

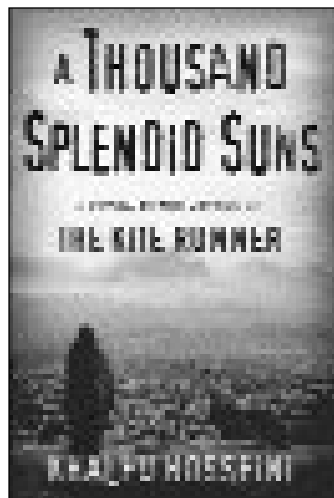
OFF THE SHELF

S U M M E R • 2 0 0 7

A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khalid Hosseini

Khalid Hosseini has done the impossible. Following up on a highly successful, critically acclaimed bestseller is the hardest thing to accomplish for an author. I truly believed that **Kite Runner** could not be outdone; but I was so wrong! Hosseini has succeeded in capturing important historical events and contemporary themes about his native land of Afghanistan. At the center of this novel are two women, born a generation apart, with very different ideas about love and family. Marian and Laila, who are brought together tragically by war, by loss, and by fate, form a bond that spans many years of heartache, cruelty, and endurance. This is a powerful heart-wrenching story of shocking and heroic acts of self-sacrifice. It is the must-read of 2007. I could not put this book down and you won't be able to either! (RiverHead, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed By Margaret. Carol adds:* I recommend you not start reading this until you have uninterrupted time to turn the final page! This stunning and remarkably written story told by Hosseini will surely be another classic.



The last Harry Potter is coming!

Yes, both Bookshelf at Hooligan Rocks and Bookshelf at the Boatworks will be open to sell **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** (Scholastic, \$34.99/\$31.49) at midnight on Friday July 20th.

You may also come in and pre-pay your copy sometime during the week beforehand, so that if you wish you can just pop in and pop out the door at midnight. We are still in the process of party planning so check with the stores about our events. We will open early on Saturday July 21st for those of you who don't want to read all night.

Bookshelf Stores will also carry the Deluxe Edition (\$65.00/\$58.50) as well as the audio book from Listening Library, same price for cassette or CD (\$79.95/\$71.95). At these prices it's worth buying a frequent buyer card! For every book sold we will make a donation to local literacy programs.

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Picture Books

Bad Dog, Marley! By John Grogan

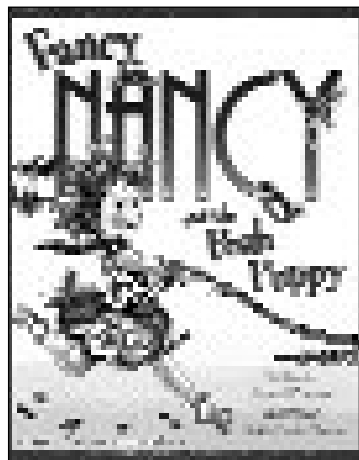
Marley is back! When Cassie and Louie beg to have a pet puppy for their own, Dad soon brings home a squiggly, lovable, yellow furball. As tiny Marley the lab retriever grows, he gets into bigger trouble, and creates problems the family must face together. The story has a happy ending for "bad" Marley and his forgiving two-legged family. Delightfully recommended for ages 3-6. (Harper-Collins, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Carol.* If you like this Marley adventure, try Grogan's **Marley: a Dog Like No Other** for older readers and his adult bestseller, **Marley and Me.** (both: HarperCollins, \$16.99/\$15.29)



Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy

By Jane O'Connor

Fancy Nancy is back in this delightful sequel to O'Connor's book in which Nancy first introduced "more fancy" words and brought some new vocabulary to children. When her family agrees to bring a new puppy into their home, Nancy decides she must find the one that is most appropriate. However, her idea of the fanciest one is not the one she hoped would be the best in appearance. Maybe a short-term disappointment for Fancy Nancy, but she soon makes the best of her new pet. Recommended for ages 3-6. (HarperCollins, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Carol.*



Out of the Egg By Tina Mathews

Striking illustrations accompany this revised story of the hardworking Little Red Hen and the Lazy Cat, Rat, and Pig trio. This updated version touches on the themes of the environment vs. consumerism in a humorous way. It also shows that being kind is better than getting even. Adults and young children will both enjoy this book. Ages 5-8 (Penguin, \$12.95/\$11.66) *Reviewed by Anne.*



Bears, Bears, Bears!

If you have a young bear lover, check out our selection of informative bear books for kids, such as **Bears** by Deborah Hodge, illustrated by Pat Stephens (Kids Can Press, \$6.95/\$6.26); **Bear Rescue** by Keltie Thomas (Firefly Books, \$9.95/\$8.96); **Fishing Bears** by Ruth Berman with photographs by Lynn M. Stone (Lerner Publishing, \$5.95/\$5.36); and **Our Wild World: Bears** by Kathy Feeney and John F. McGee (Northwood Press, \$7.95/\$7.16).



Chapter Books

Billy Creekmore

By Tracy Porter

This book will take children of today back into the life of a young boy who lived in the early 20th century. Billy Creekmore seems to have mystifying powers and a gift for storytelling. His life started, as he first remembered it, as an orphan in the Guardian Angels Home for Boys where the young were cruelly treated. Just as Billy is to be "sold" and sent to work in a nearby glass factory, an uncle previously unknown to him arrives with papers claiming to be kin. This starts a journey that takes Billy into the coal mines of West Virginia, on to the excitement of a traveling circus, and then briefly reunited with a father he thought had abandoned him. This is an emotional story of times past, based partly on personal family research by the author. Ages 10 and up. (Joanna Colter Books, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Demonkeeper

By Royce Buckingham

Nat was an orphan until found by his mentor who said he had a special talent. The rickety old house they live in is filled with friendly and not-so-friendly demons and magical creatures, and one particularly dangerous Beast locked in the basement. It's Nat's job to keep this demon locked up as there is no way to destroy it. When his mentor dies, Nat bemoans his future, until the Beast escapes out into our world. Will Nat be able to recapture it? Join Nat and his pet demons on this wild adventure. Ages 8-12. (Putnam, \$15.99/\$14.39) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Love, Stargirl

By Jerry Spinelli

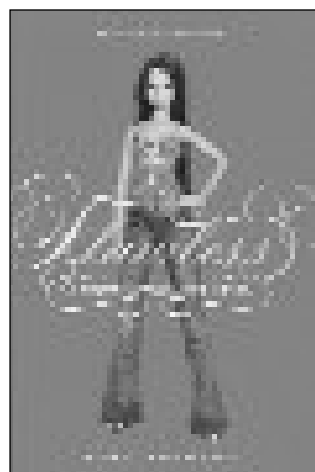
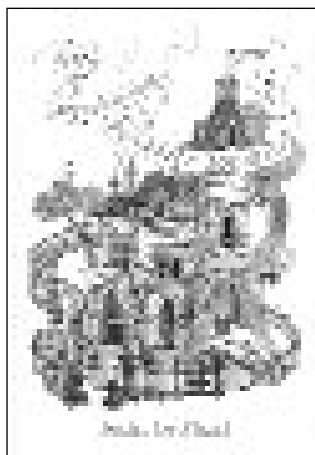
The beautifully eclectic Stargirl has moved, leaving behind a life and her "once and future" boyfriend, Leo. But she is Stargirl, after all, and a little move doesn't stop her from finding the wonder in life, even if it is in the heart of Pennsylvania. This book is for all ages, from the littlest to the tallest, because yet again Spinelli reminds us of what it means to be a good person. Due August 14th. (Alfred A. Knopf, \$16.99/\$15.30) *Reviewed by Cassie.*

GUEST REVIEW

Atherton: House of Power

By Patrick Carman

A Modern Epic for children. Edgar, an orphan boy, has worked all his life in Mr. Ratican's fig grove. The fig grove is on the table top, the second layer of Atherton. When the highlands, the top of Atherton, start to sink into the table-top, Edgar must use a deadly secret to unravel a confusing mystery. Can Edgar prevail against monsters, madness, evil lords, and heart stopping perils? I found this book very enjoyable and highly recommend it! Ages 8-12. (Little Brown, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by John Dewald.*



The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Trenton Lee Stewart

In this book for inquisitive readers, four children find themselves caught in a mysterious adventure when they answer a news advertisement that recruits children to complete a series of mind-bending tests. From the dozens who have enrolled to take the challenge, these four are the only ones to succeed, and soon find themselves part of a secret mission "where the only rule is that there are no rules." With only their friendship to lead them, can they meet the challenge to uncover the secrets of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened? This is a great summer read recommended for ages 10 and up. (Little Brown, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Carol.*

The White Giraffe

By Lauren St. John

When young Martine loses both of her parents in a devastating fire in London, she is sent to live with her grandmother whose home borders a game preserve in Africa. Soon after her arrival she begins to hear stories of a white giraffe, but her questions about this "mythical" animal are always answered with, "it's not true." Martine goes in search of the white giraffe, if only to heal the sorrows she has suffered from the loss of her parents and to root herself in a new life she is trying to establish in Africa. A beautifully written story by an author who grew up on a farm in Africa. I loved this book and recommend it for any young person aged 8 to 12. (Dial Books, \$16.099/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Skulduggery Pleasant

By Derek Landy

A truly well written tale of death, magic, mystery, and the ultimate battle of good versus evil, **Skulduggery Pleasant** will take you on twists and turns through an ordinary world where extraordinary things happen. A fantastic blend of **Harry Potter** and **BeetleJuice**, this story will make you laugh even through the most grotesque, magical, page-turning situations. Skulduggery Pleasant, a clumsily talented detective who happens to be a skeleton, and Stephanie Edgley, a bored, quick-witted, and comically sassy twelve-year-old in Ireland, are the only two people who can prevent the complete destruction of the entire world. A story full of mystery, adventure, and colorful characters of all shapes and sizes, **Skulduggery Pleasant** will never fail to surprise you and keep you reading. Ages 10 and up. (HarperCollins, \$17.99/ \$16.19) *Reviewed by Wyatt.*

Older Readers

Evil Genius By Catherine Jinks

Cadel Darkkon is no ordinary orphan: he is a genius - a super genius. Cadel is obsessed with numbers, train systems, the psychology of his adolescent peers, computers... and chaos. With the help of the world's most notorious evil genius, Cadel is enrolled in the Axis Institute for World Domination, where the world's super villains are formed. Between classes on embezzlement, explosives, and assassination, Cadel falls in love with the elusive Kay Lee. Will Cadel become the next evil superpower? Find out! Think **Harry Potter** meets **Ender's Game**. Ages 12 and up. (Harcourt, \$17.00/\$15.30) *Reviewed by Eric.*

Flawless: A Pretty Little Liars Novel By Sara Shepard

If you read **Pretty Little Liars**, Shepard's first novel in this young adult trilogy, and the ending left you breathless for more, take another deep breath because here comes the second installment which is just as thrilling and chilling. Picking up right where the last novel left off, this story of four girls who may or may not be haunted by the ghost of their dead best friend will have you constantly looking over your shoulder. It's a must-read for all teens who love a good mystery with their high school romances, and who have the patience to wait for the final book; trust me, after the way Shepard leaves you hanging, it won't be easy! Ages 13 and up. (HarperCollins, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Diana.*

Glass

By Ellen Hopkins

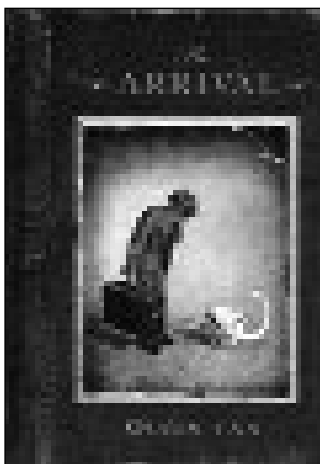
As many of you may know, author Hopkins spoke at Truckee High School this past spring. Her books are gritty and involve all the things parents do not want their teens even knowing about. Characterized by powerful writing and sad stories, this sequel to **Crank** is due at the Bookshelf on August 21st, and we look forward to reading the next book from this talented writer. We'll let you know more about it then. (McElderry Books, \$16.99/\$15.29) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



I Love You, Beth Cooper

By Larry Doyle

Dennis Cooverman is graduating from high school. He's never been to a high school party and he's never had a real girlfriend. Dennis was captain of the debate team and is now graduating as the valedictorian. He also happens to be in love with Beth Cooper, the captain of the cheerleading squad, and now everyone knows it, including her large Army boyfriend. This laugh-out-loud novel tells the story of the night following Dennis' revealing graduation speech. Dennis teaches us not to forget to live a little. Through his experiences (which may or may not resemble some of our own) we see that living is a very important part of being alive, and of growing up. (Ecco, \$19.95/\$17.95) *Reviewed by Kelsey.*



The Dangerous Book For Boys

By Conn & Hal Iggulden

With kids talking on cell phones when they're not glued to their computer screens, it seems as though this post-modern society of ours has a choke-hold on childhood. Is there no time for secret messages, home made go-carts, or Sunday bug hunts? This book is going to be the saving grace for boys of all ages as well as fathers and sons who just need some ideas for spending time together. Filled with all sorts of useful information that you may have never known, or maybe just forgot, from famous Napoleonic battles and paper airplanes, to slingshots, Morse Code, and everything else a healthy childhood should contain; this is easily my favorite book to come out this year. (Collins, \$24.95/\$22.45) *Reviewed by Chase.*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

The Arrival By Shaun Tan

A graphic novel for those who do not consider themselves graphic novel readers, **The Arrival** tells the silent, strange, and emotional story of an immigrant, through the eyes of an immigrant. Throughout the book, author Tan weaves a new language, strange symbols, and fruits and animals that are completely novel in their conception. Entering this world of completely gorgeous and intricate drawings will allow the reader to learn simultaneously with the character. This is a book to read over and over again. Coming in October. (Scholastic, \$19.99/\$17.99) *Reviewed by Chase.*

Beowulf (The Graphic Novel)

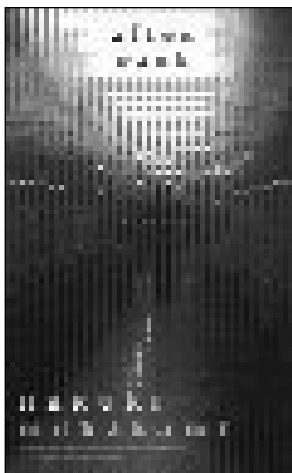
By Gareth Hinds

The classic Saga of Beowulf is re-told in a stunning graphic novel. The author/illustrator takes the Norse epic to a new level in this action-packed comic book. Hind's illustrations are incredibly colorful and detailed, with a style reminiscent of **Lord of the Rings'** Alan Lee and **Aliens'** H.R. Geiger. For those unfamiliar with the tale or those who want to experience it in a whole new light. (Candlewick Press, \$9.99/\$8.99) *Reviewed by Eric.*

**Mugglenet.com's
What Will Happen
in Harry Potter 7**

By Ben Schoen, Emerson Spartz, Andy Gordon, Gretchen Stull, and Jamie Lawrence

Subtitled "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Falls in Love and How Will the Adventure Finally End", this book by devoted fans of the series offers predictions about what will happen in the last book, based on thorough research into what has happened in the past Harry books and comments made by the author in various interviews since 1999. If you love speculation, check out this book while you are waiting for July 21st. If you think you've forgotten something important, this is the place to find it. (Ulysses Press, \$13.95/\$12.55) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



Hardcover Fiction

After Dark By Haruki Murakami

In this novel, Murakami explores the lives of night dwellers, those who exist after midnight, when the trains no longer run and those stuck in the city have to wait until dawn for release. Whether they are managers of love hotels who once had profitable careers as professional wrestlers, or Chinese prostitutes, or those who like to beat up Chinese prostitutes, or young students who like to practice their trombones in all-night jam sessions, these are all people with pasts, with stories that darken their shadows just a little bit more. Between midnight and dawn, Murakami manages to break the fourth wall in his storytelling and pull you into the mix so you can almost taste the night air. The scenes and dialogue are very organic and natural, interspersed with little reminders that something more powerful is at work, something mysterious that may never be resolved, but hopefully the characters will find their own resolutions within the realm of forces they will never understand. (Alfred A. Knopf, \$22.95/\$20.66) *Reviewed by Diana.*



Bird of Another Heaven

By James D. Houston

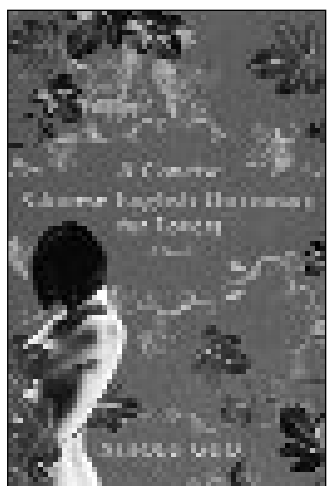
This novel is worthy of mention in this issue (although reviewed earlier this year), because it is a great summer read! It's more stellar historical fiction from the writer who brought us **Snow Mountain Passage**. Houston said that after finishing his classic tale of the Donner Party drama, there was a character that he simply couldn't get out of his mind, someone he discovered in his extensive research on California history. She spoke several languages, among them Hawaiian, in addition to her mother tongue from one of the vanishing native tribes of Northern California. Houston has created a story, based on fact, that weaves two distinct timelines together and reveals fascinating insight into the last days of the Hawaiian monarchy, the expansion of the Old West, and the defining of the new. This is another satisfying novel from one of California's master storytellers. (Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

GUEST REVIEW

Bad Luck and Trouble

By Lee Child

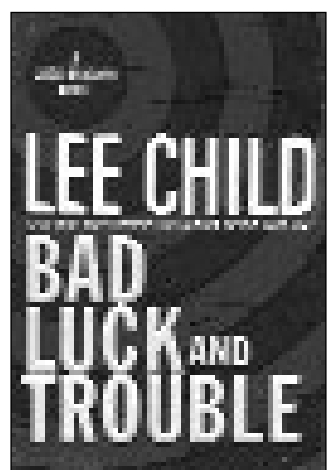
Someone is dropping members of Jack Reacher's old military unit into the desert out of a helicopter from a height that assures death on impact. In addition, it appears they were tortured before being dropped alive. In an effort to save the remaining members of his old unit from a similar end, determine the reasons for their untimely deaths, and accomplish his need for revenge, Reacher is called to assemble the old group and use their cumulative investigative knowledge to destroy the enemy. The local police are watching Reacher in an effort to use his skills to assist their investigation. The police offer to share information, but is this an honest move on their part or some type of trap? The race to locate the enemy moves between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. This is a gripping story with action that just does not stop, filled with mean characters who will do anything for money, men willing to sell special equipment to our enemies for money or religion, and the steel-trap mind of one very special Jack Reacher. Another cannot-put-down Lee Child mystery. (Delacorte Press, \$26.00/\$23.40) *Reviewed by Andy Wertheim.*



A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary For Lovers

By Xiaolu Guo

This quirky gem of a novel has the most captivating use and misuse of English that I've ever read. It is charming and thought-provoking in its insights into the individual and the collective. On arriving in England from China, 23-year-old Zhuang Xiao Qiao (she goes by "Z") struggles with the alien nature of her new world: "Is unbelievable, I arriving Heathlow Airport." "Every single name very difficult remembering, because just not 'London Airport' simple way like we simple way call 'Beijing Airport.' Everything very confuse way here..." Z converts her frame of reference of 20,000 characters into just 26 letters in her quest to understand the similarities and vast chasms of difference between East and West. She takes English lessons and a lover on her journey of self-discovery, all the while composing a dictionary of her own. This story, narrator, and particularly this style of writing are fresh, unexpected and unique. I recommend this utterly brilliant story; discover for yourself the work of filmmaker-turned-novelist Xiaolu Guo! Coming in September. (Nan A. Talese, tentative price \$23.95/\$21.56) *Reviewed by Lydia.*



Consumption By Kevin Patterson

Born in the tundra area of the Canadian Arctic in the 1950s, Victoria is sent at the age of 10 to a sanitarium in southern Canada to be treated for tuberculosis. After six years at the clinic, she comes home to her family and community, only to find that she is now separated from the "old" ways she left and the "new" ways she learned during the years she was away. When her husband Robertson, a Kablunauk (a Caucasian New Englander), begins pursuing the economic opportunities in the northern area, they become estranged. Her children, wanting to leave the "nest" while Victoria tries to hold on to them, are consumed by their birth environment and the unlikely events that await them. Patterson writes a moving story of the modern contradictions the Arctic has imposed on its people and culture and the generational divisions they struggle to survive. (Doubleday, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Carol.*



Genghis: Birth of an Empire

By Conn Iggulden

This is one of the best historical fiction novels I have read! Temujin, the young son of a tribal khan, vows to avenge his father's death and take up his people's cause to unite the small tribes of the outback that are being overrun, slaughtered, and captured by the Tartars. This novel offers the reader a look back into the early 12th century and the man who became Genghis Kahn. (Delacorte Press, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Carol.*



Ghostwalk By Rebecca Stott

While prominent English historian Elizabeth Vogelsand is researching and writing a book about Isaac Newton, her son Cameron discovers she has drowned under suspicious circumstances, clutching a clue to the past. He contacts his former lover Lydia Brooke, herself an author, asking her to ghostwrite the final chapters of his mother's book. She reluctantly accepts, and soon finds herself involved in a mystery which includes violence and murder that cross over from the 17th century into the current millennium. As Lydia continues her search for the truth behind Newton's involvement with alchemy and how it might relate to conspiracies she suspects are part of the past, she is also faced with secrets that may be intruding into her personal life. If you enjoy fiction that takes you back into history and is entwined with current times, I highly recommend Stott's debut novel. (Spiegel & Grau, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Carol.*



The Good Guy By Dean Koontz

Tim Carrier is a guy who tries to live under the wire. Then one evening, while sitting in his neighborhood bar, he is mistaken for a hit man and handed an envelope with \$10,000 and a picture of the intended female victim. When the real hit man arrives Tim buys a little time by saying he's changed his mind and gives the man the money anyway for his trouble. This gives him just enough time to warn the woman, and suddenly they're off on a frantic flight for their lives because no one aborts this vicious guy's missions. A fast pace, lots of clever twists, and great characterization make this a very entertaining read. (Random House, \$27.00/\$24.30) *Reviewed by Susan DeRyke.*

High Country By Willard Wyman

Willard Wyman has been a wrangler guide and packer in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Sierra Nevada High Country for over forty years. His novel **High Country** brings you so close to the packer's life you can smell the leather, sweat, and oil, and deftly conveys the difficulties of re-entering "civilization" for men more at home in the saddle than in society. During the Great Depression, young Ty Hardin is sent from his family's failing Montana ranch to learn from the last of the great packers, ultimately ending up in the High Sierra where he becomes a legend in his own right. (University of Oklahoma Press, \$24.95/\$22.45) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

Jake Fades, a Novel of Impermanence By David Guy

This quiet novel illuminates the practice of sitting in meditation. One's attention to breath can lead to an ultimate simplification in life. There are people out there who just can't let it be that easy though, and Hank's one of them, with all the usual doubts and distractions. That's why he's always been grateful to have a teacher like Jake. Jake's been a bike mechanic and a Zen master for years, and, at 78, he looks the part: robes, bald head, the works. But with Jake's Alzheimer's on the rise, Hank occasionally ponders whether it's the condition or Zen-like clarity that he's witnessing. The two of them cover a lot of ground in Cambridge, Mass., where a Zen center (designed with Jake in mind) will hold a challenging "zazen" meditation retreat. In preparation, they frequent cheap restaurants, connect with people, stay at the Y, and, of course, sit - you know, that terrifying act of sitting still, where your mind races around like a rickety slot car. Jake leads Hank, and

us, on a voyage into consciousness. (Trumpeter Books, \$19.95/\$17.95) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

Mister Pip By Lloyd Jones

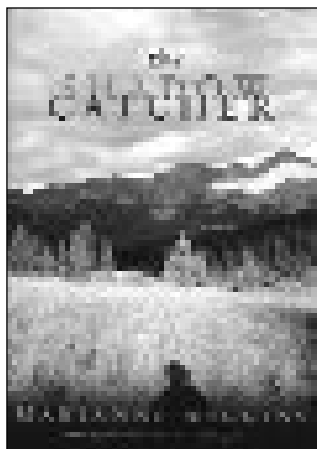
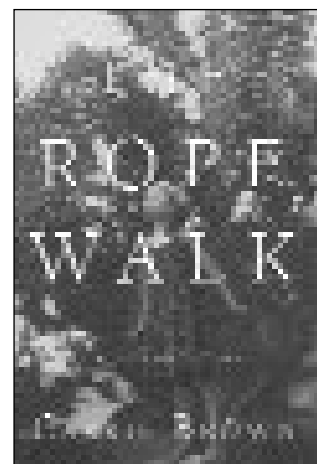
Thirteen-year-old Matilda tells a story of her island village off the coast of Australia and how Mr. Watts ignites her classroom by reading excerpts from Charles Dickens' **Great Expectations**. After the young men of the village have fled to the mountains to join the rebel army and fight against the "redneck" invaders, the school is abandoned by the teachers. Then an eccentric white man invites the children back into their classroom and mesmerizes them with daily readings from his version of Charles Dickens' classic. This inspires the young students to learn without being afraid to ask questions, and also invites family members to share experiences, some of which include old island myths. When the rednecks return to the village, life becomes a nightmare for Matilda. She makes her escape from the island and reunites with her father, where she finally fulfills her dream of completing her education and meeting the "real" Charles Dickens. (Dial Press, \$20.00/\$18.00) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Oystercatchers By Susan Fletcher

Fletcher's new novel is told through the recollections of older sister Moira while she visits her younger sibling Amy, now sixteen years old and hospitalized in a coma resulting from an accident. Moira remembers having all the attention from her parents during her childhood until age 11, when Amy arrives as a newborn into the family and becomes the new object of her parents' love. Sent to boarding school where she becomes a loner among her classmates, Moira finds ways to deal with the loneliness surrounding her, and finds romance and a relationship with Ray. Although this is a story of loneliness and envy, it brings Moira back to Amy in a spiritual way, healing family ties and mending a broken relationship in her marriage. Coming in August. (W.W. Norton, \$23.95/\$21.56) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Raven Black By Ann Cleeves

Set in a remote hamlet on the Shetland Islands, this well written suspense novel will delight fans of Dagger Award winners. On a freezing January morning, under a deep blanket of snow, a small village will soon wake up to a shocking death. Ravens circling above the strangled body of a local teenage girl set inspector Perez on a roller coaster ride of an investigation. The prime suspect is Magnus Tait, a recluse and a simpleton. This is a sinister, psychological novel with countless twists and turns. I enjoy a



surprise ending, and **Raven Black** does not fail to deliver one. (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Margaret.*

The Rope Walk By Carrie Brown

The words on the pages of this book had me watching a picture in motion as Brown's beautifully written images brought the story to life. During a summer in Vermont, 10-year-old Alice meets Theo, a boy of mixed-race from New York City visiting his grandparents. Together they form a friendship with Kenneth, an adult artist suffering from AIDS. This is an emotional story of two children, each searching for their own identity and finding it together while bonding with a gentle man in need of their caring friendship. (Pantheon Books, \$24.00/\$21.60) *Reviewed by Carol.*

The Shadow Catcher

By Marianne Wiggins

Set at the turn of two different centuries, two loosely connected narratives explore the love that families share and the loss felt when fathers disappear. What begins as an historical novel examining the life of photographer Edward Curtis, whose famous portraits immortalized the weathered faces of Native Americans in the early 20th century, quickly comes to focus on the hardships his wife and children endured when he left them behind for a love affair with a camera. Wiggins weaves in her own modern relationship with Curtis as an historical figure, falling in and then very much out of love with him as she re-visits her troubled past with her own father. A reflective and beautifully descriptive read. (Simon & Schuster \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Ashley.*

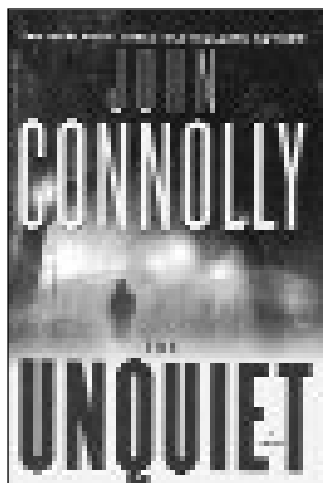
The Sonnet Lover By Carol Goodman

Although this is the first Goodman novel I have read, I have put her previous ones on my list to read very soon. In the author's most recent book, Rose Asher is a New York college literature professor. When her star student mysteriously dies following a preview of the amateur Shakespearean film he was hoping to have produced in Hollywood, the question is whether Robin's death was a suicide or a murder. After receiving a disturbing poem and then an offer to be a consultant for the filming of Robin's film in Italy, Rose agrees to return to Florence where she had been a student twenty years earlier. When Rose arrives and finds her former Italian lover Bruno Brunelli still in residence, she meets with him and together they become involved in a mystery that includes murder, deceit, and romantic intrigue. (Ballantine Books, \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Carol.*

The Unquiet

By John Connolly

John Connolly masterfully intertwines secret lives, secret sins, emotion, and violence in this gripping page-turner. This novel is fast-paced, hypnotic, and elegantly written. Private Investigator Charlie Parker is back for his fifth appearance to investigate what starts out as a simple missing persons case. It soon escalates into a chilling dive that will haunt the reader long after the last page is turned; a story of never-ending evil whose ending is not yet written. (Atria, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Margaret.*



and other crises - including WWI and the introduction of "clinical" birthing methods - ensue. This story is perfect for curling up with in your favorite chair and reading in one long pleasant sitting. (Vintage Canada, \$14.95/\$13.45) *Reviewed by Serenity.*

Plum Wine By Angela Davis-Gardner

Barbara Jefferson is a young American woman teaching English literature at a college in Tokyo in the 1960s. Michi, her Japanese friend and colleague, dies suddenly and bequeaths to her a camphor tansu containing bottles of homemade plum wines with rice paper wrappings dated each year from 1939 to 1966. This event begins a search for Michi's past as well as some of her more recent life. Barbara's efforts to translate the letters contained in the rice paper wrappings lead her into a romantic relationship with Seiji, a Japanese potter who agrees to help with the translating. The papers reveal a painful past for Michi surrounded by the harrowing 1945 bombing of Hiroshima, and Barbara's trust in Seiji begins to waver when she discovers edited and missing parts in his translations. Recommended for a good summer read. (Dial Press, \$13.00/\$11.70) *Reviewed by Carol.*

**New in Paperback****Adverbs**

By Daniel Handler

This novel is about every sticky and delicious part of love, from the cold nuts and bolts to the warm cozy slide into love. It is about falling in love in an instant and about falling out of love over years, it is about taxi-cabs and volcanoes and every hero and wimp that comes with them. This is a book you want to embrace and sleep with, one arm flung over it to protect it from the night. It is best read when you're in love, but even out of love it will make you tingle with the force of the words. And you can't follow all the Joes, or the Davids or the Andreas, you can't follow Adam or Allison or Keith, up to Seattle or down to San Francisco or across - three thousand miles, as the bird flies - to New York City, and anyway they don't matter. It is just, well, brilliant. What is there not to love? (Harper, \$13.95/\$12.56) *Reviewed by Cassie.*

**Pretty Little Mistakes**

By Heather McElhatton

Have you ever wished you could go back and choose door number two? In this "do-over" novel you can do just that: it has one beginning and then over one hundred choices to make (and re-make if you choose) along the way. Throughout the novel you will be faced with many tricky choices that could turn out exactly the way you hope or exactly the opposite of that. Some are easier than others. From choosing where to move to whom to marry, no decision is left out. So when you decide to read this book, I wish you the best of luck with your new and exciting life. (HarperCollins, \$14.95/\$13.45) *Reviewed by Kelsey.*

Birth House

By Ami McKay

This is the story of Dora Rare, the first daughter to be born in five generations of Rares. As a child in an isolated village in Nova Scotia, she is drawn to Miss Babineau, an outspoken Acadian midwife with a gift for healing. Dora becomes Miss B.'s apprentice, and together they help the women of Scots Bay through difficult labors, breech births, domestic violence, and emerging male-dominated birthing practices that leave more women ill than not. On the eve of Dora's marriage to Archer Bigelow, the midwife disappears, leaving Dora her practice. A tough marriage, many difficult births, having to raise a patient's baby thrust on her without warning,

**Whistling in the Dark**

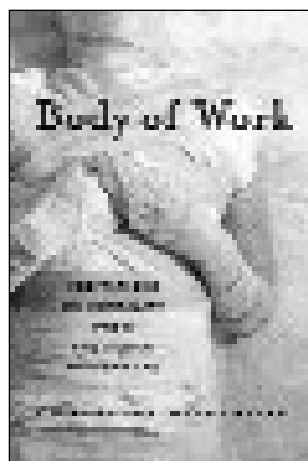
By Lesley Kagen

Kagen's ability to show us how a child interprets her world is fascinating and funny and scary. She gives her heroine, Sally, such courage and humor that her tale of abandoned children and a child molester on the loose becomes an adventure, a mystery and a book you can't put down until the last page is turned. (New American Library, \$13.95/\$12.56) *Reviewed by Anne.*

Hardcover

Body Of Work By Christine Montross

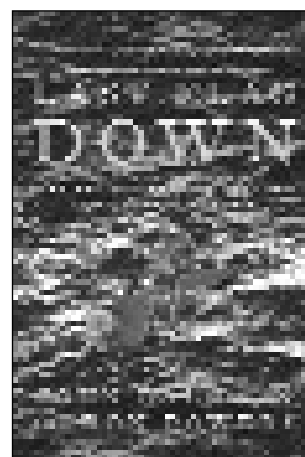
Subtitled “**Meditations on Mortality from the Human Anatomy Lab**”, **Body of Work** is a touching view into the day-to-day work of first-year medical students in their devoted quest to become knowledgeable about the human body. On the first day of class, the author begins as most do, trying to distance herself, but she can't help but feel gratitude to the woman who has donated her body so that she can learn her profession. This book is meant to chronicle the struggles and joys of being a student doctor, and gives a very interesting perspective on what many of us consider macabre or morbid. For readers of **Stiff**, or anyone who has ever had an interest in the medical profession, this book is for you. (Penguin Press, \$24.95/\$22.45) *Reviewed by Chase.*



Burning Man: Art in the Desert

By A. Leo Nash

For one week in August the Burning Man Festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert brings people together in a spirit of self-reliance and creativity. Art has become the defining feature of Burning Man, and the most compelling works are large-scale constructions that are burned at the end of the festival. Art at Burning Man, like the experience of being there itself, is a way of moving outside routine existence: people return home rejuvenated and inspired to seek ways to express the spirit of the festival in their everyday lives. For more than a decade, Nash has been creating a photographic document of this work, and in his photographs we see the wellspring of a new art movement. (Harry N. Abrams, \$29.95/\$26.95) *Reviewed by Susan DeRyke.*



Crashing Through By Robert Kurson

If you want a journey into the life of a blind man who braves new scientific research that could restore his vision, then you must read this incredible account. Mike May lost his sight at age three when a playful childhood chemical experiment exploded. May is determined to grasp the life he hopes to find in his early "dark" years and becomes a champion skier, the first blind intelligence analyst for the CIA, a traveler to Ghana living with



natives in a mud hut, and finally an inventor to bring GPS to the blind. Kurson reaches into May's soul with this heart-wrenching portrayal of a man who won't accept what fate has taken away from him and what science might possibly be able to restore. Reading this book was a truly humbling experience and one I recommend. (Random House, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Last Flag Down

By John Baldwin and Ron Powers

In 1864 during the late days of the War Between the States, the Confederacy asked England for help in the form of ironclad ships that could smash the Union blockade and restore trade between Southern states and England. *The Shenandoah*, a raider ship outfitted with a misfit crew, set out to sea to search for and destroy Union ships. For over a year they engaged in cat-and-mouse games with the Northern enemy. After destroying several dozen ships and capturing more than a thousand prisoners, they received news in August, 1865, that the war had ended months earlier with a Union victory and their vessel and crew were being hunted as pirates. The reader will follow their 15,000-mile journey in search of sanctuary, and be challenged to answer the question that could seal their fate. Whatever the heritage left to us by our ancestors, or whatever our ethics of war may be, this is a compelling story in our country's history about some who believed they were destined to do the right thing. (Crown Publishers, \$25.95/\$23.36) *Reviewed by Carol.*

Left To Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

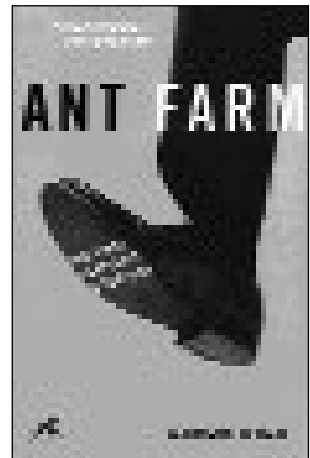
By Immaculee Ilibagiza

This unbelievable-yet-true story of the ordeal faced by eight Rwandan women during the 1994 genocide is told by Ilibagiza who was 22 years old at the time and home from college to spend Easter with her family when Rwanda's Hutu president died. She survived the ensuing massacre of almost one million ethnic Tutsis - including her family members - by hiding in a tiny bathroom with seven other women for 91 days. Ilibagiza's powerful faith in and strong connection to God transform what could have been an unbearably devastating account into an inspiring and buoyant tale of courage. (Hay House, Inc., \$14.95/\$13.46) *Recommended by Lydia.*

**Muhammad:
A Prophet for Our Time**

By Karen Armstrong

Learning many of the details surrounding the development of Islam from this book has forever altered my views and understanding of this Middle Eastern faith. Written by former Catholic nun and religious history buff Karen Armstrong, **Muhammad** presents strikingly lucid and factual evidence of the socio-political and economic events that Muhammad was facing. Regardless of faith or belief, if you like an exciting and well-crafted tale of scholarly work, tuck this book in your knapsack and read a chapter a day. Over the following sixty years Muhammad built a thriving spiritual community, laying the foundations of a religion that gave his followers “a mission: to create a just and decent society, in which all members were treated with respect.” He taught tolerance toward Jews and Christians. Armstrong’s immaculately researched biography will enable readers to better understand the origins and spirituality of a faith that is all too often misrepresented as cruel, intolerant, and inherently violent. An acclaimed authority on religious and spiritual issues, Armstrong offers a balanced, in-depth portrait, revealing the man at the heart of Islam by dismantling centuries of misconceptions. (HarperCollins, \$21.95/\$19.75) *Reviewed by Serenity.*



Rainbow’s End By Lauren St John

“On January 9, 1978, guerillas burst into the house on Rainbow’s End Farm and slaughtered four people, one of which I sat beside in school”, writes the author in this heart-wrenching memoir of war, tragedy, and eventual redemption on the Rainbow’s End Farm in war-torn Rhodesia. St John’s family is the only family to stay behind after the massacre, and they take over the compound that was once shared by so many families. Her stories of being a child in the African wilderness set the stage for the rest of her life and the eventual realization that she and her family were on the wrong side of the civil war. Those of us who have read **Out of Africa** know just how mentally breathtaking Africa can be, and how it can be a land of many troubles, both foreign and domestic. (Scribner, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Chase.*

**A Year Without “Made in China”:
One Family’s True Life Adventure
in the Global Economy**

By Sara Bongiorni

When confronted with the overwhelming domination of Chinese-made products (many formerly made in

the US) in our marketplace, how do you react? If you’re journalist Bongiorni, you take a stand by boycotting anything made in China for a year. That’s just what she did, along with her initially reluctant husband and two small, and often disappointed, children. Most toys, stuffed animals, and definitely all light sabers are made in China, as well as kitchen appliances, computer parts, and pretty much everything else we take for granted, like shoes. Bongiorni’s account documents the difficulty of avoiding the manufacturing titan, while exploring some of the larger issues of global sustainability, personal responsibility, and what we truly “need.” (John Wiley and Sons, Inc., \$24.95/\$22.46) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

**Paperback
Ant Farm and Other
Desperate Situations**

By Simon Rich

Imagine the ride home for Abraham, after not sacrificing Isaac...is it a little strained? You bet! “How about some ice cream, son? Rocky Road?” This collection of shorts explores the uncertain and hilarious terrain of human experience. Irreverent, a unique blend of adolescence and world-weary wisdom, this book is “un-put-down-able.” Be fully prepared to re-read many of these stories, most of which practically demand to be read out loud. The former president of *The Harvard Lampoon*, Rich pulls up big rocks, revealing the cringing, squiggly reality below the surface, often poking at it with a stick. I truly enjoy the heck out of this collection, and you will too: I adore the bit about the day calculators are introduced! (Random House, \$12.95/\$11.66) *Reviewed by Lydia.*

A Sense of the World

By Jason Roberts

This is the remarkable story of the life of James Holman, who, in the early 1800s, traveled the globe, alone and completely blind, and published his travels in detail for a captivated world audience. He became a medical doctor, pioneered the practice of writing for the blind, and joined the Knights of Windsor. 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. (Harper Perennial, \$14.95/\$13.45) *Reviewed by Jeff Sparksworthy.*



Science Fiction

Look for changes in our Science Fiction/Fantasy section. We are putting in a shelf of "What is New" books so that regular readers of sci-fi/fantasy can quickly and easily find new releases.

Old Man's War

By John Scalzi

I had a friend recommend Scalzi to me, so I took a copy of **Old Man's War** on a trip. When John Perry turned 75, he joined the army, the Colonial Defense Forces. You join the CDF never to return to earth, but to serve two years in combat, then perhaps homestead on one of the hard-won planets. Of course at 75 this wouldn't be possible; but with a new, enhanced body this is doable. Inventive and packed with military action. The next book in the series, **Ghost Brigades**, is now available and I look forward to reading it. (Tor, \$6.99/\$6.29 and \$7.99/\$7.19) The final volume **Last Colony** is available in hardcover. (Tor, \$23.95/\$21.55) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



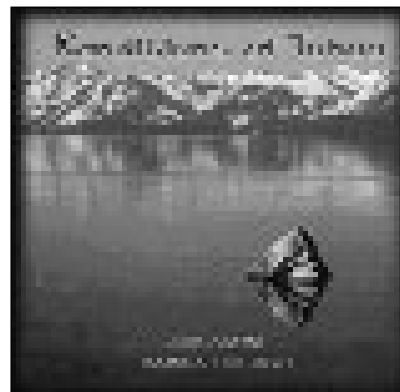
Share a book:

When my brother returned **Old Mans War**, he gave me one of his picks: **A Walk in the Woods** by Bill Bryson. I'd never had time to read it, but what a funny book! I laughed and was educated at the same time, and really enjoyed reading about his hiking adventures on the Appalachian Trail. Bryson writes with a beautiful attention to descriptive detail so that you feel you are there. (Anchor Books, \$7.99/\$7.19) *Reviewed by Debbie.*

Every year we read lots of new books and a few become favorites that we pass on year after year. Stop by and ask us what our new favorite picks are.

What's new this summer at the Bookshelf?

The answer is art puzzles are back in stock, beautiful 1000-piece puzzles with pictures from Pomegranate: California Poppies, Van Gogh Irises, Frank Lloyd Wright's Pencils; from the Sierra Club, Wildflowers; and from White Mountain Puzzles, Playtime Bears, Horses, Birds, Trees – just the thing for an afternoon or evening out of the sun. (\$14.95 to \$17.95)



Regional

Driven Out: the Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans

By Jean Pfaelzer

An important new work on California - and particularly Truckee - history, **Driven Out** has just been published. Author Pfaelzer presented a slideshow and spoke about her work at the Chinese Herb Shop on the Truckee River in June. We haven't had time to read it yet, but the book looks incredible. From the book jacket: "The systematic 'ethnic cleansing' of Chinese Americans in California and the Pacific Northwest in the second half of the nineteenth century is a shocking - and virtually unexplored - chapter of American history... Drawing on years of groundbreaking research, Jean Pfaelzer reveals how, beginning in 1849, lawless citizens and duplicitous politicians purged dozens of communities of thousands of Chinese residents - and how the victims bravely fought back. This is an account of racial pogroms, purges, roundups, and brutal terror, but also a record of valiant resistance and community. This deeply resonant and eye-opening work documents a significant and disturbing episode in American history. It is a story that defines us as a nation and marks our history and humanity." (Random House, \$27.95/\$25.16) *Recommended by Carol.*

Renditions of Tahoe

By Juan Acosta, Beata & Eric Jarvis

Renditions of Tahoe is a compilation of images by three fine-art photographers from Lake Tahoe. The photographs are beautiful, and it is priced and sized to make a great gift or souvenir of Tahoe. (AC Stephen, \$19.95/\$17.96) *Reviewed by Susan DeRyke.*

Poetry

The People Look Like Flowers at Last

By Charles Bukowski

Unlike Bukowski's normal black-coffee-bitter work, this new collection of poetry has a slightly sweeter side. Bukowski weaves words together about his childhood, singing canaries, ancient love, soup, cosmos, and tears, fingernails, nostrils, and shoelaces. Bukowski was quoted to say that if he succeeded, this collection would be read long after he was dead, and indeed the drunken cynic we all love to hate is most certainly a success. These poems show us that perhaps Bukowski too has grown into a flower...a Venus flytrap luring you in with his words. (HarperCollins, \$27.50/\$24.75) *Reviewed by Diana.*

Gift Ideas

Fly Now By Joanne Gernstein London

This book is based on the exhibit at the Smithsonian this summer, which tells the story of flight and air travel in poster art form, from 1827 to 2007. Reminiscent of the book **The Art of Skiing** which we recommended at Christmas, this colorful work of air travel posters includes rare archival material. If you are an aeronautical history buff this is a must-have. (National Geographic Society, \$25.00/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



For the Love Of Letters

By Samara O'Shea

I would like to meet a person who does not let out a mental squeal of delight when they receive a letter, or even a card in the mail. But how hard is it to sit down and write a serious heart-felt letter without sounding cheesy or cliché? And how do you write a love letter anyway? This amazing book gives structure for even the hardest letters, from a simple thank-you-for-dinner to a somber letter of sympathy and reassurance. (HarperCollins, \$19.95/\$17.95) *Reviewed by Chase.*



The Homecoming By Ray Bradbury

This is a re-release of Bradbury's gothic short story in a wonderfully illustrated small hardcover. Timothy and his family await the homecoming of their ghoulish relatives for a joyous and somewhat creepy reunion. Dave McKean's off-the-wall illustrations bring new life to Bradbury's eerie prose. For all ages. (HarperCollins, \$14.95/\$13.46) *Reviewed by Eric.*



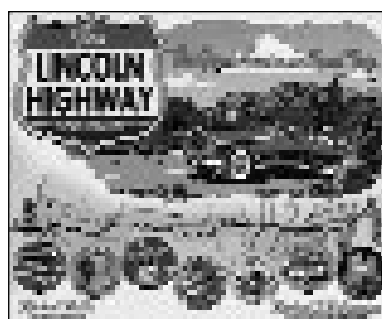
Spirit of the Wild By Steve Bloom

Animals singly and in herds, up close and personal, decorate this book of stunning photographs. Traveling photographer Bloom has made an art of exploring the natural world, much of which is disappearing: birds in flight, a polar bear alone on the ice with the northern lights in the background, Alaskan bears in mid-stream waiting for salmon. The author has added commentary about his photographs and quotes from authors you will recognize (Gandhi, Darwin, and Emily Dickinson to name a few). This is the perfect gift or a book for you to enjoy. (Thames & Hudson, \$34.95/\$31.45) *Reviewed by Debbie.*



World Party By Rough Guides

From the legendary bareback Palio horse race in Siena, Italy, and the Monaco Grand Prix, to lesser known celebrations such as Hogmanay (a wild New Year's mix of fireworks, whisky, music, and mass dancing in Edinburgh, Scotland) and the pilgrimage festival of Ben Aissa Mousselem honoring the Prophet's Birthday in the



Islamic lunar calendar in Meknes, Morocco, this jam-packed compendium of international revels has all the specifics of dates and locations for your favorite party-goer as well as stunning - and sometimes startling - photographs for your favorite armchair traveler. Irresistible. (Rough Guides Ltd., \$24.99/\$22.50) *Reviewed by Pam.*

Squaw Valley Community of Writers

Poetry Conference: July 21-28

Writers & Screenwriters Conference: August 4-11



See the website for details:
www.squawvalleywriters.org

E V E N T S

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 7:00 p.m.

BOOKSHELF AT HOOLIGAN ROCKS

slideshow with **Laird Blackwell**, author of **Tahoe Wildflowers: a month-by-month guide to wildflowers in the Tahoe Basin and Surrounding Areas**

(Falcon Press, \$14.95/\$13.45)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 4:00 P.M.

BOOKSHELF AT HOOLIGAN ROCKS

Come meet the man who played the voice of the Sheriff in Disney's "Cars":

Signing and discussion with **Michael Wallis**, author of **The Lincoln Highway**

(WW Norton, \$39.95/ \$35.96)

"Connect the country!" cried the president of the Packard Motor Company and the founder of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and so the 3,389 stretch of winding beauty named after our 16th President was born. Wallis' book is crammed with history, trivia, and tons of classy black and white photos, and is your perfect map from the past to the present, from the East Coast to the West. Due July 9th. *Reviewed by Cassie.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1:00-3:0 P.M.

BOOKSHELF AT THE BOATWORKS

Todd Borg will be signing copies of his new book, **Tahoe Silence**

(Thriller Press, \$16.95/\$15.26)