

OFF THE SHELF

S U M M E R • 2 0 0 6



Bookshelf Stores: Celebrating the power of the written word and the pleasures of reading

We read for different reasons in the summer, when the weather is beautiful, the days are longer, and the pace of life seems to slow a bit. For many of us it's the pleasure of reading that we enjoy, especially on vacation. For others, or once in a while, it's the power of the written word that we look for.

In that vein, my 27-year-old son asked me for a recommendation after reading *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*. He said it had really made him think, and he wanted another book to challenge him. Next he tried *Tuesdays With Morrie* by the same author, but did not find it as stimulating or thought-provoking. *Siddhartha* has been on many staff-pick lists, and he started that last night. The verdict is still out.



I am about to start *The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud*, which a rep from a publishing house highly recommended when we were having this "important book" discussion with the staff. Turn to pages 10-12 for recommendations which the staff has identified as ones we think you shouldn't miss, perfect for summer reading and, hopefully, books which will open new doors.

Let us know your favorite book that made you think about the world differently, or just made you think. Thanks, Debbie Lane

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New Picture Books

All Aboard the Dinotrain

By Deb Lund, Illustrated by Howard Fine

Another winner from the author of the staff favorite, **Dinosailors**. In this adventure the intrepid dinosaurs are traveling on a train, loading coal and lumber, oil and grain. The dinosaurs are so heavy that they must get out and push up a big hill, but the ride down the other side is a roller-coaster dinoride! When the train won't stop they "dinorocket" off the bridge and land in the water. There are lots of "dino" words for dinosaur lovers in this fun adventure. Ages 3-6. (Harcourt, \$16.00/\$14.40) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



Olivia forms a band By Ian Falconer

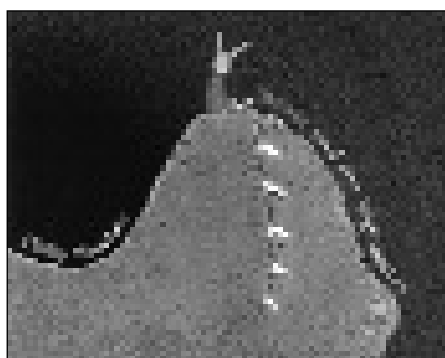
A new Olivia book is cause for celebration. When Olivia finds out there is no music to accompany the fireworks, she decides to form a band. When no one volunteers to help, Olivia decides she will play all the instruments herself; after all, just that morning her mother told her she sounded like five people. There are lots of fun illustrations while Olivia collects the instruments she needs from family members. Ultimately, she decides not to take the band to the fireworks, but she does need make-up to go out – and it's a hoot. Enjoy this new Olivia adventure with your favorite Olivia fan. Ages 3 and up. (Atheneum, \$17.95/\$16.15) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



Owen & Mzee By Isabella Hatkoff,

Craig Hatkoff, and Dr. Paul Kahumbu
With photographs by Peter Grestle

This is the true story of a very unlikely friendship between a baby hippo and a 130-year-old giant tortoise. When heavy rains in Kenya caused the Sabuki River to flood, a baby hippo and his family were washed out of the river into the salty Indian Ocean. On December 26, 2004 (the day of the tsunami in Indonesia) the sea rushed high onto the beaches. Later the baby hippo was discovered stranded on a sandy coral reef among the sea grass. After the rescue, the 600-pound baby hippo found a new home in Haller Park with a rather unfriendly 130-year-old giant tortoise. This is the touching story of their fascinating friendship. Ages 5 and up. (Scholastic Press, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



Road Trip By Roger Eschbacher

Illustrated by Thor Wickstrom

Told in read-aloud style, **Road Trip** covers all the adventures found on the summer vacation staple



known as the road trip. Join the trip to Grandma's house, complete with early-morning alarm clocks, gas stops, and back-seat antics common in all families: sing-alongs, I Spy games, license plate bingo, and the ever popular "are we there yet?". Illustrations also entertain on this trip to the family reunion. Ages 3-6. (Dial, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Rosie and the Nightmares

By Philip Waechter

Rosie had only seconds before she was swallowed by the "dark red maw" with "glittering sharp teeth", and then she woke up. Being a sharp little bunny, Rosie knew it was time to get help. She visited the dream specialist and rushed out to buy the recommended book. Before long she was ready to calm any monsters, incapacitate them, or run if necessary. Next stop: the "Tunnel of Fear" at the amusement park. Of course the ticket man banned her for a year, but Rosie had tamed her monsters. A charming tale with not-too-scary monsters to share with a friend. Ages 3-7. (Handprint, \$15.95/\$14.35) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen

By Cari Best

Illustrated by Christine Davenier

As Sally Jean grows, she finds herself too big for each of her old bikes, and becomes clever enough to fix her friends' bike problems as well as her own. You will love the art in this book, as well as the text that shows growing up, learning new skills, and giving back to the community are worth everything; and that trading in an old bike for a new one can build character. Ages 5 and up. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$16.00/\$14.40) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Where's Waldo? The Great Picture Hunt By Martin Handford

It's been far too long since a new Waldo book came out. All those striped shirts, and tiny detailed illustrations that help hide Waldo, and other characters that are repeated endlessly! Find Waldo, Woof, Wenda, Wizard Whitebeard, and Odlaw, plus the miscellaneous lost key, missing bone, misplaced camera, mislaid scroll, and some absent binoculars. Lists of things to find are included to keep you entertained. This is a great addition to the back seat for the summer. Ages 4 and up, and anybody with a sharp eye who likes to find things. (Candlewick Press, \$14.99/\$13.49) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Middle Readers

The Adventures of VIN FIZ

By Clive Cussler

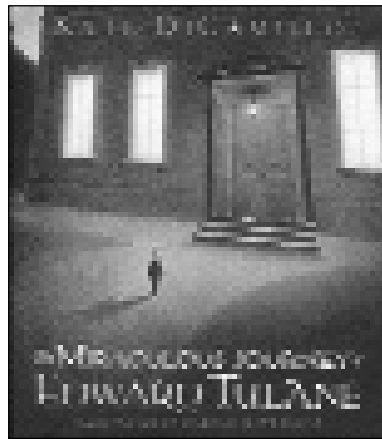
This adult fiction author now brings us a delightful book for children. Ten-year-old twins Casey and Lacey and their dog, Floppy, take off on a cross-country flight in a magical Wright Brothers-style airplane, encountering thrilling adventures along the way. This is an enchanting story for children ages 8-10 and up. (Philomel Books, \$15.99/\$14.39) *Reviewed by Carol.* Watch for sequels involving other adventures in early forms of transportation.



Fly By Night

By Frances Hardinge

In a world where religious intolerance and censorship are the norm, twelve-year-old Mosca Mye yearns for the chance to make her own choices. She didn't quite intend to burn up her aunt and uncle's mill while escaping from the town of Clough, but she did have every intention of freeing Clent, a young rapsallion caught in the stocks. The two run afoul of a ship's captain, rescue a lady from a highwayman, and dig themselves deeply into political intrigue. Never knowing whom to trust, you'll like the villains who become heroes and the heroes who become villains. Ages 8-12. (HarperCollins, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Serenity.*



Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

By Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a China rabbit with an extensive wardrobe, is owned by ten-year-old Abilene who thinks almost as highly of Edward as Edward does of himself. Edward is riding toward a fall, and fall he does when mean boys rip him from Abilene's hands and throw him overboard during an ocean voyage. This beautiful story is exquisitely illustrated, and DiCamillo packs an important message by exploring the mysteries of the heart with her understanding of universal yearnings. I loved this book! Ages 8 to 12. (Candlewick Press, \$18.99/\$17.10) *Reviewed by Susan.*

Small Steps

By Louis Sachar

This sequel to the Newbury Award-winner **Holes** tells the story of Armpit and X-Ray three years after their release from Camp Green Lake Correctional Facility. Their plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets for a pop-star artist involves some interpersonal relations between African-Americans and a young friend with disabilities, while also seeking determined goals to stay on course for a clean life. Ages 9 and up. (Delacorte Press, \$16.95/\$15.26) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Half Moon Investigations

By Eoin Colfer

From the author of the **Artemis Fowl** Series comes this new book. Fletcher Moon is not like other kids: he has a nose for mysteries and solving crime, and even has his private investigators license (the youngest detective in the world). When a classmate hires him to solve a crime, the clues all point to the Sharkey family. But there is a conspiracy afoot which will leave Fletcher bloodied and making unusual allies. Ages 8-12. (Miramax Books, \$16.95/\$15.25) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



jumping the scratch

By Sarah Weeks

Jamie knows bad things come in threes. His cat dies, his dad leaves, then they move in with his Aunt Sapphy who has had an accident which leaves her memory damaged. Unfortunately, Jamie has one more bad thing in store for him, and it will affect everything he does. This is the heart-wrenching story of Jamie's new life and one unusual new friend who will help him come to terms with everything. For readers who like true-to-life characters, this one is unforgettable. Ages 10 and up. (HarperCollins, \$15.99/\$14.39) *Reviewed by Debbie.* Also by the author, the critically acclaimed **So B It** is now in paperback. (HarperCollins, \$6.99/\$6.29)



Great Series for Summer Reading:

Ulysses Moore: **The Door To Time** and **Long Lost Map**

By Pierdomenico Baccalario, Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno

Door to Time involves the mysterious owner of a house who has died, and a family with two children who move into the house. Jason and Julia begin exploring the mysterious rooms, and find a cave off the beach stairway up to the house. When they meet Rick, a local boy who is fascinated with the mansion, their adventures really begin. The discovery of the secret room leads to the cliff-hanger ending which I can't divulge. **The Long Lost Map** continues their adventures. Enjoyable summer reading for ages 8-12. (Scholastic, \$12.99/\$11.69 each) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Charlie Bone Series: **Midnight for Charlie Bone; Charlie Bone & the Time Twister; Charlie Bone & the Invisible Boy; Charlie Bone & the Castle of Mirrors; and Charlie Bone & the Hidden King**

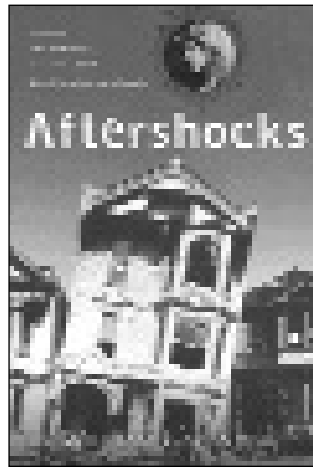
By Jenny Nimmo

Once I started with the first story, in which we get to know Charlie, his friends and enemies, and the fact that he is "endowed" with special powers - and no one is quite sure just what they are - I had to read all of them. Ages 9 and up. (Scholastic, \$9.95/\$8.96 each) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

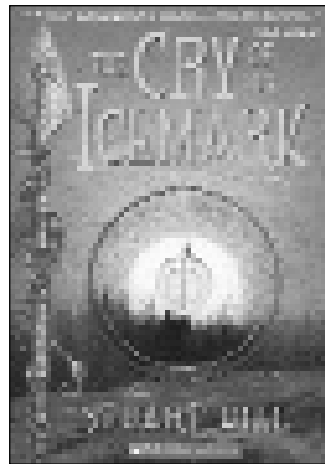
Older Readers

Aftershocks By William Lavender

Jessie Wainwright, the young daughter of a prominent San Francisco physician in the early 1900s, intends to become a doctor herself despite her father's disapproval. However, her dream is nearly lost when a chance encounter reveals a shocking secret, inspiring her to set off in search of answers while temporarily abandoning her career goals. Determined to confirm her suspicions, Jessie combs the streets of Chinatown in search of her two faithful family servants who have gone missing in the 1906 earthquake. Grades 9 to 12. (Harcourt, Inc., \$17.00/\$15.30) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**Bella at Midnight** By Diane Stanley

After her mother dies in childbirth, Bella, the infant daughter of a cold and bitter Knight, is sent to live with peasants. It is not until years later, after the Knight has remarried, that the teenage protagonist learns the truth about her birth. Now, with the help of a sacred thimble, a magic ring, and a pair of glass slippers, Bella must take charge of her own destiny. Told from the perspective of several different characters, this is an empowering tale of a defiant teenage girl who breaks the rules and takes the fate of nations into her hands...and wins the love of a worthy prince. Recommended for 5th to 9th grade. (HarperCollins, \$15.99/\$14.40) *Reviewed by Erin.*

**The Cry of the Icemark**

By Stuart Hill

After the death of her father, headstrong Princess Thirrin becomes a warrior queen to defend her homeland as she sets out to save Icemark from an invader. She assembles a force to rival her opponent, and the kingdom's fate rests on the shoulders of this young girl. This is a tale that marks the author's dazzling debut and is soon to become a motion picture. Ages 10 and up. (Scholastic Inc., \$8.99/\$8.09) This edition includes a sneak peek of the author's sequel, **The Icemark Chronicles, Blade of Fire**, coming in Spring '07. *Reviewed by Carol.*

**Just Listen** By Sarah Dessen

The unthinkable has happened to Annabel Greene, and since then she has lost what she deemed to be the most important things: her modeling, her friends, and her family. While struggling to keep her family smiling and her secret hidden, Annabel meets the most unlikely friend who teaches her the value of simply listening. Grade 9 and up. (Viking, \$17.99/\$16.20) *Reviewed by Natalie.*

**Pretty Little Liars** By Sara Shepard

Imagine **Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants** meets **CSI**. Don't mistake this for your average young adult novel; it is instead a scintillating and captivating read that rings entirely true. This story of four friends who may or may not be haunted by the ghost of their missing - possibly dead - best friend will suck you in. We highly recommend this book for anyone, because, though not avid readers of young adult fiction, we both adored it. Due October 2006. (HarperTempest, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Diana and Cassie.*

Specials By Scott Westerfeld

In this final book of the **Uglies Trilogy**, Tally has been turned into the unthinkable: a Special. All her life, Tally has only heard rumors of the enigmatic Specials, but now she is a superhuman fighting machine. Soon she learns that their only mission will be her ultimate choice: keep the world's utopia alive and silence her old friends, or fight hard with the memory of what she thinks she believes. This final book is fast paced and filled with the thrill all Westerfeld books contain. (Simon Pulse, \$15.95/\$14.35) *Reviewed by Natalie.*

Startled by His Furry Shorts

By Louise Rennison

"And just what are furry shorts?" you might ask. It will all be answered in the latest misadventures of Georgia Nicolson. Once again you will be thrown into the oven of love when Georgia is torn between boys. You'll laugh out loud as you see Georgia practice MacUseless and plan the top Viking Wedding. (HarperCollins, \$19.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Natalie.*

The Witch's Boy By Michael Gruber

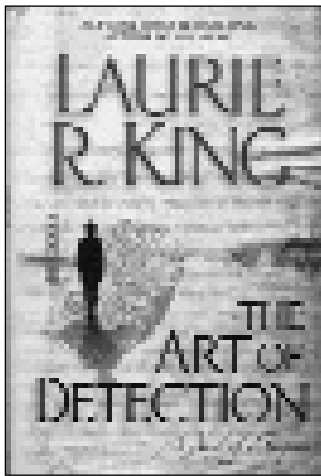
How do you think a child abandoned by his true family would turn out? What if that child was furry and piggish and bat-like, with stubby limbs and close-set, yellow eyes? What if that child was found by a witch, who decided to adopt him as her own? And what if that witch enlisted the help of a mother bear, a talking cat, and a duplicitous demon? In this strange and interesting work of fiction, author Gruber welcomes the reader into a world both brutal and magical, at times cruel and at times full of wonder. Ancient themes are melted down, reshaped, and elaborated upon, and good and evil switch roles with alarming and fascinating dexterity. Thought-provokingly original, this story will make you rethink everything you ever learned from fairy tales. New in paperback and recommended for 10th grade and up. (HarperTempest, \$7.99/\$7.19) *Reviewed by Erin.*

Hardcover Fiction

The Art of Detection

By Laurie King

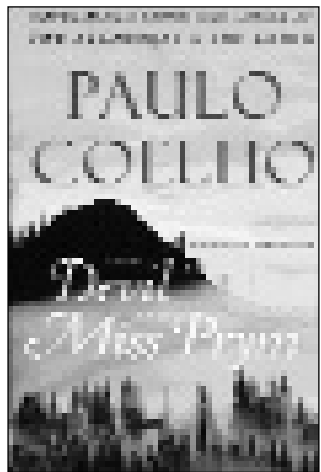
In this new novel, the author bridges her Kate Martinelli series with her best-selling novels starring Mary Russell, the San Francisco homicide detective whose stories feature Sherlock Holmes. This new thriller has the characters crossing a path with the legendary Holmes and a club of his admirers who are hoping to see rewards from his legacy. It is up to Kate to discredit a deception by those who want it hidden and will benefit from it. (Random House, \$24.00/\$21.60) *Reviewed by Carol.*



The Assassins Gallery

By David L. Robbins

Mikhal Lammeck is a history professor who has mastered the secrets of the deadliest assassins. But as he teaches his skills to a group of students in Scotland, he is called to stop one of history's boldest killers. A lone assassin comes to the USA's Eastern Seaboard in the 1940s with her assignment target: to kill the most guarded man in the country, President Franklin Roosevelt. This is a tale of a cat-and-mouse game that could have changed the course of history between the assassin and the man who had the knowledge to stop her. (Random House, \$24.00/\$21.60) *Reviewed by Carol.*



At Risk By Patricia Cornwell

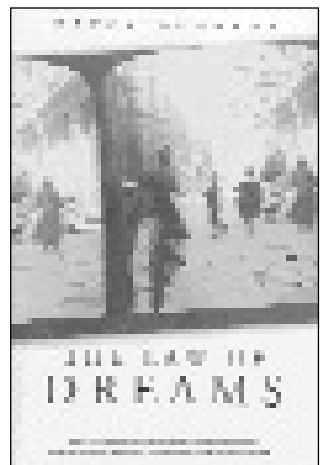
Massachusetts State Investigator Winston Garano seems to be at the beck and call of his beautiful brash boss, DA Monique Lamont, who is doing anything to be elected governor. Lamont sends Win out-of-state to investigate the twenty-year-old crime of a wealthy widow because she is convinced that solving the case will bring cutting-edge DNA technology to Boston and boost her campaign. However events soon turn, and many of the players become involved in a death that was only assumed to be a botched robbery. Win must figure out who wants this cold case closed, but still protect Lamont's reputation. (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$21.95/\$19.76) *Reviewed by Carol.*



The Devil and Miss Prym

By Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho is one of the most beloved writers of our time. The characters who populate a fictional village and struggle to maintain its ever-



elusive spiritual identity, are thrust into the timeless conflict between right and wrong when a stranger arrives bearing eleven bars of gold. The stranger challenges the citizens with an intriguing moral dilemma: will they succumb to temptation, confirming that man is inherently evil, or will goodness prevail? These and other philosophical questions are posed by Coelho in the same mesmerizing, lyrical style he employed in **The Alchemist**. This novel would be a great choice for a book club. Due July 2006. (HarperCollins, \$24.95/\$22.45) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

End in Tears

By Ruth Rendell

Ruth Rendell is back with a new novel featuring Inspector Wexford. At first there was no reason to link the killings, but Wexford puts two and two together and comes up with four. Rendell's imaginative power and shapely prose cast a mesmerizing spell. (Crown, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

The Glass Books of the Dream Eaters

By Gordon Dahlquist

Teeming with danger, terror, and heart-stopping suspense, this dark, erotic masterpiece will take the reader on a journey like no other. This deftly executed, relentlessly inventive novel has a trio of the most unusual, engaging heroes who ever took on a sinister cabal determined to rule the world. Rich with characters so real you feel you know them personally and twists and turns so believable you think you know where the plot is going - think again! Due Aug. 2006. (Bantam, \$26.00/\$23.40) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

The Law of Dreams

By Peter Behrens

The Law of Dreams is an ambitious epic tale which follows a hapless lad from the rotten potato fields of 1847 Ireland to a New England horse ranch. Fergus, the son of a tenant farmer sent to a workhouse after his parents are murdered, goes on a heartbreaking journey that takes him to Liverpool, Wales, and, ultimately, across the Atlantic Ocean to America. It's a long road that Behrens makes shorter with many a surprising turn. Haunting and poetic, this novel will sweep you along with urgency. This is historical fiction at its very best. Due Sept. 2006. (Steerforth/Random House, \$26.95/\$24.96) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

Lisey's Story By Stephen King

Award-winning author Scott Landon died young, leaving behind his wife Lisey. Two years later, ripped apart by grief, Lisey finally begins cleaning out Scott's writing studio. As memories of her marriage flood over her, Lisey begins to puzzle out some of the secrets of her husband's past – some of them beautiful, many of them dark, in true Stephen King style. King writes as boldly as ever, making you laugh out loud then sending chills down your back. A beautiful tale of marriage, language, and the power of stories, **Lisey's Story** is King's best novel yet. Due October 2006. (Scribner, \$28.00/\$25.20) *Reviewed by Paige.*

Madonnas of Leningrad

By Debra Dean

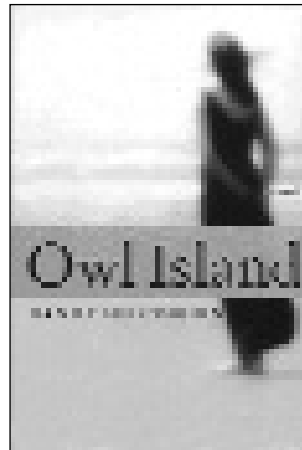
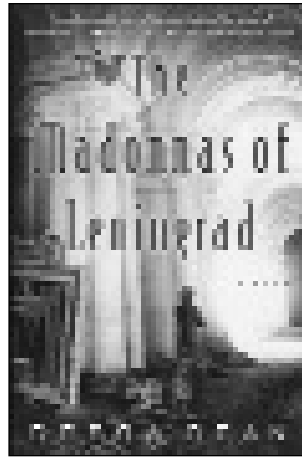
In this wonderful debut novel, Dean knits together a woman's youth surviving the German siege of Leningrad in the winter of 1941-42, with her present journey through the ravages of Alzheimer's disease. Marina still remembers the bitter winter when she and other women remained in Leningrad fighting cold, hunger, and the numbing loss of hope. Dean describes how past life comes to entwine itself with present experience to create the poetic confusion that will eventually lead to the end of Marina's life. Both her young life and her condition in old age tug at the reader's soul while important questions about life, society, war, and dying play throughout the book like the brush strokes of the masters whose work Marina dwells on during the siege. (William Morrow, \$23.95/\$21.55) *Reviewed by Serenity.*

On Off By Colleen McCullough

The author of **The Thorn Birds** brings readers a new fast-paced thriller set in 1965. In an Ivy League university, an animal lab technician finds a partial corpse left in its neurological-research freezer. But Police Lieutenant Carmine Delmonico discovers that this murder is only one of many leading back to a 1930s cold case. The suspects are many and varied. The author keeps readers in suspense, holding back the truth until the last page. (Simon & Schuster, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Carol.*

One Mississippi By Mark Childress

When Daniel's family moves to a small Mississippi town from Indiana, interrupting his high school years, he faces the pain and thrills of growing into adolescence. However, he meets Tim, another outsider, and they become fast friends. Together they find a bond with common teenage interests. When a



car accident involves a black school student who emerges from a coma believing she is white, Daniel and Tim find themselves involved in a chain of events that lead to a shattering climax. (Little, Brown & Co., \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Orbit By John J. Nance

It is 2009, and Kip Dawson has just won a passenger seat on a commercial adventure spaceflight. But his "dream come true" turns into a bittersweet moment when a micrometeor punches through the wall of the spacecraft, and leaves him with a radio as dead as the pilot. Knowing he is alone with nothing to do but wait for death, Kip writes his epitaph on the ship's laptop computer, unaware that an audience of viewers on Earth will track every entry. A modern-day aviation thriller. (Simon & Schuster, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Owl Island By Randy Sue Coburn

Phoebe Allen, a widow in the Pacific Northwest, single-handedly raised a daughter and established herself in a successful business for local fishermen. But when longtime friend Whitney Traynor purchases a house nearby, she must confront long-suppressed feelings for her first love with Whitney, and conceal truths from her daughter. These events also open Phoebe's emotions about the early loss of her mother whose own mysteries are beginning to surface in Phoebe's life. (Random House, \$23.95/\$21.56) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Pardonable Lies

By Jacqueline Winspear

Agatha Award-winner Winspear's engrossing third Maisie Dobbs novel maintains the high quality of its predecessors, **Maisie Dobbs** (2003) and **Birds of a Feather** (2004). Psychologist and investigator Maisie gets involved in three cases in London in 1930: proving the innocence of a 13-year-old farm girl; searching for Sir Cecil Lawton's only son; and looking into circumstances of the death of her friend's brother in France during WWI. Filled with convincing characters, this is a complex tale of truths and half-truths, long-held secrets, and ultimate healing. Winspear writes seamlessly, enriching her story with vivid details of English life on a variety of social levels. (Henry Holt & Co., \$23.00/\$20.70) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

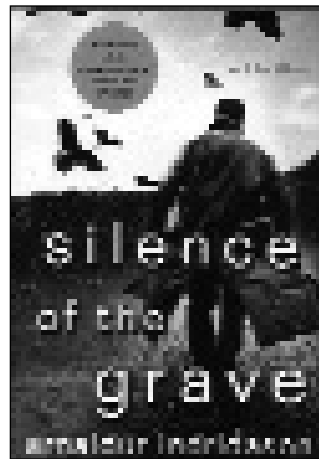
Piano Man By Marcia Preston

When Claire O'Neal's teenage son Nathan is killed in a tragic car accident, she loses her direction. Three

years later her loss leads her to the man who has received Nathan's heart in a successful donor transplant surgery. This novel shows how many lives can be connected in strange and unexpected ways. Don't miss it! (Mira Books, \$21.95/\$19.75) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Shadow Man By Cody Mcfadyen

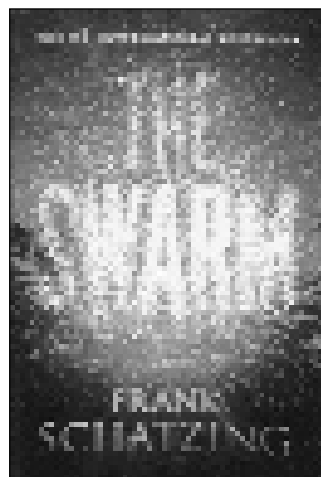
This is a dark, disturbing, and violent serial-killer drama featuring the strong-yet-damaged FBI agent, Smoky Barrett. Only six months ago, Smoky shot the man who tortured her and murdered her husband and daughter. Recovering from her physical and emotional wounds, Smoky is called back to the job by a new serial killer who claims to be a descendent of Jack the Ripper. Back at work with her team against a ticking clock, Smoky must track down the killer while dealing with her own psychological troubles. The violence makes **Shadow Man** a rough read, but the plot makes it equally hard to put down. (Bantam, \$24.00/\$21.60) *Reviewed by Paige.*



Silence of the Grave

By Arnold Indridason

Silence of the Grave opens as a skeleton is unearthed on a building site in Reykjavik, Iceland; clearly someone was secretly buried there several decades ago. Inspector Erlendur tries to unravel the crime which turns out to be as complex as it is horrifying. At first Erlendur hopes this is a typical missing person scenario; perhaps someone got lost in the snow and has lain peacefully for decades. This cold suspenseful novel is both powerful and disturbing, a tale that will keep readers' pulses pounding. Indridason is also the author of the critically acclaimed **Jar City**. Due October 2006. (St. Martins Minotaur, \$22.95/\$20.65) *Reviewed by Margaret.*



ate search into individual human dramas of a courageous era we must never forget. (Alfred Knopf, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Swarm By Frank Schatzing

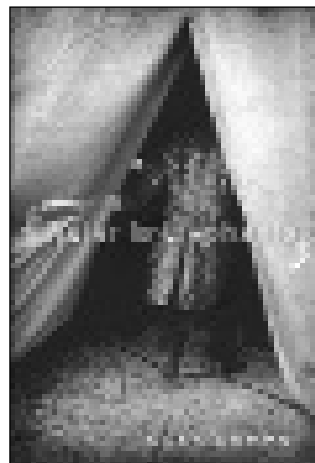
For more than two years this book has taken over the bestseller lists in Germany. This is a scientifically realistic, very imaginative thriller set in eerie locales. Teams of scientists discover a strange, intelligent life force that takes form in marine animals, and uses them to wreak havoc on humanity in retaliation for our ecological abuses. Whales begin sinking ships, toxic shellfish poison water supplies, and the northern continental shelf disintegrates, destroying much of Europe. Even though it is a daunting 896 pages, once you start this book you will want to learn more. It is well researched, and brings up philosophical reflections on who we are as humans and where our place in the world really is. A great summer read! (ReganBooks, \$24.95/\$27.44) *Reviewed by Susan.*

Water for Elephants By Sara Gruen

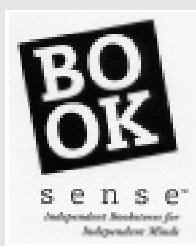
Told in flashback by 90-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski, now living in a nursing home, this is the story of one man's life in a second-rate circus struggling to survive during the Great Depression. When Jacob was 23, his parents died in a car crash leaving him penniless. He dropped out of veterinary school and used his expertise with animals to get a job with the circus caring for a menagerie of exotic animals, including an elephant who only understood Polish. He fell in love with Marlena, the star of the circus whose husband, August, was the unbalanced, sadistic circus boss. This is an atmospheric, sometimes gritty, but compelling story set among freaks, grifters, and misfits. I think this book is going to be a bestseller. I loved it. (Algonquin Books, \$23.95/\$21.56) *Reviewed by Susan.*

Suite Française By Irene Nemirovsky

This compelling novel is drawn from the author's tragic ordeal as she fled with her family during the 1940 Nazi invasion of Paris when it appeared that Germany had won World War II. The story captures the unraveling of the French upper-class society and one woman's chilling experience before the oncoming horrors of the Third Reich. The author, a Jewish-Russian, was arrested and deported to Auschwitz in 1942, where she was put to death a year later. Her two daughters escaped the authorities, and carried the manuscript of this book with them. Now, more than sixty years later, it has been discovered and published as a forceful story of that unforgettable era. I found this novel a compassion-



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Paperback Fiction

Jemima J By Jane Green

A chick novel that actually delivers, Green's **Jemima J** works because it tells a fairytale story while still including everything about the story that makes it *not* a fairytale. Jemima J is not your gorgeous, thin supermodel, but she has the passion and the drive to get her there. Maybe her pounds melt off a little bit quicker than yours and mine, but this book will not melt off so quickly, and is the perfect light book for summer. Dig in! (Broadway Books, \$12.95/\$11.96) *Reviewed by Cassie.*



Mr. Emerson's Wife

By Amy Belding Brown

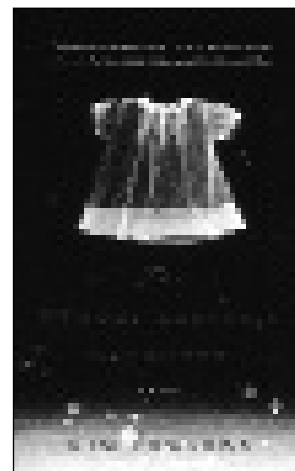
A few weeks after Lidian Jackson attends a reception for the popular young philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1835, he unexpectedly proposes marriage to her. Although Lidian barely knows Emerson, her choice to enter into the marriage becomes the first of many that will entangle her in the lives and ambitions of a circle of New Englanders in the years leading up to the Civil War. Disappointed in her marriage, Lidian will be drawn into the energy and intellect of a close family friend, Henry David Thoreau. She must confront social demands, guilt, and a personal loss before she can finally discover the deepest meaning of love. (St. Martin's Griffin, \$13.95/\$12.56) *Reviewed by Carol.*



The Memory Keeper's Daughter

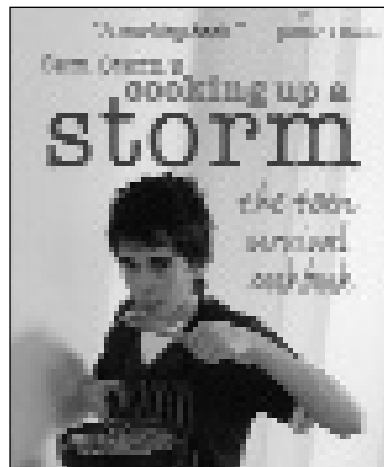
By Kim Edwards

This is a poignant story of a girl born with Down Syndrome and spirited away by her father following the delivery of his healthy twin son. He keeps the secret of his daughter from his wife, telling her the infant died at birth. This is a beautiful story of parallel lives burdened with secrets, as the daughter is raised by a caring family. (Penguin Books, \$14.00/\$12.60) *Reviewed by Carol.*



My Friend Leonard By James Frey

Call him a liar and call him a cheat, but James Frey will always be an eloquent storyteller who can weave his tale around you. **My Friend Leonard** is essentially the epilogue to **A Million Little Pieces**, and I found myself liking it even better than its famous brother. This story is easier to relate to and rings much more true for me than did **Pieces**, and it is closer to home. Frey is no longer a pathetic mess in this book, but someone just struggling to get back on his feet. I encourage you to give him another chance, because **My Friend Leonard** does not disappoint. (Penguin, \$15.00/\$13.50) *Reviewed by Cassie.*



Cooking

We are confessed Food Network junkies. Rachael Ray, Giada de Laurentiis, Paula Deen: we wait for new cookbooks and are always excited when they arrive.

Express Lane Meals By Rachael Ray

Yes it's another 30-minute-meal cookbook, meant to get you through the express lane and home to cook in record time. I have already tried the Balsamic Chicken with Wilted Spinach and my son, who doesn't eat spinach, says it's a keeper. The recipes can also be combined or made separately: we have had the Balsamic Chicken with other sides, not just with the wilted spinach. There are lots of recipes here to tempt your taste buds. I have also made many recipes from Ray's **365: No Repeats**. (Random House, \$18.95/\$17.05) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

giada's family dinners

By Giada de Laurentiis

More Italian recipes from one of our favorites. Lots of ideas for grilling, pasta, and family meals. Her first cookbook has a white bean dip with pita chips that my family will actually eat. (Potter, \$32.50/\$31.44) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Sam Stern's Cooking Up a Storm: The Teen Survival Cookbook

By Sam Stern

Although he stays away from junk food in his teen-friendly cookbook, Stern has some awesome recipes that will delight young people *and* their parents. This collection of recipes includes breakfast foods, after-school snacks, desserts, and family meals, accompanied by photographs. Hey, if this kid can do it, so can I, right? (Candlewick Press, \$16.99/\$15.30) *Reviewed by Paige.*

Audio False Impression

By Jeffrey Archer

A priceless Van Gogh that has been in the family for years becomes the target of a ruthless banking loan shark who acquires paintings when his clients default on loans. Has a young woman with a bright career actually stolen the painting, and why? Will the Japanese steel magnate end up with the painting? Many double crosses will help speed your journey with this latest Jeffrey Archer thriller. (Audio Renaissance, CD, abridged, \$29.95/\$26.95; also in hardcover, St. Martins Press, \$27.95/\$25.15) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Hardcover

The Girls Who Went Away

By Ann Fessler

In a time when sex education was meager and birth control hard to get, 1.5 million women surrendered their out-of-wedlock babies. In some cases they never received the chance to make the decision for themselves. Through compelling oral histories from a diversity of ages, races, and social backgrounds, Fessler shows that many of those mothers who lost their offspring were permanently scarred. The notion that these babies were not wanted is quickly dispelled. Subtitled "The Hidden History of Women Who Surrendered Children for Adoption in the Decades before Roe vs. Wade", this is a book for birth mothers and adoptees who may be struggling with their sense of loss and isolation. I found it to be an eye-opening read. (Penguin, \$24.95/\$22.45) *Reviewed by Susan.*

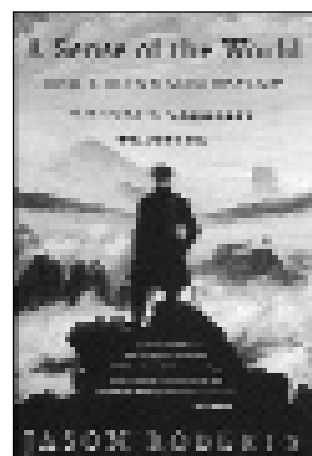
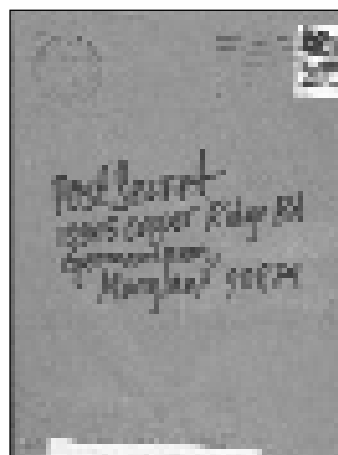
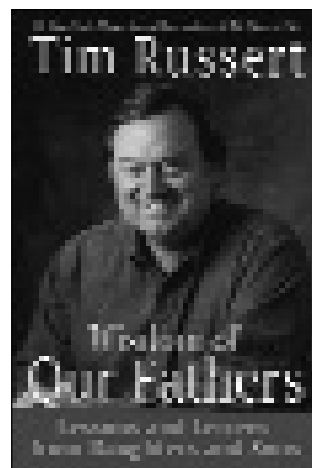
Life, Death & Bialys: a Father/Son Baking Story

By Dylan Schaffer

Why would Dylan Schaffer spend a week with his estranged father at a baking workshop in New York in 2002? In spite of the rigors of artisanal baking by day, and the discomforts of sharing a cheap Bowery hotel room by night, Schaffer wanted to connect with his father and get some answers. Why had he left the family when his children were young and their mother seemingly unable to care for them? Resentment and judgement were only two features of the monumental baggage that Schaffer schlepped to New York in his quest. His father was in end-stage lung cancer at that time, which heightened the drama and urgency of this trip. In this thoroughly engaging memoir, Schaffer offers an unflinching view of his family history, hilarious and horrible by turns, with the elusive dream of reconciliation and redemption. A great read! Due in September. (Bloomsbury Publishing, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

Living with Bears By Linda Masterson

Masterson dispels myths, replaces fear with respect, and lays the foundation for improving human-black bear relations with an inside look at the fascinating world of these highly intelligent, adaptable, and resourceful animals. This guidebook to life in bear country is packed with a wealth of useful and often surprising information and down-to-earth advice from bear experts all over the continent, with a chapter on Tahoe alone. A must-have



for any Tahoe resident. (Pixyjack Press, \$20.00/\$18.00) *Reviewed by Susan.* We also carry the Bear League's coloring book "Be Bear Aware" with illustrations by North Tahoe High School art students, a great and instructive addition to our Tahoe bookshelves. (\$5.95/\$5.36) *Reviewed by Susan.*

Postsecret By Frank Warren

Are you carrying around a dark secret? Here is your chance to give an anonymous confession. Author Warren has, over the years, collected millions of postcards with confessions on them, and now he has compiled them in a book overflowing with truth. From shocking confessions of people who secretly feed meat to their vegetarian relatives, to the heartbreaking declarations of people who wish they were blind so they wouldn't have to look at themselves in the mirror, this book is brutally honest, and you'll be surprised to find how many people out there are hiding the same secrets that you are. (HarperCollins, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Diana and Natalie.*

A Sense of the World: How A Blind Man Became History's Greatest Traveler

By Jason Roberts

This is the remarkable story of the life and travels of James Holman, who, in the early 1800s, traveled nearly the entire globe, alone and unaided while being completely blind. Years before the more famous Sir Richard Burton opened up the Orient and Arabic worlds to the west, Holman was a celebrated and well published writer describing his travels in detail for a captivated world audience. He became a medical doctor, pioneered the practice of writing for the blind, joined the Knights of Windsor, and overcame every obstacle in his way - including the barbaric medical treatments of the day. Particularly fascinating is Roberts' description of the transition from a "sighted-centered" set of senses to the "haptic" awareness that blends sound, texture, smell, and the other senses into a whole-cloth "Sense of the World" inhabited by Holman. (HarperCollins, \$26.95/\$24.21) *Reviewed by Jeff Sparksworthy.*

Wisdom of Our Fathers By Tim Russert

The author's inspirational book, **Big Russ and Me**, generated thousands of letters from readers that he shares in this new book. Along with Russert's individual chapter commentaries, it includes the stories from sons and daughters about their fathers. It is both an emotional and funny collection of memories. This would make a great gift for Dad (or Grandfather, Brother, or the good father-friend in your life). (Random House, \$22.95/\$22.66) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Dive into Summer with our great selection of sci-fiction/fantasy series. We have highlighted many of our favorite series and authors in the stores.

Ender's Game By Orson Scott Card

Humans have already fought two wars against the Buggers, and a third war is looming. Ender, a young boy, is chosen to train at Battle School, a space station that trains children to become officers and generals. This is the first book in two series by Card, one which follows Ender, and the other about his sidekick, Bean. (Tor, \$6.99/\$6.29) *Reviewed by Conrad.*

A Game Of Thrones

By George R.R. Martin

The Stark Family has peacefully ruled the frozen lands of Winterfell for decades. Now the mysterious murder of the King's right-hand man sends the brave Ned Stark to the arid lands of the south, launching the Stark family into an amazing adventure full of bloody battles, dark deception, and devils castle intrigue. One of the best modern fantasies I have read. (Random House, \$7.99/\$7.19) *Reviewed by Eric.*

The Golden Compass

By Phillip Pullman

This book begins the epic **Dark Materials** Series that follows young Lyra Silvertongue and her struggle in a parallel dimension. Lyra and her magical shape-shifting companion must travel to the North Pole to find the secret of a mysterious dust, and stop an evil tyrant from taking the souls of the children of her world. Enchanting and full of adventure. (Dell, \$6.99/\$6.29) *Reviewed by Eric.*

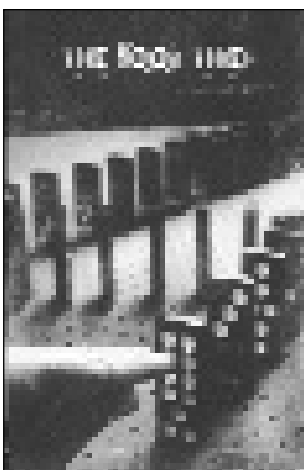
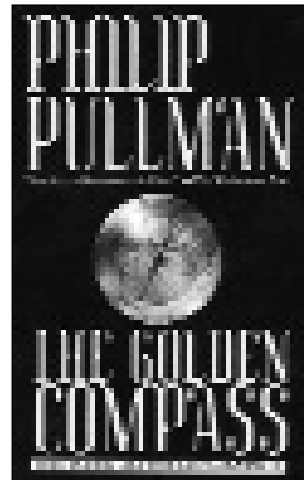
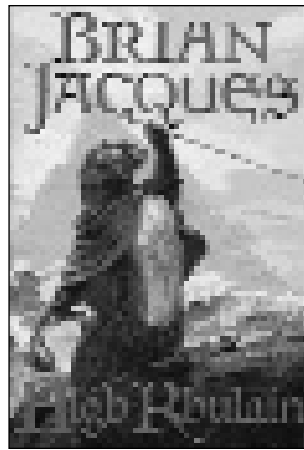
Great War American Front

By Harry Turtledove

The alternative history genre deals with the "what-ifs" of history. In this book, Turtledove asks what would have happened had the South won the Civil War. This is the start of a long and intriguing series that follows this alternative timeline from the early 1900s through the 1940s. (Del Rey Books, \$7.99/\$7.19) *Reviewed by Conrad*

High Rhulain By Brian Jacques

The 18th installment in Jacques' beloved Redwall series is here! **High Rhulain** follows the quest of a Redwall otter maid to save her fellow otters from the evil wildcats of Green Isle and become their new



queen. Full of fun, adventure, and plenty of intriguing riddles to solve, and, having read them all, I can honestly say that this is one of the best Redwall books. (Philomel Books, \$23.99/\$21.59) *Reviewed by Eric.*

Riverworld Saga: To Your Scattered Bodies Go

By Philip José Farmer

Explorer Sir Richard Francis Burton dies and is resurrected by a river along with all those who ever lived on Earth - all races, religions, miraculously provided with food, billions of people from every period of Earth's history - and there is chaos. A fascinating look at humanity restarting and the unknown link between the two worlds. (Del Rey, \$13.95/\$12.55) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Other recommended series are the **Foundation Series** by Isaac Asimov; **The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever**, by Stephen R. Donaldson; **The Belgariad**, by David Eddings; and **The Incarnations of Immortality** by Piers Anthony. Come in and talk to sci-fi aficionados Eric or Conrad while they are here this summer!

STAFF SUMMER PICKS

Margaret

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. What would any of us be without words? How far would you go to save your right to read? After reading **The Book Thief** I was overcome with intense emotions, realizing that a book can save a life. First of all, I realized through the story that Hitler had never fired a gun: he ruled with words that he planted day and night, watching them grow until he had a nation of farmed thoughts. Secondly, Hitler gathered all of the books that he didn't want his people to read so he could burn them. This story changed the way in which I view our freedom of speech and our right to the written word. I truly believe everyone should read this eye-opening and life-changing book. (Knopf, \$16.95/\$15.25)

Conrad

The Pleasure of Finding Things Out by Richard Feynman. This collection of essays, writings, and speeches by genius physicist Richard Feynman is surprisingly thoughtful. Feynman muses about learning, knowledge, his philosophy of life, and the fun of breaking into every safe in Los Alamos while working on the Manhattan Project. While one would expect the writings of a Nobel prize-winning genius to be boring and out of touch, Feynman is surprisingly witty, fun, and very down to earth. A great read for anyone. (Basic Books, \$14.95/\$13.45)

Paige

Scribbling the Cat by Alexandra Fuller. In this beautifully written memoir, the author of **Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight** recounts her journey through Africa with a soldier battling demons forged back in his fighting days. A stark portrait of Africa and its war-scarred people. (Penguin, \$15.00/\$13.50)

An Unfinished Life by Mark Spragg. Still bitter after his son's death in a car accident, old rancher Einar reluctantly takes in his daughter-in-law and her young daughter, Griff, as they flee from another bad boyfriend. It's Griff who pulls together the cast of battered souls to form a new family of her own. (Vintage Books, \$13.95/\$12.55)

The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje. This is, hands-down, my favorite book of all time. Four emotionally torn characters collide in a bombed-out villa in Italy at the end of World War II. (Vintage, \$14.00/\$12.60)

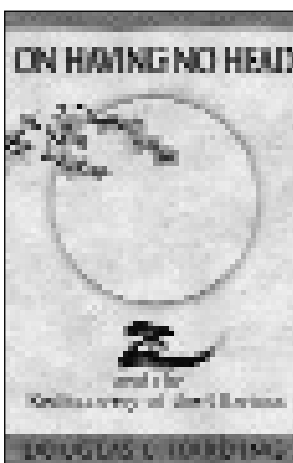
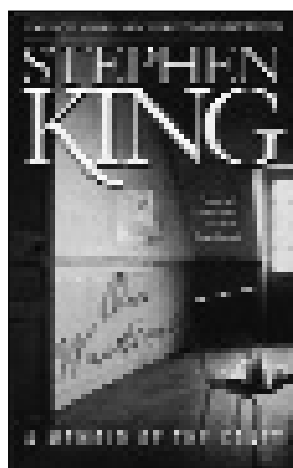
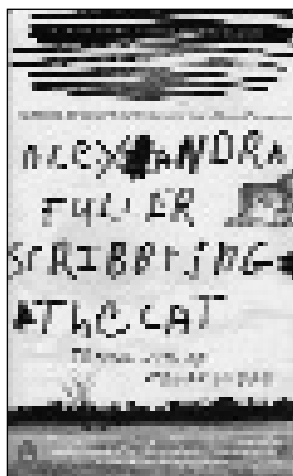
The Opposite of Fate by Amy Tan. In this collection of essays that span her literary career, Tan addresses the fact that her books garner so much critical acclaim for their symbolism – something that she finds surprising as she does so little to put it there. (Penguin Books, \$15.00/\$13.95)

On Writing by Stephen King. King's hand at creating a "tough love" writing manual for those just getting started also works as a memoir, drawing readers in with his delicious wit and writing about his childhood, success, addiction, and recovery. (Pocket Books, \$7.99/\$7.20)

Diana

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer. Nine-year-old Oskar - inventor, amateur entomologist, Francophile, origami-ist, pacifist, and vegan - has embarked on a secret mission to find the lock that matches a mysterious key that belonged to his father, who was killed in the World Trade Center attacks. Everything about this book is utterly and undeniably beautiful. (Mariner, \$13.95/\$12.56)

Killing Yourself to Live by Chuck Klosterman. Klosterman drives 6,557 miles thinking about death, from the Chelsea hotel where Sid killed Nancy, to the swamp land where Lynyrd Skynyrd's plane went down, to the site where Kurt Cobain took his life. This is the author who brought you **Sex, Drugs, and Cocoa Puffs**, only this time, he's left out the cocoa and serves you a big bowl of rock 'n roll. (Scribner, \$14.00/\$12.60)



Susan

Ishmael by Daniel Quinn. An adventure of mind and spirit, the key issue being that humanity belongs to the planet, not vice-versa, and our obsession with conquest and control of the environment is an impossible quest. (Bantam, \$17.00/\$15.30)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. If you haven't read it yet, you don't know what you're missing. Heartbreaking struggles and emotional triumph keep you thinking long after you turn the last page. (Riverhead Books, \$14.00/\$12.60)

The Once and Future King by T.H. White. One of my favorite versions of the King Arthur legend. Full of adventure, history and rich imagery. An inspirational wonder! (Ace, \$7.99/\$7.19)

Siddhartha by Herman Hesse. I think this book speaks to everyone differently and one has to be ready to accept its lesson. Life takes Siddhartha on a journey and he finds that the path to salvation is internal, not something one can 'find.' (Bantam, \$5.99/\$5.44)

Lydia

On Having No Head by Douglas E. Harding. This Zen manual for the western mind was originally published in 1961. Harding's approach to developing an awareness of one's self and the surrounding universe is refreshingly simple, but elusive for many of us who have made it a habit to think too much. I recommend this classic work to anyone who would like to step back and take a new look at themselves and the cosmos. (Inner Directions, \$12.95/\$11.66)

Bonnie

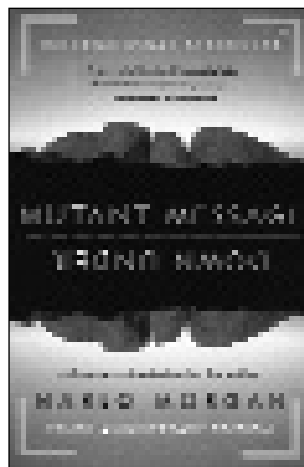
French Women Don't Get Fat by Mireille Guiliano. Guiliano emphasizes fresh, seasonal foods, in moderation of course, including those French staples: bread, wine, and chocolate. (Knopf, \$22.00/\$19.80)

The Year Of Magical Thinking by Joan Didion. Late in 2003, renowned author Didion faced a double tragedy: the sudden death of her husband of 40 years and the life-threatening illness of their only child. A powerful memoir of love, loss, and remembrance. (Knopf, \$23.95/\$21.56)

The World War I Novels by Anne Perry. An absorbing historical suspense series details the lives of the British Reavly family during the Great War. The first two titles, **No Graves As Yet** and **Shoulder the Sky** are available in paperback. (Ballantine Books, \$13.95/\$12.56) **Angels in the Gloom**, the third installment of the five-book series, is in hardback. (Ballantine Books, \$25.95/\$23.39)

Debbie

Mutant Message Down Under by Marlo Morgan. I remember when Ms. Morgan was touring in Grass Valley and speaking to groups in the area and someone recommended her book which at the time was self-published. Now in a 10th-anniversary edition and published as fiction, it is the remarkable story of one woman's walkabout with the Aborigines in the Outback. She learned a new way of life, a new way of being. This is a powerful story which I often think about when I greet my day. Highly recommended. (Perennial, \$12.95/ \$11.65)

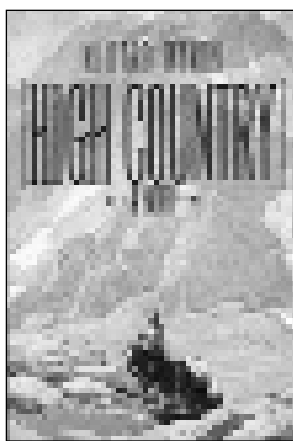


Why Does He Do That? by Lundy Bancroft. A customer came in one day and asked for this book, subtitled "inside the minds of angry and controlling men", and explained to me that it saved her life. She explained that it's not what you think that makes men abuse women. Check out the back cover and stop asking yourself why and making excuses. (Berkley, \$15.00/\$13.50)



Cassie

Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro. **Never Let Me Go** is a long dip into cool and unknown waters, testing the outer limits of your mind and how much it can handle. The idea of using humans as organ donors is not entirely novel, but Ishiguro's overwhelming compassion and his wistful tale certainly are. This story will stretch your beliefs and touch your soul, and I HIGHLY recommend it to anyone who ever calls themselves a reader. (Vintage International, \$14.00/12.60)



Dam

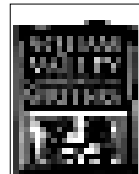
Memories, Dreams, & Reflections by Carl Jung. Jung's autobiography gives us a close-up look at all his human frailties along with his take on myth, mysticism, spirituality, ethics, archetypes, and the human consciousness. It took my breath away the first time through, and continues to do so - and teach me something new - each time I re-read it. (Vintage, \$14.95/\$13.46)



GIFT ITEM BARGAINS IN QUINCY

We are discontinuing most of our gift items in the Quincy store, and the clearance sale starts July 3rd. Discounts will increase until all items are gone! The Quincy Store has been on the market this year, and as we go to press we think we have found a buyer who will continue the great tradition of bookselling in Quincy. It will be a local owner who has lived in Quincy for years and is anxious to give you great customer service with a fine selection of books and ideas for other things which will complement the bookstore. Support your local independent bookseller: shop locally and support Quincy merchants.

SQUAW VALLEY COMMUNITY OF WRITERS



Each summer for the past 37 years, the SVCW has brought together poets and prose writers for workshops, individual conferences, lectures, panels, readings, and discussions of the craft and the business of writing.

July 22-29: Poetry Workshops

One night during the week is a fundraiser open to the public. Check with our stores for details.

August 5-12: Writers and Screenwriting Workshops

Among the staff attending this summer are Mark Childress, Richard Ford, Alice Sebold, and Glen David Gold.

S U M M E R E V E N T S

Bookshelf at Hooligan Rocks will offer **WEEKLY EVENTS AT KIDZONE DURING THE MONTH OF JULY** featuring the great ideas and resources of **THE KLUTZ SERIES** of books on games, crafts, and inspired fun for kids. *Ask at the store for more information.*

SATURDAY, JULY 15th, 2:00-3:30 PM BOOKSHELF AT HOOLIGAN ROCKS:

Meet Willard Wyman, author of **High Country** (University of Oklahoma Press, \$24.95/\$22.45), gripping historical fiction about wranglers, mules, mountain men, and women.

TUESDAY, JULY 20th, 6:30-8:00 PM BOOKSHELF AT HOOLIGAN ROCKS:

Terry Healy, the author of **At Face Value** (Caveat Press, \$16.95/\$15.26) who was profiled in the *Sierra Sun* on 6/1/06, will visit our Truckee Store to talk about his tribulations, triumphs, and amazing life.

THURSDAY, SEPT 21st, 6:30 PM BOOKSHELF AT HOOLIGAN ROCKS:

Join us for a slideshow and booksigning with Elizabeth Carmel, author of **Brilliant Waters: Portraits of Lake Tahoe, Yosemite, and the High Sierra**. (Hawks Peak Publishing, \$49.95/\$44.96)