



THE OCTAVIAN

Octavia Books' bi-monthly newsletter for booklovers

February/March 2010



OCTAVIA BOOKS

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**INDIE
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Celebrating the
spirit of inde-
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Literary Encores

Remarkable Creatures

From the moment she's struck by lightning as a baby, it is clear that Mary Anning is marked for greatness. On the windswept beaches of the English coast, she learns that she has "the eye" – and finds what no one else can see. When Mary uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton, she sets the religious fathers on edge, the townspeople to vicious gossip, and the scientific world alight. Mary is barred from the academic community; as a young woman with unusual interests she is suspected of sinful behavior. Luckily, Mary finds an unlikely champion in Elizabeth Philpot, a recent exile from London and their relationship strikes a delicate balance between loyalty, appreciation, and envy. Based on a true story, Tracy Chevalier's *Remarkable Creatures* (\$27.95, Dutton, 978-0-525-95145-2) tells how one woman's gift transcends class and social prejudice – and is a revealing portrait of the intricate and resilient nature of female friendship.



The Postmistress

When France falls to the Germans in 1940, President Roosevelt promises he won't send our boys to fight in "foreign wars." But American radio gal Frankie Bard wants nothing more than to bring the war home. Meanwhile, in Franklin, Massachusetts, Iris James hears Frankie's broadcasts and knows that it is only a matter of time before the war arrives on Franklin's shores. Listening to Frankie as well are Will and Emma Fitch, the town's doctor and his new wife, both trying to escape fragile childhoods and forge a brighter future. When Will follows Frankie's siren call into the war, Emma's worst fears are realized. Promising to return in six months, Will goes to London to offer his help, and

the lives of the three women entwine in Sarah Blake's *The Postmistress* (\$25.95, Amy Einhorn Books, 978-0-399-1-5619-9), a remarkable novel with stunning parallels to today.

Brava, Valentine

Snow falls like glitter over Tuscany at the wedding of Valentine's grandmother, Teodora, and longtime love, Dominic. But her dreams are dashed when Gram announces that Alfred, Valentine's only brother and nemesis, has been named her partner at Angelini Shoes. Devastated, Valentine falls into the arms of Gianluca, a sexy Tuscan tanner who made his romantic intentions known on the Isle of Capri. Despite their passion for one another and Gianluca's heartfelt letters, a long-distance relationship seems impossible. As Valentine turns away from romance and devotes herself to her work, Bret Fitzpatrick – Valentine's first love and former fiancé – encourages her to exploit her full potential as a designer and businesswoman by bringing her singular creations to the world. In her travels, Valentine finds a long-buried secret hidden deep within a family scandal in *Brava, Valentine* (\$25.99, Harper, 978-0-061-25707-0), the latest from beloved author Adriana Trigiani.

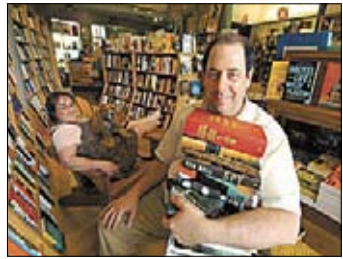
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OCTAVIA BOOKS



DOING OUR PART TO KEEP AMERICA INTERESTING

Dear Local Booklover,



It seems we are all looking for signs of renewal that spring promises ... hope that the worst of our economic difficulties are behind us, anticipation of innovations that might shine a brighter light on our future, and trust that lessons learned in the past will make for smarter choices and more responsible ways of conducting business in our country.

The book industry is one business sector that has particularly had its fair share of trials. National discount retailers sold big-name books significantly below what it cost them to buy, a practice that is illegal in many countries. More e-readers have come to market, but a standard format for e-books has still not yet been determined. And national bookselling chains are closing locations in malls across the country. This year will continue to be a time of change.

In the meantime, we at Octavia Books re-commit ourselves to being your neighborhood bookseller, championing worthy writers and novel ideas, offering you a rich literary landscape for your personal betterment and enjoyment, conducting our business with integrity, participating in our community, and contributing to our local economy. These are timeless values we've held since the beginning as the foundation of sustainability.

We plan to remain an active part of the community, but know that we need your support to do so. While you can find books in countless places online and in nearly every retail outlet, we hope you think of us first ... and come to Octavia Books to discover authors you have never heard of, to find meaningful gifts for others, to find something to read that is worthy of your time, and to keep recycling money within our community to ensure its strength and future.

While the world around us faces the constant pressure of change, what remains steady is the flow of amazing new books. In early spring, we begin with remarkable works by favorite authors like Tracy Chevalier (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*), Adriana Trigiani (*Big Stone Gap*), Chris Bohjalian (*Midwives*), Elizabeth Kostova (*The Historian*), Louise Erdrich (*The Master Butchers Singing Club*), J. M. Coetzee (*Disgrace*), and others. Then there are the debut novelists that we love to find early on and share with you, and watch them reach the bestseller ranks.

What are you in the mood to read next? Stop by Octavia Books to browse our shelves. Know that "Personal Shopping Service" isn't something we just do during the holiday season — it's what we offer you each and every day.

Happy reading and thank you again for supporting us as your local community bookseller.

Judith A. Rafetto *Thomas P. Soumbwa*

INDIE
BOUND



MAY WE RECOMMEND...

At Octavia Books, we love talking about great books with customers. Here are some of our new staff favorites.



Doug Westgate recommends...
Final Target by Steven Gore

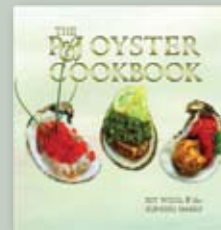
This is a well written first novel by a man who draws upon his own experience as a world wide private investigator of fraud, money laundering, arms dealing etc. We follow Graham Gage from San Francisco to London and Kiev as he tries to unravel a plot against his long time friend implicating him in money laundering and illegal arms trafficking. We are taken inside these shadowy worlds and the role of the Russian Mafia in the corruption and crimes involved. *Final Target* (Harper, \$9.99, 978-0-06-178218-3) is a page turner that will hold your attention and leave you asking for more.



James Wilson recommends...
Pops: A Life of Louis Armstrong by Terry Teachout

Terry Teachout has written an amazing biography of New Orleans' native son Louis Armstrong. Drawing on newly available primary sources, he weaves together a biography that is both illuminating and inspirational. Armstrong's contributions to jazz, pop culture, and breaking the color barrier are well told in a crisp, clean prose. *Pops* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$30, 978-0-1510-1089-9) is highly recommended!

Local Flavors



The P&J Oyster Cookbook

New Orleans' P&J Oyster Company has been in the oyster business since 1876, cultivating, harvesting, and distributing them. Today, P&J is the country's longest continuously operating shucking house, and the Sunseri family still provides the freshest, best Gulf oysters to the finest restaurants and enthusiastic individuals.

The P&J Oyster Cookbook (\$35, Pelican Publishing, 978-1-58980-649-8) shares cherished Sunseri family recipes collected over many decades, alongside succulent offerings from such New Orleans institutions as Acme Oyster House, Casamento's, Arnaud's, Commander's Palace, Dookie Chase's, Bayona, Restaurant August, and Stella, that showcase the versatility of the oyster. Divided into chapters by preparation method—raw, grilled, fried, baked, soups, stews, casseroles, and stuffings—the book closes with a lagniappe section with information on sauces and seasonings. You'll discover the history of the P&J Oyster Company and tips for handling oysters too. Barbecued Oysters from Redfish Grill, Al Sunseri's Ceviche, Fried McIlhenny Oysters from Dickie Brennan's, and Tom Fitzmorris's Rockefeller Flan represent only a handful of the richness captured in this beautiful volume created by Kit Wohl and the Sunseri family.

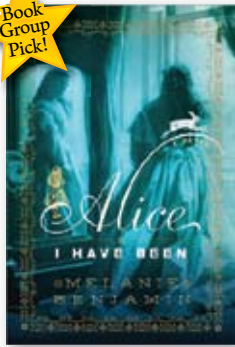
The Neighborhood Story Project Four New Classics Documenting the Now!

The Neighborhood Story Project has been working with five students from John McDonogh for two and half years, and the books have just been released. The four books tell New Orleans as no one else can – as lived by teenagers.

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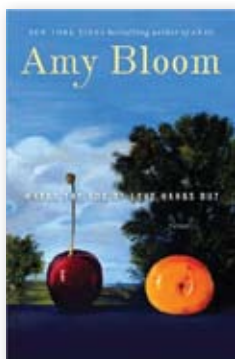
Noteworthy New Novels

Book
Group
Pick!



Alice I Have Been

Now in her twilight years, Alice Liddell looks back on a remarkable life. From a pampered childhood in Oxford to difficult years as a widowed mother, Alice examines how she became who she is – and how she became immortalized as Alice in Wonderland. Melanie Benjamin's *Alice I Have Been* (\$25, Delacorte, 978-0-385-34413-5) is a brilliant literary mystery and love story that captures the spirit of a woman who discovered that life beyond the rabbit hole was an astonishing journey.



Where the God of Love Hangs Out

Insightful, sensuous, and heartbreaking, Amy Bloom's interconnected stories of passion and disappointment, life and death, family and friendship capture deep human truths in *Where the God of Love Hangs Out* (\$25, Random House, 978-1-400-06357-4). The author of the bestselling *Away*, Bloom has two collections of prize-winning stories and is known for her unmistakable voice and remarkable wit. Pour yourself a cup of tea, find a cozy space, and savor her latest collection.



The Brightest Star in the Sky

Internationally bestselling author Marian Keyes's inimitable blend of rollicking humor, effervescent prose, and stories that deal with real-life issues have captivated readers around the globe. Her latest, *The Brightest Star in the Sky* (\$26.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02140-6) follows seven neighbors whose lives become entangled when a sassy and prescient spirit pays a visit to their Dublin townhouse with the intent of changing at least one of their lives. But what will this metamorphosis be and who will the sprite choose? Find out in this smart, funny novel of remarkable depth and insight.

Book
Group
Pick!



Saving CeeCee Honeycutt

Steel Magnolias meets *The Help* in this Southern debut novel sparkling with humor, heart, and feminine wisdom. Beth Hoffman's *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* (\$25.95, Viking, 978-0-670-0-2139-0) introduces us to twelve-year-old CeeCee, who is in trouble. For years, she has been the caretaker of her psychotic mother, Camille – the tiara-toting, lipstick-smearing laughingstock of an entire town – a woman trapped in her long-ago moment of glory as the 1951 Vidalia Onion Queen. But when Camille is hit by a truck and killed, CeeCee is left to fend for herself. This is storytelling at its best.

Shadow Tag

Favorite author Louise Erdrich returns with *Shadow Tag* (\$25.99, Harper, 978-0-061-53609-0) an exquisite, character-driven tale. Irene America is struggling to finish her dissertation while raising three children. She is married to Gil, a volatile painter who has been pigeonholed as a Native American painter. Irene has fallen out of love with Gil and discovers he's been reading her diary – so she begins a new diary and uses the original to manipulate him. Alternating between the two diaries, Erdrich offers a captivating novel with piercing insights into sex, love, autonomy, inheritance, and loss.



Summertime

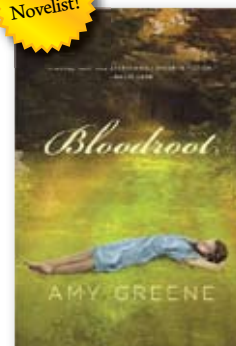
An inventive and inspired work of fiction allows J.M. Coetzee to imagine his own life with a critical and unsparing eye, revealing painful moral struggles and attempts to come to grips with what it means to care for another human being. A young English biographer is researching a book about Coetzee in his thirties, at a time when he was living in a rundown cottage in the Cape Town suburbs – and finding himself as a writer. That's the premise of *Summertime* (\$25.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02138-3), an incisive, elegant, and often surprisingly funny novel by the Nobel Prize-winning author of *Disgrace*.



Debut
Novelist!

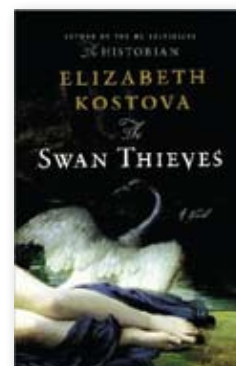
Bloodroot

Named for a flower whose blood-red sap possesses the power to both heal and poison, *Bloodroot* (\$24.95, Knopf, 978-0-307-26986-7) is a stunning debut about the legacies – of magic and madness, faith and secrets, passion and loss – that haunt one impoverished family across the generations, from the Great Depression to today. Told in six voices and set in a remote region called Bloodroot Mountain, Amy Greene brings her native Appalachia – and the faith and fury of its people – to rich and vivid life in this noteworthy new novel about the resilience of the human spirit.

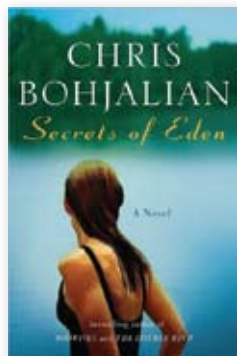


The Swan Thieves

When renowned painter Robert Oliver slashes a canvas in the National Gallery of Art, psychiatrist Andrew Marlow, who paints as a hobby, is called upon to understand such aberrant behavior. He embarks on a journey that leads him into the lives of the women closest to Oliver and a tragedy at the heart of French Impressionism. Like *The Historian*, Elizabeth Kostova's last bestseller, *The Swan Thieves* (\$26.99, Little, Brown, 978-0-316-06578-8) is a story of obsession, history's losses, and the power of art to preserve human hope.



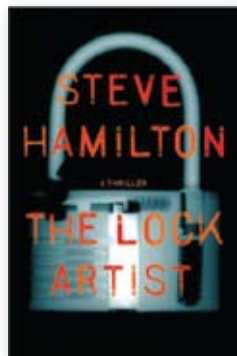
Stories to Savor



Secrets of Eden

Bestselling author Chris Bohjalian returns with an elegant page-turning novel of shattered faith, intimate secrets, and the delicate exploration of the nature of sacrifice in *Secrets of Eden* (\$25, Shaye Areheart Books, 978-0-307-39497-2). After being baptized by Rev. Stephen Drew, Alice Hayward and her abusive husband are found dead of an apparent murder-suicide. Overcome with guilt over his failure to save Alice, Stephen abruptly leaves town and meets Heather Laurent, an author of a book about angels, whose

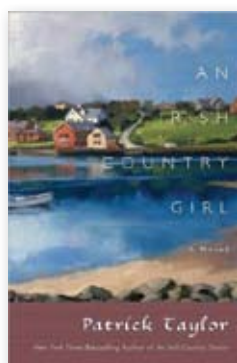
parents' lives also ended in tragedy. Deeply sympathetic about Katie, the Haywards' now orphaned 15-year-old daughter, Heather seeks her out and distances herself from Stephen who becomes a suspect in the case. The final pieces of the story are revealed with a touching twist in Bohjalian's latest compassionate and discussible novel.



The Lock Artist

Marked by tragedy, traumatized at the age of eight, Michael, now eighteen, is no ordinary young man. Besides not uttering a single word in ten years, he discovers the one thing he can somehow do better than anyone else. Whether it's a locked door without a key, a padlock with no combination, or even an eight-hundred pound safe ... he can open them all. His talent will make young Michael a hot commodity with the wrong people. When he finally sees his chance to escape, Michael comes back home to the only person he ever loved – and

to unlock the secret that has kept him silent for so long in *The Lock Artist* (\$24.99, Minotaur, 978-0-312-38042-7), a wonderful new thriller from award-winning author Steve Hamilton.



An Irish Country Girl

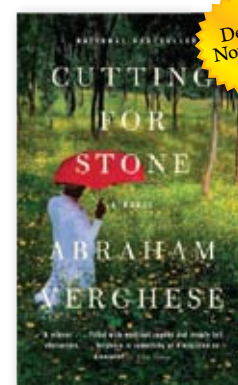
Mrs. Kinky Kincaid – the unflappable housekeeper who looks after two frequently frazzled doctors in the colorful Irish village of Ballybucklebo – returns in Patrick Taylor's *An Irish Country Girl* (\$24.99, Forge, 978-0-765-32071-1). Some forty-odd years before and many miles to the south, the girl who would someday be Kinky Kincaid was Maureen O'Hanlon, a farmer's daughter growing up in the emerald hills of County Cork. A precocious girl on the cusp of womanhood, Maureen has a head full of dreams, a heart open to romance, and a gift for seeing

beyond the ordinary into the mystic realm of fairies, spirits, and even the dreaded Banshee. Maureen finds herself on the road to Ballybucklebo in this captivating tale by a true Irish storyteller.

New in Paperback

Cutting for Stone

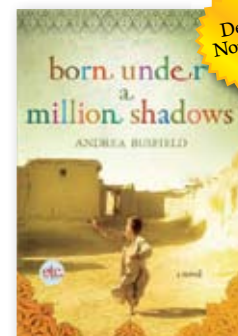
Marion and Shiva Stone are twin brothers born of a secret union between a beautiful Indian nun and a brash British surgeon. Orphaned by their mother's death and their father's disappearance, bound together by a preternatural connection and a shared fascination with medicine, the twins come of age as Ethiopia hovers on the brink of revolution. Moving from Addis Ababa to New York City and back again, Abraham Verghese's *Cutting For Stone* (\$15.95, Vintage, 978-0-375-71436-8) is an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, medicine and ordinary miracles.



Debut Novelist!

Born Under a Million Shadows

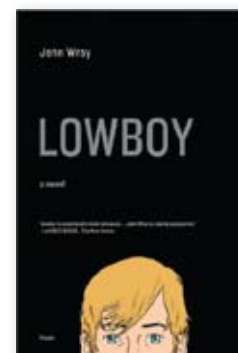
The Taliban have withdrawn from Kabul's streets, but the long shadows of their regime remain. In his short life, eleven-year-old Fawad has known more grief than most. Yet ever the optimist, Fawad hopes for a better life, and his dream is realized in *Born Under a Million Shadows* (\$14, Holt McDougal, 978-0-805-09061-1), a big-hearted debut novel by Andrea Busfield that captures the hope and humanity of the Afghan people.



Debut Novelist!

Lowboy

Will Heller, a 16-year-old paranoid schizophrenic is on a mission to save the world from global warming. He journeys through New York's tunnels, back alleys, and streets in search of the one person who, he believes, can help him. Suspenseful and yet comic, devastating and even hopeful, John Wray's *Lowboy* (\$14, Picador USA, 978-0-312-42933-1) is a fearless exploration of youth, sex, and violence in contemporary America, seen through one boy's haunting and extraordinary vision.



The Women

Having brought to life eccentric cereal king John Harvey Kellogg in *The Road to Wellville* and sex researcher Alfred Kinsey in *The Inner Circle*, T.C. Boyle now turns his fictional sights on an even more colorful and outlandish character: Frank Lloyd Wright. Boyle's incomparable account of Wright's life is told through the experiences of the four women who loved him. There's the Montenegrin beauty Olgivanna Milanoff, the passionate Southern belle Maude Miriam Noel, the tragic Mamah Cheney, and his young first wife, Kitty Tobin. Boyle deftly captures these very different women and the creative life in all its complexity in *The Women* (\$16, Penguin, 978-0-143-11647-9).



Young Adult Reads



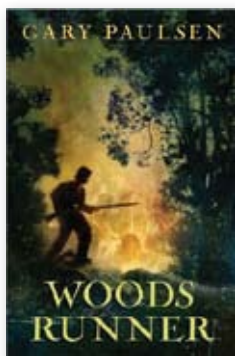
The Viper's Nest

It's no longer a game. The body count is rising. Shaken by recent events, Amy and Dan flee to a distant land and trace the footsteps of their most formidable ancestor yet: a military leader of mythic proportions. Just as the siblings begin to master the art of ancient warfare, they confront a dangerous enemy and uncover something so devastating it changes everything in *The Viper's Nest* (\$12.99, Scholastic, 978-0-545-06047-9) by Peter Lerangis.



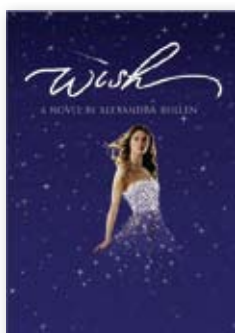
Captivate

Zara and her friends knew they hadn't solved the pixie problem for good. The king's needs grow deeper every day he's stuck in captivity. Astley, the new pixie king in town, is moving in quickly and a turf war is imminent. Astley swears that he and Zara are destined to be together, that he's one of the good guys. Although Zara knows that her relationship with Nick is at stake, she wants to trust the new king. But there's even more at stake; it's her life -- and Nick's -- in *Captivate* (\$16.99, Bloomsbury, 978-1-599-90342-2), the widely anticipated sequel by Carrie Jones.



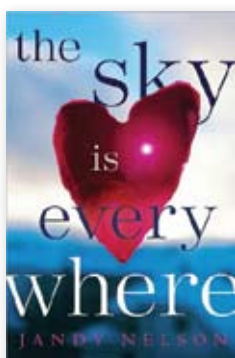
Woods Runner

Samuel, 13, spends his days in the forest, hunting for food for his family. He has grown up on the frontier of a British colony, America. When British soldiers and Iroquois attack, Samuel's parents are taken away. So he follows -- hiding, moving silently, determined to find a way to rescue them. Favorite author Gary Paulsen returns with an adventure in history with *Woods Runner* (\$15.99, Wendy Lamb Books, 978-0-385-73884-2).



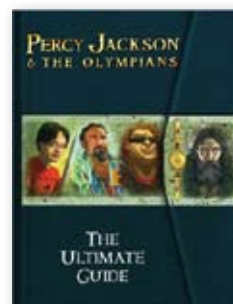
Wish

For brokenhearted Olivia Larsen, nothing can change the fact that her twin sister, Violet, is gone -- until a mysterious, beautiful gown arrives on her doorstep. The dress doesn't just look magical ... It has the power to grant her one wish, and the only thing Olivia wants is her sister back. In a breathtaking debut novel from Alexandra Bullen, *Wish* (\$17.99, Point, 978-0-545-13905-2) asks the question: "If you could have anything, what would you wish for?"



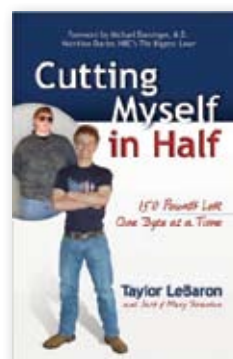
The Sky is Everywhere

Seventeen-year-old Lennie Walker, bookworm and band geek, spends her time tucked safely and happily in the shadow of her fiery older sister, Bailey. But when Bailey dies abruptly, Lennie is catapulted to center stage of her own life and, despite her nonexistent history with boys, suddenly finds herself struggling to balance two of them. One takes her out of her sorrow, the other comforts her in it. Jandy Nelson's remarkable debut, *The Sky Is Everywhere* (\$17.99, Dial, 978-0-803-73495-1), is a portrait of loss and a celebration of love. Avail. 3/9



Percy Jackson and the Olympians: Ultimate Guide

A novelty companion to Rick Riordan's bestselling series, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Ultimate Guide* (\$12.99, Hyperion, 978-1-423-12171-8) comes complete with trading cards, full-color diagrams, and maps. It's a fascinating -- and fun -- fully illustrated guide to gods, monsters, and all things Percy Jackson. You've just got to see all of the wonderful aspects of this Guide. Come in and take a look!



Cutting Myself in Half

At age fourteen, Taylor LeBaron weighed nearly 300 pounds. A chubby kid from birth who was prone to obesity, Taylor allowed his weight to skyrocket through mindless 'whatever' eating and his sedentary techie lifestyle. But a membership to the Y, a keen imagination, and an indomitable spirit changed all that. Taylor made fitness into a fun challenge with a fitness game that literally helped him shed half himself in a matter of a year and a half. Read his story and learn how you can use Taylor's game in *Cutting Myself in Half: 150 Pounds Lost, One Byte at a Time* (\$12.95, HCI Teens, 978-0-757-31359-2) for a new, healthier you.

SIT STAY READ



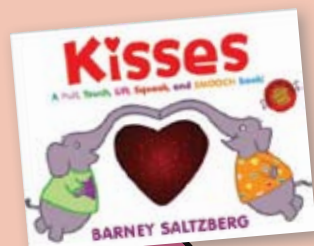
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Cuddle Up & Read



Kisses

We love the whole idea of a “Pull, Lift, Squeak, and Smooch” book! Just in time for Valentine’s Day, *Kisses* (\$13.99, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 978-0-152-06534-8) is filled with textures, flaps, pull tabs, a surprise, and loads of kisses. A celebration of the kiss, Barney Saltzberg’s novelty book introduces little ones to the alphabet, animals, counting, parts of the body, and times of day – and may even get them ready for bed! Birth to Age 3



Henry in Love

Henry is a bit of a dreamer and not much of a talker. Then there’s Chloe, who says what she thinks and knows how to turn a spectacular cartwheel. Experience the thrill of first love in *Henry in Love* (\$16.99, Harper, 978-0-061-14288-8), a delightful new picture book with delicate ink-and-watercolor art of adorable animals by Caldecott Honor-winning author/illustrator Peter McCarty. Ages 4-8



Thumper Finds a Friend

When Thumper stumbles upon a hedgehog, he’s eager to make friends with it. But, bewildered by the bunny’s tricks, the hedgehog rolls itself into a ball. After some advice from his dad, Thumper tries a new approach. With cute illustrations, lyrical text, and a hint of mischief, *Thumper Finds a Friend* (\$3.99, Disney Press, 978-1-423-12313-2) is a perfect addition to the Easter basket. Ages 3-5



Big Chickens Go to Town

Those silly Big Chickens are at it again, this time New Orleans-style. When the four lily-livered chickens are accidentally dumped off the farmer’s truck, they have no choice but to follow the feed trail through a day of crazy hijinks. Silliness abounds in *Big Chickens Go to Town* (\$16.99, Dutton, 978-0-5254-2162-7), the third hilarious read-aloud by Leslie Helakoski, once again illustrated by Henry Coleas. Ages 4-8



Cupcake

Poor vanilla Cupcake. He’s feeling a bit drab next to his fancy friends. But when his new pal Candle comes along with some fresh ideas, the two concoct a plan to become the snazziest duo ever found on a plate. Favorite author Charise Mericle Harper returns with *Cupcake* (\$14.99, Hyperion, 978-1-423-11897-8), another fun book that also makes for a perfect birthday party gift. Ages 4-8



I Am Going!

Piggie ruins a perfectly good day by telling Gerald she’s going. If Piggie goes, who will Gerald skip with, play Ping-Pong with, and wear silly hats with? Mo Willems, the Caldecott Honor-winning author/illustrator who has garnered six Emmy Awards for his work with Sesame Street, delivers another perfectly delightful “Elephant & Piggie” shtick in *I Am Going!* (\$8.99, Disney Press, 978-1-423-11990-6). Learning to read can sure be fun! Ages 4-8



Learning is Fun!



Dogs

Can you choose one dog to love best of all? With playful pencil and watercolor illustrations, children will want to bark along with the Chihuahua and tickle the Dalmatian’s tummy in *Dogs* (\$15.99, Simon & Schuster, 978-1-416-98703-1) by award-winning author and illustrator Emily Gravett. The juxtaposition of large and small dogs will teach children about opposites – and the twist at the tail end will leave everyone laughing! Ages 4-8 Avail. 2/9

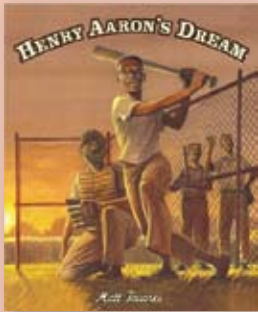


AlphaB'art

What better way to learn to appreciate art than to make a game of it? One letter of the alphabet is concealed in each of the 26 paintings in *AlphaB'art: Find the Letters Hidden in the Paintings* (\$19.95, Frances Lincoln, 978-1-847-80013-8) by Anne Guery and Olivier Dussutour. Children will search the paintings by masters of Western art, including Picasso, Dali, Van Gogh, Matisse, Giotto, Chagall, Mondrian, Hopper, Kandinsky, Klee, Magritte, and Bosch in this impressive new volume. Ages 4-9



Read & Go Places



Henry Aaron's Dream

Before he was Hammerin' Hank, Henry Aaron was a young boy growing up in Mobile, Alabama, with what seemed like a foolhardy dream: to be a big-league baseball player. He didn't have a bat. He didn't have a ball. And there wasn't a single black ball player in the major leagues. In a captivating biography of Henry Aaron's young life – from his sandlot days through his time in the Negro Leagues to the day he played his first spring training game for the Braves – Matt

Tavares offers an inspiring homage to one of baseball's all-time greats in *Henry Aaron's Dream* (\$16.99, Candlewick, 978-0-763-63224-3). Ages 7-10

The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History

No more boring textbook-style learning, here! Written by Adam Selzer, *The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History* (\$12.99, Delacorte, 978-0-385-73650-3) brings history to life with a fun and humorous approach to telling the stories of our past. Pointing out fascinating facts, characters, and events, Selzer uses sidebars, reproductions of paintings, engravings, and photographs to engage the attention at every turn of the page. This is perfect for reluctant readers and any child who needs a different approach to find out just how much fun learning can be. Ages 8-12



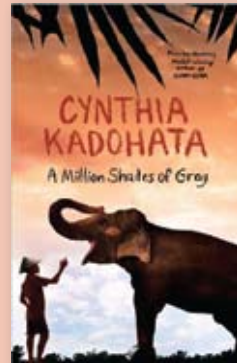
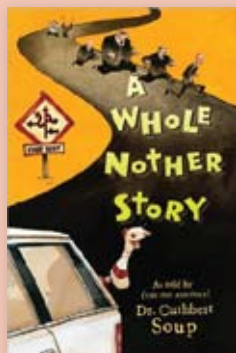
Cosmic

Liam has always felt a bit like he's stuck between two worlds. He's a twelve-year-old kid who looks to be about thirty. Sometimes it's not so bad, like when his new principal mistakes him for a teacher on the first day of school or when he convinces a car dealer to let him take a Porsche out on a test drive. But mostly it's just frustrating, being a kid trapped in an adult world. And so he decides to flip things around by conning his way onto the first spaceship to take civilians into space – a special flight for a group of kids and an adult chaperone, and he is going as the adult chaperone. Come along for

the ride in *Cosmic* (\$16.99, Walden Pond Press, 978-0-061-83683-1), a funny and touching story by award-winning author Frank Cottrell Boyce. Ages 8-12

A Whole Nother Story

For all who love *A Series of Unfortunate Events* and *Mysterious Societies*, there's a new series featuring three Cheeseman children, their father, a psychic dog, and a sock puppet named Steve who are on the run from international super-spies. Written by Dr. Cuthbert Soup, Founder of the National Center for Unsolicited Advice, *A Whole Nother Story* (\$16.99, Bloomsbury, 978-1-599-90435-1) is a fast-paced fun read that will leave you waiting for the next adventure. Ages 8-12

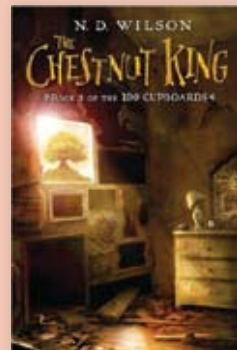


A Million Shades of Gray

Cynthia Kadohata, the Newbery Medal-winning author of *Kira-Kira* and *Cracker!*, takes us to a Vietnam village where we meet twelve-year-old Tin after American troops have pulled out of the area and the village is now occupied by Viet Cong forces. While Tin watches his life change in a million terrible ways, his bravery is put to a new test. At once heartbreaking and full of hope, *A Million Shades of Gray* (\$16.99, Atheneum, 978-1-416-91883-7) brings us to a world few know about – and no one will ever forget. Ages 8-12

Wishing for Tomorrow

In the long-awaited sequel to Frances Hodgson Burnett's *A Little Princess*, Sara Crewe has gone away with the Indian gentleman, and nothing is the same at Miss Minchin's. *Wishing for Tomorrow* (\$16.99, Margaret K. McElderry Books, 978-1-442-40169-3) is a lovely story by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Nick Maland, about keeping secrets, holding dreams, finding your way – and things coming out right. Ages 8-12

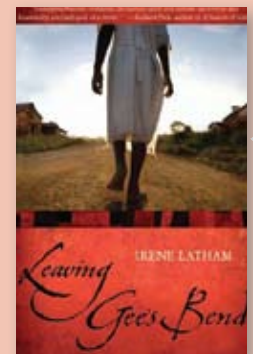


The Chestnut King

When Henry York found 99 cupboards hidden behind his bedroom wall, he never dreamed they were doors to entirely new worlds. Unfortunately, Henry's discovery freed an ancient, undying witch, whose hunger for power would destroy every world connected to the cupboards – and every person whom Henry loves. Henry must seek out the legendary Chestnut King for help, but discovers everything has a price and the Chestnut King's desire may be as dangerous as the witch herself in *The Chestnut King* (\$17.99, Random House, 978-0-375-83885-9) by N.D. Wilson. Ages 9-12

Leaving Gee's Bend

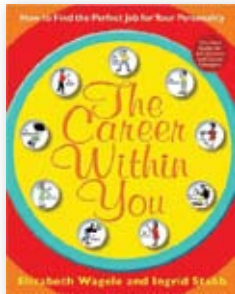
Set in 1932 and inspired by the rich quilting history of Gee's Bend, Alabama, Irene Latham's *Leaving Gee's Bend* (\$16.99, Putnam, 978-0-399-25179-5) introduces us to Ludelphia Bennet, who is blind in one eye. When Mama goes into labor early and gets deathly ill, Ludelphia leaves Gee's Bend for the very first time to get medicine her Mama desperately needs. A delightful, satisfying story of a young girl facing a brave new world who records her adventures in quilt pieces. Ages 9-13



"People should take a lesson from crayons, they are all different colors, some are bright, some are sharp, but they all live in the same box." -- Anonymous



Valuing Our Work

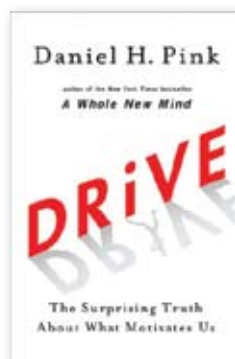


The Career Within You

Elizabeth Wagele and Ingrid Stabb believe that to find the perfect career, we must first learn to understand our inner strengths and gifts, then target our search for the kinds of companies and positions where we are most likely to thrive. *The Career Within You* (\$17.95, HarperOne, 978-0-061-71861-8) helps us look inward to understand our personalities more fully and then identify the key gifts we need to contribute in our work to find fulfillment. With a light touch to a serious matter, your coaches will guide you toward making lasting changes with better results.

Drive

Daniel Pink, the author of the groundbreaking bestseller *A Whole New Mind*, is back with a paradigm-changing examination of how to harness motivation to find greater satisfaction in life in *Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us* (\$26.95, Riverhead, 978-1-594-48884-9). While the “carrot-and-stick” approach may have worked in the last century, it’s the wrong way to motivate people today. Drawing on four decades of research, Pink reveals that the secret to high performance and satisfaction today is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world. *Drive* bursts with ideas that will transform how we think and live.



The Little Big Things

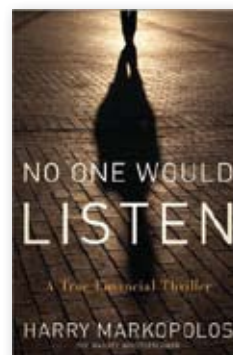
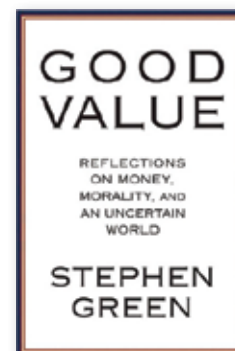
Author, provocateur, and business visionary Tom Peters is recognized around the globe as one of the most influential and revolutionary management gurus of the last century. With more than 10 best-selling books on innovative business practices – including the groundbreaking *In Search of Excellence* – Peters returns with *The Little Big Things* (\$24.99, HarperStudio, 978-0-061-89408-4). Culled from years of observing the best – and worst – of American business practices, you’ll learn the things that matter most. Avail. 2/1



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper with soy ink.

Good Value

Can one be both an ethical person and a banker? Stephen Green, an ordained priest and chairman of HSBC, thinks so. In *Good Value: Reflections on Money, Morality and an Uncertain World* (\$25, Atlantic Monthly, 978-0-802-11917-9), Green retraces the history of the global economy and argues that despite its recent lapses, the financial industry is more necessary than ever. Also necessary, however, are good businesses. By exploring the “new capitalism” with stories about microfinance, green technology, and a number of remarkable business people who have changed the world, Green presents us with the heartening possibility that through good ethics comes good business – and through good business comes a richer, more rewarding world for us all.

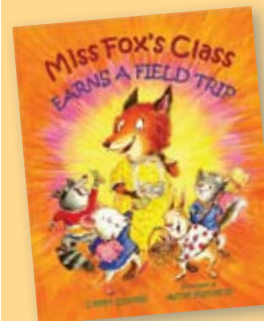
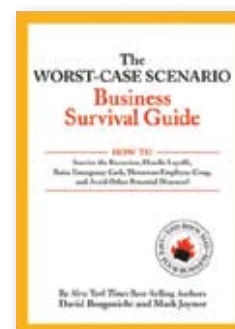


No One Would Listen

It’s fascinating – and unbelievable – just how Bernie Madoff was allowed to continue his \$65 billion Ponzi scheme even after Harry Markopolos and his team of financial sleuths repeatedly warned the SEC about his operations. *No One Would Listen* (\$27.95, Wiley, 978-0-470-55373-2) is the amazing story of the world’s most visible and insightful whistleblowers – and how they exposed the practices that would rock the financial world for decades to come.

The Worst-Case Business Survival Guide

Especially when the economy has struggled, businesses need to take extra care to weather the down-turn. What difficulties can be managed versus those that can spell disaster are addressed head-on in *The Worst-Case Business Survival Guide: How to Survive* (\$17.95, Wiley, 978-0-470-55141-7) by David Borgenicht and Mark Joyner. Whether you’re struggling to make payroll or simply want to better understand the signals early on, this book provides real-world answers to the most challenging aspects of running a business.

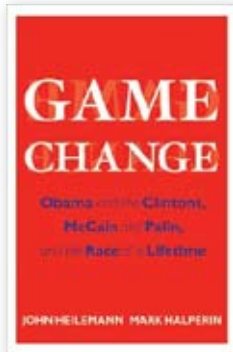


Miss Fox’s Class Earns a Field Trip

To help your kids learn the value of money and hard work early on, look to *Miss Fox’s Class Earns a Field Trip* (\$16.99, Albert Whitman, 978-0-807-55169-1). Author Eileen Spinelli tells the story about how students want to go on a class trip and how they earned the money themselves to pay for it. If you remember those days of washing cars, selling candy, and earning an allowance – and recognize the value in those early lessons – Spinelli’s book

will help you instill the same in the lives of the children you love and want to see succeed in life. Ages 5-8. Avail. 3/1

Understanding Our World



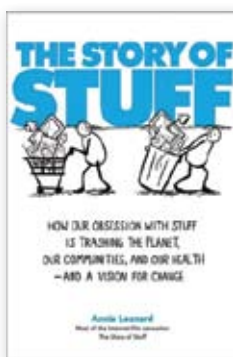
Game Change

From two of the best political reporters in the country – John Heilemann and Mark Halperin – comes an in-depth, behind the scenes look at the historic 2008 election. Based on hundreds of interviews with people who lived and breathed the campaign, *Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime* (\$27.99, Harper, 978-0-061-73363-5) reads like a fast-paced novel, rich in dialogue and replete with scenes and news-making revelations that marked a new era in American politics.



Eclipse of the Sunnis

The history of the Middle East tells us that one of the greatest problems of the last forty years has been that of a displaced population. NPR's award-winning correspondent Deborah Amos follows the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Sunni Muslims by the conflict in Iraq and explains how this alienation has the capacity to cause resounding resentments across the region for generations to come in *Eclipse of the Sunnis: Power, Exile, and the Rebalancing of the Middle East* (\$26.95, PublicAffairs, 978-1-586-48649-5). Avail. 3/1



The Story of Stuff

Annie Leonard has spent more than 20 years investigating factories and dumps around the world and is an expert in international sustainability and environmental health issues. In *The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health* (\$26, Free Press, 978-1-439-12566-3), Leonard tracks the life of the “stuff” we use every day, transforming how we think about our patterns of consumption. Avail. 3/9

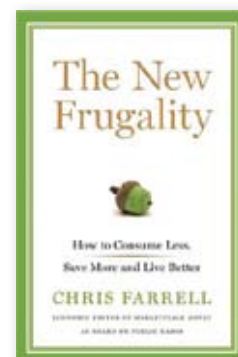


The Spirit Level

A bestseller in Britain, *The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger* (\$28, Bloomsbury, 978-1-608-19036-2) by Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson shows how one single factor – the gap between its riches and poorest members – can determine the health and well-being of a society. They address the contradiction between material success and social welfare in today's world and provide new understanding of why communities prosper. The eye-opening findings should inspire a new level of political thinking.

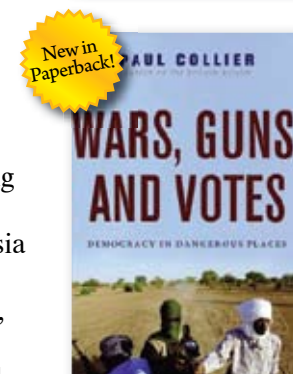
The New Frugality

From Chris Ferrell, the personal finance correspondent for public radio's “Marketplace”, is a new plan for a new economic reality – a paradigm shift in the way we spend and save. In *The New Frugality* (\$24, Bloomsbury, 978-1-596-91660-9), Ferrell reminds us that frugality does not mean old-fashioned penny-pinching, but a new lifestyle based on spending your money on quality rather than quantity – buying the best you can afford but the least you need – and enjoying a life of less waste, greater peace of mind, and deeper satisfaction.



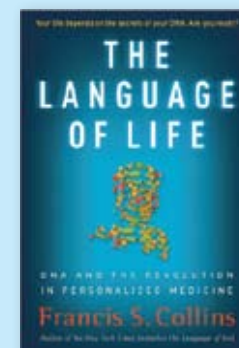
Wars, Guns, and Votes

Paul Collier, esteemed economist and authority on developing countries, investigates the violence and poverty in the small, remote countries at the lowest level of the world economy – and gives an eye-opening assessment of the ethnic divisions and insecurities in the developing areas of Africa, Latin America and Asia in *Wars, Guns, and Votes* (\$14.99, HarperPerennial, 978-0-061-47964-9). Though nasty and long civil wars, military coups, and failing economies are the order of the day, Collier insists that these problems can and will be rectified and outlines what must be done by the international community to bring peace and stability to the world. Avail. 2/1



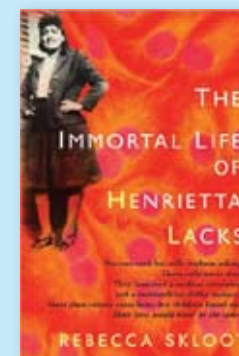
The Language of Life

The Human Genome Project, funded by the federal government, led to a better understanding of the genetic basis for disease and treatments based on an individual's own genetic make-up. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, presents the upbeat message that we are embarking on a medical revolution that will allow each of us to take control of our medical lives in *The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine* (\$26.99, Harper, 978-0-061-73317-8).

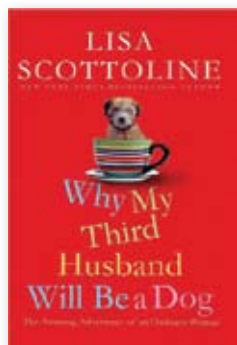


The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells – taken without her knowledge – were the first human cells grown in culture and became one of the most important tools in medicine. Rebecca Skloot takes us on an extraordinary journey, from the “colored” ward of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the ‘50s to stark white laboratories filled with HeLa's cells in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (\$26, Crown, 978-1-400-05217-2) where she captures the beauty and drama of scientific discovery, as well as its human consequences. Avail. 2/2



Woman to Woman

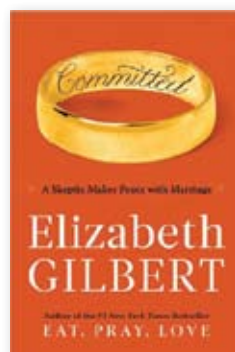


Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog

Lisa Scottoline, whose thrillers have been bestsellers, has also written a wildly popular column for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* where she lets her hair down, roots and all, to show the humorous side of life from a woman's perspective. Now gathered together in one volume, *Why My Third Husband Will Be a Dog: The Amazing Adventures of an Ordinary Woman* (\$21.99, St. Martin's, 978-0-312-58748-2) is the perfect read for a gloomy day. Also a great girlfriend gift.

Committed

Picking up where her bestselling memoir *Eat, Pray, Love* left off, Elizabeth Gilbert details the extraordinary circumstances that surround her love with Felipe, the man she swore never to marry. Told with her trademark wit, *Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage* (\$26.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02165-9) is a celebration of love with all the complexity and consequences that real love – in the real world – actually entails.



Cleaving

Julie Powell, who last entertained us with *Julie & Julia*, decides to leave town after her marriage is challenged by an insane, irresistible love affair. She immerses herself in a new obsession – butchery – and finds her way to Fleischer's, a butcher shop where she can bury herself in the details of food. The camaraderie at Fleischer's leads Julie to search out fellow butchers around the world. In *Cleaving: A Story of Marriage, Meat, and Obsession* (\$24.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-00336-0), we travel with Powell until the end of her odyssey, where

she has learned a new art and perhaps even mastered her unruly heart.

My Mother's Clothes

Photographer Jeannette Montgomery Barron creates an enduring portrait of her late mother through still-life images of her cherished clothing, shoes, and personal possessions. As her mother's struggle with Alzheimer's progressed, Barron began this unique visual album as a way of both sparking her mother's memories and coping with her own sense of loss. Poetic and elegant, *My Mother's Clothes* (\$24.95, Welcome Books, 978-1-599-62077-0) is a unique blend of fashion diary, personal memoir, loving memorial, and life celebration. A thoughtful gift for all who grieve the loss of a loved one. Avail. 3/9



First Invite Love In

If one of your wishes for the year ahead is to let go of hardships or traumatic experiences of the past to discover a sense of peace and happiness, look to *First Invite Love In* (\$15.95, Wisdom Publications, 978-0-861-71285-4) by Tana Pessó and the late His Holiness Penor Rinpoche. The true-life stories of others who have experienced tremendous suffering (caused by others or themselves), daily practices, and step-by-step guidance

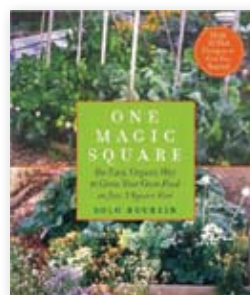
can help you transform your mind from focusing on difficulties to thoughts of compassion and love. Avail. 3/1

Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars

Make memories with the little ones in your life with Sharon Lovejoy's *Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars: Grandma's Bag of Tricks* (\$14.95, Workman, 978-0-761-15043-5). A grandmother of four and author of two classic books of garden activities, Lovejoy offers fun "green" projects for the kitchen and garden that will allow you and your grandchild to connect with each other through nature. From making leaf rubbings to sunshine baking, you'll find plenty of things to do in this handy guide to make sure any afternoon, day, or weekend turns into a memory that lasts forever.



This Year's Garden



One Magic Square

If you can find just one square yard on your property, you can begin producing your own nourishing, inexpensive organic food. Lolo Houbein, who has been growing food for more than 30 years, offers a charming and practical guide in *One Magic Square: The Easy, Organic Way to Grow Your Own Food on a 3-Foot Square* (\$18.95, Experiment, 978-1-615-19012-6). You'll travel through her garden in the photos and illustrations –

and begin thinking of the luscious salads, stir fries, and healthy snacks you'll enjoy this summer.

The Cook's Herb Garden

How wonderful it is to run out to your garden to pinch some fresh herbs for your recipe. Whether you want to plant in pots for the porch or plan an entire herb garden, look to *The Cook's Herb Garden* (\$18, DK Publishing, 978-0-756-65869-4) for tips on how to plant, nurture, harvest, and store more than 150 different culinary herbs. Start planning now and you'll be pinching fresh basil and harvesting handfuls of parsley this summer. Avail. 2/1



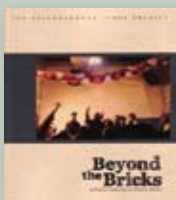
“Local Flavors“ continued from page 2

The Neighborhood Story Project



Aunt Alice vs. Bob Marley: My Education In New Orleans
by Kareem Kennedy

Kareem Kennedy documents his quest for an education in the schools and streets of New Orleans. With his father gone and his mother frequently out of the picture, Kareem looks towards teachers, friends and extended family for the skills to muster through public schools, Hurricane Katrina, and the “heavy hands and hard shoes” of his life. Tracing Kareem’s history through the Seventh Ward, exile in Houston, and a return to school in New Orleans, the book represents two years of highs and lows: losing friends, surviving violence, and the beginning of his college career. \$15



Beyond the Bricks
by Daron Crawford
& Pernell Russell

More than parallel stories, *Beyond the Bricks* is a conversation about life in New Orleans as the city’s major public housing projects are torn down. With childhoods spent in the Calliope and St. Bernard Projects, Daron and Pernell document what these communities meant, the new struggles of living outside the projects, and their families’ new footholds in the city. *Beyond the Bricks* documents the many cultures of teenage New Orleans: rap

and dance, skateboarding and fashion, showing the strengths and tensions of the different scenes they call home. \$16



From My Mother's House of Beauty
by Susan Stephanie Henry

From her childhood in Englishtown on the Caribbean coast of Honduras to her life in the Seventh Ward, Susan Stephanie Henry writes of transitions and shifting identities. In *From My Mother's House of Beauty*, Susan investigates her many worlds: family homes, beauty salons, public schools and fashion runways. Part memoir, part ethnography, *From My Mother's House of Beauty* explores what it means to be a black Honduran woman living in New Orleans. \$15

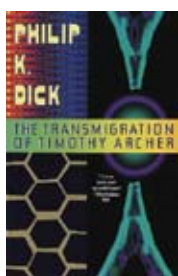


Signed, the President
by Kenneth Phillips

Signed, the President is Kenneth’s portrait of family life during turbulent times as seen and felt through our narrator and interviewer-at-large, Kenneth Phillips, aka, the President. Kenneth tells his story through interviewing family members – questions that begin to tell the stories of the St. Bernard Public Housing Development, the beginnings of bounce, sweet shops and church services. Where the interviews leave off, Kenneth explains: his relationship with his father, losing the family dog Kobey, and his journey toward manhood. \$15

Book Clubs

Octavia Books Science Fiction Book Club

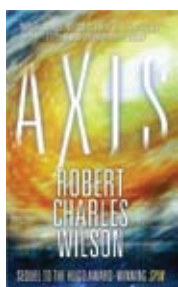


Sunday, February 21, 12:30 pm
The Transmigration of Timothy Archer
by Philip K. Dick

The usual 2nd Saturday morning meeting of the Science Fiction Book Club has been rescheduled because of Carnival madness.

Loosely based on the story of Bishop James Pike, *The Transmigration of Timothy Archer* (\$14, Vintage, 978-0-6797-3444-

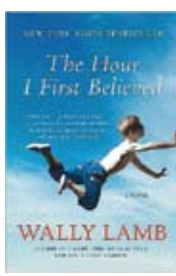
4), Dick’s last novel in the trilogy that includes *The Divine Invasion* and *Valis* tells of an erudite man of the cloth whose faith is shaken by the suicides of his son and mistress, and then transformed by his bizarre quest for the identity of Christ.



Saturday, March 13 at 10:30AM
Axis by Robert C. Wilson

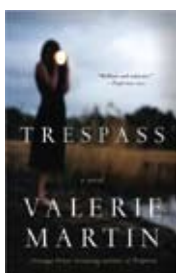
In *Axis* (\$7.99, Tor, 978-0-7653-4826-5), the sequel to the Hugo Award-winning *Spin*, Wilson takes readers to the “world next door” – the planet engineered by the mysterious Hypotheticals to support human life. But as humans colonize this new world they, predictably, exploit its resources.

Octavia Books Book Club



Saturday, February 20, 10:30 am
The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb

When high school teacher Caelum Quirk and his wife, Maureen, a school nurse, move to Littleton, Colorado, they both get jobs at Columbine High School. In April 1999, while Caelum is away, Maureen finds herself in the library at Columbine, cowering in a cabinet and expecting to be killed. Miraculously, she survives, but at a cost: she is unable to recover from the trauma. When Caelum and Maureen flee to an illusion of safety on the Quirk family’s Connecticut farm, they discover that the effects of chaos are not easily put right, and further tragedy ensues. *The Hour I First Believed* (\$15.99, HarperPerennial, 978-0-0609-8843-2) is an extraordinary work of prodigious scope.



Saturday, March 30, 10:30 AM
Trespass by Martin Valerie

Rich with menace, *Trespass* (\$14.95, Vintage, 978-1-4000-9551-3) unfolds in a world where darkness intrudes into bright and pleasant places, a world with betrayal at its heart. In shimmering prose Martin raises the question, *Who shall inherit America?*

Kids Events

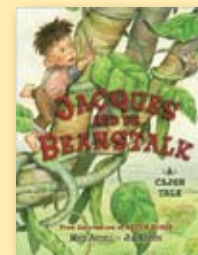


Dianne de Las Casas
Bayou
Release Party & Performance
Tuesday, February 27, 1:30 pm
Dusk falls across the bayou as the crickets chirp, snakes hiss, and mosquitoes buzz. Mama rocks her baby to this soft symphony of sounds, a gentle

lull of sweetly repetitive animals making noise, ready for bedtime.

Illustrated in brilliantly detailed and textured cut paper, this simple stroll through the swampy wilderness introduces children to animal sounds as they fall into peaceful slumber in the warm embrace of their loving mother. An introduction to onomatopoeia, the flora and fauna of the bayou, and a glossary of terms are among the educational aspects of *Mama's Bayou* (\$16.99, Pelican Publishing, 978-1-5898-0787-7).

Dianne de Las Casas is an author, storyteller, and recording artist. Her work has received critical acclaim, and she is a frequent presenter at the International Reading Association, American Library Association, and other literary and education conferences. She lives in Harvey, Louisiana, with her husband.



Mike Artell
Jacques and de Beanstalk
Saturday, March 6, 4 pm
You know the classic story of Jack and the Beanstalk, but you’ve never heard it like this before. Told in Cajun dialect with a distinct bayou flair,

Jacques and de Beanstalk (\$16.99, Dial Books, 978-0-8037-2816-5) is perfect for reading aloud.

“I dona know foa sure if dat story is true, But down where de Cajuns live on de bayou, When dey tell dem stories, dey shore like to talk About dat boy Jacques and his magic beanstalk.”



Come watch the short documentary video on Octavia Books and its role as an independent bookseller in the New Orleans community.

<http://vimeo.com/8320063>

Upcoming Events at Octavia Books



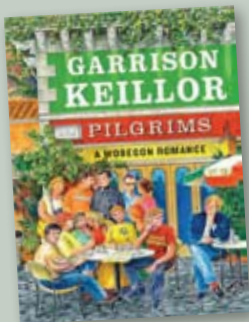
An Evening With Garrison Keillor

Tuesday, February 9, 7:30 pm

Mahalia Jackson Theater

Garrison Keillor, the prolific storyteller is the second speaker in the inaugural New Orleans' Speaker Series, featuring three fascinating one-night, one-man performances by several of America's most engaging media personalities.

Over 3 million listeners on more than 450 public radio stations now hear Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* each week. Keillor has received numerous awards, including a Grammy Award for his recording of *Lake Wobegon Days*, two Cable ACE Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was presented recently with a National Humanities Medal by the National Endowment for the Humanities. You won't want to miss this prolific storyteller, author, performance artist, radio host and comedian.



Pilgrims:

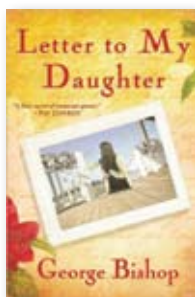
A Wobegon Romance

Margie Krebsbach dreams up the idea of a trip to Rome, hoping to get her husband Carl to make love to her – he's been sleeping across the hall and she has no idea why. She finds a patriotic purpose for the journey. A Lake Wobegon

boy, Gussy Norlander, died in the liberation of Rome, 1944, and his grave, according to his elderly brother, Norbert, is in a neglected weed patch near the Colosseum. Margie is unprepared for the enthusiastic response – fifty people want to go with her. In the warm circle of kinship, as they enter alien territory, they tell stories of astonishing frankness and self-revelation all delivered with Keillor's trademark humor in his latest novel, *Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance* (\$25.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02109-3).

Octavia Books is the official bookseller of the New Orleans' Speaker Series. Look for us in the lobby of each show offering special book selections from the featured author.

Series tickets are available by going to www.NewOrleansSpeakerSeries.com

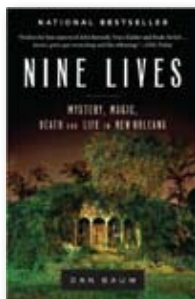


George Bishop *Letter to My Daughter* Reading & Signing

Thursday, February 18, 6 pm

A fight, ended by a slap, sends Elizabeth out the door of her Baton Rouge home on the eve of her fifteenth birthday. Her mother, Laura, is left to fret and worry – and remember. Wracked with guilt as she awaits Liz's return, Laura begins a letter to her daughter, hoping to convey "everything I've always meant to tell you but never have."

Absorbing and affirming, George Bishop's magnificent debut, *Letter to My Daughter* (\$20, Random House, 978-0-345-51598-8) captures a sense of time and place with a distinct and inviting voice. It is a heartwrenching novel of mothers, daughters, and the lessons we all learn when we come of age.



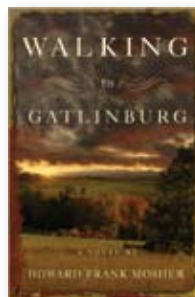
Dan Baum *Nine Lives* Reading, Talk & Signing

Wednesday, February 24, 6 pm

Dan Baum is returning to Octavia Books for the paper back release of his brilliant non-fiction book. It should be a favorite read for book groups and individuals everywhere. Baum will update us on the people

we came to know through the book.

Nines Lives (\$15, Spiegel & Grau, 978-0-385-52320-2) is a multi-voiced biography of a dazzling, surreal, and imperiled city, told through the lives of nine unforgettable characters and bracketed by two epic storms: Hurricane Betsy, which transformed New Orleans in the 1960s, and Hurricane Katrina, which nearly destroyed it. Dan Baum brings this kaleidoscopic portrait to life, showing us what was lost in the storm and what remains to be saved.



Howard Mosher *Walking to Gatlinburg* Reading, Slide Show Presentation & Signing

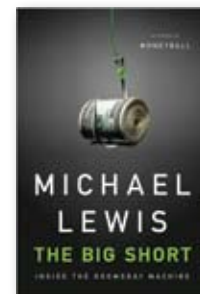
Thursday March 25, 6 pm

A stunning and lyrical Civil War thriller, *Walking to Gatlinburg* (\$25, Shaye Areheart Books, 978-0-3074-5067-8) is a spellbinding story of survival, wilderness adventure, mystery, and love in the time of war.

Morgan Kinneson is both hunter and hunted. The sharp-shooting 17-year-old from Kingdom County, Vermont, is determined to track down his brother Pilgrim, a doctor who has gone missing from the Union Army.

It's 1864, and the country is in the grip of the bloodiest war in American history. Meanwhile, the Kinneson family has been quietly conducting passengers on the Underground Railroad from Vermont to the Canadian border. One snowy afternoon Morgan leaves an elderly fugitive named Jesse Moses in a mountainside cabin for a few hours so that he can track a moose to feed his family. In his absence, Jesse is murdered, and thus begins Morgan's unforgettable trek south through an apocalyptic landscape of war and mayhem.

The slide show is called "*Transforming History into Fiction: the Story of a Born Liar*." It's an account of how, over a seven-year period, Mosher wrote *Walking to Gatlinburg* forty to fifty times, took five lengthy research trips down South, read any number of books about the Civil War, and how he came up with the events and characters – the psychopathic villain Ludi Too was actually inspired by his great, great grandfather! The slide show also includes a montage of interesting pictures from the backwoods of the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains.



Michael Lewis *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* Talk & Signing

Saturday, March 27, 6 pm

Truth really is stranger than fiction. Who better than the author of the signature bestseller *Liar's Poker* to explain how the event we were told was impossible-the free fall

of the American economy-finally occurred; how the things that we wanted, like ridiculously easy money and greatly expanded home ownership, were vehicles for that crash; and how shareholder demand for profit forced investment executives to eat the forbidden fruit of toxic derivatives.

Michael Lewis's splendid cast of characters includes villains, a few heroes, and a lot of people who look very, very foolish: high government officials, including the watchdogs; heads of major investment banks (some overlap here with previous category); perhaps even the face in your mirror. In this trenchant, raucous, irresistible narrative, Lewis writes of the goats and of the few who saw what the emperor was wearing, and gives them, most memorably, what they deserve. In *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* (\$27.95, W.W. Norton, 978-0-393-07223-5), Lewis proves yet again that he is the finest and funniest chronicler of our times.

For the latest details on events, visit

OctaviaBooks.com