

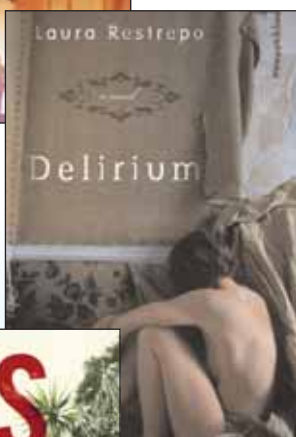
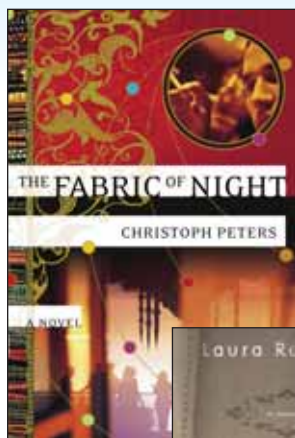
RANDOM Revelations

VOL. 16 • ISSUE 1 • Spring 2007

A NEWSLETTER FOR LIBRARIES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY MARKETING

International Fiction

FROM NAN A. TALESE / DOUBLEDAY



This spring Nan A. Talese Books will publish six novels that bring readers beyond our national borders and into the cultures of Latin America, Germany, Spain, Burma, and China. Three have been translated by our “resident” linguist John Cullen—*Lies* by Enrique de Heriz, *The Fabric of Night* by Christopher Peters, and *April in Paris* by Michael Wallner. Nan A. Talese is proud to now be the publisher of Laura Restrepo, a Colombian whose *Delirium* won Spain’s prestigious Alfaguara Prize. Karen Connelly’s time among exiles and dissidents in Burma is explored in *The Lizard Cage*, and Tinling Choong reaches deep into the roots of her ancestral China in *Firewife*.

“Interestingly, I have found two things happening the last few years: As American readers are becoming more aware of, and opening up to, the cultures of other countries, writers abroad have increasingly become storytellers. Their work speaks to us with passion and intelligence and brings us to lands and societies we now need to understand.”

—Nan A. Talese

Christopher Peters

The Fabric of Night: A Novel

A crime story, a psychological drama, a hallucinatory nightmare, and a double tale of disintegrating love, this is an intense novel set in Istanbul by one of the most promising novelists in Germany today.

978-0-385-51447-7 (0-385-51447-6) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
Nan A. Talese | HC | January

Laura Restrepo

Delirium

Delirium is about a man’s attempt to discover the root of the madness that has overtaken the wife he so deeply loves. On one level, this novel reads like a detective story, as the reader pieces together information to find out what caused Agustina’s madness. But it is also a remarkably nuanced novel whose currents run much deeper, delving into the minds of four unique characters. Through the mixing of these distinct voices, Laura Restrepo creates a searing portrait of a society battered by war and corruption, as well as an intimate look at the daily lives of people struggling to stay sane in an unstable society.

978-0-385-51990-8 (0-385-51990-7) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
Nan A. Talese | HC | March

Enrique de Heriz

Lies

An ambitious and daring novel set in Guatemala that peels back the layers of one family’s history and brilliantly reveals the importance of storytelling in the formation of our collective memory and in shaping our beliefs about our families and ourselves. Isabel, an anthropologist deep in the jungle of northern Guatemala who is believed to have died, and daughter Serena, thousands of miles away, try to make sense of their family history. Serena’s voice echoes, enhances, and at times challenges her mother’s memories and perceptions.

978-0-385-51794-2 (0-385-51794-7) | \$26.00/NCR
Nan A. Talese | HC | April

THE BOOKS

Multnomah joins Random House!

Random House has recently acquired Multnomah Publishers, one of the nation's leading evangelical Christian book publishing houses. The Oregon-based Multnomah publishes more than 100 new titles annually by such popular authors as Randy Alcorn, Shaunti Feldhahn, Robin Jones Gunn, and Andy Stanley. Its active backlist of more than 600 works of fiction and nonfiction includes numerous classic and bestselling books. Check your collection today for these titles!



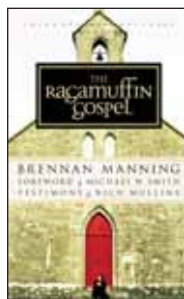
THE BEST OF THE BACKLIST INCLUDES:

Shaunti Feldhahn

For Woman Only: What You Need to Know About the Inner Lives of Men

For Woman Only offers fascinating insights into the secret lives of men. Based upon a landmark nationwide poll, Shaunti Feldhahn helps women understand and, in turn, better love the men in their lives. Shaunti Feldhahn coauthored *For Men Only* with her husband, Jeff, and her newest book, *For Young Women Only*, coauthored with youth speaker Lisa Rice, is causing a buzz among teenage girls.

978-1-59052-317-9 (1-59052-317-2) | \$14.99/NCR
Multnomah | HC | Now Available

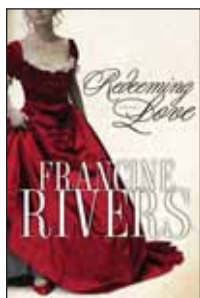


Brennan Manning

The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-up, and Burnt Out

God gives us his grace willingly, but somehow we can't always apply it in our daily lives. We come to Him as ragamuffins—dirty, bedraggled, and beat-up. Brennan Manning's now-classic meditation on grace and what it takes to access it—simple honesty—has changed thousands of lives.

978-1-59052-502-9 (1-59052-502-7) | \$13.99/NCR
Multnomah | TR | Now Available



Francine Rivers

Redeeming Love

A skillful retelling of the biblical story of Gomer and Hosea, this life-changing story of God's unconditional, redemptive, all-consuming love is set against the romantic backdrop of the California Gold Rush.

978-1-57673-816-0 (1-57673-816-7) | \$14.99/NCR
Multnomah | TR | Now Available

COMING IN SPRING 2007 FROM MULTNOMAH:

Randy Alcorn

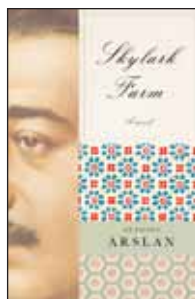
Deception

Ollie Chandler is a brilliant and quick-witted homicide detective who lives by Ollie's First Law: "Things are not what they appear." So when a university professor is found murdered and the motive looks like revenge, a stunning discovery leads him to an unimaginable conclusion. Could the murderer be a fellow homicide detective? *Deception* will take you to heaven and hell and back again...breathless to discover the truth.

978-1-59052-616-3 (1-59052-616-3) | \$19.99/\$24.99C
Multnomah | HC | April



FIRST FICTION



Antonia Arslan; Translated by Geoffrey Bock

Skylark Farm *

Arslan draws on family memories to tell the tragic story of a family struggling for survival during the Armenian genocide in Turkey in 1915.

978-1-4000-4435-1 (1-4000-4435-9) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
17,500 | Knopf | HC | January

Tinling Choong

FireWife

The tale of a fledgling photographer, Nin, who leaves her corporate job in California to photograph women in various places throughout the world. She uncovers the tales of women who have been marginalized by their sexuality and each of their lives echoes a stage in Nin's own journey.

978-0-385-51645-7 (0-385-51645-2) | \$21.00/\$27.00C
20,000 | Nan A. Talese | HC | January



Alex Espinoza

Still Water Saints: A Novel

This spellbinding debut tells the story of Perla, proprietor of a botanica outside of Los Angeles, and of the people who come to see Perla for healing and spiritual guidance.

978-1-4000-6539-4 (1-4000-6539-9) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
30,000 | Random House | HC | January



Yael Goldstein

Overture: A Novel *

Set in New York City and the international music scene, this is the ultimate book about love, music, and the complex relationship between mothers and daughters. Perfect for fans of reading-group favorites such as *Bel Canto* and *Amy and Isabelle*.

978-0-385-51781-2 (0-385-51781-5) | \$24.95/\$30.00C
25,000 | Doubleday | HC | January

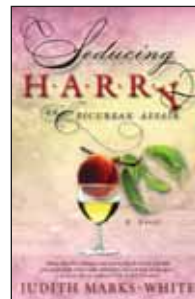


Judith Marks-White

Seducing Harry: An Epicurean Affair

Coco Plotnick Hollander Harding is about to embark on a culinary and sexual romp and she certainly isn't going to let little things like being over 50, her respectable but dull-in-bed husband, or "burb boredom" (life in the suburbs) get in the way!

978-0-345-49238-8 (0-345-49238-2) | \$13.95/\$17.95C
35,000 | Ballantine | TR | January

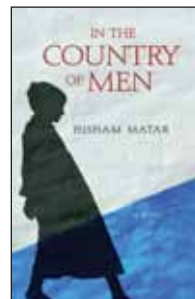


Hisham Matar

In the Country of Men *

Set in Tripoli, Libya, in the summer of 1979, this is the story of a young boy growing up in a world where his best friend's father disappears and is next seen on state television at a public execution and where his mother burns all their books when it seems his father has finally disappeared for good. Short listed for the Man Booker Prize.

978-0-385-34042-7 (0-385-34042-7) | \$22.00/NCR
45,000 | Dial Press | HC | January



* Indicates Books of Special Interest to Young Adults.

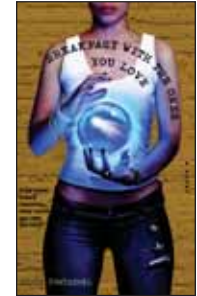


Jon Clinch

Finn: A Novel

A major debut, *Finn* tells the story of Huckleberry Finn's father, one of the darkest characters in American literature. The result is a gripping, vivid novel, intricately connected to Mark Twain's masterpiece, and yet a fully realized, strikingly original work of literature in its own right.

978-1-4000-6591-2 (1-4000-6591-7) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
60,000 | Random House | HC | February

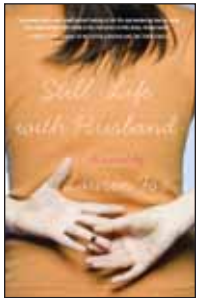


Eliot Fintushel

Breakfast with the Ones You Love

Meet Lea Tillem, a sixteen-year old runaway with a talent for killing people without touching them. In her spare time she's building a shrine on the roof of an abandoned building with her crush, known as "The Yid." A brilliant new voice in science fiction, based partially in Jewish mysticism.

978-0-553-38405-5 (0-553-38405-8) | \$12.00/\$15.00C
20,000 | Spectra | TR | February

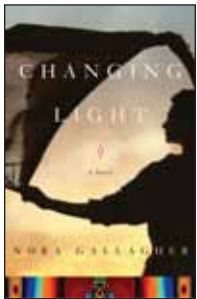


Lauren Fox

Still Life with Husband

Emily Ross is thirty years old and happily married to her college sweetheart. One morning at a coffee shop with her best friend, she meets David and impulsively gives him her email address. A casual note sets off a secretive yet intense love affair. And then the unthinkable happens, ripping apart her careful double life.

978-0-307-26491-6 (0-307-26491-2) | \$22.95/\$29.95C
35,000 | Knopf | HC | February

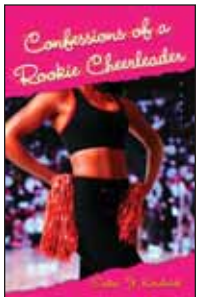


Nora Gallagher

Changing Light: A Novel

Gallagher brings her understated, elegant prose to a romance that flourishes during the summer of 1945 and the making of the atomic bomb. A woman painter named Eleanor finds a strange man lying ill by the river on her land in New Mexico. He is Leo Kavan, a scientist who has gone AWOL from the Los Alamos project and he is in a state of crisis about the bomb, a device whose implications he has just begun to grasp.

978-0-375-42451-9 (0-375-42451-2) | \$22.00/\$28.00C
30,000 | Pantheon | HC | February

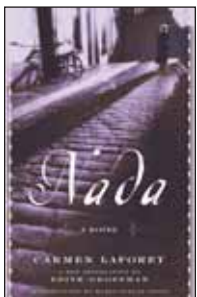


Erika J. Kendrick

Confessions of a Rookie Cheerleader: A Novel

A funny, sexy novel about an up-and-coming music exec who decides to fulfill a lifelong fantasy of becoming an NBA cheerleader to mend her broken heart.

978-0-345-49486-3 (0-345-49486-5) | \$13.95/\$17.95C
30,000 | One World | TR | February



Carmen Laforet

Nada: A Novel

Set in the romantically squalid, post-Spanish Civil War Barcelona, this is the only available English translation of the award-winning author's first novel, a Spanish coming-of-age classic about an 18-year-old orphan who moves in with her wildly volatile and eccentric Barcelona relatives in order to attend the local University.

978-0-679-64345-6 (0-679-64345-1) | \$22.95/NCR
10,000 | Modern Library | HC | February

HEALTH & WELLNESS

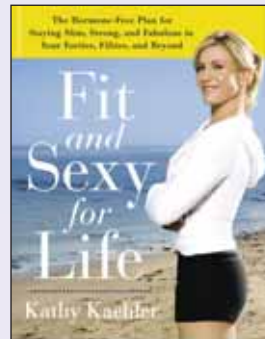


Bernadine Healy, M.D.

Living Time: Faith and Facts to Transform Your Cancer Journey

One of the nation's leading doctors shows us why there is new hope for every person touched by this dreaded disease.

978-0-553-80461-4 (0-553-80461-8)
\$24.00/\$30.00C | Bantam | HC | March



Kathy Kaehler

Fit and Sexy for Life: The Hormone-Free Plan for Staying Slim, Strong, and Fabulous in Your Forties, Fifties, and Beyond

The *Today Show* fitness expert provides quick fixes that allow you to: stop a hot flash, sleep like a baby, boost your libido, and find more energy.

978-0-7679-1618-9 (0-7679-1618-2)
\$22.95/\$29.95C | Broadway | HC | March



Keri Glassman, MS, RD

The Snack Factor Diet: The Secret to Losing Weight—By Eating MORE

A revolutionary new approach to eating shows you how to snack all day to shed the pounds, slow the aging process, and increase energy.

978-0-307-35147-0 (0-307-35147-5)
\$19.95/\$24.95C | Crown | HC | April



Paul Harch, M.D., and Virginia McCullough

The Oxygen Revolution: The Groundbreaking New Treatment for Stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Arthritis, Autism, Learning Disabilities and More

Dr. Paul Harch's research and clinical practice has shown that Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), a noninvasive and painless treatment, can help the tens of millions of Americans who suffer from a brain injury or disease.

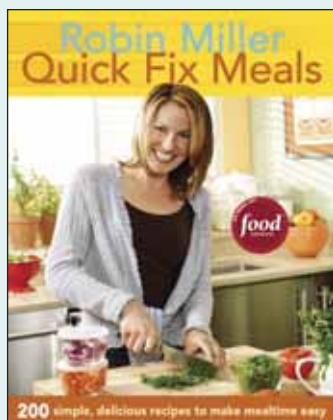
978-1-57826-237-3 (1-57826-237-2)
\$25.95/\$32.00C | Hatherleigh Press | HC | April

Meet the Author

Quick Fix Meals by Robin Miller, host of the dynamic new Food Network series, provides today's time-crunched families with the perfect answer to "What's for dinner?"

No matter how busy families are, now they can sit down to freshly-made, nutritious food in 20 minutes or less.

978-1-56158-947-0 (1-56158-947-0) | \$18.95/\$24.95C | Taunton Press | TR | March



What do you enjoy most about hosting a Food Network show?

What I love most about hosting a show is knowing that I am helping people with crazy-busy lives get meals on the table every week. Meals they can be proud of without fussing at all.

What has been the inspiration for your career?

My inspiration is my real life—each week I think of strategies for getting meals to the table in just minutes so I can spend more time with my family.

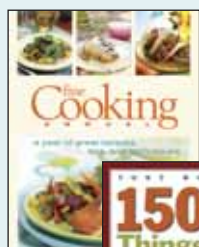
Where do you find new ideas recipes?

I get many ideas from foods I taste eating out. If I taste something wonderful, I try to recreate it at home the Quick Fix way. I also try to create meals with what I already have on hand and that's where my prep ahead and morph strategies come into play.

What are the most common food and nutrition questions you receive?

The most common questions relate to getting healthy meals to the table in just minutes during a busy week. My Quick Fix strategies always seem to help!!

More cookbooks, new from Taunton Press:



Editors of Fine Cooking

Fine Cooking Annual: A Year of Great Recipes, Tips & Techniques

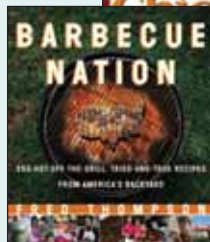
978-1-56158-916-6 (1-56158-916-0) \$34.95/\$44.00C | HC | March



Tony Rosenfeld

150 Things to Make with Roast Chicken (and 50 Ways to Roast It)

978-1-56158-845-9 (1-56158-845-8) \$14.95/\$19.95C | TR | March



Fred Thompson

Barbecue Nation: 350 Hot-Off-the-Grill, Tried-and-True Recipes from America's Backyard

978-1-56158-814-5 (1-56158-814-8) \$18.95/\$24.95C | TR | April



Maggie Leffler

The Diagnosis of Love

This charming and accomplished debut chronicles a young doctor's journey to heal her own heart in a novel that will resonate with every woman who has ever tried to start anew.

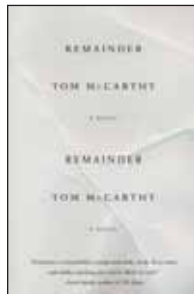
978-0-385-34046-5 (0-385-34046-X) | \$13.00/\$16.00C 17,500 | Delta | TR | February

Tom McCarthy

Remainder: A Novel

The book opens soon after the unnamed protagonist has completed the formal recovery process from a serious accident. A strange vision of a familiar apartment building begins to take shape in his mind, and his obsession with recreating this vision takes him on a wild journey.

978-0-307-27835-7 (0-307-27835-2) | \$13.95/\$17.95C 30,000 | Vintage | TR | February

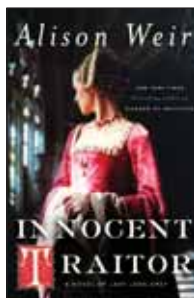


Alison Weir

Innocent Traitor: A Novel of Lady Jane Grey *

The story of the bravest, most sympathetic and wronged heroine of English history marks the fiction debut of this *New York Times* bestselling historian. Jane's story carries the reader through all the vicious twists of Tudor power politics, to her nine-day reign and its unbearably poignant conclusion.

978-0-345-49485-6 (0-345-49485-7) | \$24.95/\$30.00C 75,000 | Ballantine | HC | February

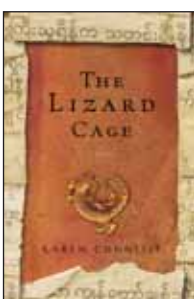


Karen Connelly

The Lizard Cage: A Novel

Set against the backdrop of Burma's military dictatorship of the mid-1990s, we are vividly brought into the lizard cage, the nickname of the prison outside of Rangoon, where Teza, a political prisoner, forms a steadfast friendship with a twelve-year-old orphan boy.

978-0-385-51818-5 (0-385-51818-8) | \$26.00/NCR 30,000 | Nan A. Talese | HC | March



Joshua Hale Fialkov

Elk's Run *

Every small town has its secrets, but Elk's Ridge, West Virginia, has an especially sinister one to hide. No one ever leaves the small, isolated mining town—because no one is allowed to. Even John Kohler, a teen who's lived his entire life in Elk's Ridge, doesn't know why. But one day he learns just how deep, and dark, the town's secrets are. Graphic novel format.

978-0-345-49511-2 (0-345-49511-X) | \$19.95/\$24.95C 20,000 | Villard | TR | March



Richard Gwyn

The Color of a Dog Running Away

Lucas, a musician and translator living in Barcelona's Gothic Quarter, comes home one day to find a cryptic invitation to a local art gallery slipped under his door. When he appears at the appointed time, he sets in motion a series of improbable, seemingly interconnected events that disrupt his previously passive existence.

978-0-385-51855-0 (0-385-51855-2) | \$21.95/\$27.95C 30,000 | Doubleday | HC | March



* Indicates Books of Special Interest to Young Adults.

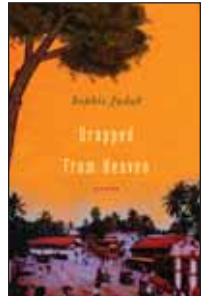


Sheridan Hay

The Secret of Lost Things: A Novel

A young woman gets involved in tracking down a lost Herman Melville manuscript—one that is actually documented and has been thoroughly researched by the author—and soon finds herself on a voyage of discovery that takes her beyond the lost manuscript.

978-0-385-51848-2 (0-385-51848-X) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
60,000 | Doubleday | HC | March

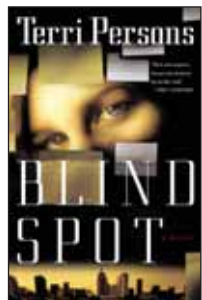


Sophie Judah

Dropped from Heaven: Stories *

In this collection of stories chronicling everyday life within a community of Indian Jews in the mythical village of Jwalanagar, the cataclysmic events of the twentieth century form a dramatic backdrop to what transpires when a centuries'-old culture finds itself confronting modern times.

978-0-8052-4248-5 (0-8052-4248-1) | \$23.00/\$30.00C
20,000 | Schocken | HC | March



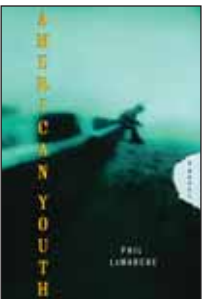
Terri Persons

Blind Spot

The FBI misfit Agent Bernadette Saint Clare has been assigned and reassigned to FBI offices all over the country. Not long after she's placed at a desk in the basement of the off-site St. Paul office, she's called upon to do what she does best: use personal effects found at a crime scene to see through a killer's eyes.

978-0-385-51869-7 (0-385-51869-2) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
40,000 | Doubleday | HC | March

978-0-7393-4061-5 (0-7393-4061-1) | \$29.95/\$37.95C
RH Audio | CD



Phil LaMarche

American Youth: A Novel *

Destined to be a classic, this debut tells the story of a New England boy on the edge of adulthood who is involved in a fatal shooting accident in his home. The boy must cope with his guilt, with his impulse to flee, with his reputation at school, with the police, and with his sense of responsibility.

978-1-4000-6605-6 (1-4000-6605-0) | \$21.95/NCR
30,000 | Random House | HC | April

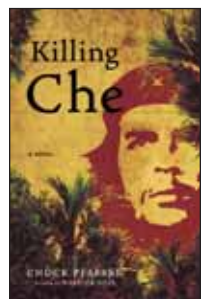


Margie Marr

Hollywood Girls Club: A Novel

For readers who love behind-the-scenes novels like *The Devil Wears Prada*, this is a vivid insider novel set in the upper echelons of the entertainment industry that follows four female players in their intertwined struggles to make a blockbuster film.

978-0-307-34629-2 (0-307-34629-3) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
50,000 | Crown | HC | April



Chuck Pfarrer

Killing Che

The story of Paul Hoyle, a CIA paramilitary officer who joins a team of Green Berets sent to kill the Argentinian revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. The author's experiences as a Navy SEAL enabled him to impart his unique knowledge to this novel's gripping descriptions of war in the shadows.

978-1-4000-6393-2 (1-4000-6393-0) | \$26.95/\$34.95C
15,000 | Random House | HC | April



Michael Wallner

April in Paris

Set in 1943, this is the dramatic story of an impossible love between Roth, a German soldier and an interpreter for the Gestapo, and Chantal, a French resistance fighter in occupied Paris.

978-0-385-51914-4 (0-385-51914-1) | \$21.95/NCR
50,000 | Nan A. Talese | HC | April

978-0-7393-4211-4 (0-7393-4211-8) | \$29.95/NCR
RH Audio | CD (UAB)

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK: Recommended Reading for You and Your Patrons from the 2006 List

Does your library have these RH Library Marketing Department favorites in your collection? Have you read them? If not, be the first one to check out these RH picks.



Anthony Brandt

The Tragic History of the Sea: Shipwrecks from the Bible to Titanic

978-0-7922-5908-4 (0-7922-5908-4) | \$24.00/\$34.95C
National Geographic | HC

“True tales can be even more exciting than fiction! The sequel to the *Pirates of the Caribbean* came and went in major blockbuster style last summer. For more swashbuckling adventure, and true tales of survival and terror at sea, don't miss this heart-stopping narrative of high adventure and storm-tossed voyages. This book of shipwreck tales with expert annotations and commentary provides an essential and engrossing chronicle of shipwrecks through the ages. Your seafaring thrills shouldn't end at the theater.”

—Erica McDonald



Polly Evans

It's Not About the Tapas: A Spanish Adventure on Two Wheels

978-0-385-33992-6 (0-385-33992-5) | \$13.00/\$17.00C
Delta | TR

“I read this book in practically one sitting, but not quite because I wanted to savor it. OK, you caught me—a little pun intended on the title! *It's Not About the Tapas* is a travel book, as the (Brit) author Polly Evans bicycles in Spain through several cities both large and small, for six weeks by herself. She has a wonderful deadpan sense of humor when it comes to Spain, Spaniards, and even herself. It's a smart, funny read, and a great way to get a quick overview of Spain's history without hardly realizing it. I studied in Spain during college, so I found all of her insight very amusing. If you've ever been to Spain, her views will surely resonate, and if you haven't ever been, it will intrigue you all the more! Evans has also written *Fried Eggs with Chopsticks*, about traveling through China and *Kiwis Might Fly*, a New Zealand adventure book. She also has a book about Canada's Yukon territory in the works—via, of course, a dogsled!”

—Courtney Russell



Yiyun Li

A Thousand Years of Good Prayers: Stories

978-0-8129-7333-4 (0-8129-7333-X) | \$13.95/\$18.95C
RH Trade Paperbacks | TR

“Any book that elicits a physical reaction from me will win my praises. It could be audible laughter, low groaning, a quickened pulse, an upset stomach, or, as in the case of *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*, a dropped jaw, a cringe, and a tortoise-like shrinking away from the page. It must have been comical to watch me reading, sitting upright on my towel in Prospect Park, my eyes bulging, my hands grabbing at tufts of my hair, and my lips repeatedly emitting a whispery ‘That did not just happen.’ I didn’t even notice the rogue badminton shuttle that kept landing on me due to the players behind me who kept making whippy, errant hits. I think I was getting a better workout.”

—David Eicke



Rebecca Shaw

A Country Affair

978-1-4000-9820-0 (1-4000-9820-3) | \$12.95/NCR
Three Rivers Press | TR

Country Wives

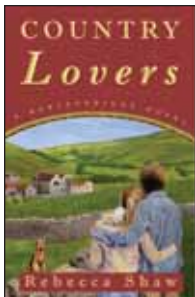
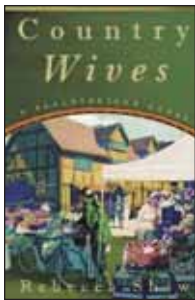
978-1-4000-9821-7 (1-4000-9821-1) | \$12.95/NCR

Country Lovers

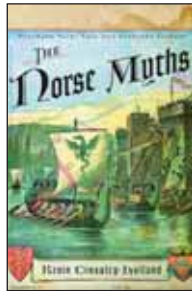
978-1-4000-9822-4 (1-4000-9822-X) | \$12.95/NCR | April 2007

“Sometimes you can’t entirely judge a book by its cover(s) and that’s the case with the “Country...” trilogy. Oh, there’s nothing particularly wrong with the covers, they just lead you to believe that the contents will be all warm and fuzzy—about a gentle veterinary practice in a gentle, rural English hamlet. Not So! Ok, the setting is the Yorkshire hills and there are sheep grazing, but this is a series where everybody knows their neighbors, and their neighbor’s business. A handsome Australian vet causes serious complications with the ladies. Dull boyfriends are left in the dust....and that’s just in *Vol. 1, A Country Affair*. *Vol. 2, Country Wives*, finds most of the same characters still plunging ahead through life with just as many complications when a new vet stomps all over sensitive toes and personal tragedy strikes our favorite character, Kate Howard. *Vol. 3, Country Lovers*, is coming in April of ‘07 and it can’t be fast enough for me. I have no idea where all this is going but I sure have enjoyed the ride and you will too. (And animal lovers are rewarded by the occasional appealing animal that wanders in for care. Dr. Herriot would approve!).”

—Marcia Purcell



ADULT BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS: Selections from the List

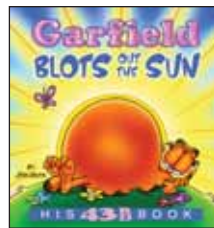


Kevin Crossley-Holland

The Norse Myths

Thirty-two classic myths that bring the ancient Viking world vividly to life. Beautifully retold by Kevin Crossley-Holland, these tales take us through worlds both mortal and divine, and bear witness to the courage, passion, and boundless spirit that were hallmarks of the Norse world. A staple source text for anyone interested in studying folklore, this repackaged edition is part of the Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library.

978-0-394-74846-7 (0-394-74846-8) | \$16.00/NCR
Pantheon | TR | January

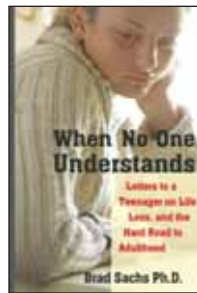


Jim Davis

Garfield Blots Out The Sun: His 43rd Book

A brand-new, full color strip book from everyone’s favorite cat! *Garfield at Large* is listed on OCLC, the Online Computer Library Center, Top 1000 list at number #15 overall. Have you updated your library’s Garfield collection recently?

978-0-345-46615-0 (0-345-46615-2) | \$11.95/\$14.95C
Ballantine | TR | January

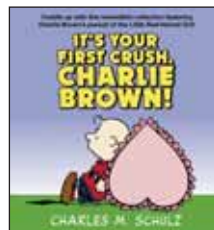


Brad Sachs, Ph.D.

When No One Understands: Letters to a Teenager on Life, Loss, and the Hard Road to Adulthood

A nationally known child psychologist shares his poignant and profound letters to a troubled teen, guiding her through the anguish of adolescence and addressing the key concerns shared by many teens.

978-1-59030-407-5 (1-59030-407-1) | \$14.00/\$18.00C
Trumpeter | TR | January



Charles M. Schulz

It's Your First Crush, Charlie Brown!

Will Charlie Brown ever stop pining for his lady love? Will he ever go and ask her to be his Valentine? All these questions will be answered in this delightful book filled with more than 150 strips never before compiled into one book!

978-0-345-47988-4 (0-345-47988-2) | \$12.95/\$16.00C
Ballantine | TR | January

AND ALSO:

The Dirt on Pig Pen

Whether dispensing words of wisdom, or just milling about, Pig Pen is a favorite amongst the Peanuts gang. Now celebrate the world of this beloved character with 75 strips never before compiled into one book.

978-0-345-47984-6 (0-345-47984-X) | \$12.95/\$16.00C
Ballantine | TR | March





Aranzi Aronzo
The Cute Book

The world of crafters is full of things Japanese Cute—kawaii. Aesthetically similar to Hello Kitty, and hugely popular with Japanese women young and old, Aranzi Aronzo finally makes its American debut!

Each comics vignette acts as a companion guide to creatures they will teach you to make in easy steps that require little more than thread, needle, and fabric!

978-1-932234-68-8 (1-93223-468-3) | \$12.95/\$16.00C
Vertical | HC | February

AND ALSO:

The Bad Book

978-1-932234-69-5 (1-932234-69-1) | \$12.95/\$16.00C
Vertical | HC | February



Alan Axelrod

1001 People Who Made America

Engaging profiles of key personalities, past and present, who have made America what it is today—a handy, concise reference!

978-1-42620-052-6 (1-4262-0052-8) | \$19.95/\$24.95C
National Geographic | HC | February

Dr. James Beckett

Instant Expert: Collecting Baseball and Other Sports Cards

An easy-to-use guide to buying, selling, caring for, and building collections of baseball and other sports cards, by America's #1 sports card authority. Novice and experienced collectors will find: a history of sports cards, an analysis of market trends, a glossary terms, and tips on buying, selling, collecting, and restoring sports cards.

978-0-375-72094-9 (0-375-72094-4) | \$14.95/\$19.95C
House of Collectibles | TR | February

Melody Carlson

Notes from a Spinning Planet—Papua New Guinea

This young-adult novel engages readers with the thrill of globetrotting while challenging them to think about the world as a large place, shining the light on other cultures and bringing greater awareness to the needs of others.

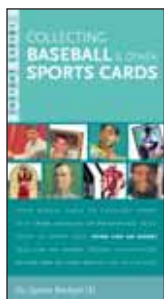
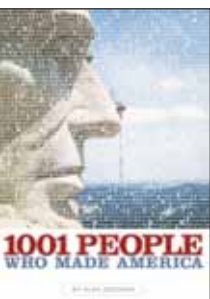
978-1-4000-7145-6 (1-4000-7145-3) | \$12.99/\$15.99C
WaterBrook | TR | February

Dr. Elaine Costello

Getting Started in Signing

Getting Started in Signing teaches students to master the basic words, phrases, and expressions of American Sign Language (ASL). This complete program offers a simple, step-by-step approach—viewers will learn everything they need to begin using sign language in practical, everyday situations like talking to family, planning a party, and even shopping at the mall. The DVD teaches finger spelling, grammar, vocabulary, compound signs, hand positioning, parts of a sign, and expressing intonation.

978-1-4000-2354-7 (1-4000-2354-8) | \$29.95/\$37.95C
Living Language | TR and DVD | February



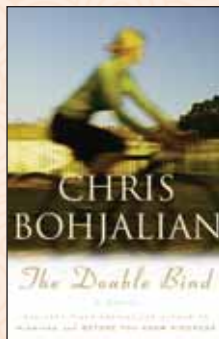
Best Bets for Reading Groups

Chris Bohjalian

The Double Bind: A Novel

For fans of the reading group favorites *Midwives* and *Before You Know Kindness*, comes a psychological novel of obsession and consequence. If your library only invests in one hardcover for reading groups in 2007, it should be *The Double Bind*. A discussion guide is included in the book.

978-1-4000-4746-8 (1-4000-4746-3)
\$25.00/\$30.00C | Shaye Areheart Books | HC | February

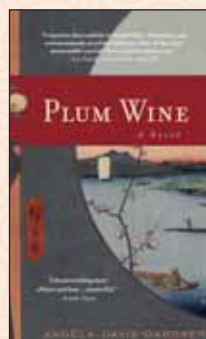


Angela Davis-Gardner

Plum Wine

Bottles of homemade plum wine, one for each year, trace a Japanese woman's secret life—and change a young American Woman's future—in this luminous Book Sense pick from an author beloved by Amy Tan, Kaye Gibbons, Lee Smith, and Anne Rivers Siddons. Coming in trade paper, a **Something to Talk About** selection!

978-0-385-34083-0 (0-385-34083-4)
\$13.00/\$16.00C | Dial Press | TR | March

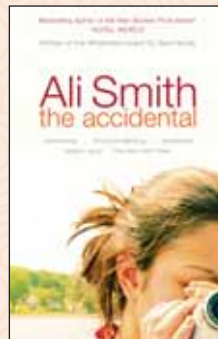


Ali Smith

The Accidental

Winner of the Whitbread Award for Best Novel and a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize, this is a tour de force of literary improvisation that explores the nature of truth, the role of chance, and the transformative power of storytelling.

978-1-4000-3218-1 (1-4000-3218-0)
\$13.95/NCR | Anchor | TR | April



Something to Talk About!

Bantam Dell delivers reading groups the support they like to make informed and entertaining choices.

The Something to Talk About! Program features Q&As, reading group guides and info on the Author Call-in Program at:

www.bantammdell.com



Michiyo Kikuta

Mamotte! Lollipop: Volume 1

Imagine a game of Harry Potter's Quidditch—but with a girl as the golden snitch! Nina thought it was just a piece of candy when she ate it. She didn't know it was a magic crystal ball, part of a final exam for a school of wizards. Now Nina's life is turned upside down as wannabe wizards chase her everywhere she goes. Luckily, Zero and Ichii, two super-cute boy wizards, are ready to protect her. For ages 13+.

978-0-345-49623-2 (0-345-49623-X) | \$10.95/\$13.95C
Del Rey Manga | TR | February



China Miéville

Un Lun Dun

Part *Alice in Wonderland*, part *The Phantom Tollbooth*, this new novel takes readers young and old into the life of a London girl who finds her way into a funhouse version of her home city. A first-rate young-adult novel from one of science fiction's most lauded young writers.

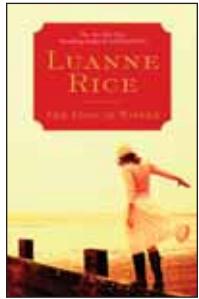
978-0-345-49516-7 (0-345-49516-0) | \$17.95/\$22.00C
Del Rey | HC | February

Luanne Rice

The Edge of Winter

Neve Halloran and her teenage daughter struggle to make a new life together in Rhode Island's South Country. Mickey moves toward womanhood in the company of a lonely boy and Neve finds herself drawn to a man whose steadfast dedication to the wildlife sanctuary masks his inability to reach out to his own son.

978-0-553-80527-7 (0-553-80527-4) | \$24.00/\$30.00C
Bantam | HC | February



Keiko Takemiya

To Terra: Volume 1

A new manga trilogy from Japan, now available in English! In an age where children are no longer the offspring of parents but the progeny of a universal computer, 14 year old Jomy leads her exiled group of friends back home to Terra.

978-1-932234-67-1 (1-932234-67-5) | \$13.95/\$17.95C
Vertical | TR | February

AND ALSO:

To Terra: Volume 2

978-1-932234-70-1 (1-932234-70-5) | \$13.95/\$17.95C
Vertical | TR | April

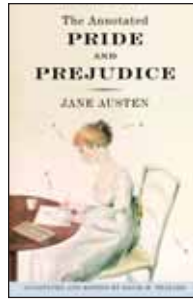


Thalassa Ali

Companions of Paradise

After a devastating assassination attempt rips Mariana Givens from her Punjabi husband and beloved stepson, her aunt and uncle try to reintegrate their niece into British society in Kabul. But Mariana dreams only of the exotic walled city of Lahore and her husband's mystic Sufi family. *School Library Journal* praised Ali's previous novels as "mesmerizing."

978-0-553-38178-8 (0-553-38178-4) | \$14.00/\$18.00C
Bantam | TR | March



Jane Austen; Annotated, Edited, and with an Introduction by David M. Shapard

The Annotated Pride and Prejudice

Shapard's edition juxtaposes the complete text of *Pride and Prejudice* with more than 2,300 annotations on facing pages, along with maps, illustrations, a chronology of events, and an introduction. This edition is perfect for students, for reading groups, and of course, for Janeites everywhere!

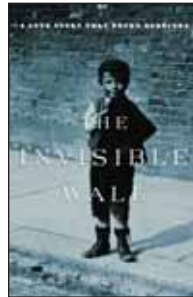
978-0-307-27810-4 (0-307-27810-7) | \$16.95/\$21.95C
Anchor | TR | March

Harry Bernstein

The Invisible Wall: A Love Story That Broke Barriers

The enchanting true story of one little brother's role in his sister's love affair that breaks down the walls—religious, economic, and social—that have divided a neighborhood and a family in World War I era England. Readers of all ages who have embraced *All Souls* by Michael Patrick McDonald and *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt will adore Harry Bernstein's charming and heartfelt story.

978-0-345-49580-8 (0-345-49580-2) | \$22.95/\$29.95C
Ballantine | HC | March

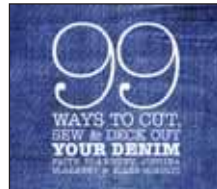


Faith Blakeney, Justina Blakeney and Ellen Schultz

99 Ways to Cut, Sew and Deck Out Your Denim

This fun little guide is packed with an array of ingenious ideas for converting denim jeans into funky, fun fashions in just 90 minutes. Quick and easy to make, the 99 illustrated patterns feature simple step-by-step instructions and require just a few basic tools and sewing skills.

978-0-307-35170-8 (0-307-35170-X) | \$19.95/\$24.95C
Potter Craft | HC | March

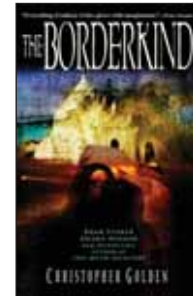


Christopher Golden

The Borderkind: Book 2 of The Veil

This bestselling and award-winning author of *The Myth Hunters*, returns with the second work in his dark Neil Gaiman-esque Veil series, set between our world and an alternate reality where myths and legends take on a life of their own. In this endlessly inventive contemporary fantasy, Golden draws daringly from among the legends of our familiar Western mythology and from the world over, opening to readers a truly international cast of the bizarre, the powerful, and the fearful.

978-0-553-38327-0 (0-553-38327-2) | \$12.00/\$15.00C
Spectra | TR | March

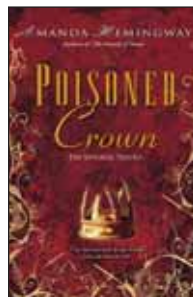


Amanda Hemingway

The Poisoned Crown

The third and final book in Amanda Hemingway's magical young adult series, *The Sangreal Trilogy*, is based loosely on the Grail myth. Set in Britain, it follows the adventures of a young boy named Nathan, as he's charged with the responsibility of saving his own world, as well as that of a parallel universe ruled by kings and magic.

978-0-345-46082-0 (0-345-46082-0) | \$12.95/\$16.00C
Del Rey | TR | March



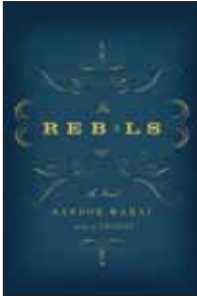


Chris Jones

Too Far From Home: A Story of Life and Death in Space

In February of 2003, after the explosion of the space shuttle Columbia, two American astronauts aboard the International Space Station suddenly found themselves with no ride home. Written with an immediacy and an attention to detail, this narrative rivals the finest contemporary adventure-driven nonfiction such as *Into Thin Air*. Add this title to your list to consider for One Book, One Community selections, it will appeal to both men and women of all ages.

978-0-385-51465-1 (0-385-51465-4) | \$24.95/NCR
Doubleday | HC | March

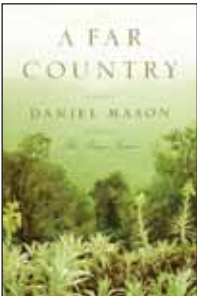


Sandor Marai

The Rebels: A Novel

The third novel in Knopf's rediscovery of the great Hungarian writer: a riveting story about a gang of boys, about to graduate from high school in 1918 and be sent straight to the Front, who rebel against their world with explosive results.

978-0-375-40757-4 (0-375-40757-X) | \$24.95/\$30.00
Knopf | HC | March

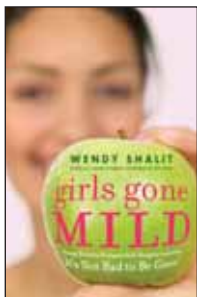


Daniel Mason

A Far Country

From the bestselling author of *The Piano Tuner* comes the story of a remarkable 13-year-old girl from the backlands of an unnamed country who goes to the big city in search of her missing brother. Reminiscent of the great works of John Steinbeck and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, this tale of love and faith, endurance and hope should be at the top of every young reader's list.

978-0-375-41466-4 (0-375-41466-5) | \$24.00/\$30.00
Knopf | HC | March



Wendy Shalit

Girls Gone Mild: Young Women Reclaim Self-Respect and Find It's Not Bad to Be Good

In an age when "Girls Gone Wild" are considered mainstream, Shalit arms an entire generation of women with the intellectual ammunition to fight for their dignity and build self-worth. Shalit draws on first-hand conversations with young women from around the world showcasing an impressive range of voices: from normal, everyday young women to former call girls to the daughters of famous people. Very few, it turns out, want Paris Hilton as their role model.

978-0-375-41466-4 (0-375-41466-5) | \$24.00/\$30.00
Knopf | HC | March



Dan Abnett

The Tide Turns: D-Day Invasion

History's greatest battles brought to life in action-packed graphic novel format in this groundbreaking new series! Includes an overview of the battle and its aftermath, a glossary, and further reading sections.

978-1-84603-056-7 (1-84603-056-0) | \$9.95/\$13.95C
Osprey | TR | April

AND ALSO:

Ironclads at War: The Monitor vs the Merrimac

978-1-84603-053-6 (1-84603-053-6) | \$9.95/\$13.95C
Osprey | TR | February

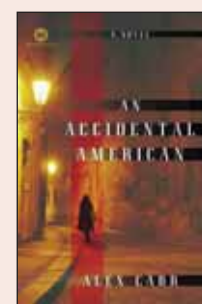


INTRODUCING MORTALIS

A criminally appealing new program from the Random House Publishing Group.

From popular bestsellers and shockingly good trade paperback originals, to notorious tales of true crime, Mortalis delivers top-drawer mysteries and thrillers.

Every one of these trade paperbacks will feature a dossier, tailored to each book, filled with bonus material on the book's time period, setting, plot, genre, or author: special interviews, exclusive essays, extended author biographies, and more.



Boris Akunin

Sister Pelagia and the White Bulldog

A new trilogy from the beloved author of the East Fandorin novels about an often befuddled but sharply astute nun who solves crimes.
978-0-8129-7513-0 (0-8129-7513-8) | \$9.95/\$12.95C
RH Trade Paperbacks | TR | January

Alex Carr

An Accidental American: A Novel

The engrossing and fiercely told tale of Nicole Blake, a retired master forger, who is pulled from her quiet life when an American operative asks her to find a former lover suspected of working with terrorists. A gripping international thriller and a forceful meditation on betrayal, both personal and political.
978-0-8129-7708-0 (0-8129-7708-4) | \$9.95/\$12.95C
RH Trade Paperbacks | TR | March

David Corbett

Blood of Paradise

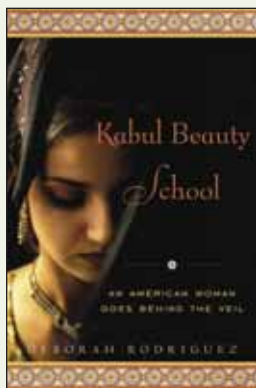
An international crime thriller set against the increasing havoc into which El Salvador has descended, this novel explores Third World intrigue and corruption (and America's complicity in it) as well as themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the transformative power of love.
978-0-8129-7733-2 (0-8129-7733-5) | \$9.95/\$12.95C
RH Trade Paperbacks | TR | March

Visit www.mortalis-books.com

THE KABUL BEAUTY SCHOOL

An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil

A Memoir By Deborah Rodriguez



How many times each week is Afghanistan in the headlines? It seems we read about this country every day, but how many of us know what it is like to live there? Most Westerners now working in Afghanistan spend their time tucked inside the walls of a military compound or embassy. Deborah Rodriguez is one of the very few who lives life smack in the middle of Kabul.

In the tradition of *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, Rodriguez gives readers a look into the lives of women in Afghanistan through the lens of the Kabul Beauty School. Woven through the book are the stories of Debbie's students. There is the newlywed who must fake her own virginity, the 12 year-old bride who has been sold into marriage to pay her family's debts, and the brilliant former medic who has not left her house for thirty years. All of these women have a story to tell, and all of them bring their stories to the Kabul Beauty School, where, along with Rodriguez herself, they learn the art of perms, of friendship, and of freedom.

978-1-4000-6559-2 (1-4000-6559-3)
\$24.95/\$30.00C | Random House | HC | April



Neil F. Comins, Ph.D.

The Hazards of Space Travel: A Tourist's Guide

A look at the travails one might face in space. Through passages from a fictional Captain's spaceship log, readers follow Captain Mack Richardson on his journeys through deep space and learn "firsthand" what it takes to navigate the galaxy.

978-1-4000-6597-4 (1-4000-6597-6) | \$19.95/\$24.95C
Villard | HC | April

Ronald Allen Geaves and Theodore Gabriel

...isms: Understanding Religion

An engaging and informative guide to the significant "isms" that have shaped religion and spirituality throughout history, from animism to Zoroastrianism and much in between.

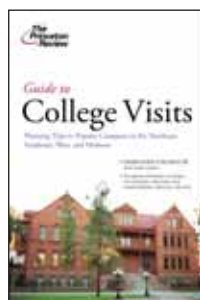
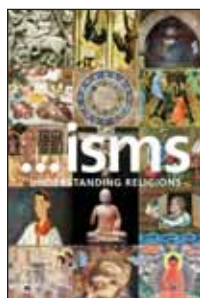
978-0-7893-1530-4 (0-7893-1530-0) | \$16.95/\$21.95C
Universe | TR | April

Princeton Review

Guide to College Visits: Planning Trips to Popular Campuses in the Northeast, Southwest, West and Midwest

With information on more than 340 campuses, this book has everything high school students and their parents need to plan successful college visits across the country including: nearby hotels, motels, B&Bs and resorts for every budget; the best and worst time to visit each school; dates and times when campus tours are available; information on meeting professors, admissions officers and coaches; regional maps and sample itineraries.

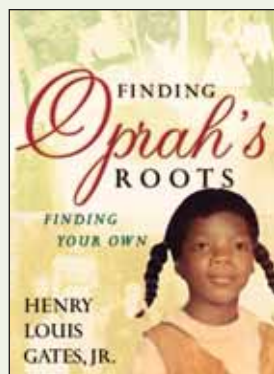
978-0-375-76600-8 (0-375-76600-6) | \$20.00/\$25.00C
Princeton Review | TR | April



Finding Oprah's Roots

BUILDING AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN FAMILY TREE

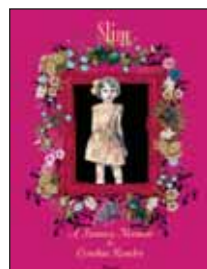
By Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Tied to the February 2007 PBS special featuring Oprah Winfrey, this book, authored by the show's host, distinguished scholar Henry Louis Gates, sheds fascinating light on her family background and, by way of her example, offers a user-friendly methodology for tracing one's own family tree.

Setting Oprah's memories against footage of Oprah's parents and grandparents, Professor Gates took Oprah back on a journey of discovery, showing how close analysis of census records, tax rolls, land deeds and other material could call up the ghosts of her distant past—her great grandparents and even their parents—and reveal what their legacy may have been that made Oprah the survivor she became.

978-0-307-38238-2 (0-307-38238-9)
\$19.95/\$24.95C | Crown | HC | January



Cynthia Rowley

Slim: A Fantasy Memoir

Whimsical and inspirational vignettes written and illustrated by American fashion icon Cynthia Rowley.

978-0-8478-2923-1 (0-8478-2923-5) | \$29.95/\$37.95C
Rizzoli | HC | April

Giles Sparrow

Atlas of the Constellations: Discover the Secrets of the Night Sky

A full-color guide to the constellations of both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Featuring maps, diagrams, history, and interesting facts about 88 constellations, including Andromeda, Aries the Ram, Cassiopeia, Orion the Hunter, Taurus the Bull, and Ursa Major and Minor.

978-0-517-22919-4 (0-517-22919-6) | \$9.99/\$12.98C
Gramercy | HC | April



Stephan Talty

Empire of Blue Water: Captain Morgan's Great Pirate Army, the Epic Battle for the Americas, and the Catastrophe That Ended the Outlaws' Bloody Reign

A richly textured, gripping narrative that brings to life piracy's pinnacle, and particularly the larger-than-life exploits of pirate Henry Morgan, one of history's most fascinating characters. An irresistible mixture of history, adventure, and popular science, Empire of Blue Water is perfect for fans of the movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

978-0-307-23660-9 (0-307-23660-9) | \$24.95/\$30.00C
Crown | HC | April



STAFF PICKS



Marcia Purcell

Jon Clinch

Finn: A Novel

Finn owes a giant debt to HUCKLEBERRY FINN as the main character is Huckleberry's reprobate father—and a very nasty piece of work he is indeed. From the first image in this first novel—a body, skinned from head to toe, floats slowly down the Mississippi River—the reader is grabbed by the throat, and wide-eyed, forced to observe the progression of life (and death) on the very edge of civilization by the edge of a mighty river. The novel is a polished jewel of language—sharp, cutting. Most remarkably, when the dialog is left unfinished (a frequent device of the author) you still know exactly how the conversation goes. There are scenes so painful and horrifying that you have to put the book down to catch your breath, and then you realize how loudly your heart is beating. And yet, looking back, I wouldn't have missed reading this book. It's just amazing. Remember this name, Jon Clinch. I'm already looking forward to his next book.

978-1-4000-6591-2 (1-4000-6591-7) | \$23.95/\$29.95C
HC | Random House | February

AND FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...

Bill Bryson

The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir

Here's another boy growing up in the Midwest—almost a hundred years later during the 1950s—and while Bill Bryson needs not one word of help from me to sell any of his books, this is a laugh-out-loud piece of joy—filled with charming recollections of growing up with a father that could not possibly have been more different than Huck's father. Read. Enjoy.

978-0-375-43430-3 (0-375-43430-5) | \$27.95/\$36.95C
HC | Broadway | Now Available

0-385-66161-4 | \$32.95 | HC | Doubleday Canada | Now Available



Sarah Pucillo

Alison Weir

Innocent Traitor: A Novel of Lady Jane Grey

I was first introduced to historian Alison Weir's work after a desperate search for the best history of Henry the VIII and his six wives. Having finished Philippa Gregory's *The Other Boleyn Girl*, I simply had to know the fact from the fiction. But I couldn't bear the thought of reading a dry, boring historical account after having spent days lost in Gregory's fictional world of Anne Boleyn. When I began Alison Weir's history on the floor of Barnes & Noble, I was hooked. I could have stayed there until closing. Now, my favorite historian brings to life Lady Jane Grey, the teenage girl who reigned as Queen of England for nine days. Weir's background as a historian allows the reader to trust in her depiction of the time period. Her fictional Lady Jane is born from a solid knowledge of sixteenth century England. Written from the perspective of Jane, her mother, her nurse, the Lady Mary and many of the other key players in the political power struggle that placed Lady Jane on the throne, Weir blends together fact and fiction to answer numerous questions surrounding Lady Jane Grey's rise to power. How did she become the Queen and why did she accept? What role did her parents play in her rise to power? And in the end, why did Queen Mary choose to have Lady Jane beheaded? Weir weaves questions of Edward the IV's death into the layers of Lady Jane Grey's story. While based in historical fact, her account of the King's death led me to question how much I really knew about this period in English history. When reading historical fiction, we know the outcome, what we are looking for is the how and the why. Weir answers these questions with an alluring combination of fact and fiction and presents a page-turning depiction of an unusually bright young woman who was unafraid to challenge a woman's role in Tudor England. Fans of historical fiction can only hope Alison Weir will continue to write novels.

978-0-345-49485-6 (0-345-49485-7) | \$24.95/\$30.00C | HC | Ballantine | February



Erica McDonald

Patty Dann

The Goldfish Went on Vacation: A Memoir of Loss (and Learning to Tell the Truth about It)

What could be more difficult than learning your husband has only one year to live? Try explaining illness and death to your four-year-old son. Dann's account of her family's personal loss is at times quirky, poignant, heartbreaking, and inspiring. How do you explain death to a small child? The goldfish may go on vacation, but when a child loses a parent, honesty is important and professional guidance and support can be crucial. This book will touch your heart. And in addition to its moving story, it includes an afterword from the child psychologist who worked with Dann's young son along with an extensive list of further resources.

978-1-59030-428-0 (1-59030-428-4) | \$18.00/\$23.00C | Shambhala | HC | January

Marybeth Bond

50 Best Girlfriend Getaways in North America

Inspiration will spark as soon as you open this book. That girls-only vacation you've been meaning to start planning will head straight to the top of your to-do-list. With so many enticing options there's something for everyone, from big city blow-ups to adventure escapes and pampering retreats. So call up your girlfriends, daughters, or sisters and say, "Let's go!"

978-1-42620-051-9 (1-4262-0051-X) | \$15.95/\$19.95C | National Geographic | TR | March

STAFF PICKS (continued)



Courtney Russell

Michelle Richmond

The Year of Fog

Imagine you're in charge of someone else's child, and she becomes lost while in your care. Isn't that one of the worst scenarios you can think of? This is how *The Year of Fog* begins. Abby, a photographer, lets go of little Emma's hand while at the beach in

San Francisco. Emma is gone, lost within minutes. And she is the daughter of Abby's fiancé. With a beginning like that, I could barely put the book down until I knew the outcome. Did Emma go into the ocean and drown? Did someone snatch her away? Who could it have been? Why can't Abby remember more about what happened that day? Why is memory so tricky? I was fascinated to learn about how Abby's mind worked and all of the actions she took throughout her search for Emma. We all know that losing a child is every parent's worst nightmare, and I'm sure there are many books on this topic...but, this is a story from the soon-to-be stepmother's point of view. It was very interesting from this angle because she has an attachment and love for the child that almost equals a parent's—but it is different and less subjective. I could only attempt to fathom the guilt one would feel about being accountable for having lost someone else's child (especially when it's your fiancé's), and the author, Michelle Richmond, truly gets that across. Richmond probes deep inside Abby's world and outlines every aspect of what parents go through logistically after a child is abducted or lost, and also what they experience physically, emotionally, and mentally. Abby's life centers on finding Emma, or at least finding out what happened during those initial seconds and minutes when she took her eyes away, and it becomes almost an obsession—possibly to the detriment of her relationship with the little girl's father. I had to keep turning the pages to find out what happens to Emma, and of course, what happens to Abby and her relationship with her fiancé. Reading this was quite an emotional investment, and I felt as if I lived through the journey with Abby! This is one that just stays with you for a long time, and is as suspenseful as it is moving.

978-0-385-34011-3 (0-385-34011-7) | \$20.00/\$25.00C | Delacorte | HC | March



David Eicke

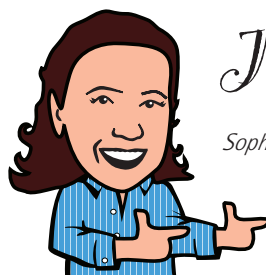
Cormac McCarthy

The Sunset Limited

Okay, so it's dark. But that's what you get when you dig. Prolific and widely heralded novelist Cormac McCarthy has been digging for decades now, and, following in the moist, shadowy ruts of his recent novel *The Road*,

his new book, *The Sunset Limited*, also refuses to merely skim the topsoil. Without a moment's hesitation, McCarthy delves into his weird plain-language profundity, grinding steadily at the resin surface of the world's oldest and toughest question of "why exactly are we here?" He does so in a spare and poignant way, using only a dialogue between two nameless foil characters: an exhausted, depressive professor and a humble, slow-talking ex-con, who, in their quests for a middle ground may just inadvertently carve out a canyon too wide to shout across. I like a book like this because it makes me think. They say an unexamined life is not worth living, and McCarthy's words—bearing the weight of Shakespeare and the immediacy of Updike—always compel examination. While I do recommend sequentially sandwiching this book with a couple of toes-in-the-sand, pastel-colored novels, I still consider it essential reading and required contemplation. Just embrace it. Read it sitting on a damp tile floor in low light with a storm outside. Read it in a house of mirrors. Read it on an empty screeching subway car in the middle of the night as the train jerks and the lights flicker. Alone and silently, begin. It's a very short book, but its effect as a catalyst to commonly ducked-under introspection can last as long as you'd want, or as long as you'd let it. McCarthy, you'll find, has somehow fitted this, the slimmest book on the shelf, with a caliber wide enough for a life.

978-0-307-27836-4 (0-307-27836-0) | \$13.95/\$17.95C | TR | Vintage | Now Available



Jennifer Childs

Sophie Kinsella

Shopaholic and Baby

OK, DON'T PANIC. I'm home on maternity leave and need to do a staff book review. Like I actually have time to read anything with a newborn screaming in the background! But wait, I have a copy of the new Shopaholic galley...surely my laughter will drown out the sounds of the baby crying! And it helps that I can relate to the baby theme—the pram shopping (OK, I have a boring stroller), celebrity OBGYN (OK, mine was not so glamorous), and planned Water birth with Lotus Flowers (OK, again, not me). I guess my situation is a bit different, yet I still found this fourth installment in Kinsella's Shopaholic series is as engaging and amusing as all the previous volumes. Heroine Becky Bloomwood Brandon manages to get herself in the most incredible, unbelievable situations, yet Kinsella's gift for comic writing make them seem totally believable. If you haven't read her books, do yourself a favor and try one. Millions of fans can't be wrong!

978-0-385-33870-7 (0-385-33870-8) | \$24.00/\$30.00 | Dial Press | HC | February



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