



2007  
November **BOOK** sense Notables

**THE CHRISTMAS PEARL**, by **Dorothea Benton Frank** (Morrow, \$14.95, 9780061438448/0061438448) “The very best gifts are unexpected, and Dorothea Benton Frank makes a nearly impossible story sound true. *The Christmas Pearl* is filled with hope and joy, and the recipes in the back are an added bonus.”—**Barbara MacDonald, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI**



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**TIPPERARY**, by **Frank Delaney** (Random House, \$26.95, 9781400065233/1400065232) “Out of the complex and rich tapestry of 19th-century Irish history, author Frank Delaney carves a lovely, old-fashioned novel with a fascinating cast of characters. Anyone who enjoyed the Delaney’s previous magical novel, *Ireland*, will be entranced by this quite different and intricate tale.”—**Karen M. Frank, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT**



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**THE AIR WE BREATHE**, by **Andrea Barrett** (Norton, \$24.95, 9780393061086/0393061086) “The tubercular patients taking the fresh-air cure in the Adirondacks in the weeks before the U.S. enters WWI are featured in this meticulously researched and evocatively written story. Although coming from widely different backgrounds, the patients speak with one voice, as anti-immigrant prejudice, fear, and political repression escalate into violence. Barrett has written an eerie, disturbing, and exciting exploration of themes that consume our world today.”—**Elli Meeropol, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA**



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**SAMEDI THE DEAFNESS**, by **Jesse Ball** (Vintage, \$12.95 paper, 9780307278852/0307278859) “James Sim is a mnemonist who one day finds himself abducted and taken to a sprawling mansion. The mansion is a psychiatric hospital, a home for chronic liars. Here, James discovers a sinister conspiracy of epic proportions. The problem is, if everyone is a liar, what, if anything is true? This is modern literary fiction at its experimental best.”—**Grant Outerbridge, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Oakland, CA**



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**LIFE OF PI: Deluxe Illustrated Edition, by Yann Martel** (Harcourt, \$29.95, 9780151013837/0151013837) “*Life of Pi* is an adult book that has become a huge crossover success. Now, publisher Harcourt brings us a gorgeous illustrated edition aimed squarely at the young adult audience. This beautiful story can now be a beautiful gift for every thinking teen on your holiday list.”—**Elisabeth Grant-Gibson, Windows a bookshop, Monroe, LA**



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**WINTERBIRTH, by Brian Ruckley** (Orbit, \$14.99 paper, 9780316067690/0316067695) “*Winterbirth* is a showcase of an amazing new voice in science fiction. In Ruckley’s first installment of the Godless World trilogy, we meet everyone from elves to kings, as well as the inevitable clash of good versus evil. An unlikely mix between the Lord of the Rings and the Dark Tower, but on a tier of its own.”—**Katie Glasgow, Mitchell Books, Fort Wayne, IN**



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**THE CHASE, by Clive Cussler** (Putnam, \$26.95, 9780399154386/0399154388) “Set mainly in 1906 in the West, Cussler’s latest novel features a detective from the East who ‘always gets his man’ on the hunt for a ruthless but very clever bank robber. Absolutely fabulous, thrilling, and exciting.”—**Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM**



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**STEPS THROUGH THE MIST, by Zoran Zivkovic** (Aio, \$29.95, 9781933083100/1933083107) “Zoran Zivkovic’s novel is notable for both content and design. A master of the mosaic form, Zivkovic’s stories range from beautiful to distressing, from realistic to fantastic, and his hauntingly lyrical prose is addictive, leaving us demanding more.”—**Keri Holmes, The Kaleidoscope: Our Focus Is You, Hampton, IA**



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**PROUST AND THE SQUID: *The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*, by Maryanne Wolf** (HarperCollins, \$25.95, 9780060186395/0060186399) “This is a wonderful book about the complex processes that make up literacy. Wolf recounts the historical development of writing, describes the acquisition of language by young children, and discusses what happens when things go awry. She ends by carefully considering the impact of the digital age on our cultural values and neurological processes. This is the most important book I’ve read in some time.”—**Karl Pohrt, Shaman Drum Bookshop, Ann Arbor, MI**



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**MARCO POLO: *From Venice to Xanadu*, by Laurence Bergreen** (Knopf, \$29.95, 9781400043453/140004345X) “The travels of Marco Polo have enthralled readers for seven centuries but few really know the truth of his fascinating life. Laurence Bergreen gives us an enjoyable portrayal of Polo while also exposing the complex and violent world of the 13th-century Proto-Renaissance. This book will expose a new generation to the surprising life of Marco Polo.”—**Bill Cusumano, Nicola’s Books, Ann Arbor, MI**



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**THE SIEGE OF MECCA: *The Forgotten Uprising in Islam’s Holiest Shrine and the Birth of al-Qaeda*, by Yaroslav Trofimov** (Doubleday, \$26, 9780385519250/0385519257) “As the Iranian Revolution of 1979 unfolded next door, the Saudis were alarmed and embarrassed by an armed takeover of the Grand Mosque in Mecca in 1979. The counter-siege of Islam’s holiest shrine dragged on into bloody absurdity, revealing corruption and incompetence in the highest levels of the Saudi government. Trofimov illuminates a highly suppressed, almost-forgotten chapter in radical Muslim terror.”—**James Tremlett, Schuler Books & Music, Lansing, MI**



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**THE HUMAN, THE ORCHID, AND THE OCTOPUS: *Exploring and Conserving Our Natural World*, by Jacques Cousteau with Susan Shiefelbein** (Bloomsbury, \$25.95, 9781596914179/1596914173) “This was the most amazing, inspiring, and heartbreaking book that I’ve read in a long time. It reminded me of our history, our responsibility, and a few more ‘inconvenient truths.’ Ten years after his death, Cousteau is still the caretaker, and the voice, of the sea.”—**Anne Wilde, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Mequon, WI**



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**REEF**, by **Scubazoo** (DK Publishing, \$40, 9780756631222/075663122X) “What an amazing pictorial adventure in the world’s reefs! The photos are crisp and clear, and the narrative reveals the passion of the women and men who were involved in the project.”—**Debbie Campbell, The Book and Cranny, Statesboro, GA**



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**CORMAC**, by **Sonny Brewer** (MacAdam/Cage, \$17, 9781596920613/1596920610) “Sonny Brewer’s account of his lost, and beloved, golden retriever, Cormac, transported me right back to my childhood— there I was, a young girl sitting on the side of a hill in Eastern Kentucky waiting for her lost dog, Rascal, to come home. Brewer perfectly captures the angst, emptiness, and urgency of such a moment.”—**Jen Reynolds, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH**



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**BAD KARMA: Confessions of a Reckless Traveller in Southeast Asia**, by **Tamara Sheward** (Academy Chicago, \$17.95 paper, 9780897335652/0897335651) “Australian Tamara Sheward loves to travel, but she has a little problem: She loathes other travelers. So, she and a like-minded pal set off for remote villages in Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand looking for adventure (and over-the-counter Valium). I haven’t read anyone this funny and bitingly misanthropic since Florence King. A great send-up of adventure travel and back-packer culture.”—**Linda Bubon, Women & Children First, Chicago, IL**



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**THE WANDERING GHOST**, by **Martin Limon** (Soho, \$24, 9781569474815/1569474818) “Set in Korea in the 1970s, this is the fifth in Limon’s series featuring George Sueno and Ernie Bacsom, who are faced with a missing female MP, and a lot more. *The Wandering Ghost* features interesting characters, action, atmosphere, and a solid storyline.”—**Mary Jane Weber, The Town Book Store, Westfield, NJ**



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**A KILLER'S KISS**, by **William Lashner** (Morrow, \$24.95, 9780061143465/0061143464) "What a book. When an old lover walks back into his life, Victor Carl really walks a fine line between right and wrong. And the ending... what a surprise. Lashner has created great characters and wonderful plot. I'm recommending this to my customers."—**Pam Headrick, A Thirsty Mind, Lakeway, TX**



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**THE ABDUCTION**, by **Mark Gimenez** (Vanguard, \$22.95, 9781593154639/1593154631) "When John Brice's ten-year-old daughter is abducted, he gets pulled into a plot that threatens the White House. This is one of my favorite thrillers of the fall—great for fans of Harlan Coben!"—**David Thompson, Murder By The Book, Houston, TX**



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**THE SECRET CARDINAL**, by **Tom Grace** (Vanguard, \$24.95, 9781593154561/1593154569) "The action is nonstop from start to finish in this tale of suspense and intrigue that moves between two rich and diverse settings. When the Vatican sends a small force to free Bishop Yin Daoming from a Chinese gulag, plans are plunged into turmoil by the betrayal from one of the cardinals assembled to select the new pope."—**Linda Walonen, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA**



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**ZUGZWANG**, by **Ronan Bennett** (Bloomsbury, \$24.95, 9781596912533/1596912537) "This thoroughly engrossing literary thriller begins with a bang in St Petersburg in March 1914, with two murders being committed in the first pages of the book. The protagonist is a chess playing, secular Jewish psychoanalyst caught up in the intrigue that unfolds around him. With a varied and diverse cast of characters, this is a book to be savored by chess lovers, mystery lovers and history lovers alike."—**Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI**