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 2015

Ole Miss Grads Hit Grand Slam

Jamie Kornegay - Soil
M.O. Walsh - My Sunshine Away
Alex Taylor - The Marble Orchard
Jacob Rubin - The Poser
2014 was a very good year for Square Books, with many strong new books and writers from near and far bringing you to us. Tasmanian Richard Flanagan and his Booker Prize-winning *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* made # 13 on our list, just behind *Let Me Be Frank with You* (12) by Richard Ford, who was here December 11. Michael Pollan’s memorable appearance served up *Cooked* (37), as did Megan Abbott (*Fever, 93*) and Mary Miller (*The Last Days of California, 16*), both Grisham writers-in-residence; and John Darnielle (*Wolf in White Van, 20*); Paul Finebaum (*My Conference Can Beat Your Conference* 17); Elizabeth Spencer (*Starting Over, 35*); Greg Iles (*Natchez Burning, 3*); Susan Minot (*Thirty Girls, 21*); and Josh Weil (*The Great Glass Sea, 99*),

Writers right here in Oxford contributed significantly: Ben McClelland (*Lifesaving Labradors, 93*); Curtis Wilkie (*Assassins, Eccentrics, Politicians and Other Persons of Interest,*) (10), and *The Fall of the House of Dixie,* 33); Ace Atkins (*The Forsaken, 15*); the King Twins (*Our Josephine* (61); *Inside My Italian Kitchen* by Luisa Arico (63); Tom Franklin, *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* (51) and, with Beth Anne Fennelly, *The Tilted World* (39); Michael Henry, *Finding Ishmael* (78); Larry Brown’s timeless first book, *Facing the Music* (91), Neil White’s *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* (41); *Flying Shoes* by Lisa Howorth (2); and *The Search for Good Wine* by John Hailman (46). Dean Faulkner Wells’ great Oxford memoir, *Every Day by the Sun* (64), shines alongside her famouser uncle – *As I Lay Dying* (44) and *Selected Short Stories* (43) by William Faulkner.

Not that the author has to be from or come here in order for a book to do well – witness *The Boys in the Boat* (90), *How Not to be a Dick* (38), Anthony Doerr’s *All the Light We Cannot See* (50), *Gone Girl* (34), *Killing Patton* (55), and Rebecca Solnit’s book on New Orleans, *The Unfathomable City* (42), *Everything I Need to Know I Learned from a Golden Book* (60), *Wild* (59) *and Unbroken* (56). And there were signed books we got from publishers whose authors did not come here – those by Jan Karon, George Will, George Bush, Hillary Clinton, Donna Tartt, Haruki Murakami, Lena Dunham, and Amy Poehler all found a place among our top sellers, as did *Carsick* by John Waters, who did not come here this year but plans to this March immediately following the Oxford Conference for the Book.

Mississippi writers and others from our region dominate the list: Eudora Welty’s *Delta Wedding* (88); Flannery O’Connor’s *Prayer Journal* (79); Memphian Hampton Sides’ terrific account of a harrowing polar exploration, *In the Kingdom of Ice* (71); Polly Dement’s *Mississippi Entrepreneurs* (85); Maudie Schuyler Clay’s *Delta Dogs* (73); *The Story of Land & Sea* by Jackson’s Katy Simpson Smith (76); 38: *The Chucky Mullins Effect*, by Jody Hill (4); *Orphan Train* by Kristina Baker Kline (68); *Strange Glory*, the biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Charles Marsh (70); and *The Secret of Magic* by Deborah Johnson (22). We have held back revealing No. 1 until now, but you guessed it: *Gray Mountain* by John Grisham, and his *Sycamore Row* (6) was mighty sturdy, too.

*The Painter* by Peter Heller (18), *Charleston* by Margaret Thornton (83), *Famous Writers I Have Known* by James Magnuson (23), *Painted Horses* by Malcolm Brooks (24), *4th of July Creek* by Henderson Smith (26), *The Orenda* by Joseph Boyden (27), and *Jerry Lee Lewis* by Rick Bragg (28) – all were big books for us by writers who entertained us with their stories at Off Square Books.

Kudos to Algonquin Books for reissuing the Mississippi classic by the late, great Lewis Nordan, *Music of the Swamp* (97); to Dwight Garner at the New York Times for breathing life back into the greatest modern American biography, published in 1974, *All God’s Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw* (98); and to our friends at Garden & Gun for *Good Dog: True Stories of Love, Loss, and Loyalty* (11), signed by the seven contributors who live here in Oxford (can you name them?).

But the Real Number One in all this, as you know, Dear Reader, is you. For your constant show of support this year, be it in your kind words of wisdom and encouragement, or praise for our booksellers; your scorn for the outrageous behavior of a certain online behemoth bully; your iterations of faith in the book and the role of Square Books in this community; or going about your business quietly at the register, simply doing as you please – thank you.
BOOK SIGNING EVENTS

February 16
Jeffrey Stayton
*This Side of the River*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 21
Nic Brown
*In Every Way*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 26
Tom Cooper
*The Marauders*
Off Square Books
6 p.m. * TMR

March 10
Kevin Sessums
*I Left It On the Mountain*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 11
Jamie Kornegay
*Soil*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 20
Jacob Rubin
*The Poser*
Off Square Books, 5 p.m.

March 23
James Grissom
*Follies of God*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 31
Kim Cross
*What Stands in a Storm*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

April 1
Ashton Lee
*The Wedding Circle*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

April 2
Shannon Burke
*Into the Savage Country*
Off Square Books
6 p.m. * TMR

February 18
Alan Lightman
*Screening Room*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 23
T. Geronimo Johnson
*Welcome to Braggsville*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

February 24
Caroline R. Williams & Alice Randall
*Soul Food Love*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 5
David Joy
*Where All Light Tends To Go*
Off Square Books
6 p.m. * TMR

March 19
Michael Kardos
*Before He Finds Her*
Off Square Books
6 p.m. * TMR

March 28
John Waters
*Carsick*
Off Square Books
3 p.m.

March 29
James Grissom
*Follies of God*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

March 30
T. Geronimo Johnson
*Welcome to Braggsville*
Off Square Books
5 p.m.

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*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

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Mon-Sat. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sunday Noon to 5 p.m.
**THE VALLEY**

**by John Renehan**  
(Dutton, $26.95)

Lt. Black, a desk officer at a forward operating base in Afghanistan, has been ordered by his commander to investigate a complaint about a platoon stationed in the Valley, the most remote and dreaded American-occupied outpost in the country. It has been said that war brings out the best and worst in men, but what Black, who struggles with his own demons, comes to realize is that the truth is much more complicated and frightening than that. *The Valley* is rich with detail, compelling and complex. It is a war novel, but also a mystery and psychological drama, and, as will the best novels, will stay with the reader long after the book is closed. **LR**

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**JAM ON THE VINE**

**by LaShonda Katrice Barnett**  
(Grove Press, $24.00)

It is no exaggeration that the beautifully written *Jam on the Vine* recalls Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston. Sensuality, pleasure and pain, as well as the righteous difficulties of the early Civil Rights movement, yield a story that is passionate, inspired and lively. Barnett’s (editor of *I Got Thunder* and *Off the Record*) prose flows with rhythm and feeling, and her characters, both major and minor, are intriguing. While Ivoe’s hard, important work and her love of written words will endear her especially to readers interested in the history of journalism and the civil rights movement, this literary novel has broad appeal. **CC**

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**AQUARIUM**

**by David Vann**  
(Atlantic Monthly Press, $24.00)

Twelve-year-old Caitlin lives alone with her mother in subsidized housing next to an airport in Seattle. Each day, while she waits to be picked up after school, Caitlin visits the local aquarium to study fish. Gazing at the creatures within the watery depths, Caitlin accesses a shimmering universe beyond her own. When she befriends an old man at the tanks one day, who seems as enamored of the fish as she, Caitlin cracks open a dark family secret and propels her once-blissful relationship with her mother toward a precipice of terrifying consequence. In crystalline, chiseled yet graceful prose, *Aquarium* takes us into the heart of a brave young girl whose longing for love and capacity for forgiveness transforms the damaged people around her. Relentless and heartbreaking, primal and redemptive, *Aquarium* is a transporting story from one of the best writers of our time. **SB**

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**DESCENT**

**by Tim Johnston**  
(Algonquin, $25.95)

An 18-year-old girl is abducted in the mountains of Colorado while vacationing with her family. Seemingly gone without a trace, her father and brother remain in the area, refusing to give up hope despite the passage of time. Tim Johnston, a professor in the creative writing department at the University of Memphis, has crafted an intense, slow burn literary thriller with compelling characters and a surprising, satisfying ending. **CM**
I AM SORRY TO THINK I HAVE RAISED A TIMID SON
by Kent Russell
(Knopf, $24.95)

Kent Russell is my new hero. Not since John Jeremiah Sullivan’s emergence on the non-fiction literary scene have I been as enthralled by a debut collection of essays. Russell intertwines his own story with an exploration of the new millennial machismo while deftly profiling his subjects, which range from the violence of hockey to the subculture of hip hop to a self-immunizing man with venomous snake bites. These as well as the other pieces are keenly observed, well-written, and slyly humorous. Kent Russell is one to watch. CM

STRONG INSIDE
by Andrew Maraniss
(Vanderbilt, $35.00)

Based on more than eighty interviews, this fast-paced, richly detailed biography of Perry Wallace, the first African American basketball player at Vanderbilt and in the SEC, digs deep beneath the surface to reveal a more complicated and profound story of sports pioneering than we’ve come to expect from the genre. Perry Wallace’s unusually insightful and honest introspection reveals his inner thoughts throughout his journey. SB

THE OTHER JOSEPH
by Skip Horack
(Ecco, $25.99)

Since the publication of his first book in 2009, Skip Horack, former Jones lecturer and Stegner fellow at Stanford, has garnered praise for his stories and novel, *The Eden Hunter*. His newest novel, *The Other Joseph*, is about a man at the end of the line - an outcast with a felony record and a missing thumb without family or friend. Or so he believes until he receives an email from a girl claiming to be the daughter of his long missing brother. That sends him on a journey across country, but nothing is ever easy or straightforward for Roy Joseph. A Louisiana native, Horack is able to conjure that singular desperation of a man who has nothing to lose. LR

BEALE STREET DYNASTY
by Preston Lauterbach
(Norton, $26.95)

Following the Civil War, Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee, thrived as a cauldron of sex and song, violence and passion. But out of this turmoil emerged a center of black progress, optimism, and cultural ferment. Preston Lauterbach, author of *The Chitlin’ Circuit and the Road to Rock ‘n’ Roll*, tells this vivid, fascinating story through the multigenerational saga of a family whose ambition, race pride, and moral complexity indelibly shaped the city that would loom so large in American life. SB


For more conference information: www.oxfordconferenceforthebook.com
THE BIG SEVEN
by Jim Harrison
(Grove Press, $26.00)
It’s no secret we are big fans of Jim Harrison here at Square Books; every new book is cause for celebration. But it should be said that The Big Seven is something of a masterpiece. Former detective Sunderson (from The Great Leader) has acquired a modest fishing cabin in the Upper Peninsula where his property is surrounded by the Ames family, a murderous patriarchy given to crime, violence, and abuse. Sunderson may be retired but justice is never done, and the story follows his interactions with the Ames clan as he contemplates his drafts of writing on the Seven Deadly Sins, and adding Violence as an eighth. What makes The Big Seven exceptional is the way its narrative flows effortlessly across time and events, even within the same paragraph, while embracing big ideas clearly at the same time, altogether making for reading that is both wise and highly entertaining. RH

SOIL
by Jamie Kornegay
(Simon & Schuster $26.00)
Soil, the novel our friend Jamie Kornegay, owner of Turnrow Books in Greenwood, Miss., began writing ten years ago while still working at Square Books, is coming this March. It’s one thing to be glad one’s friend has done excellent work; it’s another thing entirely to be consistently thrilled, as I was when reading this riveting, hilarious book, and it just turns out that it’s written by that friend. Soil’s idealistic protagonist, concerned about the many threats he and his family are facing in our complex world -- even here in rural Mississippi -- grows confident in his survivalist schemes, and matters start flirting with chaos in this brilliant backroads noir farce only Jamie Kornegay could concoct. RH

GREEN ON BLUE
by Elliot Ackerman
(Scribner, $25.00)
A young man is recruited into a cadre during the Afghan war and his story is the basis for an incredible debut novel. Not only does the author portray the reality of combat but even more so he brings across the total loss of morality which can occur in warfare. This is a powerful book which is both thought provoking and disturbing in its implications and probably will finish the year high on many award lists. BC

WE ARE PIRATES
by Daniel Handler
(Bloomsbury, $26.00)
A weird, wondrous novel from the mind behind Lemony Snickett. A troubled teenage girl, her befuddled parents, an alzheimer’s addled old man, and of course pirates. Handler plays it straight until he doesn’t and demonstrates why he is one of the most playful, macabre, and beloved writers we have working today. CM

THERE’S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO DO
by Charles Baxter
(Pantheon, $24.00)
Charles Baxter is one of the few great practitioners of the short story. As always, his work has a strong moral, ethical and spiritual tone as he demonstrates with succinct and distinctive prose his utter mastery of such a difficult genre. BC

GET IN TROUBLE: STORIES
by Kelly Link
(Random House, $25.00)
Link’s new stories explore modern America through her special blend of genre-busting surrealism. Set in various landscapes such as rural North Carolina, Florida swamps, and Southern California, they expose the weirdness of our everyday lives. Link spins out alternate realities based on the already-established facts of our existence, like online dating, personal digital gadgets, and fading TV stars. KL

IN EVERY WAY
by Nic Brown
(Counterpoint LLC, hd. $25.00)
College student Maria finds herself in a predicament--unexpectedly pregnant at nineteen. Reeling from the discovery of her mother’s diagnosis with cancer, Maria’s decision to give her daughter up for adoption is one that seems to be in everyone’s best interest, especially when it comes to light that the child’s father hasn’t exactly been faithful to her following the birth of her daughter. So when her mother proposes an extended trip to sleepy coastal town Beaufort--the same town that the adoptive couple Maria chose for her daughter just happens to live in--Maria jumps at the chance to escape. SB
**WOLF WINTER**
*by Cecilia Eckback*  
(Liveright, $24.95)

Moses Sweetland knows that his way of life is coming to an end. The government wants to resettle the inhabitants of the island that bears his name, something Sweetland resists. As he struggles with the life-changing decision to give up everything he has ever known, he takes the reader on a nostalgic tour through his life and the history of the island, and by the end, you won’t want to leave the island either.  

**HALL OF SMALL MAMMALS**
*by Thomas Pierce*  
(Riverhead Press Books, $27.95)

Pierce’s debut collection is quirky and engaging, illuminating how we have transformed as twenty-first century people while revealing what about us remains essentially unchanged. Using humor and pop culture, these stories gently untangle our basic human need for love and belonging in a technology-driven world. Fans of George Saunders take note.  

**THE SYMPATHIZER**
*by Viet Thanh Nguyen*  
(Grove Press, $26.00)

The Vietnam War lasted for generations and the resulting conflicts went far beyond the actual combat. *The Sympathizer* portrays this beautifully through its narrator, a communist mole in the service of a South Vietnamese general whose emotions are constantly divided. The novel is a complete tour de force: sobering, incisive, enthralling and overlaid with dark humor. The result is a powerful indictment of the total carnage and futility of war, both upon society and the individuals involved.  

**WELCOME TO BRAGGSVILLE**
*by T. Geronimo Johnson*  
(William Morrow, $25.99)

Welcome to *Braggsville* tells the story of D’aron Davenport, a Berkeley undergrad whose life changes after moving away from the small Georgia town he’s grown up in. Trying to live up to the standards of diversity and activism that Berkeley represents, D’aron and his friends return to his hometown in hopes of protesting Braggsville’s annual Civil War reenactment. By turns funny, gruesome, and mystical, this book is as clever and compelling as D’aron and his group of friends.  

**WHERE ALL LIGHT TENDS TO GO**
*by David Joy*  
(Putnam, $26.95)  
[Author Event: Mar 5]

Jacob McNeely’s father is a notorious drug dealer, and since Jacob was a ten-year-old, he’s been groomed to take part in the family business. But when the witness he was charged with disposing of turns up alive, Jacob’s foray into organized crime gets off to a rocky start.  

**SWEETLAND**
*by Michael Crummey*  
(Liveright, $24.95)

Welcome to *Braggsville* tells the story of D’aron Davenport, a Berkeley undergrad whose life changes after moving away from the small Georgia town he’s grown up in. Trying to live up to the standards of diversity and activism that Berkeley represents, D’aron and his friends return to his hometown in hopes of protesting Braggsville’s annual Civil War reenactment. By turns funny, gruesome, and mystical, this book is as clever and compelling as D’aron and his group of friends.  

**FROM THE NEW WORLD: POEMS**
*by Jorie Graham*  
(Ecco, $29.99)

From the New World serves to further underline Graham’s place among the best American poets. This latest collection features excerpts from her eleven books, as well as several new poems. Stunningly lyrical, technically brilliant.  

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UNBECOMING
by Rebecca Scherm
(Viking, $27.95)

Unbecoming is both unusual and unsettling and a powerful debut novel. The lives of three disaffected young people are thrown into total disarray by their false dreams and the bad decisions they make trying to achieve them. A failed robbery is the centerpiece of the story but what is most striking is the character studies as the author shows the utterly destructive force of complete amorality and how it can destroy the basic goodness in any person. BC

CROW FAIR
by Thomas McGuane
(Knopf, $25.95)

“…while it’s true that the farther you get from an actual product the better your chances of economic success, I and many of my classmates wanted more physical evidence of our efforts. I had friends who’d trained as historians, literary scholars, and philosophers who were now shoeing horses, wiring houses, and installing toilets. There’d been no suicides so far.” Such are the narrators and characters who populate Tom McGuane’s new book, Crow Fair, an assemblage of seventeen stories, many set in the modern West outdoors, something the author – not only a member of the American Academy of Arts & Letters, but also the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame and the National Cutting Horse Hall of Fame – knows about. All but the title story are quite short and make for ideal winter reading by the fire, with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine -- stories by one of the greatest writers of our time. RH

THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER
by Jeffrey Stayton
(Nautilus, $24.95)

A debut novel, written and published by Oxonians. The Civil War is over and the South has been left in tatters. While most focus on rebuilding, an army of widows, led by a renegade Confederate officer, seek vengeance against the Union armies that took their men and homes. AP

MISS HAZEL & THE ROSA PARKS LEAGUE
by Jonathan Odell
(Maiden Lane Press, pb. $16.00)

Set in pre-Civil Rights Mississippi, Miss Hazel and the Rosa Parks League is the story of two young mothers, Hazel and Vida one wealthy and white and the other poor and black who have only two things in common: the devastating loss of their children, and a deep and abiding loathing for one another.

INTO THE SAVAGE COUNTRY
by Shannon Burke
(Pantheon, $24.95)

West of the River, early 19th century, a vast new world. This novel about a trapping expedition is both an adventure story and an examination of how humans respond when confronted with forces of nature and the problems of greed, ambition and, sometimes, pure evil. BC

THEPOSER
by Jacob Rubin
(Viking, $26.95)

MY SUNSHINE AWAY
by M.O. Walsh
(Putnam, $26.95)

THE MARBLE ORCHARD
by Alex Taylor
(Ig pb., $16.95)

These three novels were written by graduates of the University of Mississippi’s English MFA program. The Poser is a novel full of humor about the world’s greatest impressionist who, despite perfect replication of others, cannot seem to find his own identity. My Sunshine Away is a suspense-filled, coming of age story set in swampy Baton Rouge. After a shocking crime occurs down the street, a teenage boy is thrown into the pits of desire and obsession, longing to put the pieces back together. The Marble Orchard is an engrossing and tragic thriller about a murder and escape through backwoods Kentucky that evokes the gritty realism of Cormac McCarthy.
BEFORE HE FINDS HER
by Michael Kardos
(Mysterious Press, $25.00)

Meg Miller, now known as Melanie Denison in the Witness Protection Program, has been in isolated hiding since her father brutally murdered her mother and tried to kill her when she was a toddler. But now she’s pregnant, and faced with a future for her child as lonely as her own, Melanie sets out to end her life of fear. By teaming up with a bedridden 81-year-old newspaperman obsessed with her case, she sets out to do what the FBI never could—find and capture her father. No one is who they seem, and neither is the situation surrounding her own family tragedy. Taut with suspense, and written by the Co-director of the Creative Writing program at Mississippi State, this is a thriller not to pass up. MML

WORLD GONE BY
by Dennis Lehane
(William Morrow, $27.99)

Dennis Lehane completes his trilogy of Americana with the final chapter on Joe Coughlin. The novel is full of drama, character study and, ultimately, tragedy as the rise and fall of his characters so effectively mirrors the changes in society. The author has given us a distinctive portrait of early 20th century America through his fiction and the reader can hold out hope that he will continue to do so as he left many other characters and potential story lines that could lead to many more superb novels. BC

HUSH HUSH
by Laura Lippman
(William Morrow, $26.99)

Laura Lippman returns to her Tess Monaghan series with a story of a mother who was acquitted of the murder of one child returning to seek out her remaining two daughters. As always, Lippman delves deeply into society while developing her story and Tess, a mother now herself, continues to grow and change as a character. BC

THE MARAUDERS
by Tom Cooper
(Crown, $26.00)

An absolute whacked out blast of a book full of dark humor and pathos. Set in the bayous of Louisiana shortly after the BP oil spill, it’s a world populated by downtrodden shrimpers, small time criminals, treasure hunters, and drug smugglers. Cooper knows his territory well and sets his characters on a collision course that you can’t help but wait for with bated breath. Fans of James Crumley and Charles Portis take note - there’s a new kid in town. CM

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN
by Paula Hawkins
(Riverhead, $26.95)

A smart, addictive debut page-turner full of twists and turns that will leave you guessing till the end. Rachel is a lonely, alcoholic divorcee who notices myriad details out her window on her daily commute to and from London. One day she sees a woman on her deck kissing a man who isn’t her husband. The following day she reads in the paper that the woman is missing. If you are looking for the next Gone Girl or The Silent Wife then your fix has arrived. CM

LEAVING BERLIN
by Joseph Kanon
(Atria, $27.00)

Set during the Berlin Airlift, this novel follows Alex Meier, a novelist banished from America for having Communist sympathies, but he harbors a secret, one that could cost him his life if his Soviet hosts discover it. Follow Alex’s exploits as he navigates the treacherous waters of 1949 Berlin where anyone could be a spy, even his long lost girlfriend Irene. This is political intrigue at its best. AP

Are you a Speed Reader? Sign up for our weekly e-mail of events at www.squarebooks.com
THE SECRET GAME
by Scott Ellsworth
(Little Brown, $27.00)
A gym was locked in Durham, NC in 1944 and inside two basketball teams, one black, one white, played a game that was illegal for the time and place. The unreported contest provides the framework for a fascinating history of basketball and society in the first half of the 20th century as not only was the game evolving but the world was on the edge of great cultural and social change that created the world which we now inhabit. BC

WHERE THE DEAD PAUSE AND THE JAPANESE SAY GOODBYE
by Mary Mutsuki Mockett
(Norton, $26.95)
Beautiful. Just a beautiful work of literature. Mockett recounts her trip to Japan to visit her family’s Zen temple following the 2011 tsunami and Fukushima nuclear plant disaster. The result is a deeply personal yet ultimately universal exploration of grief, family, tradition, and culture. This book will inspire you to sit up straighter, breathe more deeply, and contemplate the human condition more fully. I envy those about to embark on the journey. CM

HELL AND GOOD COMPANY
by Richard Rhodes
(Simon & Schuster, $30.00)
The Spanish Civil War was the cauldron that provided the recipe for modern combat and it never has been portrayed better than by the eminent Richard Rhodes. The clash between fascism and republicanism was the precursor for the horrors of World War II and Stalinism but also had an incredible human side with so many literary and artistic giants like Hemingway, Orwell and Picasso being involved. It was a crucial, yet often overlooked, conflict and it is brought to light in this superb history. BC

RUST
by Jonathan Waldman
(Simon & Schuster, $26.95)
While admitting that the topic is “just not sexy,” environmental journalist Jonathan Waldman weaves a scholarly and entertaining history of nature’s most formidable weapon, “costlier than all other natural disasters combined.” From the Statue of Liberty to the Alaskan Pipeline and many points in between, he provides the backdrop and colorful cast of characters in the thankless and perhaps quixotic task of preserving our infrastructure. Not just for science nerds, this book will make you look at the stuff of our everyday lives that we take for granted in a new light and maybe even think twice before driving over a bridge. AL

SAPIENS
by Yuval Noah Harari
(Harper, $29.99)
One of the most amazing books of the year. Informative, incisive, thought provoking while being incredibly entertaining. The author looks at the history of humans and shows how this one species came to dominate the earth while raising serious questions as to just what the effect has been of humans’ actions on the planet. Whether the reader agrees or disagrees with his contentions and theories it is guaranteed no one will ever regard humans in quite the same light after reading this exceptional book. BC

AMERICAN GHOST
by Hannah Nordhaus
(Harper, $25.99)
American Ghost chronicles the author’s deeply personal journey to discover the real life of her great-great-grandmother Julia Staab, whose ghost is rumored to reside in La Posada hotel in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Surprisingly grounded, the story that emerges weaves together a fascinating history of the American West with early Jewish American identity. CF

We Don’t Have It?
We will get it for you. Most titles available in 2 to 3 days.
DEAD WAKE
by Erik Larson
(Crown, $28.00)

The sinking of the Lusitania is one of those events that many people know of, yet actually know so little of the facts surrounding the disaster. Erik Larson shows how a confluence of coincidences, decisions both good and bad, and just plain, extraordinary luck combined to bring down the great ocean liner in an impossibly short time. The author has incredible ability to humanize history and present it in almost novelistic form and his latest effort will keep readers enthralled until the last page. BC

GOING INTO THE CITY
by Robert Christgau
(Dey Street Books, $27.99)

In this memoir, esteemed rock critic Robert Christgau demonstrates what makes him such an effective writer. Starting with a brilliant essay on the kinds of memoir and what they mean (there's four types in case you're curious), he then launches into a detailed and highly readable retelling of his life from his humble beginnings in Queens up through the present. Overall, this is a really fun book and one that you won't forget any time soon. AP

IRRITABLE HEARTS: A PTSD LOVE STORY
by Mac McClelland
(Flatiron, $27.99)

After returning from a trip to Haiti, where she covered the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, journalist Mac McClelland found herself sleepless, sobbing through interviews, and unable to function. Months later she was diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder. Turning her journalist’s eye on her own experiences, McClelland writes an account that is as fascinating as it is heartfelt. At a time when PTSD is at the forefront of our public conscience, Irritable Hearts is a memoir not to be missed. KW

SILVER SCREEN FIEND
by Patton Oswalt
(Scribner, $25.00)

Author Event: Feb 11

Between 1995 and 1999, Patton Oswalt lived with an unshakeable addiction. It wasn’t drugs, alcohol, or sex. It was film. After moving to L.A., Oswalt became a huge film buff, absorbing classics and new releases at least three nights a week at the New Beverly Cinema. Silver screen celluloid became Patton’s life schoolbook, informing his notions of acting, writing, comedy, and relationships. Set in the nascent days of the alternative comedy scene, Oswalt’s memoir chronicles his journey from fledgling stand-up comedian to self-assured sitcom actor, with the colorful New Beverly collective supporting him all along the way.

A KIM JONG-IL PRODUCTION
by Paul Fischer
(Flatiron, $27.99)

On the heels of Sony’s pulled film, The Interview, comes this new nonfiction adventure/thriller from Paul Fischer. This is the story of the late North Korean leader Kim Jong-II, then the director of film and propaganda for his country in the 1970s, and how he kidnapped the most famous South Korean director, Shin Sang-Ok and his star actress and wife, Choi Eun-Hee, to create the same caliber of films for their country’s rigid counterpart. It follows the couple’s abduction, captivity, and escape eight years later, all while lifting a little more of the veil that North Korean leaders have dropped over their history. MM

CRUCIBLE OF COMMAND
by William C. Davis
(Da Capo, $32.50)

The names of Grant and Lee will be linked eternally but William Davis provides a fresh perspective on the rivals as he examines their styles of command and the factors that influenced their development. The two great antagonists actually had much in common with certain crucial differences but shared enough values to eventually forge a peace from the nation’s worst war. BC

More books on travel, cooking, gardening, health, art, and photography at Off Square Books
**SOUL FOOD LOVE**
by Caroline Randall Williams & Alice Randall
(Clarkson Potter, $30.00)

Food writing meets memoir via the stories and recipes of this mother-daughter team as they reexamine family history and redefine soul food as healthy. Caroline, an MFA candidate at the University of Mississippi, and Alice, a novelist and professor at Vanderbilt, serve vignettes of black America alongside peanut chicken stew and poached salmon with leeks for an experience both gastronomically and culturally nourishing. **EB**

**EATING VIET NAM**
by Graham Holliday
(Anthony Bourdain/Ecco, $26.99)

Seahorse liquor. Duck’s blood soup. Barbecue. Holliday tries all of these and more in a love letter to the cuisine of Viet Nam. Deciding at 25 that an office job just wasn’t for him, Holliday tried his hand at teaching English in Southeast Asia. Starting in Hanoi before winding up in Saigon, he tries as many authentic Vietnamese dishes as possible. I suggest reading this in the kitchen because you will be supremely hungry by the time you finish this book. **AP**

**MASTERING PASTA**
by Marc Vetri
(Ten Speed Press, $29.99)

From Marc Vetri, acclaimed master of pasta and chef/owner of four highly successful and popular Philadelphia restaurants, comes a detailed primer on artisan pasta-making for home cooks and professionals, including 100 of Vetri’s favorite recipes. Opening with a brief tour of pasta-making in Italy, then moving on to the details of making pasta at home, Mastering Pasta explains exactly how to build doughs from scratch, craft a variety of pasta shapes, then pair them with the ideal sauces and condiments for spectacular finished dishes. **SB**

**FED, WHITE, AND BLUE**
by Simon Majumdar
(Hudson Street Press, $25.95)

“Simon Majumdar’s opinions often drive me nuts, but I usually let him get away with it. In part, it’s because he really knows about food, but even more so, it’s because he is so entertaining. I loved what he had to say about the rest of the world and I can’t wait to hear what he has to say about America.”—Michael Symon, Iron Chef and co-host of “The Chew”

**GENIUS RECIPES**
by Kristen Miglore
(Ten Speed, $35.00)

Food52 is a Website that Kristen Miglore created for passionate cooks. Over the years some recipes have stood out as “genius.” They may be simple or complex (mostly simple), but there is something that makes them special and can change the way you cook. Olive Oil and Maple Granola is my go-to for cereal, and my brussels sprouts are now always served with Fish Sauce Vinaigrette. Collected in Genius Recipes, you will be amazed at your new food intelligence quotient. **LR**

**1,000 FOODS TO EAT BEFORE YOU DIE**
by Mimi Sheraton
(Workman, pb. $24.95)

Mimi Sheraton has been a life-long adventurer in food and has written for the New York Times, Time, Conde Nast Traveler and scores of other magazines. There is no more qualified individual to tackle the enormous task of compiling 1,000 Foods to Eat Before You Die: A Food Lover’s Life List. Grouped geographically, the alphabetized listings are keys unlocking cultures with no food ignored as too humble, exotic or elite. Filled with anecdotes and information, arcane and practical, and an occasional recipe, 1,000 Foods is unparalleled in its scope and makes for fascinating reading that you won’t want to rush through. **LR**
CHILDREN’S BOOK 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: THOSE DARN SQUIRRELS
by Adam Rubin
(Sandpiper, 6.99)

5th Grade: THREE TIMES LUCKY
by Sheila Turnage
(Puffin, 7.99)

Book signing event
Wednesday, March 25th 4pm

Book signing event
Monday, March 23rd 4 pm
MS. RAPSCOTT’S GIRLS
Elise Primavera
(Dial, 16.99)
8-10
Fans of Mary Poppins will love Ms. Rapscott’s School for Girls of Busy Parents. Four girls arrive in pre-addressed boxes to Ms. Rapscott’s school where they learn everything from how to find your way to how to bake your own birthday cake. GD

MONSTROUS
Marcykate Connolly
Skottie Young
(Harper, 16.99)
Ages 10+
Kym isn’t like other girls. She has a tail that can sting, feathered wings, and retractable cat claws, all designed to help her on her mission: rescuing the girls of Bryre from the wizard who is murdering them. As her past becomes more apparent, Kym realizes that the very wizard she hates created her, and has been deceiving her all along. KW

THE PENDERWICKS IN SPRING
by Jeanne Birdsall
(Knopf, 16.99)
Ages 8-12

MINECRAFT BLOCKOPEDIA
by Alex Wiltshire
(Scholastic, 49.99)
Ages 8+
All the blocks in the minecraft universe, from sand to quartz to sticky pistons and everything inbetween. This handy guide gives you tips, tricks and crafting recipes for every block under the sun. An essential guide for crafters whether you just started or have been playing for years. BH

STELLA BY STARLIGHT
Sharon Draper
(Atheneum Books, 16.99)
Ages 8-14
Set in 1930s North Carolina, Stella by Starlight is a heartwarming story of how a girl and her community stand tall in the face of Klan attacks and outright discrimination. A must-read for lovers of historical fiction, this book leaves the reader hoping for a sequel. RL

FISH IN A TREE
Linda M. Hunt
(Dial, 16.99)
Ages 10-14
This is a story about the power of believing in yourself. Ally has been able to fool everyone around her so they won’t learn her secret—she can’t read. However, everything begins to change for Ally when she gets a new teacher who recognizes her creativity and intelligence underneath all of the jokes and disruptions. GD

JAGUAR STONES BOOK 4:
THE LOST CITY
by J&P Voelkel
(EgmontUSA, 16.99)
Ages 8-12
The long-awaited fourth installment to the Jaguar Stones series has arrived. Set in Mississippi and Louisiana, The Lost City is the epic conclusion to this rip-roaring series. The Voekels, long-time friends of Square Books Jr. will be returning to Oxford for a reading and signing on March 17th. GD

IMAGINARY
A.F. Harrold
& Emily Gravett
(Bloomsbury, 16.99)
Ages 8-12
If you have ever wondered where your imaginary friend comes from, this book is for you. This story had me on the edge of my seat until the very end. Beautifully illustrated world of creativity, imagination, and friendship. GD

THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
(Dial, 16.99)
Ages 10+
A beautiful and powerful story of a young girl, Ada, and her brother as they are sent from London out to the countryside during WWII. As the war rages in the background, you will be cheering for Ada every step of the way. GD

PIECES AND PLAYERS
Blue Balliett
(Scholastic, 17.99)
Ages 8-12
The gang from award-winning Chasing Vermeer is back with another mystery that will leave you guessing until the very end. With two new characters, each player is an awkward thirteen year old with their own set of talents perfect for solving this latest crime. GD
THE ALEX CROW
Andrew Smith
(Dutton, 18.99)
Ages 15-18

The Alex Crow tells the story of Ariel, a teenage refugee who’s been transplanted to West Virginia and assigned to spend six weeks at Camp Merrie-Seymour for Boys with his adoptive brother, Max. Together, they face off with Mrs. Nussbaum, the camp’s psychologist, and Leonard Fountain, whose hallucinations include the Beaver King. Andrew Smith deftly handles the trauma of Ariel’s past while still infusing the narrative with the charmingly crude humor of teenage boys. A rare novel that manages to delight and move with grace and hilarity, The Alex Crow is both excellent and important. KW

MOSQUITOLAND
David Arnold
(Viking, 17.99)
Ages 13+

After the sudden collapse of her family, Mim Malone is dragged from her home in northern Ohio to the “wastelands” of Mississippi, where she lives in a medicated milieu with her dad and new stepmom. Before the dust has a chance to settle, she learns her mother is sick back in Cleveland. But when her thousand-mile journey takes a few turns she could never see coming, Mim must confront her own demons, redefining her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane. SB

RED QUEEN
Victoria Aveyard
(Harper, 17.99)
Ages 14+

Graceling meets The Selection in debut novelist Victoria Aveyard’s sweeping tale of seventeen-year-old Mare, a common girl whose once-latent magical power draws her into the dangerous intrigue of the king’s palace. Will her power save her or condemn her? SB

ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES
Jennifer Niven
(Knopf, 17.99)
Ages 14+

Theodore Finch is fascinated by death, and he constantly thinks of ways he might kill himself. But each time, something good, no matter how small, stops him. Violet Markey lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her Indiana town and her aching grief in the wake of her sister’s recent death. When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school, it’s unclear who saves whom. CC

THE WALLS AROUND US
Nova Ren Suma
(Algonquin, 17.95)
Ages 14+

On the outside, there’s Violet, an eighteen-year-old dancer days away from the life of her dreams when something threatens to expose the shocking truth of her achievement. On the inside, within the walls of the Aurora Hills juvenile detention center, there’s Amber, locked up for so long she can’t imagine freedom. Tying their two worlds together is Orianna, who holds the key to unlocking all the girls’ darkest mysteries. What really happened on the night Orianna stepped between Violet and her tormentors? What really happened on two strange nights at Aurora Hills? LB

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Whenever my environment had failed to support or nourish me, I had clutched at books...

- Richard Wright
  *Black Boy*

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**EVENT**

**MARCH 28 at 3 p.m.**

Please join Square Books and the Sarah Isom Center in welcoming John Waters to the LOU community. On Saturday, March 28th, Waters will be signing and reading at Off Square Books at 3 p.m. and will be on campus that night at 7 p.m. “This Filthy World” performance at the Gertrude C. Ford Center is made possible through the sponsorship of the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies and generous support from the Lecture Series and numerous campus entities and private donations.

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