Dear Reader,

Newsletter for Square Books Constant Readers

A generous selection of the proven, prevailing and promising literary offerings available at your favorite local bookstore, provided by its dedicated staff.

Winter 2013

Dear Reader,

Selected Letters of William Styron

Book Signing Event
Rose Styron & Blakeslee Gilpin
February 11th
With 2012 in rear view, we are very thankful for the many writers who came to us and the publishers who sent them to Square Books, as their books tend to dominate our bestseller list; some, like James Meek (The Heart Broke In, #30) and Lawrence Norfolk (John Saturnall’s Feast, #29), from as far as England – perhaps it’s the fascination with Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey (67) or J. K. Rowling’s Casual Vacancy (78). But as Dear Readers know, this list is usually crowded with those who live or have lived here, like Dean Wells’ Every Day by the Sun (22) or (long ago) James Meredith (A Mission From God, (10); William Faulkner’s Selected Stories (43), Ole Miss at Oxford, by Bill Morris (37), Mike Stewart’s Sporting Dogs and Retriever Training (39), John Brandon’s A Million Heavens (24), Airships (94), by Barry Hannah. Dream Cabinet by Ann Fisher-Wirth (87), Beginnings & Endings (85) by Ron Borne, Facing the Music (65) by Larry Brown, Neil White’s In the Sanctuary of Outcasts (35), the King twins’ Y’all Twins? (12), Tom Franklin’s Crooked Letter Crooked Letter (13), The Fall of the House of Zeus (15) by Curtis Wilkie, Julie Cantrell’s Into the Free (16), Ole Miss Daily Devotions (18), and two perennial local favorites Wyatt Waters’ Oxford Sketchbook (36) and Square Table (8), which has been in our top ten ever since it was published; not to forget Sam Haskell and Promises I Made My Mother (6) or John Grisham, secure in the top two spots with The Racketeer and Calico Joe, nor our friend Richard Ford, with his great novel, Canada (5). Ace Atkins got the double play this year in Lullaby (for Robert Parker, 69) and his Lost Ones (14).

Two notable visitors, in Caroline Kennedy with Listening In (4) and former major league manager Tony La Russa and One Last Strike (3) did mighty well at Square Books. First novelists often really get our attention, especially if they’re Jennifer Dubois and The Partial History of Lost Causes (32), Lance Weller and Wilderness (28), J. R. Moehringer with Sutton (27), and Kevin Powers with The Yellow Birds (11). Adam Johnson came in January last year and his novel, The Orphan Master’s Son (18), sold all year long. James Lee Burke is a long time favorite here (Creole Belle, 77), and Baratunde Thurston really impressed us with How to Be Black (64), while Unbroken (58) was on our list for the third year in a row. Jack Hurst came back with another Civil War title, Born To Battle (59) and No Easy Day (53), Jonathan O’Dell’s The Healing (23), Padgett Powell’s You & Me (64), Ben Fountain’s Billy Lynn’s Long Half Time Walk (60), The Cove (30) by Ron Rash, The Good Father (31) by Noah Hawley, John Shelton Reed’s Dixie Bohemia (85), We’re With Nobody (91) by Alan Huffman and Michael Rejebian, and Gillian Flynn’s Gone Girl (51) all found a place among our bestsellers.

Paperbacks in addition to those previously mentioned remain hot, with Turn Right at Machu Picchu (97), Lee Sandlin’s Wicked River (96), Erik Larson’s In The Garden of Beasts (68), William Maxwell’s So Long See You Tomorrow (75), Game of Thrones (73), Jesmyn Ward’s Salvage the Bones (70), Rules of Civility (56) by Amor Towles, Julian Barnes’ Booker winner A Sense of An Ending (57), The Sisters Brothers by Patrick DeWitt (92), Southern Living’s SEC Tailgating Cookbook (26), The Life of Pi (99), and all three 50 Shades titles (7, 16, and 20) had no trouble performing. Tina Fey’s Bossypants (52) was almost as funny as I Could Pee On This (38).

The Delta didn’t come out until nearly December but wound up at #44, like Thomas Jefferson (21) by Jon Meacham, who in the second week of December was our last visiting writer of the year, with the year-end and long-awaited reissue of Mary Hamilton’s Trials of the Earth (100) are three books we think may have set the tone for the coming year. RH

NOTE ON THE COVER:
Bill Ferris, then the new director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culutre, with William Styron, signing Sophie’s Choice, in 1980 at the original Square Books location upstairs over what is now Square Books, Jr.
February 11
Rose Styron and Blakeslee Gilpin
Selected Letters of William Styron
Off Square Books 5 p.m.

February 13
Margaret Wrinkle Wash
Off Square Books 5 p.m.

February 14
Ben Schrank
Love is A Canoe
Off Square Books 6 p.m. TMR

February 18
Cory Doctorow
Homeland
Square Books, Jr. 5 p.m.
Cory Doctorow is coming to Oxford to sign Homeland (Tor Teen, hd. 17.99), the sequel to his bestseller and award-winner, Little Brother (Tor, 9.99). Not just for teens, science fiction and techno-fiction fans of all ages will love this thriller. Cory Doctorow is a blogger, journalist, co-editor of Boing Boing, a proponent of the Creative Commons organization, and activist in favor of internet and information freedom.

February 28
Jenny Milchman
Cover of Snow
Off Square Books 6 p.m. TMR

March 6
Joshua D. Rothman
Flush Times and Fever Dreams
Off Square Books 5 p.m.

March 7
David Wesley Williams
Long Gone Daddies
Off Square Books 6 p.m. TMR

March 1
Jim Pathfinder Ewing
Conscious Food and Mark Winne
Food Rules, Guerrilla Gardeners, and Smart-Cookin’ Mamas
Off Square Books 4 p.m.

March 20
Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry
Pitchapalooza
Off Square Books 7 p.m.

March 21-23
Oxford Conference for the Book

Oxford Conference for the Book

ALL SQUARE BOOKS LOCATIONS OPEN DAILY

Square Books, Jr.
Mon-Thurs. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.

Square Books
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Off Square Books
Mon-Sat. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.
Ron Rash’s new collection of short stories, set in the Appalachia of today and as far back as the Civil War, *Nothing Gold Can Stay* (Ecco, hd. 24.99), is a priceless collection that will haunt readers long after the book is closed. Rash, the prolific and talented author of short stories, poetry and novels, including last year’s bestseller *The Cove*, has a gift for evoking a place, a people and their harsh and difficult lives and finding the unsentimental beauty there. CFR

Jamie Quatro’s linked short stories in *I Want to Show You More*, the author’s first book, are of lives that are slightly off kilter, the cracks beginning to appear in the calm surfaces concealing turmoil—family, children, death, infidelity, faith. They are scary, and horrifying and quirkily funny. Advance praise from authors like Tom Franklin and Sven Birkerts continues to pour in and Tom Bissell put it best—“Ladies and gentlemen, this is what short fiction is for.” CFR

Is there some sort of energy used by novelists that when not used builds up and when finally sent out in a book is like a dam breaking with torrents of emotion and story so powerful that the reader is helplessly swept away? After reading Jill McCorkle’s first novel in 17 years, *Life After Life* (Ravenel, hd. 24.95) one has to wonder. Set in a retirement home where some have come to die, but there is so much life to live as well. Joanna, who has had her own troubles in life, now volunteers for hospice care, gently guiding those who are leaving this life. Sadie, a retired school teacher and the boddhi satva of the home, is compassionate to all as she wields her scissors and glue to create photos of residents in places all over the world. Rachel Silverman, a lawyer, who, while knowing no one in town, has come to live there from her home in Massachusetts. C.J., rebellious, pierced and tattooed, but trying to be the best mother to her young son that she can. Stanley, faking dementia to encourage his son to move on, and Abby, a young girl seeking the positive reinforcement she can’t get from her mother, all make their place here. A novel to remind one that everyone has a story. CFR

Square Books will host an author reception and signing on Friday and Saturday evenings.

For more conference information: www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com

---

**PITCHAPALOOZA ROCKS MISSISSIPPI!**
March 20th, 7 pm at Off Square Books

The next great American writer might be discovered at Off Square Books when Arielle Eckstut and David Henry Sterry, co-founders of The Book Doctors, a company dedicated to helping authors get their books published, present Pitchapalooza, a kinder, gentler “American Idol” for books. In an event designed for authors to pitch book ideas and get advice about the publishing process, 20 writers will be selected from the audience to give a one-minute book pitch. Judges will help authors improve their pitches and pick a winner who will receive an introduction to an appropriate agent or publisher.

Arielle Eckstut, a literary agent for 18 years, is the author of 7 books and David Henry Sterry is the bestselling author of 13 books. They have appeared everywhere from *The New York Times* to NPR’s Morning Edition to *USA Today*.

Everyone is welcome, but if you want to pitch you must purchase a copy of *The Essential Guide to Getting Your Book Published* (Workman, pb. 15.95). And that’s not all--- anyone who buys a copy will receive a free 20 minute consultation, a $100 value.
The Oxford Conference for the Book, in its 20th year, brings together fiction and nonfiction writers, journalists, poets, publishers, bloggers, teachers, students, and literacy advocates to talk about a range of topics relevant to the written word.

Reading Eddie Huang’s memoir, *Fresh Off the Boat* (Spiegel & Grau, hd. 26.00) is like walking with someone with legs longer than yours—you have to hustle to keep up and still have to do the occasional little sprint. The son of Chinese immigrants, his story of food, family, and culture is colorful, salty, wickedly clever and wildly entertaining.

We can’t wait to meet this guy Friday, March 22 at 6 pm in conversation with John T. Edge at Off Square Books. CFR

The debut novel from short story writer Owen King (son of...), *Double Feature* (Scribner, hd. 26.00), focuses on the trials of ambition and art, of relationships and life, for a young man in the process and aftermath of making his first film. “...as the title might suggest, has both glorious comic sweep and poignant intimacy.”--Sam Lipsyte, *The Ask*

Other authors featured in this year’s conference are:

W. Ralph Eubanks, Michael Knight, Brad Watson, Nic Brown, Robert Griffith, Nicole Cooley, Brian Carpenter, Alex Taylor, Jewell Parker Rhodes, Mary Amato, Alice Randall, Skip Horack, Laura-Gray Street, Juan Carlos Galeano, Forrest Gander, Michael O’Brien, Michael V. Williams, Barbara Matusow, Estill Curtis “Buck” Pennington, Rick Gruber, Judith Bonner, Leila Salisbury, Ben Sandmel.

Essential Mississippi author back in print

Native Mississippian Elizabeth Spencer whose work Walker Percy called “dazzling” is one of our finest writers—and now University Press of Mississippi is bringing back into print several of her books that have been unavailable for too long. Happy day, happy reading.

Signed First Subscription

Each month we will send a first edition signed or personally inscribed book by one of the many outstanding authors who come to Square Books, plus a bonus book at the end of the year. For more information e-mail Slade at books@squarebooks.com
**FICTION**

**TENTH OF DECEMBER: Stories**
*George Saunders*  
(Random House, hd. 26.00)

George Saunders is such a kook. Just when you think he’s writing something that can only be plain silly, you find yourself start to giggle uncontrollably, then suddenly some dark truth or overpowering sympathy seizures you like it’s news in the newspaper, only it’s about someone you know, or worse (or maybe better), about yourself. This is why I love reading his stories, and it’s why Joel Lovell, in an essay for *The New York Times Magazine*, wrote that this new collection of stories is “the best book you’ll read this year,” and that “if you didn’t know that (Saunders) was more or less a genius, you might peg him as the super-friendly host of a woodworking show on daytime public access.” Saunders’ art as a storyteller and writer has only become richer since he came here in 1996 with *CivilWarLand In Bad Decline* and gave an unforgettable reading of “Offloading For Mrs Schwartz.” Unless we sell out at his appearance in January, we still may have signed firsts of *Tenth of December*. RH

**WHAT THE FAMILY NEEDED**
*Steven Amsterdam*  
(Riverhead, hd. 26.95)  
*Release: Mar. 21*

Steven Amsterdam (*Things We Didn’t See Coming*) brings us a unique story of familial perplexities. The characters each discover they possess supernatural powers under moments of great turmoil. From teen angst to matriarchal obligation, their abilities are used to smartly illustrate the pains of a family in crisis and the hardships of putting broken pieces back together. A hero story for real times. KH

**THE RIVER SWIMMER: Novellas**
*Jim Harrison*  
(Grove, hd. 25.00)

A new book from Harrison is always something to be happy about. You know you will be entertained by the inventive stories and the characters who always are heroic in some way, even if just in their menschness, and you will be treated to stunning landscapes, abundant descriptions of flora and fauna (especially birds), food and wine, and many laughs at the rants and snarky comments against the generally bogus nature of modern life as we settle for it today. In the first novella, an aging, discouraged art historian who has shot off his Michigan farm upbringing for academia and the art world must unwillingly return home and is surprised at what he experiences there. The second novella is a little bit of a departure for Harrison--magical, but in a natural way. An Upper Peninsula farm boy, confronted with the adult choices he must make in life, takes refuge in long-distance swimming. He prefers it as a mode of travel, swimming from Muskegon to Chicago or down the Loire--drawn to bodies of water wherever he is, hoping to engage the wondrous, sweet beings he sometimes encounters while submerged. Jim Harrison, one of our greatest, has given us oh, about a bazillion books over many years, and we always want more. We look forward to whatever he has up his big old wizard’s sleeve next. LH

**TRUTH IN ADVERTISING**
*John Kenney*  
(Touchstone, hd. 24.99)

Truth in Advertising is exactly the kind of book to ward off the winter blues. It’s a hilarious send-up of Madison Avenue told in sharp dialogue with wry observations on the state of our society. Fin Dolan is a mess. He’s a mid-level account exec at a moderately successful ad agency, closing in on 40, and has recently called off his wedding. His boss has asked him to delay his long-postponed vacation and work through Christmas to write, edit, and produce a Super bowl commercial for a diaper company. Then he finds out his estranged father is deathly ill and none of his siblings intend to visit. Kenney uses his advertising background to create a portrait of office culture while at the same time crafting a story full of heart and humanity. Fans of Joshua Ferris and Jonathan Tropper take note, John Kenney is a wonderful new voice in contemporary fiction. CM

**THE BURGESS BOYS**
*Elizabeth Strout*  
(Random House, hd. 26.00)  
*Release: Mar. 26*

The brothers Burgess, both New York lawyers (yet so different!), are called to their Maine hometown when their sister is in crisis. How the brothers handle the situation and each other, while struggling with a burden from the past, is an insightful and tender story from Pulitzer Prize-winner Elizabeth Strout (*Olive Kitteridge*). SLM
LONG GONE DADDIES
David Wesley Williams
(John F. Blair, hd. 24.95)
Release: March 5

Join Luther Gaunt and his band mates in this debut novel from Memphis writer David Wesley Williams, as they tear through the haunted South with a hit song on their minds. Called to follow in the footsteps of both his musical father and grandfather by scratching out a living playing one dive at a time, Luther uncovers some dark truths about his family along the way and becomes embroiled with the band’s newest member, the treacherous lady Delia. SL

Author Event: March 7th at 6 pm on Thacker Mountain Radio

FRANCES AND BERNARD
Carlene Bauer
(HMH, hd. 23.00)
Release: Feb. 5

Frances and Bernard is a gem of a novel. The main characters are loosely based on Flannery O’Connor and Robert Lowell, the story told entirely in the form of letters. Not an easy feat but Bauer more than pulls it off. Frances and Bernard meet in the late 1950’s at a writer’s colony, and though they don’t immediately click, Bernard sends her a letter and so begins an intense relationship that is philosophical, spiritual, and physical. This is a slim volume that packs a punch and you, reader, are in for a treat. CM

A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING
Ruth Ozeki
(Viking, hd. 28.95)
Release: Mar. 12

One can almost feel the undulations of the Pacific Ocean while reading this meditative and mysterious novel sprinkled with mythic and zen wisdom. Nao is a 16-year-old diarist who wishes to tell the story of her great grandmother, more than six times Nao’s age. Amidst an island of debris from a 2011 tsunami, Nao’s writing finds its way into the hands of Ruth, and a connection is made between strangers and time. Ruth Ozeki is familiar to many as the author of My Year of Meats, and her brilliantly inventive new novel has, according to Jane Hamilton, “given us the tried and true, deep and essential pleasure of characters we love and who matter.” RH

JACOB’S FOLLY
Rebecca Miller
(FS&G, hd. 26.00) Release: Mar. 5

A Jewish peddler of “chinquillairie” (knives and metal gadgets) in 18th century France, a Pachogue, Long Island boat builder, his wife and deaf son, a large family of Orthodox Jews with a gorgeous daughter who wants to be an actress, and a host of colorful relatives, friends, enemies, (a cop named Buhot, for instance) neighbors, co-workers, teachers, cats, agents and opportunists are all brilliantly entwined and their stories mostly told by Jacob, the peddler, who is reincarnated as a fly. Naturally, all Jacob must do is sit in order to see what these meticulously drawn characters are up to, but he still retains all the feelings and impulses of humans (most notably lust) and believes that he has power over their behavior. Miller, a novelist and screen writer, pulls this craziness off--the novel is rough, sweet, scary, funny, and somehow plausible, balancing the light fantasy with compelling realism. Extra bonus is the glimpse into the personal and family lives of American Orthodox Jews. LH

LOVE IS A CANOE
Ben Schrank
(Sarah Crichton Books, hd. 26.00)

A novel about the fragility of marriage and the difficulty of repairing the damage when well-intentioned people forget how to be good to each other. “Funny, tender, wholly original...” --Laura Lippman, And When She Was Good

Author Event: A Valentine’s Day event, Feb. 14th at 6 pm on Thacker Mountain Radio

BENEDICTION
Kent Haruf
(Knopf, hd. 25.95) Release: Feb. 26

Like Kent Haruf’s other novels set in Holt, Colorado (Plainsong and Eventide), Benediction is a story of undemonstrative, stoic people. The local hardware store owner is diagnosed with cancer, and as he quietly prepares for the end he reviews his life and realizes that he might have been gentler; his neighbor has her granddaughter come to live with her; and his preacher is ostracized for preaching the gospel as it was written -- all have choices to make that are morally complex. Benediction is as true a rendering of the beauty and sadness of life as one could find in a novel. CFR

Signed Copies
FICTION

FINDING CAMLANN
Sean Pidgeon
(W.W. Norton, hd. 26.95)

The backbone of this novel involves the protagonist’s search for proof of the burial place -- and thus the existence -- of King Arthur. Donald Gladstone is a modern-day archaeologist dubious of Arthur’s legend until he uncovers what may be evidence; suddenly, everyone around Donald is tied up in the search -- his father, who might have additional clues; his ex-wife, a rival Arthurian expert who loves the limelight; an elderly scholar who has spent much of his career on this quest; Julia Llewellyn, a linguist working on a revision of the Oxford English Dictionary who has knowledge that may help Donald, and takes a liking to him as well; Julia’s husband, who has a material interest in the mystery and is an uncertain source of her dissatisfaction; and then there is his family history, and hers, and Donald’s, too. Pidgeon does a marvelous job of balancing tension among these characters and their complex motives throughout the story, which has the momentum of a thriller. RH

THE SILENCE OF BONAVENTURE ARROW
Rita Leganski

Strains of magic and mystery weave throughout this novel set in 1950’s New Orleans. Born mute, Bonaventure Arrow has the gift of listening which helps him navigate the web of secrets that both holds his family together and threatens to tear them apart. CM

VAMPIRES IN THE LEMON GROVE: Stories
Karen Russell

Karen Russell (Swamplandia!) with a new collection of stories that showcases her antic imagination. Signed Copies

THE BRIDGE OVER THE NEROCH: And Other Works
Leonid Tsypkin
(New Directions, pb. 16.95) Release: Feb. 19

Those Russians--crushing your heart while making you laugh! Tsypkin (1926-1982), author of Summer in Baden-Baden, the posthumous masterpiece about Dostoevsky’s stay in Germany, in these newly translated stories writes brilliantly about tragicomic Soviet Russian-Jewish family life. (My favorite is “The Cockroaches”) How Tsypkin was able to laugh at all is a wonder; most of his family died either in the Minsk ghetto at the hands of invading Germans or were murdered by Stalin’s NKVD. Unpublished, twice refused permission to leave the USSR, he was a respected doctor specializing in polio and cancer, and, like other literary physicians-- Chekhov, Guimares Rosa, and Walker Percy--his medical experience allowed him to more closely observe and deeply understand people and thereby more beautifully create his tales and characters. Tsypkin’s style alone is worth checking out--the most wonderfully dynamic run-on sentences ever! Kudos to our friends at New Directions for this important rescue. LH

THE BRIDGE OVER THE NEROCH: And Other Works
Leonid Tsypkin
(New Directions, pb. 16.95) Release: Feb. 19

Those Russians--crushing your heart while making you laugh! Tsypkin (1926-1982), author of Summer in Baden-Baden, the posthumous masterpiece about Dostoevsky’s stay in Germany, in these newly translated stories writes brilliantly about tragicomic Soviet Russian-Jewish family life. (My favorite is “The Cockroaches”) How Tsypkin was able to laugh at all is a wonder; most of his family died either in the Minsk ghetto at the hands of invading Germans or were murdered by Stalin’s NKVD. Unpublished, twice refused permission to leave the USSR, he was a respected doctor specializing in polio and cancer, and, like other literary physicians-- Chekhov, Guimares Rosa, and Walker Percy--his medical experience allowed him to more closely observe and deeply understand people and thereby more beautifully create his tales and characters. Tsypkin’s style alone is worth checking out--the most wonderfully dynamic run-on sentences ever! Kudos to our friends at New Directions for this important rescue. LH

WASH
Margaret Wrinkle
(Atlantic Monthly, hd. 25.00)

A slave hired out as “sire” (like a horse) in 19th-century Tennessee is the subject of the debut novel by documentary filmmaker Margaret Wrinkle. Much more than the abject issue of slavery, Wash is the brooding battle of wills between Wash and his owner, a Revolutionary War veteran, who does at least recognize the irony of his fight for freedom. The power struggle between these proud men, told in meditative and stirring prose, is both the torture and the net that binds them. SLM

PERCIVAL EVERETT BY VIRGIL RUSSELL
Percival Everett
(Graywolf, pb. 15.00)

Percival Everett by Virgil Russell is an exercise on the role of the narrator, and what happens when that voice is constantly changing. It’s also a beautiful and poetic winding river of a story that is a joy to get lost in. AM
**MYSTERY**

**GHOSTMAN**
Roger Hobbs  
(Knopf, hd. 24.95)  
Release: Feb. 12

It’s early in 2013 but I can already tell you that *Ghostman* will be one of my top 10 crime novels of the year. This debut novel is sophisticated and addictive. The protagonist goes by the name of Jack but that’s not his real name. He is an elite criminal, completely off the grid, almost impossible to get in touch with, and taking only the jobs he wants. A former associate summons him to fix a botched casino robbery in Atlantic City that has gone horribly wrong - one of the heist men dead, the other winged and on the run, the shooter a complete mystery, the $1.2 million in freshly printed bills MIA. Oh, yeah, and Jack has only 48 hours before said cash literally explodes. Part Don Winslow with a touch of Quentin Tarantino, Hobbs’ work is wholly original, fiercely intelligent, and a must-read for crime fans. CM

**THE ANDALUCIAN FRIEND**
Alexander Soderberg  
(Crown, hd. 26.00)  
Release: Mar. 12

This Scandinavian thriller features a young widowed nurse who has a quiet life with her son until she becomes crazily entrenched in the European underworld. Spanish drug runners, German gangsters, Russian hit men, Swedish cops, intrigue, high-speed car chases, shoot-outs -- Brad Thor says “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo meets ‘The Sopranos’” -- never a dull moment in this first of an expected trilogy. SLM

**DONNYBROOK**
Frank Bill  
(FS&G, pb. 15.00)  
Release: Mar. 5

Holy hell, Frank Bill’s *Donnybrook* is nothing short of a knock-down, drag-out ass-kickin’. Jarhead Johnny Earl, a desperate man hit by tough times, is the best bare-knuckle fighter in southeastern Kentucky. His ticket to a better life lies in the Donnybrook, a 3-day tournament which features 20 fighters brawling til only one man is standing. When Jarhead robs a store to get his entry fee, he sets in motion a chain of events that will send a nasty cast of characters ranging from meth heads and law officers to brawlers and pimps on a collision course like no other. If you’re not squeamish about violence and like the dark fiction of Donald Ray Pollock or Dan Woodrell, this is a fun, wild ride. CM

**SUSPECT**
Robert Crais  
(Putnam, hd. 27.95)

An LAPD cop and a former military dog, both suffering from PTSD, partner up. Signed Copies

**TRUE CRIME**

**AMERICAN HONOR KILLINGS**
Desire and Rage Among Men  
David McConnell  
(Akashic, pb. 15.95)  
Release: Mar. 5

David McConnell links murder, sex and desire in recounting the killings of gay men in America in a book that Sebastian Junger (*The Perfect Storm*) says is written “with beautiful clarity and power….(on) a topic that all of us think about and few dare to discuss.” Both objective and riveting, this book combines literary narrative and journalistic reportage, relying on prison interviews and case files of some of the most notorious crimes of our era as it delves into the male psyche and blurs the line between violence and arousal. EB

Author Event: April 16th, 5 pm
An unsurprising but happy discovery among the many riches to be found in William Styron’s letters is his correspondence with Willie Morris, his fellow Southern expatriate and dear friend for decades. Styron also had a connection to Oxford, where for *Life* magazine he covered Faulkner’s funeral, eloquently; later came to visit Willie here and speak on campus -- making an inspiring impression on a young law student named John Grisham; had a book signing at Square Books with *Sophie’s Choice*, the first time anyone stood in line to buy a book in Oxford, Mississippi; and appeared at the first Oxford Conference for the Book, when, with George Plimpton, he stood behind the counter at the bookstore in a champagne toast to the *Paris Review*’s 40th birthday before setting out for Plimpton’s fireworks show in, no lie, Paris, Mississippi. The letters begin with those as a college student and novice fiction writer to his father and cover his years in Europe, where he met and married Rose Burgunder; the lives of his books -- the controversial Pulitzer winner, *Confessions of Nat Turner* and best selling *Darkness Visible*; his many later friendships -- the Kennedys, Mailer, Miller, Warren, Woodward, and Roth, among others; and, all the while, the art and toil of the writing that formed one of the most important literary figures of our time. RH

**CRAPALACHIA**
*A Biography of Place*
Scott McClanahan
(Two Dollar Radio, pb. 16.00)
*Release: Mar. 19*

Reading Scott McClanahan is like having a beer with an old friend. Only it’s that old friend who’s always a little too loud, and whose stories you’re never sure are true. But you love him anyway. You love him for his honesty, his sincerity, and his slightly twisted sense of humor. After just a few of McClanahan’s stories of his coming-of-age in rural West Virginia, it’s hard not to be a fan. AM

**SHE MATTERS**
*A Life in friendships*
Susanna Sonnenberg
(Scribner, hd. 24.00)

BOOK CLUB ALERT-- a natural for women’s group discussions. Sonnenberg spares nothing in her examination of a lifetime of female friendships-sometimes bordering on TMI--describing every attachment, what she needed from that relationship, and how the friendship blossomed or failed. Sonnenberg distills generic lessons about friendship, but also shows how her attachments/detachments shaped who she was and is. Interestingly, she shows that even in the often lonely, besieged years of marriage and children when friendships between women can be lifelines, these relationships can be just as fraught with pettiness and disappointment as any junior high friendship. The TMI and BFF obsession can be a little creepy, but only make this a more intriguing read. LH

**LADY AT THE O.K. CORRAL**
The True Story of Josephine Marcus Earp
Ann Kirschner
(Harper, hd. 27.95)
*Release: Mar. 5*

Who knew that Wyatt Earp, handsome Tombstone bad-ass, had a lovely Jewish wife from New York’s Lower East Side who was a teen-aged runaway, an actress, possibly a prostitute, and looked like a stacked Penelope Cruz? Not me! This book is so much fun, setting the record straight on Earp/Tombstone mythology, taking the reader on a wild, bumpy gallop from San Francisco to Arizona Territory and Alaska boom towns to the back lots of early Hollywood studios. Josephine Earp, for 47 years the common-law wife of Wyatt, spent her fascinating life in seedy desert theatres, rough mining camps, casinos, racetracks, boxing arenas and fancy San Diego hotels. She was a legend all her own--a tough, smart, enterprising woman who liked life on the edge and on her terms in a time when women’s choices were severely limited. 8 pages of photos! LH

**Are you a Speed Reader?**
Sign up for our weekly e-mail of events at www.squarebooks.com
**HISTORY**

**THE FUTURE**
Six Drivers of Global Change
Al Gore
(Random House, hd. 30.00)

With the same passion he brought to *An Inconvenient Truth*, former vice president and bestselling author Al Gore identifies the emerging forces that are reshaping our world and offers a hopeful forecast.

**Signed Copies**

**THE GREAT PEARL HEIST**
London’s Greatest Thief and Scotland Yard’s Hunt for the World’s Most Valuable Necklace
Molly Caldwell Crosby
(Berkley, hd. 25.95)

Memphian Molly Caldwell Crosby (*The American Plague, Asleep*) once again brings forgotten history to life in an account of crime and deduction in the early days of the twentieth century.

**Signed Copies**

**FALL OF THE HOUSE OF DIXIE**
The Civil War and the Social Revolution That Transformed the South
Bruce C. Levine
(Random House, hd. 30.00)

A sweeping account of the destruction of the old South during the Civil War, offering a fresh perspective on the most colossal struggle in our history and the new world it brought into being.

**SCIENCE & NATURE**

**NAKED STATISTICS**
Stripping the Dread from the Data
Charles Wheelan
(Norton, hd. 26.95)

A lifesaver for those who slept through Stats 101. Wheelan (*Naked Economics*) strips away the technical details and brings a formerly unglamorous discipline to life.

**ANIMAL WISE**
The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures
Virginia Morell
(Crown, hd. 26.00)
Release: Feb. 26

An odyssey into the inner world of animals, teaching us that earthworms make decisions, rats love to be tickled, crows improvise tools, blue jays plan ahead, and moths remember living as caterpillars.

**THE DRUNKEN BOTANIST**
The Plants That Create the World’s Great Drinks
Amy Stewart
(Algonquin, hd. 19.95)
Release: Mar. 19

Amy Stewart (*Wicked Bugs*) uncovers the enlightening botanical history and the science and chemistry of over 150 plants, flowers, trees, and fruits, proving that every great drink starts with a plant.

**HOW TO RUN A COUNTRY**
An Ancient Guide for Modern Leaders
Marcus Tullius Cicero
(Princeton Univ. Press, hd. 12.95)

Cicero’s thoughts on leadership, corruption, the balance of power, taxes, war, immigration, and the importance of compromise, writings as instructive today as when they were first written.

**A PALETTE OF PARTICLES**
Jeremy Bernstein
(Harvard Univ. Press, hd. 18.95)
Release: Mar. 3

Bringing particle physics to life, Jeremy Bernstein draws readers into the excitement of a universe where 80 percent of all matter has never been identified.
**SPORTS**

**EARN THE RIGHT TO WIN**  
*How Success in Any Field Starts with Superior Preparation*  
Tom Coughlin  
(Portfolio, hd. 25.95)  
Release: Mar. 5

NFL veteran Tom Coughlin’s philosophies on mental preparation, smart decision making and toughness in the face of adversity.

**SUM IT UP**  
*A Thousand and Ninety-Eight Victories, a Couple of Irrelevant Losses, and a Life in Perspective*  
Pat Head Summitt  
(Crown Archetype, hd. 28.00)  
Release: Mar. 5

The all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history tells her story of victory and resilience, and of her greatest challenge.

**THE GHOST RUNNER**  
*The Epic Journey of the Man They Couldn’t Stop*  
Bill Jones  
(Pegasus, hd. 26.95)  
Release: Mar. 13

Barred from competing, British runner John Tarrant (1932-75) ran anyway and became one of the world’s greatest long-distance runners.

**SEVEN DEADLY SINS**  
*My Pursuit of Lance Armstrong*  
David Walsh  
(Atria, hd. 27.00)

Sportswriter David Walsh’s account of his 12-year quest to uncover the truth about Lance Armstrong’s performance-enhancing drug use. Get the facts behind the headlines!

**TALES DESIGNED TO THRIZZLE**  
*Volume 2*  
Michael Kupperman  
(Fantagraphics, hd. 24.99)  
Release: Feb. 16

Surreal slapstick and crazy non sequitur goofiness from the pages of Michael Kupperman’s comic book series.

**T-REX TRYING**  
Hugh Murphy  
(Plume Books, hd. 13.00)  
Release: Feb. 5

The stubby-armed tyrant depicted in a range of hilarious activities that we humans take for granted. Poor T-Rex.

**JUNGLELAND**  
*A Mysterious Lost City, a WWII Spy, and a True Story of Deadly Adventure*  
Christopher Stewart  
(Harper, hd. 27.99)

When Wall Street Journal editor Chris Stewart came across the story of Theodore Morde, an American explorer and WWII spy who claimed to have discovered the White City in the Mosquito Coast area of Honduras, and as he delved further into his research, he was spurred on to retrace Morde’s 1939 expedition. He enlisted an archaeologist guide and set out for Honduras (which happened to be in the middle of a military coup) -- what follows is an incredible tale as Stewart writes of his own trek and then recounts Morde’s. Perfect armchair adventure/travel lit that will leave you hungry for more. CM

**HUMOR**

**TALES DESIGNED TO THRIZZLE**  
*Volume 2*  
Michael Kupperman  
(Fantagraphics, hd. 24.99)  
Release: Feb. 16

Surreal slapstick and crazy non sequitur goofiness from the pages of Michael Kupperman’s comic book series.

**VISITANTS**  
Dave Eggers  
(McSweeney’s, hd. 26.00)  
Release: Mar. 12

Spanning his career, here are Dave Eggers’ lighthearted and caterwauling adventures, shot through with a sense of danger as well as constant wrestling with complex issues of equity and power.

More books on travel, cooking, gardening, health, art, photography at Off Square Books
**THE LEE BROTHERS**
**CHARLESTON KITCHEN**
Matt & Ted Lee
(Clarkson Potter, hd. 35.00)
Release: Feb. 26

“...Matt and Ted’s new book is a back gate passkey to life on America’s most storied peninsula, where mulberry trees sag with fruit, waters course with roe-engorged shad, and cook pots bob with greens and neck bones.”
--John T. Edge, Southern Foodways Alliance

**TYLER FLORENCE: Fresh**
Tyler Florence
(Clarkson Potter, hd. 35.00)

Food Network star Tyler Florence shows off his bold side with a celebration of fresh everyday foods prepared in innovative ways.

**NIGELLISSIMA**
**Easy Italian-Inspired Recipes**
Nigella Lawson
(Clarkson Potter, hd. 35.00)
Release: Feb. 12

Nigella brings the spirit of Italy into your kitchen with 120 recipes that are quick and easy yet elevate weeknight meals into no-fuss feasts.

**MR. WILKINSON’S VEGETABLES**
**A Cookbook to Celebrate the Garden**
Matt Wilkinson
(Black Dog & Leventhal, hd. 27.95)
Release: Feb. 20

“Matt Wilkinson takes vegetables to a whole new level with his recipes that are simple, yet intricate at the same time.”
--David Chang, chef/founder of Momofuku

**THE GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA**
**One Hundred Years of a Growing Legacy**
William Seale
(Smithsonian, hd. 25.95)
Release: Mar. 5

A centennial celebration of strong women who nurtured the country, helped spread the good word of gardening, and continue to plant seeds of awareness.

**Author Event**
**March 20th at 5 pm**
**JAMES FARMER**

James Farmer, author of *A Time to Plant* (40.00), *Porch Living* (30.00), *A Wreath for All Seasons* (24.99), and *Sip and Savor* (19.99) (Gibbs Smith) weaves the bounty from the landscape, cutting gardens, fruit trees and farmers markets to enrich the home and table.
POLAR BEAR MORNING
by Lauren Thompson, illus. by Stephen Savage
(Scholastic, hd. 16.99)

Little bear cub (Polar Bear Night) ventures out of the den.

TIME-OUT FOR SOPHIE
by Rosemary Wells
(Viking, hd. 15.99)

Sophie tries to be a good mouse, but she can’t resist testing the limits.

DREAM FRIENDS
by You Byun
(Nancy Paulsen, hd. 16.99)
Release: Feb. 21

Melody’s dream friend inspires her to make friends in the real world.

OTIS AND THE PUPPY
by Loren Long
(Philomel, hd. 17.99)
Release: Mar. 12

Otis the friendly tractor must face his fear to help a friend. Signed Copies

LOIS EHLERT’S GROWING GARDEN GIFT SET
Lois Ehlert
(HMH, hd. 14.99)
Release: Mar. 5

A healthy dose of information on growing and nurturing living things. Boxed set of three hardcover books.

KATIE AND THE PUPPY NEXT DOOR
by John Himmelman
(Henry Holt, hd. 16.99)
Release: Mar. 19

“Arooooooo-ing” Katie learned self control in Katie Loves the Kittens, but now she has a sharing problem -- seems dog-next-door Ruby loves Katie’s munchies, rubber bone, and the kittens. LP

An emphatic but misplaced exclamation point learns that being different can be exciting! Period.

BETTY BUNNY DIDN’T DO IT
by Michael Kaplan, illus. by Stephane Jorisch
(Dial Bks, hd. 16.99) Release: Feb. 21

Betty Bunny continues to be a handful in this third Betty Bunny book about truthfulness. If you know a very verbal and prevaricating child who says “the tooth fairy made me do it” (and you know who you are) then this book is for you. LP

THE VERY FAIRY PRINCESS FOLLOWS HER HEART
by Julie Andrews & Emma Walton Hamilton, illus. by Christine Davenier
(Little Brown, hd. 16.99)

Gerry gets to school without her valentines, so she must find another way to tell her classmates how they sparkle.
**YOUNG AUTHORS FAIR**

Each year, Square Books, the Lafayette County Literacy Council, and the Oxford Junior Auxiliary bring authors to speak to local 5th & 9th graders during the Oxford Conference for the Book.

5th Grade: **NINTH WARD**
by Jewell Parker Rhodes
(Little Brown, pb. 6.99)

A Hurricane Katrina story of family and resilience.

9th Grade: **GUITAR NOTES**
by Mary Amato
(EgmontUSA, hd. 16.99)

A friendship develops through the power of music.

A Hurricane Katrina story of family and resilience. A friendship develops through the power of music.

**BOOK SIGNING EVENT**
Friday, March 23rd at Square Books, Jr.

**MIDDLE GRADES**

**A TANGLE OF KNOTS**
by Lisa Graff
(Philomel, hd. 16.99)

In a slightly magical world 11-year-old Cady is an orphan with a talent for cake baking.

**THE TERRIBLE THING THAT HAPPENED TO BARNABY BROCKET**
by John Boyne,
illus. by Oliver Jeffers
(Knopf, hd. 16.99)

A floating boy finds himself on a journey that takes him all over the world.

**HOKEY POKEY**
by Jerry Spinelli
(Knopf, hd. 15.99)

Hokey Pokey is a place and a time when childhood is at its best, but change is coming for Jack, a Big Kid.

**NAVIGATING EARLY**
by Clare Vanderpool
(Delacorte, hd. 16.99)

A 1940’s Odyssey-like story of two boarding school boys who embark on a quest on the Appalachian Trail.

**TEENS**

**GOING VINTAGE**
by Lindsey Leavitt
(Bloomsbury, hd. 16.99)
Release: Mar. 26

Mallory takes on her grandmother’s 1960’s teen list of goals in a story filled with heartfelt family moments, a smidgen of romance, and LOL humor. JB

**ORLEANS**
by Sherri L. Smith
(Putnam, hd. 17.99) Release: Mar. 7

Orleans, an epic novel that takes place in the New Orleans of the future, follows a girl as she fights to save an infant’s fate from becoming the same as her own. JB

**STRANDS OF BRONZE AND GOLD**
by Jane Nickerson
(Knopf, hd. 16.99)
Release: Mar. 12

Strands of mystery, romance and suspense are woven together in this retelling of “Bluebeard,” which opens the imagination to a fairy tale world where the villains are not always bad and the heroes are not always good. JB

**SCARLET: Lunar Chronicles #2**
by Marissa Meyer
(Feiwel & Friends, hd. 17.99)
Release: Feb. 5

The fast-paced sequel to Cinder will keep you on the edge of your seat with a futuristic version of a Grimms Brothers classic. Androids, cyborgs and all of the fairy tale characters you know and love. Oh my! JB
Author Event: Feb. 14th
I’m always aware of writing around things I can’t do, and I’ve come to think that that’s actually what ‘style’ is -- an avoidance of your deficiencies.

- George Saunders

order online at www.squarebooks.com, call 1-800-648-4001, or email books@squarebooks.com