



June **BOOK** Notables
2007 sense

THE LAST NOVEL, by **David Markson** (Shoemaker & Hoard, \$15 paper, 9781593761431/1593761430) “Can an unending stream of curious quotes and observations tell a story? Is this really a novel? Yes and yes! The Narrator, as he calls himself, tosses us an occasional pointer to move the tale along. But it’s the patterns in the swirling stream of quotes that draw us to a place where, in reflecting upon what we’ve just experienced, we nod and smile.”—**Bob Sommer, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ**



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THE LOST CONSTITUTION, by **William Martin** (Forge, \$24.95, 9780765315380/0765315386) “A modern-day collectible-document dealer races to find the first draft of the Constitution. In between run-ins with danger, the story bounces back to the 1700s and 1800s as it tracks one family’s efforts to safeguard the document for their descendants’ posterity. The pace is fast, but it all works out in the end.”—**Bob Spear, The Book Barn, Leavenworth, KS**



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MALE OF THE SPECIES, by **Alex Mindt** (Delphinium, \$22.95, 9781883285289/1883285283) “This book resonates with the landscape of manhood in all its forms. If being male in America could be described as an intelligent, well-crafted pie, the slices would be the stories that make up this collection—stories with as much heart and insight imaginable.”—**Calvin Crosby, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA**



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ON CHESIL BEACH, by **Ian McEwan** (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, \$22, 9780385522403/0385522401) “Florence and Edward are 22-year-old newlyweds in 1962 England. She’s a violinist, he’s a historian, and they’re both virgins. McEwan describes with compassion and detail the frustration the two feel at their inability to communicate their feelings and fears. A skillfully crafted exploration of the ways in which a single night can have far-reaching, even life-altering, effects.”—**Dawn C. Donovan, Armchair Bookstore, Dennis, MA**



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THE PRICE OF SILENCE, by **Camilla Trinchieri** (Soho Press, \$22, 9781569474587/1569474583) “A disturbing story about a family lost in deception and secrets. Emma searches for a way to assuage her guilt for her infant daughter’s death, and her husband buries his anger and blame—with tragic results. The mysterious An-ling becomes embroiled in the lives of this family attempting to heal her own wounds. The expression of love takes some strange turns.”—**Dianne Aisenbrey, Best of Times Bookstore, Red Wing, MN**



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QUANTICO, by **Greg Bear** (Perseus Books Group/Vanguard, \$24.95, 9781593154455/1593154453) “In this cautionary tale, Bear shows us a grim picture of what the future will be like if we don’t change our ways! This thriller, set not too many years from now, describes a world in which global terrorism has become the norm. Three young FBI agents are charged with tracking down a terrorist. Will they be able to save the world?”—**Cinda Meister, Booksmart, Morgan Hill, CA**



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STORMY WEATHER, by **Paulette Jiles** (Morrow, \$24.95, 9780060537326/0060537329) “A new novel from the author of *Enemy Women*. The prose in *Stormy Weather* sings to you of the hard times of the Great Depression, life in the Texas oil fields, and the strong Stoddard women. I could not put it down!”—**Dinah Price, The Twig Book Shop, San Antonio, TX**



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THE WITCH OF PORTOBELLO, by **Paulo Coelho** (HarperCollins, \$24.95, 9780061338809/006133880X) “When this book arrived, you’d have thought I’d received a precious diamond in the mail. Coelho’s latest novel explores the life of Athena, known as the titular Witch because of her magical powers. The story is told through ‘interviews’ with those who knew Athena, and the resulting story is magical, full of love and light.”—**Susan Weis, Breathe Books, Baltimore, MD**



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A BUFFALO IN THE HOUSE: *The True Story of a Man, an Animal, and the American West*, by R. D. Rosen (New Press, \$24.95, 9781595581655/1595581650)

“This book was a surprise to read: I learned about the anatomy of the buffalo, and how it became part of American culture. I really enjoyed the book’s humor, and the bond between Charlie—an orphaned buffalo—and Roger and Veryl, the couple that raised him.”—**Sue Stahl, Reading & Rhythm, Bad Axe, MI**



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THE CANON: *A Whirligig Tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science*, by Natalie Angier (Houghton, \$27, 9780618242955/0618242953) “Whether you flunked high school chemistry or subscribe to *Scientific American*, there is plenty of knowledge in these pages to satisfy you. Science is all around us—global warming, evolution, stem cells, and CSI— so relax and delve into physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy, and understand issues in today’s world.”—**Barbara Theroux, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT**



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CRASHING THROUGH: *A True Story of Risk, Adventure, and the Man Who Dared to See*, by Robert Kurson (Random House, \$25.95, 9781400063352/1400063353)

“The author of *Shadow Divers* has created a thoughtful portrayal of a true adventure. Mike May, blind since age three, is offered a surgery that may restore his eyesight. As I read, I found myself wondering what I would do in his situation. An interesting, inspiring story of one man’s experience with the joys, risks, and realities of modern medicine.”—**Nancy Quinn, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops, Milwaukee, WI**



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DANCING WITH ROSE: *Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer’s*, by Lauren Kessler (Viking, \$24.95, 9780670038596/0670038598) “A book about Alzheimer’s that is uplifting, touching, and funny? If you don’t think such a book is possible, think again. Kessler’s account of working as a caregiver for people with Alzheimer’s, although not always glamorous, left me feeling more optimistic about this disease than I thought possible.”—**Sue Post, The Homer Bookstore, Homer, AK**



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GHOST HUNTERS: *William James and the Search for Scientific Proof of Life After Death*, by Deborah Blum (Penguin, \$15 paper, 9780143038955/0143038958) “Science journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winner Blum tells the extraordinary story of William James, a renowned Harvard University psychiatry professor and philosopher who, in the early 20th century, joins a group of scholars in conducting scientific investigations of ghostly goings-on. A riveting story about the intersection of science and religion.”—**Sandi Torkildson, A Room of One’s Own Feminist Bookstore, Madison, WI**



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MISS AMERICAN PIE: *A Diary of Love, Secrets and Growing Up in the 1970s*, by Margaret Sartor (Bloomsbury, \$11.95 paper, 9781596912014/1596912014) “This wonderful memoir is a coming-of-age tale set in 1970s Louisiana. Sartor draws on her diaries and letters to tell her own story—and in many ways, she has told the story of us all.”—**Elisabeth Grant-Gibson, Windows a bookshop, Monroe, LA**



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BLOODTHIRSTY: *A Lomax and Biggs Mystery*, by Marshall Karp (MacAdam/Cage, \$26, 9781596922099/1596922095) “LA cops Mike Lomax and Terry Biggs are trying to conduct a murder investigation in a town where everything is movie fodder. The death of a producer is bad enough, but when his latest leading man shows up dead—and bled dry—the media runs with the story, and the list of suspects grows longer. Fast-paced and suspenseful.”—**Keri Holmes, The Kaleidoscope: Our Focus Is You, Hampton, IA**



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A FATAL GRACE: *A Three Pines Mystery*, by Louise Penny (St. Martin’s Minotaur, \$23.95, 9780312352561/0312352565) “This is Penny’s second mystery featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec. The chief is as brilliant and lovable as ever—and he must figure out how an obnoxious woman was electrocuted in front of all the townspeople at a curling event. A unique, exceptional book.”—**Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM**



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FREE FIRE, by **C. J. Box** (Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399154270/0399154272) “With a fast-moving plot and terrific characters, this book is a thrill ride from beginning to end! Set in Yellowstone National Park, the story’s underlying conflict is in the forefront today: environmental interests vs. business. I recommend it to anyone who loves nature, interesting characters, and mystery thrillers.”—**Linda Vinstra, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI**



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ICE MOON, by **Jan Costin Wagner** (Harcourt, \$25, 9780151012695/0151012695) “Bang the drum loudly for the exciting influx of Scandinavian writers of mystery: Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and, now, Finland! Detective Kimmo Joentaa returns to work after the death of his wife, and sees everything through the veil of her loss as he plunges into solving murders (which he links when no one else sees the connections). Taut, elegiac, and arresting, *Ice Moon* weaves a spell in keeping with the endless days of a Finnish late summer.”—**Helen Sinoradzki, Annie Bloom’s Books, Portland, OR**



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IN THE WOODS, by **Tana French** (Viking, \$24.95, 9780670038602/0670038601) “This story grabbed me right from the get-go, and never let up until the conclusion. I could almost hear the Philip Glass music playing in the background as the suspense built steadily, weaving a pair of unsolved murders together with a chilling present-day murder. Don’t miss this well-told debut!”—**Susie Fruncillo, Lake Country Booksellers, White Bear Lake, MN**



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WHITEWASH, by **Alex Kava** (Mira, \$24.95, 9780778324409/0778324400) “This superbly paced tale is an impressively imaginative departure from the conventional thriller: It mixes up greed, waste treatment, and Florida’s pressured environment with political powerhouses and more than one surprising love story. Kava explores loss and alienation and the joy of being found, and switches points of view with such ease that the reader emerges having enjoyed an intensely personal experience.”—**Barbara Peters, The Poisoned Pen, Scottsdale, AZ**