us you support an independent bookstore in Truckee. We appreciate your business.

*\*some exclusions apply*

See the back page for more events in your community!



**Friday  
April 28th  
6-7:30 p.m.  
Hooligan  
Rocks**

**Jimmy Peterson** will join us in Truckee to do a live Podcast interview, then a slide show on his new coffee table book, **Skiing the World**. (Published in Norway, \$74.95/67.46)

*Refreshments will be served  
\$5 admission*

web site: [www.bookshelfstores.com](http://www.bookshelfstores.com)  
e-mail: [bookshelf@mail.telis.org](mailto:bookshelf@mail.telis.org)

### Bookshelf at Hooligan Rocks

Gateway Center  
Truckee, CA 96161  
530/582-0515 800/959-5083

HOURS: SUN. - THURS. 9:30-6:30  
FRI. - SAT. 9:30-7:00

### Bookshelf at the Boatworks

Second Floor, Boatworks Mall  
Tahoe City, CA 96145  
530/581-1900

HOURS: Sun. - Thurs. 10:00-6:00  
Fri. - Sat. 10:00-7:00

### Bookshelf Quincy

373 West Main Street  
Quincy, CA 95971  
530/283-2665 (BOOK)

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30



Stores, Inc.

11310 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161

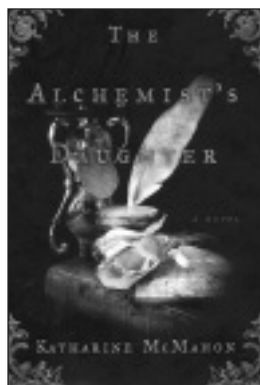
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*Celebrating the power of the written word  
and the pleasures of reading since 1992*

**The Alchemist's Daughter**

By Katherine McMahon

In early 18th-century England, when young women are considered intellectually inferior, Emilie's father, a renowned chemist and eccentric, decides to raise his daughter to become an accomplished scientist and carry on his legacy. However, Emilie is lured away from her country home to follow her ambitious lover to London where she discovers long-hidden secrets into her father's past. I recommend this story of a woman's journey through her time of mystery, passion, and obsession. (Crown Publishers, \$23.95/21.56) *Reviewed by Carol.*

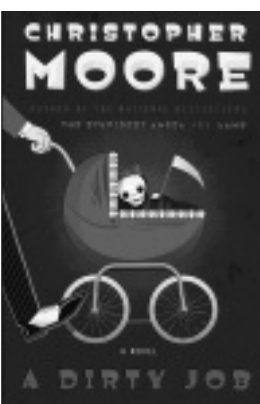
**The Book Thief** By Markus Zusak

Set in Nazi Germany during World War II, **The Book Thief** tells the story of Liesel Meminger who, at age nine, moves in with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers. Death, the narrator of this powerful story, is a kindly and caring character who tells of the souls he must collect from people during a tragic time in our history. This very emotional novel is one of the best books I have read, and deserves a place on reading lists for both adults and sophisticated teenagers. (Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, \$16.95/15.26) *Reviewed by Carol. Margaret adds:* If you only read one book this year, this powerful and beautifully written novel about the power of words should be the one!

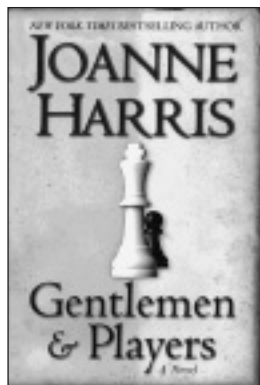
**A Brief History of the Dead**

By Kevin Brockmeier

A deadly virus has just spread rapidly across Earth. The story is set in a fictional metropolis known as "The City" which has only two requirements for residence: citizens must be recently deceased, and they must "exist" in the memory of at least one living soul. Among The City's inhabitants are a nervous newspaperman, a homeless prophet, and an elderly married couple falling in love for the second time. With this story, Brockmeier creates an unusual image of the afterlife, one that not many would find themselves contemplating. It is, to say the least, a very bold novel. (Pantheon, \$22.95/20.66) *Reviewed by Diana.*

**Cage of Stars** By Jacquelyn Mitchard

The author of **The Deep End of the Ocean** now delivers a novel that captivates readers from the very first pages. A young Mormon girl finds herself torn between retribution and forgiveness. This is a compelling, suspenseful, and skillfully crafted story which succeeds in humanizing the adherents of a religion which still suffers from widespread negative stereotyping. Due in May. (Warner, \$24.95/22.45) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

**A Dirty Job** By Christopher Moore

Charlie has a problem. Not only is he faced with a brand new infant daughter, a recently deceased wife, and a mysterious man dressed entirely in mint green, but now everyday objects are beginning to glow bright red. When Charlie seeks out the mint-green man for answers, he finds he has a new job description: gather up souls of the newly departed before the Forces of Darkness get to them. Yes, Charlie is now Death. Peppered with Moore's piercingly accurate wit, **A Dirty Job** has plenty of suspense and drama to keep you interested. (William Morrow, \$24.95/22.46) *Reviewed by Cassie.*

**End of Story** By Peter Abrahams

**End of Story** is a smart psychological thriller that will keep you guessing to the last page. A struggling would-be writer who takes a job teaching convicts in an upstate New York prison soon finds herself wrapped up in a threatening situation. (William Morrow, \$24.95/22.45) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

**The Fugitive Wife** By Peter C. Brown

When midwestern farm girl Esther Crummey flees from a stormy marriage, she joins up with prospectors bound for Nome, Alaska, seeking to find their fortune during the 1890s Gold Rush. Feisty and resourceful, Essie soon finds ways to support herself in spite of a town climate dominated by rough miners. She is also drawn to the idealistic foreman of the mining company, who will change the life she left behind. (W.W. Norton & Co., \$24.95/22.46) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**Gentlemen & Players**

By Joanne Harris

Friendship, murder, revenge, and class conflict collide in an upper-crust English school. Unbeknownst to the staff and students of the posh St. Oswald's School, a secret game is being played, a battle of minds with very real - and deadly - consequences. (William Morrow, \$24.95/22.46) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**In the Company of the Courtesan**

By Sarah Dunant

Set in Renaissance Italy, this historical novel recounts the escapades of Bucino, a wily dwarf, and his courtesan mistress, Fiametta, as they flee the sacking of Rome and seek refuge in Venice. Bucino's sharp-eyed and sharp-tongued narration gives a vivid vision of Venetian life, intertwining politics, religion, and layers of class with rituals, intrigue, superstitions, and betrayals of the time. Fans of historical fiction and Dunant's **The Birth of Venus** will enjoy this new novel. (Random House, \$23.95/21.56) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**Labyrinth**

By Kate Mosse

This exciting novel takes the reader on a quest for The Holy Grail with two female protagonists born 800 years apart. In 2005, Alice Tanner stumbles into a hidden cave while digging an archeological site in southwest France, triggering visions of the past and propelling her into a dangerous race against those who want the mystery of the cave for themselves. In Carcassonne, France, in 1209, as the father of 17-year-old Alais prepares to join the forces to avert invasion by the Crusaders, he entrusts Alais with a book that is part of a sacred trilogy connected to The Holy Grail. Mosse's epic adventure weaves together the past with the present... and attracts the attention of a sinister police inspector and a wealthy and powerful woman. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**Ludmila's Broken English**

By DBC Pierre

On a Tuesday in terror-struck London, Blair and Bunny Heath become the first adult conjoined twins ever to be successfully separated. On a Tuesday in the war-torn Caucasus, Ludmila Derev accidentally kills her grandfather. By December, they find themselves trudging together through a snowfield, staring down the barrel of a rebel's gun. This is the latest from one of the most original storytellers of today, who brought you **Vernon God Little**. (W.W. Norton, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Diana*

**The Thrall's Tale**

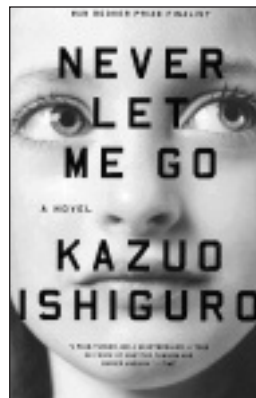
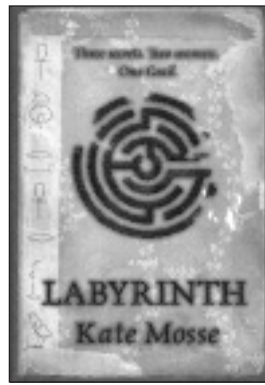
By Judith Lindberg

In this masterful novel, civilization is caught in the implacable jaws of history, as pagan gods clash with a dawning Christianity. Leif Eriksson, Erik the Red, and the great figures of the 9th and 10th centuries are mere players in this drama wrought of smaller lives, a women's world of seers, thralls, and discontented daughters. This book, though oft grim, travels full circle through the cycle of life and death, and will leave the reader affected for some time to come. (Viking, \$25.95/\$23.35) *Reviewed by Serenity.*

**The Whole World Over**

By Julia Glass

In her second rich, subtle novel, Glass reveals how the past impinges on the present. And how small incidents of chance and fate determine the future. Rich with many characters who grapple with change and uncertainty in their lives, the novel gracefully builds up to a traumatic event that will affect them all. Another excellent novel by Glass, author of **Three Junes**. Due in May. (Pantheon, \$25.95/\$23.35) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

**New in Paperback****Any Bitter Thing** By Monica Wood

One of the greatest strengths of Wood's radiant third novel is the way it defies expectations. The victim of a hit-and-run accident while jogging, Lizzy comes to see the accident as a metaphor for her life up to that point: her world was ripped apart when she was nine and her uncle, a priest who raised her, was accused of molestation. Filled with crisp, rich details which will linger in your memory, this emotional story is full of surprises as it explores the weighty themes of religion, perceived innocence, and the corrosive quality of best intentions. Due late April. (Ballantine Books, \$13.95/12.56) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

**Into the Blue** By Robert Goddard

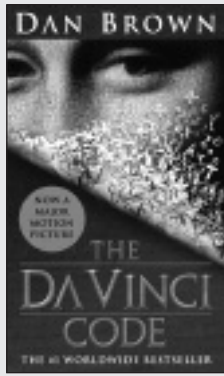
Goddard's newest novel shows that even a middle-aged, frumpy man can become a hero. When an English school-teacher vanishes while sightseeing in Greece with Harry Barnett, Barnett must discover whether she disappeared voluntarily or was a victim of malice. In Hitchcockian tradition, the hero finds himself trapped in a web of intrigue that threatens not only his reputation, but also his life. (Delta, \$12.00/10.80) *Reviewed by Margaret*

**Never Let Me Go** By Kazuo Ishiguro

At once wistful and shocking, **Never Let Me Go** deals with the edgy ethical dilemma of "cultivating" humans solely for the purpose of donating healthy organs to sick individuals. Ishiguro, a former winner of the Man Booker Prize, will take your breath away with his twisting, turning story about three close friends learning and loving and losing in the strange, isolated environment of a school populated entirely by children destined for organ donation. This book will leave you feeling empty and yet somehow flushed clean with the beauty of a situation that is not very beautiful, captivating your thoughts for hours afterwards. I HIGHLY recommend this book. (Vintage International, \$14.00/12.60) *Reviewed by Cassie.*

**The Wild Girl: the Notebooks of Ned Giles 1932** By Jim Fergus

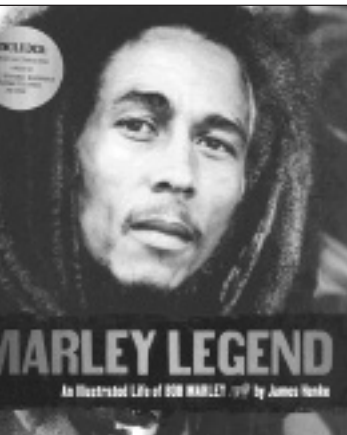
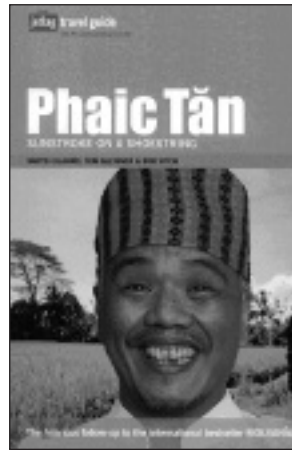
What does a Chicago teenager do when he's suddenly orphaned during the Great Depression? Naturally, he heads out West and joins an expedition bound for the last wild frontier of the Apache. This is absolutely gripping historical fiction, peopled with memorable characters. Fergus' writing style and storytelling prowess are captivating and epic in scope. This novel, by the author of staff favorite **One Thousand White Women**, evokes grand landscapes, and will provide robust discussion in book groups. Due late April. (Hyperion \$14.95/13.46) *Reviewed by Lydia.*



**The Da Vinci Code  
in paperback!**

For all those readers who have been waiting for the bestselling novel of the millennium to come out in paperback, here it is! And for those who know about the movie, now is the time to brush up on your DaVinci Code know-how. Make sure to take the time

to check out our display of related books! (Anchor, \$14.95/13.46; Anchor, \$7.99/7.19; Special Illustrated Edition: Broadway, \$22.95/20.66)



**Coffee Table Gift Book**

**Marley Legend** By James Henke

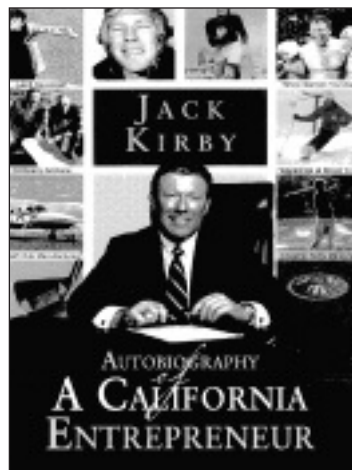
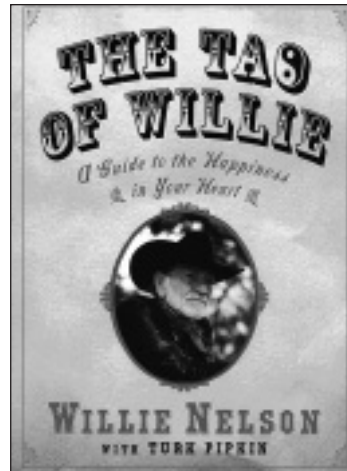
The perfect gift, and a must-have for any fans of Bob Marley, this affordable coffee table book includes a CD, pull-out prints of handwritten materials by the legend himself, and beautiful pictures of Bob and his home. Every page is filled with finely woven facts and interests, along with cool photos reflecting each of his more famous songs. If you know someone who's having a birthday, is passionate about music, or has a little Rasta in them, then this is the book for you. (Chronicle Books, \$35.00/31.50) *Reviewed by Geoff.*

**Humor**

**Phaic Tan: Sunstroke on a Shoestring**  
By Santo Cilauro

A whirlwind Tour de Farce, Phaic Tan is an unreal country riddled with unscrupulous partygoers, primitive folk artists, and a host of unflattering diseases. I personally recommend Thong On which resides on Phaic Tan's far west and offers whining and dining for all budgets – if you don't have your wallet stolen during your cringing travels. From the very same group - jetlag travel - that brought you the much sought-after **Molvania** comes this smash-hit, tailored-to-all, one-of-a-kind, unique-beyond-words, traveling guide to Phaic Tan, accessible by all, yet remarkably invaluable for even the most seasoned cultural attaché. (Chronicle Books, \$13.95/12.56) *Reviewed by Geoff.*

This abridged newsletter is just a small sampling of what's new at Bookshelf Stores. There isn't room here to mention all the exciting new arrivals, so we encourage you to come in to see for yourself. Be sure to ask the staff for ideas and recommendations. In late April, look for a flier in the stores on what's new in kids' books at Bookshelf.



**Hardcover Non-Fiction**

**The Tao of Willie: a Guide to the Happiness in Your Heart**

By Willie Nelson with Turk Pipkin

What's the best way for Western minds (and Country Western ones too) to wrap themselves around the collected teachings of Lao Tzu (trans: old man or old boy)? Via the ultimate good ol' boy, Willie Nelson, of course. This manual on the "way" ("Tao") is a satisfying blend of the fresh and the familiar, the profound and the simple. It appears that there is no one more qualified to share hard-won insights than this beloved American icon. Whether you're a Country music fan, golfer, biodiesel advocate or not, Willie's philosophy, jokes, and stories offer perhaps the most accessible and valuable self-help book of our time. Coming this May. (Gotham Books \$20.00/18.00; also available on audio, read by the authors: Penguin Audiobooks, \$29.95/26.95) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

**EVENTS**

**Jack Kirby** author of **Autobiography of A California Entrepreneur** will be at **Hooligan Rocks on May 12th at 5:00** for booksigning and to talk about his book and Tahoe Donner. Kirby is the creator and founder of Tahoe Donner.

Join us at Holigan Rocks on **May 20th at 4:00 p.m.** to meet **Veronica Bennett**, author of **Happy New Year, Darling!** which has been called, "Sexy, funny, poignant, **Bridget Jones** meets **Bridges of Madison County** in the San Fernando Valley."

**OWN YOUR OWN!**

**If you've ever wanted to own a book store, here's your opportunity:**

Bookshelf's Quincy store is for sale! Set in the scenic American Valley north of the Sierra Valley and 62 miles from Chico, Quincy is a 19th-century logging and mining town filled with history, character, and a wonderful book store!

Price negotiable. Leave a message for Debbie at 582-9869.