April 2012

13
Cheryl & Griff Day
The Back In the Day Bakery Cookbook
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

14
Sarah Frances Hardy
Puzzled by Pink
Square Books, Jr.
10 a.m.

17
Survir Saran
Masala Farm
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

18
Robert Olmstead
The Coldest Night
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

19
Ron Rash
The Cove
Thacker Mtn. Radio
6 p.m.

24
Stuart Woods
Unnatural Acts
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

May 2012

1
Ann Fisher Wirth
Dream Cabinet
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

8
John T. Edge
The Truck Food Cookbook
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

11
Sheila Turnage
Three Times Lucky
Square Books, Jr.
5:00 p.m.

15
Christopher Tighlman
Right Hand Shore
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

16
Thomas McNamee
The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

18
Mark J. Hainds & David Haskell
Sacred Space: Southern Native Forests
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.
June 2012

2
Wiley Cash
*A Land More Kind Than Home*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

6
Daniel Friedman
*Don’t Ever Get Old*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

11
Richard Ford
*Canada*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

12
James Higdon
*Cornbread Mafia*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

13
Joseph Kanon
*Istanbul Passage*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

14
Ron Tanner
*From Animal House to Our House*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

15
Jack Hurst
*Born to Battle*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

16
Adam Perry
*Charred and Scruffed*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

18
Leonard Pitts, Jr.
*Freeman*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

20
Benjamin Busch
*Dust to Dust*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

21
Traci Brimhall
*Our Lady of the Ruins*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.

28
Carmela Ciuraru
*Nom de Plume*
Off Square Books
5:00 p.m.
This spring we have the good fortune to receive signed copies of two new books by John Grisham. In May Penguin Books will issue *Theodore Boone: The Accused*, the third novel in this series for middle-grade readers, in which Theodore Boone, who wants to be a lawyer like his parents, is accused of robbery and must fight to clear his name. In April, Doubleday—John Grisham’s publisher since *The Firm* (seems like yesterday)—released one of John’s “off” books, a smaller, non-legal thriller novel, a la *Skipping Christmas* and *Playing for Pizza*, entitled *Calico Joe*. Here John takes on with relish one of his favorite subjects, baseball. The narrator is Paul Tracey, a present-day man looking back on his childhood in 1973, when Joe Castle, from Calico Rock, Arkansas, comes up for his big league debut with the New York Mets and gets a hit in his first at-bat, and his second, then third, then fourth, and next thing you know he’s in pursuit of the major league record, becoming an national sensation, in addition to a hero to young Paul Tracey. Paul could use a hero in his life because his Dad, Warren, is decidedly not one. Warren is a skirt-chaser and drinks too much, and as it turns out, is a major league pitcher himself, but a third-rate one. How Tracey, these many years later, comes to terms with this father—and what became of Calico Joe—makes for the kind of read-without-getting-up-to-pee novel we love for John Grisham to write. **Signed copies available of both books at regular list price, and we still have a few signed copies of *The Litigators* and the previous Theodore Boone book, all at list price.**

**TONI MORRISON**

*Home* (Knopf, hd 24.00)

*Ask about signed copies.***

Nobel Prize-winner Toni Morrison extends her profound take on our history with a redemptive tale of a man’s desperate search for self in a world disfigured by war.

**The Chemistry of Tears**

**PETER CAREY**

(Knopf, hd 26.00)

An automaton, a man and a woman who can never meet, a secret love story, and the fate of the warming world are all brought to life by Peter Carey, two-time winner of the Man Booker Prize.

**Truth Like the Sun**

**JIM LYNCH**

(Knopf, hd. 25.95)

Jim Lynch (*Bordersongs*, which won the Washington State Book Award in 2010) writes about the city he knows best. Set in Seattle during two very different eras, the 1962 World’s Fair and in 2001; described as a “classic, hugely entertaining political novel that is a cat-and-mouse story of urban intrigue.”

**Bring Up the Bodies**

**HILARY MANTEL**

(Henry Holt, hd. 28.00)

The sequel to Hilary Mantel’s 2009 Man Booker Prize-winner, *Wolf Hall*, which delves into the heart of Tudor history with the downfall of Anne Boleyn.
Richard Ford’s first book of short stories, Rock Springs, is often cited by his readers as a favorite book. They’ll be happy about Canada, then, as the novel carries much the same tone and similar elements of the prairie West (and prairie Saskatchewan). Dell, the young narrator, is exposed to some harsh aspects of life in the adult world and the story takes on a haunting, noir-ish cloak; there is such as murder and robbery here, and it’s fair to reveal this now as the narrator does so early on in the book, well ahead of the events themselves (and there is plenty else I’m leaving out here). Young Dell and his twin sister, Berner, are undone by their parents’ behavior and learn they had best look after oneself. Told with the calm, elegant, luminous force of Richard Ford’s prose, the tension and suspense of Canada builds with a power that surpasses the expectations of this reader and, I suspect, other Ford fans. In short—a terrific read. RH

The Age of Miracles by KAREN THOMPSON WALKER
(Random House, hd. 26.00)

There are literary names to be dropped with this book, such as Aimee Bender, Nathan Englander, Amy Bloom—and I wholeheartedly agree with their praise for The Age of Miracles. In an unsettling future, the Earth’s rotation has slowed, causing atmospheric, environmental, financial, cultural and personal upheaval and uncertainty. The glowing voice in this surreal landscape is 11 year-old Julia. Given her age, an immediate guarantee for uncertainty, one would expect the focus to be fear and/or anxiety, and surely, there is that, but Julia is a rarity among coming-of-agers. She is a non-whiner, a pragmatic girl who bravely adjusts to the alterations of life as she knows it. In a story that is both disturbing and beautiful—one that stayed in my thoughts for days after reading—there is valiant, insightful, lucid and caring Julia. She’s the kind of person I want with me in a disaster. SLM

The Green Shore
NATALIE BAKOPOULOS
(Simon & Schuster, hd. 25.00)

Author Signing and Reading on Tuesday, June 26 at 5 p.m.

Set in Athens and Paris, The Green Shore paints a portrait of a family whose stories of love and resistance play out against the backdrop of the late 1960s Greek military dictatorship. Sophie, a student of French literature; her mother Eleni, a widowed doctor; Sophie’s uncle Mihalis, an outspoken poet of some renown; and Anna, Sophie’s younger sister, all search for love and fulfillment as they struggle with when to stay silent and when to act. A book club recommendation.

In One Person
JOHN IRVING
(Simon & Schuster, hd. 28.00)

John Irving had published three books before his fourth, The World According to Garp, garnered a wide readership. That was my second year in bookselling, in 1978, and since then John Irving has written fourteen more books, many of them, like A Prayer for Owen Meany and The Cider House Rules, becoming American standards. His latest lives up to the greatest qualities of Irving’s work—an interesting narrative that is humorous, ironic, and straightforward; plenty of drama, of both the plot and the thespian variety; and sex, of many kinds. This is the sort of enjoyable-and-meaningful Irving novel we love, one that Edmund White said “makes you proud to be human,” and which Abraham Verghese remarked “...is America and American writing, both at their very best.” RH
A Land More Kind Than Home
WILEY CASH
(William Morrow, hd. 24.99)

_A Land More Kind Than Home_ is an Appalachian story with bad blood between families, snake-handling, faith healing and a tragic death—while some of the expected Appalachian elements are present, this is a unique story that should not be lightly compared to others from the region. Wiley Cash is a fresh voice, a writer who has full control of this atmospheric tale that mixes Southern Gothic with literary thriller. Narrated by three characters, a boy Jess, whose mute brother dies under mysterious circumstances; the sheriff, whose past is linked with Jess’ present and future; and the local midwife, who is also the community’s moral conscience, this engaging tale is way more than a coming-of-age story, more than a rural drama. It has depth and mood and sadness and courage -- and darned good writing (“....bold, daring, graceful, and engrossing” says Bobbie Ann Mason). SLM

Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk
BEN FOUNTAIN
(Ecco, hd. 25.99)

_Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk_ exposes the disconnect between the war at home and the war over there (over there being Iraq). After a heroic battle is recorded by a journalist and airs for all the nation to see, the surviving members of Bravo platoon are lauded with a whirlwind victory tour across the USA, ending with honors at the half-time show of a Dallas Cowboys game. Called “the Catch-22 of the Iraq War (Karl Marlantes, _Matterhorn_), this is the story of the unique internal glue that holds soldiers together—and to each other—whether facing enemy gunfire or voluptuous Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders. The voice of this story from America’s frontlines/headlines is 19 year-old native Texan Billy Lynn, a man beyond his years who is challenged to find himself in the lights and action and glory and confusion, all the while with a headache and a heartache to match. SLM

The Coldest Night
ROBERT OLMSTEAD
(Algonquin Books, hd. 23.95)

From Robert Olmstead (Coal Black Horse, _Far Bright Star_), a story of love and war. Descendant of a long line of soldiers, Henry Childs flees a broken heart and heads straight into war. Arriving in Korea on the eve of the brutal battle of the Chosin Reservoir, Henry is unprepared for the circumstances of a war—and the challenges he faces after coming home are just as dire. Through Henry, Olmstead reveals an unspoken truth about combat: that for many men, the experience of war is the most enlivening, electric, and extraordinary experience of their lives.

**Inside** (Knopf, hd. 25.00)

**Signs and Wonders**
(Vintage Contemporaries, pb. 15.00)

ALIX OHLIN

Announcing an unusual literary event! Alix Ohlin, author of the highly praised _Babylon and Other Stories_ and _The Missing Person_, is publishing two books at the same time. _Inside_ is a deftly constructed novel in which the lives of three complicated characters intersect with that of Grace, a smart and caring Montreal therapist. Only one, a teen runaway, is actually a patient; the others are her ex-husband and a man she finds on a ski trail, unconscious and with a noose around his neck. Ohlin explores how Grace helps or fails to help these people, and how they in turn show her much about life and the bittersweet ways we desperately try to engage, or disengage with one another. Ohlin’s sixteen stories in _Signs and Wonders_ are knock-outs—original, brightly contemporary, and feature “ordinary” people and “ordinary” situations that twist in unexpected, often disturbing ways. A footless, homeless veteran, a woman obsessed with becoming pregnant, a middle-aged punk rocker, a young woman on a post-divorce cruise with her wacky aunt—you will be amazed at the array of characters and the brilliant, poignant way Ohlin brings their stories to life. LH
From columnist Leonard Pitts, Jr., a novel that takes place in the months following the Confederate surrender and the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. *Freeman* tells the stories of Sam, a runaway slave on his way back to the South; his wife, who is being forced to stay with an owner who holds on to his entitlement; and Prudence, a headstrong white woman who comes to Mississippi to start a school for former bondsmen. Illuminating the times and places it describes from a fresh perspective, Freeman particularly reflects the ordeal of black slaves grappling with the promise—and the terror—of their new status as free men and women.

For Ava Whalen, a new marriage and a move to St. Simons Island means a new beginning. But there is much she doesn’t know about her husband, including the mysterious circumstances surrounding his first wife’s death. And her new home seems to hold as many mysteries and secrets as her new husband.

In *A Hologram for the King* Dave Eggers takes us around the world to show how one man fights to hold himself and his splintering family together in the face of the global economy’s gale force winds. This richly layered, elegiac, and engrossing novel is a brilliant evocation of our contemporary moment—and a moving story of just how we got here.
**Butterfly in the Typewriter: The Tragic Short Life of John Kennedy O’Toole and the Remarkable Story of A Confederacy of Dunces** (DaCapo Press, hd. 26.00)

by CORY MacLAUCHLIN

The story of *A Confederacy of Dunces* is well known: rejected for publication for years, its author, John Kennedy O’Toole, takes his own life in 1969 at age thirty-two; seven years later, Thelma Toole, his eccentric mother, ambushes Walker Percy on the Loyola campus and forces the manuscript on the famous writer; five years following their introduction, after numerous rejections to Percy on behalf of the manuscript, the great editor Martha Lacy Hall insists that her publisher, LSU Press, issue the book, which it does in 1981; the book immediately gets a sensational reception and wins the Pulitzer Prize. But few are familiar with who John Kennedy Toole actually was, how he came to create such an unusual book, and what really happened to him. Cory MacLauchlin answers these questions, it seems, as well as they might be answered. He organizes existing information into a workmanlike narrative and finds much new information, particularly about Toole’s time in the U.S. Army in Puerto Rico, where he wrote most of *Dunces*; about his career as a scholar and teacher, at Tulane and Dominican College in New Orleans, Hunter College and Columbia in New York, and, especially, at Southwestern Louisiana Institute (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette); about his lengthy relationship (through letters; they did not meet) with Robert Gottlieb, who never accepted *Dunces* for publication at Simon and Schuster while never rejecting it, either; and about his relationships and his mental illness. Those of us who have always had questions about both the book and its author will not have all those questions answered, but will find a great deal of illuminating, well-written information here. RH

**William Alexander Percy: The Curious Life of a Mississippi Planter and Sexual Freethinker**

(Univ. of North Carolina Press, hd. 35.00) by BENJAMIN E. WISE

The subtitle of this book leaves only to the imagination what might be “curious” about the life of William Alexander Percy—and of that the author aims to prove there was much. The narration of this biography begins in 1910, when Will Percy was practicing law in Greenville, having completed college at Sewanee, law school at Harvard, and a year in Paris, and one year before his best friend from law school committed suicide. Percy’s father is running for re-election to the U.S. Senate, and Greenville is a prosperous and bustling city, with an opera house, two railroad lines with fifteen stops a day, and steamboats docking at the Mississippi River landing with various goods and supplies. Wise’s book takes a keen look at the interesting time of Percy’s life (1885-1942) and his career as WWI soldier, planter, poet, memoirist, mentor to writers (his nephew, Walker, and Shelby Foote), as well as his sexual identity and his civic leadership during the Great Flood of 1927. RH

**Conversations with David Foster Wallace**

(Univ. Press of Mississippi, pb. 25.00)

The late David Foster Wallace demonstrated his wondrous talent in his various essays, novels, writings on mathematics, and short stories. In these twenty interviews, Wallace opens up in a way that the writer, as Jonathan Franzen has said, “could safely draw on his enormous native store of kindness and wisdom and expertise.” These interviews remind me of Barry Hannah in the way that his genius was as evident in informal, extemporaneous conversation as it was in his work. “Serious art,” Wallace said, “is where difficult, complex questions get made urgent and human and real; and the political climate in the U.S.A right now is so ugly, unreflective, selfish, jingoistic, and materialistic that serious art has probably never been needed more.” RH
Nom De Plume: A (Secret) History of Pseudonyms
CARMELA CIURARU
(Harper Collins, pb. 15.99)
Author Reading and Signing
Thursday, June 28 at 5 p.m.
What’s in a name? Biographies have chronicled the lives of pseudonymous authors such as Mark Twain, Isak Dinesen, and George Eliot, but never before have the stories behind so many noms de plume been collected into a single volume. Part detective story, part expose’, part literary history—“….a richly documented literary excursion into the inner, secret lives of some of our favorite writers.” -Joyce Carol Oates

Magic Hours: Essays on Creators & Creations
TOM BISSELL
(McSweeney’s, pb. 14.00)
Tom Bissell has been a book editor in New York and has written books of fiction, memoir, travelogue, and even a book on video gaming. Now thanks to the good folks at McSweeney’s and Believer books, we are fortunate to have Magic Hours: Essays on Creators and Creations. This is an excellent collection of Bissell’s work as an essayist over the last decade. Centered around the creative process, these pieces cover topics ranging from literature to tv sitcoms. If you’ve never read Bissell before then this is a perfect starting place and if you’ve been following his career, then it’s revealing to see the range of his creative non-fiction laid out in book form like this. CM

This Is How:
Proven Aid in Overcoming Shyness, Molestation, Fatness, Spinsterhood, Grief, Disease, Lushery, Decrepitudes & More
AUGUSTEN BURROUGHS
(St. Martin’s Press, hd. 24.99)
In this hilarious and straightforward memoir, Augusten Burroughs (Running with Scissors) turns the self-help genre upside down with his advice on matters ranging broadly from how to lose someone you love to how to finish your drink.

Jubilee Hitchhiker: The Life and Times of Richard Brautigan
by WILLIAM HJORTSBERG
(Counterpoint, hd. 42.50)
You occasionally hear the legend of the masterpiece, the great, epic novel or the biography of unrivaled depth, that never reaches publication because the author can’t master the subject, or simply runs out of time; or maybe it was all a rumor to begin with, like Carvel Collins’ biography of Faulkner, which continues to exist only in our imagination. Such was the legend of William – Gatz – Hjortsberg, and his project of twenty-plus years on his friend Richard Brautigan. Except now Jubilee Hitchhiker is here, all 842 oversize, small-font and narrow-margin pages of it (in standard book production this easily would be 1,800 pages), looking for all the world like The College American Heritage Dictionary, except the jacket has that iconic image of Brautigan holding a typewriter in one arm and hitchhiking with the other. It is chock full of stories of the life of one of the most enigmatic and most celebrated writers of our time and a priceless account of the history of that time. Brautigan was of both the Beat Era and the Hippie Era and not much of an active participant in either, but the index of this biography demonstrates the vast connections he had with almost countless writers, artists, musicians and celebrities of the time. Ultimately “destroyed by his own genius,” he was an iconoclast who created a unique literary style that, alongside Kurt Vonnegut, became a defining cultural imprint of the late 1960s and the 1970s. William Hjortsberg and his publisher, Counterpoint, are to be hailed for a stunning and epic achievement. RH
Notes on the Mosquito: Selected Poems of Xi Chuan
translated by LUCAS KLEIN
(New Directions, pb. 18.95)

Xi Chuan was born in Jiangsu, China, in 1963 and attended a foreign languages school for future Chinese diplomats. At Beijing University he majored in English and wrote his senior thesis on Ezra Pound’s translations of Chinese poetry. He worked for a magazine and began translating into Chinese the work of Pound, Borges, Milosz, and, last year’s Nobel Prize winner, Tomas Transtromer. Xi Chuan (pronounced Sshee Chwahn) became well-known in the 1980s as a lyric poet until the anti-democratic movement and its climax at Tiananmen Square, when two of his best friends and fellow poets died and he became silent for three years. His poetry then began to take on more complex material in expansive prose poems. Notes on the Mosquito tracks this sequential growth from lyricism to broader themes of history and philosophy in poems that are beautiful, playful, witty, and profound. This is his first work to be published in English and is worth your attention, dear reader. RH

Our Lady of the Ruins: Poems
TRACI BRIMHALL
(W.W. Norton, pb. 15.95)

Inspired by perceptions of war which span the boundaries of time and space and dreams of those who are too often forgotten when history is written—above all, women—Our Lady of the Ruins takes us on a breath-taking, at times frightening, exploration of war, plagues, and the search for a new God in exile. Our Lady of the Ruins is winner of the 2011 Barnard Women Poets Prize, and Traci Brimhall is the 2012 Summer Poet in Residence here at the University of Mississippi. AL

Dream Cabinet
ANN FISHER-WIRTH
(Wings, 16.00)

Signed copies available.

“What boat now brings you out of darkness into the swoop of the barn swallows?” Ann Fisher-Wirth’s Dream Cabinet is that deep vessel that gently holds all things living and dying. It is the gathering place for family, nature, politics, pain and sorrow, celebration and joy. Powerful images are beautifully brought to life and peacefully laid to rest with the voice of a poet “who calls the made thing out of the sheltering darkness.” There is the great pain of love and loss, of the aching for the father who’s no longer there, and the intimate love of all things in nature, of the breathing of blackberries into every cell of the body. Each poem is like a baptismal wave helping us to see, confronting our reluctance to see, that none of us will be spared the dreams and nightmares of life on this earth. AL

Paris, I Love You But You’re Bringing Me Down
ROSECRANS BALDWIN
(Farrar, Straus & Giroux, hd. 26.00)

Author Reading/Signing Wednesday, May 23 at 5 p.m.

If you love Paris and the French, you will love this book. If you hate Paris and the French, you will probably love this book, too. Baldwin first went to Paris as a little kid on a family vacation and from that time on was the staunchest of Francophiles, dreaming of growing up and living happily ever after in the City of Light. Eventually, he embraces the fantasy, and he and his wife leave Brooklyn for the world’s most romantic city, where he works in advertising. Things in the 21st century Paris are startlingly less than romantic, of course, and Baldwin recounts the eighteen months he lasted there with hilarious anecdotes about work, (imagine a French version of The Office) food, accommodations, technology, clothing, TV, well, in short, tout. If you like ex-pat lit like David Sedaris’s Me Talk Pretty One Day, if you’re planning a trip, or if you just want a fun book, check this one out. LH

We Don’t Have It?
We will get it for you. Most titles available in 2 to 3 days.
According to Eric Clapton, John Mayer, and the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, Buddy Guy is the greatest blues guitarist of all time. He came to Chicago from Louisiana in the 50s at the time when urban blues were electrifying our culture, and in the 60s he became a recording star. *When I Left Home* tells Guy’s story in the voice of a storyteller who remembers everything, including blues masters in their prime and the exploding, evolving culture of music that happened all around him.

*Nationally syndicated columnist Rheta Grimsley Johnson brings us a biography of Hank Williams that is also musical memoir, with Johnson’s evocative stories of ‘50s and ‘60s staples like elementary school rhythm bands, British Invasion rock concerts, tearjerker movie musicals, and 5-cent Cokes. In this book, Hank is as a metaphor for life, providing the soundtrack and the wisdom. Honk if you love Hank!*

When urban blues were electrifying our culture, and in the 60s he became a recording star. *When I Left Home* tells Guy’s story in the voice of a storyteller who remembers everything, including blues masters in their prime and the exploding, evolving culture of music that happened all around him.

*As a kid pitching a ball against a brick wall, John Smoltz decided to be a professional baseball player when he grew up. And from that decision until his last season on the mound in the major leagues, it was his faith, work ethic, and love for the game that propelled him through challenges that would have ruined other athletes. In *Starting and Closing*, Smoltz flashes back to watershed moments in the journey from being one of the best starting pitchers of all time, to closer, to starter again.*

*Over Time: My Life as a Sportswriter is as unconventional and wide-ranging as Frank Deford’s career, in which he has chronicled the heroes and the characters of just about every sport in nearly every medium. Interwoven through his personal history, Deford traces the entire arc of American sportswriting from the lurid early days up to ESPN. Equal parts funny and touching—a treasure for sports fans.*
The Making of a Patriot
SHEILA SKEMP
(Oxford University Press, 22.95)

In January of 1774, Benjamin Franklin was called to appear before the Privy Council, the King’s advisors, in an octagonal room in Whitehall Palace commonly referred to as the Cockpit. There Solicitor General Alexander Wedderburn unleashed a withering tirade against Franklin. The 69-year-old statesman, who, until this encounter, had been sympathetic to the Mother Country, left the room as an emboldened revolutionary. An excellent and brief glimpse of one of the nation’s most interesting founders, written by no less than one of the finest professors at the University of Mississippi.

Born to Battle
JACK HURST
(Basic Books, hd. 29.99)

Author Reading and Signing
Friday, June 15 at 5 p.m.

From historian and author of Men of Fire, Born to Battle is the next stage of the clash between Union general Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate hero Nathan Bedford Forrest, following these opposing giants through the brutal twenty months that decided the Civil War. Hurst shows how Grant and Forrest brought to the battlefield the fabled virtues of the American working-class: hard work, ingenuity, and intense determination. Born to Battle is the impassioned account of two visionary Civil War leaders and the clashing cultures they fought to protect.

The Passage of Power
ROBERT CARO
(Knopf, hd. 35.00)

The Passage of Power, the fourth volume in Robert Caro’s monumental biography, The Years of Lyndon Johnson, follows Johnson through both the most frustrating and the most triumphant periods of his career. Robert Caro reveals what it was like for Johnson to become president in a time of great crisis, how within weeks he forced through Congress bills on the budget and civil rights, and how he set out to fulfill the highest purpose of the office.

How to Win an Election
QUINTUS CICERO, translated by Phillip Freeman
(Princeton Univ. Press, hd. 9.95)

In the current election climate, it’s curious to see how little has changed since the summer of 64—B.C., that is—when Quintus Tullius Cicero, Rome’s greatest orator, was running for Consul, the highest office in Rome. Among his most ardent supporters was his brother, Marcus (a sort of Bobby Kennedy to his Jack), who prepared a pamphlet of campaign advice, recently translated from the Latin by Philip Freeman. Marcus urged that “there are three things that will guarantee votes: favors, hope, and personal attachment,” as well as the notion of making promises—to everyone. “If you break a promise, the outcome is uncertain and the number of people affected is small. But if you refuse to make a promise, the result is certain and produces immediate anger in a larger number of voters.” Straight out of Lee Atwater. A clever, inexpensive little book, in original Latin with translation upon opposite page, and available from Square Books. RH

Free Local Delivery
In-stock books will be delivered Monday–Friday by 5 p.m. the same day.
**10½ Things No Commencement Speaker Has Ever Said**
CHARLES WHEELAN
(Norton, hd. 15.95)

Modeled on Charles Wheelan’s 2011 speech at Dartmouth College, this collection is the antidote to those cotton-candy platitudes that are all too familiar to anyone who’s ever worn a mortarboard. With a PhD in public policy, many years of experience in social science research, and good-natured humor, Wheelan offers these aphorisms on happiness and success that anyone facing graduation needs to hear but probably hasn’t heard yet. Celebrated New Yorker cartoonist Peter Steiner adds a touch of whimsy with his irreverent illustrations sprinkled throughout.

**How To Sharpen Pencils**
DAVID REES
(Melville House, 19.95)

Signed copies available.

Have you got the right kind of point on your pencil? Do you know how to achieve the perfect point for the kind of work you need out of that pencil? Deep in New York’s Hudson River Valley, craftsman David Rees—the world’s number one #2 pencil sharpener—still practices the age-old art of manual pencil sharpening. Now, in a book that is both a manifesto and a fully-illustrated walk-through of the many, many, many ways to sharpen a pencil, he reveals the secrets of his craft. “A glorious excoriation of our post-9/11 loony bin.” -NY Times

**The Social Conquest of Earth**
EDWARD O. WILSON
(Liveright Publishing, hd., 27.95)

Where did we come from? What are we? Where are we going? In a generational work of clarity and passion, scientist Edward O. Wilson addresses these three fundamental questions of religion, philosophy, and science while overturning the famous theory that evolution naturally encourages creatures to put family first (Discover magazine).

**How To Be Black**
BARATUNDE THURSTON
(Harper, hd., 24.99)

Signed copies available.

Raised by a pro-black, Pan-Afrikan single mother during the crack years of 1980s inner-city Washington, DC, and educated at Sidwell Friends School and Harvard University, Baratunde Thurston (an editor at The Onion) has over thirty years’ experience being black. Through stories of his politically inspired Nigerian name, the heroics of his hippie mother, the murder of his drug-abusing father, and other revelatory details, he shares with readers of all colors his wisdom and expertise, in a satirical, often hilarious style.

**They Eat Puppies, Don’t They?**
CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY
(Twelve, hd. 25.99)

Christopher Buckley’s newest sure-to-be-controversial fictional satire focuses on U.S.-China relations: a Washington lobbyist and a neo-con want to make sure that Congress approves a top-secret weapons system, so they start a rumor that the Chinese secret service wants to assassinate the Dalai Lama.

**This is a Book**
DEMETRI MARTIN
(Harper, hd., 24.99)

From the comedian, creator, star and executive producer/multiple title-holder of Comedy Central’s Important Things with Demetri Martin comes a bold, original, and rectangular kind of humor book. “When I first saw Important Things With Demetri Martin, I said to myself, ‘this is the funniest thing ever.’ I was wrong. This Is A Book is better.” -Malcolm Gladwell
Unnatural Acts
STUART WOODS
(Putnam, hd. 26.95)
*SIGNED COPIES AVAILABLE*

The closing of Manhattan’s real-life Elaine’s restaurant kicks off Stuart Woods’ 23rd Stone Barrington novel. When a hedge fund billionaire hires Barrington to correct a gambling situation involving his son, it seems like an easy enough job. But as Stone and his rising in the ranks protege, Herbie Fisher, probe deeper into the case—and an old one comes back to haunt him—he realizes that even he may have underestimated just how far some people will go to cover up their crimes...and plan new ones.

The Patrick Melrose Novels
EDWARD ST. AUBYN
(Picador, pb. 20.00)

These four brief, brilliant romans a clef cast appallingly insightful light on the lower side of the British upper-crust—heroin, pederasty, incest, alcohol, snobbishness and sycophancy all rolled into one very darkly witty, rapier-sharp portrayal of a tormented man to whom much has been given...and then taken away. Take the best of Evelyn Waugh, Downton Abbey, Oscar Wilde, Martin Amis, mix them up with the aforementioned afflictions, and you will have The Patrick Melrose novels. CB

Istanbul Passage
JOSEPH KANON
(Atria Books, hd. 26.00)

*Author Reading and Signing Wednesday, June 13 at 5 p.m.*

You probably know Joseph Kanon for, The Good German or Los Alamos, but truth be told, all of his books are good and deserve a look. His newest, Istanbul Passage, is no exception. Set in 1945 Istanbul, it’s the story of an American undercover agent who descends into the murky world of compromise and betrayal that will come to define the post war era. Rich in atmosphere and period detail, Kanon effortlessly blends fact and fiction proving once again why he has been called the heir apparent to Graham Greene. CM

The Lost Ones
Robert B. Parker’s Lullaby
ACE ATKINS
(Penguin, hd. 26.95)

Last year, Ace Atkins came out with The Ranger, the first in a new series featuring Quinn Colson, which was a finalist for the prestigious Edgar award for best novel. This May, Ace is turning up the heat with two new novels. First, Ace was selected by the Robert B. Parker estate to continue the beloved Spenser series so we have Lullaby. It’s a testament to Atkin’s skill as a writer that the book feels as though it were penned by Parker himself yet manages to push the series and characters in a new direction. Second, The Lost Ones is the next entry featuring Colson who after ten years as U.S. Army Ranger returns to his native Tibbehah County, MS and finds he has his hands full as the newly elected sheriff. In addition, The Ranger will be brought out in paperback (Berkley, pb, $15.00) this May. The great Michael Connelly calls Ace, “One of the best crime writers at work today.” and we couldn’t agree more. Don’t forget to come out to help us celebrate Ace Atkins month when we host him for a reading/signing on May 31st. CM

A Blaze of Glory: A Novel of the Battle of Shiloh
JEFF SHAARA
(Ballantine Books, hd. 28.00)

In the first novel of a new trilogy, Jeff Shaara takes us to a vivid recreation of one of the Civil War’s bloodiest and most iconic engagements—the Battle of Shiloh. Drawing on meticulous research, he dramatizes the key actions and decisions of the commanders on both sides, and here too are the voices of the junior officers, conscripts, and enlisted men who gave their all for the cause, brave participants in a back-and-forth battle whose casualty count would far surpass anything the American public had yet seen.
In the twelfth of Carolyn Haines’ Southern PI series, Sarah Booth Delaney is convinced she’s uncovered a scheme to separate a lonely woman from her fortune by way of a porn star-turned psychic. Talking her way into a maid’s position at the estate of aging billionaire Marjorie Littlefield, Sarah Booth finds Marjorie and several other wealthy eccentrics ready to commune with the dead. Between chores, she explores the estate, mingles with the other staff...and finds a few dead bodies.

Retired Memphis cop Buck Schatz, who might not be able to push his lawnmower but still has a keen cop sense, learns that an old adversary from his days in a POW camp may have escaped Germany with a fortune in stolen gold. “Once you start reading this wonderfully original and totally engrossing story, you’ll do what I did: keep reading . . . When I’m 87, I want to be Buck Schatz.” -Nelson DeMille

Afterwards centers on a mother and her fierce determination to protect her children, much like the character in Rosamund Lupton’s debut novel, Sister, who doggedly pursued an explanation for her sister’s death. After a school fire has brought physical and emotional injury to her entire family, a mother sets out to uncover the truth behind the suspicious fire, discovering that her seriously injured daughter is still in danger. Right away, Lupton pulls the reader in emotionally, and with taut suspense and rapidly-unfolding sleuthing, she (like her main characters!) does not lag and does not let go. And it is further credit to Lupton’s style and ability to pull this off with an intriguing, and surreal, landscape—one never quite knows how this story will end. SLM

In the thirteenth installment of the Sookie Stackhouse series, Sookie is summoned by her vampire husband, Eric, to welcome the visiting king, Felipe de Castro.
Truck food is not just corndogs & funnel cakes anymore and all over the country kitchens are taking to the road. With his characteristic zeal for all things delicious regardless of pedigree, New York Times food columnist and Southern Foodways Association director John T. Edge traveled the country to find the best food on wheels and hand deliver to us in this tasty volume.

The Back in the Day Bakery Cookbook
CHERYL & GRIFF DAY
(Artisan, hd. 24.95)

Charred & Scruffed
ADAM PERRY LANG
(Artisan Publishing, pb. 24.95)

Masala Farm
SUVRIR SARAN
(Chronicle Books, hd 29.95)

American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America
MICHELLE OBAMA
(Crown Publishing, hd. 30.00)

The Man Who Changed the Way We Eat
THOMAS McNAMEE
(Free Press, hd. 27.00)

Masala Farm offers a fresh twist on a farm-to-table approach to cooking and welcomes readers into the kitchen. Sixty recipes are organized by season.

Charred & Scruffed is bestselling cookbook author and acclaimed chef Adam Perry Lang’s guide to grilling techniques for achieving succulent meat, crunchy crusts, and intense flavor every time you cook with fire.

From acclaimed chef and author Suvir Saran, Masala Farm offers a fresh twist on a farm-to-table approach to cooking and welcomes readers into the kitchen. Sixty recipes are organized by season.

American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America
MICHELLE OBAMA
(Crown Publishing, hd. 30.00)

The Truck Food Cookbook
JOHN T. EDGE
(Workman, pb. 18.95)

Ask about signed copies.

This book is double-dipping for Mississippians: the life, cooking inspiration, and career of Craig Claiborne, the renowned food critic for the New York Times who grew up in Indianola, told by Thomas McNamee, who among several other great books wrote the 2008 biography of Alice Waters and hails from Clarksdale. Drawing from Claiborne’s diaries, letters, and interviews with friends, enemies, and family, McNamee describes how the enigmatic chef and bon vivant launched an American foodie nation that celebrated home cooking, the world cuisines that our immigrants have brought to our tables and markets, and made it OK for American men to get on in the kitchen. Claiborne drew inspiration from high and low—from his mother and the cooks in her boarding house (best Chicken Spaghetti recipe ever!), the Mexican tamale cart guy, the Italian fishmonger, and a Jewish friend in Sunflower County, his time in the Navy, (which took him in WWII to Casablanca, Europe as a sub chaser, and later to Korea) to his close associations with the great chefs and restaurants of Paris and New York. His personal life—the dawning of open homosexuality, his heavy drinking, and sometimes unpleasant behavior—nearly as interesting as his career. Dig in. LH
TICKLE TIME!
By Sandra Boynton
Workman, hd. 6.95
Based on the popular songs from Boynton’s “Rhinoceros Tap” CD, Tickle Time! It’s lively in tempo, nimble in rhyme, and filled with fuzzy cats.

LLAMA, LLAMA, HIPPITY HOP!
by Anna Dewdney
Viking, hd. 5.99
Release: May 1st
Watch Llama hop, stretch, touch, and tap-- and you can do it, too!

B IS FOR BABAR: An Alphabet Book
by Laurent de Brunhoff
Adams, hd 7.99
Release: May 1st
Babar and his family have an alphabet of fun in this book version of the classic Babar’s ABC.

PUZZLED BY PINK
by Sarah Frances Hardy
Viking, hd. 16.99
Ask about signed copies
Izzy--who hates pink--refuses to dress up as a fairy to attend her sister Rose’s very pink birthday party, and instead brings her cat and other guests to the attic for a party featuring dried roses, spider webs and nothing pink. But some powerful magic triggers something unexpected!

CRAFTY CHLOE
by Kelly Dipucchio, illus. by Heather Ross
Atheneum, hd 16.99
Chloe decides to make her friend Emma a present, something that can’t be bought in a store. The newest DIY star of a picture book series!

PUGS IN A BUG
by Carolyn Crimi, illus. by Stephanie Buscema
Dial Books, hd. 16.99
Pug puppies drive through the countryside in a VW Beetle to join in the Pooch Parade with huskies pulling sleds, bulldogs driving cabs, poodles on skateboards, and more.

WUMBERS
by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illus. by Tom Lichtenheld
Chronicle, hd. 16.99
Release: May 30th
What do you get when you combine a word and a number? A wumber! This s2pendous book is 1derful 4 readers in kindergar10 and up.

ARLO NEEDS GLASSES
by Barney Saltzberg
Workman, hd. 15.95
Release May 22nd
Arlo, a free-spirited dog who loves to paly catch, suddenly can’t see the ball.

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THEODORE BOONE
The Accused
by John Grisham
Dutton Books, hd. 16.99
Release: May 15th

Theodore Boone is back and ready for his next big case. He might only be thirteen, but he’s already uncovered evidence in a groundbreaking murder trial and discovered the truth behind his best friend’s abduction. Filled with the intrigue and page-turning suspense that made John Grisham undisputed master of the legal thriller!

THE PRINCE WHO FELL FROM THE SKY
by John Claude Bemis
Random House, hd. 16.99
Release: May 22nd

When a spacecraft crashes on a post-apocalyptic Earth where animals have control, a cubless mother bear discovers the lone survivor, a human boy, and chooses to protect him rather than turn him over to the ruling wolf clans.

THE COUNCIL OF MIRRORS
The Sisters Grimm, Book 9
by Michael Buckley,
illus. by Peter Ferguson
Amulet Books, hd 15.95

In the final volume in the Sisters Grimm series, the Grimms face off against the Master to decide the fate of Ferryport landing—and the world.

A GREYHOUND OF A GIRL
by Roddy Doyle
Knopf, hd. 16.95

From Booker Prize-winner Roddy Doyle. Mary O’Hara, a cheeky 12-year-old Dublin schoolgirl, gets pulled into an unlikely adventure when a mysterious woman shows up with a message for her Granny.

WONDER
by R.J. Palacio
Knopf, hd. 15.99

August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that prevented him from going to a mainstream school, but he’s about to start 5th grade at Beecher Prep. But how does he convince his classmates he’s just like them?

GHOST KNIGHT
by Cornelia Caroline Funke
Little Brown, hd 16.99

Jon Whitcroft recounts being sent to boarding school in Salisbury, England, but being banished is topped by being harassed by the ghost who has spent centuries exacting revenge on Jon’s male ancestors.

DEADWEATHER AND SUNRISE
The Chronicles of Egg, Book 1
by Geoff Rodkey
Putnam, hd. 16.99
Release: May 29th

Egg’s life has not been easy growing up on pirate-infested Deadweather Island. But after his father and his violent siblings disappear, life seems perfect—until someone tries to throw him off a cliff.

THE EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATION OF NICHOLAS BENEDICT
(Mysterious Benedict Society)
by Trenton Lee Stewart, illus. by Diana Sudyka
Little Brown, hd. 17.99

Before there was a Mysterious Benedict Society, there was simply a boy named Nicholas Benedict. Nine-year-old Nicholas, an orphan afflicted with an unfortunate nose and with narcolepsy, is sent to a new orphanage where he encounters vicious bullies, selfish adults, strange circumstances, and a mystery that could change his life forever.
THE DROWNED CITIES
by Paolo Bacigalupi
In this survival/adventure companion to Ship Breaker, young Mahlia and Mouse have managed to escape the Drowned Cities, but their fragile existence is threatened when they help a wounded half-man.

GILT
by Katherine Longshore
When Kitty Tylney’s best friend worms her way into King Henry VIII’s heart and brings Kitty to court, she’s thrust into a world of fabulous gowns, jewels, and parties— as well as secrets, lies, and sordid affairs.

GRAVE MERCY
His Fair Assassin Trilogy #1
by Robin Lafevers
In the 15th-century kingdom of Brittany, 17 year-old Ismae escapes from an arranged marriage into the sanctuary of the convent, where she learns that the god of Death has blessed her with dangerous gifts— and a violent destiny.

SHADOW AND BONE
Grisha Trilogy #1
by Leigh Bardugo
The fate of the once-great nation of Ravka, torn in two by a darkness crawling with monsters who feast on human flesh, may rest on the shoulders of Alina Starkov, who is being trained as a member of the magical elite.

LIFE AFTER THE HUNGER GAMES

Unwind
by Neal Schusterman
Simon & Schuster, pb 9.99

The Maze Runner
by James Dashner
Delacorte, pb. 9.99

Incarceron
by Catherine Fisher
Firebird, pb. 9.99

Enclave
by Ann Aguirre
Feiwel & Friends, pb 9.99

Divergent
by Veronica Roth
Katherine Tegen, pb 9.99

Tunnels
by Brian Williams and Roderick Gordon
Scholastic, pb 8.99

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- Ursula LeGuin

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