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 2014

The BTC Old-Fashioned Grocery Cookbook

March 18th
2013 was a banner year for Square Books, due largely to the many books by writers connected to Oxford. Our top ten bestselling authors all signed books for us, only three of whom are not connected to Oxford – Pat Conroy and The Death of Santini (10), George Saunders’ Tenth of December (7), and David Sedaris’ Let’s Explore Diabetes with Owls (8) – although all three of those writers have appeared here in past years, too.

Cookbooks and other lifestyle categories were hot: perennial seller Square Table (11); Are You Ready? (13) from the Ole Miss Department of Nutrition & Hospitality Management; Treme: the Cookbook (64); An Italian Palate, by Robert St. John and Wyatt Waters (14); Garden & Gun’s Southerner’s Handbook (12); Southern Living’s Tailgating Handbook (18); and at #2, John Currence hit a home run in his first at bat in a big, bad way with Pickles, Pigs & Whiskey.

Other Oxford and Mississippi writers dominated our list, some with more than one book: Ace Atkins (42, 90); William Faulkner, of course, Selected Short Stories (31, + 3 other titles); the King twins (52 + 71); John Grisham, with Sycamore Row at #3 (+ 5 and 99); Julie Cantrell (66 + 95); Jesmyn Ward (74 + 83); Curtis Wilkie (27); Donna Tatt (24); Michael Henry (77); Ann Fisher-Wirth (98); Sam Haskell (9); William Winter’s biography (45); Michael Farris Smith’s debut, Rivers (63); Steve Yarbrough (64); Neil White (34); and Bill Ferris (40). Tom Franklin’s Crooked Letter Crooked Letter (33) was bested by his collaborative novel with Beth Ann Fennelly, The Tilted World (5).

Old friends returned to Square Books with new books in 2013, and many made our year-end top 100 list – Jonny Miles and his brilliant novel, Want Not (23); Bob Shacochis (91); Jill McCorkle (19); Nell Dickerson and Porch Dogs (62); Lisa Patton (70); Clyde Edgerton (79); Molly Crosby (97); Jeff Shaara (35); Ann Patchett and This is the Story of a Happy Marriage (26); Jayne Anne Phillips and Quiet Dell (28); Daniel Woodrell with The Maid’s Version (20); and Philipp Meyer with his Western epic, The Son (16).

Staff picks often find their way up the list, like Rules of Civility (55), Mary Hamilton’s Trials of the Earth (60), Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn (61), Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card (73) and William Maxwell’s So Long, See You Tomorrow (54). Humor has its appeal, in Julia Reed’s But Mama Always Put Vodka in Her Sangria (29); How Not to be a Dick (50); Roll Me Up and Smoke Me When I Die by Willie Nelson (46); Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Little Golden Book (32); and I Judge You When You Use Poor Grammar (65).

Congratulations to John Hailman, whose From Midnight to Guntown continues to find readers (6) and to Robert Khayat, who, upon retiring as University of Mississippi Chancellor, sat right down and wrote his memoir, The Education of a Lifetime, our number 1 book of the year – and to Neil White, his publisher at Nautilus.

New to Square Books this year were some huge favorites – The Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra (67); Jamie Quatro and I Want to Show You More (25); Kristopher Jansma and The Unchangeable Spots of Leopards (30); Damien Echols, off death row with his memoir, Life After Death (58); Ree Drummond, whose The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays (67) + 2 other books, made our list; a memorable visit from Gail Godwin with Flora (22); Bill Cheng and Southern Cross the Dog (17), and Anton DiSclafani and The Yonahlossee Riding Camp for Girls (15).

Our heartfelt thanks go to these authors, the many publishers who helped them make it here, and to Square Books friends from near and far – for giving us our best year ever.
BOOK SIGNING EVENTS

January 27
Deborah Johnson
The Secret of Magic
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 5
James Magnuson
Famous Writers I Have Known
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 18
Alexe Van Beuren
The B.T.C. Old Fashioned Grocery Cookbook
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

January 29
Mary Miller
The Last Days of California
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 10
Paul Canonici
Delta Italians Vol. II
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 19
Ben McClelland
Lifesaving Labrador
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

January 31
Jessica Handler
Braving the Fire
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 18
Wiley Cash
This Dark Road to Mercy
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 20
Bill Cotter
The Parallel Apartments
Off Square Books
6 p.m. *TMR

February 3
Elizabeth Spencer
Starting Over
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 20
Willy Vlautin
The Free
Off Square Books
6 p.m. *TMR

April 2
Randy Pierce
Magnolia Mud
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 4
James Scott
The Kept
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 25
Aram Goudsouzian
Down to the Crossroads
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

April 3
Holly George-Warren
A Man Called Destruction: The Life and Music of Alex Chilton
Off Square Books
6 p.m. *TMR

* Thacker Mountain Radio is broadcast live from Off Square Books on FM 92.1 Thursdays at 6 p.m. and statewide Saturdays at 7 p.m. on Mississippi Public Radio

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.
The Oxford Conference for the Book, in its 21st 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.

**March 26-28, 2014**

**THIRTY GIRLS**
by Susan Minot
(Knopf, hd. $26.95)

This incredible novel is based on the true story of the 1996 abduction of one hundred girls from a convent school in Uganda by the Lord's Resistance Army, a gang that included many conscripted child soldiers. While some of the girls were rescued, thirty were kept--some for years--selected by the LRA for its own horrific purposes. The story is told from the perspectives of one girl, Esther, who, after her eventual escape, struggles to regain life after what she has seen and done, and Jane, a dispirited American journalist who has come to Africa to document the atrocity. Minot intertwines Jane’s time with a colorful band of moneyed white Africans and boho expats, including one with whom she falls in love, with the girls’ nightmarish experiences. Shocking, suspenseful, and somehow lovely, this is a spectacular novel.  

**BARK**
by Lorrie Moore
(Knopf, hd. $24.95)

About Lorrie Moore, writer Jonathan Dee said, “Fifty years from now, it may well turn out that the work of very few American writers have as much to say about what it means to be alive in our time than Lorrie Moore.” These eight terrific stories are further proof. Moore gathers up all the crap of our baby-boomer lives and recycles them into a useful collection that reminds us that it may be that the smallest, seemingly insignificant aspects—songs, oddball acquaintances and events, dogs, bumperstickers, Google—of life are the things that shape it. Bookish, poignant and hilarious, Bark is a guaranteed pleaser.  

**THE KID**
by Ben Bradlee, Jr.
(Little Brown, hd. $35.00)

Ted Williams wanted to be an immortal. He arrived in Boston in 1939, a cocky 20-year-old phenom eager to become, in his words, the “greatest hitter who ever lived.” In The Kid, Ben Bradlee, Jr., draws on numerous untapped sources to take us inside the clubhouse, the batter’s box, and beyond. He reveals new details about Williams’s feelings of shame over his Mexican heritage, his war service, the rages that fueled his brilliance on the field but severely damaged his private life, and the bizarre family drama that played out after Ted’s death, when his body was cryonically preserved. The Kid is the story of a man as big as his myth, the story of an exceptional, tumultuous and epic American life – an immortal life.

**AFTER I’M GONE**
by Laura Lippman
(William Morrow, hd. $26.99)

More than a murder mystery, Laura Lippman’s After I’m Gone explores what it means to be “blinded by love:” the wife whose adoring husband is unfaithful, the mistress who believes he’ll choose her, the daughters who love their father and thus ignore his crimes. Set against the backdrop of a cold case investigation, these characters are so striking that by the end, you won’t want to know which one of them is responsible. There’s no question about it: Laura Lippman is one of the best in the business.  

**KW**
The Oxford Conference for the Book, in its 21st 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.

**BOOK OF HOURS**

*by Kevin Young (Knopf, hd. $26.95)*

A decade after the sudden and tragic loss of the poet’s father, we witness the unfolding of his grief. “In the night I brush / my teeth with a razor,” he tells us, in one of the collection’s piercing two-line poems. Young captures the strange silence of bereavement: “Not the storm / but the calm / that slays me.” But the poet acknowledges, even celebrates, life’s passages, his loss transformed and tempered in a sequence describing the birth of his son: in “Crowning,” he delivers what is surely one of the most powerful birth poems written by a man, describing “her face / full of fire, then groaning your face / out like a flower, blood-bloom, / crocused into air.” Ending this book of birth and grief, the gorgeous title sequence brings acceptance, asking “What good // are wishes if they aren’t / used up?” while understanding “How to listen / to what’s gone.”

**LONG MAN**

*by Amy Greene (Knopf, hd. $25.95)*

From the critically acclaimed author of *Bloodroot*, a gripping, wondrously evocative novel of a family in turmoil, set against the backdrop of a real-life historical event—the story of three days in the summer of 1936, as a government-built dam is about to flood an Appalachian town, and a little girl goes missing. *Long Man* is a searing portrait of a tight-knit community brought together by change and crisis, and of one family facing a terrifying ticking clock.

**THE GIRLS OF ATOMIC CITY**

*by Denise Kiernan (Touchstone, hd. $27.00)*

At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, consuming more electricity than New York City. Thousands of civilians--many of them young women from small towns across the South--were recruited to this secret city, enticed by solid wages and the promise of war-ending work. Kept very much in the dark, few would ever guess the true nature of the tasks they performed each day in the hulking factories in the middle of the Appalachian Mountains. That is, until the end of the war--when Oak Ridge’s secret was revealed. Drawing on the voices of the women who lived it—women who are now in their eighties and nineties--*The Girls of Atomic City* rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of American history from obscurity.

**THE BOOK OF DUELS**

*by Michael Garriga (Milkweed Editions, pb. $18.00)*

A stellar book of flash fiction centered around duels - both historical (Burr v Hamilton) and imagined (an alcoholic v the bottle) - each consisting of opposing accounts from the individual duelists followed by a third account provided by a witness. In addition, the pieces are accompanied by wonderful illustrations from artist Tynan Kerr. The result is an inventive, playful, and darkly comical debut by native Mississippian and former Ole Miss student Garriga. CM

For more conference information: www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com
THE LAST DAYS OF CALIFORNIA
by Mary Miller
(Liveright, hd. $24.95)

Within days of the appearance here of Elizabeth Spencer, the reigning monarch of Mississippi letters, we will see perhaps her heir apparent in the person of native Mississippian Mary Miller, whose debut novel heralds a confident and credible new voice in American fiction. The Last Days of California is a 21st century coming-of-age, cross-country family car trip with an evangelical, enraptured dad, a stoic mom, and bossy big sister. While this doesn’t sound like the sort of family vacation most of us as fly-on-the-wall readers would like to go on, once you get in this particular car, you can’t get out. You don’t want out, because the story and the writing are that fine. Mary Miller is next year’s John and Renee Grisham writer-in-residence. RH

FAMOUS WRITERS I HAVE KNOWN
by James Magnuson
(Norton, hd. $25.95)

The unlikely protagonist and narrator in Famous Writers I Have Known is a petty New York con man who very accidentally finds himself in a position to pick up what seems to be an easy, fat check from a prestigious Texas MFA writing program. The faculty and students there have mistaken him for the very famous reclusive writer who is supposed to be their guest teacher for the semester, and to cash in all he has to do is play it cool, which is not that easy, as “All I knew about universities I’d learned from watching Fred MacMurray in Son Of Flubber.” He further realizes that the program’s emeritus writing character is the old arch rival to his doppelganger, and, as things begin to unravel, that “Really, this whole writing thing was worse than heroin.” A suspenseful send up of the MFA scene, this very well done novel is LOL funny and has a lot of heart. I can’t wait to see the movie, and suggest you read the book now. RH

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SOUTHERN LITERATURE

THE INVENTION OF WINGS
by Sue Monk Kidd
(Viking, hd. $27.95)

In her latest novel, The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd introduces us to two women: Sarah Grimke, the daughter of a wealthy Charleston family, and Handful, the slave Sarah was given on her eleventh birthday. As the two age, each woman finds herself confronted with the violences of slavery and the limitations of prejudice. What results from their struggles is a novel alive with Handful’s spirituality and Sarah’s hard-won passion. I was barely fifty pages in before I knew I would follow these two women through fire. KW

MADAM
by Cari Lynn, Kellie Martin
(Plume Books, pb. $15.00)

I’ve always been a sucker for historical fiction. Especially the books with dirty secrets, fierce women, and a witty voice. Madam without a doubt fits the bill. This book takes you to late 19th century New Orleans, where the ragtime is hot, the voodoo is strong, and the women are dazzling. AM
POWER GREED HUBRIS
by James R. Crockett
(University Press of Mississippi, hd. $40.00)

Author Event: Feb. 19

From 2003 to 2009 sensational judicial bribery scandals rocked Mississippi’s legal system. Famed trial lawyers Paul Minor and Richard (Dickie) Scruggs and renowned judge and former prosecutor Bobby DeLaughter proved to be the nexus of these scandals. Seven attorneys and a former state auditor were alleged to have attempted to bribe or to have actually bribed five state judges to rule in favor of Minor and Scruggs in several lawsuits. This is the story of how federal authorities, following up on information provided by a bank examiner and a judge who could not be bribed, toppled Minor, Scruggs, and their enablers in what was exposed as the most significant legal scandal of twenty-first-century Mississippi.

THE SECRET OF MAGIC
by Deborah Johnson
(Amy Einhorn, hd. $26.95)

Through a careful blend of mystery and magic, Mississippi author Deborah Johnson’s new book tells the story of reaction to a hate crime in the rural South. A decorated black soldier is murdered on the last leg of his trip home from World War II to Mississippi, sparking an investigation involving both his small-town community and the NAACP under Thurgood Marshall. When Marshall’s assistant, Regina, takes a personal interest in the case, she makes her way to the Deep South to try and make sense of the crime. From there, the novel becomes incredibly fast-paced. You won’t be able to stop until you’ve figured out all of the connections and secrets, and all the different meanings of magic. MML

THIS DARK ROAD TO MERCY
by Wiley Cash
(William Morrow, hd. $25.99)

Author Event: Feb. 18

When their mother dies unexpectedly, twelve-year-old Easter Quillby and her six-year-old sister, Ruby, are shuffled into the foster care system in a little town not far from the Appalachian Mountains. But just as they settle into their new life, their errant father, Wade, an ex-minor league baseball player whom they haven’t seen in years, suddenly reappears and steals them away in the middle of the night.

Brady Weller, the girls’ court-appointed guardian, begins looking for Wade, and quickly turns up unsettling information linking him to a multimillion-dollar robbery. But Brady isn’t the only one hunting him. Also on the trail is Robert Pruitt, a mercurial man nursing a years-old vendetta, a man determined to find Wade and claim what he believes he is owed.

THE HEAVEN OF ANIMALS
by David James Poissant
(Simon & Schuster, hd. $24.00)

This is a brilliant debut story collection full of heart that will leave you wanting more. Poissant is a talented young writer who demonstrates the empathy of Richard Ford combined with the rough South of Harry Crews and the quirkiness of Kevin Wilson. But perhaps Karen Russell said it best when she wrote in support of the book: “In these pages you’ll find charming reprobates and self-deluded hustlers, young lovers, alligators and dead dogs, fathers and sons, all the warped love of family, the batshit hilarity of the South and the ‘geometry’ of loss.” Highly recommended. CM

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Worried about parking on the Square? WE DELIVER!
THE FREE
by Willy Vlautin
(Harper, pb. $14.99)

There may not be another writer whose new work I look forward to more than Willy Vlautin. With just three novels under his belt, he’s managed to create an oeuvre that reflects the reality of the down and out working class in modern America. The Free is his best book yet. The plights of the three main characters intertwine as each struggles to overcome hardship and create a better life despite the odds being stacked against them. Full of heartbreak yet somehow ultimately uplifting, Vlautin once again demonstrates the power and beauty to be found in our own humanity. CM

THE SECRET OF RAVEN POINT
by Jennifer Vanderbes
(Scribner, hd. $26.00)

In addition to Thomas Keneally’s recent and wonderful novel with a Downton-ish touch, The Daughters of Mars, about an Australian nursing corps in Europe in The Great War (Keneally wrote Schindler’s List, among many others) we have The Secret of Raven Point: a compelling novel about a young American woman who volunteers to serve as a nurse in The War to End All Wars in order to find her brother, a soldier who has disappeared at the Italian front. The novel is colorful and haunting, capturing the camaraderie that exists between nurses and between soldiers as they all struggle together in the hell of war. Attention nurses, and anyone who likes good war stories -- you will want to read both books. LH

ON SUCH A FULL SEA
by Chang-Rae Lee
(Riverhead Books, hd. $27.95)

Lee has written a cautionary fable that takes Fan, a young woman living in serfdom, on a quest through a dystopic future America full of human sacrifice, class systems, and heart-thumping adventure, all in search of a disappeared lover.

SHOTGUN LOVESONGS
by Nickolas Butler
(Thomas Dunne, hd. $25.99)

A tale of landscape and community, four friends, three of whom took off to make it big in the world, return to their hometown as new husbands and fathers in their early thirties trying to figure it all out.

THE GOOD LUCK OF RIGHT NOW
by Matthew Quick
(Harper, hd. $25.99)

Matthew Quick, the bestselling author of The Silver Linings Playbook, offers a new novel about dealing with loss, change, and realizing that good can always be found in a bad situation. When Bartholomew’s mother dies and he finds himself alone in the world, only the help of an ex-priest, a girl librarian, her cat-obsessed brother, and Richard Gere(!) can help him find his way again. AP

THE EXILES RETURN
by Elisabeth de Waal
(Picador, hd. $26.00)

Written in the 1950’s but not published until now, this autobiographical novel by the grandmother of Edmund de Waal (The Hare with Amber Eyes) relates the experiences of several exiles returning to a shattered Vienna after WWII.

RADIANCE OF TOMORROW
by Ishmael Beah
(Sarah Crichton Books, hd. $25.00)

From the author of the bestselling memoir A Long Way Home, the story of two friends returning to their hometown in Sierra Leone after the civil war.

QUIET STREETS OF WINSLOW
by Judy Troy
(Counterpoint, hd. $25.00)

Judy Troy offers a murder mystery infused with interwoven love stories and unforgettable voices, a masterful return for this wonderful writer.
PIONEER GIRL
by Bich Minh Nguyen
(Viking, hd. $26.95)

Lee Lien has grown up in a refugee family from Vietnam that came to suburban Chicago to make a new life with their noodle shop. Lee has a PhD in English that her hilariously prickly mother thinks is a waste, since Lee has no job and has lost her apartment. Becoming obsessed with an unusual gold pin once left in her grandfather’s café in Saigon by an American war correspondent, Lee is convinced it belonged to Rose Wilder Lane, daughter of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Lee embarks on a trip that takes her to archives and Little House sites to solve the mystery. What she discovers is fascinating and so fun. This is a brilliant neo-pioneer story with great characters: a rebel-punk brother and Ong Hai, the wise, Corona-drinking grandfather. LH

THE KEPT
by James Scott
(Harper, hd. $25.99)

If you are a fan of creepy, country-noir fiction, you will love this book. In upstate New York in 1897, a woman who works as a midwife returns to her isolated home to discover her family viciously slaughtered. One child, Caleb, has survived by hiding, but accidentally shoots his mother and must nurse her back to health. The two then set off into the brutal winter countryside in search of the family’s killers. More violence ensues and secrets are revealed in a grim but beautiful narrative. LH

DON’T START ME TALKIN
by Tom Williams
(Curbside Splendor, pb. $15.95)

Don’t Start Me Talkin’ is a comedic road novel about Brother Ben, the only remaining True Delta Bluesman, playing his final North American tour. Set in contemporary society, Brother Ben’s protégé Peter narrates an episodic ‘last ride,’ laying bare America’s complicated relationship with African American identity, music, and culture and like his hero Sonny Boy Williamson once sang, Peter promises “I’ll tell everything I know.”

ONE MORE THING: Stories and Other Stories
by B. J. Novak
(Knopf, hd. $24.95)

B. J. Novak is best known as an actor on the hit comedy TV series, The Office, but let me tell you something - he can write. His debut fiction collection is filled with short (often very short) set pieces that are original, hilarious, tender, and surprising. Titles such as “No One Goes to Heaven to See Dan Fogelberg”, “Wikipedia Brown and the Case of the Missing Bicycle”, and “The Something by John Grisham” (worth the price of admission alone) give you some idea of the fun in store. CM

REDEPLOYMENT
by Phil Klay
(Penguin, hd. $26.95)

Phil Klay takes his audience to Iraq and back again in this book of short stories reminiscent of Generation Kill. Redeployment is about just that, taking the audience back to the sands of Iraq as he shows Marines at their most vulnerable, ranging from the only survivor of an IED trying to connect with an actress trying to understand him, to a man who has to teach Iraqi children to play baseball to appease his superiors. AP

AN UNNECESSARY WOMAN
by Rabih Alameddine
(Grove Press, hd. $25.00)

Jump into the rich interior life of 72-year old Aaliya Sobhi, who spends her time translating her favorite books into Arabic and reminiscing over her own life and the chaotic life of her once lovely, now devastated Beirut, past and present.

VISIBLE CITY
by Tova Mirvis
(HMH, hd. $24.00)

With her son’s Fisher-Price binoculars, Nina fills her days spying on the elderly couple in the apartment across the way. Surprised to see the couple’s guests, a youthful man and woman, in a heated embrace, fate steps in and the strangers’ lives collide. This is a story of desire, jealousy and dark temptation.
AN OFFICER AND A SPY
by Robert Harris
(Knopf, hd. $27.95)

Paris, 1865 -- Colonel Georges Picquart witnesses the conviction of a young Jewish officer, Alfred Dreyfus, of treason. Soon after, information arises that suggests there is still a spy among the French military, calling into question everything Picquart thought he believed about his country, and himself. Harris’ historical fiction brings to life the scandal, known as the Dreyfus Affair, that mesmerized the world at the turn of the twentieth century.

MISSING YOU
by Harlan Coben
(Dutton, hd. $27.95)

Eighteen years have passed since NYPD Detective Kat Donovan has seen the man smiling at her from the online dating profile, her ex-fiancé. Reaching out to him with hope, Kat is soon submerged into a dark terror of suspicion, conspiracy, and murder.

RIPPER
Isabel Allende
(Harper, hd. $28.99)

Isabel Allende (who, by the way, has sold nearly 60 million of her books worldwide) creates a new genre with Ripper: part murder mystery, part coming-of-age novel. As a string of psychically predicted murders happen across San Francisco, a teenage loner named Amanda sets off to solve the case. With the help of her few (and bizarre) friends, her grandfather, her spiritualist healer mother, and her actual-detective father, Amanda ends up in a world of crime way over her head, especially when her mother goes missing. It’s almost impossible to put this book down once you’ve dug into it. Allende relies on no archetypes; her characters are fresh and unforgettable. They will stick with you long after the last chapter, or, in some cases, long after they meet their gruesome ends. MML

A CIRCLE OF WIVES
by Alice LaPlante
(Atlantic Monthly Press, hd. $25.00)

At the funeral of John Taylor, three women attend, each claiming to be his wife. When suspicion arises that his death may not have been an accident, each woman faces an even greater mystery. Strong story telling from multiple points of view makes LaPlante’s new novel hard to put down. AM

MAGNOLIA MUD
by Randy Pierce
(Dogwood Press, hd. $24.95)

A fictional governor’s race taking place in Mississippi taps not only into our judicial system, but statewide politics as well. Loaded with humor, tragedy, and characters that get under your skin and stay there.

SAVAGE HARVEST
by Carl Hoffman
(William Morrow, hd. $26.99)

Odd that there are two new books out that have a connection to one of America’s most intriguing families, the Rockefellers. Hoffman’s book is about a Rockefeller believed to have been eaten by cannibals, while Kirn’s is about a Rockefeller impostor whom he calls “a cannibal of souls.” In Savage Harvest, the author goes to New Guinea to uncover the truth about the 1961 disappearance of then-governor Nelson Rockefeller’s son. He embeds himself in the Asmat tribe, among men who were possibly involved in the tragedy, and he reviews documents and interviews people from a variety of sources including Dutch officials, anthropologists and art collectors, and ex-pat sea captains. In Blood Will Out, Kirn recounts his friendship with “Clark Rockefeller” who he first met when delivering a crippled hunting dog to him, and how their relationship devolved when “Clark” was finally exposed as a fraud, serial impostor, and murderer. Kirn deepens the tale by revealing his own personal failures quite nakedly. Both are wonderfully hair-raising, wild, true stories that are, as we say, stranger than fiction. LH
**NONFICTION**

**THE PROBLEM OF SLAVERY IN THE AGE OF EMANCIPATION**
by David Brion Davis
(Knopf, hd. $30.00)

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, the long-awaited conclusion of the three-volume history of slavery and emancipation in Western culture that has been nearly fifty years in the making -- a landmark book.

**DOWN TO THE CROSSROADS**
by Aram Goudsouzian
(FSG, hd. $30.00)

Author Event: Feb. 25

After civil rights leader James Meredith was shot and injured while marching from Memphis to Jackson, his contemporaries flocked to Mississippi to take up his torch, resulting in a three-week demonstration that became one of the central dramas of the civil rights era.

**ASTORIA**
by Peter Stark
(Ecco, hd. $27.99)

Stark drew on papers housed at the Harvard Business School to reconstruct the 1810 Astoria Expedition, which sought to create the equivalent of a Jamestown settlement on the Pacific Coast. It is a true adventure tale of unforgettable characters, clashes of culture, ambition, and physical hardships from starvation to Indian attacks to cruel weather.

**RUSSIANS:**
The People Behind the Power
by Gregory Feifer
(Twelve, hd. $28.00)

Russia is an enigmatic place that has undergone momentous changes but here we are, afraid of it again. Feifer explicates the New Russia in the way that Hedrick Smith’s bestselling *The Russians* did the Soviet Union in 1976. Over eight years he interviewed many ordinary Russians, showing how little their lives have progressed, the corruption at all levels of life, and how so few have control of immense fortunes and power at the expense of a beaten-down population. He discusses the Russia that has given the world great literature, music, and dance, but also describes rampant alcoholism and militant religion. A fascinating, lively book. LH

**FIVE CAME BACK**
by Mark Harris
(Penguin, hd. $29.95)

Suffering an uneasy relationship with Washington and plagued by accusations of un-American attitudes before World War II, Hollywood rallied when the fighting broke out. Harris takes a look at five outstanding directors who fought the only way they knew how -- by making great movies.

**THE HEATHEN SCHOOL**
by John Demos
(Knopf, hd. $30.00)

The Heathen School was an 1820s Connecticut effort to Christianize and civilize “heathen” youth from all parts of the world, especially the native nations of North America. When two male Cherokees marry two local town girls, the school descends into bitter controversy exposing racial bigotry and the limits of tolerance that sets off a chain of events that will tragically culminate in the Trail of Tears.

**THE STORY OF THE JEWS**
by Simon Schama
(Ecco, hd. $39.99)

Acclaimed historian Schama’s wide-ranging history (the first of two projected volumes) covers early Judaism from 1000BC-1492AD.

**OPERATION PAPERCLIP**
by Annie Jacobsen
(Little Brown, hd. $30.00)

After the fall of the Third Reich, American officials faced a dilemma: risk public relations nightmares and hire Nazi scientists (including some accused of heinous war crimes) to exploit their knowledge, or risk national security by allowing the Russians to hire these same scientists for the same reasons. In this new book, Annie Jacobsen details the back-door deals that brought some of the most notorious Nazi ideologues to America with military contracts in hand. AD
**THE WISDOM OF THE MYTHS**  
by Luc Ferry  
(Harper pb. $15.99)

*The Wisdom of the Myths* combines a captivating retelling of the classic myths with profound and relatable understanding of how to interpret them. Ferry’s book will give you an in-depth refresher on the classic myths. If you are already versed in their stories, you will find powerful insight into how they are relevant in a modern world. **AM**

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**PLATO AT THE GOOGLEPLEX**  
by Rebecca Goldstein  
(Pantheon, hd. $29.95)

Goldstein delivers candy to the mind with a sweet tooth by bringing Plato to life in the modern world where he hashes out challenges from Fox News on religion and morality, keeps Freudians and tiger moms from coming to blows, and wonders why crowdsourcing trumps experts. Smart and funny!

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**THE BEST OF MCSWEENEY’S INTERNET TENDENCY**  
by Chris Monks, John Warner  
(McSweeney’s, hd. $20.00)

Back in 1998 when the Internet was wild and free, McSweeney’s Internet Tendency ran all its articles in the same font and within abnormally narrow margins. The Tendency still exists, with quasi-humor writing in the same font within the same abnormally narrow margins. Glued together here are some of the site’s best material.

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**BRAVING THE FIRE**  
by Jessica Handler  
(St. Martin’s Griffin, pb. $15.99)

Signed Copies

Handler guides aspiring writers to write “through” and about grief, structuring her strategy around the Kubler-Ross five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

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**SEVEN FLOWERS**  
by Jennifer Potter  
(Overlook Press, hd. $26.00)

In addition to the power of flowers to speak metaphorically, Potter explores their influence on art, literature and especially the medicinal arts, focusing on the rose, lotus, lily, opium poppy, sunflower, tulip and orchid. In time for planting season!

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**MISTER OWITA’S GUIDE TO GARDENING**  
by Carol Wall  
(Amy Einhorn Books, hd. $25.95)

A true story of a unique friendship between two people who had nothing—and ultimately everything—in common.

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**WOODEN: A Coach’s Life**  
by Seth Davis  
(Times Books, hd. $35.00)

A provocative and revelatory new biography of the legendary UCLA coach John Wooden, by one of America’s top college basketball writers.

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**HIS OWNSELF**  
by Dan Jenkins  
(Doubleday, hd. $26.95)

The colorful, sentimental, funny, affectionate, cantankerous memoir by the most colorful, funny, most cantankerous—and probably the most revered—sportswriter of the last fifty years.
A MAN CALLED DESTRUCTION  
by Holly George-Warren  
(Viking, hd. $27.95)  
Author Event: April. 04 on TMR  
Holly George-Warren has interviewed more than 100 bandmates, friends, and family members to flesh out the man who presided over and influenced four decades of American musical history -- Alex Chilton. The Memphis cult hero is rendered here with new perspective as the author takes us along on the adventures of a true iconoclast.

THE AMAZING JIMMI MAYES  
by Jimmi Mayes  
(Univ. Press of Mississippi, hd. $30.00)  
Mississippian Jimmi Mayes served as a sideman behind some of the greatest musicians in history, including James Brown and Marvin Gaye. Here is his account of music history from the best seat in the house--behind the drum set.

TEENY’S TOUR OF PIE  
by Teeny Lamothe  
(Workman, pb. $15.95)  
Teeny traveled America to work with the country’s best bakers to learn their techniques, tricks, and wisdom. Now she shares the fruits of her apprenticeship and the crumbs and crusts of her crusade. Delicious!

EAT DAT NEW ORLEANS  
by Michael Murphy  
(Countryman Press, hd. $18.95)  
When Mario Batali was asked his favorite food city, he responded, New Orleans, hands down. No city has as many signature dishes, from gumbo and beignets to pralines and po boys, from muffuletta and Oysters Rockefeller to king cake and red beans and rice (every Monday night), all of which draw nearly 9 million hungry tourists to the city each year. Eat Dat New Orleans is a guidebook that celebrates both New Orleans food and its people. It highlights nearly 250 eating spots, sno-cone stands, and food carts as well as famous restaurants, and spins tales of the city’s food lore.

BOURBON  
by Dane Huckelbridge  
(William Morrow, hd. $25.99)  
Signed Copies  
Bourbon is Dane Huckelbridge’s artful and imaginative biography of our most well-liked, and at times controversial, spirit, that is also a witty and entertaining chronicle of the United States itself. Cheers!

THE REAL FOOD COOKBOOK  
by Nina Planck  
(Bloomsbury, hd. $32.00)  
Aptly described by the Washington Post as “a cross between Alice Waters and Martha Stewart,” Planck showcases traditional, real foods--produce, dairy, meat, fish, eggs--through straightforward recipes for the beginner or regular home cook.

DOWN SOUTH  
by Donald Link, Signed Copies  
Paula Disbrowe  
(Clarkson Potter, hd. $35.00)  
Link, New Orleanian, of Couchon, rejoices in the slow-cooked pork barbecue of Memphis, fresh seafood all along the Gulf coast, peas and shell beans from the farmlands in Mississippi and Alabama, Kentucky single barrel bourbon, and other regional standouts in 110 recipes and 100 color photographs. Along the way, he introduces all sorts of characters and places, including pitmaster Nick Pihakis of Jim ‘N Nick’s BBQ, Louisiana goat farmer Bill Ryal, beloved Southern writer Julia Reed, a true Tupelo honey apiary in Florida, and a Texas lamb ranch with a llama named Fritz.
**YOUNG AUTHORS FAIR**

This year, Square Books, the Lafayette County Literacy Council, and the Oxford Junior Auxiliary will bring these great authors to speak to local 1st & 5th graders during the *Oxford Conference for the Book.*

**1st Grade:**
- **THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT**
  by Drew Daywalt
  (Philomel Books, hd. 17.99)

**5th Grade:**
- **POTTERWOOKIEE**
  by Obert Skye
  (Henry Holt, hd. 12.99)

Book signing event Thursday, March 27th
Ophelia’s father is a world renowned sword expert and he takes his daughters to a wintry city to prepare for a major exhibition. Ophelia and her older sister are left to wander around the enormous museum that seems to be ever-changing. One day Ophelia comes to a room with a barred window and inside is a boy her own age in regal, but threadbare clothing who has no name. A magical and inspiring tale of what even the smallest are capable of.

Jane Nickerson, author of “Strands of Bronze and Gold,” available soon in paperback (Ember $9.99) and the former the librarian in Aberdeen, Mississippi, offers another gothic southern novel for teens. Violet Dancey, left to run the family farm while her father fights in the Civil War, which has already claimed the life of her twin brother, discovers a wounded Union soldier in the forest. Someone else has tended to his wounds and it is soon clear that this was not an act of mercy, but a more sinister motive.


The thrilling intergalactic adventures of four kids in space—as told by Chorkle, a hilarious alien!

In a world where animals no longer exist, twelve-year-old Kester Jaynes sometimes feels like he hardly exists either. So when he meets a flock of talking pigeons and a bossy cockroach, Kester thinks he’s finally gone crazy. But the animals have something to say. And they need him. Together they must embark on a great journey. The animals saved Kester Jaynes. But can Kester save the animals?

“The Impossible Knife of Memory” by Laurie Halse Anderson (Viking Juvenile, hd. 18.99)

From the author of “Speak,” a novel about a teen whose father is psychologically wounded in the war and her struggle not to be scarred herself.

The biography of Leon Leyson, the only memoir published by a former Schindler’s List child.

Foster a lifetime love of reading with Junior’s Dozen email junior@squarebooks.com
Whenever my environment had failed to support or nourish me, I had clutched at books...

- Richard Wright
  *Black Boy*

Water Valley is about 20 miles south of Oxford. Home of Casey Jones, it was once a bustling railroad town. Charmed by one of the vacant buildings on Main Street, Alexe Van Beuren thought she would like to open a little old-fashioned produce store with Dixie Grimes original receipts, named B.T.C. (from the Gandhi quote “Be the change you wish to see in the world.”). It since has become a thriving grocery and restaurant that is a gathering place for all of the community.

**EVENT**
MARCH 18 at 5 p.m.

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