



June 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

BANGKOK TATTOO, by **John Burdett** (Knopf, \$24, 1400040450) “Sonchai Jitpleecheep, Colonel Vikorn, and the rest of the gang from District 8 in the heart of Bangkok’s sex district are back with another wild ride. So much more than a mystery, *Bangkok Tattoo* takes the reader to exotic places both physically and philosophically. With humor and subtlety, Burdett has surpassed his first book, *Bangkok 8*.”—**Sue Richardson, Maine Coast Book Shop, Damariscotta, ME**



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BREATH AND BONES, by **Susann Cokal** (Unbridled, \$23.95, 1932961062) “In the late 1800s, Danish orphan Famke becomes a model for her artist lover. After he abandons her, she embarks on a journey to find him that becomes an extraordinary odyssey in America. Hilarious, bawdy, and deliciously fun reading.”—**Barbara Hoagland, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT**



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MARGARETTOWN, by **Gabrielle Zevin** (Miramax, \$21, 1401352421) “Zevin’s novel confronts identity, true love, and the nature of time in a very entertaining read. When a man named N. falls in love with Margaret Towne, he gets more than he bargained for, and, ultimately, the story leaves readers wondering what is the nature of eternal love? Can it exist when lovers change through time?”—**Susan Taylor, Wellesley Booksmith, Wellesley, MA**



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O MY DARLING, by **Amity Gaige** (Other Press, \$22, 1590511743) “I’m nuts about *O My Darling*, a quirky novel about a young couple in their new marriage, house, and jobs. It’s funny and surprising and rich—full of textured, almost poetic, language. And it’s still a page-turner, perfect for the beach or a rainy day at home.”—**Pete Mulvihill, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA**



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THE ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL, by **Betsy Carter** (Algonquin, \$23.95, 1565124499) “Betsy Carter has the gifts of a seasoned, Southern storyteller, weaving together the lives of her characters with the place they call home, showing how life was permanently altered in the 1960s for Floridians, and all Americans, dealing with changing race relations and the war in Vietnam.”—**Rona Linlee, The Book Mark, Atlantic Beach, FL**



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TABLE FOR FIVE, by **Susan Wiggs** (Mira, \$19.95, 0778321673) “How do you pick up the pieces when your world falls apart? And when you’re not the only one affected, how do you also help the others involved? Wiggs’ consistent ability to understand the struggle of families being reborn shines in this multilayered story that clutches at your heart.”—**Marissa Goldenman, Armchair Books, Pendleton, OR**



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TOKYO CANCELLED, by **Rana Dasgupta** (Grove/Black Cat, \$13 paper, 0802170099) “This collection of stories is so engaging I couldn’t put it down. I found myself captivated by the enthralling tales told by these characters stranded at an airport. This very talented author shares a fascinating and vivid imagination with the reader.”—**Ann Holsman, Wisebird Bookery, Ogden, UT**



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THE WRITING ON THE WALL, by **Lynne Sharon Schwartz** (Counterpoint, \$24, 1582432996) “This post-9/11 novel uses the event as a backdrop for the story of an unusually inventive and imaginative woman coping with issues of trust, memory, and identity. There is a wonderful secondary plot about language which will interest anyone who loved *Ella Minnow Pea*.”—**Hester Jeswald, Sarasota News & Books, Sarasota, FL**



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CONFLUENCE: A River, The Environment, Politics, and the Fate of All Humanity, by Nathaniel Tripp, foreword by Howard Dean (Steerforth, \$21, 1586420887) “Ostensibly *Confluence* is a book about the Connecticut River watershed, but it is so much more than that. It’s a story of the farmers, loggers, and hunters who make their living from the land abutting the river, as well as those who enjoy its recreational attributes, and it offers guidance on how each of us can foster the long-range planning that is necessary to protect and enhance the environment.”—**Fran Keilty, Hickory Stick Bookshop, Washington Depot, CT**



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THE FINAL FRONTIERSMAN: Heimo Korth and His Family, Alone in Alaska’s Arctic Wilderness, by James Campbell (Atria, \$25, 0743453131) “This has been described as an adventure book, but it’s really a love story. A man’s love of the land he lives in. A family’s deep love for one another and their home. This is a story about dreamers who face hardships we can hardly imagine but whose love keeps the dream alive.”—**Suzi Armstrong, The Bookstack, Staunton, VA**



June **BOOK** Notables

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GOOD DAY FOR A PICNIC: Simple Food That Travels Well, by Jeremy Jackson (Morrow Cookbooks, \$22.95, 0060726806) “I first got my copy of *Good Day for a Picnic* in March, and within days I had dog-eared no fewer than 19 pages that had recipes I want to try. The recipes are interesting, varied, and chosen to present lively flavor, color, and texture combinations, with the added benefit of looking feasible to a novice. This is a great gift book for the chef on your list!”—**Eric Robbins, Apple Valley Books, Winthrop, ME**



June **BOOK** Notables

2005 sense

THE LOBSTER COAST: Rebels, Rusticators, and the Struggle for a Forgotten Frontier, by Colin Woodard (Viking, \$24.95, 0670033243) “As a Maine native I read fellow native Colin Woodard’s account of our history, fisheries, and modern challenges with interest. Woodard does an excellent job weaving these themes together and making connections between seemingly disparate topics. I will be recommending this book to all of our summer visitors!”—**Sarah O’Malley, Compass Rose Bookstore, Castine, ME**



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PIANO GIRL: Lessons in Life, Music, and the Perfect Blue Hawaiian, by Robin Goldsby (Backbeat Books, \$22.95, 0879308249) "Goldsby's funny, funky, and sometimes moving memoir of her 30-year career as a cocktail lounge pianist are as refreshing as a frozen daiquiri. From sleazy back-alley bars to the swanky Grand Hyatt in New York City, she's seen it all from her piano, and she dishes it up with a true storyteller's gusto. A very fun read."—**Jeff Yanc, Reader's Oasis, Tucson, AZ**



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SHADOW DIVERS: The True Adventure of Two Americans Who Risked Everything to Solve One of the Last Mysteries of World War II, by Robert Kurson (Random House Trade Paperbacks, \$14.95 paper, 0375760989) "Shadow Divers is a wild ride to the bottom of the ocean with men so obsessed with the thrill of discovery they are willing to face a thousand scenarios of death. The constant peril and unimaginable circumstances will leave you wide-eyed with wonder. This book does for deep sea diving what *Seabiscuit* did for horse racing!"—**Helen Zimmermann, Ariel Booksellers, New Paltz, NY**



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THIRTEEN AND A DAY: The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Across America, by Mark Oppenheimer (FSG, \$23, 0374106657) "This great cultural study traces diverse experiences from New York to Alaska to Louisiana. The book begins as a critique of the 'bar mitzvah' factories pumping out 13-year-olds who really just want to party, but it ends with the recognition that the tradition that binds Jews together across the world is not how they practice, but that they practice."—**Evan Kuluk, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Oakland, CA**



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TO SEE EVERY BIRD ON EARTH: A Father, a Son, and a Lifetime Obsession, by Dan Koeppel (Hudson Street, \$24.95, 1594630011) "I dare you to start reading this book and not get hooked! Perfect for Father's Day and any spring gift-giving occasion. This is much more than a birder book, much more than a father-son relationship book, it is a wonderful explanation of an obsession. But beware: You may view the fleeting colors and songs around you with different eyes."—**Barbara Theroux, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT**



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THE LOCH, by Steve Alten (Tsunami Books, \$27.95, 0976165902) "This is an exciting novel about the mystery of Loch Ness. Alten's clever use of facts, folklore, and fiction propel the story as fast as the mythical monster! Perfect for thrill-seeking readers."—**Holly Frakes, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI**



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THE NANNY MURDERS, by Merry Jones (Thomas Dunne, \$23.95, 0312330383) "I couldn't put down *The Nanny Murders*. It's a great mystery—with an interesting plot—and I didn't figure out 'whodunit' until I was told... though I suspected each and every male character at one time or another!"—**Meg Arsenaull, Central Avenue Bookstores, Faribault, MN**



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RUNNING DARK: A Woods Cop Mystery, by Joseph Heywood (Lyons Press, \$19.95, 1592286178) "This is Joseph Heywood's newest and (while I like them all) best Woods Cop mystery. Heywood has taken a not-so-pretty bit of recent Michigan history and has fleshed it out and written a terrific page-turner with a punch."—**Jeanne Regentin, Between the Covers, Harbor Springs, MI**



June 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

SEX, MURDER AND A DOUBLE LATTE, by Kyra Davis (Red Dress Ink, \$17.95, 0373895194) "This story of a struggling mystery writer who discovers that she's being stalked by a murderer will keep reading. This is the most fun I've had since I started reading Janet Evanovich."—**Tina Saville, Browsing Bison Books, Deer Lodge, MT**