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.

The Orphan Master’s Son
by Adam Johnson page 4
The Year in Review 2011

RODNEY CROWELL started off 2011 on January 20 with his bang of a memoir (and our #24 bestseller of the year), *Chinaberry Side Walks*, and in less than a month we had our #2 bestseller of the year, a big book by a very big guy, MICHAEL OHER and I BEAT THE ODDS, on Feb. 15; the very next day Pulitizer winner ISABEL WILKERSON was here with *The Warmth of Other Suns*, recently one of the top 10 bestselling paperbacks. JOHN BEMELMANS MARIANO was a hit at Jr with *Madeline at the White House* (Jr’s #3 book of ‘11), and on Feb. 19 JOSPEH O’CONNOR knocked us out with *Ghost Light* (89). A few days later old friend MARK RICHARD came with *House of Prayer* (#2) and YANN MARTEL returned with the paperback of *Beatrice and Virgil* (97). By March ANDRE DUBUS was here with *Townie* (65) and the dear, late DEAN FAULKNER WELLS with her outstanding memoir and our #4 book of the year, *Every Day by the Sun*. LES STANDIFORD brought us *Bringing Adam Home*, and the first quarter closed with a Conference for the Book that included JUSTIN TAYLOR and KEVIN BROCKMEIER, along with KAREN RUSSELL and TEA OBREHT (Swamplandia! #16, and The Tiger’s Wife #17, respectively, and both now on our paperback bestseller list).

A number of pre-2011 backlist books sold into the top 100 of the year, notably PROMISES I MADE MY MOTHER (#3), *The Fall of the House of Zeus* (#1 in 2010 and #4 in 2011, and, in paperback, #34), the perennial *Square Table* (#7), CROOKED LETTER, CROOKED LETTER (#8), and garnering a *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year Award for TOM FRANKLIN!, *The Confection* (18), *Oxford Sketchbook* (33), PAT CONROY’S *My Reading Life* (98), *Wild Abundance* (80), *The Sound and the Fury* (45, among other WILLIAM FAULKNER titles), AIRSHIPS and *Long Last Happy* (68, 81), UNBROKEN (27), and all kinds of *The Help* (paperback 11, hardback 63, and, no lie, the deluxe edition 56).

SARA FOSTER’S *Southern Kitchen* (70) was well received among cookbook writers, as was MARTHAOOSE’S *Southerly Course* (12) and *Screen Doors and Sweet Tea* (60), and there must be something good in the *Southern Foodways Alliance Cookbook* (22), *Smokin’ With Myron Nixon* (42), *A New Turn in the South* (75), and *Delta Magazine Cookbook* (57). When Paula Deen comes to town, her *Southern Cooking Bible* is the word (#6). A special event is automatic when JESSICA HARRIS arrives, *High on the Hog*.

In the spring, JASON GOODWYN and ANCHEE MIN both made first visits to Square Books and to Thacker Mountain, and JOE HILL gave a very nice first impression. *You Think That’s Bad* was our introduction to JIM SHEPARD (29) and TRACEY JACKSON had solid advice in *Between a Rock and a Hot Spot* (#86).ARAMINTA STONE JOHNSON appeared with her subject, BISHOP DUNCAN GRAY, with *And One Was A Priest* (38), and JOHN SAYLES, ROY BLOUNT, OSCAR HIJUELOS (85) all visited in late spring, along with KATE DICAMILLO and her many fans at Jr. No one made an introduction at Jr like ERIC LITWIN and JAMES DEAN, author and illustrator of PETE THE CAT (3) and ROCKING IN MY SCHOOL SHOES (4), one of the most fun events in Square Books history.

By summer, soon before her Parnassus would open, we saw our old (but young) friend, ANN PATCHETT, who put us in a STATE OF WONDER (14), SUZANNE MARRS, with *What There Is to Say We Have Said* (92), and NELL DICKERSON and her stunning sleepy, GONE (37). ACE ATKINS launched his new series with *The Ranger* (30), and GEORGETTE JONES and ADAM ROSS came from Nashville. Ole Miss grad PRESTON LAUDERBACH gave us our bestselling music book in CHITLIN’ CIRCUIT, and SANDRA BEASLEY returned to town with her memoir, DON’T KILL THE BIRTHDAY GIRL.

Fall turned busy when MEGAN ABBOTT and SCOTT PHILLIPS appeared, followed by JEAN CASH with her LARRY BROWN (49) and by KEVIN WILSON and FAMILY FANG (28 and still selling), followed closely by CLYDE EDDERTON’S *Night Train* (26). We were thrilled by JESMYN WARD’S new novel, *Salvage the Bones* (15), and her return to town September 7, but little did we know that she would win the National Book Award (much less give us a shout-out in her acceptance speech)! We are so proud of Jesmy! Maybe karma arrived this past fall in the form of Pulitzer winner ROBERT OLEN BUTLER, former National Book Award winner CHARLES Frazier, with *Nightwoods* (#43), Pulitzer winner JEFFREY EUGENIDES and his terrific novel, *The Marriage Plot* (#10), and Pulitzer winner MICHAEL CHABON, plus first novelist sensation ERIN MORGENSTERN with *The Night Circus* (21)—all of whom signed at Square Books between Jesmy’s event here and when she won the National Book Award.
By November we were selling signed copies of John Grisham’s *The Litigators* (#1) and his second children’s book, *Theodore Boone: The Abduction* (#1 at Jr). We saw the One Writer’s Garden (46) trio of Susan Haltom, Jane Roy Brown & Langdon Clay (46), Diana Abu-Jaber and *Birds of Paradise*, Hillary Jordan and *When She Woke* (31). It was a special treat to have K.O. Dotley and Terrance Metcalf here to help Neil White sign *Mississippi’s 100 Greatest Football Players* (25). Neil’s first and second Mississippians book made our list (40, 52), as did his paperback of *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts* (23). And where do we say that Sid Salter’s book on Jack Cristil made our list? Here: #33, thank you Sid and Jack, who are popular among some people in Oxford, me included.


All in all, an excellent year at Square Books, a best year ever at Jr, and the same at Off Square, so we give great thanks to these writers and their publishers, who help to make so much happen here. But, as always, our greatest thanks are to you, Dear Readers, for your continuing support. *RH*

### ~ 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 regarding the signed first subscription please go to [www.squarebooks.com](http://www.squarebooks.com) or email Slade at books@squarebooks.com.

### Upcoming Author Events at Square Books

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*All events are held at Off Square Books. *Thacker Mountain Radio show **Square Books, Jr. event

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone for our up-to-date list of events.
THE ORPHAN MASTER’S SON
by Adam Johnson
(Random House, hd. 26.00)

Pak Jun Do, the protagonist of Adam Johnson’s thrilling new novel, is raised in a North Korean orphanage, where the other children do not believe, as Pak does, that he is the son of the man running the place. Pak becomes a soldier, trained as a tunnel fighter, before being promoted to radio transmitter on a fishing boat, having successfully served the state as a kidnapper. Eventually he will make an audacious attempt for freedom by inhabiting another identity as a rival to Kim Jong Il. Adam Johnson conducted research, including visiting North Korea, in order to write the book, but whatever factual information he gained is small in comparison to the incredible imagination of this novel, which Jennifer Egan correctly says “is impossible to forget.” The Orphan Master’s Son is THE big novel of 2012, and we urge you not to miss the author’s appearance here January 26. RH

THE COVE by Ron Rash
(ecco, hd. 25.99) Release Date: April 10, 2012

“Ron Rash is a writer of both the darkly beautiful and the sadly true; his new novel, The Cove, solidifies his reputation as one of our very finest novelists.”
-Richard Russo, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Empire Falls

“Set during World War One, The Cove is a novel that speaks intimately to today’s politics. Beautifully written, tough, raw, uncompromising, entirely new. Ron Rash is a writer’s writer who writes for others.”
-Colum McCann

RAYLAN by Elmore Leonard
(William Morrow, hd. 26.99)

The New York Times bestselling author, recognized as “America’s greatest crime writer” (Newsweek), brings back U.S. Marshal Raylan Givens, the mesmerizing hero of Pronto, Riding the Rap, and the hit FX series Justified. Leonard’s Raylan shines a spotlight once again on the dedicated, if somewhat trigger-happy lawman, this time in his familiar but not particularly cozy milieu of Harlan County, Kentucky, where the drug dealing Crowe brothers are branching out into the human body parts business. Crackling with Leonard’s trademark dialogue, Raylan is prime Grand Master Leonard as you have always loved him.

Are you a Speed Reader?
Sign up for SpeedReader, our weekly e-mail of events and books at www.squarebooks.com.
**THE ODDS: A Love Story**  
by Stewart O’Nan  
(Viking, hd. 25.95)

Art and Marion Fowler’s kids are out of the house and they’ve sunk a major chunk of their savings in an old house with a lot of character, that is to say, in need of major repair. They have made this investment just before the real estate bubble bursts and the economy declines. When Art is laid off, their marriage begins to fall into the same spiral. They agree to a last weekend together on Valentine’s Day, a return trip to their honeymoon site, Niagra Falls. Art has an idea that the casinos there might be the place where a new financial strategy might win everything back. In *The Odds* we have a winner of a novel from one of our long-time favorite writers (*A Prayer for the Dying, Last Night at the Lobster*), and I highly recommend it for your reading pleasure, and as a Valentine gift.  

**A GROWN-UP KIND OF PRETTY**  
by Joshilyn Jackson  
(Grand Central, hd. 25.99)

*A Grown-Up Kind of Pretty* is a powerful saga of three generations of women, plagued by hardships and torn by a devastating secret, yet inextricably joined by the bonds of family. Fifteen-year-old Mosey Slocumb—spirited, sassy, and on the cusp of womanhood—is shaken when a small grave is unearthed in the backyard, and determined to figure out why it’s there. Liza, her stroke-ravaged mother, is haunted by choices she made as a teenager. But it is Jenny, Mosey’s strong and big-hearted grandmother, whose maternal love braids together the strands of the women’s shared past—and who will stop at nothing to defend their future.

**THE HEALING**  
by Jonathan Odell  
(Nan A. Talese, hd. 26.00)

“A terrific novel that will take its place in the distinguished pantheon of Southern fiction. Like *The Help*, that showstopping work by Kathryn Stockett, *The Healing* is another Mississippi-born work of art and Odell’s Polly Shine is a character for the ages.”  
—Pat Conroy

“Bringing exciting verisimilitude to an overworked genre, this Southern saga from Odell is rich in character and incident.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*
**GATHERING OF WATERS**  
by Bernice McFadden  
(Akashic, hd. 24.95)

*Gathering of Waters* is a deeply engrossing tale narrated by the town of Money, Mississippi—a site both significant and infamous in our collective story as a nation. Money is personified in this haunting story, which chronicles its troubled history following the arrival of the Hilson and Bryant families. *Gathering of Waters* mines the truth about Money, Mississippi, as well as the town’s families, and threads their history over decades. The bare-bones realism—both disturbing and riveting—combined with a magical realm in which ghosts have the final say, is reminiscent of Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.

**GODS WITHOUT MEN**  
by Hari Kunzaro  
(Knopf, hd. 26.95) Release Date: March 6, 2012

This book reminded me of reading George Saunders for the first time. It really blew me away—not just the plot, but the sentences. The sentences read so fresh and clever, not to mention there’s a shapeshifting fox-type character who I think is an alien, but am not really sure. This “Coyote” character’s dialogue is hilarious and worth the 27 bucks alone. If you pick this book up and read the first ten pages you’ll be hooked. You may be a little confused but you’ll be laughing, and it will all make sense soon enough. The heart of the story is set in the Mojave desert where the son of some vacationers goes missing before suddenly reappearing unharmed—but not unchanged. The California desert is a strange place. Throw in Kunzaro’s excellent and strange storytelling and you’re in for a real treat. *DS*

**COME IN AND COVER ME**  
by Gin Phillips  
(Riverhead, hd. 26.95)

Ren’s older brother died when she was only twelve, a devastating blow to a hitherto happy family. Perhaps that is why Ren doesn’t share her history easily. Her brother Scott still appears to her after all these years, and that does not help the case for intimacy. Now a successful archeologist, her career has been helped by her secret ability to see the former denizens of excavations. One woman in particular, a Mimbres potter with a distinctive and unusual style, especially intrigues her. So when a new site is found she immediately joins the team. What she will find is more than pots and shards. Gin Phillips, author of the widely praised *The Well and the Mine* (Riverhead, pb. 15.00), has followed her successful debut with a novel that again draws the reader in and uncovers the complicated archeology of the human heart. *CFR*
In **THE FLAME ALPHABET** (Knopf, hd. 25.95), Ben Marcus delivers a work of heartbreak and horror, a novel about how far we will go, and the sorrows we will endure, in order to protect our families. “As I read *The Flame Alphabet*, late into the night, feverishly turning the pages, I felt myself, increasingly, in the presence of the classic.” -Michael Chabon

**MUDWOMAN** (ecco, hd. 26.99) by Joyce Carol Oates is a riveting novel that explores the high price of success in the life of one woman—the first female president of a lauded Ivy League institution—and her hold upon her self-identity in the face of personal and professional demons.

A new story collection from young, award-winning writer **Kevin Moffett**, **FURTHER INTERPRETATIONS OF REAL-LIFE EVENTS** (Harper, hd. 24.99) illuminates the intimate experiences of characters caught between aspiration and achievement, uncertainty and illumination, inertia and discovery, the past and the future.

**Anne Tyler** gives us a wise, haunting, and deeply moving new novel, **THE BEGINNER’S GOODBYE** (Knopf, hd. 24.95), in which she explores how a middle-aged man, ripped apart by the death of his wife, is gradually restored by her frequent appearances—in their house, on the roadway, in the market.

Miss Julia tries to spring J. D. Pickens from a sheriff’s clutches and investigate a cult—plus keep up her appearance as a proper Southern lady in **Ann B. Ross**’ latest **MISS JULIA TO THE RESCUE** (Viking, hd. 25.95).

**Dan Chaon**’s stories in **STAY AWAKE** (Ballantine, hd. 25.00) feature scattered families, unfulfilled dreamers, anxious souls. They exist in a twilight realm—in a place by the window late at night when the streets are empty and the world appears to be quiet. But you are up, unable to sleep. So you stay awake.

**THE LOST SAINTS OF TENNESSEE**
by Amy Franklin-Willis
(Atlantic Monthly, hd. 25.00)

“In her splendid debut novel, *The Lost Saints of Tennessee*, Amy Franklin-Willis delivers a tender, lyrical tale about one broken man’s search for forgiveness, healing, and the real meaning of family. Her words ring true on every page and compel us to follow in step as Ezekiel Cooper journeys from the life he has known to the one he so desperately craves.”—Susan Gregg Gilmore

“The Lost Saints of Tennessee is a joy—a wonderful, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting story about the unbreakable bonds of brotherhood and the human will to survive. I was deeply moved by it and equally impressed.”—Elizabeth George
WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT ANNE FRANK: Stories by Nathan Englander (Knopf, hd. 24.95)

“It takes an exceptional combination of moral humility and moral assurance to integrate fine-grained comedy and large-scale tragedy as daringly as Nathan Englander does.”
—Jonathan Franzen

THE DARLINGS by Cristina Alger (Pamela Dorman Books, hd. 26.95)

*The Darlings* takes us into the living rooms and offices of New York’s social elite. Taking place at the beginning of the financial collapse, Alger’s novel is at times a high society gossip column, and at others a financial mystery of greed and betrayal. The book revolves around the Darlings, a family of New York socialites and bankers. Yet each chapter spotlights a different character involved with the family, allowing us to see the depth of the financial crash’s impact. *The Darlings* is an exciting, and sometimes heartbreaking read. AM

THE SISTERS BROTHERS by Patrick deWitt (ecco, pb. 14.99)

“A masterful, hilarious picaresque that keeps company with the best of Charles Portis and Mark Twain, *The Sisters Brothers* is a relentlessly absorbing feat of novelistic art.”
—Wells Tower, author of *Everything Ravaged, Everything Burned*

“A gorgeous, wise, riveting work of, among other things, cowboy noir…. Honestly, I can’t recall ever being this fond of a pair of psychopaths.”
—David Wroblewski, bestselling author of *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*

DIARY OF A MAD FAT GIRL by Stephanie McAfee (NAL Trade, pb. 15.00)

Graciela “Ace” Jones is mad at her best friend Lilly who cancels their annual trip to Panama City for mysterious reasons; at her boss Catherine for “riding her ass like a fat lady on a Rascal scooter;” at her friend Chloe’s abusive husband; and especially at Mason McKenzie, the love of her life, who has shown up with a marriage proposal three years too late. Ace is never mad, though, at her near-constant companion, an adorable chiweenie dog named Buster Loo.
**UNTIL THE NEXT TIME** by Kevin Fox  
(Algonquin, pb. 15.94)

Sean Corrigan’s prospects are not great. He is trying to earn money to continue college by working during the summer, but he just turned twenty-one and has a wicked hangover. His not too gentle father presents him with a diary written by an uncle he never knew he had and a plane ticket to Ireland. He is surprised to learn that everyone in his ancestral village seems to know him, and know more than they are willing to share. Like *The Time Traveler’s Wife*, *Until the Next Time* is a story told across centuries. Kevin Fox keeps the reader enthralled as the discovery of each startling development is revealed when more pages surface and we learn that the past truly is not past. **CFR**

**CONJUGATION OF THE VERB TO BE**  
by Glen Chamberlain  
(Delphinium, pb. 11.95)

“It’s a funny thing about stories. Sometimes when you want to tell them, you don’t know what the words should be. So you throw a rope out into a whole herd of possibilities, hoping to catch anything, and you snag just the right one by a hind foot, and then another by a front. Your catching is awkward, but you drag them in and all of a sudden you’ve got a nice little string, and you sit back and admire your catching. “So says one of Glen Chamberlain’s characters in her book of short stories set in Montana and this collection is just so. Like Annie Proulx, Chamberlain has a knack for telling stories in the modern west. So sit back and enjoy this collection. **CFR**

**MY DATE WITH NEANDERTHAL WOMAN** by David Galef  
(Dzanc, pb. 15.95)

David Galef writes stories, whether longer or as tiny one-page wonders, that contain both humor and fear. In this work the ordinary slips easily into the allegorical, into the dream and sometimes into the nightmare, often leaving the reader with moments of narrative that will stick like a sharp-edged image from a memorable poem or painting. Galef’s vision blossoms in a twenty-first century America, but its roots stretch back to the terror behind the oldest folk legends.

In *VICKY SWANKY IS A BEAUTY* (McSweeney’s, hd. 20.00), Diane Williams lays bare the urgency and weariness that shape our lives in stories honed sharper than ever. With sentences auguring revelation and explosion, Williams’s unsettling stories are narrated with razor-sharp tongues and naked, uproarious irreverence.

Part Kafka, part Vonnegut, with the concerns and comedic delivery of Woody Allen, **Etgar Keret** is a brilliant and original master of the short story. Hilarious, witty, and always unusual, declared “a genius” by *The New York Times*, Keret brings all of his talent to bear in *SUDDENLY, A KNOCK ON THE DOOR* (FSG, pb. 14.00).
FROM THE MEMOIRS OF A NON-ENEMY COMBATANT by Alex Gilvarry (Viking, hd. 26.95)

Norman Mailer Fellow and Tottenham Review editor Alex Gilvarry has written what might be the perfect absurdist novel for our times—specifically, the 10th anniversary of the notorious Gitmo prison. A young immigrant, Boyet Hernandez, comes to New York a year after 9/11, fresh out of fashion school in the Philippines, hellbent on making it as a designer in the insane circus of the fashion industry, romances then dumps a vengeful filmmaker girlfriend, and naively makes a business deal with a devil, resulting in tragedy. Gilvarry has Boy Hernandez tell his story perceptively, cleverly, and very amusingly in spite of the sad and disturbing questions raised—the mark of a skilled and talented writer. Anyone who is interested in the fashion world, 9/11 politics, contemporary New York, making fun of the hip life, and a damn good story will enjoy this. LH

MONSTRESS: STORIES by Lysley Tenorio (ecco, pb. 13.95)

These wonderful new stories by Whiting Award winner Tenorio explore the vibrant, complex and tragicomic world of Filipino-Americans who, to varying degrees, have been absorbed by, or constantly bump up against white America. The writing is colorful and the tales so inventive you are quickly charmed and drawn into all the little orbits, whether that of a famous Filipino faith-healing charlatan, a man trying to deal with his brother’s tranny world, a comic book freak who plots revenge on his school-yard enemies with a mighty slingshot and a fifty-foot marble yoyo, two elderly friends(?) facing the demolition of the hotel that has been their home for decades, or my favorite, “Help,” about an uncle who recruits his nephews to defend Imelda Marcos’s honor by beating up The Beatles after they slight her on their 1966 trip to Manila. Funny, poignant, and illuminating—see if you don’t agree. LH

THE GOOD FATHER by Noah Hawley (Doubleday, hd. 25.95)

The orderly life of a Connecticut doctor is tipped over when his young vagabond son is arrested for shooting and killing a popular presidential candidate (“murdering hope”). In a desperate attempt to prove his son’s innocence, the doctor, a rheumatologist, approaches this horrific event by exhaustively examining the facts and details, to make sense of what happened—and to understand his son. His painful process takes us into the mind of a parent who is forced to question unconditional love and parental responsibility (or not) for a child’s actions. The Good Father reads with emotional viscera and anguish for resolution, a page-turner as the reader wants, like the father, to understand. SLM

LEFT-HANDED: POEMS (Knopf, hd. 26.00) is an elegant collection—his first in a decade—by Jonathan Galassi: fifty poems that tell a powerful story of passion, loss, and transformation.

ALMOST INVISIBLE: POEMS (Knopf, hd. 26.00)—arguably the liveliest, most entertaining book that Mark Strand has yet written.
ROGER WILLIAMS AND THE CREATION OF THE AMERICAN SOUL
by John M. Barry (Viking, hd. 35.00)

This is a story of power, set against Puritan America and the English Civil War. Roger Williams’s interactions with King James, Francis Bacon, Oliver Cromwell, and his mentor Edward Coke set his course, but his fundamental ideas came to fruition in America, as Williams, though a Puritan, collided with John Winthrop’s vision of his “City upon a Hill.” Acclaimed historian and author of Rising Tide, John M. Barry explores the development of these fundamental ideas through the story of the man who was the first to link religious freedom to individual liberty, and who created in America the first government and society on earth informed by those beliefs. The story is essential to the continuing debate over how we define the role of religion and political power in modern American life.

SHILOH 1862 by Winston Groom
(National Geographic, hd. 30.00)

In this gripping telling of the first “great and terrible” battle of the Civil War, Winston Groom (Forrest Gump) describes the dramatic events of April 6 and 7, 1862, when a bold surprise attack on Ulysses S. Grant’s encamped troops and the bloody battle that ensued would alter the timbre of the war. Groom’s prose reveals how the bitter fighting would test the mettle of the motley soldiers assembled on both sides, and offer a rehabilitation of sorts for Union General William Sherman. But perhaps the most alarming outcome, Groom reveals, was the realization that for all its horror, the Battle of Shiloh had solved nothing, gained nothing, proved nothing, and the thousands of maimed and slain were merely wretched symbols of things to come.

THE CIVIL WAR: The Second Year Told by Those Who Lived It (Library of America, hd. 40.00) by Stephen Sears traces events from January 1862 to January 1863 in an unforgettable portrait of the crucial year that turned secessionist rebellion into a war of emancipation.

DEVIL IN THE GROVE: Thurgood Marshall, the Grovelan Boys, and the Dawn of a New America (Harper, hd. 26.99) by Gilbert King is a gripping true story of racism, murder, rape, and the law that brings to light one of the most dramatic court cases in American history.

A SLAVE IN THE WHITE HOUSE: PAUL JENNINGS AND THE MADISONS by Elizabeth Dowling Taylor & Annette Gordon-Reed (Palgrave, hd. 28.00)

Taylor paints a fascinating portrait of slavery, hypocrisy, and one man’s quiet struggle to overcome its injustices.” -Publishers Weekly

Set in California during its frontier decades, THE TYCOON AND THE INVENTOR (Doubleday, hd. 28.95) by Edward Ball interweaves Muybridge’s quest to unlock the secrets of motion through photography, an obsessive murder plot, and the peculiar partnership of an eccentric inventor and a driven entrepreneur.
THE ROPE by Nevada Barr
(Macmillan, hd. 25.99)

The Rope takes us back to 1995, when the emotionally damaged New York City actress Anna Pigeon escapes to Glen Canyon National Park in Arizona as a temporary worker. There she is thrown into a real pit of despair, stumbles into crime, doesn’t know who to trust so therefore is suspicious of everyone, and in the end, because Anna is—well, Anna, she squares her shoulders, doggedly survives death, crawls out of her pit, solves the crime, and ta-dal, Anna Pigeon takes on a new role and becomes Ranger Pigeon, the Sherlock Holmes of the National Park Service. SLM

BLUE MONDAY by Nicci French
(Pamela Dorman Books, hd. 26.95)

In this dark, atmospheric London-based story, the husband-wife thriller team of Nicci Gerrard and Sean French (Nicci French) introduces Frieda Klein as an enigmatic psychotherapist who suspects that one of her patients has committed a horrible crime. As a hesitant but driven sleuth, and with the help of a skeptical police officer (you get the feeling they will team up again) and a Ukrainian handyman (the comic relief of the story), Frieda digs into the mind and life of her patient to solve not only the current mystery but a 20 year-old cold case that bears connections. Just the right amount of creepy. Great characters. SLM

The seventeenth installment in Elizabeth George’s Inspector Lynley series is BELIEVING THE LIE (Dutton, hd. 28.95).

“[Lynley is] one of the great character portraits in contemporary crime fiction.” —The Boston Globe

Set on a private island in Florida, CHASING MIDNIGHT (Putnam, hd. 25.95) is the latest in Randy Wayne White’s Doc Ford series.

Elvis Cole and Joe Pike set out to find the missing son of a wealthy industrialist after what appears to be a fake kidnapping, but becomes very real, in TAKEN (Putnam, hd. 26.95) by Robert Crais.

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**THE ONE: The Life and Music of James Brown** by RJ Smith (Gotham, hd. 27.50)

Was your New Year’s resolution this year to be more like Keith Richards? If so, you will want to read this book, because Keith definitely will be reading it, as will everybody in the music biz, African-American studies, US history and politics, etc., etc. This book is so hugely entertaining and valuable, not letting the enormous impact James Brown had on so many aspects of American culture be forgotten or overshadowed by the sad messiness at the end of his life. Dancer, singer-songwriter, political mover and shaker—James Brown’s influence was global, and acclaimed music writer RJ Smith shows us why. His accounts of Brown’s trip to entertain racially tense US troops in Vietnam in 1968 just after MLK’s assassination, his riotous African tour in conjunction with the 1974 “Rumble in the Jungle” between Ali and Frazier, his surprising relationships with presidents, politicos, and black militants, and his spectacular 1976 Atlanta dance show, *Future Shock* are just a few of the things that made Brown The One for so many. LH

**THE LAST HOLIDAY: A Memoir** by Gil Scott-Heron (Grove Press, hd. 25.00)

Jackson, Tennessee native Gil Scott-Heron is known as the “godfather of rap,” but that title alone doesn’t begin to label his influence. His 1980 tour with Stevie Wonder helped to solidify his name amongst the greatest song writers and musicians of our time. His support and activism in the awareness of civil rights—mainly in helping raise support for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which became a national holiday in 1986—along with his musical career is covered in this excellent memoir. Scott-Heron’s music has seen a resurgence in the past few years with his excellent, and unfortunately last—Scott-Heron passed away in May 2011—record, “I’m New Here.” Dwight Garner said in the *NY Times*, “Leave it to Scott-Heron to save some of his best for last. This posthumously published memoir, *The Last Holiday*, is an elegiac culmination to his musical and literary career. He’s a real writer, a word man, and it is as wriggling and vital in its way as Bob Dylan’s *Chronicles: Volume One.*” DS

**HONKY TONK GIRL** (Knopf, hd. 29.95) by Loretta Lynn

One of the most beloved country music stars of all time gives us the first collection of her lyrics and, in her own words, tells the stories that inspired her most popular songs.

**LOOK, I MADE A HAT** (Knopf, hd. 45.00) by Stephen Sondheim

After his acclaimed *Finishing the Hat* (named one of the *New York Times* 10 Best Books of 2010), Stephen Sondheim returns with the second volume of his collected lyrics.

**100 POLAROIDS** (hd. 49.95) by Patrick Sansone

Limited edition, hard bound book of 100 Polaroid photographs taken by Pat Sansone, of Wilco, on his various travels.

More cookbooks, gardening, art, photography and travel books at Off Square Books.

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In SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED (Riverhead, hd. 26.95), Anne Lamott enters a new and unexpected chapter of her own life: grandmotherhood. Stunned to learn that her son, Sam, is about to become a father at nineteen, Lamott begins a journal about the first year of her grandson Jax’s life.

Kevin Young’s encyclopedic book, THE GREY ALBUM: On the Blackness of Blackness (Graywolf Press, hd. 25.00), combines essay, cultural criticism, and lyrical choruses to illustrate the African American tradition of lying—storytelling, telling tales, fibbing, improvising, “jazzing.”

In this new collection of essays WHEN I WAS A CHILD I READ BOOKS (FSG, hd. 26.00) Marilynne Robinson returns to the themes which have preoccupied her work: the role of faith in modern life, the inadequacy of fact, the contradictions inherent in human nature.

THE GREAT NORTHERN EXPRESS (Crown, hd. 25.00) chronicles Howard Frank Mosher’s escapades with an astonishing array of erudite bibliophiles, homeless hitchhikers, country crooners and strippers, and aspiring writers of all circumstances.

MY FRIEND TOM: THE POET-PLAYWRIGHT TENNESSEE WILLIAMS by William Jay Smith & Suzanne Mars (U. Press of MS, hd. 28.00)
A comrade and confidant reveals the early years of the young playwright’s life.

Renowned sociologist and author Eric Klinenberg explores the dramatic rise of solo living and examines the seismic impact it’s having on our culture, business, and politics in GOING SOLO: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone (Penguin, hd. 27.95).

DUST TO DUST: A MEMOIR by Benjamin Busch (ecco, hd. 26.95)
A Marine and Iraq veteran, actor (Officer Colicchio on “The Wire”), film director, son of the novelist Frederick Busch, and now a writer himself, Benjamin Busch in his memoir, Dust to Dust, has much to write about and does so thoughtfully and skillfully. Busch writes about his rural childhood playing war and the unsatisfactoriness of pretending sticks were guns to actual combat in Iraq.

“This brave soldier with his singular sensibility . . . builds us a fort we’re loath to leave.” -Mary Karr, author of The Liars’ Club, Cherry, and Lit

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One of them is a bestselling Pulitzer Prize-winning humorist. The other is a winner of the Thurber Prize for American Humor. Together, Dave Barry and Alan Zweibel form a writing team of pure comic genius, and they will have you laughing like idiots with their new book, LUNATICS (Putnam, hd. 25.95).

For anyone who’s out of a job, out of luck, or just out of sugary snack foods, TOUGH SH*T (Gotham, hd. 25.00), from “Clerks” director Kevin Smith, is an unabashedly honest guide to getting the most out of doing the least.

THE ONION PRESENTS: LOVE, SEX, AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS: RELATIONSHIP REPORTING FROM AMERICA’S FINEST NEWS SOURCE (Quirk Books, pb. 13.95)

THE LAST GREAT GAME: DUKE VS. KENTUCKY AND THE 2.1 SECONDS THAT CHANGED BASKETBALL (Blue Rider Press, hd. 26.95) by Gene Wojciechowski is the definitive book on the greatest game in the history of college basketball, and the dramatic road both teams took to get there.

AMERICAN TRIUMVIRATE: SAM SNEAD, BYRON NELSON, BEN HOGAN, AND THE MODERN AGE OF GOLF by James Dodson (Knopf, hd. 27.95) these three men were so dominant—each setting a host of records—that they transformed both how the game was played and how it was regarded.

GRANTLAND #1 edited by Bill Simmons and Dan Fierman (McSweeney’s, hd. 25.00)

This new sports quarterly from McSweeney’s is based on the popular sports (and lots of other interesting topics) blog, “Grantland,” which is run by Bill Simmons and boasts an impressive list of contributors. This first issue of the new, physical version of Grantland is not much different from the web blog—full of great writing and great stories like Wright Thompson’s piece on Faulkner’s niece and Talladega, Malcolm Gladwell’s rant on the NBA lockout, Bill Simmons’s write up on Lebron James, and so much more. The cover even feels like a basketball. DS
WE’RE WITH NOBODY: Two Insiders Reveal the Dark Side of American Politics
by Alan Huffman & Michael Rejebian
(William Morrow, pb. 15.99)

“This book floored me. I could not stop reading about the strange, dark world that helps determine who we elect and who sinks back into the muck. It is phenomenal; for me politics will never be the same.” -Sebastian Junger

“In this timely book, journalists Huffman (Ten Point) and Rejebian lift the curtain on political research to find dirt on opponents. While Americans are accustomed to hearing scandalous facts, lies, distortions, and gossip during campaigns, few people understand how legal political intelligence gathering has grown in scope since the Watergate break-in of 1972.” -Publishers Weekly

In DRIFT (Crown, hd. 25.00), Rachel Maddow shows how deeply militarized our culture has become—how the role of the national security sector has shape-shifted and grown over the past century to the point of being financially unsustainable and confused in mission.

In THE OPERATORS (Blue Rider Press, hd. 27.95), Michael Hastings gives us a shocking behind-the-scenes portrait of our military commanders, their high-stakes maneuvers and often bitter bureaucratic infighting.

THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE: WHY VIOLENCE HAS DECLINED (Viking, hd. 40.00) continues Steven Pinker’s exploration of the essence of human nature, mixing psychology and history to provide a remarkable picture of an increasingly nonviolent world.

“`A must for everyone even remotely thinking of getting a monkey, a sea lion, or, heaven forbid, a dog.”’ -David Sedaris

In THE BOOK OF DEADLY ANIMALS (Penguin, pb. 15.00), Gordon Grice

In THE FOREST UNSEEN (Viking, hd. 25.95), biologist David Haskell uses a one-square-meter patch of old-growth Tennessee forest as a window onto the entire natural world. Visiting it almost daily for one year to trace nature’s path through the seasons, he brings the forest and its inhabitants to vivid life.

In DESIGN IN NATURE (Doubleday, hd. 27.95), Adrian Bejan takes the recurring patterns in nature—trees, tributaries, air passages, neural networks, and lightning bolts—and reveals how a single principle of physics, the Constructal Law, accounts for the evolution of these and all other designs in our world.

THE WORLD IN A SKILLET: A Food Lover’s Tour of the New American South
by Paul Knipple & Angela Knipple
Foreword by John T. Edge (UNC Press, hd. 35.00)

Paul and Angela Knipple’s culinary tour of the contemporary American South celebrates the flourishing of global food traditions “down home.” Drawing on their firsthand interviews and reportage from Richmond to Mobile and enriched by a cornucopia of photographs and original recipes, the Knipples present engaging, poignant profiles of a host of first-generation immigrants from all over the world who are cooking their way through life as professional chefs, food entrepreneurs and restaurateurs, and home cooks.

THE NEELYS’ CELEBRATION COOKBOOK
by Gina & Pat Neely (Knopf, hd. 28.95)

Along with menus for Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter Sunday, and every known holiday in between, here are all the fixings for a year of down home celebrating, 120 recipes including Hoppin’ John Soup and Deep-fried Cornish Game Hens for New Year’s Day; Smothered Pork Chops and Creamy Garlic Mashed Potatoes for “Welcome Home, Baby”; One-handed Turkey Burgers and Mint Tea for “Spring Cleaning.” The Neelys believe that life should be celebrated, holiday or not.
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THE JUICE: VINOUS VERITAS (Knopf, hd. 26.95) is a generous new collection by Jay McInerney, the acclaimed novelist who, according to Salon, is also “the best wine writer in America.”

In all of Frances Mayes’s bestselling memoirs about Tuscany, food plays a starring role. The cuisine in THE TUSCAN SUN COOKBOOK (Clarkson Potter, hd. 29.99) transports, comforts, entices, and speaks to the genuine and improvisational spirit of Tuscan life.
**PICTURE BOOKS**

**OTTO THE BOOK BEAR**
by Katie Cleminson
(Hyperion, hd. 16.99)

**PENNY AND HER SONG**
by Kevin Henkes
(Greenwillow, hd. 12.99)

**ONE COOL FRIEND**
by Toni Buzzeo
illus. by David Small
(Dial Books, hd. 16.99)

**OTTO THE BOOK BEAR**

**CROCODILE’S TEARS**
by Alex Beard
(Harry N. Abrams, hd. 17.95)

**BETTY BUNNY WANTS EVERYTHING**
by Michael Kaplan
illus. by Stephane Jorisch
(Dial Books, hd. 16.99)

**THE DUCKLING GETS A COOKIE!?**
by Mo Willems
(Hyperion, hd. 15.99)

**THE CAT IN THE HAT BOOK AND HAT BOXED SET**
(Random House, 24.99)
A copy of the beloved Beginner Book packaged in a reusable storage box along with a kid-size red-and-white striped felt Cat hat.

**EXTRA YARN**
by Mae Barnett
illus. by Jon Klassen
(Razorbill, hd. 16.99)

**BIG NATE GOES FOR BROKE**
by Lincoln Peirce
(Harper Collins, hd. 12.99)

Nate has met with an accident and gets more than carried away when all the extra attention sends him on a Nate-centric power trip.

**FEVER**
A Chemical Gardens Novel
by Lauren DeStefano
(Simon & Schuster, hd. 17.99)

**BIG NATE GOES FOR BROKE**

**A MILLION SUNS**
An Across the Universe Novel
by Beth Revis
(Razorbill, hd. 17.99)
THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN by Katherine Applegate
(Harper Collins, hd. 16.99)

The one and only Ivan is a silverback gorilla who has been held in captivity for 9855 days. He watches humans, draws pictures that sell at the mall gift shop, passes the days with only an aging elephant and a stray dog named Bob to keep him company. Being a gorilla is not as easy as it looks. A disturbing event challenges Ivan’s view on everything, and with the help of fellow artist Julia, the janitor’s daughter, he finds great purpose to his existence in this moving and unforgettable story of friendship and hope. SLM

BALTHAZAR: An Evernight Novel by Claudia Gray
(HarperTeen, hd. 17.99)

Vampire Balthazar More emerges from his centuries-long isolation to help a human girl who has caught the attention of the master vampire responsible for murdering Balthazar and his family.

GLORY BE by Augusta Scattergood
(Scholastic, hd. 16.99)

In 1964 in Hanging Moss, Mississippi, 11 year-old Gloriana Hamphill (Glory) feels like she’s about to have the worst summer of her life.

UNDER THE NEVER SKY by Veronica Rossi
(Harper Collins, hd. 17.99)

Two new worlds, created out of the necessity of survival but as incompatible as any two things could ever be, simply must exist independent of each other. Pod Dwellers are unable to withstand the harsh natural world the Tribes have evolved to withstand. Through winding and brutally beautiful prose, Rossi weaves the tale of a Dweller girl ostracized by her people and thrown to death in the unforgiving land of a people more barbaric than she can possibly understand. Aria, alone and believing she is on the brink of death, is saved by the wild and seemingly primitive Perry. UNDER THE NEVER SKY is both breathtaking and savage with a romance so raw and achingly real your heart will pound with every breath, death, and turn of the page. RW

CINDER by Marissa Meyer
(Feiwel & Friends, hd. 17.99)

Cinder is a modern, marvelous retelling of Cinderella, one complete with cyborgs, wicked stepmothers, robots and evil lunar queens. After just the first few pages, though, you’ll forget this story ever had anything in common with a fairy tale. RW

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