

Newly Added Books: August 2010

New York Times Bestsellers:

Allies (Star Wars, Fate of the Jedi) by Christie Golden

What began as a quest for truth has become a struggle for survival for Luke Skywalker and his son, Ben. They have used the secrets of the Mindwalkers to transcend their own bodies and speak with the spirits of the fallen, risking their very lives in the process. They have faced a team of Sith assassins and beaten the odds to destroy them. And now the death squad's sole survivor, Sith apprentice Vestara Khai, has summoned an entire fleet of Sith frigates to engage the embattled father and son. But the dark warriors come bearing a surprising proposition that will bring Jedi and Sith together in an unprecedented alliance against an evil more ancient and alien than they can imagine.

While the Skywalkers and their Sith allies set off on their joint mission into the treacherous web of black holes that is the Maw, Han and Leia Solo risk arrest and worse to aid the Jedi imprisoned back on Coruscant. Tyrannical Chief of State Natasia Daala has issued orders that will open a permanent schism between her government and the Jedi Order—a schism that could turn all Jedi into renegades and wanted criminals.

But it is in the depths of the Maw that the future of the galaxy will be decided. For there the Skywalkers and their Sith allies will engage a true monster in battle, and Luke will come face-to-face with a staggering truth.

Big Nate: In a Class by Himself by Lincoln Pierce

Unabashedly capitalizing on the Wimpy Kid wave (with a Jeff Kinney blurb-recommendation splashed across the cover), Peirce's book, for a slightly younger audience, uses a mix of prose and cartoons to tell a quick story about a day in the life of an extroverted, impish kid. Peirce does have comics cred on his side: his hero, Nate, has been the star of a long-running daily comic strip. He is the classic clever kid who hates school and whose antics land him in ever-hotter water with grumbly teachers. On this particular day, he wakes up feeling fine, sweats a bit about an upcoming test, then opens a fortune cookie at school that reads, "Today you will surpass all others." So, he dutifully goes about trying to best other kids at everything but seems to only have a knack for racking up detention slips. The cartoons provide plenty of gags at the expense of various adults and classmates, and Nate's persistent good cheer and moxie make him a likable new proxy for young misfits. Grades 3-6. -Booklist

Chelsea Chelsea Bang Bang by Chelsea Handler

Comedienne, talk show host and daring author Handler (*Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea*) indulges her fans with a new compilation of shockingly direct essays, from which she emerges as a scheming farceur with an expansive range of practical jokes and winning sarcasm, pulled off beautifully against (and with help from) her closest friends and family (including her boyfriend, the CEO of the E! television network that employs her). Handler spins a deliriously sticky web of running jokes while suckering the gullible, again and again, with made-up stories of her transgendered friend, a ludicrous movie deal, and her infamous personal pilot. Never shy, Handler finds room for even more irreverent honesty regarding sex—including her earliest encounters with male genitalia and

with "the feeling"-and also lets readers in on her family life, including a family dinner that ends with her missing brother found intoxicated, naked, and celebrating on a dock in the early morning hours. Whether Handler is plotting to get her father committed or convincing her dog never to "shadoobie" in her presence, her essays are packed with enough laugh-out-loud moments to rival a first-rate stand-up act. –Publisher's Weekly

Chords of Strength: A Memoir of Soul, Song and the Power of Perseverance by David Archuleta

Singing sensation and American Idol favorite David Archuleta tells his inspiring personal story. Includes full-color photos!

A runner-up on American Idol and successful music artist, David Archuleta was named one of the "breakout stars of 2008" by Forbes magazine and landed the number two spot on the Billboard charts.

In Chords of Strength David shares his unexpected and inspiring journey, including how he overcame vocal cord paralysis to achieve his dream of being a singer. He reveals insecurities he felt about his voice-before he realized that he loved the way singing made him feel more than he disliked the way he sounded. In this personal memoir, David opens up about the strength he draws from his unshakable faith and unyielding family. He pays tribute to those who continue to inspire him and through their example help him believe in himself, his talent, and his abilities.

Intimate and uplifting, Chords of Strength allows a unique glimpse of the man behind the music and offers hope to anyone with a passion and a dream.

Crisis Economics: A Crash Course in the Future of Finance by Nouriel Roubini

A succinct, lucid, and compelling account of the causes and consequences of the great meltdown of 2008. –NY Times

Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do about It by Richard Clarke

Richard A. Clarke warned America once before about the havoc terrorism would wreak on our national security -- and he was right. Now he warns us of another threat, silent but equally dangerous. Cyber War is a powerful book about technology, government, and military strategy; about criminals, spies, soldiers, and hackers. This is the first book about the war of the future -- cyber war -- and a convincing argument that we may already be in peril of losing it.

Cyber War goes behind the "geek talk" of hackers and computer scientists to explain clearly and convincingly what cyber war is, how cyber weapons work, and how vulnerable we are as a nation and as individuals to the vast and looming web of cyber criminals. From the first cyber crisis meeting in the White House a decade ago to the boardrooms of Silicon Valley and the electrical tunnels under Manhattan, Clarke and coauthor Robert K. Knake trace the rise of the cyber age and profile the unlikely characters and places at the epicenter of the battlefield. They recount the foreign cyber spies who hacked into the office of the Secretary of Defense, the control systems for U.S. electric power grids, and the plans to protect America's latest fighter aircraft.

Economically and militarily, Clarke and Knake argue, what we've already lost in the new millennium's cyber battles is tantamount to the Soviet and Chinese theft of our nuclear bomb secrets in the 1940s and 1950s. The possibilities of what we stand to lose in an all-out cyber war -- our individual and national security among them -- are just as chilling. Powerful and convincing, *Cyber War* begins the critical debate about the next great threat to national security.

Executive Intent by Dale Brown

China and Russia pursue newly aggressive policies in hot spots like Somalia and Yemen that threaten the U.S. in this exciting near-future political thriller from bestseller Brown (*Rogue Forces*). Kenneth Phoenix, the U.S. vice president, finds himself at odds with Joseph Gardner, the cautious U.S. president, who's inclined to cancel a space weapon system, which includes a precision-guided artificial meteorite, in favor of negotiating treaties to abolish space-based weapons. Characters from past Brown books, like Lt. Gen. Patrick McLanahan (ret.) and Lt. Col. Jason Richter, play key roles as the U.S. faces growing crises at sea and in space. Congress scarcely exists. Techno-thriller fans will enjoy the detailed descriptions of cutting-edge technologies as they morph into action sequences. –Publisher's Weekly

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future: Twists and Turns and Lessons Learned by Michael J. Fox

Michael J. Fox abandoned high school to pursue an acting career, but went on to receive honorary degrees from several universities and garner the highest accolades for his acting, as well as for his writing. In his new book, he inspires and motivates graduates to recognize opportunities, maximize their abilities, and roll with the punches--all with his trademark optimism, warmth, and humor.

In *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Future*, Michael draws on his own life experiences to make a case that real learning happens when "life goes skidding sideways." He writes of coming to Los Angeles from Canada at age eighteen and attempting to make his way as an actor. Fox offers up a comically skewed take on how, in his own way, he fulfilled the requirements of a college syllabus. He learned Economics as a starving artist; an unexpected turn as a neophyte activist schooled him in Political Science; and his approach to Comparative Literature involved stacking books up against their movie versions.

Replete with personal stories and hilarious anecdotes, Michael J. Fox's new book is the perfect gift for graduates.

Heroes for My Son by Brad Meltzer

When Brad Meltzer's first son was born eight years ago, the bestselling writer and new father started compiling a list of heroes whose virtues and talents he wanted to share with his son: Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Jim Henson, Amelia Earhart, Muhammad Ali . . . and so many more, each one an ordinary person who was able to achieve the extraordinary. The list grew to include the fifty-two amazing people now gathered in

Heroes for My Son, a book that parents and their children—sons and daughters alike—can now enjoy together as they choose heroes of their own.

From the Wright Brothers, who brought extra building materials to every test flight, planning ahead for failure, to Miep Gies, who risked her life to protect Anne Frank and her family from the Nazis during World War II, Heroes for My Son brings well-known figures together with less famous ones, telling the inspiring, behind-the-scenes stories of the moment that made them great. They are a miraculous group with one thing in common: each is an example of the spectacular potential that can be found in all of us. Heroes for My Son is an unforgettable book of timeless wisdom, one that families everywhere can share again and again.

Hitch-22: A Memoir by Christopher Hitchens

Hitchens, who, in his earlier books, has expressed contempt for both God and Mother Teresa (although not in that order), is often described as a contrarian. In fact, in his book Letters to a Young Contrarian (2001), he himself noted that he “can appear insufferable and annoying,” albeit without intending to. This memoir, bracing, droll, and very revealing, gives him yet another description: storyteller. He writes with a voice you can hear clearly, warmed by smoke and whiskey, and draws readers into his story, which proves as personal as it is political. As with many memoirs, it is not the public moments that are so fascinating, though there are plenty of those. Hitchens takes readers with him to Havana and Prague, Afghanistan and Iraq; tests himself by being waterboarded (he was disappointed in his early capitulation); and hobnobs with politicians and poets. He almost gets himself beaten up by defacing a poster in Iraq with a Hitler mustache. But the most intriguing stories are the personal ones, both from his early days, at home and at boarding school, and from his later life, when he learns that his mother was Jewish, which, if only technically, makes him Jewish as well. This revelation leads Hitchens on a quest to learn the story of his family, many of whom died in the Holocaust. How this new identity squares with his oft-proclaimed atheism sheds a different light on the meaning of religious identity. (He struggles mightily with his political identity as well.) Few authors can rile as easily as Hitchens does, but even his detractors might find it difficult to put down a book so witty, so piercing, so spoiling for a fight. He makes you want to be as good a reader as he is a writer.

I'll Mature When I'm Dead: Dave Barry's Amazing Tales of Adulthood by Dave Barry

"Dave Barry's best book so far, which is saying a lot." -P.J. O'Rourke

The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn by Nathaniel Philbrick

Philbrick here takes on an oft-told tale, replete with its dashing, flawed main character, its historically doomed, noble Native chief, and a battlefield strewn with American corpses. While off his usual stride with a surfeit of unnecessary detail, bestselling author and National Book Award–winner Philbrick (In the Heart of the Sea; The Mayflower) writes a lively narrative that brushes away the cobwebs of mythology to reveal the context and realities of Custer's unexpected 1876 defeat at the hands of his Indian enemies under Sitting Bull, and the character of each leader. Judicious in his assessments of events and

intentions, Philbrick offers a rounded history of one of the worst defeats in American military history, a story enhanced by his minute examination of the battle's terrain and interviews with descendants in both camps. Distinctively, too, he takes no sides. In his compelling history, Philbrick underscores the pyrrhic nature of Sitting Bull's victory—it was followed by federal action to move his tribe to a reservation. —Publisher's Weekly

The Master Your Metabolism Cookbook by Jillian Michaels

Best known from TV's *The Biggest Loser*, weight-loss guru Michaels presents a well-meaning collection of 125 recipes designed to meet specific health and fitness goals. Though she has no formal training in nutrition, Michaels asserts that most health problems are caused by metabolic hormonal imbalances; charging forward without any cited sources, Michaels includes a list of "amazing health benefits" with each recipe (Roast Herbed Turkey Breast with Orange-Cranberry Sauce, for example, is meant to boost metabolism and immunity, improve mood and digestion, fight cancer, and aid the heart). Dogma and posturing aside, these tasty, healthy recipes are likely to please. Michaels does her best to avoid esoteric ingredients, and dishes like Coconut-Curry Steamed Mussels and Grilled Skirt Steak with Chimichurri Sauce would be right at home in a traditional cookbook. Others, like Watermelon Soup with Blackberries and Jicama, or Ginger Shrimp Rolls with Green Papaya Slaw, won't make dieters feel like they're settling. Less concerned with calories or fat, Michaels emphasizes the benefits of foods like beans (fiber), cranberries (anti-bacterial, gum disease-fighting properties), and cinnamon (helps normalize blood sugar levels); while some claims seem glib ("If you suffer from asthma, eat lots of apples!"), Michaels's suggestions are, at worst, harmless and delicious. —Publisher's Weekly

My Fair Lazy: One Reality Television Addict's Attempt to Discover If Not Being A Dumb Ass Is the New Black or a Culture-up Manifesto by Jen Lancaster

After embarrassing herself in front of her idol Candace Bushnell, popular memoirist Lancaster (Such a Pretty Fat, *Bitter is the New Black*) decides she needs more in her life than reality TV and hamburgers; to that end, she sets out on an Eliza Doolittle-esque project of cultural self-improvement to expand her knowledge of art, fine dining, and all the attendant trappings of "high class" life. Lancaster's latest will no doubt appeal to fans of her blog and her other books, but readers unfamiliar with her strident manner will have to get past her abrasive, initially judgmental façade; she puts on a proud display of her ignorance that can be off-putting, especially when couched in her excessively scattered writing style. Though she's unquestionably funny and comfortable in her own skin, for all the joking self-regard there's little actual exploration, and the analysis of what she does find doesn't go far beyond a sassy thumbs-up or thumbs-down. —Publisher's Weekly

Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory by Ben Macintyre

In 1943, British intelligence conceived a spectacular con trick to draw German attention away from the Allies' obvious next objective, Sicily. The bait was a briefcase full of carefully forged documents attached to the wrist of Major William Martin, Royal Marines—a fictitious identity given to a body floated ashore in neutral Spain. Making the deception plausible was the task given to two highly unconventional officers: Lt. Comdr.

Ewen Montagu and Squadron Leader Charles Cholmondeley. Macintyre recounts their adventures and misadventures with panache. The body was that of a derelict. Its costuming included the underwear of a deceased Oxford don. An attractive secretary provided the photo of an imaginary fiancée. The carefully constructed documents setting up the bogus operation against Greece and Sardinia convinced even Hitler himself. The Sicily landings were achieved as almost a complete surprise. And the man who never was entered the history and folklore of WWII. –Publisher's Weekly

Over the Rainbow by Harold Arlen

Considered by many to be the greatest song ever written, Alfred is pleased to add "Over the Rainbow" to its brand new series, Simply Pop. Originally written in 1938, "Over the Rainbow" has received new interest based on the chart-topping rendition by 2006 American Idol runner-up, Katharine McPhee. As with all Simply Pop sheets, these arrangements are written with great care and understanding of students' abilities. Each solo has been carefully edited to ensure maximum playability and musicality.

The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake by Aimee Bender

Taking her very personal brand of pessimistic magical realism to new heights (or depths), Bender's second novel (following *An Invisible Sign of My Own*) careens splendidly through an obstacle course of pathological, fantastical neuroses. Bender's narrator is young, needy Rose Edelstein, who can literally taste the emotions of whoever prepares her food, giving her unwanted insight into other people's secret emotional lives—including her mother's, whose lemon cake betrays a deep dissatisfaction. Rose's father and brother also possess odd gifts, the implications of which Bender explores with a loving and detailed eye while following Rose from third grade through adulthood. Bender has been called a fabulist, but emerges as more a spelunker of the human soul; carefully burrowing through her characters' layered disorders and abilities, Bender plumbs an emotionally crippled family with power and authenticity. Though Rose's gift can seem superfluous at times, and Bender's gustative insights don't have the sensual potency readers might crave, this coming-of-age story makes a bittersweet dish, brimming with a zesty, beguiling talent.

The Promise: President Obama, Year One by Jonathan Alter

Author and Newsweek editor Alter (*The Defining Moment: FDR'S Hundred Days and the Triumph of Hope*) chronicles Obama's first year (plus) as U.S. President, from pre-inauguration planning through the passage of health care reform in March, 2010, in this engaging, fast-moving contemporary history. Exploring Obama's "temperament, his approach to decision making, and his analysis of his ambitious first year," as well as the overarching questions of "What happened?" and "How well did he do?", Alter will remind readers why they voted as they did, and why Obama was ultimately victorious. Tasked with "the worst set of problems of any incoming president since Roosevelt in 1933," Obama served up a range of big-ticket solutions that included "the huge and underappreciated stimulus package, the auto bailouts, bank rescue and regulation... sending sixty-one thousand more troops to Afghanistan, and a health care bill," each of which Alter addresses in depth. Alter finds that, despite the denial of right-wingers, Obama performed admirably in the first year, with progress on 50 percent of his

campaign promises (and completion of 18 percent). Alter's prose is swift and subtly inspiring; the "Yes, we can!" motto rarely appears but provides an undercurrent for his record of accomplishment. Readers interested in political process and the reality of progressive politics will enjoy this well-considered take on the current administration, a "second draft" of history from a dedicated journalist who wisely anticipates "dozens more versions to come." –Publisher's Weekly

Steinbrenner: The Last Lion of Baseball by Bill Madden

For longtime baseball fans, this biography of the mercurial owner of the New York Yankees is as painful to read as it is informative. It's hard to relive the contentious and unending hirings and firings of countless players and managers since 1972, when Steinbrenner bought the team from CBS; the owner's run-ins with authorities, from his troubles over contributions to President Richard Nixon's reelection to his efforts to find dirt on the foundation of his star player Dave Winfield; and the impulsiveness, bullying, anger, and underhandedness that have marked Steinbrenner's ownership style. Madden gives less attention than expected to Steinbrenner's career as ship owner and, more surprisingly, to the championship seasons of the last 13 years, though the owner has been less visible in recent years. But he offers an insider's look at how Steinbrenner has run his team, even finding unexpected certainly underpublicized humanity in his subject.

Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard by Chip Heath

The Heath brothers (coauthors of *Made to Stick*) address motivating employees, family members, and ourselves in their analysis of why we too often fear change. Change is not inherently frightening, but our ability to alter our habits can be complicated by the disjunction between our rational and irrational minds: the self that wants to be swimsuit-season ready and the self that acquiesces to another slice of cake anyway. The trick is to find the balance between our powerful drives and our reason. The authors' lessons are backed up by anecdotes that deal with such things as new methods used to reform abusive parents, the revitalization of a dying South Dakota town, and the rebranding of megastore Target. Through these lively examples, the Heaths speak energetically and encouragingly on how to modify our behaviors and businesses. This clever discussion is an entertaining and educational must-read for executives and for ordinary citizens looking to get out of a rut.

Tao I: The Way of All Life by Zhi Gang Sha

Tao is The Way. Tao is the source of all universes. Tao is the principles and laws of all universes. In the sixth book of the Soul Power Series, New York Times bestselling author Master Zhi Gang Sha shares the essence of ancient teachings of Tao and reveals a new Tao text for the twenty-first century that he received directly from the Divine.

These new divine teachings reveal how Tao exists in every aspect of life, from waking to sleeping to eating and more. Master Sha explains how Tao uses the processes of normal creation and reverse creation for all life. He also shares advanced soul wisdom and practical approaches for reaching Tao. In this process, healing, rejuvenation, and life transformation occur. In contrast to the ancient Taoist wisdom, knowledge, and practices, the new sacred teaching in this book is extremely simple, practical, and profound.

Studying and practicing Tao has many great benefits, including the ability to:

- heal yourself and others, as well as humanity, Mother Earth, and all universes
- return from old age to the health and purity of a baby
- prolong life

Enter the realm of Tao with Master Sha. Your life will be transformed.

The Upside of Irrationality: The Unexpected Benefits of Defying Logic at Work and at Home by Dan Ariely

Ariely (Predictably Irrational) expands his research on behavioral economics to offer a more positive and personal take on human irrationality's implications for life, business, and public policy. After a youthful accident left him badly scarred and facing grueling physical therapy, Ariely's treatment required him to accept temporary pain for long-term benefit—a trade-off so antithetical to normal human behavior that it sparked the author's fascination with why we consistently fail to act in our own best interest. The author, professor of behavioral economics at Duke, leads us through experiments that reveals such idiosyncrasies as the IKEA effect (if you build something, pride and sentimental attachment are likely to give you an inflated sense of its quality) and the Baby Jessica effect (why we respond to one person's suffering but not to the suffering of many). He concludes with prescriptions for how to make real personal and societal changes, and what behavioral patterns we must identify to improve how we love, live, work, innovate, manage, and govern. Self-deprecating humor, an enthusiasm for human eccentricities, and an affable and snappy style make this read an enriching and eye-opening pleasure. —Publisher's Weekly

Winston's War: Churchill, 1940-1945 by Max Hastings

Military historian Hastings (Retribution: The Battle for Japan, 1944–45) adds to his illustrious reputation with this magnificent analysis of Winston Churchill's years of greatness. In 1938 Churchill seemed a man bypassed by history. By 1945 he had become the greatest war leader Britain ever knew and has since achieved mythic status, standing higher than any other single human being at the head of the forces of light. During WWII Churchill wielded more power than any British prime minister in history but remained a democrat. He raised his nation far higher in the Grand Alliance than its material contributions justified. Hastings recognizes Churchill's strategic errors, his misplaced enthusiasms. Britain's military leaders and military systems often disappointed his soaring hopes. His understanding of the empire and its peoples was limited and unenlightened. His indifference to building a new society resulted in his being turned out of office as the guns fell silent. But the outcome justified all, in his eyes. Churchill's strength of will, rhetoric, and personality enabled the British to understand the reasons for their sacrifices and made Britain's end as a great power a heroic one. —Publisher's Weekly

Fiction:

Angel with Two Faces: A Mystery Featuring Josephine Tey by Nicola Upson

No classic detective fiction aficionado will want to miss Upson's compelling sequel to 2008's *An Expert in Murder*, which introduced mystery author Josephine Tey (1896–1952) as sleuth. In 1935, Tey's close friend, Scotland Yard Inspector Archie Penrose, has returned on holiday to Cornwall, his childhood home, where he ends up attending the funeral of estate worker Harry Pinching, who drowned in Loe Pool, rumored to take a life every seven years. Most locals believe Pinching's death was an accident, but Penrose and Tey, who joins the inspector in Cornwall, soon pick up on ominous undercurrents in the community that suggest otherwise. As the pair attempt to uncover the truth, Penrose witnesses another death that's unquestionably murder. The subtle prose succeeds both at evoking the quiet splendor of the Cornish landscape and in capturing the tragedy and torment that plague many of the characters. The psychological sophistication will resonate with Charles Todd fans. —Publisher's Weekly

Anthropology of an American Girl (Spiegel & Grau) by Hilary Thayer

Eveline Auerbach, the heroine of *Anthropology of an American Girl*, observes at one point that "pain becomes its own story." That may be the best way to begin talking about Hilary Thayer Hamann's arresting and provocative coming-of-age novel, set against the twilight years of Eveline's adolescence and the dawn of the 1980s—a decade made all the more infamous by books like *American Psycho* and *Bright Lights, Big City*. Hamann's 600-page epic is a worthy and welcome successor to those novels, as it charts the wistful and unsteady course of a girl experiencing the often brutal paradox of being a woman. Eveline is a curious soul. Much of her story unfolds in interior monologues that display how acutely—and how honestly—she observes herself and the men who lay claim to her, and no thought of hers is left unturned: she reflects with great tenderness both the guileless narcissism and the strange liberty of being young. *Anthropology of an American Girl* is an accomplished and absorbing work of fiction, resonant and romantic in the grandest sense, that will remind you what a great American novel really is. —Amazon.com

Big Machine by Victor Lavalle

LaValle has garnered critical acclaim for his previous works (a collection, *Slapboxing with Jesus*, and novel, *The Ecstatic*), and his second novel is sure to up his critical standing while furthering comparisons to Haruki Murakami, John Kennedy Toole and Edgar Allan Poe. Gritty, mostly honest-hearted ex-heroin addict protagonist Ricky Rice takes a chance on an anonymous note delivered to him at the cruddy upstate New York bus depot where he works as a porter. Quickly, Ricky finds himself among the Unlikely Scholars, a secret society of ex-addicts and petty criminals, all black like him, living in remote Vermont and sifting through stacks of articles in a library devoted to investigating the supernatural; the existence of a god; and the legacy of Judah Washburn, an escaped slave who claimed to have had contact with a higher being that the Unlikely Scholars now call the Voice. Ricky's intoxicating voice—robust, organic, wily—is perfect for narrating LaValle's high-stakes mashup of thrilling paranormal and Ralph Ellison's

Invisible Man, as the fateful porter—something of a modern Odysseus rallied by a team of spiritual X-men—wanders through America's messianic hoo-hah. —Publisher's Weekly

The Black Minutes by Martin Solares

Set in the fictional oil port of Paracuán, Mexican author Solares's debut deftly treads a risky tightrope between police procedural and surreal fantasy. Someone kills young journalist Bernardo Blanco while he's investigating a 20-year-old case involving the serial torture-murders of young girls, violations so horrifying that they sicken even hardened cops. Solares unflinchingly follows both detective Ramón Cabrera, who's assigned to Blanco's murder, and detective Vicente Rangel González, who investigated the original crimes, two idealists barely keeping themselves afloat in a sea of corruption, as they uncover layer after layer of depravity. With continually shifting perspectives and nightmarish intrusions—real or imagined?—of actual people like B. Traven (the enigmatic author of *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*), this haunting novel forces readers to confront that bedeviling paradox of human nature, the eternal mystery of wickedness.

Blood Oath by Christopher Farnsworth

This action-filled debut by scriptwriter Farnsworth reads like a cross between P.N. Elrod's historical vampire adventures and Thomas Greanias's conspiracy thrillers. Nathaniel Cade, the president's vampire, swore to fight on the side of President Andrew Jackson and all his successors. In the present day, Zach Barrows, a rising political star caught canoodling with the president's daughter, suddenly finds himself training to be Cade's handler after tough, wise special agent William Griffin retires. As they try to stop Cade's old nemesis, Dr. Johann Konrad, from creating an army of Frankensteinian monster soldiers, they uncover a deeper government conspiracy. Entertainingly plausible historical documents at the beginning of each chapter and a sense that this fight is just a skirmish in a larger war help elevate the book above its sometimes bland characters and their predictable motivations. —Publisher's Weekly

Chasing Orion by Kathryn Lasky

When a beautiful teen with polio enters their lives, a girl and her older brother find themselves drawn into a web of lies in this compelling novel by a best-selling author. Eleven-year-old Georgie loves science-fiction movies, but she won't be going to the theater anytime soon. It's a hot Indiana summer in 1952, and public places from pools to camps are closing to slow the spread of polio. Despite all the headlines, Georgie never thought she'd come as close to the fearful disease as she does when she spies a silver glint in her neighbor's yard. There she discovers a monstrous, hissing machine, and inside is Phyllis, a girl encased in an iron lung. "I have eighty-seven cubic centimeters of air, but you have the world," Phyllis tells her. Phyllis's ability to breathe may be limited, but her strength to manipulate is boundless. As Georgie struggles to comprehend this once-gorgeous teenager's life in a "coffin with legs," Phyllis slowly weaves a web of lies that snare all those around her, including Georgie's quickly smitten brother. Can Georgie untangle the truth before Phyllis's deception achieves its inevitable end?

Cold Sight: Extrasensory Agents by Leslie Parrish

Leslie Parrish introduces Extrasensory Agents, a band of psychic investigators interested only in the cases nobody else wants—the coldest ones...

After being made a scapegoat in a botched investigation that led to a child's death, Aidan McConnell became a recluse. Still, as a favor to an old friend, Aidan will help on the occasional ESA case.

Reporter Lexie Nolan has a nose for news—and she believes a serial killer has been targeting teen girls around Savannah, but no one believes her. So she turns to the new paranormal detective agency and the sexy, mysterious Aidan for help. But just as the two begin forging a relationship, the case turns eerily personal for Lexie—and Aidan discovers that maybe he hasn't lost the ability to feel after all.

The Cookbook Collector by Allegra Goodman

If any contemporary author deserves to wear the mantle of Jane Austen, it's Goodman, whose subtle, astute social comedies perfectly capture the quirks of human nature. This dazzling novel is Austen updated for the dot-com era, played out between 1999 and 2001 among a group of brilliant risk takers and truth seekers. Still in her 20s, Emily Bach is the CEO of Veritech, a Web-based data-storage startup in trendy Berkeley. Her boyfriend, charismatic Jonathan Tilghman, is in a race to catch up at his data-security company, ISIS, in Cambridge, Mass. Emily is low-key, pragmatic, kind, serene—the polar opposite of her beloved younger sister, Jess, a crazed postgrad who works at an antiquarian bookstore owned by a retired Microsoft millionaire. When Emily confides her company's new secret project to Jonathan as a proof of her love, the stage is set for issues of loyalty and trust, greed, and the allure of power. What is actually valuable, Goodman's characters ponder: a company's stock, a person's promise, a forest of redwoods, a collection of rare cookbooks? Goodman creates a bubble of suspense as both Veritech and ISIS issue IPOs, career paths collide, social values clash, ironies multiply, and misjudgments threaten to destroy romantic desire. Enjoyable and satisfying, this is Goodman's (Intuition) most robust, fully realized and trenchantly meaningful work yet.

A Cruel Harvest by Paul Reid

Set in 1790, *A Cruel Harvest* tells the epic tale of Orlaith and Brannon, young lovers whose futures are jeopardized when Moorish pirates raid their Irish fishing village. Orlaith and her infant son manage to escape the savage attack, but Brannon is captured. Thrown into the hold of the pirates' ship, the young farmer is spirited away to the harsh confines of North Africa. There he is sold into slavery and forced to serve in the army of the sadistic Sultan of Morocco. Back in Ireland, a heartbroken Orlaith faces certain ruin unless she agrees to marry wealthy landowner Randall Whitely. But Whitely is a cruel man, and life with him quickly becomes a waking nightmare. Though separated by thousands of miles, Orlaith and Brannon draw on their great love to challenge the oppression of the tyrants keeping them apart. Stretching from the windswept coast of Ireland to the sun-baked hills of Morocco, *A Cruel Harvest* is a thrilling novel of adventure, survival, and once-in-a-lifetime love.

The Dogs of Riga: A Kurt Wallander Mystery (2) by Henning Mankell

It is winter, 1991. Inspector Kurt Wallander's team at the Ystad police station face a new challenge: two corpses, frozen together in a gruesome embrace, have been washed ashore on the remote Swedish coastline. The dead men were Eastern European criminals, but what looks like a gangland hit takes on a much more sinister aspect when Wallander travels across the Baltic Sea to Latvia, a nation in the throws of the massive upheaval that will lead to its independence from the Soviet Union. Wallander is thrown into an icy, alien world of police surveillance, veiled threats and lies, coming to understand what it is to live in a nation in which democracy is still a dream. Only his dogged, almost subconscious desire to see justice done will lead him to the shadowy figures he pursues. – Random House

Elizabeth Street by Laurie Fabiano

Historians have done what they can to illuminate the world of the earliest American Mafiosi, but there is only so much that the few surviving documents can tell us. Laurie Fabiano takes us much further in Elizabeth Street. Basing her story on her own family narratives and a deep understanding of Italian-Americans, she paints a vivid portrait not just of immigrants' lives in the first years of the last century, but of the vicious criminals who preyed on them. Readers will come away from this book with a deep understanding of the early Mafia, its characters and methods - and some insights that historians can't give them." –Dr. Mike Dash, author of *The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder and the Birth of the American Mafia*

Erak's Ransom (Ranger's Apprentice) by John Flanagan

Book 7, the latest adventure in the Ranger's Apprentice series, chronologically takes place after Book 4. Soon to conclude his apprenticeship and become a ranger, young Will joins Halt, Gilan, Horace, Evanlyn, and Svengal on a perilous mission to free their friend Erak, who has been captured by the Arridians and held for ransom. The vaguely Middle Eastern desert setting provides new challenges, new allies, and new foes for the Araluens and their Skandian friends. Bringing together many favorite characters for a grand adventure, this book delivers both excitement and quiet good times. Grades 5-8.

Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe by Jenny Hollowell

"Everything Lovely, Effortless, Safe tells us in quick, witty scenes and sharp psychological details what it's like to be a needy spirit in a beautiful body, yearning for success. This novel is smart, spare, comic and sad. It rings beautifully true." —John Casey, National Book Award-winning author of *Spartina*

Eye of the Red Tsar: A Novel of Suspense by Sam Eastland

Knowing that his secret police force includes many spies, Tsar Nicholas Romanov selects Pekkala, a Finnish soldier, to become his personal private investigator, the Emerald Eye. When Nicholas and his family are captured by the Bolsheviks, Pekkala becomes prisoner 4745-P and is sent to the Siberian gulag. A decade later, in the midst of the Great Terror, Pekkala is released because Stalin needs to know exactly what happened to the Romanov family. There is much to like about *Eye of the Red Tsar*, the first in a planned series. The stoic Pekkala is a bit enigmatic but is shown to be intelligent, courageous, and dogged;

Eastland will no doubt reveal more about him in future books. The sense of place and period is well rendered. Stalin's Russia assuredly offers a surfeit of future plotlines, and Eastland appears to have done considerable research into the period. But Stalin, whom Pekkala encounters twice in 1917 and 1929 is portrayed not as a monster but as soft spoken and thoughtful, a stunning departure from historical consensus. That said, readers should look forward to Pekkala's next investigation.

Faceless Killers: The First Kurt Wallander Mystery by Henning Mankell

Wallander's personal life can occasionally seem more depressing than even a provincial Swedish detective should be asked to bear, but his investigative skills are strictly first rate. And Mankell's story of the brutal murder of an elderly farm couple uncovers an unusual aspect of life in modern Sweden--a streak of fear and prejudice against the many newcomers from Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe who have sought asylum there. --Amazon.com

Greyhound by Steffan Piper

This extraordinary and heartbreaking novel tells the story of a child put on a bus by his neglectful mother to go live with his grandparents on the other side of the country. The boy is named Sebastien Ranés, and his 1981 cross-country ride is enlivened by a hijacking, a passenger's death, and an engine fire. On his voyage he encounters two potential pedophiles, as well as a number of kind strangers who help him along his way. Sebastien befriends an ex-con named Marcus who helps protect him and introduces him to the poetry of Langston Hughes. Through their friendship, Sebastien begins to cut through his own naiveté and to learn how the world works. The author creates people who seem recognizable and lifelike without resorting to stereotypes and clichés, and the story unfolds at a brisk pace. Unlike the typical cross-country bus ride, this remarkable trip is one readers will not want to see end. --Publisher's Weekly

Gunshot Road by Adrian Hyland

Working as an Aboriginal Community police officer, the half-Aboriginal, half-white Emily Tempest is working the harsh land of northern Australia. It doesn't take long for her to encounter her first dead body-- an old prospector she knew as a child. Trouble is, her boss has already figured out who the murderer is and wants Emily to mind her own business and work the night shift in town like a good little Abo girl. Emily believes the old prospector-- and the man they have thrown in prison--deserve much better than that, and she goes her own way, conducting her own investigation. Emily has never been afraid of getting into a fight, but during the course of her travels along Gunshot Road, she finds the hard knocks to be much worse than she'd anticipated.

A Hidden Affair by Pam Jenoff

What kind of man could fake his own death and then, for more than a decade, let his loved ones suffer? After such a betrayal, what woman would want him back? Meet erstwhile Cambridge University sweethearts Jared Short and Jordan Weiss, whose star-crossed odyssey continues in Jenoff's intriguing sequel to *Almost Home*. Following Jordan's discovery of Jared's apparent survival--and her own narrow escape from enemies still out to silence him--the plucky young diplomat chucks her State Department

commission to seek closure. But instead of answers, what lies ahead on a perilous chase stretching from London to the Aegean are more conundrums. Along the way, Jordan encounters Ari Bruck, a seductive mystery man who might be a Mossad agent, and Nicole Short, an elegant blonde who apparently runs in the same circles as Jared. Despite some lazy writing and less than convincing plot elements, this thriller should keep romantic suspense fans hooked until its explosive climax. –Publisher's Weekly

The Ice Princess by Camilla Lackberg

Former Olympic and World Figure Skating Champion Katarina Witt stars in this stunning contemporary interpretation of the classic tale of Cinderella. **THE ICE PRINCESS** combines a top quality costume drama and an original soundtrack from songwriters Christopher Cross and Curtis Stigers, and world-class ice skating in a family spectacular, which will delight audiences worldwide. Katarina Witt is Ella, a maid in the household of a blind Count. The town is preparing for an ice skating festival to be held at the Prince's palace, and the Count's daughters are determined to capture the prince's heart. Their plan falls apart when the Prince is captivated by the beautiful Ella, who invites the Prince to skate with her. When Ella is thrown into prison, the Prince searches in vain for the beautiful stranger, who finally appears at the ball held at the castle. The pair fall in love and the story ends with a stunning ice dancing display.

Imperfect Birds by Anne Lamott

A powerful and redemptive novel of love and family, from the author of the bestselling *Blue Shoe*, *Grace (Eventually)*, and *Operating Instructions*.

Rosie Ferguson is seventeen and ready to enjoy the summer before her senior year of high school. She's intelligent—she aced AP physics; athletic—a former state-ranked tennis doubles champion; and beautiful. She is, in short, everything her mother, Elizabeth, hoped she could be. The family's move to Landsdale, with stepfather James in tow, hadn't been as bumpy as Elizabeth feared.

But as the school year draws to a close, there are disturbing signs that the life Rosie claims to be leading is a sham, and that Elizabeth's hopes for her daughter to remain immune from the pull of the darker impulses of drugs and alcohol are dashed. Slowly and against their will, Elizabeth and James are forced to confront the fact that Rosie has been lying to them—and that her deceptions will have profound consequences.

This is Anne Lamott's most honest and heartrending novel yet, exploring our human quest for connection and salvation as it reveals the traps that can befall all of us.

Imperial Bedrooms by Bret Ellis

Ellis explores what disillusioned youth looks like 25 years later in this brutal sequel to *Less Than Zero*. Clay, now a screenwriter, returns at Christmas to an L.A. that looks and operates much as it did 25 years ago. Trent is now a producer and married to Clay's ex, Blair, while Julian runs an escort service and Rip, Clay's old dealer, has had so much plastic surgery he's unrecognizable. While casting a script he's written, Clay falls for a young, untalented actress named Rain Turner, and his obsession and affair with her powers him through an alcoholic haze that swirls with images of death, mysterious text messages, and cars lurking outside his apartment. The story takes on a creepy noirish bent—with Clay as the frightened detective who doesn't really want to know anything—

as it barrels toward a conclusion that reveals the horror that lies at the center of a tortured soul. Ellis fans will delight in the characters and Ellis's easy hand in manipulating their fates, and though the novel's synchronicity with *Zero* is sublime, this also works as a stellar stand-alone.

Insatiable by Meg Cabot

Sick of hearing about vampires? So is Meena Harper.

But her bosses are making her write about them anyway, even though Meena doesn't believe in them.

Not that Meena isn't familiar with the supernatural. See, Meena Harper knows how you're going to die. (Not that you're going to believe her. No one ever does.)

But not even Meena's precognition can prepare her for what happens when she meets—then makes the mistake of falling in love with—Lucien Antonescu, a modern-day prince with a bit of a dark side. It's a dark side a lot of people, like an ancient society of vampire hunters, would prefer to see him dead for.

The problem is, Lucien's already dead. Maybe that's why he's the first guy Meena's ever met whom she could see herself having a future with. See, while Meena's always been able to see everyone else's future, she's never been able look into her own.

And while Lucien seems like everything Meena has ever dreamed of in a boyfriend, he might turn out to be more like a nightmare.

Now might be a good time for Meena to start learning to predict her own future...

If she even has one.

The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer

Andras Lévi wants to study architecture, but since opportunities for Jews are limited in Hungary, he goes to Paris instead. There he lives among other students at the *Ecole Spéciale*, makes ends meet by working in the theater, and falls in love with Klara, a fellow Hungarian with a dark secret in her past. With war looming, Andras is forced to return to Budapest, and Klara follows him. Soon, their lives are swamped by history. Andras is conscripted into the labor service, and in an act of defiance, he and a friend produce a series of subversive newspapers. As a result, just when the Lévi clan is about to immigrate to Palestine, he and his whole battalion are loaded on a train and shipped to the Ukraine. Back in Budapest in 1944, Andras reflects that the Jews of Hungary had been relatively lucky. Then the Nazis invade. Orringer's first novel (her short story collection, *How to Breathe Underwater*, won several awards) is a hugely ambitious undertaking, but she has every detail under control, from the architectural currents in Europe in the 1930s to the day-to-day struggle to survive in a work camp. The early sections set in Paris, in particular, are completely absorbing, and if sometimes the emotional force of this long, long book gets lost in the march of events, it is still an astonishing achievement. -Booklist

Nights of Villjamur by Mark Charan Newton

Newton opens a complex epic fantasy series with this impressive debut. The ancient fortress city of Villjamur is filled with human and nonhuman inhabitants, many of them

refugees seeking shelter from a predicted decades-long ice age. The untimely death of the mad emperor Jamur Johynn forces his unworldly elder daughter, Rika, to assume the throne as her sister, Eir, gains a perspective beyond her palace walls and the members of the council make their own power plays. War and religious conflicts as well as more personal matters of desires for power and immortality set the scene for acts of compassion and betrayal. Newton handles his multilayered world and diverse cast of characters with the assurance of an experienced author and balances his fantasy tropes with elements of horror and political commentary in vividly descriptive, compelling prose. –Publisher’s Weekly

Peep Show by Joshua Braff

Braff’s second novel (after *The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green*) is a straightforward family drama set amidst an extreme clash of cultures. In the mid 1970s, 16-year-old David Arbus is caught between his mother, whose Hasidic faith is becoming more and more central to her life, and his father, who runs a Times Square porn theatre. A seemingly modest act of rebellion makes David’s choice for him, and he quickly finds himself enmeshed in the business of adult entertainment. While his increasingly ill father resists innovations like peep booths and in-house blue movies, David takes photography gigs and tends to his dad. His attempts to maintain a relationship with his sister bring David into sporadic contact with his mother, but rather than reconciling, mother and son only grow further apart. Braff brings together two very different cultures with sympathy for both, but the slim novel leaves little room to adequately develop each member of the family, and, as a result, the story doesn’t quite sing. Nevertheless, David and his parents present an intriguing contrast in the struggle to uphold a set of values and the painful necessity of compromise. –Publisher’s Weekly

Private Life by Jane Smiley

A riveting new novel from the Pulitzer Prize–winner that traverses the intimate landscape of one woman’s life, from the 1880s to World War II.

Margaret Mayfield is nearly an old maid at twenty-seven in post–Civil War Missouri when she marries Captain Andrew Jackson Jefferson Early. He’s the most famous man their small town has ever produced: a naval officer and a brilliant astronomer—a genius who, according to the local paper, has changed the universe. Margaret’s mother calls the match “a piece of luck.”

Margaret is a good girl who has been raised to marry, yet Andrew confounds her expectations from the moment their train leaves for his naval base in faraway California. Soon she comes to understand that his devotion to science leaves precious little room for anything, or anyone, else. When personal tragedies strike and when national crises envelop the country, Margaret stands by her husband. But as World War II approaches, Andrew’s obsessions take a different, darker turn, and Margaret is forced to reconsider the life she has so carefully constructed.

Private Life is a beautiful evocation of a woman’s inner world: of the little girl within the hopeful bride, of the young woman filled with yearning, and of the faithful wife who

comes to harbor a dangerous secret. But it is also a heartbreaking portrait of marriage and the mysteries that endure even in lives lived side by side; a wondrously evocative historical panorama; and, above all, a masterly, unforgettable novel from one of our finest storytellers.

Shakespeare's Champion by Charlaine Harris

The author's strong, often silent heroine, Lily Bard, and Shakespeare, Arkansas, her adopted hometown, in a second appearance (Shakespeare's Landlord, 1996). Lily cleans houses for a living and works out at the BodyTime Gym. There, early one morning, she and young Bobo Winthrop discover the body of fitness enthusiast Del Packard--crushed by a weight-laden bar. Accident or murder? Police Chief Claude Freidrich, Lily's neighbor and would-be lover, doesn't have a clue. Meanwhile, Packard's death seems yet more evidence of the town's sinister atmosphere, a sense of unease going back to the not-long-ago beating death of black Darnell Glass and the killing, a few weeks later, of white farmer Lee Elgin--neither murder ever solved. Now, the racist fliers placed in car windows around town don't help. Then there's the pony-tailed stranger seen with Hollis Winthrop Jr.--one of Lily's employers and head of his family's lucrative sporting-goods business now that patriarch Hollis Sr. has retired. A frightening act of violence in the black community church prompts the stranger to reveal his true identity to Lily, and it's she, with help from an unexpected source, who rescues him as the whole ugly scenario unravels. Wheels within wheels in a suspenseful story packed with nasty characters, a few good guys, some graphic sex, and more exercise and karate lore than you ever wanted to know. Lily's stubborn, moody, gutsy persona holds it all together, and most readers will be with her to the finish. --Kirkus Review

Shakespeare's Landlord by Charlaine Harris

While on a late-night job in tiny Shakespeare, Ark., Lily Bard, 31, sees a furtive figure placing large plastic garbage bags in the local park and, untying one, discovers the body of her former landlord. In a quick but anonymous phone call (she is determined to avoid any questioning), she reports it to the police chief. With skill and wry wit, Harris, the author of the Aurora Teagarden series, soon reveals the horrific facts in Lily's background that explain why she is solitary, confrontational, obsessed with self-defense—and why she chooses, despite a first-rate education, to eke out a living as a cleaning woman. Realizing, however, that her fingerprints on the body of the dead man might make her a suspect, Lily subtly and insightfully queries her customers, some of them tenants of the murdered landlord, in the process meticulously evaluating their closets, drawers and motives. The renters are a well-defined lot: a happily promiscuous idler; a sanctimonious and hypocritical reverend; and an aging couple with much to grieve about. As Lily investigates, she develops a wary but cordial relationship with the police chief and forms a warmer tie with her karate instructor. But at the same time, someone has discovered the unspeakable facts about Lily's past and has begun stalking her. Harris's finely tuned, colorful and suspenseful tale, filled with vigorous and unique characters, will leave readers hoping it's the start of a series. --Publisher's Weekly

The Sisters from Hardscrabble Bay by Beverly Jensen

The title of Jensen's posthumous debut adequately sums up its tone and economic milieu. Spanning the years 1916 to 1987, the novel offers vignettes from the lives of sisters Idella and Avis Hillock, opening with an account of their mother's death in childbirth and closing with Idella's husband, Eddie, now an old man, reminiscing about his life with Idella. The Hillock girls spent their early years in the rough landscape of New Brunswick, Canada, where grief and hard living have damaged their widowed father. Eventually, Idella escapes to New England, where she finds a husband and her own domestic troubles. Younger, more attractive sister Avis has an even harder path ahead; after attracting the ardor of her father's friends as a teen, she embarks on a series of damaging romantic entanglements. This has an unfinished feel to it (Jensen died unpublished in 2003), and while the sisters' troubled relationship rings true, the story-like chapters feel quite independent of one another, and the dialogue has a tendency to veer into forced colloquialisms and melodrama. Readers will be left wondering what else Jensen might have written had her career not been cut short. –Publisher's Weekly

The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell

Mitchell's rightly been hailed as a virtuoso genius for his genre-bending, fiercely intelligent novels *Ghostwritten* and *Cloud Atlas*. Now he takes something of a busman's holiday with this majestic historical romance set in turn-of-the-19th-century Japan, where young, naïve Jacob de Zoet arrives on the small manmade island of Dejima in Nagasaki Harbor as part of a contingent of Dutch East Indies officials charged with cleaning up the trading station's entrenched culture of corruption. Though engaged to be married in the Netherlands, he quickly falls in hopeless love with Orito Aibagawa, a Dutch-trained Japanese midwife and promising student of Marinus, the station's resident physician. Their courtship is strained, as foreigners are prohibited from setting foot on the Japanese mainland, and the only relationships permitted between Japanese women and foreign men on Dejima are of the paid variety. Jacob has larger trouble, though; when he refuses to sign off on a bogus shipping manifest, his stint on Dejima is extended and he's demoted, stuck in the service of a vengeful fellow clerk. Meanwhile, Orito's father dies deeply in debt, and her stepmother sells her into service at a mountaintop shrine where her midwife skills are in high demand, she soon learns, because of the extraordinarily sinister rituals going on in the secretive shrine. This is where the slow-to-start plot kicks in, and Mitchell pours on the heat with a rescue attempt by Orito's first love, Uzaemon, who happens to be Jacob's translator and confidant. Mitchell's ventriloquism is as sharp as ever; he conjures men of Eastern and Western science as convincingly as he does the unscrubbed sailor rabble. Though there are more than a few spots of embarrassingly bad writing (How scandalized Nagasaki shall be, thinks Uzaemon, if the truth is ever known), Mitchell's talent still shines through, particularly in the novel's riveting final act, a pressure-cooker of tension, character work, and gorgeous set pieces. It's certainly no *Cloud Atlas*, but it is a dense and satisfying historical with literary brawn and stylistic panache.

–Publisher's Weekly

What Is Left the Daughter by Howard Norman

Set on the Atlantic coast of Canada during WWII, Norman's latest (after *Devotion*) is an expertly crafted tale of love during wartime. Wyatt Hillyer loses both his parents on the

same day when they jump from different bridges in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after they discover they are both having affairs with the woman next door. Wyatt's aunt and uncle take him in, and Wyatt becomes his uncle's apprentice in his sled and toboggan business and, despite the circumstances, soon falls in love with his adopted cousin, Tilda. Yet he must resign himself to loving from a distance when Tilda brings home Hans Moehring, a German university student. The two begin a courtship harshly complicated by reports of U-boat attacks on Canadian ships, and Tilda's father becoming increasingly uneasy about this potential enemy in their midst. Norman's writing is effortless, and his plot is grand in scope but studded with moments of tenderness and intimacy that help crystallize the anxiety and weariness of life on the home front. That Norman is able to achieve so much in 250 pages is a testament to his mastery of the craft. –Publisher's Weekly

The White Lioness: A Kurt Wallander Mystery (3) by Henning Mankell

In peaceful Southern Sweden Louise Åkerblom, an estate agent, pillar of the Methodist church, wife and mother, disappears. There is no explanation and no motive. Inspector Kurt Wallander and his team are called in to investigate. As Inspector Wallander is introduced to this missing person's case he has a gut feeling that the victim will never be found alive but he has no idea how far he will have to go in search of the killer and the origin of the crime. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela has made his long walk to freedom, setting in train the country's painful journey towards the end of Apartheid. Wallander and his colleagues find themselves caught up in a complex web involving renegade members of South Africa's secret service and a former KGB agent, all of whom are set upon halting Mandela's rise to power. In an increasingly globalised world Wallander and his team are faced with international terrorism which knows no frontiers - they must prevent a hideous crime that means to dam the tide of history. –Random House

Work Song by Ivan Doig

Doig affectionately revisits Morris "Morrie" Morgan from the much-heralded *The Whistling Season*. Now, 10 years later, in 1919, Morrie lands in Butte, Mont., beholding the area's natural beauty that "made a person look twice." Scoring a job is a top priority, as is getting more face time with Grace Faraday, the alluring widow who runs the boardinghouse where he stays. Things, naturally, are complicated, as the fiendishly bookish Morrie is on the run from Chicago gangsters who feel they've been duped after he scored a windfall from a fixed sports wager. The local "shysters" at the duplicitous Anaconda Copper Mining Company, meanwhile, find Morrie's sudden interest in Butte highly suspicious as they try to bully Grace into selling her property. Morrie lands what might be an ideal job working at the public library with ex-cattle rancher Samuel Sandison, though our sturdy narrator must choose sides when the mining company ups the ante. Drama ebbs and flows as Morrie yields to the plight of union leader Jared Evans, and Morrie and Samuel come to terms with sins from their pasts. Charismatic dialogue and charming, homespun characterization make Doig's latest another surefire winner. –Publisher's Weekly

Non-Fiction:

10 Simple Solutions for Building Self-Esteem: How to End Self-Doubt, Gain Confidence & Create a Positive Self-Image by Glenn Schiraldi

Learn to appreciate yourself with these ten simple solutions for building self-esteem. These easy-to-grasp tips for fostering a positive sense of self distill and add to many of the best, most effective techniques from the author Glenn Schiraldi's successful Self-Esteem Workbook. They draw on techniques from Eastern and Western traditions: mindfulness practice, thought-watching, strengths appreciation, and more. With the simple solutions in this book and a little practice, you can discover what a wonderful and valuable person you really are.

10 Simple Solutions for Building Self-Esteem is a very interesting and rewarding book! Clearly and warmly written, Schiraldi's book is filled with valuable and varied possibilities for enhancing self-esteem and exploring the wonder and mystery of this human life. --Jeffrey Brantley, MD, founder and director of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program at the Duke University Center for Integrative Medicine, author of Calming Your Anxious Mind, and coauthor of The Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Workbook and Five Good Minutes.

52 Loaves: One Man's Relentless Pursuit of Truth, Meaning, and a Perfect Crust by William Alexander

Obsession takes many forms. Alexander, already a seasoned horticultural adept, now turns his attention to producing the ultimate loaf of bread. To achieve perfection in so simple a creation (yeast, water, flour), Alexander husbands his own field of wheat. He learns to raise this ancient grass, harvest it, prepare the grain, grind it to flour, knead it with the purest water, generate the active microorganisms to puff up the dough, and then bake that dough to produce a properly satisfying crumb within a flawless crunchy brown crust. He researches his topic thoroughly, but realizes he needs more hands-on tutelage. Moreover, the definition of a perfect loaf changes both by place and time. Alexander travels the world to learn from masters of bread baking in various styles, ending up in a Norman monastery. Impressed with the monks' daily spiritual discipline, Alexander structures this account of his quest according to the ancient canonical hours. -Booklist

American Connections: The Founding Fathers. Networked by James Burke

In his latest, columnist and author Burke (Twin Tracks) looks at the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence through his history-as-networking perspective, "an approach I've been using for thirty years... that's recently become known as 'six degrees of separation.'" Spraying historical tidbits like buckshot, Burke looks for the hidden links behind (seemingly) everything; in chapter three, for example, Burke begins with unremarkable signatory William Whipple, considers his part in the Battle of Saratoga, pursues the defeated British general "Gentleman Johnny" Burgoyne back to his playwriting debut, penned in celebration of the earl of Derby's marriage, for whom a new annual horse race would be named in 1780; from there, Burke is indeed off to the races: the next four pages cover, among other topics, the first strip cartoon, Napoleon's favorite surgeon, the Order of Saint Margaret, the invention of the Geiger counter and the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association which, in 2002, named as

its president a man named, yes, William Whipple. The effect is less like connecting the dots than surfing the Web at breakneck speed: an impressively dizzying reading experience with little depth. Readers looking for analysis, or even a sustained narrative, will be disappointed in these overstuffed micro-lessons, but they're perfect for trivia buffs (or those who just wish books were more like the internet). –Publisher's Weekly

American Surnames by Elsdon Coles Smith

Elsdon Smith begins this work with a discussion of the development of hereditary surnames and then he divides his subject into six broad categories: Classification of Surnames, Surnames from Father's Name (patronymics), Surnames from Occupation or Office, Surnames from Description or Action (nicknames), Surnames from Places, and Surnames Not Properly Included Elsewhere. In these areas he expounds on such subjects as abbreviated names, surnames derived from animals, changes of names by immigrants, ethnic names, names indicating nationality, surnames from place names, European names, Asian names, names of Blacks and Indians, surnames without vowels, surnames from Christian names, landscape names, Jewish names, surnames from history, garbled names, comic or odd names, and hyphenated names. The list is almost endless and Mr. Smith is unstinting in his explanation of the roots and meaning of these names. In addition, he provides a list of the 2,000 most common surnames in the United States today, ranked in order of frequency with an estimate of the number of persons bearing each name.

Amor y Tacos: Modern Mexican Tacos, Margaritas, and Antojitos by Deborah Schneider

In her latest, chef and author Schneider (*Baja! Cooking on the Edge*) presents a zesty take on tacos, drinks, and appetizers sure to inspire fans of Mexican flavors. Following a brief overview of Mexican cuisine and culture, Schneider dives into a bevy of cocktails, including tequila infused with Serrano chiles, mango and lime; classic limonadas and micheladas; and 10 party-starting margaritas. Cooks can choose among five suggested menus scaled for small or large crowds, each an impressive but easy-to-achieve affair with unexpected dimensions. Simple but impressive appetizers like Toritos-jalapeno peppers stuffed with shrimp and cheese-and Lobster, Chayote and Mango Tostadas are sure to please; the Mexican Hot Dog, meanwhile, is an instant guilty-pleasure classic: wrapped in bacon, fried, and topped with lime mayonnaise, fresh pico de gallo and chipotle-spiked ketchup. Schneider's tacos are equally refreshing: one of her three shrimp tacos includes a sweet and spicy barbecue sauce; traditional shredded beef takes on deep, complex flavors with a braise of chiles and Coca-Cola; and the time-intensive Chipotle Duck Taco with Duck Chicharron, Pineapple Cucumber Salsa and Spicy Crema, yields attention-getting results. Though some dishes may intimidate, Schneider's enthusiastic and approachable text keeps frustration to a minimum. This is a collection that novice cooks can grow with, and is sure to be dog-eared in no time. –Publisher's Weekly

Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error by Kathryn Schulz

In the spirit of *Blink* and *Predictably Irrational* (but with a large helping of erudition), journalist Schulz casts a fresh and irreverent eye upon the profound meanings behind our most ordinary behaviors—in this instance, how we make mistakes, how we behave when

we find we have been wrong, and how our errors change us. [I]t is ultimately wrongness, not rightness, that can teach us who we are, she asserts. Schulz writes with such lucidity and wit that her philosophical enquiry becomes a page-turner. She deftly incorporates Wittgenstein, Descartes, and Freud, along with an array of contemporary social scientists and even a spin with Shakespeare and Keats. There's heavy stuff here, but no heavy-handedness. Being wrong encompasses the cataclysmic (economic collapse) and the commonplace (leaving a laptop in front of the window before the storm). Being wrong may lead to fun (playing with and understanding optical illusions) or futility (the Millerite expectation of the Rapture in 1844). Being wrong can be transformative, and Schultz writes, I encourage us to see error as a gift in itself, a rich and irreplaceable source of humor, art, illumination, individuality, and change—an apt description of her engrossing study. —Publisher's Weekly

Blind Descent: The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth by James Tabor

Tabor, a former contributing editor at Outside magazine and author of *Forever on the Mountain*, contrasts two sterling teams, one American and the other Russian, in their perilous search to locate the deepest supercave on earth. While the book dwells largely on the obsessive, authoritative American star caver, Bill Stone, the writer gives just enough ink to the bold Soviet team counterpart, Alexander Klimchouk, and his fair-but-firm leadership in his expeditions into the subterranean world. However, the personalities of the adventurers aside, it's the fascinating information of the big supercave treks that holds the reader to his seat, containing dangers aplenty with deadly falls, killer microbes, sudden burial, asphyxiation, claustrophobia, anxiety, and hallucinations far underneath the ground in a lightless world. Using a pulse-pounding narrative, this is tense real-life adventure pitting two master cavers mirroring the cold war with very uncommonly high stakes. —Publisher's Weekly

Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light by Jane Brox

A superb history of how the availability of ever more artificial light has changed our world over the centuries, from stone lamps in prehistoric caves to contemporary light-emitting diodes (LEDs). No simpleminded technological determinist, Brox (*Here and Nowhere Else*) appreciates how culture and technology have affected each other at every stage. She repeatedly reveals how humankind's increasing ability to extend the hours of light available for work and for leisure has been critical to the evolution of societies almost everywhere. Her readings of, for example, prehistoric southern French caves, medieval and early modern villages, whaling and other ships, industrializing cities, Chicago's White City of 1893, and wartime and peacetime blackouts are invariably fascinating and often original. In addition, she conveys technical information clearly and concisely. Brox's concluding portions, about the unexpected negative effects of too much artificial light on observatories in southern California and elsewhere, are provocative and dismaying. With Brox's beautiful prose, this book amply lives up to its title. —Publisher's Weekly

Collected Poems 1947-1997 by Allen Ginsberg

Counterculture icon, beat apostle, Buddhist chanter, heir to William Blake, unapologetic explorer of intoxicating substances, world traveler, political protest leader, celebrant of

gay sex, chronicler of New Jersey Jewish heritage and of Lower East Side post-hippie bohemians, Ginsberg (1926–1997) became by the midpoint of his career the most famous American poet of his era. At first hardworking and tormented, later on a spontaneous, welcoming mentor, the writer who in *Howl* (1956) "saw the best minds of my generation starving hysterical naked," and who mourned his psychotic mother in the wrenching title poem of *Kaddish* (1960) kept creating entertaining (if not quite so innovative) poems, for almost three decades after he rose to fame. This first complete collection of Ginsberg's work reproduces his 1980 *Collected Poems*—including all the extensive notes: here are "Howl" and "Kaddish" and the great anti-Vietnam War poem "Wichita Vortex Sutra"; here too are the poems about Prague and Cornwall, Benares and Shanghai and the Australian outback, the songs and chants in quatrains (with sheet music) and the unashamed odes to beautiful young men. This complete edition adds *White Shroud* (1986), *Cosmopolitan Greetings* (1994) and the aptly titled *Death and Fame: Last Poems* (2000). A hefty, vivid and important tome, it should remind us just how much Ginsberg accomplished. —Publisher's Weekly

Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century by Michael Hiltzik

For his history of a famous piece of infrastructure, Hiltzik selects one without compare. Decked out in art deco, the Hoover Dam is a beautiful immensity that awes throngs of visitors, and it boasts a construction epic reflecting Depression-era America: the first to impound the Colorado River, the dam is both product and symbol of the politics of water rights in the American West. It is the 1920s iteration of the latter on which Hiltzik, a business writer for the *Los Angeles Times*, embarks in his fascinating account of the genesis of the Boulder Canyon Project, as the enabling congressional act called the yet-unnamed dam. Starting the story at the torrid desert job site, Hiltzik recounts the rigorous organization of the project by the contract-winning consortium and its engineering chief, Frank Crowe. If Crowe's solutions to technical problems were audaciously titanic, the labor practices of his bosses were pitiless. Strikes were crushed; slack safety resulted in numerous deaths; and a whites-only hiring policy prevailed. Astutely conveying the characters of its creators, Hiltzik marvelously captures the times of the Hoover Dam. -Booklist

A Consumer's Dictionary of Household, Yard and Office Chemicals: Complete Information about Harmful and Desirable Chemicals Found in Everyday Home Product by Ruth Winter

If you ever wondered about those long strings of chemical ingredients printed on the container labels of cleaners, pesticides, cosmetics, etc., this book will make them eminently clear. Many of these compounds are extremely dangerous and must be used with informed care. Winter, a well-known writer on environmental health issues whose books include the recent *Poisons in Your Food* (LJ 1/91), does not attempt to give highly technical information such as that found in books like N. Irving Sax and Richard J. Lewis's *Rapid Guide to Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace* (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1990. 2d ed.). Instead, she gives an explanation in lay readers' terms of the uses and effects of each substance. In addition to the dictionary listings, which are cross-indexed by subject and by synonym, Winter's book includes an informative and well-documented

introduction, a directory that lists associations, poison control centers, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional offices, and a timely bibliography. –Library Journal

Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds (Revised) by Stephen Kinzer

A passionate love for the Turkish people and an optimism that its ruling class can complete Turkey's transformation into a Western-style democracy mark Kinzer's reflections on a country that sits geographically and culturally at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Kinzer, the former New York Times Istanbul bureau chief, gives a concise introduction to Turkey: Kemal Ataturk's post-WWI establishment of the modern secular Turkish state; the odd makeup of contemporary society, in which the military enforces Ataturk's reforms. In stylized but substantive prose, he devotes chapters to the problems he sees plaguing Turkish society: Islamic fundamentalism, frictions regarding the large Kurdish minority and the lack of democratic freedoms. Kinzer's commonsense, if naive, solution: the ruling military elite, which takes power when it feels Turkey is threatened, must follow the modernizing path of Ataturk whom Kinzer obviously admires a step further and increase human rights and press freedoms. Kinzer's journalistic eye serves him well as he goes beyond the political, vividly describing, for instance, the importance and allure of the narghile salon, where Turks smoke water pipes. Here, as elsewhere, Kinzer drops his journalist veneer and gets personal, explaining that he enjoys the salons in part "because the sensation of smoking a water pipe is so seductive and satisfying." Readers who want a one-volume guide to this fascinating country need look no further. –Publisher's Weekly

Cro-Magnon: How the Ice Age Gave Birth to the First Modern Humans by Brian Fagan

Cro-Magnons were the first fully modern Europeans?not only the creators of the stunning cave paintings at Lascaux and elsewhere, but the most adaptable and technologically inventive people that had yet lived on earth. The prolonged encounter between the Cro-Magnons and the archaic Neanderthals and between 45,000 and 30,000 years ago was one of the defining moments of history. The Neanderthals survived for some 15,000 years in the face of the newcomers, but were finally pushed aside by the Cro-Magnons' vastly superior intellectual abilities and cutting-edge technologies, which allowed them to thrive in the intensely challenging climate of the Ice Age. What do we know about this remarkable takeover? Who were the first modern Europeans and what were they like? How did they manage to thrive in such an extreme environment? And what legacy did they leave behind them after the cold millennia? The age of the Cro-Magnons lasted some 30,000 years, longer than all of recorded history. Cro-Magnon is the story of a little known, yet seminal, chapter of human experience.

Eating Local: The Cookbook Inspired by America's Farmers by Sur La Table Staff

In the visually stunning yet practical cookbook *Eating Local*, author Janet Fletcher and the kitchen experts at Sur La Table not only show you how to use more fresh ingredients in your everyday cooking, they also bring you closer to the family farms where the ingredients are grown and to the idealistic people who grow them. With 150 recipes featuring a wide range of fresh ingredients, *Eating Local* also highlights 10 community supported agriculture projects around the country. These progressive

farms provide inspiration for all who want to cook more wholesome meals using ingredients from their own foodshed.

Encyclopedia of Evolution by Stanley Rice

Written in an engaging style at a level accessible to a nonspecialist audience, the volume provides a bridge between nonscientific and scholarly works. The 215 alphabetically arranged entries, ranging in length from a few paragraphs to several pages, span the development of evolutionary science. Examples include Adaptation; Character displacement; Eugenics; Language, evolution of; Linnaeus, Carolus; Mendelian genetics; Neandertals; Punctuated equilibria; Sociobiology; and Wilson, Edward O. References for further reading are provided at the end of most entries. A unique feature of this encyclopedia is the inclusion of five essays, written by the author, that explore particularly interesting topics related to evolutionary science: "How Much Do Genes Control Human Behavior?"; "What Are the 'Ghosts of Evolution'?"; "Can an Evolutionary Scientist be Religious?"; "Why Do Humans Die?"; and "Are Humans Alone in the Universe?" A 15-page appendix provides a summary of Charles Darwin's foundational 1859 work, *On the Origin of Species*, written at a level accessible to a modern reader. It would be impossible to write a reference work on evolution geared to a general audience without including information on creationism and its variations, such as intelligent design; author Rice takes the critical view of creationism that is prevalent among most scientists. -Booklist

Fifth Avenue, 5 A.M.: Audrey Hepburn, Breakfast at Tiffany's, and the Dawn of the Modern Woman by Sam Wasson

Wasson, who wrote on the career of writer-director Blake Edwards in *A Splurch in the Kisser*, tightens his focus for a closeup of Edwards's memorable *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, which received five Oscar nominations (with two wins). Interviewing Edwards and others, he skillfully interweaves key events during the making of this cinema classic. He begins (and ends) with Truman Capote, whose novel was initially regarded as unadaptable by the producers, since they hadn't the faintest idea how the hell they were going to take a novel with no second act, a nameless gay protagonist, a motiveless drama, and an unhappy ending and turn it into a Hollywood movie. The flow of Wasson's words carries the reader from pre-production to on-set feuds and conflicts, while also noting Hepburn's impact on fashion (Givenchy's little black dress), Hollywood glamour, sexual politics, and the new morality. Always stingy with praise, Capote dismissed the finished film as a mawkish valentine to New York City, but one feels he would have been entranced by Wasson's prismatic approach as he walks a perilous path between the analytic interpretation and the imaginative one. The result deserves Capote's nonfiction novel label. Recapturing an era, this evocative factual re-creation reads like carefully crafted fiction. -Publisher's Weekly

The Flatiron: The New York Landmark and the Incomparable City That Arose with It by Alice Sparberg Alexiou

Its official name is the Fuller Building, but for the past century, the oddly triangular building that, to quote H. G. Wells, "ploughs up traffic" at the intersection of Broadway, Fifth Avenue, and 23rd Street in Manhattan, has been known to most people as the

Flatiron. As shown by Alexiou, whose grandfather was once a co-owner of the building, the history of the Flatiron is a tale as much about architectural innovation as it is about the larger-than-life personalities who designed and financed the 22-story landmark. Among the latter are Daniel Burnham, the visionary who designed the steel-framed structure (one of the city's first) in the Chicago school style; Harry Black, the “charming and ruthless” president of the Fuller Company; and Samuel Parks, the vindictive labor leader who ran afoul of the law. The most prominent character of this drama, however, may be turn-of-the-century New York City itself, beginning to flex its massive commercial muscles at the outset of the era of enormous skyscrapers. Engaging and panoramic, Alexiou's narrative is not just for architecture buffs. –Booklist

Floodproofing Non-Residential Structures by the Federal Emergency Management Agency

This manual has been developed to illustrate a broad range of floodproofing techniques that can be used to reduce flood damages to existing or proposed non-residential structures. The manual is primarily directed at local officials, building owners, designers, contractors and other individuals or organizations that are interested in the design and implementation of floodproofing plans. The manual includes six chapters and several appendices. Chapter I introduces the user to the permanent, contingent, and emergency floodproofing techniques that will be addressed in this manual. Chapter II describes the major physical, economic, and social factors that influence the feasibility of floodproofing a structure, and related sources of information and technical assistance. Chapters III and IV provide more detailed information that will facilitate the selection and conceptual design of appropriate floodproofing methods. Representative costs of the various elements of floodproofing are presented in Chapter V. Chapter VI contains several floodproofing case histories. These case histories have been included to provide information on floodproofing plans that are currently in use, and the conditions for which they were designed. Several appendices have also been included in the manual to provide a variety of supplemental information.

Giving Church Another Chance: Finding New Meaning in Spiritual Practices by Todd Hunter

Hunter (Christianity Beyond Belief) sought God in many churches, from the United Methodist Church of his youth through contemporary fundamentalism to Vineyard, then emerging churches, and finally the Anglican Church. He discovered that the genuine Christian spirituality you've been dreaming of is possible by re practicing the spiritual routines of church. Hunter investigates nine church practices—attendance, prelude, doxology, scripture reading, sermons, liturgy, offering, communion, benediction—as a launching pad to life. He avoids lengthy theological dissection of each practice, instead sharing how each can point to real and lasting life in Jesus. His words ring true for those tired of church as usual, who want to take Jesus outside the doors but aren't sure why or how. Hunter advocates church for spiritual nourishment, but he's also about applying church practices to the heart, then flinging open the church doors to help the world. Hunter describes re practicing communion as changing Eucharist as a noun to Eucharist as a verb. That linguistic transformation exactly conveys his exciting premise for all church practices. –Publisher's Weekly

The Humans Who Went Extinct: Why Neanderthals Died Out and We Survived by Clive Finlayson

A cave on Gibraltar 28,000 years ago was one of the final homes of the Neanderthals. Finlayson, director of the Gibraltar Museum, uses his knowledge of that cave and others like it to explore the differences and similarities between modern humans and Neanderthals, and how the differences led to our surviving them. Presenting a host of data, he draws a single conclusion: modern humans weren't brighter, stronger or more capable than Neanderthals. Rather, we were luckier. Scattered around Europe, Neanderthals probably succumbed to various factors, from disease to drastic climate change—changes that led to an environment more friendly to *Homo sapiens*. Finlayson does a superb job of describing the factors behind the expansion of the genus *Homo* and its diversification into various species, of which only *Homo sapiens* survives today. He also offers a powerful critique of those who theorize differently about the expansion of our species with very little data. Finally, he challenges us to rethink early human migration around the globe, arguing that the pattern we see is simply a modest expansion, generation by generation, as environmental conditions permitted. In his hands the links between climate and evolutionary change are strikingly clear.

The Last Hero: A Life of Henry Aaron by Howard Bryant

This biography of the African-American baseball great doesn't amount to the epic it wants to be. ESPN reporter Bryant (*Juicing the Game*) portrays Aaron's journey from Jim Crow Alabama to superstardom with the Milwaukee, then Atlanta Braves during the 1950s, '60s, and '70s as both a sports saga and a struggle against racism. (The Braves' spring training facilities stayed segregated into the 1960s, and Aaron's 1974 breaking of Babe Ruth's home run record was marred by racist death threats.) But while the author takes very seriously the sports commentator's traditional task of investing trivia with near-biblical portentousness—And thus it came to pass that Henry Aaron became the first black majority owner of the first BMW franchise in the country—he never quite succeeds at establishing Aaron's heroic stature. The slugger comes off as a superlatively skillful but unspectacular player whose civil rights activism is cautious and muted (though more outspoken later when he became a Braves executive). Throughout, he's a wary, reticent man given to rancor over slights, and the narrative can't help wandering toward more charismatic figures like Willie Mays and Jackie Robinson. Mightily as he swings, Bryant fails to knock Aaron's story out of the park. —*Publisher's Weekly*

The Little Book of Whittling by Chris Lubkemann

With a friendly, down-home style, this guide encourages readers to whittle away the hours. Great for beginners looking for an easy way to get started and more advanced carvers looking for a relaxing way to spend their time, this instructional manual provides 20 projects, including knives, forks, birds, animals, trees, and flowers. Chapters detail the proper whittling tools and materials, including what woods are best to carve, and how to start projects by selecting and safely sharpening the best knife for each project.

The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College by Harlan Cohen

A syndicated columnist for teens and young adults and the author of *Campus Life Exposed*, Cohen dishes commonsensical wisdom in "the first of what will be many editions of this book." Presumably, forthcoming editions will address the ever-evolving challenges of campus life (cyber-classrooms, perhaps?), but what's in this one will feel pretty familiar to anyone who attended college within the last 25 years. Tips include: be yourself, lock your door, set boundaries with your roommate, don't drink too much and be sensitive to others' differences. Cohen tackles the ins and outs of residence halls, student organizations, friendships, dating, drugs and money-oh, and he considers classes, too, though with perhaps with less enthusiasm (and certainly fewer pages) than he devotes to sex. Though he lists interesting statistics, additional resources and plenty of first-person letters from students seeking his advice, Cohen doesn't offer much that a reasonably intelligent college kid couldn't figure out on his or her own-but that may not be a weakness: "everything's going to be okay" could be just what a nervous first-year student needs to hear most. -Publisher's Weekly

Not Like Us: Immigrants and Minorities in America, 1890-1924 by Roger Daniels

The years covered by this book were the greatest era for immigration in the United States, and *Not Like Us* serves as a reminder that immigrant ships were often not a welcome sight on the horizon. Roger Daniels, a professor of history at the University of Cincinnati, begins the book with the story of the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, a law which curtailed Chinese immigration and served as a model for later U.S. immigration law. In successive chapters Daniels documents how various immigrant groups came to America, and how anti-immigrant feelings gradually intensified. Eventually the reactionary forces turned not only on recent arrivals, but on African Americans and Native Americans, and the early decades of the 20th century, far from being a halcyon time, were marked by ethnic strife and occasional full-fledged race riots in America. *Not Like Us* is a concise, straightforward, and unsentimental history of immigration to America, and it serves as a welcome antidote to some romantic misconceptions about the American past.

-Amazon.com

The Official Price Guide to Disney Collectibles by Ted Hake

The Official Price Guide to Disney Collectibles is the must-have resource for information on everything Disney. From comic books and movie cells to music boxes and snow globes, this book is a complete guide to Disneyana--from "Steamboat Willie" to "The Nightmare Before Christmas"--and includes thousands of collectibles featuring hundreds of beloved Disney characters.

The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques by Frank Hamer

Now available in its fifth edition, *The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques* presents a comprehensive survey of all aspects of making ceramics for craft potters and ceramic artists. With its sound, practical explanations of ceramic processes, this indispensable reference book has gained a reputation as "the potter's bible." Professional potters, beginners, students, and collectors will find authoritative information clearly and logically presented. Frank and Janet Hamer explain the sources and character of

materials, the behavior of clays and glaze minerals during forming and firing processes, forming methods, and glaze construction. In addition to brief outlines and detailed articles with cross references to illustrations, color photographs illustrate glaze effects and surfaces featured in the work of inventive, contemporary potters. The varied techniques of Raku, maiolica, crystalline glazes, salt and soda, stoneware, and porcelain are also presented in a new color section. This new edition has been updated to include auto-reduction, crystalline glazes, insulation, stains, and specialized firing and fuming techniques. With upwards of 800 illustrations to clarify everything in the ceramic world, in its fifth edition *The Potter's Dictionary of Materials and Techniques* will continue to serve as the authority on all things ceramic.

Pre-Algebra Demystified by Allan G. Bluman

Say goodbye to dry presentations, grueling formulas, and abstract theories that would put Einstein to sleep -- now there's an easier way to master the disciplines you really need to know.

McGraw-Hill's Demystified Series teaches complex subjects in a unique, easy-to-absorb manner, and is perfect for users without formal training or unlimited time. They're also the most time-efficient, interestingly written "brush-ups" you can find.

Organized as self-teaching guides, they come complete with key points, background information, questions at the end of each chapter, and even final exams. You'll be able to learn more in less time, evaluate your areas of strength and weakness and reinforce your knowledge and confidence.

A self-teaching guide to basic arithmetic, covering whole numbers, fractions, percentages, ratio and proportion, basic algebra, basic geometry, basic statistics and probability.

The Rand McNally Road Atlas (2011)

"No car should be without one of these and this one is really good especially for the price. It seems to include all the major roads and a majority of the smaller roads for the big cities. Must have!" –Amazon.com Review

The Relaxation & Stress Reduction Workbook by Martha Davis

Although the sheer size of this dense workbook might cause initial hyperventilation--280 full-size sheets of text--take heart (and a deep breath!): the many self-assessment tools and calming techniques presented in this fifth edition can help overcome anxiety and promote physical and emotional well-being. First introduced in 1980, the book received praise for presenting a comprehensive look at stress, its physical manifestations, and the multiple ways it can be managed. Twenty years later, its well-organized chapters on breathing, relaxation, meditation, thought stopping, and body awareness still guide the reader through copious self-help techniques to try and, eventually, master. Other chapters, including job stress management, goal setting and time management, and assertiveness training, focus on daily scenarios people often find distressing. Lessons in identifying key elements that trigger unpleasant responses and in reacting differently to these elements are designed to defuse perceived conflicts. For this edition, coauthors

Martha Davis (psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry of Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Santa Clara, CA), Elizabeth Robbins Eshelman (licensed clinical social worker with Kaiser Permanente Online), and Matthew McKay (clinical director of Haight-Ashbury Psychological Services, San Francisco, CA) have added topics on worry control, anger management, and eye-movement therapy. New diagrams and a more reader-friendly format should appeal to readers, despite a few typos and graphical mishaps. This is a valuable tool for therapists, their patients, and the stressed-at-large.

Remembering Albany: Heritage on the Hudson by Don Rittner

Sail into New Haven Harbor and trek toward the beautiful form of the Sleeping Giant to discover Hamden, a picturesque gem nestled in the rolling hills of Connecticut. Witness the birth of the Industrial Revolution with the building of Eli Whitney's famous factory, wander past the buried cars in the Ghost Lot of Hamden Plaza and hear the tale of the courageous Hamden soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Journey with Eric D. Lehman as he uncovers the hidden stories of this fascinating Connecticut town, from its humble Puritan beginnings to its modern day splendor. –Powell's Books

The Road to Serfdom: Text and Documents by Friedrich A Von Hayek

An unimpeachable classic work in political philosophy, intellectual and cultural history, and economics, *The Road to Serfdom* has inspired and infuriated politicians, scholars, and general readers for half a century. Originally published in 1944—when Eleanor Roosevelt supported the efforts of Stalin, and Albert Einstein subscribed lock, stock, and barrel to the socialist program—*The Road to Serfdom* was seen as heretical for its passionate warning against the dangers of state control over the means of production. For F. A. Hayek, the collectivist idea of empowering government with increasing economic control would lead not to a utopia but to the horrors of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy.

First published by the University of Chicago Press on September 18, 1944, *The Road to Serfdom* garnered immediate, widespread attention. The first printing of 2,000 copies was exhausted instantly, and within six months more than 30,000 books were sold. In April 1945, *Reader's Digest* published a condensed version of the book, and soon thereafter the *Book-of-the-Month Club* distributed this edition to more than 600,000 readers. A perennial best seller, the book has sold 400,000 copies in the United States alone and has been translated into more than twenty languages, along the way becoming one of the most important and influential books of the century.

With this new edition, *The Road to Serfdom* takes its place in the series *The Collected Works of F. A. Hayek*. The volume includes a foreword by series editor and leading Hayek scholar Bruce Caldwell explaining the book's origins and publishing history and assessing common misinterpretations of Hayek's thought. Caldwell has also standardized and corrected Hayek's references and added helpful new explanatory notes.

Supplemented with an appendix of related materials ranging from prepublication reports on the initial manuscript to forewords to earlier editions by John Chamberlain, Milton Friedman, and Hayek himself, this new edition of *The Road to Serfdom* will be the definitive version of Friedrich Hayek's enduring masterwork.

The Self-Esteem Companion: Simple Exercises to Help You Challenge Your Inner Critic & Celebrate Your Personal Strengths by Matthew McKay

This book is designed to work together with our bestseller *Self-Esteem*. It develops many of the most powerful techniques from the original book into sixty easy-to-learn and fun-to-do exercises that build and maintain a healthy self-image.

This repackaged edition features a new preface by author Matthew McKay and an eye-catching new package.

You'll be able to customize a personal self-esteem-building program using any combination of the original book, the sixty exercises in this companion, and the fast and effective ten-week writing project in the guided journal. The end result: lasting improvement in the way they view themselves, as well as greater happiness, success, and peace of mind.

Shut Out: A Story of Race and Baseball in Boston by Howard Bryant

The Boston Red Sox' inability to win the World Series is one of the most familiar oddities in sport; the club's peculiar relationship with race is not quite so well known. Bryant, who's covered the Oakland A's and the New York Yankees for daily newspapers, brings excellent journalistic instincts and baseball smarts to the table. And he's a Boston native to boot, meaning he's properly versed about the city that former Celtic hero Bill Russell once called "a flea market of racism." Bryant examines looks at Jackie Robinson's doomed Fenway tryout in 1945 and at Pumpsie Green, who eventually became the Red Sox' first black player, a full dozen years after Robinson broke the color barrier. An unspectacular player, Green was befriended on the field by Ted Williams and by Russell off, as both tried to shield him from the pervasive vitriol. Bryant visits the modern era as well, reporting that the Sox did not sign a black free agent until 1993, and detailing slugger Mo Vaughn's mercurial stint in Boston. An MVP in 1995, the New England-reared Vaughn embraced his role in the race debate, even wearing Robinson's old number. Bryant illustrates both the ballplayer's dedication to community service and his repeated run-ins with the law, and wonders if Vaughn was run out of town by the press and team management. Throughout the book, Bryant looks at both sides of the race issue, and backs his conclusions with exhaustive research from a variety of sources.

—Publisher's Weekly

Sonia Sotomayor: The True American Dream by Antonia Felix

Sotomayor is a history-maker by virtue of her ethnic background and gender: the first Hispanic and only the third woman to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Best-selling biographer Felix's biography of Associate Justice Sotomayor is journalistic in tone and treatment, but it is good, responsible, nonsensational journalism, proving to be necessary reading for anyone interested in gathering a solid, accurate picture of this remarkable woman. Bronx-born and -raised, she benefited from her mother's emphasis on the importance of education. (Sonia has been unstinting in her praise of her mother as the locus of her success in school and after.) Her undergraduate years at Princeton informed the rest of her life; law school at Yale gave her a professional focus. Five years in the district attorney's office in New York City "did nothing less than imprint her with the legal skills and approach to the law that would define the rest of her career." Later, she

transitioned from corporate lawyering to the federal bench, and the rest is history—though a history yet to be concluded. -Booklist

The Way We're Working Isn't Working: The Four Forgotten Needs That Energize Great Performance by Tony Schwartz

Schwartz coauthored the bestseller *The Power of Full Engagement* (2003) and is the CEO of The Energy Project, bringing effective energy management coaching to organizations such as Google, Ford, Sony, Toyota, and the Los Angeles Police Department. His project and this book are shedding light on what most working folks know but don't like to talk about: that most of us are not fully engaged or satisfied in our work environment; that we are constantly running on an unsustainable schedule that does not allow for enough sleep; and in addition to being physically tired, we are not allowed the kind of emotional, creative, and spiritual outlets that we need to be fulfilled. Schwartz notes that people at work are expected to run continuously, like machines, but unlike machines or computers, people do not function well when forced to work and process information on a continual basis, but need a balance of activities that allow for both expending and recovering energy. He proposes solutions for business leaders to maximize human potential by embracing our need for both effort and renewal. -Booklist

What's New, Cupcake?: Ingeniously Simple Designs for Every Occasion by Karen Tack

The authors of *Hello, Cupcake* are back, this time with the promise of simpler recipes. Relying on doctored, store-bought cake mixes and the option of canned frostings, recipe time is used primarily for assembling and decorating cupcakes that take the form of animals, food items, and holiday-inspired scenes. The TOC may leave readers guessing recipe selections with chapter names such as *I Thought You Ordered Chocolate Moose* and *The House that Boo Built*, but the unconventional names embody the playful spirit of this title. Basic techniques, including filling cupcake liners and frosting cupcakes, are explained, and recipes are formatted into clear, easy-to-understand numbered steps accompanied by full-color photos. Kids and adults alike will find joy in the many artful creations, including a pizza supported by cupcakes and topped with fruit pepperoni; a banana split with cupcakes in the form of ice cream scoops, and Chinese takeout complete with Tootsie Roll broccoli florets. This is an innovative title that doesn't hold back. -Publisher's Weekly

What on Earth Evolved?: 100 Species That Changed the World by Christopher Lloyd

In this expansive, articulate, and insightful book, Christopher Lloyd explores the two eras that have defined the planet—Before Man and After Man. The former was a time of strange creatures and loose bits of genetic code, the latter a sprawling period of invention and cosmic transformation. With remarkable eloquence, Lloyd takes us through both eras, weaving in capsule biographies of the most successful species. All in all, it's a kind of who's who of biology, as well as an innovative picture of the planet's history. In this expansive, articulate, and insightful book, Christopher Lloyd explores the two eras that have defined the planet—Before Man and After Man. The former was a time of strange creatures and loose bits of genetic code, the latter a sprawling period of invention and

cosmic transformation. With remarkable eloquence, Lloyd takes us through both eras, weaving in capsule biographies of the most successful species. All in all, it's a kind of who's who of biology, as well as an innovative picture of the planet's history.

Why I Am a Buddhist: No-Nonsense Buddhism with Red Meat and Whiskey by Stephen Asma

Profound and amusing, this book provides a viable approach to answering the perennial questions: Who am I? Why am I here? How can I live a meaningful life? For Asma, the answers are to be found in Buddhism. There have been a lot of books that have made the case for Buddhism. What makes this book fresh and exciting is Asma's iconoclasm, irreverence, and hardheaded approach to the subject. He is distressed that much of what passes for Buddhism is really little more than "New Age mush." He loudly asserts that it is time to "take the California out of Buddhism." He presents a spiritual practice that does not require a belief in creeds or dogma. It is a practice that is psychologically sound, intellectually credible, and esthetically appealing. It is a practice that does not require a diet of brown rice, burning incense, and putting both your mind and your culture in deep storage. In seven chapters, Asma builds the case for a spiritual practice that is authentic, and inclusive. This is Buddhism for everyone. This is Buddhism for people who are uncomfortable with religion but yearn for a spiritual practice.

Yarn: Remembering the Way Home by Kyoko Mori

A memoir of crossing cultures, losing love, and finding home by a New York Times notable author. As steadily and quietly as her marriage falls apart, so Kyoko Mori's understanding of knitting deepens. From flawed school mittens to beautiful unmatched patterns of cardigans, hats and shawls, Kyoko draws the connection between knitting and the new life she tried to establish in the U.S. Interspersed with the story of knitting throughout, the narrative contemplates the nature of love, loss, and what holds a marriage together

Children's Services Titles:

Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

In just a few pen strokes and just a few words, Feiffer (*I Lost My Bear*) outlines the playful scenario of a puppy who cannot say "arf." The images are striking, with no background details or props but the unobtrusive text. In the initial spreads, a big dog and a little one face each other from opposite sides of the book: "George's mother said: 'Bark, George.' George went: 'Meow.'" As George proceeds to quack, oink and moo, his dismayed mother grimaces and puts her paw on her head in the classic gimme-a-break gesture. She takes her afflicted son to a veterinarian, who snaps on a rubber glove and decisively repeats the title command. This time, when the pup meows, "The vet reached deep down inside of George... And pulled out a cat." Feiffer reverses the old-lady-who-swallowed-a-fly plot and boosts the giddiness with every barnyard animal removed from tiny George. The pen-and-ink close-ups of the dogs and vet are studies in minimalism and eloquence, and the characters' body language registers intense effort and amazement. Rather than being black-on-white, the illustrations get a boost from cool pastel hues. This

pairing of an ageless joke with a crisp contemporary look will initiate many an animated game of animal sounds. Ages 2-6. –Publisher’s Weekly

Bear in the Air by Susan Meyers

A young mother puts her baby and his teddy bear into an elegant pram and wheels them along a boardwalk overlooking the sea. When Bear falls to the ground, a dog grabs him and romps down the beach. A wave pulls the teddy bear into the water, a seal takes him deep below the surface, and a pelican swoops him up into the sky, dropping him on land. A lady hangs Bear out to dry on her clothesline, where the bemused Mother and happy Baby find him. Told in graceful, rhyming couplets, the story of Bear’s adventures unfolds in a pleasant manner. The pencil-and-watercolor illustrations, which create a 1920s setting, feature nicely proportioned human and animal characters drawn with energy and expression. Young children will find plenty to enjoy in the pictures, including a little red crab that tags along with Bear and, near the end, a bird’s-eye-view map featuring landmarks and characters that will help viewers retrace the teddy bear’s journey. A handsome picture book with a satisfying story and artwork as fresh as a sea breeze. Preschool-Kindergarten. -Booklist

Biblioburro: A True Story from Colombia by Jeanette Winter

Kindergarten-Grade 2—One person can make a difference, and in this book Luis Soriano makes all the difference in the world. A Colombian schoolteacher with a passion for reading, he had so many books in his house that he decided to take them to children high up in the mountains where no libraries existed. With the help of two burros, Soriano made the mountainous trek each weekend to spread literacy where it was desperately needed. Winter has a gift for creating nonfiction that is accessible to and appeals to very young readers. The story is well told, and the colorful illustrations reflect the flora and fauna of Colombia. Back matter offers a bit more information about this generous and dedicated teacher who got books into the hands of so many people. Pair this title with Margaret Ruurs’s *My Librarian Is a Camel: How Books Are Brought to Children Around the World* (Boyd’s Mills, 2005) for some great conversations. –School Library Journal

Fading Echoes by Erin Hunter

After the sharp-eyed Jay and the roaring Lion, peace will come on Dove’s gentle wing. Three ThunderClan cats, Jayfeather, Lionblaze, and Dovepaw, are prophesied to hold the power of the stars in their paws. Now they must work together to unravel the meaning behind the ancient words of the prophecy. As Jayfeather tackles his new responsibilities as the Clan’s sole medicine cat and Lionblaze trains his apprentice in the ways of the warrior cats, Dovepaw hones her own unique ability and tries to use it for the good of ThunderClan. But the dark shadows that have preyed on the Clan for many moons still lurk just beyond the forest. Soon a mysterious visitor will walk in one cat’s dreams, whispering promises of greatness, with results that will change the future of ThunderClan in ways that no cat could have foreseen.

Fancy Nancy at the Museum by Jane O’Connor

Nancy’s class is going on a trip to the museum. Even after a bumpy bus ride, Nancy finds a way to make the day extra-fancy!

The Fathers Are Coming Home by Margret Wise Brown

As the sun sets, a ship moves across the water. Meanwhile, “the fathers are coming home.” The fish father swims back to his little fish; the bug father flies back to his little bugs. Words and pictures show the rabbit, daddy longlegs, dog, bird, snail, and pig returning as well. Lion “lives alone, so he comes home to himself.” When the ship docks, a sailor father returns to his little boy. In an age when picture books for young children too often drip with I-love-you treacle, Brown’s text treats a child’s love with the dignity it deserves. The story establishes a comfortable pattern, then breaks it just a bit before bringing the simple tale to a happy conclusion. With bold lines and mainly flat colors, the striking illustrations, “rendered as linocuts” in the publishers’ words, use line, form, color, and texture effectively to create a series of compelling images with a retro look. A fine choice for reading aloud. Preschool-Grade 1. -Booklist

The Fourth Apprentice by Erin Hunter

Fans of the ongoing Warriors series will enjoy this first volume in the Omen of the Stars subset. Cats Jayfeather and Lionblaze are grieving for Hollyleaf and are uncertain of the identity of the third cat with the “power of the stars.” All of the clans are suffering from the heat and drought. When Lionblaze discovers his apprentice Dovepaw can “see” events happening far-off, he organizes a patrol to investigate a vision about the river. Dovepaw is a reluctant heroine, furious about her powers and new responsibilities. The perilous journey creates powerful bonds between the clans, but ancient grievances portend new battles. Grades 5-8. -Booklist

Goodnight Moon ABC: An Alphabet Book by Margaret Wise Brown

PreSchool-K Familiar objects in the classic story are arranged in alphabetical order and accompanied by upper- and lowercase letters in the original style and palette. Ii In the great green room/Jj Jump over the moon. Letter X appears as the crossed arms of a pole dryer that holds pink mittens from clothespins and Zz Zzzz is accompanied by the line Goodnight noises everywhere. Endpapers show the entire alphabet being investigated by two mice. The book conveys the timeless appeal of the original, and the literacy skill building will appeal to adults. –School Library Journal

Happy Belly Happy Smile by Isadora

Every Friday Louie sees the hustle and bustle behind the scenes at his grandpa's Chinese restaurant. The chef's hands fly as he chops vegetables, the delivery boy zips in for a pickup, and the waiters holler out order after order. Then it's time to eat. Grandpa offers Louie a whole fish and crabs. "No, thank you, Grandpa!" But the dumplings, egg rolls, and chow mein sure look good. No trip to the Chinese restaurant is complete without a fortune cookie: "Happy food, happy belly, happy smile." Caldecott Honor-winner Rachel Isadora brings a dynamic restaurant to life with beautiful cut-paper collages reminiscent of Eric Carle and Ezra Jack Keats.

How to Cheat a Dragon's Curse by Cressida Cowell

Grade 3-5–Cowell is getting a great deal of mileage from her pseudomemoirs of the delightfully alliterative Viking. She retains her touch in this latest volume, which relates

Hiccup's quest to find the Vegetable-That-No-One-Dares-Name, namely a potato that is the only thing that can prevent his friend Fishlegs from dying of Vorpentitis. The potato, you see, is an imaginary vegetable that comes from a place that doesn't really exist: America. When Hiccup realizes that he has only until 10 o'clock the next morning to find the mythical vegetable, it is a race against time and against the wishes of his father. It also requires traveling with the charming bog-burglar Camicazi, breaking into the headquarters of Norbert the Nutjob and his Hysterick tribe, and stealing the frozen potato while they sleep, all the while trying to avoid a fearsome sea predator. The result is an irresistible concoction. As with all the Hiccup books, this one is full of amusing illustrations, clever design that includes inkblots scattered throughout the pages, and an occasional explanation of hibernating dragons and venomous vorpents. This action-filled and compelling story will draw readers along. –School Library Journal

Junkyard Wonders by Patricia Polacco

Looking forward to a fresh start at a new school, Trisha is crestfallen when she is assigned to a special class with children who are different. Their teacher, Mrs. Peterson, proudly calls them the junkyard and takes them to an actual junkyard, which she describes as a place of wondrous possibilities . . . amazing things waiting to be made into something new. It's clear that she sees her class the same way as she divides them into tribes and urges their creativity. Reclaiming and rebuilding an old model plane they intend to send to the moon, Trisha's tribe manages a triumphant launch. Illustrations, rendered in pencil and marker, portray children in saddle oxfords and poodle skirts brimming with energy and excitement, guided by a model teacher. Based on her own childhood, Polacco's inspiring story will touch children and teachers alike. In an appended note, Polacco updates the subsequent successful lives of her former tribe members and reveals how they did make it to the moon after all. Grades 2-5. -Booklist

Keys to the Demon Prison (Fablehaven) by Brandon Mull

Since ancient times, the great demon prison *Zzyzx* has protected the world from the most dangerous servants of darkness, including Gorgrog, the Demon King. After centuries of plotting, the Sphinx is on the verge of recovering the five artifacts necessary to open the legendary prison. Facing the potential of a world-ending calamity, all friends of light must unite in a final effort to thwart the Sphinx's designs and find a safe home for the five artifacts. To this end, Kendra, Seth, and the Knights of the Dawn will venture far beyond the walls of Fablehaven to strange and exotic magical preserves across the globe, where the end of every quest becomes the beginning of another. In this explosive series finale, allegiances will be confirmed and secrets revealed as the forces of light and darkness collide in a desperate struggle to control the keys to the demon prison.

Kindergarten Countdown by Anna Jane Hays

PreSchool-K—This cheerful story is just right for kindergarten-bound children and their younger siblings. It works equally well as a counting book and as a school-readiness primer. Often leaping or prancing, a little girl shares her excitement on every page as she starts with seven and counts down to the big day. Both the rhyming verse and the pictures are filled with humor and energy (the sleeping child counts "kindergarten sheep" that

wear school backpacks). The computer-generated illustrations are detailed and vibrant. Because the format is small, this book is most appropriate for one-on-one sharing.
-School Library Journal

The Liberty Bell by Firestone & Mary

Why do Americans love a bell that no longer rings? It is the Liberty Bell, and it once rang to announce the birth of a new country, the United States. Find out why Americans still treasure the bell, along with its famous crack.

Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same! by Grace Lin

Ling and Ting are twins. They have the same brown eyes. They have the same pink cheeks. They have the same happy smiles. Ling and Ting are two adorable identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving--people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same.

Maisy Goes on Vacation by Lucy Cousins

Maisy's packing her bags and setting off on a fun vacation in a story that's perfect for young children making a trip away from home. How exciting! Maisy has put her sun hat, pajamas, toothbrush, and camera into a bag, and she's off to the train station with Panda and Cyril. They're headed for the seashore, but getting there is only half the fun. Coloring and snacks help pass the time on the ride to the beach, where Maisy can't wait to swim, collect seashells, build sandcastles, and lots more. At nighttime it feels special to go to bed in a hotel—knowing that tomorrow another vacation day awaits!

Monster Boy's First Day of School by Cal Emerson

Mr. and Mrs. Onster had always hoped for a perfect monster child. Instead, they got Marty! Marty isn't furry enough or scary enough--he doesn't even want to eat the other kids at school. When Bart Uilly begins pushing Marty's buttons, will a new side of Marty shine through?

My Pal, Victor by Diane Gonzales Bertrand

Dominic's friend, Victor, may not walk, but he's far from disabled. He is not only a source of support, but a limit-pushing, life-expanding influence. Always ready with an imaginative story, a sidesplitting joke, or one more terrifying ride at the amusement park, Victor cheers Dominic on at softball games and admires his swimming ability. The closing twist reads: "But, the most important thing about my pal, Victor, is that he likes me just the way I am." This is paired with a picture showing one boy in a wheelchair.

-School Library Journal

The Pirate of Kindergarten by George Ella Lyon

Ginny enjoys kindergarten, but she does have some difficulties, and occasionally children laugh when she runs into chairs or reads lines of text twice. Her teacher notices that the child closes one eye to read, but on Vision Screening Day, the school nurse discovers that Ginny has double vision. When the doctor gives her a temporary eye patch, Ginny wears it with style and becomes a "Kindergarten Pirate," suddenly better at numbers, scissors,

and reading and no longer tense from concentrating in order to avoid mistakes. Created with pastels, acrylics, and colored pencils, Avril's bold and wonderfully vivid mixed-media illustrations sometimes portray the classroom through Ginny's eyes, with overlapping images of chairs, books, and people, though they usually present an outside perspective. Based on Lyon's own experience, the sensitively written story radiates empathy and good humor. Even children who have not experienced Ginny's problem will understand her occasional frustration and find it intriguing that one person can literally see the world differently from another. *Preschool-Grade 2 -Booklist*

Redneck Night Before Christmas by David Davis

Redneck mania is sweeping the country and the best gift for rednecks and redneck-wannabes this Christmas is the hilarious *A Redneck Night Before Christmas*. In this delightful tale, the "Christmas Redneck" travels to the trailer park in his beat-up pickup with eight hound dogs to deliver his presents! Color illustrations.

Sleepover at Gramma's House by Barbara Joose

PreSchool-Grade 1—With her "nighty in [her] nighty trunk," a little elephant makes her way to her grandmother's house for sleepover fun. The story is told in bouncy rhythmic lines that almost beg to be sung, with the refrain, "Oh. We love each other so" woven throughout. The child and her grandmother play silly games, tell one another stories, and take absolute delight in each other's antics. Their exuberantly shared enjoyment and love are perfectly reflected in the slightly muted full-color ink, watercolor, and acrylic illustrations. The stylized artwork is reminiscent of comic books from the 1920s and '30s with hints of zaniness and joie de vivre contained within clean lines and plenty of white space. This onomatopoeic paean to a grandmother and granddaughter's mutual love will delight storytime crowds, and real-life grandparents looking for a snuggly one-on-one read will welcome it. —*School Library Journal*

Sleepy ABC by Margaret Brown

Fans of Brown and Katz's *A Child's Good Morning Book* (2009) may want to close their days with this companion alphabet lullaby: "A is for Aaaaah when a small kitten sighs / B is for Baaaaaa when the lambs close their eyes." Katz's interpretation of Brown's text (last illustrated by Esphyr Slobodkina in 1994) is joyful and energetic and features her trademark, round-faced, multicultural children, rendered in collage-like art, bouncing around a sunshine-bright room before they finally catch their Zs in a very realistic bedtime pattern. Likely to be just what little not-yet-sleeping beauties will want. *Preschool. -Booklist*

Star Wars: A Scanimation Book: Iconic Scenes from a Galaxy Far, Far Away... by Rufus Butler Seder

Imagine: the first *Star Wars* book that actually moves, bringing to life the most memorable scenes from the epic: Obi-Wan battles Darth Maul The Millennium Falcon zooms away from an exploding Death Star Luke rides a galloping Tauntaun, Yoda twirls his green lightsaber, Boba Fett blasts up, up and away! And of course the most memorable scene of all—red and blue lightsabers flashing, Luke and Darth Vader fight the ultimate battle between good and evil.

It's a marriage made in a galaxy far, far away: phenomenal Scanimation meets Star Wars, the enduring epic that's sold \$42 billion in ticket sales and earned the title #1 Boys Action Toy License of all time. Created by Rufus Butler Seder, *Star Wars: A Scanimation Book* presents 12 of the most memorable scenes, in a landscape, i.e., movie format. It's an homage from an artist obsessed with the earliest forms of capturing visual motion to an artist obsessed with the most advanced. But that's not what young fans will care about—this is having pure movie magic in the palm of your hand, to replay again and again.

Thomas' Milkshake Muddle: Three Thomas & Friends Stories by Britt Allcroft

Join Thomas and the newest engines on The Island of Sodor in these six thrilling episodes! Meet Mighty Mac, a very unusual engine with two faces and Neville, an enthusiastic Steamie who's everyone's friend. Get onboard for big adventures

Trucker's Night Before Christmas by David Davis

Grade 2-5. In the tradition of Davis's *The Redneck Night Before Christmas* (Pelican, 1997), this lumbering poetic salute to the "good buddies" of the roadways takes place on Christmas Eve at the Midway truck stop. "The rig jockeys were weary, they just had to flop." Their evening is enlivened by a visit from "St. Nick and his swank Christmas truck." "This Christmas-time trucker was a real midnight flyer,/And his beard was as white as a new whitewall tire!" The leaden rhymes overflow with trucker terminology, requiring interpretation by adult readers who know the language of the road. Rice's amateurish illustrations combine with the corny text to make this an item most libraries can skip, although a reader who can muster up a Johnny Cash-style twang could make this a humorous addition to a holiday storytime. -School Library Journal

What Really Happened to Humpty?: (From the Files of a Hard-Boiled Detective) by Joe Dumpty

Grade 1-4—When Humpty falls off the wall, his brother Joe, a detective in Mother Gooseland, is convinced that he was pushed. Thus begins the unraveling of the mystery of who did the dastardly deed. All of the characters use cell phones and some drive cars in this long and complicated tale. There are a lot of egg jokes, and wordplay abounds. In the end, Little Miss Muffet and the Big Bad Wolf go off to jail for their crime. Now Joe Dumpty has more work to do as the Dish just ran away with the Spoon and Bo Peep's sheep are roaming. The illustrations are done in watercolor, with pen and ink. The drawings are various sizes and often there are multiple frames per page. Pictures are detailed, and many contain speech balloons. This is a text-heavy story that will tickle the funny bone of readers old enough to get the jokes. -School Library Journal

Wishful Thinking by Jason Lethcoe

Benjamin Bartholomew Piff thought all of his wishes had finally come true—he's traded in his soggy cot at Pinch's Home for Wayward Boys for a Feathered Funicula at the Wishworks Factory. He's even been named manager of Kids' Birthday Wishes (ages 3-12)—and he can't wait to settle in to his new (and improved!) life. But when Ben slips briefly and reveals his identity, his spoiled cousin Penelope Piff figures out his new job.

She quickly learns how to get in on the sweet life of magic, but her wishes are anything but sugar and spice and everything nice. This is one Penny that brings nothing but bad luck! Will Ben and his friends be able to save Candlewick and the Wishworks Factory from Penny's conniving clutches—before she destroys it completely?

Wishing Well by Jason Lethcoe

The Wishworks Factory's recent battle against Curseworks has left relations between humans and Jinn very strained, and before long, Ben finds himself embroiled in another war. While evil cousin Penelope and Curseworks lawyer, Rottenjaw, try to recruit the disgruntled Jinn to their own army reserves, Ben and Candlewick try to negotiate peace. Ultimately, two precious magical weapons must be located in order to protect Wishworks. And the key to finding these weapons lies deep below the grounds of the factory, submerged—where else?—inside a wishing well!

Young Adult Titles:

Almost Lost: The True Story of an Anonymous Teenager's Life on the Streets by Beatrice Sparks

Presented as edited transcripts of taped counseling sessions Sparks (It Happened to Nancy) conducted with a 15-year-old patient, Sammy, this book pieces together a sobering story of a boy "almost lost" to depression. At his mother's insistence, the suicidal teenager begins talking to the perspicacious therapist, acknowledging that his inner pain is so deep that "sometimes even my hair hurts." Sammy can be almost astonishingly articulate as he gradually reveals the traumatic incidents from his past that have stripped away his self-esteem and self-respect. The caring therapist provides him with a variety of exercises, charts and "mind games" to help him get rid of the "fetid garbage" he is carrying around: his decision to join a gang in hopes of gaining a "family," experimentation with drugs and alcohol, experience as a victim of a drive-by shooting and his debilitating, unresolved bitterness toward his abusive estranged father. Though the transcripts shape a clearly defined portrait of an intelligent, determined teen, some of the patient-therapist conversations recorded here may seem lengthy and repetitious to the general YA reader. Yet for those coping with depression, Sparks's account provides inspiration, some rudimentary practical tools and a resounding endorsement of the potential benefits of therapy. Ages 12-up. —Publisher's Weekly

The Ask and the Answer (Chaos Walking Series) by Patrick Ness

Grade 9 Up—Todd Hewitt, 13, is locked in a tower in New Prentisstown, a space colony, and separated from Viola, after the dramatic cliff-hanger in *The Knife of Never Letting Go* (Candlewick, 2008). Tracked down by the manipulative mayor of the all-male community he escaped, he is unaware that Viola is also under guard and recouping nearby. The noise that clatters through men's minds makes it difficult for Todd to keep any secrets about his intentions to find Viola and accompany her on a mission to contact her people, who are on their way to colonize this unsettled and fractured new world. The previous war, which killed most of the women and made slaves of the aboriginal alien Spackles, has pitted the survivors against one another. The "Answer," comprised of women and a few men who lost daughters and mothers in the war, come to blows with

the "Ask," the mayor's group of fundamentalist men and their Spackle slaves. The story breaks into alternating narratives, in different fonts, as Todd is forcefully commissioned into the "Ask" and Viola into the "Answer." Their quest to reunite will keep readers focused on their relationship and moral motivation in this graphically violent and dystopian world.

Carter's Big Break by Brent Crawford

Though far less plausible than *Carter Finally Gets It* (2009), this similarly excitable and hormone-addled sequel is every bit as hilarious. A movie production has moved into town, and Carter somehow snags the lead role opposite tween sensation Hilary Idaho. This doesn't sit well with pissed-off girlfriend Abby or his posse of buds, but hey—at least Carter gets a chance to stare at his favorite obsession: “tig ol' bitties.” Carter is a fantastic character: goofily optimistic, perennial weepy, yet determined to be a playa—hard to do when your favorite exclamation is “Dang it!” Let's hope Crawford keeps 'em coming. Grades 7-10 -Booklist

The Forbidden Game: The Hunter; The Chase; The Kill by L.J. Smith

To lose the game is to lose your life

Go Ask Alice by Anonymous

The torture and hell of adolescence has rarely been captured as clearly as it is in this classic diary by an anonymous, addicted teen. Lonely, awkward, and under extreme pressure from her "perfect" parents, "Anonymous" swings madly between optimism and despair. When one of her new friends spikes her drink with LSD, this diarist begins a frightening journey into darkness. The drugs take the edge off her loneliness and self-hate, but they also turn her life into a nightmare of exalting highs and excruciating lows. Although there is still some question as to whether this diary is real or fictional, there is no question that it has made a profound impact on millions of readers during the more than 25 years it has been in print. Despite a few dated references to hippies and some expired slang, *Go Ask Alice* still offers a jolting chronicle of a teenager's life spinning out of control. –Amazon.com

The Hollow by Jessica Verday

When Abbey's best friend, Kristen, vanishes at the bridge near Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, everyone else is all too quick to accept that Kristen is dead...and rumors fly that her death was no accident. Abbey goes through the motions of mourning her best friend, but privately, she refuses to believe that Kristen is really gone. Then she meets Caspian, the gorgeous and mysterious boy who shows up out of nowhere at Kristen's funeral, and keeps reappearing in Abbey's life. Caspian clearly has secrets of his own, but he's the only person who makes Abbey feel normal again...but also special. Just when Abbey starts to feel that she might survive, she learns a secret that makes her question everything she thought she knew about her best friend. How could Kristen have kept silent about so much? And could this secret have led to her death? As Abbey struggles to understand Kristen's betrayal, she uncovers a frightening truth that nearly unravels her—one that will challenge her emerging love for Caspian, as well as her own sanity.

Keys to the Repository by Melissa de La Cruz

Lavish parties. Passionate meetings in the night. Bone-chilling murders. Midterms. The day-to-day life of Schuyler Van Alen and her Blue Bloods friends (and enemies) is never boring. But there's oh-so-much more to know about these beautiful and powerful teens. Below the streets of Manhattan, within the walls of the Repository, exists a wealth of revealing information about the vampire elite that dates back before the Mayflower. In a series of short stories, journal entries, and never-before-seen letters, New York Times bestselling author Melissa de la Cruz gives her hungry fans the keys to the Repository and an even more in-depth look into the secret world of the Blue Bloods.

Kick-Ass by Mark Miller

NO POWERS? NO PROBLEM.

Ever wondered what would happen if you tried to be a superhero? What would happen if an ordinary guy, with no powers or training, put on a suit and came face-to-face with the criminal underworld? Find out in *Kick-Ass*, the blockbuster movie from director Matthew Vaughn, based on the bestselling comic book by Mark Millar and John Romita Jr. Meet Dave Lizewski: high school student, comic book fan - and the self-styled superhero known as Kick-Ass. His profile really takes off when his exploits end up on YouTube, but then he meets "the real deal" in the shape of pint-sized lethal weapon Hit-Girl and her intimidating partner Big Daddy. Things start to get really serious. And very, very violent... With Mark Millar as your guide, *Kick-Ass: Creating the Comic, Making the Movie* gives you the full inside story of how this superhero phenomenon went from his little lined pad to huge Hollywood movie in record time, featuring:

- Millar's early comic book script pages
- Eye-popping Romita art, including new pages drawn especially for the movie
- Exclusive contributions from the cast and crew
- Hundreds of movie photos, sketches, storyboards and pieces of production art

The Last Best Days of Summer by Valerie Hobbs

Like the final stretch of freedom before school begins, there's something quietly magical--and bittersweet--about Hobbs's (Anything but Ordinary) latest novel. Hidden beneath the ordinary anxieties of a 12-year-old starting middle school (Will she be popular? Will her clothes be the right style?), lies a tearjerker that is both insightful and penetrating. —Publisher's Weekly

The Last Thing I Remember (Homelanders, Book 1) by Andrew Klavan

Charlie is a squeaky-clean high-schooler who gets good grades, dreams about joining the Air Force, and loves practicing his karate—and it's this last skill that comes in especially handy when he wakes up tied to a chair next to a tableau of torture instruments. In an attempt to understand how he landed in such dire straits, he flashes back to the last thing he remembers: a seemingly typical day at school. So begins the fantastic first half of this post-9/11 thriller in which each bit of recovered memory directly informs how Charlie deals with his mysterious captors. The excitement plateaus once Charlie escapes and realizes that he's wanted by more than just a band of terrorists, but the chase scenes, gunfire, and fistfights never let up. The rah-rah patriotism may put off some readers,

particularly given Charlie's apparent unwillingness to moderate his black-and-white views. On the other hand, this is just the first book in the Homelanders series, so there is still plenty of time for Charlie to develop shades of gray. Grades 8-11. -Booklist

The Left Hand of God by Paul Hoffman

The remote Sanctuary of the Redeemers is a huge, grim fortress. There boys younger than 10 are taken for intensive training in hand-to-hand combat in preparation for a forthcoming holy war that only the high priests know about. Sixteen-year-old Thomas Cale is one of the thousands of boys who endure unspeakable treatment at the hands of the warrior monks. Sensing something special about Cale, the Lord Militant takes charge of his training, making it extremely harsh and driving him to achieve more and more. When Cale comes across a Redeemer performing a vivisection on a girl, he slays the man, rescues another girl, and realizes that to live he must escape into the outside world. What ensues is a riveting tale of pursuit, derring-do, battles, and death. Unfortunately, some intrusive authorial explanatory asides interrupt the narrative flow. Enigmatic Cale is something of a berserker on his dark side, a protector on his good one. Other principals are credible, and the settings—the foul sanctuary, barren landscape, and aristocratic city to which Cale flees—vivid. A rousing trilogy-opener. -Booklist

Once Dead, Twice Shy by Kim Harrison

A seasoned author of supernatural tales, Harrison makes her YA debut with the story of 17-year-old Madison Avery, who is killed by a "dark reaper" named Kairos on her prom night. But by stealing Kairos's amulet in the process, Madison manages to retain her soul. Along with Barnabas, a beautiful "light reaper," and Grace, her guardian angel, Madison plots to repossess her body and protect her prom date from Kairos and from the dark reapers' attempts to control time and fate. Having been content as an outsider ("I was happier being myself-purple hair, loud music, dead, and everything-than trying to fit in"), Madison must build her trust in others in order to save her life and discover her fate—whether or not she even believes in fate. Though rules and explanations seem at times a little too convenient, Harrison weaves an exciting battle, not between good and evil, but between free will and destiny. A compelling blend of mysticism, suspense and surprise make for a quick and pleasurable read. Ages 12-up. -Publisher's Weekly

Only the Good Spy Young by Ally Carter

When Cammie Morgan enrolled at the Gallagher Academy, she knew she was preparing for the dangerous life of a spy. What she didn't know was that the serious, real-life danger would start during her junior year of high school. But that's exactly what happened two months ago when Cammie faced off against an ancient terrorist organization dead set on kidnapping her. Now the danger follows her everywhere, and even Cammie "The Chameleon" can't hide. When a terrifying encounter in London reveals that one of her most-trusted allies is actually a rogue double-agent, Cammie no longer knows if she can trust her classmates, her teachers—or even her own heart. In this fourth installment of the New York Times best-selling series, the Gallagher Girls must hack, spy, steal, and lie their way to the truth as they go searching for answers, recognizing that the key to Cammie's future may lie deep in the past.

Passing Strange by Daniel Waters

Passing Strange tells the semi-autobiographical story of a young black man who leaves behind his middle-class, church-ruled upbringing in mid-1970s Los Angeles to travel to Europe in search of his artistic and personal identity, or what he calls the real. Picaresque misadventures with sex, drugs, politics, and art await him in far-out Amsterdam and hyper-militant Berlin. His eyes are opened ever wider, even revealing what he left behind. An absolutely superb cast, ably supported by sparing (but pitch-perfect) costumes, design, and stagecraft, bring to life the emotionally charged story with its astounding original music, narrated and overseen by Stew himself. Lee's multicamera coverage of the event (including backstage scenes) involves the audience in not only the text but the electricity of the ensemble's onstage adventure. Passing Strange The Movie is a tour-de-force of creative collaboration and inspiration.

The Prince of Mist by Carols Ruiz Zafon

It's war time, and the Carver family decides to leave the capital where they live and move to a small coastal village where they've recently bought a home. But from the minute they cross the threshold, strange things begin to happen. In that mysterious house still lurks the spirit of Jacob, the previous owners' son, who died by drowning. With the help of their new friend Roland, Max and Alicia Carver begin to explore the strange circumstances of that death and discover the existence of a mysterious being called the Prince of Mist--a diabolical character who has returned from the shadows to collect on a debt from the past. Soon the three friends find themselves caught up in an adventure of sunken ships and an enchanted stone garden--an adventure that will change their lives forever. --Amazon.com

Procession of the Dead by Darren Shan

Shan's dystopic thriller, the first in a trilogy already published in the U.K., is an excellent, twisting foray into a world of deceit, murder, and mystery. Capac Raimi arrives in an unnamed city, a place ruled by a man known as the Cardinal, and quickly realizes that he has no memory of his life elsewhere. When the Cardinal kills Capac's uncle and offers Capac a job based on a dream and Capac's Incan name, the young man's life takes a turn for the fantastical. While training to serve the Cardinal, Capac embarks on a strange, gripping search for clues to both the disappearances of his friends and his own past. The dialogue is realistic, the characters and settings are vivid, and the plotting is tight, complemented perfectly by a bleak, desolate tone. Any fan of post-apocalyptic fiction will find it absolutely riveting. --Publisher's Weekly