



July
2005

BOOK sense Notables

THE ATHENA FACTOR, by **W. Michael Gear** (Forge, \$24.95, 0765311666) “*The Athena Factor* by W. Michael Gear is an engrossing novel with great characters (movie stars and detectives who feel real and scientists who keep disappearing), interesting science (clones, who owns your genes, who should make clones, and what is a clone are a few questions considered) and a story that pulls you from Los Angeles to a luxury ship in international waters.”—**Lise Friedman, Dutton’s Brentwood Books, Los Angeles, CA**



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BROKEN VERSES, by **Kamila Shamsie** (Harvest, \$14 paper, 0156030535) “This is the story of 30-year-old Aasmaani, an intelligent, yet aimless, woman trying to come to terms with her mother Samina’s disappearance 14 years earlier. Weaving together history, politics, and family love, this is an utterly riveting tale. In Aasmaani, Shamsie has created one of the most compelling characters to appear in recent fiction.”—**Herman Fong, The Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA**



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IDIOTS: Five Fairy Tales and Other Stories, by **Jakob Arjouni**, translated by **Anthea Bell** (Other Press, \$19, 1590511573) “I so enjoyed the fairy tales! Suspending my disbelief, savoring the sweet anticipation of the fairy’s entrance and subsequent granting of wishes, I felt inspired and uplifted at the prospect that this fairy could visit *me*, too! Sometimes funny, sometimes dark, and thoroughly enjoyable.”—**Megan Wolfer, Table Mesa Gifts & Books, Boulder, CO**



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LIGHT OF DAY, by **Jamie M. Saul** (Morrow, \$24.95, 0060747528) “This story of a grieving parent haunted by the death of his teenaged son is a compelling and beautiful novel.”—**Lynn Goncha, The Tudor Book Shop and Café, Kingston, PA**



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ME AND ORSON WELLES, by Robert Kaplow (Penguin, \$13 paper, 0143035223)
“Move over, Holden Caulfield! Here’s a delightful coming-of-age story that takes you back to the heyday of New York theater. Wonderful characters, an inventive story line—humorous, poignant, and genuine. A joy to read.”—Jan Hecht, **The Book Vault, Wallingford, CT**



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MOTHERS AND OTHER MONSTERS: Stories, by Maureen McHugh (Small Beer Press, \$24, 1931520135) “I’m blown away by Maureen McHugh’s short fiction. Some of these stories are fierce, others funny; some tragic and others tender. All are so wise and thoughtful that they left me deeply affected and unable to put many of them out of my mind.”—Lois Powers, **The Toadstool Bookshop, Milford, NH**



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MOUNTING DESIRE, by Nina Killham (Bloomsbury, \$22.95, 1582345015) “Killham has written a quick-witted book of romance on romance—and it’s laugh-out-loud funny.”—Tracie Sayers, **The Bookstore Plus, Lake Placid, NY**



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NOVEL, by George Singleton (Harcourt, \$24, 0151011281) “In Singleton’s *Novel* we follow one Novel Akers (his brother’s name is James; his sister’s is Joyce) through a hilarious turn in the author’s fictional Gruel, South Carolina. A man on an apparent self-destructive mission, Novel rasses with demons, real and imagined, on his way to writing his memoirs and discovering a decades-old secret about the town and its eccentric citizens. Expect a hearty chuckle or a full-blown guffaw from every page.”—Slade Lewis, **Square Books, Oxford, MS**



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THE POET OF LOCH NESS, by **Brian Jay Corrigan** (Thomas Dunne Books, \$23.95, 0312329318) “This is a lovely first novel, heavy with the cadence and speech of the Scottish and blessed with a poet’s depiction of life on the ‘unfashionable’ side of Loch Ness. The mysterious and mystical setting takes one’s breath away and the story gives it back, big deep breaths of the Scottish highland air.”—**Jeanne Regentin, Between the Covers, Harbor Springs, MI**



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THE SUMMER WE GOT SAVED, by **Pat Cunningham Devoto** (Warner, \$23.95, 0446576964) “*The Summer We Got Saved* is chock full of characters weaving a story of the real South that allows the reader to picture each scene. Any lover of Southern literature will be ‘un-saved’ without this sensational summer read.”—**Jake Reiss, The Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL**



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THE WONDER SPOT, by **Melissa Bank** (Viking, \$24.95, 0670034118) “I didn’t think Melissa Bank could top *The Girl’s Guide To Hunting And Fishing*—but she did. This book is perfect: the combination of stories, the emotional tone, and the pure and beautiful simplicity of the writing. Bank writes from a place very few writers have the courage or skill to go—she writes from her heart.”—**Kathleen Caldwell, A Great Good Place for Books, Oakland, CA**



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DECADE OF THE WOLF: *Returning the Wild to Yellowstone*, by **Douglas W. Smith and Gary Ferguson** (Lyons Press, \$23.95, 159228700X) “Douglas Smith provides a 10-year retrospective on the reintroduction of wolves to the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem. Between the incredible writing skills of former ranger Gary Ferguson and the first-person perspective of Douglas Smith, who manages the Yellowstone wolves, it’s the perfect summer reading for anyone interested in nature.”—**Gary Robeson, Red Lodge Books, Red Lodge, MT**



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THE LADY AND THE PANDA: *The True Adventures of the First American Explorer to Bring Back China's Most Exotic Animal*, by Vicki Croke (Random House, \$25.95, 0375507833) "A glamorous young widow shocked the social world of 1936 New York when she announced she was heading up an expedition to capture an elusive giant panda, at that time an animal known largely through legend. Ruth Harkness' story is of a woman of endless energy, curiosity, and resolution, who was one of the foremost women explorers of the 20th century."—**Barbara Hoagland, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT**



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MOZART IN THE JUNGLE: *Sex, Drugs, and Classical Music*, by Blair Tindall (Atlantic, \$24, 0871138905) "I couldn't put down this lively yet sobering tale of life as a professional freelance musician. Oboist Blair Tindall spares no one (including herself) in this indictment of her industry."—**Karen Maeda Allman, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA**



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MY MOTHER'S EYES: *Holocaust Memories of a Young Girl*, by Anna Ornstein, Stewart Goldman (Emmis, \$20, 1578601452) "This intensely personal memoir is painful to read, and, at the same time, hopeful. Anna Ornstein tells her children and grandchildren about her survival in Auschwitz, wanting them to know and to remember her experiences. One feels privileged to share these memories."—**Dianne Aisenbrey, Best of Times Bookstore, Red Wing, MN**



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RATS: *Observations on the History and Habitat of the City's Most Unwanted Inhabitants*, by Robert Sullivan (Bloomsbury, \$14.95 paper, 1582344779) "Did you know that rat teeth are stronger than copper, lead, or iron? Or that a single pair of rats can produce over 15,000 descendants in just one year? This book has been described as gruesomely fascinating, strangely entertaining, and perversely intriguing—all true, and you can't put it down."—**Chris O'Harra, Auntie's Bookstore, Spokane, WA**



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DANCE OF DEATH, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (Warner Books, \$25.95, 0446576972) "This is an intense story of the hatred between two brothers and how, as one plots 'the perfect crime,' the other tries to prevent it. The first chapter grabbed my attention, and the rest of the book kept me riveted!"—**Judy Balbo, Colby College Bookstore, Waterville, ME**



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HOUR OF THE CAT, by Peter Quinn (Overlook, \$25.95, 1585675970) "In *Hour of the Cat*, Quinn deftly sketches a very turbulent period in history and populates it with great characters. The pacing is subtle, the mystery developing slowly, but it builds to a smash ending. Gritty, not glamorous, and that's a compliment."—**Geoffrey Jennings, Rainy Day Books, Fairway, KS**



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ONE SHOT, by Lee Child (Delacorte, \$25, 0385336683) "Who isn't crazy about Jack Reacher? (Only those poor souls who have yet to make his acquaintance.) Men want to be like him; women want to be with him. And why not? He's smart, sexy, funny, cocky, freewheeling, strong, handsome, clever—in short, he's irresistible! Read *One Shot* and you'll be hooked, too."—**Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI**



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STEALING WITH STYLE, by Emyl Jenkins (Algonquin, \$22.95, 1565124456) "Jenkins, who in past years wrote bestselling nonfiction books on antiques and entertaining, turns to fiction with a lighthearted mystery about an antiques appraiser who uncovers a devilish plot to steal valuable antiques from well-to-do elderly people. A great, quick read. I can't wait for the next in this new series."—**Beth Carpenter, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC**