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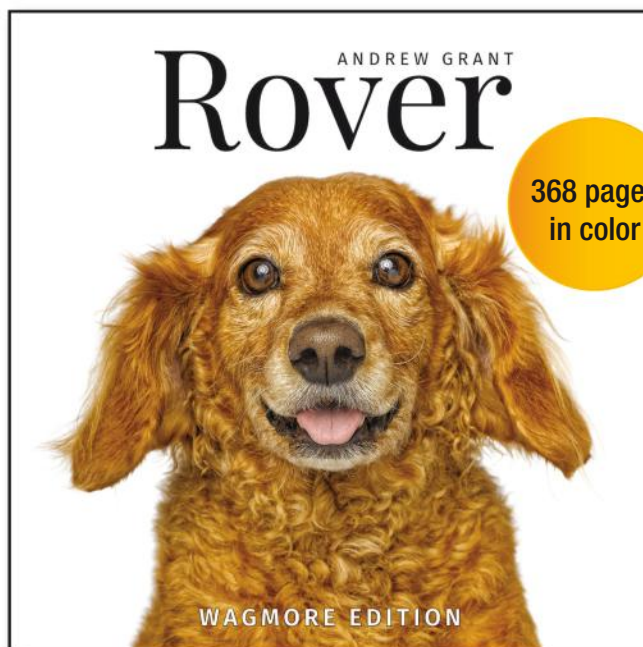


WAGMORE EDITION

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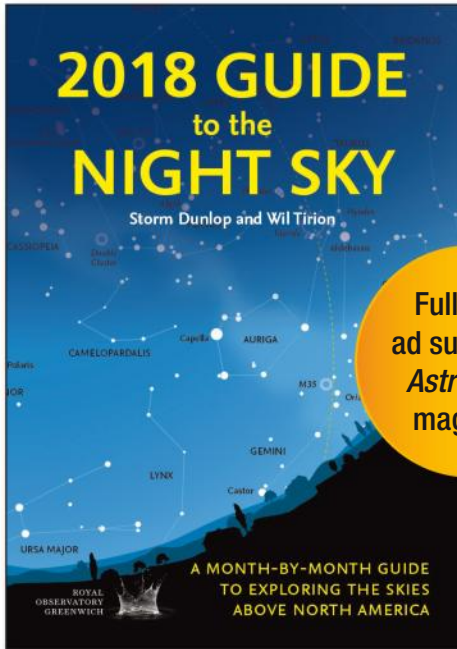
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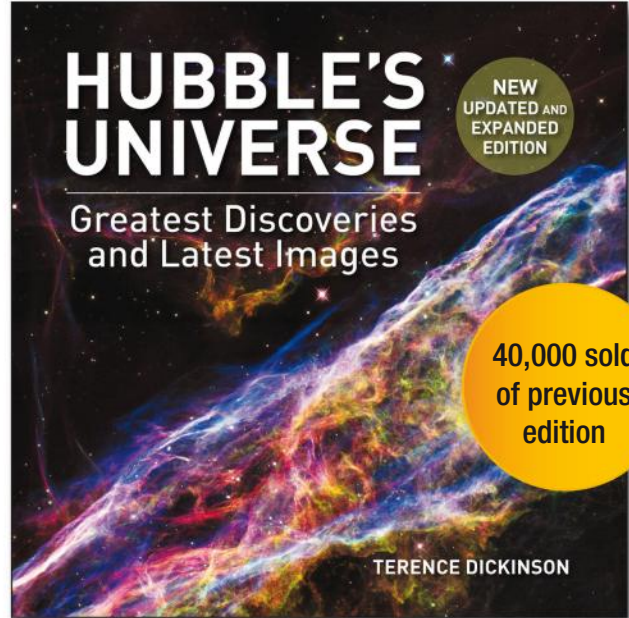
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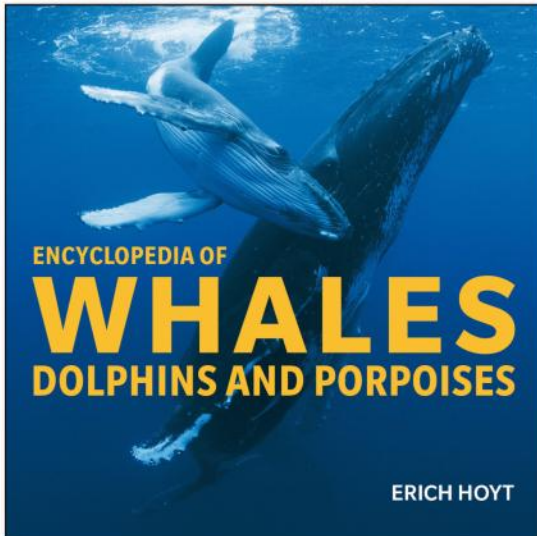


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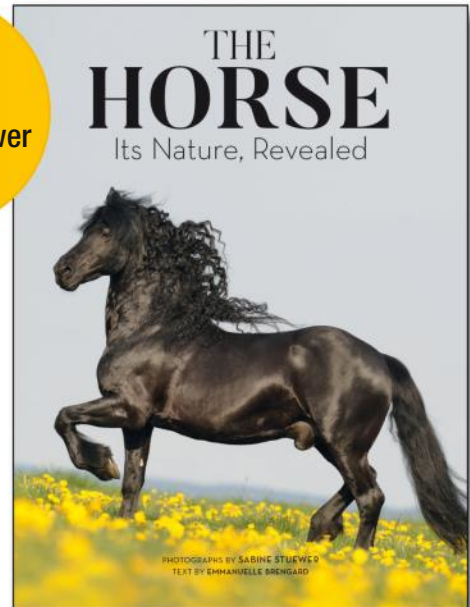
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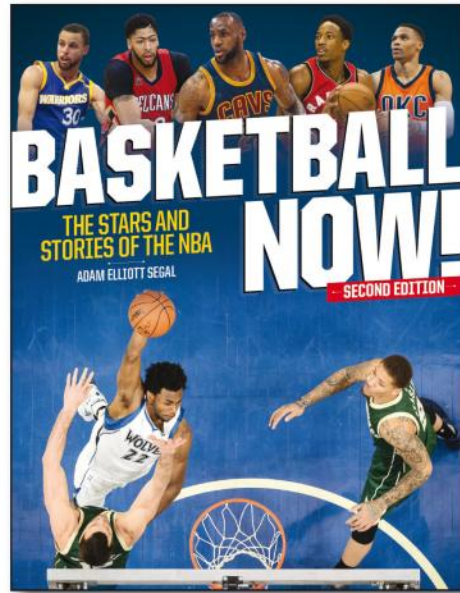
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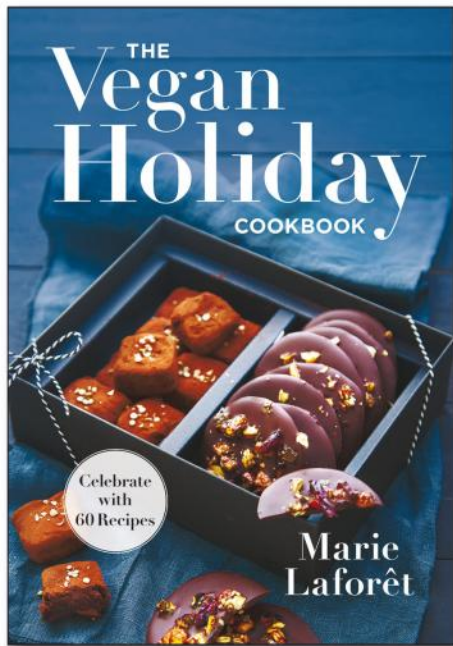
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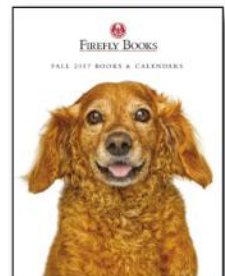
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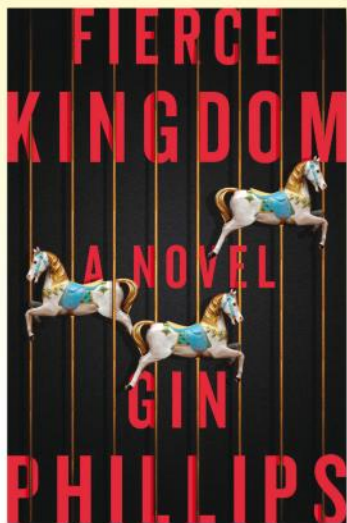


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Publishers Weekly Pick of the week

Trouble at the Zoo



★ Fierce Kingdom

Gin Phillips. Viking, \$25 (288p) ISBN 978-0-7352-2427-8

In this harrowing thriller from Phillips (*Come in and Cover Me*), set at a zoo in an unnamed city, one second Joan is pressing her four-year-old son, Lincoln, to pack his action figures so that they can get out by closing time, and the next gunshots ring out—turning their pleasurable afternoon routine into a parent’s worst nightmare. Over the next three hours, Joan struggles to keep her tired, cranky preschooler quiet as she attempts to find a safe hiding place or escape route. She discovers that others are similarly trapped, and that there are apparently multiple shooters, who regard their prey—both human and animal—with no more compassion than if they were targeting Lincoln’s plastic heroes and villains. In passages of unexpected beauty, Joan flashes back to earlier moments in her relationship with her son. In one poignant scene, a colobus monkey seemingly mourns its slain comrade (“standing so close that its long white fur mixes with the fur of the dead one, and Joan cannot tell where one stops and the other starts”). A searing exploration of motherhood at its most basic, this all-too-plausible horror story may haunt even readers with steely nerves and strong stomachs. *Author tour. Agent: Kimberly Witherspoon, InkWell Management. (July)*

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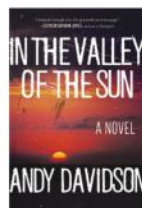
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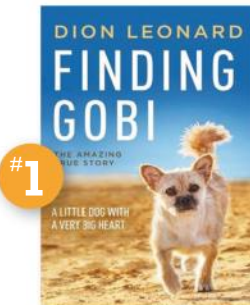
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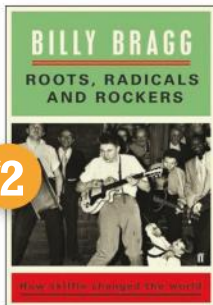
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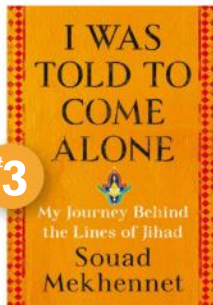
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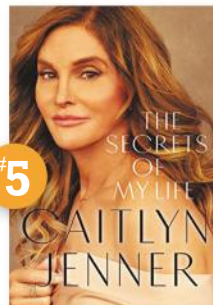
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From the Newsletters

Tip Sheet

10 essential African novels, picked by five African authors who have excellent new books coming out this spring.
publishersweekly.com/africanovels

Children's Bookshelf

Announcing the first three books to be published by Rick Riordan Presents, Riordan's new imprint at Disney Hyperion.
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Religion BookLine

How the Trump presidency is (and isn't) affecting acquisition and publishing strategies at Christian publishing houses.
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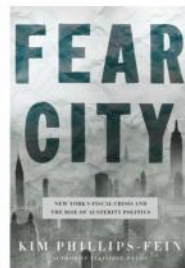
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PW Radio

Kim Phillips-Fein discusses her new book, *Fear City: New York's Fiscal Crisis and the Rise of Austerity Politics*. PW's v-p of business development, Carl Pritzkat, recaps the PubTech Connect conference.
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Week Ahead

PW senior writer Andrew Albanese discusses last week's BISG Making Information Pay event and what may lie ahead for industry sales, which one speaker suggested have stabilized.
publishersweekly.com/weekahead

More to Come

Recapping the Diamond Retailer Summit at the C2E2 pop culture convention in Chicago and new initiatives from Marvel and DC, plus a look at the graphic novel adaptation of Marie Kondo's wildly popular bestseller, *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*.
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ShelfTalker

What makes a great book cover for a children's book? One bookseller weighs in.
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ON BOOK TV

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LIVE Sun., May 7, noon – 3 pm ET

Gaithersburg Book Festival
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News

E-tailers Widen Bookselling Edge

The online channel accounted for about 40% of U.S. book purchases in 2016

Even as unit sales of e-books released by traditional publishers fell 14.7% in 2016 compared to 2015, e-tailers' share of all book sales continued to expand their lead over that of bookstores, according to research released by NPD Group BookScan. Based on data drawn from NPD's Books & Consumers Survey of the U.S. public's book-buying habits, e-tailers' share of all book unit purchases hovered around 40% in 2016, little changed from 2015. The share of unit purchases made through bookstores, meanwhile, fell from 37% in 2015 to 33% last year. Sales through mass merchandisers rose slightly between 2015 and 2016.

In 2016, e-tailers were able to hold onto their share of overall unit sales despite the decline in e-book purchases by slightly increasing their share of print book unit sales to approximately 30%. Sales of print books through bookstores slipped slightly, but bookstores still commanded about 40% of print unit purchases in 2016.

Hardcover unit sales overall were up 5% over 2015, out-selling e-books last year for the first time since 2011. (NPD derives its e-book sales through PubTrack Digital, which aggregates e-book unit sales supplied by more than 30 publishers, including the Big 5 trade houses.)

At BISG's Making Information Pay conference held April 21

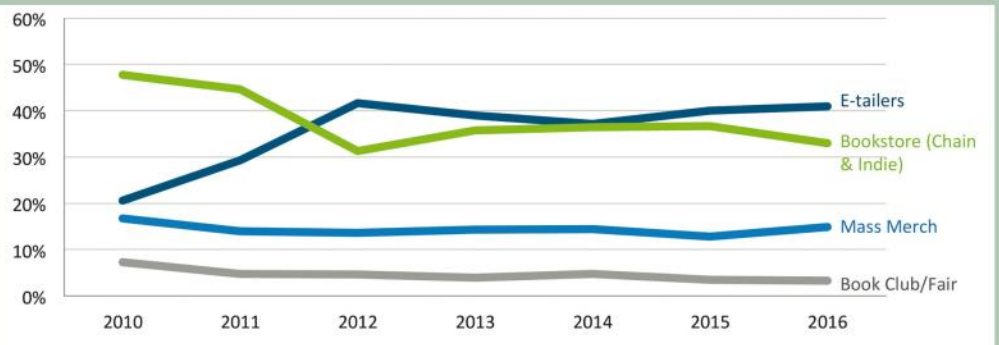
in New York City, David Walter, executive director of client solutions for NPD BookScan, cited two key factors that led hardcover unit sales to overtake those of e-books last year: a general rise in e-book prices—to about \$9 for a trade title—due to the imposition of agency pricing models in 2015, and a general shift away from the use of dedicated e-readers to smartphones for e-book reading. Walter pointed out that publishers did not lose a significant amount of total sales; consumers migrated back to print rather than buying fewer books overall.

Indeed, total unit sales of print and e-book units dipped just 1.4% in 2016. (This figure excludes sales of board books and physical audio; including those formats, sales rose 3.3%.) E-book sales accounted for 22.9% of all unit sales in 2016, down from 25.9% in 2015.

At publishers that report to NPD, unit sales of e-books have fallen steadily since peaking at 243 million units sold in 2013. Still, in 2016, e-book unit sales were up 165.2% from 2010. The format that has seen the most severe long-term decline is mass market paperback, where units are down 46.4% from 2010. That decline would have appeared more severe, but Walmart was added to the BookScan panel in 2013, boosting sales of mass market paperbacks reported to the service.

—Jim Milliot, with reporting by Ed Nawotka

MARKET SHARE BY CHANNEL, 2010–2016 (UNITS)



UNIT SALES BY FORMAT, 2010–2016 (in millions of units)

| YEAR | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | CHANGE 2015 V. 2016 | CHANGE 2010 V. 2016 |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Hardcover | 180 | 167 | 157 | 168 | 173 | 179 | 188 | 5.0% | 4.4% |
| Mass Market Paperback | 110 | 83 | 66 | 80 | 72 | 66 | 59 | -10.6% | -46.4% |
| Trade Paperback | 380 | 356 | 326 | 325 | 339 | 356 | 370 | 3.9% | -2.6% |
| E-book | 69 | 164 | 215 | 243 | 238 | 210 | 179 | -14.7% | 165.2% |

SOURCE: NPD GROUP

Big Job

Parneros Charged with Reversing B&N Sales Slide

As the new CEO of Barnes & Noble, Demos Parneros knows his top priority is to stop the sales slide that has plagued the company's retail stores. Between fiscal 2014 and 2016, sales through the stores fell 6.2%, and they are sure to fall again in the fiscal year ending April 30, 2017. In the first nine months of the current fiscal year, revenue was down 6%. And in a particularly disappointing third quarter (ended Jan. 28, 2017), retail revenue was 7.5% lower than a year ago and comparable store sales were 8.3% lower.

Parneros said the major factor in the sales decline through the bricks-and-mortar stores has been a drop in customer traffic, something that has hurt many other retailers. "All our other metrics are okay," Parneros said. "People love the brand."

BARNES & NOBLE RETAIL REVENUE

(\$ in thousands)

| FISCAL YEAR | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | CHANGE |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Revenue | \$4,295.1 | \$4,108.2 | \$4,028.6 | -6.2% |

SOURCE: PUBLISHERS WEEKLY, BARNES & NOBLE

His early focus will be getting the B&N team to explore ways to drive more people into the stores. Some of that will involve using lessons learned from the three concept stores that B&N has opened since last fall, which feature large cafes that sell beer and wine. Parneros said that while the complete concept store may not be able to be transferred to other outlets, he views the three stores as a great learning platform that can be used to study such things as traffic patterns and section performance. Parneros noted that sections such as gifts and educational toys and games, which have been opened in all B&N outlets, have performed well and can be used to contribute to the company's sales turnaround.

Parneros also acknowledged that some existing stores have aged and may be too large for today's bookselling environment. Since about 100 leases per year are coming up for renewal in the next few years, B&N will have a number of choices regarding its bricks-and-mortar portfolio, he said.

Parneros said he will continue B&N's omnichannel approach to bookselling, but suggested that could undergo some changes. "Different retailers have different definitions of what *omnichannel* means," he said. But B&N will remain committed to offering its customers e-books through the Nook. "Selling e-books is an important part of the end-to-end value proposition that we offer customers," he said.

Parneros took over the reins of B&N from company founder Len Riggio. Riggio, who will remain chairman, had been serving as interim CEO since Ron Boire was dismissed last summer after less than one year on the job. —Jim Milliot

The Weekly Scorecard

Sales at Mass Merchandisers Continue to Bounce Back

The mass merchandiser channel, which had struggled before the runup to Easter, continued its rebound in late April. At outlets that report to NPD BookScan, unit sales through mass merchandisers were 8% higher in the week ended Apr. 23, 2017, than in the comparable week in 2016.

Despite the recent gains, however, sales through the channel were still 7% lower in the period through Apr. 23, 2017, than in the same period in 2016. The gains in the mass merchandiser channel have been accompanied by big increases in sales of board books. Sales of the format jumped 42% higher than the week ended Apr. 24, 2016. Board books continued to place high on both the juvenile fiction and nonfiction bestseller lists, helping unit sales to increase 11% in fiction and 10% in nonfiction. Four board books published by DK landed in the fourth through eighth spots on the juvenile nonfiction bestseller list, selling more than 18,000 copies. In addition to board books, sales of juvenile fiction benefited from continued strong sales of Jay Asher's *Thirteen Reasons Why* and the Netflix tie-in edition, *13 Reasons Why*, which together sold more than 56,000 copies in the week. A second author had one title do well in two editions: Nicola Yoon's *Everything, Everything* sold about 21,000 copies total in its original and movie tie-in editions. Unit sales were 3% higher in the adult nonfiction category than in the comparable week in 2016. Six books landed in the top 10 in their first week on sale. *This Is Our Fight* by Elizabeth Warren was #3 on the category bestsellers list, selling more than 18,000 copies. In first place was *Make Your Bed* by William McRaven, which sold almost 26,000 copies in the week. Despite a good showing in its first week on sale (about 41,000 copies), David Baldacci's *The Fix* couldn't prevent unit sales in the adult fiction segment from falling 2% in the week from the comparable week in 2016.

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CHANNEL (IN THOUSANDS)

| | APR. 24, 2016 | APR. 23, 2017 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Total | 10,406 | 10,803 | 4% | 2% |
| Retail & Club | 8,957 | 9,244 | 3% | 4% |
| Mass Merch./Others | 1,449 | 1,559 | 8% | -7% |

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY CATEGORY (IN THOUSANDS)

| | APR. 24, 2016 | APR. 23, 2017 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Adult Nonfiction | 4,499 | 4,624 | 3% | 2% |
| Adult Fiction | 2,306 | 2,250 | -2% | 2% |
| Juvenile Nonfiction | 816 | 896 | 10% | 1% |
| Juvenile Fiction | 2,472 | 2,754 | 11% | 9% |

UNIT SALES OF PRINT BOOKS BY FORMAT (IN THOUSANDS)

| | APR. 24, 2016 | APR. 23, 2017 | CHGE WEEK | CHGE YTD |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| Hardcover | 2,746 | 2,941 | 7% | 5% |
| Trade Paperback | 5,967 | 6,063 | 1% | 1% |
| Mass Market Paperback | 1,003 | 909 | -9% | -6% |
| Board Books | 446 | 635 | 42% | 9% |
| Audio | 67 | 57 | -15% | -5% |

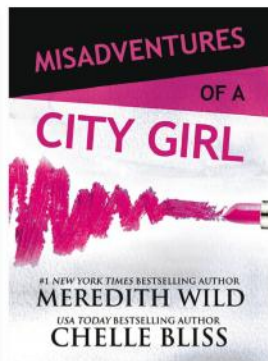
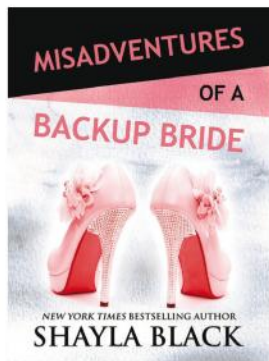


SOURCE: NPD BOOKSCAN AND PUBLISHERS WEEKLY. NPD'S U.S. CONSUMER MARKET PANEL COVERS APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE PRINT BOOK MARKET AND CONTINUES TO GROW.

Big Plans

Waterhouse Press Prepares for Misadventures

Since it was launched in 2014 by bestselling author Meredith Wild, Waterhouse Press has released two romance series that have sold phenomenally well. The company's first series, *Calendar Girl* by Audrey Carlan, saw each of its 12 books reach e-book bestseller lists in the U.S., and the series has become a hit overseas: rights have been sold in 31 countries, and the print versions of *February* and *March* landed at the top of the bestseller list in France at the beginning of 2017. Waterhouse CEO David Grishman noted that, while *Calendar Girl* did very well in e-book editions in the U.S., the print editions have sold better than e-books abroad, where e-book penetration is much lower.



Overall, *Calendar Girl* has sold about 4 million units in English (all formats), and while the series has not yet been released in its entirety in all of the 31 countries, international sales in all formats topped 4 million units by the end of 2016.

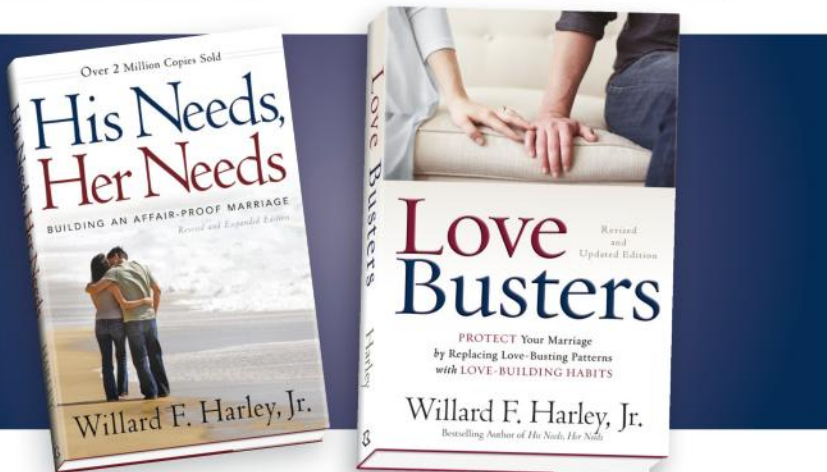
Waterhouse's second major series, the *Steel Brothers Saga* by Helen Hardt, has also seen each of the books released to date hit e-book bestseller lists. Waterhouse acquired the *Steel Brothers Saga* and other Hardt works in November 2015, and since Waterhouse began releasing the line, it has sold more than 1 million copies across all formats worldwide. Grishman expects unit sales to exceed 2 mil-

lion by the end of 2017, with three books still to be released.

Beginning this fall, Waterhouse is hoping for another breakout success with *Misadventures*. As conceived by Wild, *Misadventures* will be fun, quick reads (about 50,000 words) that "will be high on steam, light on plot." The first book in the series will be *Misadventures of a City Girl* by Wild and Chelle Bliss, due out September 12. Seven books are planned for the fall and more for spring 2018. "It will be our flagship product next year," Grishman said. Each of the authors who have signed on to write for *Misadventures* has agreed to do at least three books, but Grishman is hoping that if the line is successful they will do more. His ideal schedule would be to release a *Misadventure* title every few weeks in 2018.

The publication of *Misadventures* will

From the Bestselling author of *HIS NEEDS, HER NEEDS*



Dr. Willard F. Harley, Jr.'s bestselling marriage book *His Needs, Her Needs* has changed millions of couples' lives by teaching them to meet each other's deep emotional needs. In the essential companion book, *Love Busters*—now completely revised and updated—Dr. Harley teaches couples how to identify and overcome common destructive relationship patterns and replace them with positive habits that will strengthen the marriage for a lifetime.

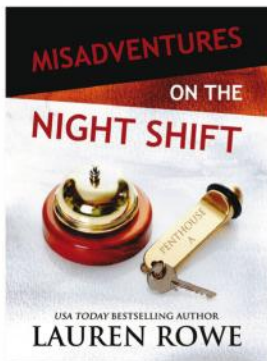
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News Briefs

More Layoffs Hit HMM

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt ramped up its cost-cutting initiatives last week, a process that involved laying off approximately 20 people in its trade division, according to



Hacker was one of the hardest things I have ever done,” Wild said. (She declined to say whether she would like to buy her rights back at some point.)

It is that experience that lets Wild empathize with Waterhouse’s eight other authors. “I know how personal books can be to an author,” she said. Because of

be the first time Waterhouse has released books in hardcover; currently, it has limited print publication to trade paperback. “We think readers may want to collect the books in the series,” Wild explained. Grishman said one of his goals for 2017 is to raise print’s share of Waterhouse’s sales from 16% to 25%.

Wild will cowrite four of the fall Misadventure books and at least one next year. Although she previously sold her self-published Hacker series to Grand Central’s Forever imprint, she said any new books she writes will be done for Waterhouse. “Selling the rights to

that, Waterhouse will continue to promote books well beyond their initial releases and work to build a community of readers for each author. Wild also said Waterhouse’s contracts are different from those of larger houses, although she didn’t disclose details.

To help grow the business, within the past year Waterhouse has added Scott Saunders as managing editor and Jeanne De Vita as development editor; Waterhouse now has a staff of 10. Waterhouse is also taking some functions it has outsourced in the past, such as rights sales, in-house, although it will

continue to use Ingram Publisher Services for print distribution.

For all of its early success, Grishman said Waterhouse is still “fine-tuning [its] process” and that he sees the release of Misadventures as a chance to prove the company isn’t “a one-trick pony.”

—Jim Milliot

AAP} MONTHLY STATSHOT, NOVEMBER

| CATEGORY | CHANGE November | YTD |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Adult Hard | 13.7% | -4.5% |
| Adult Paper | 2.5% | 6.7% |
| Mass Market | 26.1% | 2.7% |
| Physical Audio | -3.3% | -12.5% |
| Audio Download | 47.2% | 28.7% |
| Adult E-book | -9.9% | -14.6% |
| Children’s/YA | 16.2% | 5.8% |
| Religious Presses | 21.7% | 8.6% |
| Professional | -17.7% | -21.1% |
| K-12 Materials | -19.4% | -9.0% |
| Higher Ed. | -15.2% | -11.5% |
| University Presses | 11.4% | -2.5% |

(Comparisons of \$ sales against same periods in 2015)

Adult trade sales rose 6.8% in November 2016, while sales in the children’s/young adult segment jumped 16.2%, according to figures released by the AAP as part of its StatShot program. The November increase in the adult segment was led by a 47.2% gain in sales of digital audiobooks and a 26.1% rise in mass market paperback sales. E-book sales were down 9.9%. Total adult book sales declined 2.1% in the first 11 months of the year, compared to the same period in 2015. In the children’s/YA category, hardcover sales increased 27.4% in November, compared to the year before, and board book sales rose 12.1%. E-book sales were down 27.0% in the month. For the first 11 months of 2016, sales in the children’s/YA category were up 5.8% over the comparable period in 2015. Sales for the 1,207 publishers that report data to AAP rose 1.7% in November, but were down 5.7% in the January–November period, compared to the same span in 2015.



Stars Speak Up For Speech

John Sargent, Rita Dove, Andrew Solomon, Meryl Streep, Stephen Sondheim, Audra McDonald, Suzanne Nossel, and Markus Dohle on the red carpet at the 2017 PEN Literary Gala on April 25 at New York’s Museum of Natural History with signs in support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

sources. There was no word on the number of jobs eliminated in the much bigger educational publishing business. The layoffs came one week after HMH said, in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commis-

sion, that it would be cutting 8%–10% of its workforce as part of a corporate overhaul. At the end of 2016, HMH had about 4,500 employees.

A Boom Year for U.K. Publishing
Released ahead

of the Publishers Association’s annual meeting, the figures in the PA Yearbook, which reports on sales for calendar 2016, presented British publishing as buoyant, with the only fall coming in domestic e-book

sales. The headline figure of a 7% increase in sales, to £4.8 billion, brings British publishing to a record level; once inflation of 1%–2% last year is factored in, real-term growth is still more than 5%.

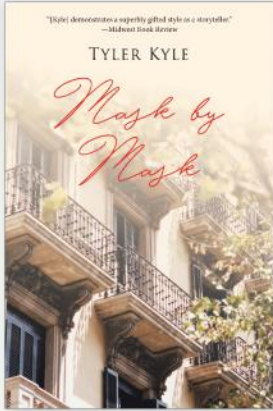
Three Imprints for Quarto

Quarto Publishing Group, the global illustrated book publisher and distribution group, is launching two new U.S. children’s book imprints this season: Seagrass Press

and Words & Pictures. The group will also unveil a new Spanish-language imprint, Quarto Iberoamericana, which is launching in partnership with the Argentina-based Catapulta Editores.

DISCOVER SOMETHING NEW

UNIQUE STORIES AWAIT



MASK BY MASK

Tyler Kyle
www.balboapress.com

978-1-5043-7131-5
 Hardback | \$33.95
 978-1-5043-7132-2
 Paperback | \$16.99
 978-1-5043-7133-9
 E-book | \$3.99

Twenty-eight-year-old Ada, fiercely independent and abashedly carnal, has everything a modern woman could want: a stunning career as a sought-after wedding photographer, fashionable clothes, loyal friends, and a list of lovers rich in body and pocket. Now engaged to her latest conquest, Ada travels to Spain to find the one man she could never seduce to find out what happened the night they met.

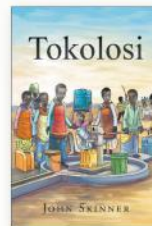


LAVENDERS BLUE

Janet Tyers
www.xlibrispublishing.co.uk

978-1-4931-9391-2 Hardback | \$39.92
 978-1-4931-9389-9 Paperback | \$23.28
 978-1-4931-9390-5 E-book | \$4.99

Jean Ward was an American in the twentieth century. Janette was a French sixteenth-century ghost haunting an old manor, protecting a secret. Jean is transfixed, caught in the whirlwind that propels Jeanette to her purpose—to release her from purgatory.

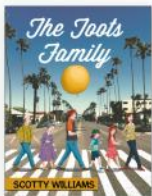


TOKOLOSI

John Skinner
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 978-1-5144-9923-8 Paperback | \$23.28
 978-1-5144-9924-5 E-book | \$4.99

A compelling, entertaining novel, this is a compassionate account of drought-stricken suffering and privation in an imaginary, least-developed African country. People's pleasures and their unexpected perils during that country's emergency further illustrate life at the sharp end and blunter end.

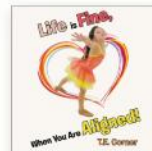


THE TOOTS FAMILY

Scotty Williams
www.xlibris.com

978-1-5144-2694-4 Paperback | \$21.99
 978-1-5144-2693-7 E-book | \$3.99

This book is an enjoyable and funny narration of a child's adventure. Children can look forward to hearing from an old experienced man who gives them a background history of how it was growing up in the good old days.

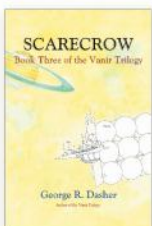


LIFE IS FINE, WHEN YOU ARE ALIGNED!

T.E. Corner
www.balboapress.com

978-1-5043-7492-7 Paperback | \$13.95
 978-1-5043-7493-4 E-book | \$3.99

Kyle is back in the third installment of T.E. Corner's inspirational children's book series. He continues to impress, captivating readers and leaving them with messages that last a lifetime.

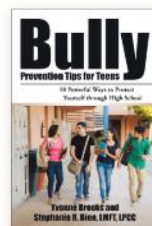


SCARECROW

Book Three of the Vanir Trilogy
 George R. Dasher
www.iuniverse.com

978-1-5320-1929-6 Paperback | \$20.99
 978-1-5320-1928-9 E-book | \$3.99

In *Scarecrow: Book Three of the Vanir Trilogy*, Jarl Hawkins must travel into space to save one of the great, golden colonization ships and prevent the subjugation of the planet by the brutal and all-powerful empire.



BULLY PREVENTION TIPS FOR TEENS

18 Powerful Ways to Protect Yourself through High School
 Yvonne Brooks
www.iuniverse.com

978-1-5320-0769-9 Paperback | \$13.99
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While bullying is not a new social issue, its many serious effects have only recently received deserved attention. This guide provides teenagers and the adults around them with resources and advice to assist them in dealing with bullying.



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Dhan Reddy

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Many children are lucky enough to go fishing. The luckiest ones get to go fishing with their grandpas! In this charming tale, Dinesh and his grandpa go on a quest to catch the world's biggest fish with nothing but a piglet!



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John LaChance

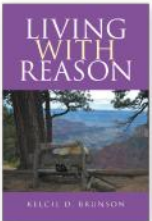
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LIVING WITH REASON

Kelcie D. Brunson

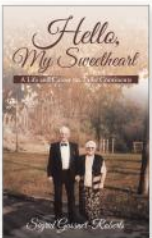
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978-1-5245-6771-2 Hardback | \$29.99

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Life is constantly changing, and over time it brings about a change in each of us. Kelcie Brunson's *Living With Reason* epitomizes this evolution of the spirit which occurs simply by living and going through experiences, both good and bad.



HELLO, MY SWEETHEART

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Sigrid Gassner-Roberts

www.iuniverse.com

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Sigrid Gassner-Roberts's unique memoir evolves from her recollections of narrating her life story to her husband, who lies in a coma after a brain aneurysm. The doctors tell her that he can hear her, so she begins by reminding him of their first date.



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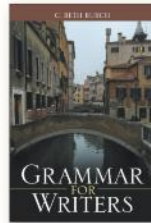
Hua Zhang

www.authorhouse.co.uk

978-1-5246-6768-9 Paperback | \$33.50

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Designed for self-study, this book is designed for English-speaking and French-speaking learners to learn Chinese and for Chinese-speaking learners to learn English and French vocabulary. Each entry has examples arranged into levels consistent with the Common European Framework for Reference for Language (CEFR).



GRAMMAR FOR WRITERS

C. Beth Burch

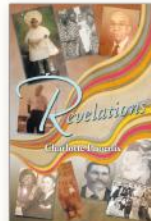
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Whether you're a beginning student, an advanced grammarian, or someone who wants to know more about how language works and how to use it, this lively textbook guides you toward becoming a more thoughtful, confident, and powerful writer.



REVELATIONS

Charlotte Phoenix

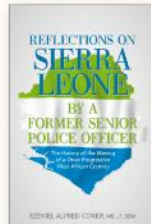
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REFLECTIONS ON SIERRA LEONE BY A FORMER SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

The History of the Waning of a Once Progressive West African Country

Ezekiel Alfred Coker, MR, JP, BEM

www.iuniverse.com

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This memoir and living history discusses the social and political landscape of Sierra Leone before, during, and after its independence, as it eventually succumbs to civil war and political turmoil. An introspective look at a once prosperous West African country.

Deals

BY RACHEL DEAHL

■ O. Henry Winner Takes Latest to Bloomsbury

Lea Beresford at Bloomsbury bought world English rights to **Adrienne Celt's** currently untitled new work, a novel inspired by Vladimir Nabokov's unusual marriage. (The author's wife, *Véra*, put her



© ROSALIND SHIPLEY

own literary career aside to control her husband's, acting as everything from agent to editor and lawyer, the publisher said. **Celt** Despite his reliance on her, he had a series of affairs with other women.) The novel, Bloomsbury went on, is set in the 1920s and '30s and follows a young Soviet refugee who "barely survives the alien landscape of an all-girls New Jersey prep school only to become ensnared in a dangerous love triangle." Celt, who won an O. Henry Award for her 2015 story collection *The Daughters* (Liveright), was represented by **Emma Patterson** at Brandt & Hochman.

■ Brit's American Debut Preempted by Berkley

Executive editor at Berkley **Amanda Bergeron** acquired U.S. rights to British journalist **Katy Regan's** *Little Big Love* in a preempt. The two-book deal was bro-



© LOUIS QUAIL

kered by **Grainne Fox** at Fletcher & Company on behalf of **Lizzy Kremer** at David Higham Associates. The novel has also been acquired in the U.K. (by Pan Macmillan, which will release it under the title *Little Big Man*), Germany, and Italy. It follows a 10-year-old boy who, Berkley said, is obsessed with facts and "launches a mission to uncover the one thing no one will tell him: where his father went." The imprint described the work as "a

layered, heartfelt, and utterly satisfying story about family, love, and the moments that define who we become." Berkley will be releasing the book, which will be Regan's U.S. debut, in summer 2018; Pan Macmillan will be publishing it in the fall.

■ Balzer + Bray Inks Double with Podos

Rebecca Podos sold North American rights to her YA novel *The Psychic Sisters of Saltville* to **Jordan Brown** at



© CARTER HASLEGRAWA

Balzer + Bray. The two-book deal was negotiated by **Lana Popovic** at Chalberg & Sussman. Podos said *Psychic Sisters* is a work of magical realism about a girl from a family whose women all have "premonitions of their own deaths" as teenagers. When the heroine's great-aunt dies, Podos continued, she "is set on a path from the woods of Maine to the forests of Russia to uncover the family's macabre legacy, and begins to wonder whether they're the heroes or the villains of their story." *Psychic Sisters* is slated for winter 2019; the second book in the deal is set for winter 2020.

■ Knopf Kids Picks Up Mather's Next YA

In a two-book, six-figure deal, **Adriana Mather** sold a new YA series to **Melanie Nolan** at Knopf Books for Young



Mather Readers. **Rosemary Stimola** at Stimola Literary Studio, who brokered the North American rights agreement, said the currently untitled series follows a girl named November who winds up at a boarding school that

"boasts an eye-for-an-eye punishment system." At the school, "rumors about ancient family alliances and the historical figures that connect them make it clear November knows less about herself than everyone else—a fact that's especially distressing when a student is found murdered and November is the main suspect." Mather is an actress and author of *How to Hang a Witch* (Knopf, 2016); the first book in this series is set for spring 2019.

■ Summerill Brings Another YA Fantasy to HMH

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's **Sarah Landis** bought North American rights to **Erin Summerill's** YA fantasy, *Once a King*. Summerill was represented by **Josh**



Summerill

Adams at Adams Literary; he said the novel is set in the world of the author's Clash of Kingdoms series (also published by HMH), which follows the travails of teenager Britta Flannery, an expert with a bow and arrow who comes from a line of famous bounty hunters. *Once a King* is about 17-year-old Lirra, who, Adams explained, is "forced on the run with King Aodren after the murder of a high official; together, they must find the true murderer to avert a war among the four kingdoms." The novel is slated for a fall 2018 release.

■ Briefs

Jamie Kiffel-Alcheh, a lyricist and regular contributor to *National Geographic KIDS*, sold world rights to two picture books to **Joni Sussman** at Kar-Ben Publishing. The first book, *Can You Hear a Coo, Coo?*, is set for spring 2018. Kiffel-Alcheh did not use an agent in the deal.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Carl Greer, Ph.D., Psy.D.

Greer brings together psychology and shamanic practice to offer a path toward physical and spiritual healing in his new book, *Change the Story of Your Health*

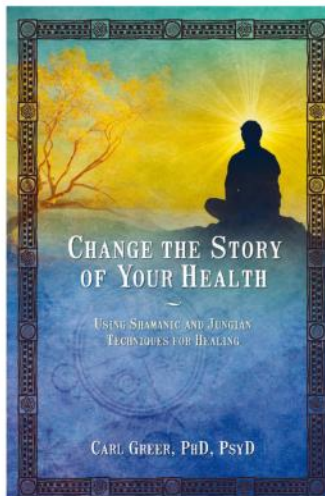
Carl Greer took a winding road to becoming a clinical psychologist, Jungian analyst, and shamanic practitioner. But the transformation he experienced is a testament to many of the practices he extols. After studying metallurgical engineering in college, Greer received a doctorate in finance and management and went on to teach at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business for many years. Later he moved to Chicago to work for an oil company. Throughout his career, though, he always felt strong passions for psychology and spirituality.

Those interests—as well as an experience reading a book on shamanism and healing—led Greer to a revelatory moment on a beach one day: “I experienced a spontaneous sense of being connected with each of the natural elements—water, fire, earth, and air—more deeply than I have ever been. I became aware that they were not inert but rather had a consciousness I could engage,” Greer recalls.

That moment inspired him to pursue shamanic studies and eventually become a teacher. Through making that decision to pivot his life and career, Greer realized that he could change his own story and reconceptualize who he is and what his relationship to his body and health could be. He could become a healthier version of himself.

Greer began sharing his insights in his award-winning 2014 book *Change Your Story, Change Your Life*, and he continues in *Change the Story of Your Health*, which includes more techniques to help readers understand their lives' stories, choose more beneficial ones, and then make those new stories reality. *Change the Story of Your Health* has a specific focus on maintaining wellness while aging, managing chronic conditions, and responding to life-changing events.

“The holistic techniques I feature in the book, which I've used in workshops, are ones people can use on their own,” Greer says. “They can be valuable adjuncts to western allopathic medicine, presenting little or no risk. The practices I recommend may help



people gain deeper insights into their health and offer them a greater sense of well-being—as well as power over their health stories and even relief from physical symptoms. I believe this happens because, somehow, we have the power in our unconscious [minds] to affect our bodies' systems for better or worse.”

Beyond journaling and story conception exercises, the book also delves into some shamanic practices to help explore the energy fields that, according to Greer, intertwine with and influence the physical world (and our health). “Transpersonal realms are where we experience our individual sense of identity blurring as we realize our consciousness is part of a greater unified consciousness,” he says. “They are most accessible when our consciousness is in a nonordinary state—for example, when we are dreaming or meditating. It is here that we can discover possibilities that had previously been hidden to us.”

Greer sees a clear parallel between these realms and well-known psychological concepts; he says, “you might also think of transpersonal realms as the collective unconscious, as psychologist Carl Jung called it.” He posits there is much overlap in how shamanic traditions and Jungian psychology deal with issues of health and understanding the human body's relation to the environment: “both traditions recognize the value of working with the unconscious and have

similar means of doing so. For example, the nature painting or sand painting techniques used in shamanism are similar to Jungian sand tray work: both involve intuitively arranging items to access insights from our unconscious. As readers do the exercises I offer in my book, I think they'll find they are starting to rewrite their health stories to be more satisfying and empowering,” he says.

“There are no guarantees, of course,” Greer continues, “but I believe achieving a greater sense of wellness and better health outcomes is always possible to some degree—and that the practices in *Change the Story of Your Health* can help, no matter what health challenges someone is facing.”

“I believe achieving a greater sense of wellness and better health outcomes is always possible to some degree—and that the practices in *Change the Story of Your Health* can help, no matter what health challenges someone is facing.”

—Carl Greer



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Indie Publishing

At 25, Berrett-Koehler Looks Forward

Berrett-Koehler is celebrating its 25th anniversary this spring, and while the Oakland publisher remains committed to its original vision, that doesn't mean it hasn't adapted to the

changing market. BK continues its process of transitioning from a traditional publishing company to a multimedia enterprise, according to senior communications manager Katie Sheehan. After a big jump in sales in 2015, total revenue at BK was flat last year, said Steve Piersanti, founder of the company. Digital sales rose 2.8% in the year, however, offsetting a decline in print sales that Piersanti attributed to a slight reduction in the output of print titles. BK continues to publish about 40 titles annually, with a focus on business, public affairs, and self-help.

The company has developed a variety of new digital products and services in an effort to connect with readers wherever they are. This includes audiobooks produced in-house and an online directory (BK Expert Directory) that helps companies connect with authors. The company's new audio business, Sheehan noted, contributed more than \$147,000 to revenue last year.

A big part of its digital initiatives last year was BK's partnership with Humble Bundle, the platform that sells bundles of e-books and other products, with a portion of the sale going to charity. BK's agreement with HB last year brought in about \$123,000 in revenue for BK and \$58,000 for charity. BK's Hacking Capitalism book bundle sold 4,606 units, generating \$73,788 in revenue. Of that, BK's cut was \$38,561 and \$18,264 went to charity, primarily to WorldReader. The earlier Be the Boss bundle sold 13,603 units and generated \$162,940 in revenue, \$84,880 for BK

and the balance for WorldReader and other charities.

BK is also hosting its first online summit this October. The Servant Leadership Online Training Summit is

based on a forthcoming February 2018 book, *Servant Leadership in Action*, edited by Ken Blanchard and Renee Broadwell. The summit will be cohosted by Blanchard and is free. During the live broadcasts, which will take place

October 17–26, registrants will tune in to video presentations from 45 leading authors and experts on servant leadership. It will also be recorded and available for purchase.

In addition to its digital projects, BK is repurposing some of its bestselling titles. One of its top personal productivity and time management titles, *Eat That Frog!*, which has sold 1.6 million copies worldwide, will now have companion products, including a workbook, card deck, audiobook, and video program.

BK is also known for its author-friendly practices, including its Author Days; *PW* sat in on one last year. Berrett-Koehler initiated Author Days—in which each author of a BK book makes a daylong visit to the company's headquarters to meet with and make a presentation to the company's staff—roughly 20 years ago.

Even with the ongoing changes, Piersanti said BK is still guided by its original principles: stewardship and a “deep sense of responsibility to administer the publishing company for the benefit of all of our stakeholder groups—authors, customers, employees, suppliers and subcontractors, owners, and the societal and environmental communities in which we live and work.”

—Anisse Gross



By CAROLYN JURIS

FIGHTING CHANCE

Sen. Elizabeth Warren's *This Fight Is Our Fight* debuts at #3 in Hardcover Nonfiction and #5 in the country overall. Warren, formerly a professor at Harvard Law School, has written and coauthored several books, two of them with her daughter, Amelia Warren Tyagi. Each has had a better first week than the last; here's a look.

Elizabeth Warren's First-Week Print Unit Sales

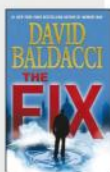


Elected to Senate

NEW & NOTABLE

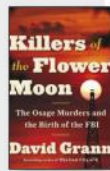
THE FIX

David Baldacci
#1 Hardcover Fiction, #1 overall
Baldacci's third Amos Decker thriller kicks off with an execution-style murder outside of FBI headquarters.



KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON

David Grann
#5 Hardcover Nonfiction
The author of *The Lost City of Z* returns with what our starred review called a "gripping true-crime narrative, which revisits a baffling and frightening—and relatively unknown—spree of murders occurring mostly in Oklahoma during the 1920s."



SHATTERED

Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes
#6 Hardcover Nonfiction
In a book subtitled "Inside Hillary Clinton's Doomed Campaign," the authors of 2014's *HRC* look for the reasons behind what CNN called "the single biggest upset in modern presidential politics."



YOU ARE A BADASS AT MAKING MONEY

Jen Sincero
#12 Hardcover Nonfiction
Sincero follows up 2013's self-help success *You Are a Badass*, which has sold 839K trade paperback copies since its release, with a book that zeroes in on personal finance.



Broadcast News

A pair of self-help-tinged memoirs by two media personalities have landed on our Hardcover Nonfiction list. At #4, and #10 in the country overall, *Note to Self* is the follow-up to YouTuber Connor Franta's 2015 debut, *A Work in Progress*, a paperback original that has sold 219K print copies.

Black Privilege by Charlamagne tha God, whom *Rolling Stone* in 2014 called "hip-hop's Howard Stern," debuts at #6 in Hardcover Nonfiction. The author co-hosts the nationally syndicated radio program *The Breakfast Club* on NYC's Power 105.1 and hosts a weekly call-in talk show on MTV2, *Uncommon Sense Live*.



Movers & Shakers

Make Your Bed by William H. McRaven got a big bump in its third week on sale, with print unit sales up 266%, to 25.7K, boosting the title to #1 in Hardcover Nonfiction and #3 in the country overall. Based on the retired Navy admiral's 2014 commencement speech at the University of Texas at Austin, the book has enjoyed favorable attention from *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, *Fox & Friends*, and others, and ensuing demand sent the book back to press.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, HBO's adaptation of the 2010 book by science journalist Rebecca Skloot, premiered April 22, sending print unit sales of the tie-in edition up 129% from the previous week. The tie-in, which pubbed April 4, makes its first appearance on our Trade Paperback list at #14.



TOP 10 OVERALL

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | THIS WEEK UNITS |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 | The Fix | David Baldacci | Grand Central | 41,360 |
| 2 | Thirteen Reasons Why | Jay Asher | Razorbill | 41,097 |
| 3 | Make Your Bed | William H. McRaven | Grand Central | 25,693 |
| 4 | Old School | O'Reilly/Feirstein | Holt | 19,231 |
| 5 | This Fight Is Our Fight | Elizabeth Warren | Metropolitan | 18,825 |
| 6 | The Woman in Cabin 10 | Ruth Ware | Scout | 17,936 |
| 7 | Milk and Honey | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 17,122 |
| 8 | Oh, the Places You'll Go! | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 16,805 |
| 9 | All the Light We Cannot See | Anthony Doerr | Scribner | 16,050 |
| 10 | Note to Self | Connor Franta | Keywords | 15,234 |



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BESTSELLERS MONTHLY CHAMPIONS, MAY 2017

TOP 25 HARDCOVER FICTION

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|----|-----|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | - | 1 | The Fix | David Baldacci | Grand Central | 9781455586561 | Apr 2017 | \$ 29.00 | 41,360 | 41,718 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | The Black Book | Patterson/Ellis | Little, Brown | 9780316273886 | Mar 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 14,788 | 110,221 |
| 3 | - | 1 | Fast and Loose | Stuart Woods | Putnam | 9780399574191 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 10,846 | 10,957 |
| 4 | 3 | 3 | All by Myself, Alone | Mary Higgins Clark | Simon & Schuster | 9781501131110 | Apr 2017 | \$ 26.99 | 9,617 | 48,048 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | One Perfect Lie | Lisa Scottoline | St. Martin's | 9781250099563 | Apr 2017 | \$ 27.99 | 7,947 | 21,389 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | Two from the Heart | James Patterson et al. | Little, Brown | 9780316468909 | Apr 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 7,746 | 17,157 |
| 7 | 10 | 4 | The Women in the Castle | Jessica Shattuck | Morrow | 9780062563668 | Mar 2017 | \$ 26.99 | 6,314 | 28,907 |
| 8 | 7 | 12 | Norse Mythology | Neil Gaiman | Norton | 9780393609097 | Feb 2017 | \$ 25.95 | 6,195 | 164,003 |
| 9 | 14 | 33 | A Gentleman in Moscow | Amor Towles | Viking | 9780670026197 | Sep 2016 | \$ 27.00 | 5,684 | 76,395 |
| 10 | - | 1 | The Stars Are Fire | Anita Shreve | Knopf | 9780385350907 | Apr 2017 | \$ 25.95 | 5,558 | 5,659 |
| 11 | 2 | 2 | Star Wars: Thrawn | Timothy Zahn | Del Rey | 9780345511270 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.99 | 5,235 | 21,164 |
| 12 | 9 | 5 | Mississippi Blood | Greg Iles | Morrow | 9780062311153 | Mar 2017 | \$ 28.99 | 5,078 | 65,335 |
| 13 | 6 | 3 | The Lost Order | Steve Berry | Minotaur | 9781250056252 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.99 | 5,064 | 25,467 |
| 14 | 12 | 38 | The Underground Railroad | Colson Whitehead | Doubleday | 9780385542364 | Aug 2016 | \$ 26.95 | 4,823 | 99,496 |
| 15 | - | 1 | Any Day Now | Robyn Carr | Mira | 9780778319917 | Apr 2017 | \$ 26.99 | 4,141 | 4,421 |
| 16 | 11 | 2 | Song of the Lion | Anne Hillerman | Harper | 9780062391902 | Apr 2017 | \$ 27.99 | 4,094 | 11,047 |
| 17 | 13 | 5 | If Not for You | Debbie Macomber | Ballantine | 9780553391961 | Mar 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 4,035 | 49,305 |
| 18 | 16 | 5 | The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane | Lisa See | Scribner | 9781501154829 | Mar 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 3,734 | 30,609 |
| 19 | 15 | 7 | Dangerous Games | Danielle Steel | Delacorte | 9781101883884 | Mar 2017 | \$ 28.99 | 3,542 | 81,411 |
| 20 | 8 | 2 | The Burial Hour | Jeffery Deaver | Grand Central | 9781455536375 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 3,491 | 11,049 |
| 21 | - | 1 | Fallout | Sara Paretsky | Morrow | 9780062435842 | Apr 2017 | \$ 27.99 | 3,314 | 3,448 |
| 22 | 17 | 5 | Vicious Circle | C.J. Box | Putnam | 9780399176616 | Mar 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 2,747 | 41,727 |
| 23 | 21 | 10 | Lincoln in the Bardo | George Saunders | Random House | 9780812995343 | Feb 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 2,740 | 93,146 |
| 24 | 18 | 6 | The Cutthroat | Cussler/Scott | Putnam | 9780399575600 | Mar 2017 | \$ 29.00 | 2,704 | 53,339 |
| 25 | 22 | 26 | The Whistler | John Grisham | Doubleday | 9780385541190 | Oct 2016 | \$ 28.95 | 2,646 | 111,246 |

TOP 25 HARDCOVER NONFICTION

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|----|-----|---|---------------------|------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | 8 | 3 | Make Your Bed | William H. McRaven | Grand Central | 9781455570249 | Apr 2017 | \$ 18.00 | 25,693 | 40,651 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | Old School | O'Reilly/Feirstein | Holt | 9781250135797 | Mar 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 19,231 | 160,625 |
| 3 | - | 1 | This Fight Is Our Fight | Elizabeth Warren | Metropolitan | 9781250120618 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 18,825 | 19,676 |
| 4 | - | 1 | Note to Self | Connor Franta | Keywords | 9781501158018 | Apr 2017 | \$ 24.00 | 15,234 | 15,529 |
| 5 | - | 1 | Killers of the Flower Moon | David Grann | Doubleday | 9780385534246 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.95 | 14,321 | 14,425 |
| 6 | - | 1 | Black Privilege | Charlamagne tha God | Touchstone | 9781501145308 | Apr 2017 | \$ 25.99 | 13,996 | 14,249 |
| 7 | - | 1 | Shattered | Allen/Parnes | Crown | 9780553447088 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 13,875 | 13,992 |
| 8 | - | 1 | The American Spirit | David McCullough | Simon & Schuster | 9781501174216 | Apr 2017 | \$ 25.00 | 12,493 | 12,578 |
| 9 | 2 | 2 | The True Jesus | David Limbaugh | Regnery | 9781621576372 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.99 | 11,305 | 22,354 |
| 10 | 3 | 39 | Hillbilly Elegy | J.D. Vance | Harper | 9780062300546 | Jun 2016 | \$ 27.99 | 10,348 | 249,314 |
| 11 | 5 | 22 | The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck | Mark Manson | HarperOne | 9780062457714 | Sep 2016 | \$ 24.99 | 8,282 | 108,948 |
| 12 | - | 1 | You Are a Badass at Making Money | Jen Sincero | Viking | 9780735222977 | Apr 2017 | \$ 25.00 | 6,767 | 6,935 |
| 13 | 4 | 3 | Hallelujah Anyway | Anne Lamott | Riverhead | 9780735213586 | Apr 2017 | \$ 20.00 | 6,018 | 32,325 |
| 14 | 9 | 27 | The Magnolia Story | Gaines/Gaines | W | 9780718079185 | Oct 2016 | \$ 26.99 | 4,910 | 150,437 |
| 14 | - | 1 | The Phenomenon | Ankiel/Brown | Public Affairs | 9781610396868 | Apr 2017 | \$ 27.00 | 4,910 | 4,971 |
| 16 | 7 | 32 | Killing the Rising Sun | O'Reilly/Dugard | Holt | 9781627790628 | Sep 2016 | \$ 30.00 | 4,771 | 187,243 |
| 17 | 21 | 2 | Wait, What? | James E. Ryan | HarperOne | 9780062664570 | Apr 2017 | \$ 19.99 | 4,602 | 9,116 |
| 18 | 14 | 14 | Big Agenda | David Horowitz | Humanix | 9781630060879 | Jan 2017 | \$ 26.99 | 4,593 | 88,476 |
| 19 | 10 | 8 | Unshakeable | Tony Robbins | Simon & Schuster | 9781501164583 | Feb 2017 | \$ 26.00 | 4,314 | 127,495 |
| 20 | 12 | 31 | Jesus Always | Sarah Young | Thomas Nelson | 9780718039509 | Oct 2016 | \$ 15.99 | 4,078 | 146,555 |
| 21 | 23 | 20 | The Whole 30 Cookbook | Melissa Hartwig | HMH | 9780544854413 | Dec 2016 | \$ 30.00 | 3,761 | 97,735 |
| 22 | 19 | 31 | The Book of Joy | Dalai Lama/Tutu | Avery | 9780399185045 | Sep 2016 | \$ 26.00 | 3,712 | 101,254 |
| 23 | 15 | 4 | How to Be a Bawse | Lilly Singh | Ballantine | 9780425286463 | Mar 2017 | \$ 26.00 | 3,458 | 32,479 |
| 24 | 38 | 7 | The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild | - | Piggyback | 9781911015222 | Mar 2017 | \$ 39.99 | 3,388 | 52,578 |
| 25 | 31 | 2 | The Gatekeepers | Chris Whipple | Crown | 9780804138246 | Apr 2017 | \$ 28.00 | 3,127 | 8,163 |



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LW - Last Week WKS - Weeks on List YTD - Year to Date

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|----|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1 | - | 1 | As Time Goes By | Mary Higgins Clark | Pocket | 9781501131097 | Apr 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 15,073 | 15,411 |
| 2 | - | 1 | The Kept Woman | Karin Slaughter | Morrow | 9780062430229 | Apr 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 10,709 | 11,110 |
| 3 | 1 | 3 | Extreme Prey | John Sandford | Putnam | 9780399573798 | Apr 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 9,658 | 37,764 |
| 4 | 2 | 4 | Magic | Danielle Steel | Dell | 9780425285442 | Mar 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 9,457 | 56,521 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | End of Watch | Stephen King | Pocket | 9781501134135 | Mar 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 9,400 | 51,607 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | The Obsession | Nora Roberts | Berkley | 9781101987605 | Mar 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 9,361 | 119,653 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | The Last Mile | David Baldacci | Vision | 9781455586448 | Feb 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 7,261 | 105,289 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | Private Paris | Patterson/Sullivan | Vision | 9781455585151 | Mar 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 6,328 | 30,606 |
| 9 | - | 1 | Slow Burn Cowboy | Maisey Yates | HQN | 9780373801947 | Apr 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 6,054 | 6,358 |
| 10 | 7 | 3 | Tom Clancy: Duty and Honor | Grant Blackwood | Berkley | 9781101988824 | Apr 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 5,936 | 20,201 |
| 11 | 13 | 11 | Big Little Lies (TV tie-in) | Liane Moriarty | Berkley | 9780399587207 | Feb 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 5,442 | 69,451 |
| 12 | 11 | 8 | Expecting to Die | Lisa Jackson | Zebra | 9781420136074 | Feb 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 5,362 | 97,904 |
| 13 | 8 | 4 | Downfall | J.A. Jance | Morrow | 9780062297723 | Mar 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 5,352 | 33,894 |
| 14 | 9 | 3 | Shadow Spell | Nora Roberts | Berkley | 9780515152906 | Apr 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 5,224 | 19,743 |
| 15 | 10 | 5 | Forever a Hero | Linda Lael Miller | HQN | 9780373789702 | Mar 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 5,153 | 57,678 |
| 16 | 12 | 4 | The Road to Love | Macomber/Goodnight | HQN | 9780373799299 | Mar 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 5,126 | 27,802 |
| 17 | 42 | 2 | A Ready-Made Amish Family | Jo Ann Brown | Love Inspired | 9780373622726 | Apr 2017 | \$ 5.99 | 5,021 | 7,827 |
| 18 | 15 | 3 | The Girl on the Train | Paula Hawkins | Riverhead | 9780735219755 | Apr 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 4,865 | 14,144 |
| 19 | 46 | 2 | Lucas | Delores Fossen | Harlequin | 9781335720955 | Apr 2017 | \$ 5.75 | 4,374 | 6,893 |
| 20 | 14 | 20 | A Dog's Purpose (movie tie-in) | W. Bruce Cameron | Forge | 9780765388100 | Dec 2016 | \$ 9.99 | 4,185 | 157,122 |
| 21 | 21 | 14 | The Apartment | Danielle Steel | Dell | 9780425285428 | Jan 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 3,926 | 151,433 |
| 22 | 24 | 8 | What We Find | Robyn Carr | Mira | 9780778319788 | Feb 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 3,901 | 66,276 |
| 23 | 19 | 4 | A Family Affair | Fern Michaels | Zebra | 9781420130171 | Mar 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 3,861 | 19,115 |
| 24 | 16 | 4 | Day of Reckoning | William W. Johnstone | Pinnacle | 9780786040049 | Mar 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 3,787 | 25,987 |
| 25 | 20 | 4 | Ask Anyone | Sherryl Woods | Mira | 9780778319863 | Mar 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 3,700 | 21,190 |

| RANK | LW | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|----|-----|---|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 2 | The Woman in Cabin 10 | Ruth Ware | Scout | 9781501132957 | Apr 2017 | \$ 16.00 | 17,936 | 37,417 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | All the Light We Cannot See | Anthony Doerr | Scribner | 9781501173219 | Apr 2017 | \$ 17.00 | 16,050 | 55,285 |
| 3 | 3 | 8 | Lilac Girls | Martha Hall Kelly | Ballantine | 9781101883082 | Feb 2017 | \$ 17.00 | 13,291 | 101,381 |
| 4 | 4 | 20 | Hidden Figures (movie tie-in) | Margot Lee Shetterly | Morrow | 9780062363602 | Dec 2016 | \$ 15.99 | 10,455 | 290,169 |
| 5 | 5 | 3 | The Nest | Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney | Ecco | 9780062414229 | Apr 2017 | \$ 16.99 | 9,673 | 32,314 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | No Man's Land | David Baldacci | Grand Central | 9781455586509 | Mar 2017 | \$ 15.99 | 8,689 | 64,948 |
| 7 | 10 | 12 | All the Missing Girls | Megan Miranda | Simon & Schuster | 9781501107979 | Jan 2017 | \$ 16.00 | 8,310 | 106,736 |
| 8 | 14 | 9 | The Orphan's Tale | Pam Jenoff | Mira | 9780778319818 | Feb 2017 | \$ 15.99 | 7,088 | 90,576 |
| 9 | 7 | 11 | The Zookeeper's Wife (movie tie-in) | Diane Ackerman | Norton | 9780393354256 | Feb 2017 | \$ 15.95 | 6,564 | 90,750 |
| 10 | 11 | 21 | The Shack (movie tie-in) | William P. Young | Windblown | 9781455567607 | Nov 2016 | \$ 15.99 | 6,330 | 162,048 |
| 11 | 12 | 55 | My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You... | Fredrik Backman | Washington Square | 9781501115073 | Apr 2016 | \$ 16.00 | 6,026 | 146,091 |
| 12 | 9 | 20 | A Dog's Purpose (movie tie-in) | W. Bruce Cameron | Forge | 9780765388117 | Dec 2016 | \$ 14.99 | 5,904 | 219,955 |
| 13 | - | 1 | Filthy Rich | Patterson/Connolly | Grand Central | 9781455542642 | Apr 2017 | \$ 16.99 | 5,629 | 5,665 |
| 14 | - | 1 | The Immortal Life of Henrietta... (TV tie-in) | Rebecca Skloot | Broadway | 9780804190107 | Apr 2017 | \$ 16.00 | 5,398 | 9,403 |
| 15 | 16 | 37 | Uninvited | Lysa TerKeurst | Thomas Nelson | 9781400205875 | Aug 2016 | \$ 16.99 | 5,370 | 126,280 |
| 16 | 18 | 2 | The Horse Dancer | Jojo Moyes | Penguin Books | 9780143130628 | Apr 2017 | \$ 16.00 | 5,243 | 10,720 |
| 17 | 15 | 3 | First Comes Love | Emily Giffin | Ballantine | 9780345546944 | Apr 2017 | \$ 17.00 | 5,194 | 18,333 |
| 18 | 13 | 2 | Mythomorphia | Kerby Rosanes | Plume | 9780735211094 | Apr 2017 | \$ 14.00 | 5,044 | 13,374 |
| 19 | 17 | 8 | On Tyranny | Timothy Snyder | Crown/Duggan | 9780804190114 | Feb 2017 | \$ 7.99 | 4,991 | 55,847 |
| 20 | 21 | 3 | White Trash | Nancy Isenberg | Penguin Books | 9780143129677 | Apr 2017 | \$ 17.00 | 4,702 | 15,226 |
| 21 | 20 | 3 | The Case for Christ (movie tie-in) | Lee Strobel | Zondervan | 9780310345862 | Sep 2016 | \$ 16.99 | 4,621 | 24,026 |
| 22 | 29 | 46 | What to Expect When You're Expecting | Murkoff/Mazel | Workman | 9780761187486 | May 2016 | \$ 15.95 | 3,956 | 73,033 |
| 23 | 35 | 5 | Cracking the AP U.S. History Exam (2017) | - | Princeton Review | 9781101920039 | Aug 2016 | \$ 18.99 | 3,832 | 32,383 |
| 24 | 22 | 3 | Ebb Tide | Beverly Lewis | Bethany House | 9780764212505 | Apr 2017 | \$ 15.99 | 3,674 | 16,491 |
| 25 | 24 | 11 | Britt-Marie Was Here | Fredrik Backman | Washington Square | 9781501142543 | Feb 2017 | \$ 16.00 | 3,597 | 68,498 |

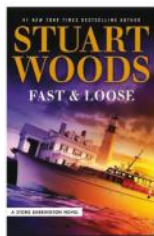
LW - Last Week WKS - Weeks on List YTD - Year to Date

| RANK | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|-----|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | 7 | 13 Reasons Why | Jay Asher | Razorbill | 9780451478290 | Feb 2013 | \$ 10.99 | 15,119 | 80,123 |
| 2 | 8 | Everything, Everything | Nicola Yoon | Ember | 9780553496673 | Feb 2013 | \$ 10.99 | 15,002 | 96,563 |
| 3 | 25 | Double Down (Diary of a Wimpy Kid #11) | Jeff Kinney | Amulet | 9781419723445 | Nov 2016 | \$ 13.95 | 8,186 | 244,771 |
| 4 | 17 | Dog Man Unleashed (Dog Man #2) | Dav Pilkey | Graphix | 9780545935203 | Dec 2016 | \$ 9.99 | 6,827 | 148,135 |
| 5 | 3 | Everything, Everything (movie tie-in) | Nicola Yoon | Ember | 9781524769604 | Mar 2013 | \$ 10.99 | 5,923 | 16,848 |
| 6 | 11 | Before I Fall (movie tie-in) | Lauren Oliver | HarperCollins | 9780062656322 | Jan 2013 | \$ 10.99 | 5,185 | 83,371 |
| 7 | 2 | Library of Souls | Ransom Riggs | Quirk | 9781594749315 | Mar 2013 | \$ 11.99 | 5,126 | 15,514 |
| 8 | 38 | Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: Parts 1 and 2 | J.K. Rowling et al. | Scholastic/Levine | 9781338099133 | Jul 2016 | \$ 29.99 | 4,705 | 133,756 |
| 9 | 6 | Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (Hogwarts Library ed.) | J.K. Rowling | Scholastic/Levine | 9781338132311 | Mar 2017 | \$ 12.99 | 4,492 | 57,949 |
| 10 | 12 | Beauty and the Beast: Lost in a Book | Jennifer Donnelly | Disney Press | 9781484780985 | Jan 2017 | \$ 16.99 | 4,312 | 99,844 |
| 11 | 34 | Dog Man | Dav Pilkey | Graphix | 9780545581608 | Aug 2016 | \$ 9.99 | 4,271 | 72,394 |
| 12 | 23 | Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (screenplay) | J.K. Rowling | Scholastic/Levine | 9781338109061 | Nov 2016 | \$ 24.99 | 4,115 | 136,285 |
| 13 | 12 | Beauty and the Beast (novelization) | Elizabeth Rudnick | Disney Press | 9781484781005 | Jan 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 4,110 | 73,095 |
| 14 | 23 | Tales from a Not-So-Friendly Frenemy (Dork Diaries #11) | Rachel Renée Russell | Aladdin | 9781481479202 | Nov 2016 | \$ 13.99 | 4,081 | 113,629 |
| 15 | 8 | The Hate U Give | Angie Thomas | HC/Balzer + Bray | 9780062498533 | Jan 2013 | \$ 17.99 | 3,879 | 47,556 |
| 16 | 3 | I Funny: School of Laughs | Patterson/Grabenstein | LB/Patterson | 9780316349604 | Apr 2017 | \$ 13.99 | 3,816 | 20,675 |
| 17 | 10 | Thirteen Reasons Why (10th anniv. edition) | Jay Asher | Razorbill | 9781595147882 | Nov 2012 | \$ 18.99 | 3,782 | 28,718 |
| 18 | 2 | Alex and Eliza: A Love Story | Melissa de la Cruz | Putnam | 9781524739621 | Mar 2013 | \$ 17.99 | 3,579 | 9,459 |
| 19 | 7 | Middle School: Escape to Australia | Patterson/Grabenstein | LB/Patterson | 9780316272629 | Mar 2017 | \$ 13.99 | 3,507 | 44,462 |
| 20 | 13 | The Girl Who Drank the Moon | Kelly Barnhill | Algonquin | 9781616205676 | Aug 2016 | \$ 16.95 | 3,091 | 62,745 |
| 21 | 32 | Ghosts | Raina Telgemeier | Graphix | 9780545540629 | Sep 2016 | \$ 10.99 | 2,957 | 69,363 |
| 22 | 38 | Gravity Falls: Journal 3 | Alex Hirsch | Disney Press | 9781484746691 | Jul 2016 | \$ 19.99 | 2,791 | 51,908 |
| 23 | 8 | Big Nate: What's a Little Noogie Between Friends? | Lincoln Peirce | Andrews McMeel | 9781449462291 | Feb 2017 | \$ 9.99 | 2,693 | 40,837 |
| 24 | 6 | Dragonwatch (Fablehaven) | Brandon Mull | Shadow Mountain | 9781629722566 | Mar 2017 | \$ 18.99 | 2,647 | 43,951 |
| 25 | 3 | Fish in a Tree | Lynda Mullaly Hunt | Puffin | 9780142426425 | Mar 2017 | \$ 8.99 | 2,522 | 12,957 |

| RANK | WKS | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN | PUB DATE | PRICE | UNITS | YTD |
|------|-----|---|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|----------|----------|--------|---------|
| 1 | 16 | Oh, the Places You'll Go! | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780679805274 | Jan 1990 | \$ 17.99 | 16,805 | 167,013 |
| 2 | 850 | Goodnight Moon | Brown/Hurd | HarperFestival | 9780694003617 | Oct 1991 | \$ 8.99 | 7,991 | 124,977 |
| 3 | 114 | First 100 Words | Roger Priddy | Priddy | 9780312510787 | May 2011 | \$ 5.99 | 6,487 | 129,799 |
| 4 | 785 | The Very Hungry Caterpillar | Eric Carle | Philomel | 9780399226908 | Mar 1994 | \$ 10.99 | 6,420 | 94,831 |
| 5 | 118 | Love You Forever | Robert Munsch | Firefly | 9780920668375 | Sep 1995 | \$ 5.95 | 6,388 | 102,278 |
| 6 | 71 | Giraffes Can't Dance | Andreae/Parker-Rees | Cartwheel | 9780545392556 | Mar 2012 | \$ 6.99 | 5,634 | 99,647 |
| 7 | 8 | Baby Animals | - | DK | 9780756643010 | Dec 2009 | \$ 5.99 | 5,559 | 55,693 |
| 8 | 31 | The Wonderful Things You Will Be | Emily Winfield Martin | Random House | 9780385376716 | Aug 2015 | \$ 17.99 | 5,558 | 78,083 |
| 9 | 104 | The Going to Bed Book | Sandra Boynton | Little Simon | 9780671449025 | Nov 1982 | \$ 5.99 | 5,515 | 91,405 |
| 10 | 9 | Animals | - | DK | 9780756634681 | Jan 2008 | \$ 5.99 | 5,376 | 92,274 |
| 11 | 845 | Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? | Martin/Carle | Holt | 9780805047905 | Sep 1996 | \$ 7.95 | 5,280 | 89,336 |
| 12 | 15 | Are You My Mother? | P.D. Eastman | Random House | 9780679890478 | Sep 1998 | \$ 4.99 | 5,164 | 94,711 |
| 13 | 1 | I Wish You More | Rosenthal/Lichtenheld | Chronicle | 9781452126999 | Mar 2015 | \$ 14.99 | 4,969 | 36,884 |
| 14 | 4 | 5-Minute Pete the Cat Stories | Dean/Dean | HarperFestival | 9780062470195 | Jan 2017 | \$ 12.99 | 4,909 | 52,973 |
| 15 | 76 | Green Eggs and Ham | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780394800165 | Aug 1960 | \$ 9.99 | 4,641 | 208,365 |
| 16 | 342 | Dr. Seuss's ABC | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780679882817 | Nov 1996 | \$ 4.99 | 4,580 | 117,756 |
| 17 | 115 | One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish | Dr. Seuss | Random House | 9780394800134 | Mar 1960 | \$ 9.99 | 4,410 | 168,136 |
| 18 | 88 | Little Blue Truck (board book) | Schertle/McElmurry | HMH | 9780544568037 | Jul 2015 | \$ 7.99 | 4,218 | 77,176 |
| 19 | 3 | The Berenstain Bears and the Real Easter Eggs | Berenstain/Berenstain | Random House | 9780375811333 | Jan 2002 | \$ 4.99 | 4,210 | 28,850 |
| 20 | 3 | The Sweetest Easter | Andrea Posner-Sanchez | Random House | 9781524719050 | Jan 2017 | \$ 4.99 | 4,171 | 31,453 |
| 21 | 8 | Guess How Much I Love You | McBratney/Jeram | Candlewick | 9780763649760 | Aug 2011 | \$ 9.99 | 4,153 | 53,324 |
| 22 | 1 | Touch the Earth | Lennon/Davis/Coh | Sky Pony | 9781510720831 | Apr 2017 | \$ 17.99 | 4,117 | 8,683 |
| 23 | 7 | The Giving Tree | Shel Silverstein | HarperCollins | 9780060256654 | Feb 2014 | \$ 17.99 | 3,928 | 56,203 |
| 24 | 2 | Farm | - | DK | 9780756689896 | Dec 2011 | \$ 6.99 | 3,820 | 33,994 |
| 25 | 2 | The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors | Daywalt/Rex | HC/Balzer + Bray | 9780062438898 | Apr 2017 | \$ 17.99 | 3,678 | 11,509 |

iBook Bestsellers

For the week ended April 23, 2017



Stuart Woods plays it Fast and Loose in the Fiction and Literature category of Apple's iBooks store, racing to #1 ahead of Liane Moriarty's hardy Big Little Lies TV tie-in, at #2. At #3, Margaret Atwood's The Handmaid's Tale, which has seen stronger sales for months thanks to a political moment some would call dystopian, hits #3 courtesy of its Hulu adaptation. In Romance, Kendall Ryan is #1 with The House Mate, and Jonathan Allen and Amie Parnes's Hillary Clinton presidential campaign biopsy, Shattered, is #1 in Biographies and Memoirs.

TOP 20 FICTION & LITERATURE

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Fast and Loose | Stuart Woods | Putnam | 9780399574214 |
| 2 | Big Little Lies (TV tie-in) | Liane Moriarty | Berkley | 9780698138636 |
| 3 | The Handmaid's Tale | Margaret Atwood | HMH | 9780547345666 |
| 4 | Remember Me? | Sophie Kinsella | Dial | 9780440337508 |
| 5 | I Still Dream About You | Fannie Flagg | Random House | 9780679604044 |
| 6 | A Gentleman in Moscow | Amor Towles | Viking | 9780399564048 |
| 7 | Into the Water | Paula Hawkins | Riverhead | 9780735211216 |
| 8 | The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane | Lisa See | Scribner | 9781501154843 |
| 9 | Blackbird House | Alice Hoffman | Ballantine | 9780385514019 |
| 10 | It | Stephen King | Scribner | 9781501141232 |
| 11 | Milk and Honey | Rupi Kaur | Andrews McMeel | 9781449478650 |
| 12 | Three Junes | Julia Glass | Anchor | 9780375422423 |
| 13 | The Shack (movie tie-in) | Wm. Paul Young | Windblown | 9780964729292 |
| 14 | The Women in the Castle | Jessica Shattuck | Morrow | 9780062563682 |
| 15 | The Underground Railroad | Colson Whitehead | Doubleday | 9780385537049 |
| 16 | A Man Called Ove | Fredrik Backman | Atria | 9781476738031 |
| 17 | Small Great Things | Jodi Picoult | Ballantine | 9780345544964 |
| 18 | The Stars Are Fire | Anita Shreve | Knopf | 9780385350914 |
| 19 | The Miniaturist | Jessie Burton | Ecco | 9780062306838 |
| 20 | Two by Two | Nicholas Sparks | Grand Central | 9781455520701 |

TOP 10 ROMANCE

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1 | The House Mate | Kendall Ryan | Kendall Ryan | - |
| 2 | The Player | K. Bromberg | JKB | 9781942832041 |
| 3 | Mutual Feelings | Billy Taylor | Billy Taylor | 9781541036772 |
| 4 | Unforgettable 2 | Nelle L'Amour | Nichols Canyon | 9781536544435 |
| 5 | Born in Death | J.D. Robb | Berkley | 9781101205884 |
| 6 | The Hot Shot | Kristen Callihan | Kristen Callihan | - |
| 7 | Walk of Shame | Lauren Layne | Loveswept | 9780399182082 |
| 8 | Easy Charm | Kristen Proby | Ampersand | 9781633500068 |
| 9 | Unforgettable 3 | Nelle L'Amour | Nichols Canyon | 9781536589146 |
| 10 | Imperfections Come to Light | Shaniel Watson | Shaniel Watson | 9780986163920 |

TOP 10 BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS

| RANK | TITLE | AUTHOR | IMPRINT | ISBN |
|------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Shattered | Allen/Parnes | Crown | 9780553447095 |
| 2 | Option B | Sandberg/Grant | Knopf | 9781524732691 |
| 3 | Memories Are Made of This | Deana Martin | Crown Archetype | 9780307538260 |
| 4 | When Breath Becomes Air | Paul Kalanithi | Random House | 9780812988413 |
| 5 | Nevertheless | Alec Baldwin | Harper | 9780062409737 |
| 6 | Five Men Who Broke My Heart | Susan Shapiro | Delacorte | 9780440334750 |
| 7 | Who Thought This Was a Good Idea? | Alyssa Mastromonaco | Grand Central | 9781455588213 |
| 8 | The Most Beautiful | Mayte Garcia | Hachette | 9780316468961 |
| 9 | Anne Frank | Francine Prose | HarperCollins | 9780061959165 |
| 9 | Tell My Sons | Mark M. Weber | Ballantine | 9781592985753 |



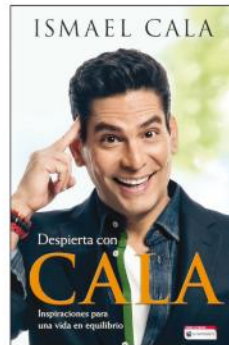


By Leylha Ahuile

Ismael Cala: CNN Host Turned Life Strategist

We talk with Cala about his new book that emphasizes finding a balance in life

Despuesta con Cala (*Wake Up with Cala*), the new book by Ismael Cala, explores the quest for balance in life. Released in March, the book is already #9 on NPD BookScan's bestseller list of books in Spanish. In June of last year, Cala announced his departure from his television program, *Cala Presenta (Cala Presents)*, one of the most popular shows on CNN en Español, which aired in the U.S. and Latin America. Since leaving CNN, Cala has become a life strategist and international lecturer. He has continued presenting the segment "Despierta con Cala" ("Wake up with Cala") on *Despierta América (Wake Up, America)*, which airs on Univision. His latest book, published by Aguilar, an imprint of Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial, includes many of the reflections Cala shares on the show. *PW* spoke with Cala from India, where he is guiding a group on an inspirational tourism trip covering visits to Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, the Taj Mahal, and the sacred Ganges River.



In your book, *Despierta con Cala*, you talk about balancing key aspects of one's life. How can others get started?

Despierta con Cala is a book that explores the fundamental aspects of our lives and the search for balance. I wrote it thinking about those who believe that they have a long way to travel, those who came to this world conscious of the responsibility of taking control of their own decisions. I suggest we transform ourselves into jugglers and artists, since I see life as the game of constantly walking a tightrope. If we look down, we feel terrified of the abyss, as we become aware that we could fall into it.

What do you think has created this imbalance? Have we become too materialistic?

In the book I discuss the seven pillars of our lives: mind and spirit, health and body, love and romantic relationships, family and home, friends and social life, finances, and time for yourself. Our challenge is to balance them and transform ourselves into artists.

It is obvious we are living in times of excessive materialism. This is the reason why both in my book and in everything I do, my message is to invest more in life experiences than in material possessions.

What are you working on now?

At this time I am answering this interview from India, where I am with an extraordinary group of 50 people to celebrate our second *Cala Mundos (Cala Worlds)*. In 2017, I will host conscious journeys to places like Tierra Santa, Riviera Maya, and Costa Rica. We are also planning the *Despierta con Cala* tour, which will include conferences in dozens of U.S. and Latin American cities. I have plenty of ideas for new books, but they don't have calendar dates yet. ■

Since your last book, *La vida es una piñata (Life Is a Piñata)*, you have left CNN to become a life strategist. Was this change part of your own awakening and when did this awakening process begin?

Yes, I have experienced my own awakening throughout the years. It has been a process of constant learning. Leaving CNN en Español was part of that process. I felt that it was time to reinvent myself (again), to try to reach new heights. But as I look back, I can see that I have always tried to inspire people through social media, even when I lived in Cuba. Even though I was not conscious of it, I believe that I was already a life strategist.

NEWS ROUNDUP

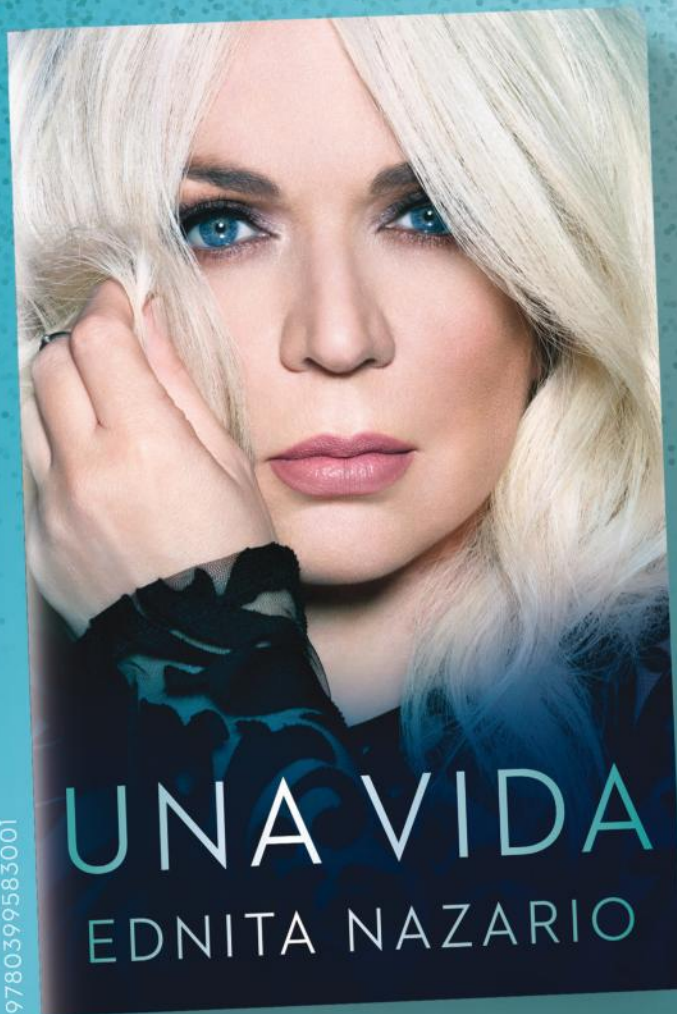
The Premio Alfaguara 2017 Winner

The 2017 recipient of the prestigious Premio Alfaguara literary award, a prize awarded to a previously unpublished work written in Spanish, is Ray Loriga of

Spain. The announcement was made in Madrid last month. Loriga won for his novel *Rendición (Surrender)*, which was chosen from among 665 manuscripts, significantly fewer than were submitted in previous years. Loriga will receive \$175,000 along with the publication and distribution of the book in Spain, Latin America, and the U.S. by Alfaguara.

The jury described the novel as "a Kafkaesque, Orwellian story about authority and collective manipulation.... Without falling into idealism, and through a humble, thoughtful voice with unexpected bursts of humor, the author constructs a luminous fable about exile, loss, parenthood, and affection. The plot of *Rendición* surprises us on every page

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—Ricky Martin

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and leads us to a stunning ending that resonates for the reader well after having put the book down.”

Loriga, who was born in Madrid in 1967, is a screenwriter, movie director, and author of more than a dozen novels that have been translated



Ray Loriga

into 14 languages. As a screenwriter, he has collaborated with Pedro Almodóvar, who has said, “Ray Loriga is a fascinating cross between Marguerite Duras and Jim Thompson.”

This year, the Alfaguara Novel Prize celebrated its 20th anniversary. Alfaguara is a literary imprint founded in 1964 that is now part of Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial.

After Purchase, Ediciones B Continues with Spanish Publishers

In April *PW* announced Penguin Random

House’s purchase of Barcelona-based trade publisher Ediciones B from Grupo Z. Currently, Ediciones B titles are distributed by Miami-based Spanish Publishers; in 2016, Spanish Publishers imported 1,036 new releases from Ediciones B, one of the largest publishers the dis-

tributor works with. Although this could change at some point and distribution be taken over by Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (also based in Miami), Lucia Laratelli, president of Spanish Publishers, said, “For the time being, orders for books published by Ediciones B will continue to be sourced through Spanish Publishers.”

Maximo Potencial to Be Distributed by IPG

As of April 1, Independent Publishers Group began distributing titles from its 39th Spanish-

language book publisher, Maximo Potencial. The publisher, based in Elche, Spain, was founded by José María Vicedo, a businessman, speaker on personal development, and author of such books as *El plan de los 50 días* (*The Plan for 50 Days*), a guide to transforming one’s life. Maximo Potencial primarily publishes such self-help titles as *Desata tu poder ilimitado* (*Unleash the Power Within*) by bestselling author Tony Robbins and *El éxito del rinoceronte* (*Rhinoceros Success*) by Scott Alexander. Diana Calice, managing director of IPG’s Spanish distribution program, said, “Self-help books in Spanish do very well in the U.S., and we were looking to increase our selection of these titles. We are expecting to have 20 titles from them in 2018 to add to their backlist that is already available in the U.S.” ■



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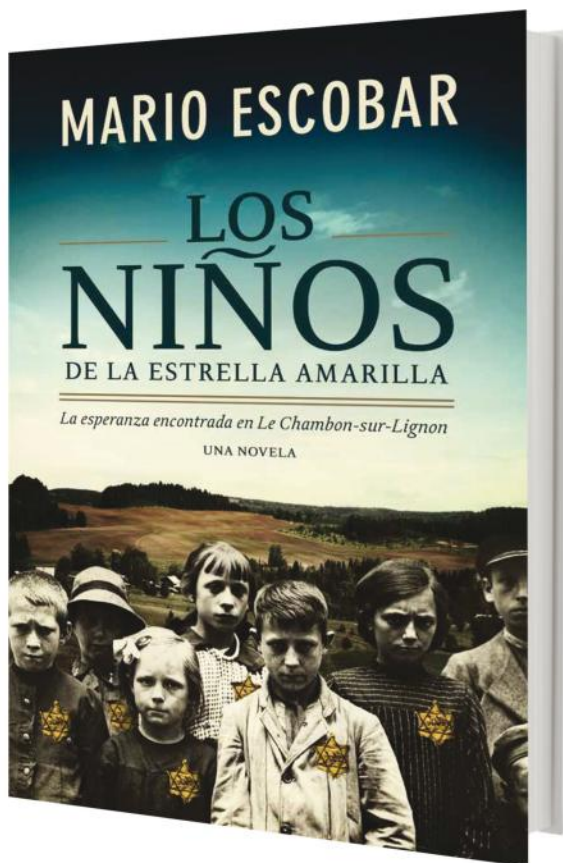
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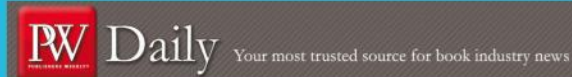
What to read next

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Deployed every Friday with the newest releases for the coming week, this e-newsletter keeps readers ahead of what is being released and what's hot!

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Women are finding fulfilling careers running indie publishers

By ANISSE GROSS

In sheer number, women—primarily straight white women—are the backbone of the publishing industry. *PW*'s annual salary survey showed that women represented 74% of the publishing workforce in both 2015 and 2016, a figure in line with the Lee & Low Diversity Baseline Survey of 2015, which found that 78% of those working in publishing are cis women, of whom 88% are heterosexual and 79% are white.

But there is a persistent pay gap between publishing's men and women: in 2015, men earned an average of \$96,000, and women an average of \$61,000. One reason for the gap is that men often hold higher positions than women in many of the biggest publishers, particularly in management, where salaries

are the highest. That combination of factors—the salary disparity and difficulty climbing the corporate ranks—is one reason a growing number of women have moved on to independent publishing, in many cases starting their own publishing houses.

Brooke Warner, publisher of She Writes Press and SparkPress, says her frustration with mainstream publishing is that “the executive level is usually [mostly] men, and the decisions handed down from the top and certainly financial decisions are largely made by men, while the underlings—the editors and most of the marketing team—are women. The pay gap is also embarrassing.” She considers the industry to have serious gender problems.



Warner got her start in publishing at North Atlantic Books and at Seal Press, where she had a “feminist awakening.” She describes herself as having been “one of those women who didn’t think I needed to be a feminist because we have equality. What a total joke. I was just young and naïve. Through all the books I worked on at Seal, I became a full-blown feminist.” Once Seal was acquired by Perseus, the mandate shifted from being “a very feminist, mission-driven experience to a much more commercial one.” Warner says that, working in a women’s press, “you can’t deny [gender discrimination] anymore. You see it everywhere you go. Seal Press has since been acquired by Hachette, and they laid off the female publisher and rolled it into an imprint with

Women Who Run Indie Publishers



a male publisher. I just think that's emblematic of what happens in traditional publishing. It's all about the bottom line. We want to make money too, but not at the sacrifice of some of the core principles on which we were founded." Warner left to start She Writes Press with Kamy Wicoff, founder of shewrites.com, an online community salon space for women writers. In 2014, She Writes was acquired by SparkPoint, whose CEO is Crystal Patriarche. Both She Writes and SparkPoint's SparkPress imprint use an author-subsidized model that allows Warner to keep to a content-driven mission.

Dominique Raccah—founder of Sourcebooks, one of the largest woman-owned independent publishers in North America, and 2016's *PW* Person of the Year—points out that gender disparity spans the entire book industry, noting that, among booksellers as well as publishers, the workforce is "largely female, but ownership is not always female. You've got that problem in publishing where the management will become less and less female the higher up the hierarchy you go. And I said that out loud—that probably



sourcebooks



1. Brooke Warner 2. Dominique Raccah 3. Fiona McCrae 4. Rhonda Hughes
5. C. Spike Trotman 6. Amy King 7. Laura Stanfill 8. Rana D'Orio
9. Emily Gould 10. Rosalie Morales Kearns 11. Gigi Ishmael.

won't make me popular," Raccah says. On being *PW* Person of the Year, Raccah says that she was "surprised that they would think of me, and that is partly because I still think that for women it takes us a long time to get an idea of who we are."

Graywolf publisher Fiona McCrae remembers that, when she worked in editorial at Faber and Faber, there was one female director at that time, in charge of thrillers and cookbooks even though she "was very smart and literary." When McCrae joined Graywolf in 1994, the staff was four employees putting out around eight books a year, and now the publisher has 13 staff members and publishes 33 titles a year. Was it hard for McCrae

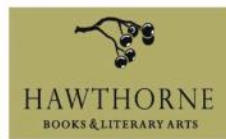


Women Who Run Indie Publishers

to work her way up? “In retrospect there were elements of a glass ceiling. It was so glassy I didn’t necessarily see it at the time. I think it’s gotten better and better over time. I remember in the early 1990s my friend left publishing altogether, because she didn’t think she could get a job that didn’t involve being bullied by an egotistical male. I do think things have changed, and I do think publishing has been good to me.” She believes that, in terms of gender representation, “publishing is better than other professions. Women on an individual basis are treated very well, and I think there are a lot of women running literary agencies. I don’t know enough about statistics, but there are many very powerful women in publishing. That’s been the case for a while now. You hear them being talked about in revered tones—not dismissed or reviled.”

Striking Out on Their Own, Together

Some women *PW* spoke with said they felt they had to start their own businesses because they didn’t see an opportunity to rise up the ranks in the companies where they worked, both inside and outside of publishing. Rhonda Hughes, founder of Print Vision and Hawthorne Books, remembers when she was 27, working as a sales rep for an overseas print broker,



whose owner she approached about being a partner. He told her he’d consider it; yet soon after, he brought in a young man and made him partner. “I realized then that it was just not going to happen. So I went to Oahu, sat on the beach, and came up with this business called Print Vision, which I still own. I left because I realized I wouldn’t get what I wanted unless I left and did it myself. The same thing with publishing: I realized I could move to New York and be an assistant editor and get paid nothing and be really poor, which I didn’t want to do, or I could do this on my own.”

C. Spike Trotman, founder of Chicago’s Iron Circus Comics, notes that running her own business as a woman relieves her from having to trust the big publishers to make changes. “I don’t trust the intentions and motivations of a lot of large publishers. I think a lot of people at the top especially are extremely resistant to change. They have to be dragged kicking and screaming to expand the scope of their publishing even slightly.”

Amy King, a founding member of VIDA—a nonprofit feminist organization that has worked to create transparency around the lack of gender parity, the marginalization of people of color, writers with disabilities, and queer, trans, and



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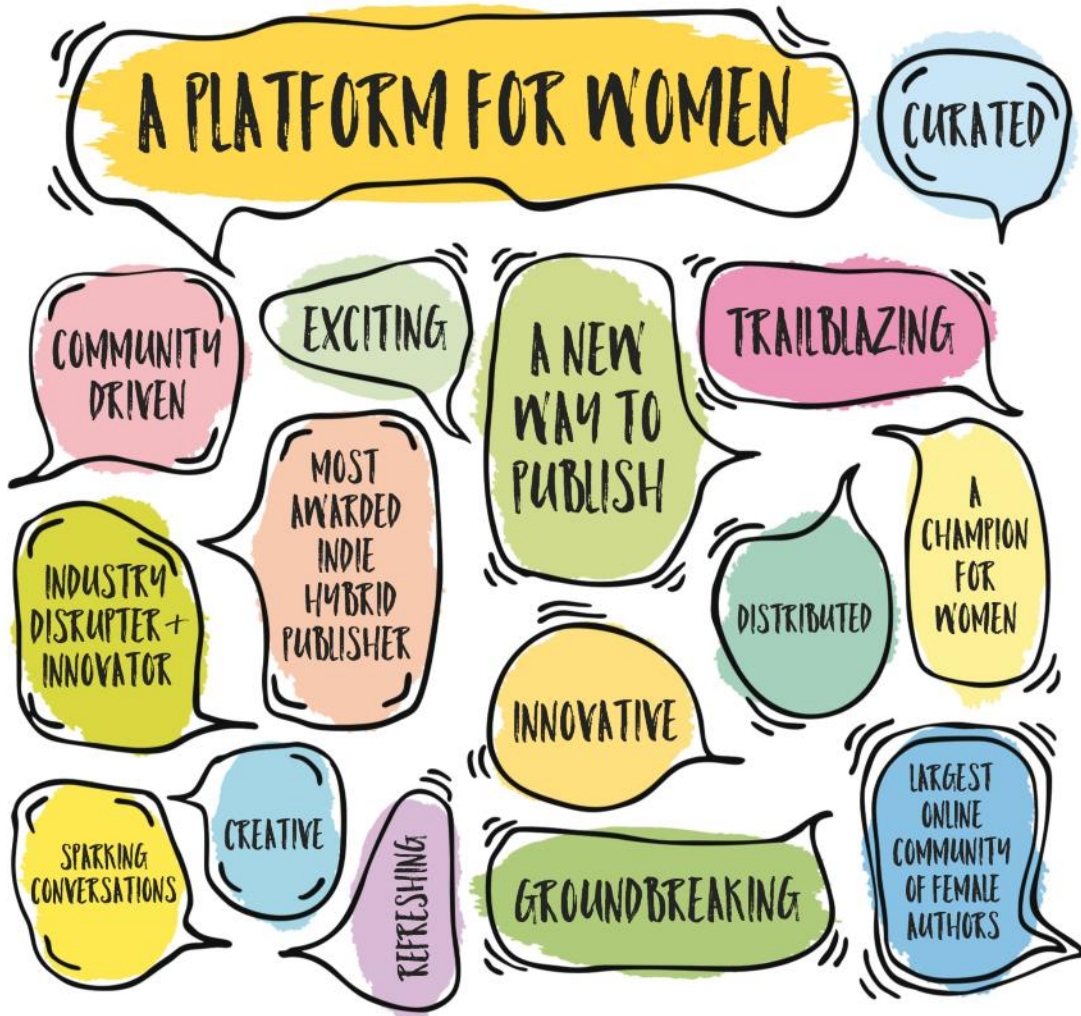
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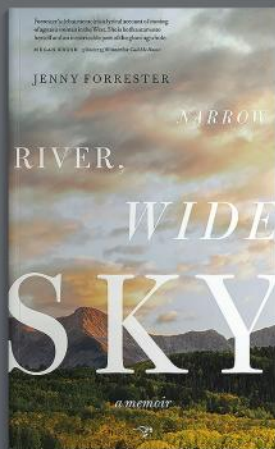
Women Who Run Indie Publishers

gender-nonconforming people—points out that change is almost always small-scale and often among nonprofits. “The problem with the big publishers is that they are just so beholden to the profit margin. There’s not a lot of incentive, and not one figurehead saying, ‘Hey, we need to change the face of publishing.’ They’re all about making money. The problem is you don’t see an immediate turnaround on your investment because you’re investing in people.”

Trotman says of starting her own business, “Every time I hear a news story about how so-and-so did something terrible at a party or a conference, I know I’ve made the right decision by starting my own publishing company,” because those are the types of people she would have had to deal with on a daily basis if she had not moved on. “Quite frankly, speaking for myself, I do just fine by myself out here.”

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Many women in publishing who came from other male-dominated industries think those experiences helped them when starting their own presses. Publisher Georgia McBride of Month9Books got into publishing by accident when she decided to put together an anthology with authors she knew through her popular tweetchat under the hashtag #YALitChat. Previously, she had worked in “very male-dominated industries: the music industry, the internet business, technology, product development, and software development. There weren’t really a whole lot of female influences at the time. It was also very difficult for me personally because you’re constantly being challenged and questioned and constantly having to be more and do more. You’re not expected to succeed and not expected to do well.”

Laura Stanfill, publisher of Forest Avenue Press in Portland, Ore., recalls getting “so much flack” when she ran the local newspaper. “I was the gatekeeper, and yet I learned to expect dubious gazes when I walked into Chamber of Commerce meetings, because they didn’t think I was qualified,” Stanfill says. Spending years in a male-dominated career, she adds, “played into my fearlessness when I was starting a press as a woman. So the transition [to publishing] wasn’t so shocking.”

In starting new businesses, many women reached out to other women for support. When McBride founded Month9Books, she contacted women she had known from the business side of publishing to be mentors to her. Without their support, she says, she doesn’t think she would have been able to achieve the things she has “in the time frame that I have.” Stanfill cites Hawthorne Books publisher Hughes as a role model. “While I met with a lot of male publishers too, Rhonda’s persistence in encouraging me to follow my heart and taste really shaped the early years of the press and who I became as a publisher.” Stanfill also joined Women in Portland

Publishing (WIPP), and she says that attending monthly socials with other women in publishing helped her find her voice as a publisher.

Raccah emphasizes that collaboration is an important factor in success. “I do believe we’re at a moment when there’s an opportunity for lots of different peoples to work together.” She cites her work with Little Pickle Press as an example; Sourcebooks recently acquired the publishing rights to Little Pickle’s titles. “I think that successful female entrepreneurs working together is going to be more and more of a trend as we go forward. We have to help each other to succeed.”

Rana D’Orio, CEO of March 4th and founder of Little Pickle Press, says the relationship with Sourcebooks is “very synergistic” and cites Raccah as one of her biggest inspirations.

“She just breaks the rules, she doesn’t take no for an answer, she asks why and what if.”



D’Orio—who came up in investment banking, where “there were no women at the top echelons, and it was so competitive that there wasn’t a supportive nexus”—welcomes “women helping one another. Unlike other industries, in publishing, women leaders support women leaders.”

But, says Raccah—a member of the Committee of 200, a group of the largest women-owned and women-run businesses in the country—large women-built businesses are still thin on the ground though there are many women-led startups. At Women 2.0, a network for female founders of technology ventures, Raccah notices that “they still have the same problems we had 20 years ago. Women are still having problems getting funding and growing bigger companies.”

Women Authors

Raccah points out that gender disparities in publishing also affect authors: “Women authors do not get reviewed at the same level as guys; it’s just a fact. There’s been a lot of data about it.



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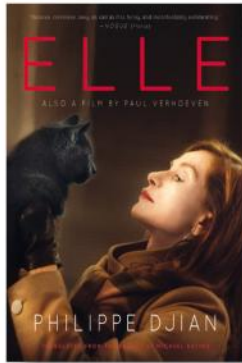
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★ Elle

Philippe Djian, trans. from the French by Michael Katims.

Other Press, \$15.95 trade paper (208p)
ISBN 978-1-59051-915-8



Djian's slim, disturbing novel, already a controversial bestseller in France, is unsparring and fiercely intelligent. The book begins with narrator Michèle on her living room floor after being raped by an unknown attacker. Michèle, "nearing fifty, fiercely independent and unsentimental," reacts to this assault in the same way that she meets most of the demands of her life: with incisive wit, brutal honesty, and an almost unnerving composure. In spite of the attack, she continues to manage a demanding career, financial responsibility for her son and her mother, and an affair with her best friend's husband. However, Michèle's assailant does not disappear. He breaks into her home while she is away; he taunts her with lewd and threatening messages. As Michèle tries to discover who her attacker is, readers come to learn of her family's violent past and understand how this history shapes her present and how the present circumstances reshape her history. Djian's bold novel, winner of the 2012 Prix Interallié and adapted into an award-winning film directed by Paul Verhoeven, is slight but packs a powerful punch. (May)

www.otherpress.com

Women Who Run Indie Publishers

Women are not winning prizes at the same level as men are. We even have data that says a book is more likely to be reviewed and garner good reviews with a man's name on it. You've got great authors who get rid of their women's names. They become J.K. Rowling. Women-oriented genres are less valuable and less valued than male-oriented genres." It is, she says, "mission-critical that we continue to work hard at helping all people tell their stories. I particularly love helping women tell their stories, helping tell the stories we don't know, and helping girls to identify bigger visions for their lives."

Amy King of VIDA says that, in schools, "syllabi are stacked to promote male voices. We are conditioned to prioritizing those voices." King recalls an adage: "Boys grow up reading books by boys, and girls grow up reading books by everybody." She pointed out that, while a certain book written by a man might be classified as nonfiction, the same book, written by a woman, will end up in lifestyle or memoir. A good example would be journalist Suki Kim's 2014 book, *Without You, There Is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite*; Kim wrote about the experience of having her book packaged as memoir despite her intention for it to be serious nonfiction.

Emily Gould, who co-runs the Emily Books imprint at Coffee House Press with Ruth Curry, adds that there is an "outsized reverence" that is reserved mostly for male authors "and a scant handful of women who are mostly really old. You have to be so old to finally deserve to be taken as seriously as mid-career male novelists are. You basically have to be Ursula K. Le Guin or dead—those are your only options. That's what we are trying to chip away at."

Rosalie Morales Kearns founded Shade Mountain Press in 2013 partly because she noticed a gender disparity in the journals and presses to which she submitted her own work. "For decades I would just look at the contents pages of the very important literary journals, and sometimes they were 100% male. I would think to myself, am I the only one that feels really burned by this?" After VIDA published its first count in 2010, Kearns says she noticed that "editors started being more self-conscious about their lists being so male-heavy."

Trotman of Iron Circus has seen a shift in the comics industry, where the accomplishments of women have been "underappreciated" and, until recently, women as a market were simply ignored. Trotman says that, while the mainstream comics industry has taken steps to look for more women writers and creators, "the gender disparity is still ridiculous, and the focus of mainstream comics hasn't changed from superheroes." Comics, she says, are still associated with stereotypical "teenage-boy interests" and "definitely not written with a potential female audience in mind." According to Trotman, it's in the indie and underground scenes where women readers and creators are finding a home.

Stanfill of Forest Avenue is also looking to empower women by providing them opportunities. "So far I've only given anthology collections to other women because I feel like those opportunities are hard to find," Stanfill explains. While Stanfill does accept manuscripts from male writers, they must have feminist sensibilities. If they don't, she will send detailed response letters. "If men are putting things into the world that I don't want to forward, I will say that we are a women-run press, I'm not interested, and here's why. I don't know if that changes their perspectives on submitting to a women-run press, but it's an opportunity I have to use my voice and say, 'This is not okay with me.'"

Diversity Issues

Publishing is not only fairly male in its leadership, but also blindingly white overall. Gigi Ishmael, president and pub-





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lisher of family-owned and -operated Ishmael Tree, says that, while both her mother and grandmother were businesswomen, serving as role models to her, she still had “a lot of issues breaking in. There were times that people just didn’t want to talk to me. Not only am I a woman, I’m a brown woman too. I get looked at kind of strangely.” Because she’s Muslim, she adds, there’s additional discrimination in getting into certain stores and libraries. “They will automatically think that we’re terrorists or that our entire catalogue is about national security. [People] jump to that even at the book fairs.”

Issues of diversity extend, of course, beyond gender and race to sexual orientation, class, able-bodiedness, and gender conformity, among other things. “Publishing has a bigger diversity problems than [just] gender,” says Warner. “If publishing is so white, then acquisitions editors are buying things that are basically cultivating their own interests.”

Stanfill of Forest Avenue realized that, by limiting her press to Oregon writers, she was “perpetuating the lack of diversity in my slush pile.” The latest census data shows that Oregon is nearly 80% white. “Now,” she says, “I wish I had been more activated five years ago to figure out who to reach out to.” She opened her press to national submissions, which immediately increased their diversity.

Rhonda Hughes is also focusing on finding writers of color, citing Roxane Gay’s speech at the ABA’s 2017 Winter Institute as having “really jolted” her. “I realized that I have not done enough to find writers of color. It’s easy for me to say I’d love to find them, but I haven’t done enough outreach.” After author Lidia Yuknavitch recently gave a \$10,000 award to a writer of color in Oregon, Hughes obtained the list of finalists and sent each one a congratulatory email with an open invitation to submit work.

For Kearns of Shade Mountain, her mission has always been to exclusively publish work by women, especially those from marginalized or underrepresented groups. “I’m half Puerto Rican, half white,” she says, “so I think that has certainly made me more sensitive and aware of how women from racialized ethnic groups and nationalities are marginalized.” She cites the press’s 2015 novel *White Light* by Vanessa Garcia as an example: Kearns says Garcia had been turned down by publishers and agents for four years despite having a blurb from Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka. According to Kearns, Garcia was being told that, because the narrator was a Miami-born Cuban-American, readers wouldn’t relate to her. “The question of who can relate is being made by a mostly white publishing industry, so they are missing out on these books by women of color.”

Trotman of Iron Circus says she sees “an astonishing amount of ignorance” in comics publishing. “I don’t even think it’s necessarily malicious, but there’s this expectation that women and nonbinary people and brown people and queer people identify with characters and stories that are written by white cis straight men,” adding that it’s been that way for decades. “If it’s a story about a brown woman it’s for brown women, but if

it’s a story about a white man it’s for everyone, and that’s the dynamic they’ve internalized and how they’ve approached pretty much anything they might be brought as editors.” Trotman, who identifies as a straight black woman, is a “firm believer in intersectionality. I think a rising tide lifts all boats. I think we all do better when we all do better.”

Climbing the Ladder

Raccah offers a strategy for how women can move up the publishing ranks: diversify their skill sets. “When you’re looking at where the management comes from in publishing firms, it rarely comes out of editorial,” she points out. She says it’s important to ask questions about where women are in publishing. “Are they running business? Are they running finance? Are they running accounting ops? Are they running tech? Are they running sales? We’ve got to diversity our own skill sets. I come out of tech and marketing. That’s turned out to be a really big advantage. That’s one of the things I really learned as I was building Sourcebooks.”

Gould of Emily Books feels that change begins with “more women in actual decision-making roles. Unfortunately for me, most of my skills are in editorial. Editors don’t have a ton of power. The way you ascend in publishing is to develop skills on the business side.” With the exception of people like Reagan Arthur at Little, Brown, she says, “to be in a position of real power you’re going to eventually move away from editing.”

D’Orio says, “What I’ve noticed is that a lot of the disruptive change in the publishing industry is originated by women. What women have done is step outside of the legacy rubric and innovate by doing their own thing.” D’Orio cites She Writes Press as one example of this kind of innovation: “Brooke Warner is in the vanguard of hybrid publishing. Before She Writes Press, that kind of publishing didn’t exist, so these are innovative solutions to an industry where inertia was the most powerful force.”

King of VIDA sees a number of positive changes overall with respect to diversity, one being that even if editors still don’t care about gender and racial diversity, “they aren’t saying it out loud anymore.” She adds that the outpouring of support for VIDA, “despite the climate we’re in right now, is very encouraging.”

Raccah says she is “slightly more optimistic today than I was 10 years ago, because I believe we have experienced in our lifetime, particularly in the last decade, an expansion in readership.” She cites more types of people demanding a wider range of titles, adding that the “interface between readers and publishers is a more permeable membrane. There’s more stuff going between those two groups, and because of that I believe you’re going to start seeing a broader range of people entering the field. This story isn’t sad—I think it’s really important that we acknowledge that. There are parts of the story that are unfinished and challenging. But we’re going someplace, and journeys are always fraught.” ■

Life on the Outside

Susan Burton, who spent years in and out of prison and is now a tireless advocate for formerly incarcerated women, tells her story in *Becoming Ms. Burton*



By JUDITH ROSEN

Two dates mark turning points for Susan Burton: 1981, when a police officer speeding down a street struck and killed her five-year-old son, K.K., and set her on a path of drug and alcohol addiction, and 1997, when she became clean and sober. During the decade and a half in between, Burton, who is now 65, was imprisoned six times, becoming part of a disquieting trend: the incarceration rate for women has risen more than 700% since 1980, with most convicted of nonviolent offenses.

If losing her freedom and being imprisoned was hard, what happened each time Burton was released, with no resources to help her make a life on the outside, was also devastating. “The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery other than in prisons—but it was a lie that you regained your freedom once you left the prison gates,” Burton writes in

the prologue of her book, *Becoming Ms. Burton: From Prison to Recovery to Leading the Fight for Incarcerated Women* (New Press, May), which she wrote with journalist Cari Lynn. “Upon release and for the rest of your life, you faced a massive wall of No.”

Burton and Lynn intersperse her story, including her rape at age 14 and the subsequent birth of her daughter a day before her 15th birthday, with statistics about incarcerated women. “It was important [to me] that it was not too academic, or heavy with numbers,” Burton says. Among the troubling facts that open each chapter are that nearly 80% of formerly incarcerated women are unable to afford housing after release and that most female offenders are under 30 years old, are disproportionately low-income and black, and have not completed high school.

While the focus of *Becoming Ms. Burton* is Burton’s life, many of the statistics she cites show how closely her experiences hew

Author Profile

to those of other imprisoned women. “For so many years, I, too, had come up against these seemingly insurmountable barriers,” she writes. “But I’d convinced myself that my failing was personal, that it was all on my shoulders. Now, a larger picture was emerging.... A criminal history was like a credit card with interest—although you paid the balance, the interest kept accruing.”

Despite the parallels between Burton’s early years and the experiences of incarcerated women in general, what makes her stand out—and has earned her accolades, including a Citizen Activist Award from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and being named a CNN Top 10 Hero, a Soros Justice Fellow, and a Starbucks Upstander—is her ability to break the cycle of incarceration and help others. After gaining her sobriety, Burton, in 1998, founded and continues to head A New Way of Life Re-entry Project in Los Angeles, which offers housing and other assistance to women recently released from prison.

“The last 19 years has been working nonstop for change, 14 hours a day,” Burton says. “I don’t know anything else.” She began by establishing a home for formerly incarcerated women and their children. Today there are five homes and an administrative office that houses A New Way of Life’s organizers and lawyers. “Our tagline,” Burton says, “is, ‘Linking promise with opportunity.’ There are so many bright people who just need an opportunity to help others and pay it forward.”

Burton also cofounded All of Us or None, a grassroots movement to restore civil rights to the formerly incarcerated. The group has been active in the Ban the Box movement to remove from job applications the question (often in the form of a box to check) about whether a candidate has ever been in prison.

“We continue to work on policy to end discrimination against people with criminal records,” Burton says, adding that in November the local chapter helped get an ordinance passed that banned the box in the city of Los Angeles. An attorney from A New Way of Life also helped represent Jane Roe in a recently settled class-action lawsuit (*Roe v. Frito-Lay Inc.*) regarding the way Frito-Lay used background checks and consumer reporting agencies to “compile information from various sources including state and federal criminal record repositories that are often inaccurate or outdated.”

Writing a book was a departure for Burton, although she says

that she always had to be creative to avoid being “crushed.” Burton tried several times to write the memoir before Lynn approached her at a screening of *Susan*, a short film about Burton by Tessa Blake and Emma Hewitt, released in 2012. The hardest thing about writing the book, Burton says, was dealing with the feelings it stirs up. “You think you’re healed,” she explains. “I’m better, but I’m not healed.”

For Burton, there was no question of bringing the book to anyone but New Press publisher Ellen Adler. “I knew Ellen because I think I bought more copies of *The New Jim Crow* than anyone, including bookstores,” Burton says. “I felt like every-

body in America needed to read that book. So, from the day I got an advance reading copy, I was just ordering cases.”

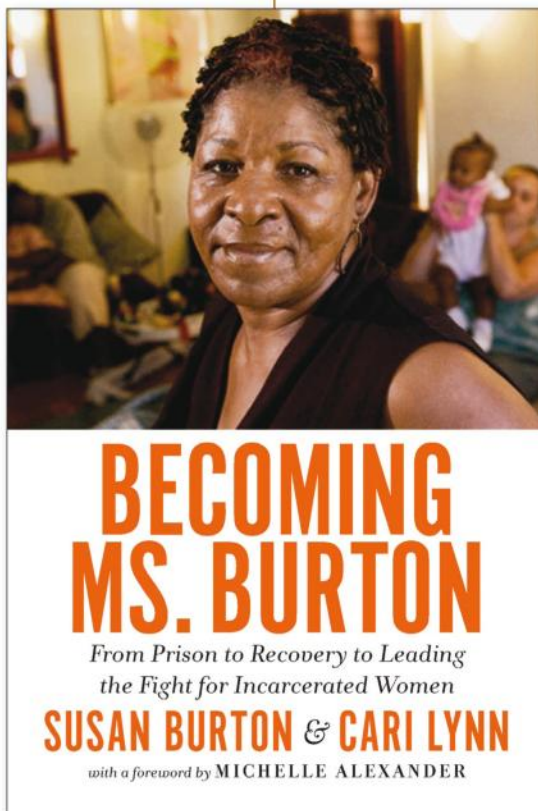
Publishing the book was a departure for the New Press as well. *Becoming Ms. Burton* is the first memoir it’s published since it was founded 25 years ago. “When [*The New Jim Crow* author] Michelle Alexander asked us to consider publishing [it], I figured that I’d take great care with the inevitable rejection letter,” Adler says. “But when I read the proposal, I was dazzled. The question became not whether we should publish it, but how we could find the widest audience for Susan’s story.”

The New Press has announced a 40,000-copy first printing. In addition to placing the book in trade bookstores, Adler is working with recovery bookstores and treatment centers. The press is also fundraising for a special paperback edition for incarcerated women. On

her author tour, which includes Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, New York City, and Washington, D.C., Burton plans to visit prisons. “My hope,” Burton says, “is that people will read [the book] and realize how we’re addressing women with harsh punishment.”

Burton’s latest project, JustUS Voices/Storytelling for Change, is a “multimedia anthology” that features the stories of women who have been touched by mass incarceration. The W.I. Kellogg Foundation and the Weingart Foundation have awarded \$850,000 in grants to support the project, which will focus on women in California, the state with the largest prison population and the largest women’s prison in the world.

“Telling your story is transformative,” Burton has said. “For both the storyteller and their audience, a new bridge to understanding is created.” ■



Reviews

Fiction

★ Dirt Road

James Kelman. Catapult (PGW, dist.), \$16.95 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-1-936787-50-0

Kelman's (*How Late It Was, How Late*) peregrinating novel is a powerful meditation on loss, life, death, and the bond between father and son. Sixteen-year-old Murdo and his father travel from Scotland to America to visit an aunt and uncle living in Alabama. As the family grapples with the recent death of Murdo's mother, the father and son find it increasingly difficult to speak with one another. Their interactions are an accumulation of near misses—attempts and failures to communicate in the midst of loss. As we explore the American South through the eyes of a thoughtful Scottish teenager, we see it afresh—the severe weather, racial tensions, zydeco music. Murdo, an aspiring musician, is enthralled by his encounters with American people on American land, and his growing connection to these new surroundings mirrors his struggle to cope with a loss that seems almost impossible for him to comprehend. Throughout the novel, Murdo's observations are prone to long, circuitous paths, but they are strikingly astute. Like in his previous works, Kelman has created a fully-realized, relatable voice that reveals a young man's urgent need for connection in a time of grief. (July)

Knots

Gunnhild Øyehaug, trans. from the Norwegian by Kari Dickson. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$22 (160p) ISBN 978-0-374-18167-3

Norwegian writer Øyehaug's newly translated collection charts entanglements of all kinds, from difficult families and first loves to more metaphysical experiments that combine a crisp minimalism with endearingly offbeat conceits. "Small Knot," for instance, literalizes a fraught mother-son relationship with an umbilical cord that remains intact well into the son's adult life—and even after the mother's death—while a lonely woman longing for more encounters a UFO in "Vitalie Meets an



Bianca Marais's standout debut novel, Hum If You Don't Know the Words, follows a nine-year-old girl's experiences in 1970s South Africa (reviewed on this page).

Officer." The best of Øyehaug's miniatures deal with elusive emotional states, like the confession of love for a terminally ill man in "It's Raining In Love," the jealousy experienced by the friends of a highly successful encyclopedia salesman in "Echo," or the contemplative ecstasy of a woman named Edel whom, in "Two by Two," thinks that "nature has been abandoned and we are to blame, we have focused on language and become complicated." Øyehaug transfigures a trip to IKEA, a late-night bathroom break, the lonely vigil of an egg and prawn vendor. Other stories read like surreal drawing room plays, offering a glimpse at the private lives of Arthur Rimbaud and Maurice Blanchot. "Meanwhile, on Another Planet" concludes "What can we learn from this? That impossible situations can arise on other planets too." This kind of dry, odd, understated humor comes to seem a hallmark of Øyehaug, whose stories are as original as they are joyously delicate and tranquil. (July)

Moving Kings

Joshua Cohen. Random House, \$26 (256p) ISBN 978-0-399-59018-4

Two Israeli soldiers immigrate to New York City to work as eviction movers in this striking, erratic novel from the author of *Book of Numbers*. The novel's early sections follow the middle-aged Jewish owner of King's Moving, David King, an estranged father who invites his 22-year-old cousin, Yoav, to work for him after Yoav's discharge from the IDF. Following a poignant flash-

back to David's lone trip to Israel, the novel focuses on Yoav, first on his fraught military experience, then on the unsmooth transition to American civilian life. The novel then alternates between Yoav's assimilation and the arduous lack thereof for Uri, another soldier from his unit, who eventually comes stateside to work for King's Moving, leading to a haphazard climax involving a sledgehammer, a gun, and some reactivated military training. The prose achieves a wild brilliance but cannot sustain it, focusing too little on what feels like the beating heart of the story. There are, however, admirable risks to be found on most every page, resulting in an ambitious and thought-provoking read. (July)

★ Hum If You Don't Know the Words

Bianca Marais. Putnam, \$26 (432p) ISBN 978-0-399-57506-8

Nine-year-old Robin loves detective stories. So when the police arrive the night her parents are killed, she mistakenly believes she is now part of her favorite radio series. It's a harsh awakening for her to realize that South Africa in the 1970s is a place far more violent than those stories. With her parents gone, Robin's aunt puts her in the care of a Xhosa nanny, Beauty, a woman with her own tragic secrets: Beauty has vowed to stay in Johannesburg as long as it takes to find her daughter, Nomsa, who has disappeared after a student protest ends in bloodshed. However, as the days stretch into months, Beauty finds herself growing increasingly attached to the motherless white child she is being paid to raise. Likewise Robin grows to love Beauty, despite knowing her dead parents would disapprove of her close relationship with the black woman. In this standout debut Marais handles topics such as grief and racism with a delicate intensity that will make readers fall in love with her characters. From the first few heartfelt chapters to a fast-paced and heart-wrenching ending, Marais has created a stunning historical drama that shouldn't be missed. (July)

The Tower of Antilles

Achy Obejas. Akashic, \$19.95 (150p) ISBN 978-1-61775-539-2

Questions of personal and national identity percolate through the stories in

Obejas's (*Ruins*) memorable short fiction collection, most of which is set in Cuba, the author's birthplace. In "The Cola of Oblivion," a family of Cuban nationals try to cajole the American daughter of a counterrevolutionary relative into a contrived scheme to help them emigrate by claiming her family has a moral obligation to them. "Supermán" is the tale of a Cuban sex worker whose unbridled libido is equated with the freewheeling spirit of the prerevolutionary nation. The narrator of "The Maldives," who grew up in overcrowded familial living arrangements in Cuba, decides to move to an underpopulated location when she is diagnosed with a brain tumor that will eventually "leave me trapped in my own body." Some of the stories are more collections of impressions than straightforward narratives, but all are distinguished by the author's skill at fixing their moments in piquant imagery: for example, a character in "Waters" says of her acclimation to the simmering climate of Cuba, "I am as comfortable in this state of humidity, as at home in it as if I were in amniotic fluid." These 10 stories show Obejas's talent, illuminating Cuban culture and the innermost lives of her characters. (*July*)

Nuclear Family

Susanna Fogel. Holt, \$25 (224p) ISBN 978-1-62779-793-1

Screenwriter and director Fogel offers a humorous, epistolary take on modern womanhood in her debut novel. Readers never actually meet Julie, who is a teenager at the novel's opening and in her mid-30s at its conclusion, or hear her voice; they only learn about her through the letters (and emails) she receives over the years. Largely these are from her übermillennial younger sister, Jane, and their newly divorced parents, but Julie also receives missives from her straight-talking grandma, her closeted uncle, and a host of minor characters, including a

handful of inanimate objects, from the family's NordicTrack to her own cell phone. Each letter is introduced with a whimsical heading, some of which are as amusing as the letters themselves ("Your Dad, Who Doesn't Understand Your Career Goals, Just Found Out You Got Fired"). Some characters come off as broad types (the mother who incessantly feels abandoned by her offspring, the father who disguises his criticisms as concerns), but Fogel's novel offers plenty of glimpses—both humorous and endearing—into the life of a single woman with a well-meaning, if clueless, family. (*July*)

The Almost Sisters

Joshilyn Jackson. Morrow, \$26.99 (352p) ISBN 978-0-06-210571-4

Graphic novelist Leia Birch Briggs is single, pregnant with a biracial baby, and unsure of her baby's father's name. All she knows is he was dressed like Batman and her last FanCon included a night she will never forget. Meanwhile, her stepsister's marriage is unraveling, the deadline for her next comic book is quickly approaching despite her massive case of writer's block, and her grandmother has a form of dementia she's been keeping hidden for years. When Leia arrives at her grandmother's home in Alabama to help get her affairs in order, she realizes the illness isn't the only secret being kept. There's a trunk of bones in the attic, and Grandma Birchie doesn't want anyone to know whose they are. Jackson has packed in all the drama needed for a fast-paced summer read, but this isn't your average beach book. Dark secrets and racism plague Grandma Birchie's seemingly charming southern town, and Leia will soon find that real-life villains aren't as easy to identify as the ones in her comic books. *Agent: Caryn Karmatz Rudy, Defiore & Company* (*July*)

South Pole Station

Ashley Shelby. Picador, \$26 (368p) ISBN 978-1-250-11282-8

Shelby's debut novel is a (literally) chilling story of Antarctic survival at South Pole Station, where scientists, artists, and support personnel live, work, argue, and pout inside a geodesic dome in temps of 35 degrees below zero. Cooper Gosling, an unsuccessful artist, "your typical aimless thirty-year-old looking to delay the inevitable slide into mediocrity," is accepted for a one-year assignment to South Pole Station as part of the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program. She truly is adrift in her career and personal life, but finds comfort and inclusion at South Pole Station, where personality disorders and a fondness for alcohol are seemingly requirements. The station's isolation, close-quarters living, and bitter cold do not inspire her; more interesting for Cooper are the people and relationships she observes—the social tribes and ego posturing, especially when a hated scientist arrives. Dr. Frank Pavano is a climate change denier, and his presence riles the other scientists. When Cooper helps Pavano with an unauthorized experiment and is maimed in an accident, a blame-game investigation, a global warming scandal, and congressional outrage and meddling with funding threaten the station's future. Cooper and her polar pals stage a mutiny, resulting in a tense, ice-cold showdown with the feds, the media, a greedy defense contractor, and an insidious energy company. This is a fascinating novel, loaded with interesting history of Antarctic exploration, current scientific operations, and the living and working conditions of those folks brave enough to endure six months of darkness and six months of daylight. (*July*)

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Refuge

Dina Nayeri. Riverhead, \$27 (336p) ISBN 978-1-59448-705-7

A daughter and father seek strength and solace across international and emotional divides in Nayeri's novel, rooted in the Arab Spring uprisings and the European migrant crisis. Niloofar Hamidi and her father, Bahman, have seen each other four times since she and her mother fled Iran in 1987. In years as a refugee followed by cultural isolation in her youth, Niloo insulates herself from her family's foibles and failings. Her independence leaves her empty, adrift in Amsterdam and losing touch with her family and heritage. In contrast, Bahman spends years in Iran seeking out shelter between doomed-to-fail relationships and an opium addiction that renders him increasingly toxic and dependent. Niloo's new friendship with Persian asylum-seekers and Iran's political crises of the early millennium crack the delicate stasis of their lives. Niloo must decide if the sense of commonality and empathy she shares with her refugee friends can extend to her father. Nayeri's prose sings while moving nimbly with equal parts seriousness and humor. And by the bittersweet conclusion, readers may find themselves longing for the strength to say that they, too, "tore something precious from the clenched fist of the universe." *Agent: Kathleen Anderson, Anderson Literary.* (July)

Careers for Women

Joanna Scott. Little, Brown, \$26 (304p) ISBN 978-0-316-36383-9

In the late '50s, at the outset of the women's lib movement, a woman named Maggie Gleason goes to work for real-life figure Lee K. Jaffe, head of public relations for the New York Port Authority. She's an inspiration for the women who work for her, and when she offers the beautiful and brash Pauline Moreau a job, Pauline and Maggie become friends and Maggie comes to adore Pauline's developmentally-disabled daughter, Sonia. When Pauline goes missing, leaving Sonia behind, Maggie is desperate to get to the truth. As Maggie's investigation progresses, Pulitzer Prize finalist Scott (*The Manikin*) displays her considerable storytelling skills to chronicle the lives of the astonishingly resilient Pauline and her

gentle, sweet-natured daughter Sonia, as well as Pauline's horrible treatment at the hands of the men in her life and her near constant struggle to provide for herself and Sonia. Sentimentality is mostly avoided, making the ultimate revelations even more tragic. Although Maggie mostly narrates, other dramas unfold throughout, such as the poisoning of Native American land by an aluminum company called Alumacore, as well as Jaffe's role in selling the idea to build the twin towers of the World Trade Center. This finely drawn novel is memorable and rife with textured historical detail. (July)

Bed-Stuy Is Burning

Brian Platzer. Atria, \$26 (320p) ISBN 978-1-5011-4695-4

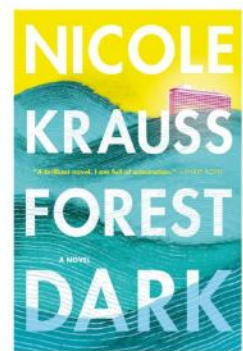
Platzer's earnest and well-meaning, if superficial, debut novel centers on a single day of unrest in Brooklyn's rapidly gentrifying Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. Aaron, a former rabbi forced to abandon

his synagogue in the wake of a loss of faith and (more critically) an ethical misstep, his girlfriend Amelia, and their infant son are among the vanguard of wealthy young white families moving into this historically black, architecturally rich neighborhood. Days after a police shooting of a preteen boy, racial tensions come to a head, and Aaron and Amelia find themselves and their historic brownstone in the crosshairs of their neighbors' previously restrained resentments. The perspectives of secondary characters—including Aaron's antisocial white tenant, their black nanny, the N.Y.C. police commissioner, and others—are ostensibly included to provide a diversity of voices. In reality, however, these multiple perspectives primarily serve to showcase the narrative's lack of depth and failure to engage with social issues and urban complexity on anything more than a surface level. Perhaps readers largely unaware of discriminatory policing, economic injus-

★ Forest Dark

Nicole Krauss. Harper, \$27.99 (304p) ISBN 978-0-06-243099-1

Krauss's elegant, provocative, and mesmerizing novel is her best yet. Rich in profound insights and emotional resonance, it follows two characters on their paths to self-realization. In present-day Israel, two visiting Americans—one a young wife, mother, and novelist, the other an elderly philanthropist—experience transcendence. In alternating chapters, Krauss (*The History of Love*) first presents Jules Epstein, a high-powered retired Manhattan lawyer whose relentless energy has dimmed with his recent divorce, the death of his parents, and an inchoate desire to divest himself of the chattels of his existence. A change of POV introduces a narrator—a Brooklyn resident named Nicole who has a failing marriage, two young children, and writer's block. Both Jules and Nicole are vulnerable to despair and loss of faith, and trust in conventional beliefs. Although they never meet, similar existential crises bring them to Tel Aviv, where each is guided by a mysterious Israeli and experiences glimpses of a surreal world where they feel their true identities lie. A charismatic rabbi, Menachem Klausner, claims that Jules is a descendant of King David. Meanwhile, Nicole is lured into meeting Eliezer Friedman, a retired literature professor and perhaps an ex-Mossad agent who attempts to convince Nicole of a preposterous but increasingly alluring idea: that Franz Kafka didn't die in Prague but secretly was smuggled into Israel. He wants Nicole to write about the hidden life of this famous literary figure. Nicole's conversations with Friedman and Epstein's with Klausner about God and the creation of the world are bracingly intellectual and metaphysical. Vivid, intelligent, and often humorous, this novel is a fascinating tour de force. (Sept.)



rice, or economic displacement will find the narrative enlightening, but those hoping for the novel to really grapple with these issues will be largely disappointed, as it descends into melodrama instead. *(July)*

A Thirty-Something Girl

Lisa M. Gott. Booktrope, \$2.99 e-book (156p) ISBN 978-1-62015-641-4

The opening of Gott's debut reads like a well-written letter from a forlorn friend. By the time her 30th birthday arrives, Hope Jackson's life has crumbled into ruins because of a miscarriage, a failed marriage, and a continuing list of setbacks. Her sadness overflows as she describes her troubles to her three closest friends, who offer her their love and support. One of them, Clara, provides Hope with generous financial help and the opportunity to stay in her family's gorgeous beach house, where she can begin to recover her emotional equilibrium. The story then takes an abrupt turn, becoming a romance and introducing

multiple elements that threaten the reader's suspension of disbelief, such as the fact that Hope's love interest, Sam, is perfectly handsome and perfectly flawless, as well as the fact that Hope's random guess of Sam's name turns out to be accurate.

Even when fate deals Hope one final harsh blow, it's something that's simultaneously beneficial to her, and her life becomes absolutely ideal. These improbable plot twists are off-putting in light of the fair amount of talent Gott displays and a voice that sounds real, such as when Hope wishes "he would hurry up and hate me, so I can get on with my life." Romance devotees may find much to enjoy in this novel, but it might help if they're fans of fantasy, as well. *(BookLife)*

Lost Birds

Birute Putrius. Birchwood, \$16 trade paper (296p) ISBN 978-0-9965153-0-6

Inspired by her own birth in a displaced persons camp after WWII, Putrius's enjoyable debut novel follows multiple families from Lithuania who immigrate to

Chicago after the war. Irena Matas was born in a DP camp in Bavaria. When her parents aren't allowed to return to Lithuania, they start a new life in Chicago. Antanas Balys was torn from his farm, his wife, and his four children during the war and never saw them again. Magda Vitkus suffered brain damage from being buried under rubble during a bombing. Following them for 40 years, Putrius shows how long the shadow of war can be. The history and insight into American and Lithuanian culture is wonderful and Putrius does a marvelous job of illustrating the longing that the old exiles have for home. However, the point of view switches often and the large cast of characters can make for confusing reading. An abundance of clichés ("squealing like a stuck pig" and "like a sore foot finds its worn slipper") detract from the storytelling. Stints of magical realism delightfully showcase Lithuanian folklore, but they're rare, making it seem out of place with the rest of the novel. *(BookLife)*

The President's Butler

Laurence Leamer. Foggy Bottom Books, \$9.98 trade paper (320p) ISBN 978-0-692-76574-6

Leamer's latest novel takes a satirical look at the election process in the United States. The tale is narrated by Billy Baxter, the butler of one of the presidential candidates, Vincent V. Victor, a self-absorbed businessman, corporate raider, author of self-help business books, and star of TV shows. When he was young, Billy struggled to escape poverty, first as a footman at the Valhalla estate, and later as the butler and confidant to Mrs. Helm, Valhalla's 72-year-old owner. Upon the sale of the estate to Vincent, Billy is hired as the businessman's personal butler. The initial story around the Valhalla estate is engaging, particularly in its depiction of the aristocratic lifestyle and Mr. Baxter's relation to it. Unfortunately, as the caricaturization of the businessman turned politician becomes more predictable and obvious, the story loses some of its momentum. As the butler aptly observes in the latter part of the book: "As I reread these pages, I see that early on I am a character in this drama. But once I go to work for Mr. Victor, I begin to fade." *(BookLife)*

★ My Heart Hemmed In

Marie NDiaye, trans. from the French by Jordan Stump. Two Lines (PGW, dist.), \$14.95 trade paper (296p) ISBN 978-1-931883-62-7

In this claustrophobic, slow-burning, surreal novel in the existentialist tradition, NDiaye (*Ladivine*) explores a contemporary French social problem. Two teachers, Nadia and her husband, Ange, find themselves suddenly and bizarrely being treated "like wretched dogs" in the streets of their small French community. Nadia has no idea why, but it keeps getting worse: a strange wound develops on Ange's stomach, and an elderly neighbor inexplicably forces Nadia to let him into their apartment to take care of him. Nadia becomes convinced he is attempting "something like our enslavement." To find out what's happening, she feels she must abandon Ange on a trip to visit her ex-husband and estranged son. Clues about the reason for their mistreatment accumulate—from Nadia's belief that her granddaughter's name, Souhar, is "perpetuating the indignity of our bloodline," to an imagined conversation in a language "I tried hard to forget." The subtly executed reveal of Nadia's heritage allows NDiaye to artfully transform Nadia's despair, which early on reads as purely philosophical, into an acknowledgment that she is a victim of French xenophobia. Nadia's trip provokes a startling reunion, and only afterwards does she admit that despite having "inwardly snuffed out every visible trace of my upbringing," the best she can hope for are comments like "It's so hard for people like you." NDiaye proves with this revelatory and devastating book how perilous such understatement can be. *(July)*



Mystery/Thriller

Safe

Ryan Gattis. MCD, \$26 (288p) ISBN 978-0-374-25337-0

One man's decision to steal confiscated drug money propels this engrossing crime novel set in L.A. from Gattis (*All Involved*). When recovering drug addict Ricky "Ghost" Mendoza, a safecracker working with the DEA, gets called in for a job one Sunday, he decides afterward to take some of the recovered money—a stash belonging to drug lord Rooster—and use it to anonymously help friends pay off debts. Ghost's cancer is back, so this is his last chance at redemption for the sins of his previous life. The certainty of death turns Ghost into a fearless vigilante committed to stealing even more, regardless of the risks. Meanwhile, Rooster orders his second-in-command, Rudolfo "Glasses" Reyes, to retrieve the money and catch the thief. Unknown to his crew, Glasses is working with the DEA, supplying information in return for his family's safety. Glasses must follow Rooster's orders without risking his deal with the DEA or revealing his betrayal. Gattis's refreshingly smart characters doggedly try to do the right thing in this satisfying if unrealistically upbeat tale about the drug world. *Agent: Simon Lipskar, Writers House.* (Aug.)

★ City of Masks:

A Somershill Manor Novel

S.D. Sykes. Pegasus Crime, \$25.95 (368p) ISBN 978-1-68177-342-1

In Sykes's superior third Somershill Manor novel (after 2016's *The Butcher Bird*), Oswald de Lacy, Lord Somershill, and his mother embark on a journey to the Holy Land in 1357, but a war between Hungary and the Venetian Republic strands them for months in Venice, where they find a temporary home with an old family friend, the Englishman John Bearpark. Unfortunately, Oswald's presence in the city during the conflict arouses the suspicions of the authorities. His situation becomes even more perilous after a member of John's household is murdered, his face savagely butchered. Oswald's mother volunteers that he's had success in the past solving murders, and his host

asks him to find the killer. Oswald, who has lost a lot of money gambling, agrees to sleuth for a fee large enough to cover his debt. Sykes's gamble in putting Oswald in unfamiliar terrain pays off, as she again blends a detailed immersion in the time period with a clever mystery plot line. *Agent: Gordon Wise, Curtis Brown (U.K.).* (July)

Devastation Road

Jason Hewitt. Little, Brown, \$26 (384p) ISBN 978-0-316-31635-4

Hewitt's profoundly moving thriller, his second novel after 2015's *The Dynamite Room*, charts the harrowing journey of Owen, a British flight engineer suffering from amnesia, across war-torn Europe during the last days of WWII. Owen must somehow get from rural Czechoslovakia back home to England, all the while trying to remember exactly who he is. As he slowly pieces together the disjointed memories of his past, Czech teenager Janek Sokol and a Polish woman with a newborn baby join him in attempting to maneuver through a nightmarish landscape of mass death and destruction. Comparable to Kosinski's *The Painted Bird* in both theme and gruesome imagery, Hewitt's travelogue fluctuates between clarity and confusion, keeping the reader in a continual state of uncertainty. Sublime imagery ("Thin-framed dragonflies motored about like silent biplanes") is a plus. Readers will undoubtedly feel a sense of overwhelming sorrow by the end. But that very well may be the point. *Agent: Will Francis, Janklow & Nesbit.* (July)

Don't Close Your Eyes

Holly Seddon. Ballantine, \$27 (336p) ISBN 978-1-101-88589-5

A trio of compelling, if damaged, characters—and the traumatic events that scarred them—at times threaten to swamp this smartly plotted psychological thriller from British author Seddon (*Try Not to Breathe*). The story centers on yin-and-yang fraternal twins Sarah and Robin Marshall, as well as Callum Granger, the shy, sensitive classmate who becomes their de facto stepbrother after the two sets of parents permanently trade partners—heedless of the children's best interests—ultimately shattering both families. Seddon skillfully pieces together the now-estranged twins' lives by shifting

narrators and time frames between the fraught past and the precarious present, which finds Robin, formerly lead guitarist for a popular rock band, the agoraphobic prisoner of her Manchester home, and a desperate Sarah plotting how to get back into the life of a three-year-old girl she cares deeply about. Plenty of last-minute bombshells await, but a number of disturbing revelations somewhat deaden their impact. *Agent: Jenny Bent, Bent Agency.* (July)

Blame

Jeff Abbott. Grand Central, \$26 (400p) ISBN 978-1-4555-5843-8

In this engrossing standalone from Thriller Award-winner Abbott (*The First Order*), a car crash in Austin, Tex., steals 17-year-old Jane Norton's memory and kills her best friend's boyfriend, David Hall. Investigators find Jane's suicide note at the scene, turning sympathy for the survivor into blame. Jane can't imagine intentionally wrecking her vehicle, let alone doing so with David as a passenger, but since she can't remember the last three years, she's unable to offer an alternative explanation. Two years later, when "Liv Danger" posts a message online claiming to know what really happened that night and pledging vengeance, the guilt-ridden Jane assumes it's a cruel joke—until someone starts targeting those connected with the crash. The closer Jane comes to unlocking her memories and unmasking Liv Danger, the more certain she becomes that everyone in her life is conspiring to rewrite history and hide the truth. One soapy and superfluous subplot aside, this is an emotionally complex tale replete with finely drawn characters, shocking twists, and convincing red herrings. *Agent: Peter Ginsberg, Curtis Brown.* (July)

The Devil's Muse

Bill Loehfelm. FSG/Crichton, \$26 (272p) ISBN 978-0-374-27977-6

Loehfelm's low-key fifth novel featuring New Orleans beat cop Maureen Coughlin (after 2016's *Let the Devil Out*) finds the native New Yorker and rookie patrol officer working her first Mardi Gras. She has just pulled an emaciated man wearing nothing but hot pink zebra-print tights off the hood of an SUV. He's obviously under the influence of a powerful hallucinogen, but when gunshots

ring out nearby, Coughlin pushes through the crowds to find multiple people injured. Shortly thereafter, she's notified that the junkie in the tights has died. In the chaotic hours that follow, Coughlin maneuvers through drunken revelers, an annoying street-level journalist with her own camera crew, and warring gang members to connect the mysteries of the shooting and the overdose. Fans of police procedurals will enjoy the grittiness of the narrative, but the relatively easy crime solving and the lack of any substantial character progression make this outing a bit formulaic. *Agent: Barney Karpfinger, Karpfinger Agency. (July)*



Two Nights

Kathy Reichs. Bantam, \$28 (336p) ISBN 978-0-345-54407-0

Sunday Night, the star of this fast-paced series launch from bestseller Reichs (*Speaking in Bones* and 17 other Temperance Brennan forensic thrillers), retreats to isolated Goat Island near Charleston, S.C., after an injury ends her police career. As a child, she barely escaped from a cult that claimed her mother's life. Concerned about her well-being, her former foster father, cop Perry "Beau" Beaumonde, entices her out of seclusion by asking her to look for a teenage girl whose wealthy grandmother believes she was kidnapped by a cult. Sunday enlists her twin brother, August ("Gus"), in a search that leads to Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., in pursuit of homegrown terrorists. Reichs sacrifices character development for unrelenting action, but Brennan fans should appreciate Sunday—a self-sufficient, tough-talking, scarred heroine—and the unquestioningly loyal, quietly lethal Gus. An explosive finale at the Kentucky Derby seems designed for the big screen. *Agent: Jennifer Rudolph-Walsh, William Morris Endeavor. (July)*



★ **The Painted Queen**

Elizabeth Peters and Joan Hess. Morrow, \$27.99 (352p) ISBN 978-0-06-208351-7

The long-running series by MWA Grand Master Peters (1927–2013) featuring forthright Amelia Peabody Emerson and her irascible archeologist husband, Radcliffe Emerson, comes full circle with this energetic final novel completed by Hess, Peters's friend and fellow mystery author. In 1912, the Emersons revisit Amarna, the setting of the

first Peabody book, 1975's *Crocodile on the Sandbank*; Egypt's Service des Antiquités director Maspero is worried about the disappearance of German archeologist Morgenstern from the excavation there. Peabody soon locates Morgenstern in Cairo, but his erratic behavior and ties to forgers of a priceless likeness of famed queen Nefertiti disturb her. Efforts to locate the original artifact are complicated by attempts on Peabody's life by men wearing monocles, an interlude with a melodramatic romance novelist, and the reappearances of the Emerson family's nemesis, Sethos. Although fans may be a bit disappointed by some unresolved questions (such as Peters's hints of a connection between the Peabody and Vicky Bliss series), the Emerson clan takes a fitting final bow as the curtain falls on a pioneering career. *Agent: Dominick Abel, Dominick Abel Literary Agency. (July)*



The Last Hack

Christopher Brookmyre. Atlantic Monthly, \$25 (432p) ISBN 978-0-8021-2694-8

In Brookmyre's overly technical eighth Jack Parlabane thriller (after 2016's *Black Widow*), the Scottish journalist is lucky to land an interview with the online magazine *Broadwave*, whose editors are eager to milk his connections to an infamous hacker known as Buzzkill. Bucking hacking stereotypes, Buzzkill is a 19-year-old black Londoner named Samantha Morpeth who's juggling caring for her younger sister with Down syndrome—while their mother is in prison—and attending college. All that changes when she's blackmailed, following a group hack of a major bank, by a figure identified only as Zodiac, who instructs her to steal a flashy new product from a big-name tech company or else be exposed for her role as one of the Uninvited (think Anonymous). Sam turns to Jack for help, though their connection is frustratingly tenuous for too much of the narrative. Brookmyre excels when he focuses on human relationships, but too often he gets bogged down in the minutiae of carrying out a hack. *Agent: Dan Mandel, Sanford J. Greenburger Associates. (July)*



A Thousand Cuts

Thomas Mogford. Bloomsbury, \$27 (368p) ISBN 978-1-63286-845-9

Brisk pacing and sharply rendered

characters help offset the overly convoluted plot of Mogford's fifth novel featuring Gibraltar lawyer Spike Sanguinetti (after 2015's *Sleeping Dogs*). After he agrees to represent Christopher Massetti, an alcoholic old man, in a harassment case, the complainant—Dr. Eloise Capurro—is killed in a fire. When another woman tangentially connected to the case turns up dead, Sanguinetti begins finding connections between Massetti and an explosion that killed two naval engineers on the Royal Navy dockyard in Gibraltar during WWII. The saboteur, revolutionary Esteban Reyes, was executed, but the revelation that he was Massetti's father forces Sanguinetti to look carefully at the specifics of the 1940 act of terrorism, and he soon finds a conspiracy that implicates some of Gibraltar's most influential families. Complicating matters for Sanguinetti are a pregnant fiancée and a morally bankrupt business partner. The superficial exploration of these personal dynamics, however, makes for an emotionally flat read. *Agent: Nicola Barr, Greene & Heaton (U.K.). (July)*



Vector

James Abel. Berkley, \$27 (352p) ISBN 978-0-399-58366-7

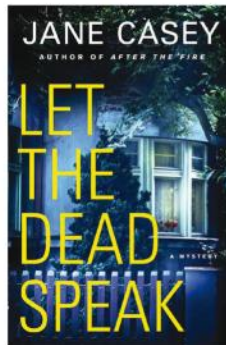
The pseudonymous Abel's feverish fourth Joe Rush biothriller (after 2016's *Cold Silence*) takes the former Marine medical officer and Eddie Nakamura, his partner and best friend since college, to Brazil, where they investigate resistant strains of malaria and, at the behest of the FBI, look for signs of bioterrorist activity in the Amazonian jungle. Unfortunately, Eddie contracts a virulent strain of the disease and is kidnapped by the mysterious Dr. Cardozo. With the aid of Capt. Izabel Santo of the Brazilian Federal Police, who's working undercover as a freelance photographer, Rush rescues his friend and discovers that Cardozo has delivered specially bred mosquitos infected with a new deadly malarial parasite to Tom Fargo in the United States. A homegrown terrorist, Fargo starts dispersing the deadly insects in New York City, spreading disease and panic. Abel imbues Fargo with just enough humanity to make his fanaticism all the more chilling. *Agent: Esther Neuberg, ICM. (July)*



★ Let the Dead Speak

Jane Casey. Minotaur, \$27.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-250-10083-2

In Casey's compelling, high-tension seventh mystery featuring London's Det. Constable Maeve Kerrigan (following 2016's *After the Fire*), Kerrigan's homicide team wonder whether their approach has provoked additional crimes from suspects terrified into trying to protect their own secrets. One rainy day, 18-year-old Chloe Emery returns sooner than expected to her mother Kate's house in Putney after a visit to her father and stepmother. Inside, Chloe finds an angry cat, blood streaks on the walls, and no sign of her mother. The evangelical neighbors next door, Mr. and Mrs. Norris—whose 15-year-old daughter, Bethany, is extremely close to Chloe—take her in, but they disapprove of single mother Kate, who often had men visitors, and are strangely unhelpful when Kerrigan and her crew investigate what appears to be a murder case. The intricate plot unfolds naturally, as Casey never lets readers stray from Kerrigan's point of view, so that they feel as if they are figuring it all out with her in this increasingly dark and tragic story. *Agent: Arielle Feiner, United Agents (U.K.). (July)*



Ruined Stones

Eric Reed. Poisoned Pen, \$15.95 trade paper (234p) ISBN 978-1-4642-0834-8

Set during WWII, this sequel to 2016's *The Guardian Stones* from Reed (the joint pseudonym of Eric Mayer and Mary Reed) lacks the interesting characters and plotting that have been consistent hallmarks of their John, the Lord Chamberlain series (*Murder in Megara*, etc.). Grace Baxter, a village constable's daughter now serving in the women's branch of the British Army, has arrived in Newcastle to assist a force that's short-handed due to the war. On her first day on the job, Grace looks into the death of an unidentified woman who apparently hit her head against an altar in the ruins of a Roman temple. Grace's superior officer believes that the victim probably tripped in the dark, but Grace is intrigued that the body appears to have been posed to simulate a swastika. Grace, "a country woman, one filled by her grandmother with folk wisdom," recognizes the arrangement of the woman's limbs, the direction reversed from the familiar Nazi design, as a symbol of good fortune. Other authors have done a better job of setting murder mysteries during wartime. *(July)*

The Fifth Reflection:

A Dot Meyerhoff Mystery

Ellen Kirschman. Oceanview, \$26.95 (272p) ISBN 978-1-60809-250-5

At the outset of Kirschman's loosely plotted, angst-filled third outing for consulting psychologist Dot Meyerhoff (after 2015's *The Right Wrong Thing*), police chief Pence, of the Kenilworth (Calif.) PD, appoints Manuel Ochoa, a dedicated young officer, to the county's Internet Crimes Against Children task force. Dot is concerned that Manny may not be ready for this difficult job. Meanwhile, JoAnn "JJ" Juliette, a photographer whose art consists of provocative and controversial nude pictures of her own children, asks her photography student Frank, Dot's fiancé, for help when her two-year-old daughter, Chrissy, goes missing. The police, led by Manny, investigate Chrissy's father, a wealthy venture capitalist, and his wife, as well as JJ and known pedophiles. When Chrissy's body is found, the pressure increases on everyone. Using her skills as a psychologist and then as amateur sleuth, Dot unmasks a surprising but unlikely team of bad guys. *Agent: Cynthia Zigmund, Second City Publishing. (July)*

The Hidden:

A Monika Paniatowski Mystery

Sally Spencer. Severn, \$28.99 (192p) ISBN 978-0-7278-8707-8

Spencer's absorbing 12th mystery set in 1970s Lancashire and featuring Det. Chief Insp. Monika Paniatowski (after 2016's *Death in Disguise*) opens with the discovery of Paniatowski—unconscious, a pool of blood around her head—in the woods near a country house. The resourceful members of her team—Colin Beresford, Jack Crane, and Kate Meadows—vow to find out who is responsible. The case, however, is assigned to Det. Chief Insp. William "Rhino" Dixon, who sees this case as his chance to grab the headlines and grudgingly allows the three to participate on a very limited basis. A few hours later, the strangled body of a teenage girl turns up in the same woods. Dixon steamrolls ahead, pursuing the case as a straightforward domestic murder. Pushed to the sidelines, Paniatowski's team members decide to investigate on their own, and soon discover a much more sinister and complex motive for the attacks. Will Paniatowski come out of her coma? If she does, will she be physically and mentally able to resume her job? Readers will eagerly await the next installment. *(July)*

A Panicked Premonition:

A Psychic Eye Mystery

Victoria Laurie. Berkley, \$25 (368p) ISBN 978-0-451-47390-5

In Laurie's clever 15th Psychic Eye Mystery featuring psychic detective Abby Cooper and her BFF business partner, Candace Fusco (after 2016's *A Grave Prediction*), the women's husbands, FBI special agents Dutch Rivers and Brice Harrison—along with their good friend Dave McKenzie—have recently begun building panic rooms in the Austin, Tex., homes of the city's ultrarich. Business is booming until Dave's wife, Gwen, reports that Dave never came home after visiting several prospective clients. Candice and Abby retrace his steps and, to their horror, discover four bullet-ridden bodies at one of the homes Dave called on the day before. It looks bad for Dave when the bloody handprint on the front gate turns out to be his, another shooting occurs, and Gwen goes missing as well. Abby senses not only that Dave is innocent but that he

and Gwen are in grave danger. Witty dialogue, compelling characters, and a crack-jack mystery combine to make this a delightfully entertaining read. *Agent: Jim McCarthy, Dystel & Goderich Literary Management.* (July)

Final Target

John Gilstrap. Kensington, \$26 (432p) ISBN 978-1-4967-1269-1

Thriller Award–winner Gilstrap’s exciting eighth outing for hostage rescue specialist Jonathan Grave (after 2015’s *Against All Enemies*) takes Grave and his partner, Brian Van De Muelebroecke (aka Boxers), on a mission to the Mexican jungle, where they succeed in rescuing DEA agent Harry Dawkins from a compound controlled by drug lord Alejandro Azul. They kill Dawkins’s captors and evade armed pursuit only to discover that the pilot who was supposed to fly them to safety has abandoned them. The three wind up at an orphanage, la Casa de Santa Inés, where they find 13 children and a hidden storage area filled with military equipment belonging to Azul. Inevitably, Grave, Boxers, and Dawkins take the children under their wing. The three men face innumerable obstacles as they and their young charges, who display expected and unexpected bravery, make their way to the coast in a bid for freedom. Fans of epic adventure stories will find plenty to like. *Agent: Anne Hawkins, John Hawkins and Associates.* (July)

Dead Reckoning

Glenis Wilson. Severn, \$28.99 (224p) ISBN 978-0-7278-8708-5

Jump jockey Harry Radcliffe has an incredibly high pain threshold, as shown in Wilson’s unconvincing third horse racing mystery (after 2015’s *Dead on Course*). When Harry finds prostitute Alice Goode with her head bashed in at her Newark, England, home, he thinks he knows who killed her—gangster Jake Smith. After reporting his suspicions to the police, Harry starts to drive home, but along the way he notices that the psychopathic Smith has been hiding in the back-seat of his car. Smith demands that Harry find the real murderer and also provide a place for him to hide out. If the jockey fails to do this, Smith threatens, he’ll kill Harry’s pregnant wife (who’s separated from Harry and happily living with her

unborn child’s father). As Harry delves deeper into Alice’s life, he uncovers more than he bargained for, as well as some truths that are too closely connected to his own family. Meanwhile, Harry repeatedly meets Smith in secluded places, where he invariably receives a ferocious beating from the thug. Readers will struggle to suspend disbelief. *Agent: David Grossman, David Grossman Literary Agency (U.K.).* (July)

Indecent Exposure

Stuart Woods. Putnam, \$28 (352p) ISBN 978-0-7352-1711-9

When Democrat Kate Lee wins a second term as president in bestseller Woods’s slow-simmering 42nd Stone Barrington novel (after *Fast & Loose*), Stone’s old flame Holly Barker becomes secretary of state. Unfortunately for the debonair New York attorney, his rekindled relationship with Holly means unwanted publicity. In particular, he becomes the target of ambitious reporter Gloria Parsons, to whom he grants an interview for *Just Folks* magazine, a decision he soon comes to regret. Gloria later becomes seriously involved with New York governor Benton Blake, who resigns his post after he and his estranged wife reach a divorce settlement. Benton plans to run for the senate in two years, but Kate’s charismatic son, Peter Rule, is also planning a run for that seat. That Peter’s new wife once had a brief fling with Benton promises complications down the line. A late threat of violence against Stone adds the only real suspense, though its aftermath serves to bring him closer to Holly. Readers will look forward to seeing how Stone and Holly’s romance develops. *Agent: Anne Sibbald, Janklow & Nesbit.* (June)

Only Skein Deep

Maggie Sefton. Berkley Prime Crime, \$26 (304p) ISBN 978-0-425-28252-6

CPA, coffee addict, knitter, and sometime amateur sleuth Kelly Flynn is about to become a mother in Sefton’s meandering 15th Kelly Flynn mystery (after 2016’s *Knit to Be Tied*). She has also finally decided to tie the knot with the baby’s father, long-time love Steve Townsend. Kelly’s extended family of friends is delighted. She barely has to lift a finger, for her gang insists on planning every detail of her upcoming nuptials and childbirth. And by the way, a woman is mur-

dered on the golf course behind House of Lambspun, Kelly’s favorite knitting shop, in Fort Connor, Colo. However, no one saw anything, and the police have no suspects. The victim eventually has a name, but otherwise she’s a cypher whom the reader has no particular reason to care about. The major reason she seems to have been killed is so that the book can qualify as a mystery. Catching up with Kelly, Steve, and rest of the Lambspun crew is the point of the story, and that may be enough for readers who enjoy this series. *Agent: Jessica Faust, BookEnds.* (June)

The Mentor

Lee Matthew Goldberg. St. Martin’s/Dunne, \$25.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-250-08354-8

A lack of suspense helps sink this middling thriller from Goldberg (*Slow Down*). William Lansing, a professor at Connecticut’s Bentley College, is excited to learn that a former student of his, Kyle Broder, is now an editor at a New York publishing house and has just signed a lucrative contract with a debut novelist. William has been laboring for years over his own novel, which he hopes his protégé will publish. When Kyle rejects the manuscript, which is full of torture and cannibalistic fantasies, William turns on Kyle and others in Kyle’s life. Unsurprisingly, it turns out that details of the manuscript reflect events that occurred in William’s and Kyle’s past. William is a stock psychopath, and Kyle comes across as a crass fool. For no clear reason, Kyle’s girlfriend insists that he finish reading William’s manuscript even after he tells her about the unpleasant subject matter. That these unlikable characters do nonsensical things presents another obstacle to enjoyment. *Agent: Sam Hiyate, Rights Factory (Canada).* (June)

The Morning Line

Tom Kenny. CreateSpace, \$12.95 trade paper (223p) ISBN 978-1-500454-26-5

Kenny’s intriguing, occasionally moving thriller opens in 1998 New York City, with American journalist Bill Upton receiving the Metropolitan Peace Council’s Peace Medal for his “brilliant, persuasive writings” that have led Northern Ireland to the verge of genuine peace. In his acceptance speech, Upton shares the story about how “courage and

sacrifice, when mixed with a bit of sleight of hand, can accomplish what most think impossible.” Flash back to 1980s Northern Ireland: a British sniper misses IRA leader Michael O’Shaughnessy and instead kills O’Shaughnessy’s son, Timmy, in the five-year-old’s bedroom. The bullet travels through a stuffed kangaroo, a Christmas present from the boy’s Australian uncle, Aidan McGuire, before exploding in Timmy’s “little heart.” Devastated by Timmy’s death, Aidan, a trainer for a record-breaking race horse, has an opportunity years later to help the IRA cause. His unique access to the animal gives him the idea for a scheme that can vastly increase the movement’s coffers. Readers will keep turning the pages to see how Aidan’s plan will connect with Upton’s speech. (*BookLife*)

SF/Fantasy/Horror

Strange Practice

Vivian Shaw. Orbit, \$14.99 trade paper (400p) ISBN 978-0-316-43460-7

In this comic supernatural mystery debut, Wright assembles an appealing, amusing collection of London’s modern undead and the humans who care for them. Dr. Greta Helsing continues the family business of discreetly providing antibiotics to ghouls, bone replacements to mummies, and pints of blood recovered from medical facilities to vampires. She joins several supernatural entities and an archivist at the British Museum in stopping a group of homicidal monks with burned skin, glowing blue eyes, and antique weapons who are targeting both the supernatural population and humans they deem wicked. Shaw excels at depictions of long-lived characters who combine old-school aesthetics with an appreciation of modern conveniences; readers will be amused by ancient entities coopting modern technology. Her idea that immortals make friends with families of humans through several generations makes sense. But characters recapitulating old angst feel shallow and inauthentic, exposition is directed at no one in particular, and a devil-ex-machina ending devalues the work of the team. Shaw has plenty of room to both to continue developing the relationships inside the ensemble cast and add more quirky players in the planned sequel. (*July*)

★ Kangaroo Too

Curtis Chen. St. Martin’s/Dunne, \$26.99 (320p) ISBN 978-1-250-08189-6

Chen’s sequel to *Waypoint Kangaroo*, as smart and sassy as its title character, forges mystery and hard science into a rousing tale of interplanetary intrigue. Earth operative Kangaroo—so called because of the invisible “pocket,” or hyperspace shunt, from which he magically retrieves the tools of his trade—has traveled to the moon to collect data on his recently sabotaged mission in an asteroid belt. Then his personal physician, surgeon Jessica Chu, is implicated in a murder. Jessica’s reticence to disclose details of her possible involvement in the death leads Kangaroo to investigate, and he stumbles on several discoveries about a doctor who once performed outrageous medical experiments on him in hopes of understanding his unique talents. This seeming detour has direct bearing on the tumultuous complications that follow. Chen steers his well-wrought mystery into a succession of revelations that give it relentless momentum. Kangaroo is an affable antihero, and his relationships with the colleagues whom his antics exasperate provide solid ground for future adventures to build on. *Agent: Sam Morgan, Foundry Literary + Media.* (*June*)

The Rise and Fall of D.O.D.O.

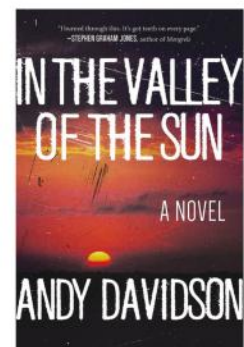
Neal Stephenson and Nicole Galland. Morrow, \$35 (768p) ISBN 978-0-06-266951-3

The engaging collaboration between bestseller Stephenson (*Seveneves*) and historical novelist Galland (*Crossed*) is presented as five volumes of collected materials, ranging from handwritten journals and letters to printouts of PowerPoint presentations and white papers. These materials chronicle the establishment of DODO, a black-budget operation created to restore magic to the present through the application of science. The Diachronicle, written by Melisande “Mel” Stokes in 1851 London, introduces her as a 21st-century linguist stranded unwillingly in the past, just before the Great Exhibition of 1851 effectively brings an end to magic. Stokes was recruited from her Boston University academic work by the charming Tristan Lyons to do lucrative work translating documents and reporting any common patterns for DODO. Quantum physics, witchcraft, and multiple groups with conflicting agendas, playfully mixed with vernacular from several centuries and a dizzying number of acronyms, create a fascinating experiment in speculation and metafiction that never loses sight of the human foibles and affections of its cast. *Agency: Darhansoff & Verrill.* (*June*)

★ In The Valley of the Sun

Andy Davidson. Skyhorse, \$24.99 (384p) ISBN 978-1-5107-2110-4

In this bold, confident debut, Davidson takes the vampire myth to 1980s West Texas, perfectly capturing the feel of the era and place. Travis Stillwell is hardly a good man; he’s strangled multiple women with his belt. But when a vampire named Rue turns him and strands him in a motel parking lot, he resists killing the model’s widowed owner, Annabelle, or her young son, Sandy. This frustrates Rue, who has wandered for decades before finding someone as violent as Travis and needs him to embrace his inner beast. Meanwhile, a Texas Ranger named Reader is hunting Travis down, unaware of the change he’s undergone. Davidson lets his story play out slowly, using multiple points of view and long flashbacks to explore the perspectives and histories of his various protagonists. The obligatory violence becomes an organic, inevitable result of the needs of the characters coming into conflict. Davidson successfully makes the lines between genre and literary fiction bleed together in a complex novel of horror, human nature, and the American South. *Agent: Elizabeth Copps, Maria Carvainis Agency.* (*June*)



The Day After Gettysburg

Robert Conroy and J.R. Dunn. Baen, \$25 (368p) ISBN 978-1-4814-8251-6

Conroy's death in 2014 left many fans of alternate history grieving. Fortunately he left behind unfinished work, including this Civil War novel, expertly completed by novelist and military historian Dunn. The day after the horrific battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863, Gen. Robert E. Lee decides that the Union army under Gen. George Meade is as battered as the Confederates, if not more, and he attacks the hesitant Meade instead of fleeing across the Potomac River. The surprising and bloody result reinserts the Southerners deep into Pennsylvania, to the state's suffering, along with inspiring John Wilkes Booth to craft a somewhat different plot against President Lincoln, two years early. As always, Conroy's work effectively focuses on those with boots on the ground, revealing snippets of grand strategy and confusion through the eyes of historical luminaries such as Lee and Lincoln. The novel too strictly follows Conroy's usual formulas, including a romance between the hero and an affluent heroine, but fans will be pleased that Dunn's work also matches Conroy's high standards for writing style, solid plotting, and frenetic battle scenes. *Agent (for Conroy): Eleanor Wood, Spectrum Literary. (June)*

The Asylum of Dr. Caligari

James Morrow. Tachyon, \$14.95 trade paper (192p) ISBN 978-1-61696-265-4

Entrancing prose enhances the unusual plot of Morrow's successful melding of history and fantasy. Francis Wyndham, a self-described "bookish farm boy from central Pennsylvania," had his life changed, in 1913, by an inspirational visit to a modern art exhibition. Wyndham heads to Paris, where he adopts the identity of a descendant of "a line of North American gypsies famous for their spare but powerful folk art." His initial efforts to get access to the giants of the age ends poorly, but he gets a new lease on life in 1914 when he's offered the chance to serve as an art therapist at an asylum run by Dr. Alessandro Caligari. Despite Caligari's poor opinion of Wyndham's work, Wyndham lands the job, only to learn that his employer, who views WWI as a "grand-scale Nietzschean work of art," has produced a painting,

★ The Last Good Man

Linda Nagata. Mythic Island, \$18 trade paper (466p) ISBN 978-1-937197-22-3

Nebula-winner Nagata (*Going Dark*) explores incredible AI weaponry in a thrilling novel that lays bare the imminent future of warfare. Seattle-based Requisite Operations, a private military company, agrees to rescue captive doctor Fatima Atwan from the gangster El-Hashem. ReqOp's director of operations, True Brighton, is stunned when the mission unexpectedly uncovers connections to her soldier son Diego's death by torture eight years before. True is soon at odds with ReqOp's owner, Lincoln Han, over how to bring the culprits to justice, but both want the truth. Meanwhile, True's husband struggles to believe that anything they learn from further investigation will ease the pain of Diego's death. Autonomous helicopters, animal-shaped biomimetic robots, and True's insectile "origami army" are integral to her quest and provide a mesmerizing glimpse of the probable forthcoming roles—or obsolescence—of human soldiers. Readers will be left questioning the possibility of achieving a peaceful future. *Agent: Howard Morhaim, Howard Morhaim Literary Agency. (June)*



Ecstatic Wisdom, with unsettling powers that the American feels compelled to counter. Readers with a taste for the bizarre and unexpected will be satisfied. *Agent: Emma Patterson, Brandt & Hochman Literary. (June)*

Perilous Prophecy

Leanna Renee Hieber. Tor, \$15.99 trade paper (320p) ISBN 978-0-7653-7744-9

This prequel to Hieber's *Strangely Beautiful* series will appeal to fans who like their Victorian-era romance with a heavy helping of the supernatural. Eighteen-year-old Beatrice Smith loves the sights and sounds of 1867 Cairo, where she assists her father in his studies. After her lover, Jean, plunges to his death with Beatrice looking on, a beautiful woman calling herself Persephone appears and tells Beatrice that she's part of a bigger plan, the Grand Work. Beatrice and five other people will form the Guard and lead the fight against spirits that haunt the city. Meanwhile, in the Whisper-world, Persephone fights the bonds of Darkness, who covets her, and longs to find a vessel for her beloved, the Phoenix, in the mortal world. Persephone is portrayed as innately good but also sometimes capricious, even at a cost to others. Beatrice moves on from Jean's death alarmingly fast, and her feelings for her curt lieutenant, Ibrahim, are never really justified by his actions.

Hieber is undeniably good at making individual scenes grab the reader, but her meandering style diminishes the serious tasks at hand, and flowery prose, heavy on melodrama, weighs the story down. *Agent: Paul Stevens, Donald Maass Literary. (June)*

Come to Dust

Bracken MacLeod. JournalStone, \$17.95 trade paper (276p) ISBN 978-1-945373-66-4

MacLeod's contemporary horror novel is competently written, but it never explores the greater ramifications of its premise. Mitch is barely scraping by as a barista after some time in prison when his sister abandons her daughter, Sophie, to his custody. The first time Mitch takes a night off to go out on a date, four-year-old Sophie is killed by an abusive babysitter, and he is plunged into despair—until Sophie wakes up again. Children all over the world suddenly start returning from the dead, but they're little more than animate corpses, grey, rotting, and passive. Mitch is forced to defend Sophie from a millenarian cult who believe the reanimation has been caused by the devil. MacLeod (*Stranded*) capably handles the pathos of Sophie's death and not-quite-life, but the novel devolves into a jumble of genre-standard action scenes, and the prose is shapeless and relies heavily on exposition. *(June)*

Clockwork Cairo: Steampunk Tales of Egypt

Edited by Matthew Bright. Twopenny, \$21 trade paper (408p) ISBN 978-1-5272-0777-6

Bright's collection of steampunk stories set in Egypt notably includes no Egyptian authors, instead serving as an introduction to several popular Western steampunk authors and series. In Gail Carriger's "The Curious Case of the Werewolf That Wasn't, the Mummy That Was, and the Cat in the Jar," Alessandro Tarabotti, a Templar, discovers a strange mummy and plenty of danger in bustling Cairo. In Jonathan Green's action-packed "Worthless Remains," set in 1998, adventurer and detective Ulysses Quicksilver learns that an old acquaintance is programming mummy automata to murder. In Tiffany Trent's "The Lights of Dendera," science and magic collide when a singer is asked to perform for Nikola Tesla at a new Egyptian art exhibit and comes face to face with Anubis. In Zan Lee's "Ushabti," a dying pharaoh grapples with his own mortality. Nisi Shawl's "Sun River" is atmospheric and sensuous, making full use of its locale. This immersive collection captures the whimsy and drama of steampunk as well as its flaws. (June)

Seventeen Stitches

Sean Eads. Lethe, \$20 trade paper (292p) ISBN 978-1-59021-656-9

Veteran short story author Eads brings together some inventive elements in his latest collection of tales, some of which fall painfully flat. "My Father's Friend" follows a child stuck in a depressing time loop. "Coffin" tells of demonic possession by an otherworldly baby. In "The Seer," Eads's characters question the truth in prophecies. All of these works captivate, but some of the others are questionable: "Riveter" takes as its subject Eva Braun, who resurrects victims of the Holocaust through photographic technology. Even fans of alternate history and morally gray heroes will question this exoneration of a member of Hitler's inner circle, especially one who pledged unwavering loyalty to him. There is an offensive frivolity in this particular work, and its insensitivity overwhelms and tarnishes the rest of the collection. (June)

A Dog's View of Love, Life and Death

J.R. Archer. White Crow, \$17.95 trade paper (312p) ISBN 978-1-78677-011-0

Archer's clunky debut, set in 1990s New York, is both a metaphysical brain teaser and an indictment of excess in all its forms. Multiple viewpoints allow readers to observe the human and canine characters' interconnected lives. The main four-legged protagonists (and dispensers of fortune cookie wisdom) are Rags and Rosie, whose paths cross at an animal shelter after the deaths of their humans. Their care is provided by Milo, a recovering alcoholic whose bipolar disorder magically vanishes when he comes to terms with being gay. Rosie comes to the shelter by way of Teddy, a police officer who responded to her owner's suicide. Rags is also brought in after the death of his human, languishing until Will, her angry, wealthy son, can come to retrieve him. The large cast of characters touch one another's lives at odd intervals, often because of contrived randomness rather than organic happenstance. That reliance on artifice, as well as the overwhelming use of dialogue with minimal description, serves to highlight the lack of any appreciable plot. The only fantastical element in the novel appears to be the telepathic communication of the dogs. (June)

Girl from Above, Book 1: Betrayal

Pippa DaCosta. Pippa DaCosta, \$2.99 e-book (189p) ASIN B00VR14IUY

DaCosta's space opera series opener is a gritty science fiction adventure rife with antiheroes and cliffhangers. Space tug captain Caleb and his second-in-command, Francisca, make a shady but profitable living smuggling cargo among Saturn's moons. Then a stowaway synthetic human, known as #1001, puts them directly in the crosshairs of the law and the powerful Chitec corporation. She looks like the other 500 male and 500 female synths legally created by Chitec for wealthy families. But #1001 shouldn't exist, and she definitely shouldn't be able to fight, and kill, with ease. Someone sent her to kill Caleb, but a conscience she shouldn't have is staying her hand. While Caleb and Fran struggle to escape Chitec, #1001 battles her own altered programming. DaCosta spins her story briskly, revealing Caleb's checkered past and his connection to #1001 little by little as the

authorities close in. Despite some predictable plot twists (and trouble with details such as the names and terraformability of Saturn's moons), there's probably enough intrigue to draw most readers back for the next chapter in this series. (BookLife)

Romance/Erotica

Traitor in Her Arms

Shana Galen. Loveswept, \$4.99 e-book (288p) ISBN 978-0-399-17910-5

While searching for release from their secrets and redemption for their sins, two thieves become prisoners of their hearts in Galen's adventurous romantic thriller set during the French Revolution. Ramsey, Lord Sedgwick, and Viscountess Gabrielle McCullough, the widow of Ramsey's best friend, can't seem to escape their pasts or each other. Both are forced into thievery—he's at the mercy of a blackmailer, while she's trying to pay her husband's gambling debts—and they often find themselves crossing paths, which fans the flames of attraction. When the Scarlet Pimpernel requests assistance from Gabrielle, Ramsey (who's been ordered by his blackmailer to discover the Pimpernel's identity) insists on tagging along. Gabrielle wants to trust Ramsey, but fears she can't; his growing feelings for her make it difficult for him to deceive her, even to save himself. Love and honor battle against fear and loathing. Despite the gruesomeness of the period, Galen (the Covent Garden Cubs series) has successfully created a touching love story, rife with rich descriptions and fascinating facts. (Aug.)

I Won't Be Home for Christmas

Amanda Prowse. Head of Zeus, \$14.95 trade paper (336p) ISBN 978-1-78497-492-3

Prowse's romantic contemporary novel unfolds slowly and steadily with unexpected twists and smart, funny, honest language. Fifty-three-year-old Vivienne had hoped her wanderlust-stricken daughter, Emma, would return home to Bedminster, England, for Christmas after a four-year absence. Instead, Emma announces she's getting married in New Zealand. Vivienne struggles to be supportive of Emma and keep her own insecurities at bay. Her rambunctious long-time friend Ellen joins her for the trip to

Tutukaka, lovingly teasing and challenging her at every opportunity. Free-spirited Emma is her usual ebullient self with her mother, but more reserved with her fiancé, Michael; nonetheless, she assures her mother all is well. Vivienne finds her English reserve crumbling under her attraction to Michael's father, Gil, and the stunning beauty of Tutukaka. As Vivienne and Gil explore their budding camaraderie, Vivienne begins to realize how much she needed closure regarding events from her past, but moving on comes at a price. Prowse connects the past to the present, exploring life's journey and the choices the characters made along the way. (Aug.)

Chief's Mess

L.A. Witt. Riptide, \$17.99 trade paper (291p) ISBN 978-1-62649-604-0

Witt's terrific third Anchor Point military contemporary (after *Afraid to Fly*) mixes red-hot passion with a sensitive and thoughtful take on coping with a partner's alcoholism. When Anthony Talbot visits family in Anchor Point, Ore., the last thing he's expecting is to by chance meet the love of his life at a local gay bar. Navy

Chief Petty Officer Noah Jackson quickly falls for the hot redheaded stranger, and when Anthony returns to Denver, long-distance romance ensues, with plenty of webcam fun and sexting. But soon, Anthony realizes Noah has a problem with alcohol. After having watched his sister's drunken ex ruin her life, Anthony doesn't want to date someone with the same problem. But can he give up the hottest relationship he's ever had, especially when he realizes he's fallen in love? And when Noah hits rock bottom, can Anthony pull him up? Witt's first-rate portrayal of an alcoholic in denial rings true throughout, as does the self-loathing felt by a man who realizes he can no longer control his drinking. A tight, eminently readable plot easily carries readers through this tale, and they'll be rooting for both Anthony and Noah. (July)

Scandalous Ever After

Theresa Romain. Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$8.99 mass market (320p) ISBN 978-1-4926-4902-1

Romain's diverting novel lacks the intrigue of some of her previous Regencies, but it abounds with delightful

characters. Abigail Catherine "Kate" Durham, Irish Countess of Whelan, has only recently shed her widow's weeds in favor of feathered hats and brightly colored dresses. It's racing season in Newmarket, and she intends this trip to her father's home to mark a new beginning. When Kate and her brother Jonah stop in Cambridge to take in a lecture on antiquities by expert Evan Rhys, she means it as an olive branch to Evan, a man she and her late husband once counted as a close friend. But Evan has absented himself from her life since the day of her husband's fatal accident, and she's not so sure she can trust his friendship anymore. When she invites him into her bedchamber, an entertaining collision of crossed purposes and mixed messages ensues. These misunderstandings more than make up for the rather lightweight subplot of possible murder, smuggling, and forgery. *Agent: Paige Wheeler, Creative Media.* (July)

Duke with Benefits:

Studies in Scandal, Book 2

Manda Collins. St. Martin's, \$7.99 mass market (320p) ISBN 978-1-250-10988-0

In Collins's enjoyable second *Studies in Scandal* Regency (after *Ready Set Rogue*), a handsome duke falls for a brilliant mathematician. Lady Daphne Forsyth is one of four women who have inherited the manor house of Lady Celeste Beauchamp. Only Daphne knows that the library at Beauchamp House contains the famous Cameron Riddle, which points the way to the elusive treasure said to have been hidden by the head of the Cameron clan near the end of the Jacobite rebellion. Though Daphne is initially unable to find the riddle, she does meet the brother of her chaperone: Dalton Beauchamp, the Duke of Maitland. When Daphne reveals her quest to the other residents and to Dalton, they assist her in her search, which becomes more intense when a man is murdered in Beauchamp House. The long arc of the mystery plot complements the intense romance between Dalton and Daphne. *Agent: Holly Root, Waxman Leavell Literary.* (July)

Reach for You: Dark Heart, Book 3

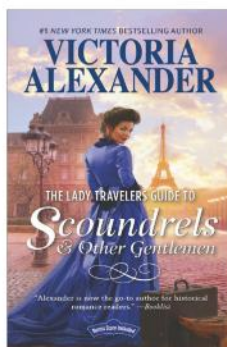
Pat Esden. Kensington, \$12.95 trade paper (266p) ISBN 978-1-4967-0009-4

The entertaining, fast-paced third *Dark Heart* gothic paranormal romance picks

★ The Lady Travelers Guide to Scoundrels and Other Gentlemen

Victoria Alexander. HQN, \$7.99 mass market (416p) ISBN 978-0-373-80398-9

Prolific historical romance author Alexander (*The Daring Exploits of a Runaway Heiress*) spins pure fun in the first full-length installment of her Victorian-era *Lady Travelers Guide* series. Stuffy, demanding spinster India Prendergast wants to stay at her secretarial position in England, but her beloved cousin Lady Heloise Snuggs has vanished in Paris, and India is determined to find her. The fraudulent *Lady Travelers Society*—run by the widow Lady Guinevere Blodgett and two of her friends—arranged Heloise's trip, and they respond to her disappearance by sending Lady Blodgett's grandnephew Derek Saunders, heir to the Earl of Danby, to help India search. Naturally, sparks fly between Derek and India as they solve the mystery. Alexander's protagonists remain sharp while changing for the better by beginning to trust each other and admit their own fallibility. Her secondary characters, including the city of Paris at the turn of the 20th century, provide support and delightful eccentricity. Alexander celebrates the spirit of adventure, elevates dubious scheming with good intentions, and advocates for the yielding of judgment and practicality to hedonism and happiness. Readers will savor every page. (June)



up just hours after the final events of *Beyond Your Touch*, in which Annie Freemont was unceremoniously ejected from the realm of the djinn. She refuses to let that stop her from rescuing her boyfriend, Chase, and her long-lost mother, who are still being held captive in the other dimension. Working with her father and extended family, Annie must make an uncomfortable alliance with mysterious Lotli, whose flute magic can help Annie safely cross between worlds, but it's clear that Lotli has no qualms about manipulating everyone around her for her own benefit. Annie must find her way back to Chase, whose mental health is suffering from being trapped in the place where he spent so many of his younger years. Though Annie and Chase's romance is a focus of the series, they're kept far apart in this installment; fans will hungrily anticipate their reunion, but new readers will be completely lost. *Agent: Pooja Menon, Kimberly Cameron and Associates. (July)*

Serenity Harbor

RaeAnne Thayne. HQN, \$7.99 mass market (384p) ISBN 978-0-373-79939-8

Thayne's sixth Haven Point contemporary (after *Snowfall on Haven Point*) is built on the flawed premise of disabled children teaching awkward adults about unconditional love. Elementary school teacher Katrina Bailey is teaching English in Colombia when she meets Gabriella, an orphaned girl with Down syndrome. She begins adoption proceedings, selfishly hoping that parenthood will help her convince herself and everyone else that she is a responsible adult. When Katrina reluctantly returns home for a family wedding, she sees autistic six-year-old Milo having a meltdown in a grocery store and spontaneously offers to become his caregiver. She figures that the job will help her raise money for the adoption and get experience caring for someone disabled. After Milo's mother died, his older brother, tech entrepreneur Bowie Callahan—who had been abandoned by his mother at a young age and didn't even know Milo existed—became responsible for the boy's care. Bowie vows to make sure Milo will never suffer the way he suffered, but he has no idea how to raise an autistic kid, and he's glad to accept Katrina's offer. Bowie's decision to demonstrate his devotion by

hiring a complete stranger as a caregiver is questionable, and he seems more interested in his job than his brother. Readers will still enjoy watching Bowie and Katrina fall in love as they learn to believe in themselves, but the use of disabled children as plot tokens is grating. *Agent: Karen Solem, Spencerbill Associates. (July)*

★ Sworn to Protect: Battle Scars, Book 4

Diana Gardin. Forever Yours, \$3.99 e-book (320p) ISBN 978-1-4555-7153-6

Gardin's fourth Battle Scars contemporary romantic thriller (after *Man of Honor*) is a sensual, action-filled page-turner that evokes waves of emotion. Nine years of separation have done nothing to sever the strong bond between Night Eagle Security expert Jeremy Teague and Rayne Matheson, who left Jeremy their senior year of high school without an explanation. When a stalker sends her on the run, Rayne returns home to Wilmington, Del., with her son, Decker, and the emotional devastation brought on by her reunion with Jeremy is almost worse than what she's fleeing from. Gardin packs a lot of forgiveness into the romance, allowing the lovers to reconnect without unnecessary drama—though overcoming the past is still not a quick or easy process. The sexual tension is thick enough to stop bullets, and there are plenty flying around with the elusive villain closing in on his target. When lies are revealed, making the lovers question everything they thought they knew, Jeremy and Rayne (and their loyal, capable friends) face danger head-on, refusing to back down and once again lose their chance for happiness. Their unbreakable bond is evident from their intimate exchanges. Gardin will add to her fan base with this winning, fast-paced sequel. *Agent: Stacey Donaghy, Donaghy Literary. (June)*

Second Chance Season: Grand Valley, Book 2

Liora Blake. Pocket, \$16 trade paper (384p) ISBN 978-1-5011-7535-0

Blake's second Grand Valley contemporary romance (after *First Step Forward*) is sassy and sexy, featuring a hero and heroine whose playfulness and good, dirty fun are infectious. Wealthy Chicagoan Cara Cavanaugh decamps to Hotchkiss,

Colo., to write about the local color. Her introduction to it is Garrett Strickland, an easygoing tall drink of water whose father's death forced him to leave college, sell the family's unprofitable farm, and take a job at the local co-op. The two fit each other like a well-worn pair of blue jeans, but what will happen when Cara finishes her article and leaves Hotchkiss? Blake's city girl–country boy premise is nothing new, but Garrett's point of view as a very masculine man and Cara's endearingly fish-out-of-water reactions to country living are extremely well done, and their chemistry is off the charts. The author's exuberant writing makes a stock story line fresh, and her addition of just enough angst at the end gives it some substance. *Agent: Victoria Lowes, Bent Agency. (June)*

Crave Me: Luminous, Book 2

Stacy Lynn. Carina, \$3.99 e-book (304p) ISBN 978-1-4880-2821-2

Lynn's second Luminous contemporary (after *Dominate Me*), set in a BDSM community in Grand Rapids, Mich., is a gentle, erotic representation of kinky life. Simon Delgado is a dominant whose last relationship collapsed when a scene went too far too fast and his partner viewed it as assault. Chloe Reynolds, Simon's ex's sister, has been in love with Simon since the day she met him, and she wants to get involved in kinky life. After Simon rescues Chloe from a caning gone wrong at the Luminous club, he agrees to train her despite his misgivings about her family's reaction. As Simon introduces Chloe to the role of a submissive, together they explore the different motivations they have for their roles and their relationship. Chloe is already in love with Simon, and Simon's kink experience outweighs Chloe's, so they both grow and learn together. The valid concerns of both their families, to which there are no easy answers, are skillfully portrayed. *(June)*

Surrender the Dark

Tibby Armstrong. Loveswept, \$3.99 e-book (263p) ISBN 978-0-399-59335-2

Armstrong (*Numbers Game*) begins a contemporary paranormal romance series with this uneven, unexciting romantic thriller. Benjamin Fuller was blinded as a child during a vampire's escape from his vampire-hunting family's cellar. Now grown, he has his family's house on Beacon

Hill and a hunting career of his own, but he's an alcoholic struggling to find meaning in his life. Tzadkiel, War King of Boston's vampires, went to ground to heal after Benjamin's uncle poisoned him; 20 years later he returns, wanting vengeance. The complicated paranormal politics of area witches and fae push the two together, and they find themselves better allies than enemies. Although the strengths and limitations of Benjamin's blindness are well depicted and the chemistry between the leads rings true, the political machinations don't warrant the time spent on them, and the very real reasons for the leads to hate each other vanish into the mist of mutual attraction far too easily. *Agent: Deidre Knight, Knight Agency. (June)*



Comics

Not Drunk Enough

Tessa Stone. Oni, \$19.99 trade paper (160p) ISBN 978-1-62010-414-9

Hapless overnight repairman Logan finds himself fighting his way through a lab crowded with monstrosities: man-made crimes against nature lurking down hallways and around corners. What's turned this industrial laboratory into an urban battlefield? Logan leads the survivors (not many of them) in a quest for the answers and the exit. Collected from Stone's (*Buzz!*, *Hanna is Not a Boy's Name*) webcomic, this blood-spattered thrill ride is a cross between *The Walking Dead* and *Die Hard* with a dash of *The Evil Dead*'s black humor. Rapid-fire action and sharp-as-an-axe dialogue drive a page-flipping narrative. Manga-style angular humans and monsters explode on the page with deep blood-reds, shadowy darks, and thick black panel borders that wall Logan in like an endless labyrinth. Even Stone's expressive lettering brings a violent, ragged language to screams, growls, and bone crunches. The raucous fusion of smarts and shivers elevates it above the average crowd of gory monster comics—a bloody good frightfest. (*July*)



★ Garbage Night

Jen Lee. Nobrow, \$18.95 (72p) ISBN 978-1-910620-21-2

This follow-up to Lee's previous short story "Vacancy" (also collected here) tells

a simple yet absorbing tale of friendship and survival in a postapocalyptic world. Simon is a domesticated dog abandoned by his owners after a mysterious disaster; along with his wild friends Cliff the raccoon and Reynard the deer, Simon spends his days scavenging the barren suburbs for food. When the trio meet a wandering dog named Barnaby, they decide to join him and travel to Fallbridge, a far-off town where food is rumored to be plentiful. But Barnaby turns out to be a bully, and Simon must decide where his loyalties lie. Lee's expansive universe of anthropomorphic animals comes alive through her spare use of detail: her verbal world-building gives readers just enough information about animal society and what came before to spark the imagination, and vivid, expressive cartooning fills in the gaps. The result is a quiet, heart-breaking new installment in what promises to be a tremendously imaginative serial. (*June*)



On the Camino

Jason. Fantagraphics, \$24.99 (192p) ISBN 978-1-6839-6021-8

Upon turning 50, esteemed Norwegian cartoonist Jason (*I Killed Adolf Hitler*) walked the Camino de Santiago (or St. James's Way), a 500-mile pilgrimage route to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. The result is his first graphic memoir, sharing the mundanities (endless hostels, hand-washing socks), fellow travelers (a rainbow of nationalities, maybe a nun, definitely a windmill repairman), and small pleasures (meals, café con leche) encountered on the way. Jason's internal monologue—by turns self-deprecating and matter-of-fact, shot through with social anxiety, and punctuated by moments of startling gag comedy and pop culture references, but always earnest and relatable—propels the journey. His trademark minimalism—simple black-and-white line work and deadpan anthropomorphic people—convey the essence of his experiences, though not the details. There are no grand epiphanies in the end, but this intimate travelogue of life's little uncertainties, absurdities, and victories is a revealing addition to the Jason oeuvre. (*May*)



★ Hostage

Guy Delisle. Drawn & Quarterly, \$29.95 (432p) ISBN 978-1-77046-279-3

Delisle (*Jerusalem*) departs from his usual subjects and artistic style in this quietly powerful graphic "as told to" hostage story. Christophe André, a volunteer with Médecins San Frontières in Chechnya, was kidnapped on July 2, 1997, and held for 111 days. Handcuffed and isolated for almost all his captivity, he can only speculate on his fate and the possible progress of imagined negotiations. A change in his food, such as that brought by some stolen garlic, is a high point, as are the few occasions on which his captors share a drink or bring him out of his room to watch television. Despite the lack of action, Christophe is an admirable figure, facing boredom, fear, and a complete lack of information about his status for months while managing to keep his head and, eventually, rescue himself. Delisle perfectly captures his subject's inner monologue of pep talks and mental diversions, creating an indelible portrait of an ordinary person facing a frightening ordeal. (*May*)



Strange Fruit

Mark Waid and J.G. Jones. Boom, \$24.99 (128p) ISBN 978-1-60886-872-8

Racial strife in a Jim Crow-era Mississippi town reaches a boiling point when a devastating series of floods coincides with the arrival of a superpowered alien—who happens to look like a black man. Both raised in the South, Waid (*Kingdom Come*) and Jones (*Wanted*) clearly had the best of intentions, but the serialized version was one of the most controversial comics of the past year: while attempting to critique racism, the story stumbles over what feels like every racist trope. Jones deserves credit for his gorgeous Alex Ross-like painted art, but plays directly into the systemic sexualization of black bodies by having the hero remain naked for more than half the book. Waid contributes by naming the hero "Johnson"—a juvenile genitalia gag—and worse yet, making him wordless throughout, so that Johnson becomes a silent, hollow cliché of what two white creators think black power means. With a tepid plot and shallow exploration of the themes it raises, this book ends up feeling too self-congratulatory to make a strong statement. (*May*)



Nonfiction

Wayne and Ford:

The Films, the Friendship, and the Forging of an American Hero

Nancy Schoenberger. Doubleday/Talese, \$27.95 (256p) ISBN 978-0-385-53485-7

Schoenberger (*Furious Love*) has tremendous affection for her subjects here, John Ford and John Wayne, who made seven major westerns together. Her book focuses equally on their individual career trajectories and director Ford's mentoring of the actor who was shaped into "the ideal of the American hero." While Schoenberger addresses some relevant themes—boys becoming men, codes of masculinity, and feminized men—there is more recounting of plots and quoting of published source material than analysis of the films. The sections on *Stagecoach*, *The Searchers*, and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* are adequate but not overly illuminating. Schoenberger has an unfortunate tendency to repeat herself, yet she fails to emphasize her points. What is of interest here are some of the more gossip tidbits: rumors that Ford was gay, stories about his tormenting of actors and irascible nature on set, or an account of Wayne stepping into the director's chair on *The Alamo* and relegating Ford to second-camera duties. The photos, of the young Wayne especially, are good, but overall this appreciation of the careers of these legendary men is underwhelming. *Agent: David Kubn, Kubn Projects. (Oct.)*

Assembly

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri. Oxford Univ., \$27.95 (336p) ISBN 978-0-19-067796-1

Political theorists Hardt and Negri (*Declaration*) return with their latest installment in a series reimagining Marxism for the present. In this hopeful study, they extend their concept of the multitude (a nonhegemonic group of people) in order to develop a dynamic concept of assembly—defined as "the power of coming together and acting politically in concert." The book is nominally organized as a "call-and-response" in which Hardt and Negri reappropriate concepts familiar from neoliberalism, such as those concerning production,

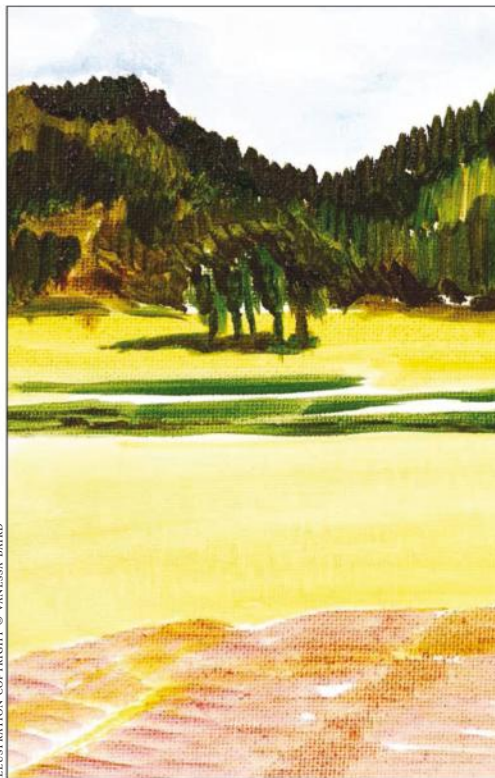


ILLUSTRATION COPYRIGHT © VANESSA BAIRD

This illustration by Vanessa Baird begins a section devoted to October in Karl Ove Knausgaard's autobiographical *Autumn* (reviewed on this page).

leadership, and entrepreneurship, to instead describe features of a radically democratic, noncapitalist society. For example, in their analysis, the concept of a leader is transformed from the "one who decides" to a person holding a temporary office beholden to the multitude's needs. In order to arrive at these reappropriated and subverted concepts, the authors unpack principles and practices central to capitalism, such as private property and political sovereignty. The "commons" becomes an idealized space in which freedom and equality can be achieved. The book is a smart and in-depth examination of Marxist politics for a new century, but will definitely have its critics, even from the left, for its break with tradition and far-reaching claims. This work is a fascinating, challenging theoretical journey into a future beyond capitalism. (*Sept.*)

Autumn

Karl Ove Knausgaard, trans. from the Norwegian by Ingvild Burkey. Random House, \$27 (240p) ISBN 978-0-399-56330-0

Novelist Knausgaard (*My Struggle*) elo-

quently expresses the delights, rewards, and insights of looking closely in this, the first of a projected quartet of autobiographical volumes based on the four seasons. Writing to his unborn daughter—the author and his wife, Linda, already have three other children—Knausgaard revels in everyday items such as tin cans and rubber boots; his perfect deconstruction of an old-fashioned landline telephone is a joy. His thoughts take to the heavens as well, whether contemplating the sun overhead, the arrival of twilight, or the migration of birds each year. He is not shy about exposing the scatological or the cruel in life; there is both softness and hardness in his musings, reverence and irreverence. Most of all, his writing encourages the reader to see the connections between quotidian things and the bigger picture and to appreciate both continuity and change.

Autumn hums in the background as apple trees flourish and days get darker, and one looks forward to what associations he will uncover in the remaining seasons of the year. *Agent: Andrew Wylie, the Wylie Agency. (Aug.)*

Citizen Newt: The Making of a Reagan Conservative

Craig Shirley. Thomas Nelson, \$29.99 (320) ISBN 978-1-59555-448-2

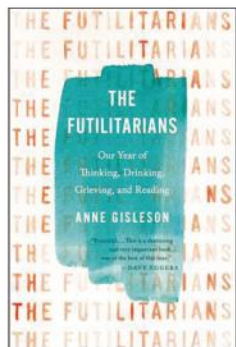
There have been several books written about former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, but Shirley (*Reagan Rising*) adds a decidedly conservative take on the man whom Nancy Reagan credited with completing the "Reagan Revolution." Dismissing previous biographies as liberally biased and vengeful, Shirley's extensive chronology of Gingrich's early career follows the young Georgia college professor as he emerged from a pair of unsuccessful congressional races in the 1970s to become a bombastic visionary of American politics. Over a 16-year period, the relentless "bomb throwing" Gingrich destroys the career of Democratic Speaker Jim Wright, fiercely criticizes presidents Bush and Clinton at every turn, and ultimately helps lead the GOP's 1994

Congressional victories. Despite Shirley's evident admiration for his subject, his portrait is not entirely hagiographical, frequently noting when the overly confident Gingrich "wandered off the reservation" with his grandiose style. However, the fact that the biography ends at Gingrich's most triumphant moment, his 1994 "Contract with America" and rise to the Speakership, with nary a mention of his four years as Speaker and ultimate resignation from Congress, goes against the author's stated purpose of complete honesty. (Aug.)

**The Futilitarians:
One Year of Thinking, Drinking,
Grieving, and Reading**

Anne Giselson. Little, Brown, \$27 (260p)
ISBN 978-0-316-39390-4

Giselson's memoir is a compassionate journey through personal grief, as well as a smart compendium of literature. After the suicides of her twin sisters (Rachel and Rebecca) and the destruction Hurricane Katrina wreaks in her hometown of New



Orleans, Giselson and her husband Brad bring friends together in what they called the Existential Crisis Reading Group, or ECRG.

Giselson, who's written for the *Atlantic* and the *Oxford American*, documents a year in which she and the ECRG explore the meaning of life as they read, drink, and share ideas. What ensues is a dynamic examination of human suffering and human joy. They discuss an all-star lineup of literature—including the works of Kingsley Amis, Epicurus, Clarice Lispector, Shel Silverstein, and Leo Tolstoy, to name a few. Giselson nicely evokes the Catholic teachings she learned from her parents; most moving, though, is her hard look at her twin sisters' lives: both were fraught with mental illness and addiction, traits shared by their father, who was a death-row lawyer in Louisiana. Her narrative is a wonderful look at friendship and grief, as well as an enlight-

ening personal literary journey. *Agent: Emma Parry, Janklow & Nesbit Assoc.* (Aug.)

**All the Agents and Saints:
Dispatches from the U.S.
Borderlands**

Stephanie Elizondo Griest. Univ. of North Carolina, \$30 (312p) ISBN 978-1-4696-3159-2

Travel writer Elizondo Griest (*Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana*) meditates on the existential nature and impact of international borderlines through her encounters with people along the Mexican and Canadian borders in the United States. Originally from South Texas, the author brings her personal experience to bear on her journalistic explorations of activism, spirituality, identity, and the law at America's borders. Considering the "ancestral, cultural, and physical" wounds that fester at the borders, Elizondo Griest glimpses the modern immigrant experience through the lives of people who live in more than one culture. She ventures to casinos and artists' studios, local shrines and longhouses, and expounds on both the elegance and the insecurity of the hybrid existences led by the people who live in these in-between spaces. Reminiscent of Gloria Anzaldúa's seminal *Borderlands/La Frontera*, Elizondo Griest's study of borderlands wrestles with profound questions of identity and belonging in a constantly shifting and increasingly unstable world. (July)

**The Big Heist:
The Real Story of the Lufthansa
Heist, the Mafia, and Murder**

Anthony M. DeStefano. Citadel, \$25 (352p)
ISBN 978-0-8065-3830-3

Veteran Mafia chronicler DeStefano (*Gangland New York: The Places and Faces of Mob History*) serves up a comprehensive account of the legendary 1978 heist at New York's JFK Airport, including the recent indictment of Vincent Asaro, an elderly member of the Bonanno crime family, who was charged and acquitted in 2015, decades after the theft. DeStefano traces the arc of Asaro's Mafia career before delving into allegations made by his cousin Gaspare Valenti, a fellow organized-crime associate, who testified that Asaro took part in the robbery. Though the book melds an impressive amount of

material into a coherent narrative, it's not all that suspenseful, especially for those familiar with the crime, which is documented in other accounts such as Nicholas Pileggi's *Wiseguys* (1985). DeStefano's insights into the more recent material, such as the trial of Asaro, aren't enough to sustain interest. (July)

**The Hidden Lives of Tudor Women:
A Social History**

Elizabeth Norton. Pegasus, \$28.95 (416p)
ISBN 978-1-68177-440-4

In these absorbing and well-researched portraits, Norton (*The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor*), an authority on the queens of England, juxtaposes the experiences of prominent and ordinary women across the social, economic, and religious spectra during the Tudor period (1485–1603). Norton frames her work with the lives of Henry VIII's younger sister Elizabeth (1492–1495) and his younger daughter, Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603). She posits that women passed through Shakespeare's "seven ages of man" in parallel fashion. This construct proves awkward, as for women there was no fourth or fifth age comparable to those of a soldier or man at the peak of his professional success. Thus, two of the book's middle sections devolve into narratives about well-known, exceptional women caught up in the religious turmoil of the 1530s–1550s. The earlier and later ages more successfully encompass a broad range of experiences, including those of wet nurses, witches, the poor, servants, and widows. Readers will learn about cooking and medicine, church pews and contraception, ladies in waiting, rape and prostitution, ecclesiastical courts, Lady Jane Grey, cosmetics, and more. Despite occasionally stretching the material to suit her thesis, Norton weaves her stories with an expert hand and illuminates many rarely discussed aspects of daily life for Tudor women. Illus. (July)

**It's My Country Too: Women's
Military Stories from the American
Revolution to Afghanistan**

Jeri Bell and Tracy Crow. Potomac, \$32.95 (376p) ISBN 978-1-61234-831-5

"A sailor and a Marine walked into a bar": so begins this timely and thought-provoking anthology of women's military

stories edited by Bell, a retired naval officer and editor of the Veterans Writing Project literary journal, *O-Dark-Thirty*, and Crow (*Eyes Right*), a former Marine Corps officer. These stories crackle with personality and demonstrate how remarkably determined American women have been to serve an institution that didn't seem to want them. During the Revolution, for example, Sarah Osborn traveled with the Continental Army to stay close to her husband and perform domestic services for his unit, while Deborah Sampson Gannett dressed like a man to enlist. Sarah Emma Edmonds and Loreta Janeta Velazquez did the same as Gannett during the Civil War. In WWI, such deceptions were no longer necessary because the military began enlisting women. Selections in the book's "Gender Wars" section attest to the sexual harassment women have endured as a matter of course once they earned a permanent place in the armed forces. The editors provide just enough historical context to deliver a smooth chronological flow and they include a helpful list of further readings. The foreword by veteran Kayla Williams is disappointingly anemic, but Bell and Crow have done a service by amplifying the important voices in this collection. *Illus. (July)*

The Locomotive of War: Money, Empire, Power, and Guilt

Peter Clarke. Bloomsbury, \$30 (432p)
ISBN 978-1-62040-660-1

"War is the locomotive of history," Leon Trotsky declared in 1922, and former professor Clarke (*Lancashire and the New Liberalism*) uses this oft-quoted line as the driving force for his own narrative of world war and the making of liberal internationalism. Apart from their significance as global conflicts, he argues, the two world wars fundamentally altered the nature of Anglo-American capitalism, ushering in an era of full employment and decreasing inequality among classes—in other words, reform, not revolution. To Clarke, fully understanding this transformation involves rethinking the relationship between militarism and the political liberalism that flourished in the first half of the 20th century. Readers prepared for an exploration of these subjects will be disappointed, as Clarke instead embarks on a whistle-stop tour of the lives of prominent Anglo-

American liberals, including Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George, John Maynard Keynes, and Woodrow Wilson, detailing their roles in the First and Second World Wars. While Clarke's tightly coiled prose is as incisive as ever, the focus on great men means the book falls short of its ambitious aims. It succeeds as a reassessment of several historiographical tropes—namely, German war guilt—but never teases out the implications of the dalliance between liberalism and militarism. War, it turns out, is apparently the locomotive of biography. *(July)*

Making Contact: Jill Tarter and the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence

Sarah Scoles. Pegasus, \$27.95 (336p)
ISBN 978-1-68177-441-1

In this biography, science writer Scoles celebrates the life and work of astronomer Jill Cornell Tarter and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI), the movement whose beating heart she has long been. Tarter has been searching the skies

since the late 1960s, when computers ran on information from punch cards. In that time she has battled skeptical donors, derisive politicians, and constant misogyny. She was also the inspiration for the character of Ellie Arroway in the novel *Contact*. Scoles shares milestones and anecdotes from Tarter's life while explaining what SETI is and how it has evolved with technological advancements. Scoles also notes the recent events that make it more possible that we may one day find life outside our world: the detection of planets orbiting distant stars and the discovery of extremophiles, which are terrestrial organisms that live in extreme conditions. Over time, Tarter's team at the Center for SETI Research grew to include chemists, geologists, philosophers, and others. The book's only drawback is that its narrative skips back and forth, which can make the chronology confusing. That flaw aside, Scoles shares the fantastic story of people willing to pursue a quixotic goal in the face of daunting odds. *Agent: Zoe Sandler, ICM. (July)*

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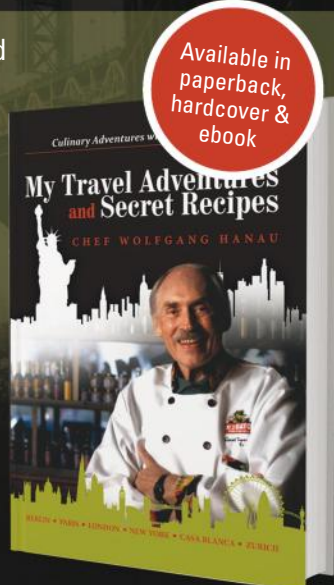
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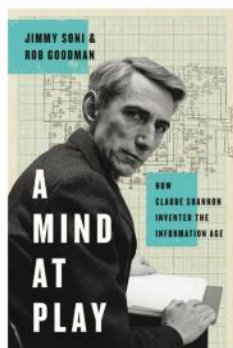




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A Mind at Play: How Claude Shannon Invented the Information Age

Jimmy Soni and Rob Goodman. Simon & Schuster, \$27 (380p) ISBN 978-1-4767-6668-3

A key figure in the development of digital technology has his achievements, if not his personality, burnished in this enlightening biography. Journalists Soni and Goodman, authors of *Rome's Last Citizen*, explore Claude Shannon's breakthroughs as a scientist at MIT and Bell Labs in the 1930s and '40s in electronics and telecommunications. His noteworthy discoveries include a way to rationally design circuits using Boolean algebra, and information theory, which understands communications as bits and shows how to compress them and remove noise—methods that underlie DVDs, the Internet, and much else. The authors' run-down of the science behind these



demeanor and uneventful life don't make for a dramatic narrative. The authors' interpretation that Shannon's mental "playfulness" stimulated his scientific creativity also seems misconstrued: his serious accomplishments were achieved before the age of 33, when he was working at assigned tasks; during his later life he pursued various interests—whimsical robots, chess-playing machines, a scien-

advances, probing everything from the structure of language to the transatlantic telegraph, is lucid and fascinating. Unfortunately, Shannon's retiring

tific study of juggling—but achieved nothing noteworthy. Still, Soni and Goodman open an engrossing window onto what a mind hard at work can do. *Agent: Laura Yorke, Carol Mann Agency. (July)*

The Netanyahu Years

Ben Caspit, trans. from the Hebrew by Ora Cummings. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$29.99 (512p) ISBN 978-1-250-08705-8

Tel Aviv-based journalist Caspit writes an informed, balanced political biography of the controversial fourth-term Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Born in Israel and raised in the U.S., Netanyahu possesses political skills that often prove effective in both nations. Caspit traces Netanyahu's decades-long ties to the U.S. Republican Party, starting with his affinity for neoconservatism and big money donors when he was Israel's

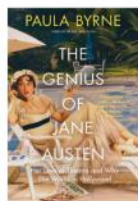
ALL ABOUT JANE

Two new books mark the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death.

The Genius of Jane Austen: Her Love of Theatre and Why She Works in Hollywood

Paula Byrne. Harper Perennial, \$16.99 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-0-06-267449-4

Biographer Byrne (*The Real Jane Austen*) explores Austen's relationship to the theater by placing her letters and novels within the context of popular Georgian-era dramas. While readers naturally associate Austen with the novel, Byrne argues that her use of devices such as comic misunderstandings and dramatic entrances and exits comes from theatrical tradition. Byrne provides a close reading of Austen's various works, with a special emphasis on *Mansfield Park's* play-related plotline. She draws comparisons between Austen's novels and popular plays of her day, matching



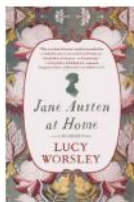
Sense and Sensibility's satire to Richard Brinsley Sheridan's *The Rivals* and noting settings and character types *Mansfield Park* shares with David Garrick's *The Clandestine Marriage*. Byrne also explores adaptations of Austen's works for stage and screen, notably A.A. Milne's *Miss Elizabeth Bennet* and Amy Heckerling's *Clueless*. At odds

with scholarship that casts Austen as provincial and perhaps stodgy, Byrne presents an Austen immersed in her time's popular entertainment, visiting Bath's Theatre Royal and London's Covent Garden, among others, and commenting astutely on performances in her correspondence, from which Byrne quotes liberally. While Byrne's language skews academic, any Austen devotee should appreciate the thorough analysis of the novels and the crediting of previously overlooked influences. *(July)*

Jane Austen at Home: A Biography

Lucy Worsley. St. Martin's, \$29.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-250-13160-7

This enthusiastic, though often slow-going, biography by Worsley (*The Art of the English Murder*) delivers a portrait of the novelist in her successive homes, pondering the differences that place makes to Austen's fiction. As a young girl in



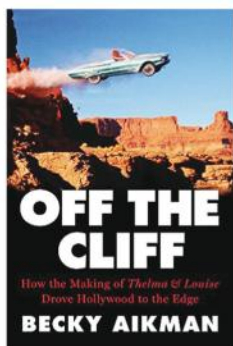
Steventon Rectory, for example, Austen became a consummate novel reader who dreamed of joining the cadre of popular female novelists of the time, such as Fanny Burney and Ann Radcliffe. In her years at Steventon, Austen wrote an early draft of the novel that later became *Sense and Sensibility* and she observed many of the details of domestic life that she would include in her novels. Living for a short time in straitened circumstances after her father's death, Austen, according to Worsley, refused to sink into misery but instead turned her situation into art. When she moved into Chawton Cottage, Austen completed *Mansfield Park*, a novel that disparages the idea that an individual's birthplace is more important than "life experience or talent." In her final novel, *Persuasion*, Austen opens with the loss of a home and a period of rootlessness, and ends with the protagonist's finding a permanent home, brings this thematic preoccupation of hers full circle. Worsley's careful research delivers no dramatic new revelations about Austen's life or writing, but Janeites will flock to the book nevertheless for its fresh perspective on their idol. *(July)*

United Nations ambassador in the 1980s. Today casino magnate and Republican Party donor Sheldon Adelson, Netanyahu's U.S. patron, pulls strings for him in what the author depicts as a disturbingly backhanded relationship. Caspit describes outright hostility between Netanyahu and U.S. leaders Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, heightened by disagreements over Iran's nuclear program, which led to Netanyahu's memorable, grandstanding 2015 visit to Congress. By Caspit's lights, Netanyahu's messianic self-conception, one that his family and inner circle encourage, constitutes a defining feature of his character, driving his "need to hold on to power at any cost." As captured in Cummings's remarkably fluid translation, Caspit's detailed, clear account covers Israel's domestic-policy disputes and Netanyahu's impact as a world leader. It also provides a vital guide to understanding Israel's influence on U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. *Agent: Lynne Rabinoff, Lynne Rabinoff Associates. (July)*

Off the Cliff: How the Making of 'Thelma & Louise' Drove Hollywood to the Edge

Becky Aikman. Penguin Press, \$28 (320p) ISBN 978-1-59420-671-9

Aikman (*Saturday Night Widows*) delivers an informative and lively behind-the-scenes look at the making of *Thelma & Louise*, the 1992 female-centered road movie that became a Best Screenplay Oscar winner and a feminist phenomenon. Journalist Aikman grounds her commentary in the wider context of how women are treated in Hollywood and how implausible a success story the film was: in fact, all the major Hollywood studios except outlier Pathé Entertainment turned down the project. Drawing on over 150 interviews, Aikman brings us the



perspectives and backstories of all the major participants: neophyte screenwriter Callie Khouri, British director Ridley Scott (*Blade Runner*), stars Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon, com-

poser Hans Zimmer, newcomer Brad Pitt, and old-school Hollywood studio head Alan Ladd Jr. Even though the movie was in a male director's hands, the women's voices are at its heart, and the ending scene, as Aikman explores, tested all limitations for what was acceptable for women on-screen. The movie should have been a promising new beginning for women in Hollywood, yet there still remains, as Aikman highlights, a dearth of female directors, screenwriters, and substantive female characters. *Agent: Joy Harris, Joy Harris Literary Agency. (July)*

Policing the Black Man: Arrest, Prosecution, and Imprisonment

Edited by Angela J. Davis. Pantheon, \$27.95 (253p) ISBN 978-1-101-87127-0

"The political justice system polices black men at every step of the process," asserts Davis (*Arbitrary Justice*), a professor of law at American University and editor of this eye-opening assemblage of essays on racism in the American criminal justice system. The various perspectives of the contributors—all specialists in criminal law and justice—offer a kaleidoscopic view of each step. In "Boys to Men," for example, Kristin Henning, the director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Georgetown Law, demonstrates the devastating impact of the presence of police security officers in schools. Her essay is followed by law professor Katheryn Russell-Brown's in-depth examination of implicit bias. "The Grand Jury and Police Violence Against Black Men," by Roger Fairfax (*Grand Jury 2.0*), illuminates a less-discussed stage of the criminal process, as does Davis's own contribution, which considers the particular role of the prosecutor. The culmination is relentlessly informative and disturbing. *(July)*

Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler

Bruce Henderson. Morrow, \$28.99 (448p) ISBN 978-0-06-241909-5

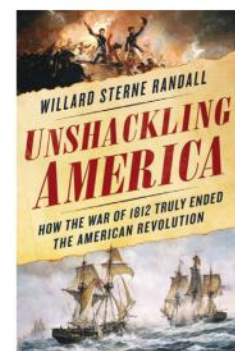
Military historian Henderson (*Rescue at Los Baños*) shares the story of eight of the 1,985 young German and Austrian Jewish men who escaped the Nazis, emigrated to America, joined the U.S. Army, and returned to Europe to interrogate

German POWs, largely during the last year of WWII. Called the Ritchie Boys after the military camp where they underwent eight weeks of intensive training, this group of young men proved highly effective in their work because of their accent-free German and knowledge of the nuances of German culture. Yet their activities were also risky because they were Jewish. For example, in December 1944 two Ritchie Boys, Kurt Jacobs and Murray Zappler, were captured in the Ardennes while fighting alongside other American soldiers and were separated from their comrades and shot. Henderson does well to humanize the story of the boys, although he occasionally gets bogged down in the details of particular battles. He also opens the book by overstating the number of victims of the November 1938 German national pogrom known as Kristallnacht. Despite these shortcomings, this is an ably researched and written account of a previously unknown facet of the American-Jewish dimension of WWII. *Agent: Writers House. (July)*

Unshackling America: How the War of 1812 Truly Ended the American Revolution

Willard Sterne Randall. St. Martin's, \$29.99 (464p) ISBN 978-1-250-11183-8

In this detailed, if occasionally dense, account, Randall (*Ethan Allen: His Life and Times*), professor emeritus of history at



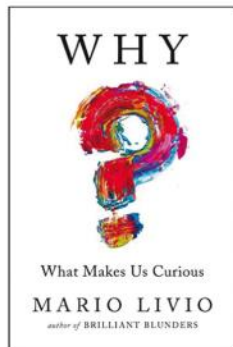
Champlain College, argues that the War of 1812 was not a discrete conflict, but rather the culmination of a long struggle for U.S. economic independence that began with

the American Revolution. Even after America gained its political freedom, post-Revolution tensions with Britain made the young republic a place of uneasy peace. As Randall demonstrates, British restrictions concerning the transportation of British goods put economic pressure on the U.S., leading to clashes over issues that included naval impressment and retaliatory smuggling. Revisiting such

famous events as the Chesapeake affair, in which a British ship fired on and mustered an American crew, Randall brings to life the violent skirmishes that played out in the name of trade on sea, lake, and land. Although his account covers mostly well-trod historical territory, it nonetheless helps elucidate the complex international entanglements that shaped both the revolutionary period and its aftermath. At times, sudden leaps in time and place can make the narrative hard to follow, but readers interested in the minutiae of military history will invariably find something of interest here. *Agent: Don Febr, Trident Media. (July)*

Why: What Makes Us Curious
Mario Livio. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (272p)
 ISBN 978-1-4767-9209-5

Astrophysicist Livio (*Brilliant Blunders*) makes the claim that the capacity for curiosity is one of the biggest differences between humans and other animals. He describes curiosity as coming in two forms: perceptual and epistemic. The former is “triggered by novelty, surprise, or puzzling stimuli,” he writes, and is related to negative feelings associated



with lack of knowledge. Epistemic curiosity generates positive emotions and “embodies our love of knowledge and the drive for its acquisition.” Livio accessibly

addresses some of the basic psychological and neurobiological underpinnings of curiosity, but he does so superficially. Similarly, he provides a shallow exploration of “two of the most curious minds to have ever existed”—Leonardo da Vinci and Richard Feynman. He also offers nine all-too-brief and wholly unsatisfying talks with successful individuals, ostensibly to determine if there are any similarities between them that might inform his quest to understand the drive to discover. Livio concludes by offering simplistic advice for educators: “Educators should frequently ask questions, but they should not provide the

answers right away. Instead, they should encourage their students to give the answer themselves, and then to think of ways to test the correctness of their answers.” While there are interesting nuggets here, Livio never delves deeply enough to get beyond the surface. *Agent: Susan Rabiner, Susan Rabiner Literary. (July)*

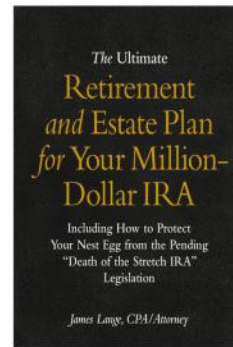
Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect
 Edited by Patricia Junker and Audrey Lewis.
 Yale Univ., \$55 (240p) ISBN 978-0-300-22395-8

This retrospective of American artist Andrew Wyeth’s career coincides with the centennial of his birth and an exhibition organized by the Brandy Wine River Museum of Art in Pennsylvania and the Seattle Art Museum. Curators Junker and Lewis, along with several contributing authors, explore the defining periods of Wyeth’s personal and artistic development. Early influences of note include Wyeth’s upbringing in a household that valued creative, unstructured play; the specter of WWI in the work of his father, artist N.C. Wyeth; and his father’s premature death, the result of a train accident. Essays address Wyeth’s focus on rural Maine and Pennsylvania, as well as the artist’s preoccupation with two families—the Kuerners and the Olsons, Christina Olson being the subject of his best-known work, *Christina’s World*. Wyeth’s interests in painting African-American subjects, outsider figures, and the solitude of rural America set the artist apart from his contemporaries, as does his integration of uncanny elements into otherwise realist works. Discussions of Wyeth’s erotic portraiture and his muses further contrast the artist’s “underground” identity with his more-public persona. With many paintings reproduced on full-page spreads, this is a welcome addition to a Wyeth library. Color illus. (*June*)

The Ultimate Retirement and Estate Plan for Your Million Dollar IRA
 James Lange. Retire Secure, \$2.99 e-book (88p) ISBN 978-0-99035-884-8

Lange (*The Little Black Book of Social Security Secrets, Couples Ages 62–70*), a CPA and attorney, predicts the imminent death of the “stretch IRA” at the hands of Congress (a prophecy possibly canceled

out by the right’s recent electoral gains). If he is correct, however, the cost to American families could be in the millions. For those of us ignorant of this investment vehicle, the stretch IRA allows IRA owners to bequeath their IRAs to children or grandchildren as an “inherited IRA.” Because these beneficiaries have longer life expectancies than



the usual IRA owners (retirees or their spouses), the required minimum distributions from the accounts are quite small, allowing the majority of the balance to accrue tax-free

for a generation or more. The difference between this form of estate planning and conventional approaches can be worth hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars to one’s heirs. While on one level a shameless plug for Lange’s business, the book is nevertheless a clear, well-written, and informed take on a worthwhile topic seldom addressed in mainstream personal-finance books. (*BookLife*)

Lifestyle

Food

★ Bravetart: Iconic American Desserts

Stella Parks. Norton, \$35 (400p) ISBN 978-0-393-23986-7

Parks, a senior editor at *Serious Eats* and the creator of the *Bravetart* blog, has written a cookbook that is as interesting to read as it is to cook from. Home cooks will stock up on butter, sugar, flour and other baking necessities before diving into the cookbook, as the recipes here are ones readers will want to make immediately. If they don’t rush to the kitchen after seeing the recipe for glossy fudge brownies with swirls of condensed milk, it’s only because they’ve decided to make the red-wine velvet cake or souffléed cheesecake instead. Tricks such as roasting sugar or adding browned butter to brownies for a richer, nuttier flavor make Parks’s recipes more complicated than

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FLOWER POWER

Two books highlight the little-known art of paper flowers.

The Fine Art of Paper Flowers: A Guide to Making Beautiful and Lifelike Botanicals

Tiffany Turner, photos by Tiffanie Turner and Aya Brackett. Watson-Guption, \$25 (264p) ISBN 978-0-399-57837-3

Artist and architect Turner dispels the misguided notion that crepe-paper flowers are for pep rallies and pom-poms in this illuminating DIY book. Combining the skills and aptitude befitting her dual careers, she offers a study in the use of delicate papers, precision tools, wire, hot glue, and various blending brushes to create botanical imitations that one is hard-pressed to distinguish from the real thing. The book is laid out in a series of tutorials that include templates for specific flower types, information about required tools, and step-by-step instructions. Specialty sections further elaborate various techniques on how to work with color and create additional elements such as leaves and buds. The author also includes an additional section about creating items for costuming and hairstyling. Under the mantra “You must make what you see, not what you think you see,” this book guides artisans to astonishing results. Color photos. (Aug.)



The Exquisite Book of Paper Flower Transformations

Livia Cetti, photos by Kate Mathis. Abrams, \$24.95 trade paper (176p) ISBN 978-1-4197-2412-1

Cetti, a floral stylist based in N.Y.C., highlights the hidden elements that make paper flowers and various arrangements of them a surprisingly realistic art form. All of the 25 creations included in the book celebrate the geometry of nature: Once you start to think of flowers as basic shapes, the author explains, one part becomes a block upon which the next part is built until the final creation ultimately comes together in a unified whole. In her arrangements, larger flowers provide the foundational element while the “holes” are filled in with medium-sized and smaller flowers (such as hellebores and cone-flowers) for medium-size filler and poppies for the smaller spaces. This easily navigable book equips crafters with the skills for creating individual flowers and larger arrangements while providing a delightful overview on the basics of botany. Color photos. (Apr.)



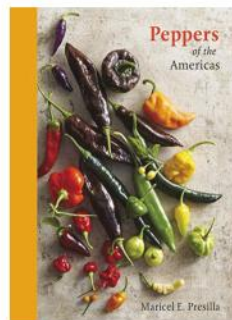
those in some other cookbooks, but recipes are written simply enough that an ambitious beginning cook can succeed. Each recipe also offers possible modifications: a simple white cake with marshmallow buttercream can, with a few tweaks, be transformed into an apple-cider spice cake, a hazelnut torte, or lemon-sunshine cake. Wherever possible, Parks offers gluten-free substitutions for her recipes. Parks is known for her recreations of iconic American supermarket treats, with recipes for such indulgences as fudge stripes cookies, Twinkies (hint: use club soda to keep them soft), and even homemade Cool Whip. From elegant homespun desserts to homemade Wonder Bread, Parks's cookbook offers a Cracker Jack blend (yes, there's a recipe for that, too) of ingenuity and whimsy. (Aug.)

★ Peppers of the Americas: The Remarkable Capsicums That Forever Changed Flavor

Maricel E. Presilla, photos by Romulo Yanse, illus. by Julio Figueroa. Ten Speed/Jones, \$35 (352p) ISBN 978-0-399-57892-2

A James Beard Best Chef, Presilla (*Gran Cocina Latina*, *The New Taste of*

Chocolate) presents a botanical compendium and culinary history of peppers. A specialist in Latin American and Spanish foods, Presilla describes the spread of peppers, “the great staple food of the New World,” via the Spanish conquest and the Portuguese spice trade. This historical-almanac-cum-cookbook celebrates



“Columbus” tongue-burning novelty” in 40 regional recipes. Chipotle-vanilla sauce accompanies stuffed piquillo peppers; chicken fills a zesty adobo tamale pie; Oaxacan tomatillo and dried chile de arbol salsa along with marinated, glazed slow-roasted slab bacon in a hot hibiscus and chocolate adobo are also featured. A twist on fruit salad is the Guatemalan-inspired melon and pineapple sprinkled with dried chile cobanero and cacao nibs. Seafood recipes include ceviche, calamari, and octopus. Presilla draws on her extensive “backyard pepper gallery” of 250

varieties, photographed and captioned with information on regional origins, flavor profiles, and culinary uses. There are tips on pepper growing, handling, drying, smoking, storing, fermenting, and pickling—also on making chile salts, dried powders, and pastes. Presilla is both “botanical sleuth” and chef, presenting a scholarly and stunning visual guide to peppers in this definitive guide. (July)

Recipes from the Herbalist's Kitchen: Delicious, Nourishing Food for Lifelong Health and Well-Being

Brittany Wood Nickerson. Storey, \$24.95 (312p) ISBN 978-1-6121-2690-6

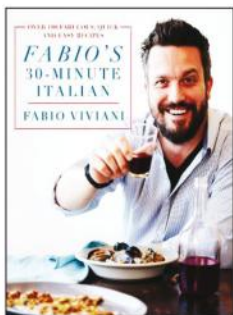
Nickerson, a professional cook specializing in herbal medicine, offers an insightful look into the healing properties of herbs, showing how to incorporate them into the diet for better health. Nickerson doesn't view herbs as a miracle cure but instead argues that they help the body to better heal itself, for example by helping the immune system to fight off colds or acting as an aid in reducing anxiety. She highlights numerous herbs and explains the bene-

fits of each—such as basil, which helps fight infection and relieve fatigue, and oregano, which helps with a fever and chills and can be used to treat whooping cough. She also explains which foods pair well with each herb and shows how to use herbs in the kitchen. She explains the differences between fresh and dried, how to store both, and how to dry fresh herbs. Recipes for tinctures and herbal vinegars, butters, and oils offer a variety of methods to incorporate herbs into meals. She includes a wealth of appetizing recipes—baked eggs with parsley pesto, ratatouille, vegetable curry with Thai basil, spicy black-bean salad—and while some call for unusual ingredients such as chive blossoms or burdock root, most use familiar components. The book includes informative sidebars on a wide range of topics including fermentation and lavender salt scrubs. Packed with valuable information and tasty ways to put it all to use, this guide offers curious readers herb-based methods for achieving better health and well-being. *Agent: Sally Ekus, Lisa Ekus Group. (June)*

Fabio's 30-Minute Italian

Fabio Viviani, photos by Matt Armendariz. St. Martin's, \$27.99 (288p) ISBN 978-1-250-10995-8

Viviani, a restaurateur and TV personality, knows which side his garlic bread is buttered on. Seven photos of his handsome face turn up even before the first appetizer appears, and another half dozen or so are scattered among the more than 100 recipes. All of this helps to distract from the fact that a large handful of these recipes take longer than 30 minutes to prepare. They are rustic, leisurely dishes that shouldn't be hurried to begin with, but Viviani betrays his premise not only with a 45-minute carrot soup and a 90-minute strawberry-almond soufflé, but abandons the concept completely with a six-hour braised pork and an eight-hour leg of lamb. "Everything I am I owe



to pasta," he writes; thus the book's centerpiece offers instruction on making classic, whole-wheat, and gluten-free pastas, and provides 16 hearty and fancy variations, including rigatoni with roasted shrimp, marinated crab, and red pepper sauce, as well as fettuccine with salmon, dill, zucchini ribbons, and Romano sauce. When photographer Armendariz turns his lens toward the plate, in this ultimately accessible cookbook, there are delicious close-ups of multicolored entrées such as sea bass with red pepper sauce, pistachio gremolata, and mascarpone sauce. *Agent: Michael Psaltis, Culinary Entertainment. (May)*

The Laura Lea Balanced Cookbook: 120+ Everyday Recipes for the Healthy Home Cook

Laura Lea Goldberg. Spring House, \$30 (368p) ISBN 978-1-940611-56-3

Goldberg, the woman behind food and lifestyle website Laura Lea Balanced, offers a friendly and relaxed approach to healthy eating. The recipes here are simple and most can be made in 30 minutes or less. Goldberg is never preachy and her recommendations to eat more nutritiously and mindfully are grounded in the idea of moderation and balance. Along with tempting recipes, Goldberg offers a useful list to build a healthy pantry, as well as recipe-by-recipe vegan substitutions. Innovative breakfast recipes include grain-free cinnamon waffles, blueberry-coconut morning porridge, and pumpkin-spice protein pancakes made with red lentils. Her Southern heritage (Goldberg hails from Tennessee) can be seen in recipes such as barbecue shrimp and quinoa grits, but her recipes also pull flavors from around the world, as evidenced by her Asian salmon cakes with sriracha aioli and refried-black-bean enchiladas with sweet-potato "cheese" sauce. Her vegan desserts sound good enough to convince the most devoted nonvegans, particularly her nondairy version of St. Louis's famous gooey butter cake, here made with almond flour, cashews, and coconut sugar. Goldberg's diverse and enticing recipes promise to make healthy eaters out of even the most reluctant. *(May)*

Ugly Little Greens: Gourmet Dishes Crafted from Foraged Ingredients

Mia Wasilevich. Page Street, \$22.99 (224p) ISBN 978-1-62414-387-8

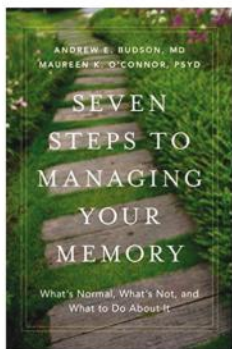
Self-trained Los Angeles-area chef Wasilevich gathers her recipes for common edible plants found in backyards as well as further afield. Wasilevich suggests that her book, rather than being an encyclopedic reference, is "for someone who's done some study and research" on the subject already. Descriptions and directions are cursory, with the occasional eye-opener, such as the warning "extremely toxic, can cause death" about a to-be-avoided doppelgänger for (safe) chickweed. Other plants Wasilevich discusses include stinging nettle, likely familiar to even beginning foragers. Recipes, organized according to the wild plant called for, range from a simple elderflower-infused butter, to a curious bread inspired by Japanese shoku-pan with puree of wild-lamb quarters flavoring the marbled dough, to the more appealing "mocolini," where mustard buds stand in for larger-gauge, cultivated brassicas. Harvesting and cooking with possibly poisonous plants is a hairy proposition, to be sure—and, indeed, Wasilevich herself was educated in the old-fashioned oral tradition and suggests that "an actual person teaching you is the best source." A mere reader, then, should proceed with caution. *(May)*

Health & Fitness

Seven Steps to Managing Your Memory: What's Normal, What's Not, and What to Do About It

Andrew E. Budson and Maureen K. O'Connor. Oxford Univ., \$27.95 (312p) ISBN 978-0-19-049495-7

Budson and O'Connor, a neurologist and neuropsychologist, respectively, present an informative and accessible discussion of memory loss, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other mental-health concerns. Readers can flip straight to the sections relevant to them to access the science and medical information, or they can read fictionalized case studies. The book is divided into seven parts, one for each step in the authors' program. In "Step One," Budson and O'Connor investigate memory errors that can occur at any age and explain how memory changes



with normal aging. “Step Four” digs into treatment and medications. In addition to brain science, the authors provide practical advice and strategies: for instance, brainteasers and

crosswords may be enjoyable, the authors observe, but they won’t ward off memory loss; on the other hand, exercise, social interaction, and lifestyle changes (e.g., the Mediterranean diet) are proven ways brain health can be enhanced. This primer will be useful to middle-aged and elderly readers, caregivers, family members, healthcare professionals, and others striving to understand the aging brain or find concrete ways to enhance brain health. (Aug.)

Footnotes:

How Running Makes Us Human Vybarr Cregan-Reid. St. Martin’s/Dunne, \$26.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-250-12724-2

In this offbeat but entertaining take on the fitness memoir, Cregan-Reid (*Discovering Gilgamesh*) shares his discovery of and love of running, occasionally adding intimate details from his personal life and frequently from his runs. It’s a mashup that’s equal parts philosophy, neuroscience, history, and love note to the author’s exercise of choice. Cregan-Reid takes readers on a running tour, stopping off at Boston’s Spaulding National Running Center to see an Ironman Triathlete’s running injuries being diagnosed, sharing a memorable run through the South Harrow countryside, and finishing the London Marathon “almost by accident.” A self-described “challenged school student,” Cregan-Reid eventually went through a metamorphosis (largely unexplained here) that took him to graduate school; he discovered running while working on his doctoral thesis. Today the author is a professor and literary scholar. That explains why, in addition to finding information here about running retraining or selecting the right shoe, readers will also find liberal literary references to such writers as Austen, Chekhov, Coleridge, and Tolstoy.

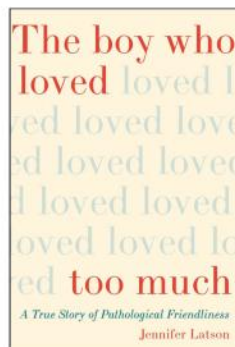
The book’s greatest strength, however, is in its explanation of running’s benefits (running makes “you smarter,” more attentive, and even makes you feel “more attractive,” according to the author) and in the author’s mystical, Anglicism-sprinkled descriptions of running. (July)

Parenting

★ **The Boy Who Loved Too Much: A True Story of Pathological Friendliness**

Jennifer Latson. Simon & Schuster, \$26 (304p) ISBN 978-1-4767-7404-6

This terrific debut from Latson, a journalist, takes up the story of Eli and his mom, Gayle, when Eli is 12 years old. Any parent will recognize the factors in play: hormones, parental expectations for school, concerns about bullying, and so on. The multiplier effect for Gayle is her son’s genetic disorder, known as Williams syndrome. Since Williams amps up the oxytocin in Eli’s system, making him love everyone indiscriminately, Gayle has to teach her son skills that run counter to his nature—but that may keep him safe. Eli’s



slowed development and stiff joints mean that complete independence from his mother at any future point is unlikely. Gayle, a single mom, confides, “I want him to live a long, happy life. I just want to be there for him.... If I could live just five minutes longer than he does, I’d be happy.” The author skillfully interweaves the science—what we do and don’t know about genetic disorders such as Williams—with a powerful story line. Eli and especially Gayle are beautifully drawn, and their struggles with an unknown future are both unique to their situation and universal to all parents. As the book’s perspective deliberately pans out to include teachers, counselors, family, friends, and, finally, Eli’s entire eighth-grade class, Latson delivers some unforgettable lessons about inclusion and parenthood. Agent: *Brettne Bloom, Kneerim, Williams & Bloom.* (June)

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FICTION

★ **The Australian** Emma Smith-Stevens. Dzanc (PGW, dist.), ISBN 978-1-941088-74-6, May

Behind the Mask Edited by Tricia Reeks and Kyle Richardson. Meerkat, ISBN 978-0-9966262-6-2, May

The Invented Part Rodrigo Fresan, trans. from the Spanish by Will Vanderhyden. Open Letter, ISBN 978-1-940953-56-4, May

★ **Sealskin** Su Bristow. Orenda, ISBN 978-1-910633-60-1, May

Trying It All Christi Barth. Loveswept, ISBN 978-0-425-28625-8, May

The Use of Fame Cornelia Nixon. Counterpoint (PGW, dist.), ISBN 978-1-61902-949-1, May

Village Stanley Crawford. Leaf Storm (PGW, dist.), ISBN 978-1-9456529-5-0, Apr.

Jazz and Palm Wine Emmanuel Dongala, trans. from the French by Dominic Thomas. Indiana Univ., ISBN 978-0-253-02669-9, Mar.

★ **Sins of Empire** Brian McClellan. Orbit, ISBN 978-0-316-40721-2, Mar.

POETRY

★ **No Dictionary of a Living Tongue** Duriel E. Harris. Nightboat, ISBN 978-1-937658-64-9, Apr.

Odd Bloom Seen from Space Timothy Daniel Welch. Univ. of Iowa, ISBN 978-1-60938-457-9, Apr.

★ **Patient Zero** Tomás Q. Morín. Copper Canyon, ISBN 978-1-55659-493-9, Apr.

Trophic Cascade Camille T. Dungy. Wesleyan Univ., ISBN 978-0-8195-7719-1, Mar.

Waiting for the Light Alicia Suskin Ostriker. Univ. of Pittsburgh, ISBN 978-0-8229-6291-5, Mar.

Skeleton Coast Elizabeth Arnold. Flood, ISBN 978-0-9903407-9-9, Jan.

Uncountry: A Mythology Yanara Friedland. Noemi, ISBN 978-1-934819-61-6, Dec. 2016

Run the Red Lights Ed Skoog. Copper Canyon, ISBN 978-1-55659-503-5, Nov. 2016

NONFICTION

Everywhere Home: A Life in Essays Fenton Johnson. Sarabande, ISBN 978-1-941411-43-8, May

Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs, and Conifers George E. Brown, revised and expanded by Tony Kirkham. Timber, ISBN 978-1-60469-288-4, Mar.

Children's/YA

Picture Books

★ The Secret of Black Rock

Joe Todd-Stanton. Flying Eye (Consortium, dist.), \$16.95 (40p) ISBN 978-1-911171-25-6

Todd-Stanton follows *Arthur and the Golden Rope* with another engrossing story of an intrepid child. Erin Pike, a fisherwoman's daughter, is eager to unlock the local legend of Black Rock, which some say "never stays in the same place and... could smash a boat to pieces." After sneaking onto her mother's boat, Erin is washed overboard and discovers that Black Rock is an enormous, friendly, rocklike creature that's also home to a bounty of sea life. But when Erin shares what she has learned, the residents of her coastal town see the creature as a threat. Todd-Stanton creates a striking visual contrast between the rich blue-green depths of the water and the glowing reds and oranges used for the brick, wood, and metal of the human world. There's a powerful sense of drama in his cartooning and storytelling, as well as a friendliness at play in the artwork that tempers this yarn's scariest moments. It's a story that succeeds both as a daring adventure and as a reminder that our own living (if not quite so anthropomorphic) habitat needs to be treated with care. Ages 3–7. (June)

★ Time Out!

Ale Barba. Philomel, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-0-399-16304-3

This tale about a stint in time out is a standout. It stars a small pig in a striped shirt, and his infraction, shown on the cover, involves skateboarding indoors. An unseen parent's disembodied words form the story's text: "That's *it!* You're in Time Out." The pig hangs its head, and so does his pet bird. After drawing a sporty red spaceship ("What's going on in there?" asks the parent through the door), pig and bird launch into the cosmos. Astronauts must eat; seen through the porthole, the two blissfully sip milkshakes, surrounded by pizza and popcorn (another view of the ship's interior shows a nice pool). "I hope you're really thinking about it," says the parent, as pig and bird arrive trium-



In Barba's story, a pig is confined to time out after an infraction, but he still has free reign to explore in his imagination (reviewed on this page).

phantly on the moon. Barba's (*When Your Elephant Comes to Play*) artwork weds Miro's palette to James Marshall's glee, and her bold black lines are fueled by imaginative power. In Barba's story, the divide between the world of the child and the world of the parent is unbridgeable, and there's no doubt about which is the better place to be. Ages 3–7. Agency: Prospect Agency. (June)

A Band of Babies

Carole Gerber, illus. by Jane Dyer. Harper, \$17.99 (32p) ISBN 978-0-06-168955-0

Benny, a newcomer to play group, exudes energy as he toddles into a room filled with bored babies, whose eyes brighten with anticipation. After Benny pulls a drum from a toy box, his playmates follow suit, and Gerber's (*Tuck-in Time*) story takes off—as do the babies. Drumsticks in hand, Benny issues a command ("Sticks!" says Benny. Babies cheer./ "Go!" says Benny. "Out of here!"), and the round-faced toddlers happily bang on drums as they follow Benny to a grocery store. (Lest adult readers worry too much, the babies' caretaker is present throughout, making their adventure feel more like a chaotic field trip than a great escape.) Dyer's (the Cookies series) soft colored pencil illustrations delight in the messy havoc wrought by this multiracial crew as the toddlers topple displays, feast on goodies, and leave behind a trail of leftovers when they finally totter out of the shop: "Babies wobble. Babies stoop./

Babies' eyelids start to droop." It's an exuberant celebration of toddlers' willful, can't-be-stopped independence, and Gerber's carefully crafted rhymes and Dyer's cherubic portraits balance tenderness and mischief on each page. Ages 4–8. (June)

Monkey Brother

Adam Auerbach. Holt/Ottaviano, \$17.99 (40p) ISBN 978-1-62779-600-2

Auerbach's unnamed narrator, a boy with a shock of unruly red hair, claims that his younger brother is an actual monkey, and it's hard not to empathize: the sibling is a wily, gravity-defying pest with limitless energy and some serious boundary issues. (One vignette shows the monkey popping out of the medicine cabinet while the older boy is sitting on the toilet.) The first half of the book serves as a catalogue of the older sibling's frustrations: "One monkey is bad enough. Two of them can really make you *crazy*," he explains while being set upon by his brother's simian friends. But on further consideration, he decides that mimicry and rowdiness aren't all bad, and that the brothers might need to stick together, given that their baby sister is the elephant in the room. Auerbach's crisp ink outlines and straightforward drawing style bring the same sly humor to this story as they did to his debut, 2014's *Edda*. Although the boys' reconciliation is somewhat abrupt, the underlying emotions will be familiar to many readers. Ages 4–8. Agent: Erica Rand Silverman, Stimola Literary Studio. (June)

Prudence the Part-Time Cow

Jody Jensen Shaffer, illus. by Stephanie Laberis. Holt/Godwin, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-62779-615-6

A common theme gets a droll spin in this book introducing Prudence, a cow with a thirst for knowledge. When Prudence isn't wandering through pastures and swatting flies, the book-loving cow is honing her scientific, architectural, and engineering skills, which leads her companions to complain that, as a cow, she "was a little *too* part-time." Prudence vows to "try to be like the others" but finds greater success by sticking to her talents, winning over her herd with cow-pleasing inventions that include an elec-

tronic “cow-culator” to keep track of the calves and a “portable shade tree” fashioned from an umbrella. Shaffer (*The Way the Cookie Crumbled*) creates a sympathetic outsider in Prudence, whose dedication to self-betterment—and the sciences—should resonate with any reader who feels pigeonholed or underappreciated. Laberis’s (*The More We Get Together*) digital artwork brings a mural-like aesthetic to the pages, and the vivid color palette (several cows are purple, Prudence has a puffy pink bouffant) suits the idiosyncrasies of this unconventional barnyard. Ages 4–8. *Author’s agent: Kathleen Rusball, Andrea Brown Literary. Illustrator’s agent: Anne Moore Armstrong, Bright Group. (June)*

The Starry Giraffe

Andy Bergmann. Aladdin, \$15.99 (40p)
ISBN 978-1-4814-9100-6

A hungry giraffe with star-patterned fur comes across a lone apple tree in illustrator Bergmann’s first picture book. After the giraffe plucks “the most delicious-looking apple” from a branch, a mouse pops out of its hole. “I’m very hungry,” he squeaks, “but I am much too little to reach those delicious apples.” The giraffe happily gives the mouse the apple, but their exchange is, oddly, the only dialogue in the story: other animals show up silently in turn, and the giraffe offers the tree’s remaining apples to them. When the apples are gone, the still-hungry giraffe rests for a moment, then discovers a whole row of apple trees behind the first one. Designwise, Bergmann’s story has a lot to commend it; his digital artwork overlaps brightly colored shapes like translucent window decals to create a friendly animal cast, set against white backdrops. Storywise, it’s less successful: the giraffe certainly demonstrates selflessness and generosity, but the overall point, which seems to boil down to the idea that doing the right thing costs less than one might think, isn’t entirely clear. Ages 4–8. *(June)*

5 Cherries

Vittoria Facchini, trans. from the Italian by Anna Celada. Enchanted Lion (Consortium, dist.), \$18.95 (56p) ISBN 978-1-59270-222-0

After a mother gives five cherries to her two children, eating them is almost the farthest thing from their minds. Initially,

Italian author-illustrator Facchini appears to be setting up a *Goofus and Gallant* scenario in her U.S. debut. “What am I gonna do with only 5 cherries?” moans one child. The other is grateful and excited: “Thanks, Mom, all these? So many?” But both quickly fall under the spell of the cherries, and they regale each other (and readers) with their ever-changing plans for them. “I’ll be a jester! And I’ll do a jiggety-jester-jig,” shouts one, dancing with abandon as the long-stemmed berries resemble the dangling bells of a jester’s cap. The other child takes a quieter path on a opposite page, setting up an impromptu imaginary tea party. The children’s genders aren’t specified, and they’re so similar in appearance that it isn’t always clear who’s who—and it doesn’t matter in the least. Facchini’s wildly expressive paintings—part Ralph Steadman, part Chris Raschka—immerse readers in the siblings’ vivid scenarios, games, and interactions. It’s a vibrant reminder of the almost boundless capacity of a child’s imagination. Ages 5–8. *(June)*

Fiction

Clementine Loves Red

Krystyna Boglar, trans. from the Polish by Antonia Lloyd-Jones and Zosia Krasodomaska-Jones, illus. by Bohdan Butenko. Pushkin, \$13.95 trade paper (192p) ISBN 978-1-7826-9118-1

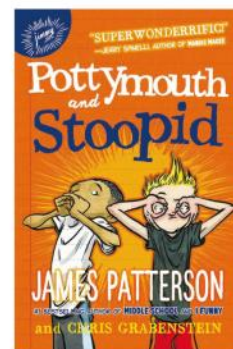
Originally published in Poland in 1970 and newly translated into British English, this madcap tale comes across as fairly slight, with a predictable twist at the end. Three bored siblings, facing the end of summer vacation in a village at the edge of a forest, discover a “little girl in floods of tears,” who followed someone named Clementine into the woods and has now lost her. The siblings, eager for an adventure, settle the girl, named Macadamia, into their bed and set off in search of Clementine. Two neighboring brothers, commanded to stay with the girl, also decide to embark on the quest, as do several adults, each led into the search for different reasons. The various forays into the dark and threatening forest are beset by mishaps, made even more frightening by a sudden thunderstorm, but the broadly drawn characters lack dimension; random

details provided fail to distinguish them much as individuals. Butenko’s scraggly spot illustrations, rendered in bright vermilion, add welcome drollness to the book as it speeds toward its resolution. Ages 7–9. *(June)*

Pottymouth and Stoopid

James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein, illus. by Stephen Gilpin. LB/Patterson, \$13.99 (320p) ISBN 978-0-316-34963-5

Patterson and Grabenstein, the team behind the I Funny series, introduce two beleaguered but resilient seventh graders. Despite their stratospheric IQs, best friends David, who is white, and Michael, who is black, have been saddled with the nicknames Stoopid and Pottymouth following incidents involving a botched math problem and an invented vocabulary, respectively. As the boys struggle with their unfair reputations, the authors



tackle bullies, unexpected friendships, and family troubles with comedy and poignancy. Michael’s foster parents are slackers with actual potty mouths, David’s grandfather dies

unexpectedly, and David’s mother works three jobs to make ends meet while his deadbeat “Ex-Dad” parlays the boys’ school travails into a hit TV series. Both clever and sweet, the revenge the friends exact bonds them to other outsiders at their school and to the TV show’s writers. Gilpin’s cartoons build on the story’s many jokes, interludes from classmates and family members flesh out the boys’ world, and the friends’ hard-fought victory feels very well earned. Ages 8–12. *Author’s agent: (for Patterson) Robert Barnett, Williams & Connolly; (for Grabenstein) Eric Myers, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. Illustrator’s agency: Shannon Associates. (June)*

★ Stealing Our Way Home

Cecilia Galante. Scholastic Press, \$16.99 (304p) ISBN 978-1-338-04296-2

Galante’s deeply empathic novel—told in alternating chapters by 10-year-

SECOND HELPINGS

Six sequels help point the way toward summer.

Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel

Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri. Dial, \$18.99 (48p) ISBN 978-0-525-42888-6

When the world runs out of tacos, there's only one thing to do: go back in time, "save a handful of tacos, plant them in the ground, and grow taco trees so we never run out of tacos again." Fans of *Dragons Love Tacos* won't be surprised that this expedition doesn't go terribly smoothly: there are several spicy-salsa-triggered fire-breathing incidents, as well as pit stops in timelines where dragons love diapers and giant tacos love dragons.

Are the time jumps always easy to track? Not really, but this sequel's dialed-up energy and absurdity remain a tasty—and very funny—combination. Ages 3–5. *Author's agent: Jennifer Joel, ICM. Illustrator's agent: Rebecca Sherman, Writers House. (May)*



Ladybug Girl's Day Out with Grandpa

David Soman and Jacky Davis. Dial, \$17.99 (40p) ISBN 978-0-8037-4032-7

A trip to the natural history museum—with its dizzying array of things to see, do, and learn about—proves to be an opportunity for Lulu to gain a newfound appreciation for mindfulness in this warm addition to Soman and Davis's long-running series. Dressed in her ever-present ladybug outfit, Lulu dashes from dinosaurs to gemstones to marine mammals at top speed, and just when she starts to get overwhelmed by how much there is to learn, Grandpa reminds her that "If you take your time and are still for a moment, you'll learn more." Lulu's eagerness and Grandpa's affection for his granddaughter are powerfully felt in each scene. Ages 3–5. *(May)*

Chester Raccoon and the Almost Perfect Sleepover

Audrey Penn, illus. by Barbara L. Gibson. Tanglewood (PGW, dist.), \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-939100-11-5

Chester Raccoon spends an eventful "overday" with some of his forest friends, but when it comes time to sleep, the "Kissing Hand" tradition he shares with his mother isn't quite enough to soothe him. The story itself is somewhat drawn out (there are three separate gags relating to Sassafraz Skunk's tendency to "stinky puff" at inopportune times), and Gibson's artwork can feel posed and static. Chester ultimately leaves the sleepover early and is welcomed home by his mother, a resolution that should reassure timid readers who aren't always as brave or independent as they would like to be. Ages 3–7. *(May)*

Bulldozer Helps Out

Candace Fleming, illus. by Eric Rohmann. Atheneum/Dlouhy, \$17.99 (40p) ISBN 978-1-4814-5894-8

Fleming and Rohmann subvert expectations several times in this handsomely illustrated follow-up to *Bulldozer's Big Day*. Initially, it looks like a familiar too-small-to-help construction story. Then, after Bulldozer is asked to flatten out a section of terrain, it seems like he has fallen asleep on the job. The reality—that he's protecting a mother cat and her kittens—comes as a tender surprise, which underscores the idea that talents come in all shapes and sizes. Many parents, meanwhile, will likely side with Dump Truck, who quips, "Taking care of babies? Now *that's* a rough, tough job." Ages 4–7. *Agent: Ethan Ellenberg, Ethan Ellenberg Agency. (May)*

The Case of the Stinky Stench

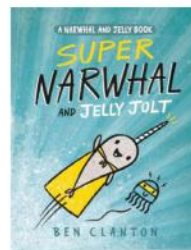
Josh Funk, illus. by Brendan Kearney. Sterling, \$15.95 (40p) ISBN 978-1-4549-1960-5

With a "horrible stench" assailing the fridge, the stars of *Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast* attempt to locate its source, assisting an eager sleuth, Inspector Croissant. Funk crafts his rhymes with care, and readers will giggle their way through this refrigerated fantasyland: "They started their search crossing Salsa Ravine,/ And lumbered through smog around Mount Everbean." Kearney's candy-colored cartoons are attuned to the book's brand of culinary comedy, conjuring marshmallow vistas, a sludgy lake of chowder, and even a literal red herring on the way to a happy ending that doesn't even require baking soda to solve. Ages 5–8. *Author's agent: Kathleen Rushall, Andrea Brown Literary. Illustrator's agent: Hannah Whitty, Plum Pudding Illustration. (May)*

★ Super Narwhal and Jelly Jolt

Ben Clanton. Tundra, \$12.99 (64p) ISBN 978-1-101-91829-6

Narwhal and Jelly returns in a second collection of short comics, and, much like pop culture at large, they are superhero obsessed. Having taken up the mantle of Super Narwhal,



Clanton's hero helps a star assume its place in the sky (a cannon is involved, as are wishes), among other adventures, including a waffle-themed comic created by the two friends. But although Super Narwhal has no trouble coming up with a mustachioed secret identity (Clark Parker Wayne, "a wealthy and eccentric trillionaire"), locating his superpower requires more work. The laughs are mighty, but even mightier is Narwhal's anything-is-possible attitude and deep reserves of heart. Ages 6–9. *Agent: Marietta Zacker, Gallt Zacker Literary. (May)*

old Pippa and her 12-year-old brother, Jack—explores sibling bonds, parental fallibility, and coping with death. After Pippa and Jack's mother dies from cancer, their father loses control of his work, their home, and their family life, though he does a good job of loving his children while faking competence. Jack and Pippa, who hasn't spoken since her mother's death, both demonstrate resilience as they slowly realize that, as much as their father loves them, they can no longer count on him to be a reliable caregiver. When he takes extreme measures to secure their financial stability (and involves Jack), the children finally understand the precariousness of their situation; though the father's desperate act seems improbable, Galante (*The World from up Here*) renders it entirely believable. Narrated in first-person present tense, the story has immediacy and strong momentum, both in terms of plot and emotional development. Supportive secondary characters with strong backstories are fully dimensional, and the setting—modest homes on a lake in Vermont—comes wholly to life. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Stacey Glick, Dystel, Goderich & Bourret. (June)*

★ Superstar

Mandy Davis. Harper, \$16.99 (336p) ISBN 978-0-06-237777-7

In an excellent first novel, Davis channels the idiosyncratic perspective and voice of Lester, a 10-year-old stargazer, as he makes the difficult transition from homeschooling to fifth grade. Layers of unspoken grief for Lester's astronaut father, who died five years earlier, loom large, especially because Lester's mother resists her son's avid interest in space. When she takes a job at the library and Lester starts school, Davis strongly sketches how his personality and quirks make for a difficult adjustment: Lester struggles with a bully, can't stand the cacophony of the cafeteria, lacks tact and social skills, calls out in class, and doesn't handle schedule changes well. Lester is an immensely sympathetic narrator as he navigates a friendship with a fashion-forward classmate, competes in the science fair, and participates in a kickball game. When he opens an official letter addressed to his mother, he discovers that he's been

diagnosed with "autism spectrum disorder" and works to understand what that means. This unsentimental portrait of an endearing and memorable protagonist offers powerful insight into living with autism. Ages 8–12. *Agent: Jennifer Laughran, Andrea Brown Literary. (June)*

Exit Strategy

Lauren Allbright. Aladdin, \$16.99 (176p) ISBN 978-1-4814-7912-7

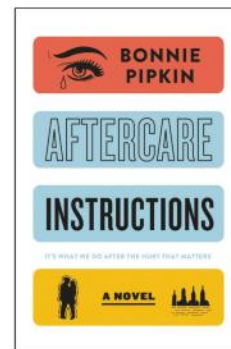
In Allbright's entertaining debut novel, an itinerant middle schooler gets a humorous lesson in building relationships and putting down roots. Ross Stevens hasn't just moved 11 times; he has made a grand exit from each school he's attended, often involving a big prank that would've gotten him suspended if he had stayed. It's a solid track record of what he calls "exit-lence," but when Ross's grandfather falls ill, the commitment-phobic 12-year-old is forced to settle down. Unaccustomed to forging real friendships beyond those involving his family and one childhood best friend, Ross has to learn how to get to know people—and think about how he wants to be known. While researching "how to be funny" for a science fair project, Ross learns how humor can bring people together or tear friends apart. Allbright's fresh take on middle school social dynamics is genuine and sweet without being saccharine. Readers learn alongside Ross just how rewarding it can be to take risks and show one's true self to the world. Ages 9–13. *Agent: Emily Keyes, Fuse Literary. (June)*

Aftercare Instructions

Bonnie Pipkin. Flatiron, \$17.99 (368p) ISBN 978-1-250-11484-6

As Pipkin's sensitive and big-hearted debut opens, 17-year-old Genesis Johnson has been abandoned at Planned Parenthood by her boyfriend, Peter, while she's getting an abortion. After, Genesis veers from place to place and friend to friend seeking solace, grieving, despairing, and raging at Peter, who seems to have disappeared at the most vulnerable moment of her life. Pipkin's chapters are framed by postabortion instructions ("Talk to Someone If You Experience Feelings of Detachment"), and screenplay-style scenes, interspersed

throughout, recount how Genesis and Peter fell in love. These dueling formats powerfully underscore what feels like an unbridgeable divide between then and now for Genesis, while amplifying the role theater plays in her life: downtown



New York City shows were a point of connection between her and her late father, and she auditions for a role at the urging of a boy she hooks up with during an

anger-fueled bender. Genesis's conflicted relationships with her mother, grandparents, and friends are as engrossing as her breakup with Peter, and her story packs a big emotional punch. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Emily van Beek, Folio Literary Management. (June)*

Eden Summer

Liz Flanagan. Scholastic/Fickling, \$18.99 (288p) ISBN 978-1-338-12120-9

Sixteen-year-old best friends Jess Mayfield and Eden Holby have enjoyed a lot of good times, but lately they've needed to support each other through some very difficult events. When Eden goes missing from their Yorkshire tourist town, Jess realizes that she may not know everything about Eden. Written like a mystery, Flanagan's tense debut novel interweaves the stories of two tortured girls, each with her own secrets, who use their unwavering friendship as a shield against the world. After Eden disappears, Jess must confront her own demons—a random attack that keeps her recoiling from human contact and a budding crush on someone who she knows is out of bounds—in order to find her. The story is structured over the course of a day, and the time-stamped chapter headings add a sense of urgency while the author carefully fills in the gaps of the narrative. Flanagan is careful not to reveal too much too soon, leaving readers guessing as to what really happened to Eden until the very last page. Ages 12–up. *Agent: Ben Illis, Ben Illis Agency. (June)*

The Road to Winter

Mark Smith. Text (Consortium, dist.), \$11.95 trade paper (256p) ISBN 978-1-925355-12-3

Several years after a devastating virus caused the collapse of civilization, 15-year-old Finn survives on his own by living off the land and relying on the supplies his father stockpiled before his death. When Finn's solitary existence is upset by the arrival of Rose, a wounded young woman fleeing a ruthless gang of marauders and slavers, Finn has to decide how much he wants to get involved. Eventually, he agrees to venture out and find Rose's younger sister, Kas, who was separated from her in their escape attempt. As Finn encounters other survivors, both peaceful and dangerous, he discovers his true place in his altered world and learns what's worth fighting for. The setting and worldbuilding are fairly standard for this subset of the postapocalyptic genre, but complex and sympathetic characters help compensate for the more generic elements, and there's a measure of hope in Finn's story that isn't always present in similar tales. First in a planned series, it's a solid debut for Australian author Smith, and future installments may yet find ways to further establish its identity. Ages 12–up. (June)

★ **An Uninterrupted View of the Sky**

Melanie Crowder. Philomel, \$17.99 (304p) ISBN 978-0-399-16900-7

Righteous anger, heartache, and desperation transform 17-year-old Francisco from a half-hearted student who's more interested in pick-up soccer games than academics into a young man who realizes that education provides the only opportunity to rescue his family from an unjust political system. Set in 1999 Bolivia, the story quickly establishes the implicit social prejudices infiltrating Francisco's country: "Light-skinned mestizos work in the banks.... Dark-skinned Aymaras and Quechuas work in the cancha and the fields and the mines. And then there's me, stuck somewhere in between." When the authorities imprison Francisco's taxi-driver father for running out of gas, his mother, assessing the situation as hopeless, abandons him and his sister to the dangerous prison. Although still rebellious, Francisco is inspired by his father's

unwavering hopes for his children's future, and their renewed communications through poetry leaves him determined to seize any opportunity to help his family. Crowder (*Audacity*) delivers a disturbing portrait of innocent families trapped in corrupt systems, as well as a testament to the strength of enduring cultural traditions and the possibility of finding family in the unlikely places. Ages 12–up. Agent: Ammi-Joan Paquette, Erin Murphy Literary. (June)

Earthking

Christopher C. Hall. Piper, \$12.99 paper (304p) ISBN 978-0-9966048-0-2

Hall's exciting first book in the *Earthking Chronicles* introduces 14-year-old Colmeron, second in line for the throne of Arnoc. When the king's closest advisor is found dead, it's believed to be a hunting accident. But an ancient evil has reappeared, and after a second tragedy occurs, Col is spirited away to safety. As Col and his protector dodge the Noflim, spirits that can possess the dead, he learns more about the history of Arnoc, including the defeat of the Unnamed One, who had been cast out of Heaven and trapped underneath a legendary city called Entaramu (elements of Christian allegory aren't hard to locate in Hall's story). Col must find the city and stop the Unnamed One from escaping while evading the Noflim and their monstrous servants, the Kheva Adem. Hall creates a fast-paced and absorbing fantasy, filled with imaginative backstory that includes forest dwelling treelike creatures called the Greenkind and subterranean giants who sleep for decades at a time. Readers should easily sympathize with Col as he overcomes tragedy and adversity to become the leader his people need. Ages 12–up. (*BookLife*)

Dividing Eden

Joelle Charbonneau. HarperTeen, \$17.99 (336p) ISBN 978-0-06-245384-6

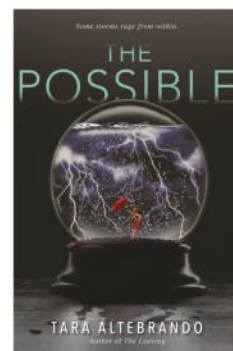
Following the death of the king and his heir, 17-year-old twins Carys and Andreus must compete in a series of trials to determine which of them will ascend to the throne of Eden. Carys has spent her life protecting Andreus, ensuring that no one learns of his weak heart and debilitating episodes. Andreus has never lived up to his father's expectations, preferring to

work among the tradespeople who keep their city safe from monstrous foes. Carys and Andreus hatch a desperate plan that will allow Andreus to safely assume the throne, but meddling political players and schemes cause a dangerous rift between the siblings. Charbonneau's (*Need*) third-person narrative alternates between Carys and Andreus, giving insight into both sides of the ensuing struggle, but some readers may find it difficult to connect with Andreus, who is predictable and easily swayed by the promise of power. Carys, though, is a vibrant and driven character whose flaws make her fascinating; readers will be captivated by her story and strength, and look forward to what lies next for these siblings. Ages 13–up. Agent: Stacia Decker, Dunow, Carlson & Lerner. (June)

★ **The Possible**

Tara Altebrando. Bloomsbury, \$17.99 (304p) ISBN 978-1-61963-805-1

Kaylee Novell, 17, has a big secret, and she's managed to keep it from her friends and classmates for a long time until Liana Fatone, producer of an award-winning podcast, shows up at her door. The second season of the show, *The*



Possible, focuses on Crystal Bryar, Kaylee's birth mother, who received national attention at age 14 for having telekinetic powers, and again at 23 for being convicted of murdering her two-year-old son. Kaylee, who was four at the time, was the prosecution's star witness. Liana's investigation piques Kaylee's curiosity, and she begins to wonder if perhaps she, too, has telekinesis. Altebrando (*The Leaving*) nails the staccato delivery of popular investigative podcasts like *Serial*, a style that she uses to punctuate the questions Kaylee asks herself ("What if Will *badn't* actually seen anything? What if she *bad* come on to him? What if he'd let her?"). Her sentences, though spare, are extremely effective in landing emotional punches ("I'd have to write him back. I'd have to tell

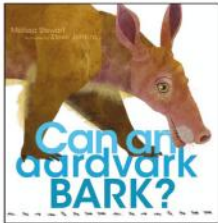
WILD KINGDOM

Every home library needs a little biodiversity.

Can an Aardvark Bark?

Melissa Stewart, illus. by Steve Jenkins. Beach Lane, \$17.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-4814-5852-8

Stewart (*Feathers: Not Just for Flying*) highlights the sounds that animals make in this inviting primer, which is augmented by Jenkins's torn-paper portraits. Stewart leads with internally rhyming questions about particular animals ("Can a wild boar roar? No, but it can squeal"), and the subsequent pages introduce additional animals that make similar sounds; a European hedgehog and European spotted dolphins are among other creatures that squeal. Brief captions elaborate on the animals' methods of communication: "A male koala really makes a racket at mating time. His deep, growling bellow helps females find him." Jenkins (*Squirrels Leap, Squirrels Sleep*) renders each animal with characteristic attention to detail and subtle texture, resulting in a handsome and dynamic exploration of animal behavior. Ages 2–8. (June)



Baby Dolphin's First Swim

American Museum of Natural History. Sterling, \$14.95 (32p) ISBN 978-1-4549-2236-0

A dolphin calf explores the ocean in one of two books launching the First Discoveries series, created in conjunction with the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Brief, declarative sentences highlight details about dolphins ("The baby dolphin is hungry. His tongue forms a straw shape so he can drink milk from his mother without drinking any salt water"). Accompanying photographs show the mother and calf swimming, rising to the surface, catching fish, leaping, and accompanying a pod; clear descriptions accompany each image. Neil Duncan, a biologist with the museum, is featured in a "Meet the Expert" sidebar, though his connection to the book isn't explicitly defined. It's a relatable story of mother-baby tenderness, bolstered by engaging facts about dolphin life. Available simultaneously: *Wolf Pups Join the Pack*. Ages 4–up. (June)

Apex Predators:

The World's Deadliest Hunters, Past and Present

Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99 (32p) ISBN 978-0-544-67160-7

There have always been top-of-the-food-chain predators—"creatures too tough, too big, or too well-armed to be hunted by other animals"—and Jenkins's commanding collages bring these "apex predators" to vivid life. Some two dozen creatures are examined in all, a mix of the contemporary (Komodo dragon, electric eel) and extinct, such as the 10-foot-tall

"terror bird," a flightless creature native to South American that could weigh "as much as a present-day lion or tiger." Pithy headlines introduce each animal (a marsupial saber-tooth earns the headline "Fangs—and a pouch"), followed by short descriptive passages: "It was probably an ambush hunter, leaping on a deer or other grazing animal and stabbing it to death with its curved canine teeth." The intricacy of Jenkins's distinctive artwork will capture readers' imaginations, as will the predator face-offs he stages between pairs of predators. Great white shark vs. *Dunkleosteus*, anyone? Ages 6–9. (June)

The Skydiving Beavers: A True Tale

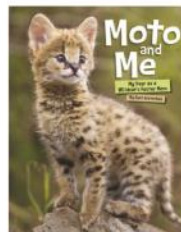
Susan Wood, illus. by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen. Sleeping Bear, \$16.99 (32p) ISBN 978-1-58536-994-2

Striking a down-home tone, Wood (*Esquivel!*) unspools a real-life story of animal conservation. In 1948 Idaho, beavers presented a dilemma to a growing resort community: "The people were muscling in on the beavers' habitat. And the beavers were trashing the people's habitat. A real turf war." Elmo Heter, an employee with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, relocated the beavers to a pristine wilderness area by gently dropping them in wooden boxes from parachutes. Van Frankenhuyzen (*The Legend of the Beaver's Tail*) captures the historical setting in details like a woodie station wagon and copies of *Life* on Heter's desk, while his lush, light-infused paintings reveal the region's natural beauty. Wood's story underscores the value in bringing innovative thinking to a problem—even a beaver invasion. Ages 6–9. *Author's agent: Caryn Wiseman, Andrea Brown Literary. (Apr.)*

★ Moto and Me: My Year as a Wildcat's Foster Mom

Suzi Eszterhas. Owlkids (PGW, dist.), \$17.95 (40p) ISBN 978-1-77147-242-5

Wildlife photographer Eszterhas (the Wildlife Rescue series) offers a tender chronicle of her time living on the Masai Mara wildlife reserve in Kenya, where she raised an orphaned serval kitten. Eszterhas's sharp photographs preserve moments from her time with Moto, including cleaning and bottle-feeding the animal, as well as carrying him in a pouch during photography expeditions ("I felt like a kangaroo mom with her joey"). Eszterhas explains how she slowly began to reintroduce Moto to the natural world, allowing his survival instincts to develop. Moto's eventual return to the wild is poignant, but Eszterhas repeatedly emphasizes that living as a wildcat is best for Moto: "I love to picture him hunting in the long grass of the savanna, under the African moon." It's a vibrant, small-scale comeback story. Ages 7–10. (Apr.)



him. I wasn't special") in this taut and thoroughly gripping mystery. Ages 13–up. *Agent: David Dunton, Harvey Klinger. (June)*

★ **Soldier Boy**

Keely Hutton. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$17.99 (336p) ISBN 978-0-374-30563-5

In this brutal debut novel inspired by real-life events, Hutton addresses the horrors of the Ugandan civil war through two child soldiers. The narrative primarily follows Ricky Richard Anywar, kidnapped at age 14 and forcibly inducted into Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army alongside his brother and friends in 1989. Over the next few years, Ricky survives horrifying conditions, brutal training, and numerous combat missions, always looking for a chance to escape. Meanwhile, in 2006, 11-year-old Samuel recuperates from grievous injuries after falling in battle, unable to trust his caregivers or the strange man who insists on learning his story. Both boys are forced to confront the memories of lost friends and the things they did to stay alive. Hutton approaches the setting, conflict, and characters with unremitting honesty, drawing from Anywar's own life (he contributes an afterword) while using the fictional Samuel as a stand-in for the current generation of unwilling soldiers. This isn't an easy or pleasant read—Hutton doesn't shy from discussions of rape, torture, and abuse—but it's eye-opening and relevant. Ages 13–up.

Agent: Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts, HSG Agency. (June)

And Then There Were Four

Nancy Werlin. Dial, \$18.99 (416p) ISBN 978-0-8037-4072-3

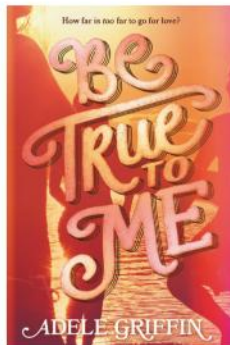
Five teenagers at New York City's prestigious Rockland Academy uncover a murder plot, and signs point to their parents as the killers. Drawing heavily on Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and glossy dramas like *Pretty Little Liars*, Werlin (*Extraordinary*) bands her teens around tragedy rather than common interest. There's Saralinda de la Flor, an outcast with diabetes and a club foot; Antoine Dubois, star soccer player and class president; Caleb Colchester, son of an eminent psychia-

trist, who claims to have a Mr. Hyde–like dark side; Evangeline Song, the acerbic, beautiful brain; and Martha “Kenyon” McKenyon, the proudly queer transfer student with a tragic backstory. Gathering for a student leaders meeting in a rundown corner of the school, the gang narrowly escapes death when the roof caves in, and that's just the beginning of a series of not-accidents aimed at knocking them off. The teens' leap to determining that their parents may be responsible is a stretch, particularly given the ensemble cast, but Werlin creates palpable suspense as she alternates between Saralinda and Caleb's points of view. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Ginger Knowlton, Curtis Brown. (June)*

Be True to Me

Adele Griffin. Algonquin Young Readers, \$18.95 (352p) ISBN 978-1-61620-675-8

It's 1976 in Sunken Haven, a gated beach community on Fire Island. Jean, 16, is ready to dump her longtime beau, Bertie, for a summer romance with Gil, the nephew of another old Sunkie family. But Gil, who grew up in Alabama, has his eye on Fritz, who hails from Louisiana and has spent the last few summers as a guest of her best friend's family. Though not exactly an outsider, Fritz isn't considered part of the in crowd because she's poor. As Gil gets closer to Fritz, Jean's jealousies and insecurities take hold and she fights for what she believes is rightfully hers, with disastrous consequences. Griffin (*The Unfinished Life of Addison Stone*) deftly weaves Jean and Fritz's voices together to explore their rivalry for both Gil and a coveted tennis trophy. She expertly captures the voice of a spoiled rich girl who expects things to go her way merely because they always have, but Fritz remains comparatively enigmatic. Still, it's a summer read to lose oneself in. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Emily van Beek, Folio Literary Management. (June)*



Bad Romance

Heather Demetrios. Holt, \$17.99 (368p) ISBN 978-1-62779-772-6

In an intense reflection on abusive relationships, Demetrios (*I'll Meet You There*) introduces high school junior Grace, who is no stranger to emotional abuse: her controlling stepfather and obsessive-compulsive mother have made her life miserable with unreasonable demands and endless lists of chores. (“I live in a kingdom ruled by a tyrant,” Grace reflects early on.) Grace thinks that she has found her knight in shining armor in charismatic classmate Gavin Davis, who vows to keep her safe, but after a few blissful dates, he starts acting possessive and obsessive, threatening suicide if they ever break up and demanding that she give up her friends and dreams to prove her loyalty to him. Injected commentary that contrasts what Grace thinks now against what she felt then is intrusive, lessening suspense and interrupting the flow of the story. There is no puzzle to solve, just stark honesty and potent reminders that strong friends and a stronger will can be key to freeing oneself when caught between a rock and a hard place. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Brenda Bowen, Sanford J. Greenburger Associates. (June)*

Follow Me Back

A.V. Geiger. Sourcebooks Fire, \$10.99 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-4926-4523-8

Battling agoraphobia triggered by an event she refuses to discuss, Tessa Hart defers her freshman year of college and spends her days locked away; social media is her primary connection to the outside world. On Twitter, Tessa finds sanctuary in the online fandom surrounding Eric Thorn, where devotees of this onetime YouTube hopeful turned pop music star follow his every move. Eric himself is jaded, constricted by his celebrity and afraid of his often rabid and obsessive fans. After creating an alternate persona to troll his own fans on Twitter, Eric—under the pseudonym Taylor—begins a friendship and flirtation with seemingly genuine Tessa. As their relationship deepens, identities become less clear and things turn deadly. Debut author Geiger's social-media-saturated thriller (which fittingly got its start on Wattpad) should transfix teens for whom online relationships (romantic and otherwise) are inte-

gral parts of daily life, and catfishing and hacking are genuine fears. Tweets, direct messages, and police interrogation transcripts are incorporated throughout, throwing the reliability of both narrators into question and hinting at the sinister thread underlying this boy-meets-girl story. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Lydia Shamah, Carol Mann Agency. (June)*

The Leaf Reader

Emily Arsenault. Soho Teen, \$18.99 (240p) ISBN 978-1-61695-782-7

In high school junior Marnie Wells's small town, the disappearance and presumed death of star athlete Andrea Quinley is sad but old news. Andrea's onetime best friend, Matt Cotrell, remains haunted by her disappearance, and he turns to Marnie, hoping that her rumored ability to read tea leaves might provide new insight or that she'll be a sympathetic shoulder. (Marnie is all too familiar with concerned glances and alienation after her brother's overdose.) The tea leaves that Marnie reads foretell something sinister, and eerie anonymous emails begin arriving as the two unravel the intricate threads linking Andrea and their peers in increasingly unexpected and potentially dangerous ways. Mystery writer Arsenault makes a solid foray into YA, though the story moves more slowly than some readers might expect. Marnie is a well-developed protagonist whose concern with how others perceive her family is immensely relatable, but the book's secondary characters are less memorable. The incorporation of tea-leaf reading, including the ceremony and symbolism of the art, adds a distinctive element to a mystery that's well worth a read. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Laura Langlie, Laura Langlie Agency. (June)*

The Suffering Tree

Elle Cosimano. Disney-Hyperion, \$17.99 (368p) ISBN 978-1-4847-2659-4

A teenage girl gets caught up in a centuries-old family feud with a magical twist in a grim story of grief, recovery, and witchcraft. After the death of her adoptive father, 17-year-old Tori Burns—an ex-swimmer who's adept with a razor blade when it comes to self-harm—moves from Washington, D.C., to a dilapidated Maryland farmhouse with her mother and

brother. No one in the town of Chaptico is pleased to see the Burnses, especially not the sprawling Slaughter clan, who once owned the house. Then Tori sees a young man rise up from the grave one night. He's Nathaniel Bishop, an indentured servant for the Slaughters in the 18th century who was hanged, and he and Tori attempt to figure out why he has returned. The shifts between the present-day narrative and Nathaniel's time on the Slaughter farm can be jarring, though Cosimano's (*Holding Smoke*) story is rich in historical detail and eerie atmosphere, and the cross-centuries friendship that develops between these two outsiders is touching. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Sarah Davies, Greenhouse Literary. (June)*

Want

Cindy Pon. Simon Pulse, \$18.99 (336p) ISBN 978-1-4814-8922-5

In this SF thriller, adapted from a short story that appeared in the 2011 anthology *Diverse Energies*, teens struggle to survive in a pollution-choked Taipei, where the wealthy live in expensive environmental suits and everyone else risks sickness and early death. Jason Zhou, one of the have-nots, joins a group determined to infiltrate the rich and powerful in order to undermine Jin Corp and its monopoly on the protective suits. In Jason's undercover role, he grows close to his target, Jin Corp heiress Daiyu, but must avoid being seduced by power and privilege. But there's no time to waste with a deadly flu sweeping through the city. Pon's (*Serpentine*) dystopian setting is chilling but familiar—it's a standard class warfare scenario—as is the omnipresent, corrupt Jin corporation and the romance that brews between resourceful Jason and privileged-yet-rebellious Daiyu. The strength of Pon's story lies in the way it immerses readers in its gritty Taiwanese setting, and the emotional and cultural conflicts that arise as a result of this perspective. Ages 14–up. *Agent: Bill Contardi, Brandt & Hochman. (June)*

Comics

Lint Boy

Aileen Lejten. Clarion, \$16.99 (128p) ISBN 978-0-544-52860-4

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Princess and the Peas *Rachel Himes.* Charlesbridge, ISBN 978-1-58089-718-1, Apr.

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FICTION

Fireworks *Katie Cotugno.* HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray, ISBN 978-0-06-241827-2, Apr.

Saint Death *Marcus Sedgwick.* Roaring Brook, ISBN 978-1-62672-549-2, Apr.

The Takedown *Corrie Wang.* Freeform, ISBN 978-1-4847-5742-0, Apr.

COMICS

Afar *Leila del Duca, illus. by Kit Seaton.* Image, ISBN 978-1-63215-941-0, Apr.

Recess Warriors: Hero Is a Four-Letter Word *Marcus Emerson.* Roaring Brook, ISBN 978-1-62672-708-3, Apr.

& Bean) introduces a wisp of a hero born in a clothes dryer when “three buttons, a pluck of wool, and a ball of lint bumped into each other so hard that they didn’t come apart.” (“Where the frigglies am I?” the doll wonders in a voice that demands to be read as squeakily as possible.) A friend, Lint Bear, soon follows, but their happy idyll is interrupted when the bear is captured by the dryer's evil owner, Mrs. PinchnSqueeze, who has spent her life trying to prove that dolls are alive. Framing many panels with gorgeous, swooping art nouveau borders, Lejten creates a vintage atmosphere that underscores the evergreen appeal of dolls. Her quirky story has many charms, particularly in the artwork, but although there are hints of depth to Mrs. PinchnSqueeze's character—it's clear that, underneath the malevolence, she loves dolls—nothing comes of them. Likewise, it seems odd that the various dolls would choose a lifetime of imprisonment and abuse over simply revealing to their captor that, yes, they are indeed alive. Ages 7–10. *Agent: Elizabeth Harding, Curtis Brown. (June)*

“Cataloguing began to move from oaken chests to computers five decades ago, and now that most people expect to access knowledge through search engines, it’s time for another transformation.”

Remember the Card Catalogue?

The librarian of Congress looks backward and forward as libraries keep pace with technology

BY CARLA HAYDEN

When it comes to libraries, there are a couple of ways to size up your next delicious read: you can walk up and down the stacks, picking over titles and authors, weighing prospects by subject or heft; or you can dive into the catalogue and sort through the options there.

For most of my life, going for that second option meant approaching a gigantic oaken chest of small drawers with brass handles and label holders—the card catalogue. For many of us, it’s still a favorite piece of furniture, although as cataloguing has gone digital, it’s been replaced by computer terminals in most libraries.

But even in the days of card-based cataloguing, and certainly since, the Library of Congress has made the fruits of its data-collection effort available to other libraries in the U.S. and around the world, a labor-saving offering that has allowed libraries globally to focus on the myriad other duties of librarianship. I speak for my colleagues and I think my predecessors when I say, “You’re very welcome.”

Here at the Library of Congress, where we were pioneers in electronic cataloguing in the 1960s and 1970s, the old Main Reading Room card catalogue still lines a block-long wall in the subbasement of our Madison Building, providing supplemental information to our research librarians and a warm feeling to our staff.

If you, like me, retain a special place in your heart for the dog-eared cards of a

physical catalogue, you might well enjoy *The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures*, a book the Library of Congress is releasing in cooperation with Chronicle Books in time for 2017’s National Library Week. *The Card Catalog* lays out the history of card

cataloguing and includes images of famous cards and books, from our own collections (including the handwritten annotations we prize—which is one of the reasons we hang onto the old physical catalogues).

Not every accrued piece of wisdom makes it across the digital line. The theme for this year’s National Library Week is “Libraries Transform.” Libraries transform us, and they transform themselves. Cataloging began to move from oaken chests to computers five decades ago, and now that most people expect to access knowledge through search engines, it’s time for another transformation, through Bibframe, a bibliographic framework initiative the Library of Congress is leading to link catalogued library collections to the internet.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the towering computer scientist Henriette Avram came to the library to lead a program to computerize catalogues and link libraries via computer. Known as MARC, for machine-readable cataloguing, it took the bibliographic world by storm. Within just a few years, MARC became the standard for all cataloguing across the U.S. and internationally. MARC and its successors, MARC21 and MARCXML, have



served us well for more than half a century.

But in the past decade it has become clear that a new method must be created to get this information out of the libraries and into patrons’ hands through the web. It’s time to connect our

library tributary to the big river of the internet.

The work ahead is already underway, with advice from our longtime MARC partners the American Library Association, the Online Computer Library Center, the British Library, the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, Libraries and Archive Canada, and others. Even as our collaborations move forward, MARC must be maintained to meet immediate needs. And care is being taken to ensure that the final result will be useful to all kinds of libraries, large and small, research and public. When this framework ultimately unfolds, the riches of more than a century of cataloguing will eventually be available to library patrons from any computer—and increasingly, so will the books themselves.

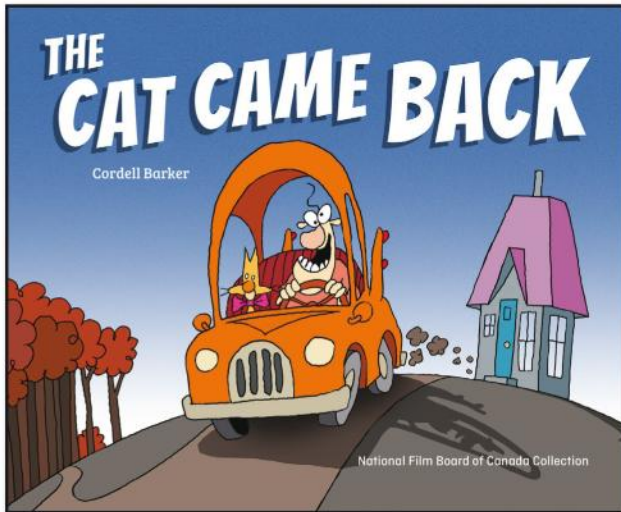
But for that full sensory experience—feeling the roughness of the paper, marveling at the workmanship of bindings, catching a whiff of that old-book perfume—you’ll just have to go to the library. ■

Carla Hayden, a former president of the American Library Association, was sworn in as the 14th librarian of Congress on Sept. 14, 2016. She is the first woman and the first African-American to lead the nation’s library.

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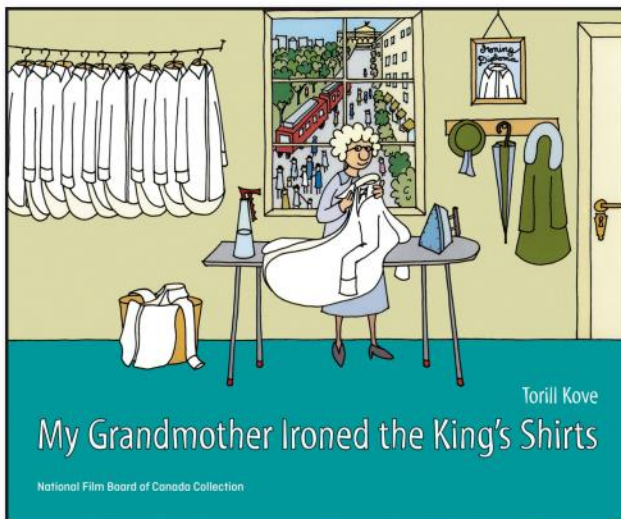
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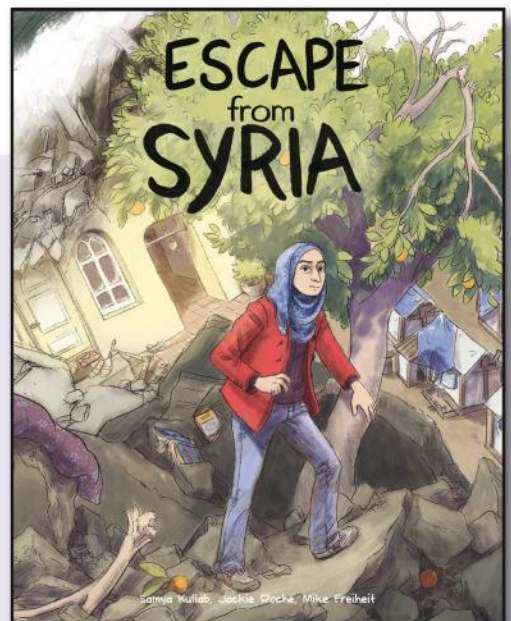
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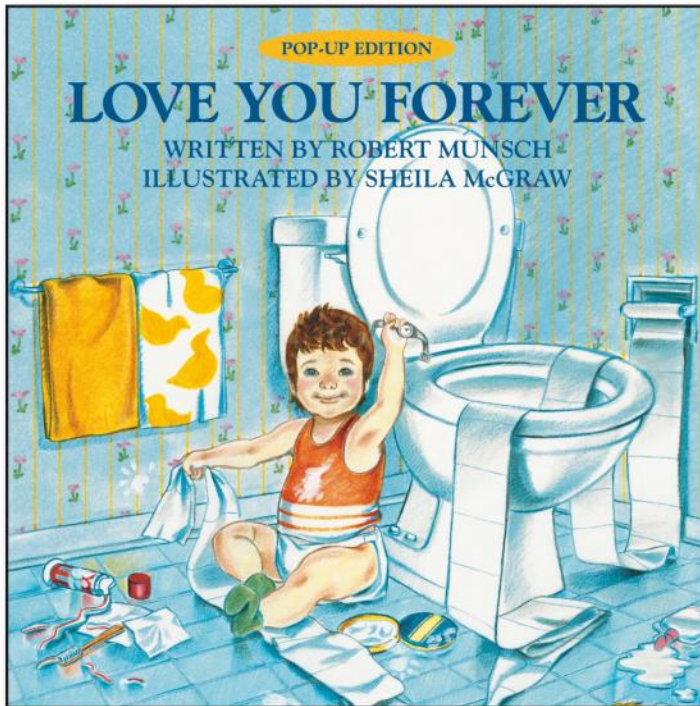
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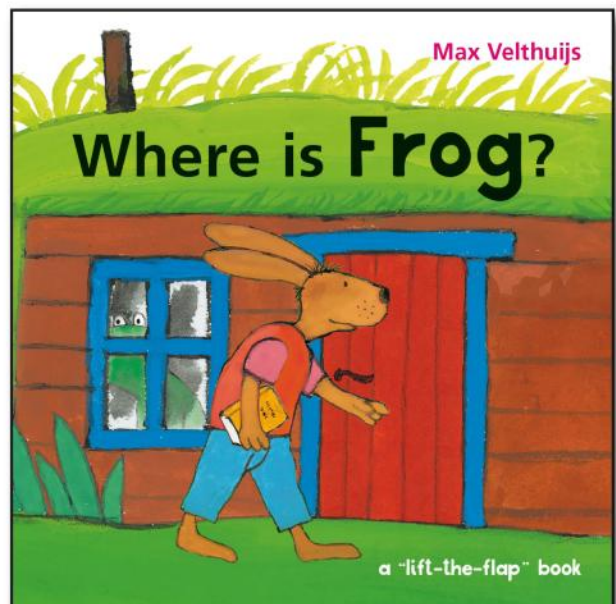
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