

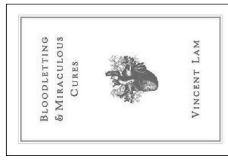
2007 September

BOOK Notables

FICTION



AURALIA'S COLORS, by Jeffrey Overstreet (Waterbrook Press, \$13.99, 9781400072521/1400072522) "This smart, lively cautionary tale tells the strange story of a kingdom that is destroying itself over a misunderstanding about the purpose of beauty. The first volume in a new epic, Overstreet's novel often feels like a fantasy counterpart to *Fahrenheit 451*, and the storytelling reads like a surprising intersection of Ray Bradbury, Patricia McKillip, and Kate DiCamillo."—**Adam Walter, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA**



BLOODLETTING & MIRACULOUS CURES: Stories, by Vincent Lam (Weinstein Books, \$23.95, 9781602860001/1602860009) "This novel, told in short stories, follows the lives of four medical students from college to private practice. Lamb has used spare, honest language to craft a beautiful novel I would recommend to anyone who has known what it is to feel alone."—**Suzanna Hermans, Oblong Books & Music, Rhinebeck, NY**



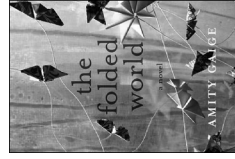
CASPIAN RAIN, by Gina Nahai (MacAdam Cage, \$25, 9781596922518/1596922516) "Tehran-born Nahai has set her fourth novel in Iran in the 1980s, 10 years before the Islamic Revolution. The young narrator, Yaas, describes her wealthy Iranian Jewish family in a wonderful exploration of what for most of us is an unfamiliar society."—**Betty Jo Harris, Windows a bookshop, Monroe, LA**



DE NIRO'S GAME, by Rawi Hage (Steerforth, \$23.95, 9781581952230/1581952236) "This novel of friendship, betrayal, and family bonds unfolds in an extraordinary landscape: contemporary West Beirut, a place ruled by warlords. It is the story of two young men with limited options living in a world of constant violence. This book offers an up-close look at a world that seems infinitely distant from our own. Of course, it's no longer that distant from our neighborhoods."—**Tasha Pohrt, Shaman Drum Bookshop, Ann Arbor, MI**



THE EMPRESS OF WEEHAWKEN, by Irene Dische (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$24, 9780374299125/0374299129) "This charming, hilarious novel is told from the perspective of the author's grandmother. In the context of relating how her granddaughter, the author, has disappointed her, she relates the family's history as refugees from WWII-era Europe making a home in America. Thoroughly entertaining!"—**Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI**



THE FOLDED WORLD, by Amity Gaige (Other Press, \$23.95, 9781590512487/1590512480) "Some novels are richly written on the word- and sentence-level. Others have compelling characters and are easy to read. The best novels are both—such as *The Folded World*. You can fly through this story about a social worker trying to balance job and family responsibilities. Or, if you pay attention to diction, imagery, and technique, you will see the poetry in Gaige's writing. A lovely book."—**Pete Mulvihill, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA**



GIRLS OF RIYADH, by Rajaa Alsanea (Penguin Press, \$24.95, 9781594201219/1594201218) "This debut novel by a 25-year-old Saudi woman offers a fascinating look into a society we know nothing about. The book, banned in Saudi Arabia, tells the stories of four wealthy and adventurous Saudi twenty-somethings. I found myself anxious to see the next installment of the girls' lives unfold—it's a very enjoyable read."—**Suzanne Droppert, Liberty Bay Books, Poulsbo, WA**



HEAVEN'S NET IS WIDE: The First Tale of the Otori, by Lian Hearn (Riverhead, \$26.95, 9781594489532/159448953X) "I haven't read any other books in the Tales of the Otori series, so reading the last book first—even though it's a prequel—was a nice test. I loved it, and will be reading the rest of the series."—**Keri Holmes, The Kaleidoscope: Our Focus Is You, Hampton, IA**



KEEPING THE HOUSE: A Novel, by Ellen Baker (Random House, \$24.95, 9781400066353/1400066352) "I defy you not to love Dolly Magnuson, the 1950s-era newlywed at the heart of this novel. Even as she struggles to keep the perfect home and fit in with the Pine Rapids Ladies Aid, she becomes enthralled with the secrets of a grand, abandoned house. A family saga of a grand, abandoned house. A family saga ensues, replete with wartime heroism, forbidden love, and lost ideals. You'll race to finish this book, only to discover you miss Dolly when you're done."—**Carrie Sutherland, J.W. Beecroft Books & Coffee, Superior, WI**



MAD DASH: A Novel, by Patricia Gaffney (Shaye Areheart, \$23, 9780307382115/0307382117) "A wonderful dual-viewpoint look at mature love and marriage at midcourse-correction time. The funny, witty, insightful journey undertaken by Dash and Andrew will warm your heart. Highly recommended."—**Eileen Charbonneau, Merritt Bookstore Vol. III, Cold Spring, NY**

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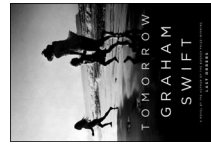
FICTION (CONTINUED)



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY PROPOSAL, by Sarah Strohmeyer (Dutton, \$24.95, 9780525950189/0525950184) "A funny and delightful book, with substance as well. Protagonist Genie Michaels lets you see the world from the perspective of a 36-year-old unmarried woman—and makes you think about serious issues even as you have a rollicking, laugh-out-loud time. Fairy tales do come true, too."—**Sherri Wright, Book Crossing, Brunswick, MD**



THE SONG BEFORE IT IS SUNG, by Justin Cartwright (Bloomsbury, \$24.95, 9781596912687/1596912685) "Conrad Senior has been bequeathed the papers of his Oxford mentor. They shed light, but not illumination, on the friendship between Elya Mendel (a Jew, a respected scholar, and a bit of a socialist) and Axel Von Gottberg (a Rhodes Scholar and German patriot executed after a failed attempt on Hitler's life). Cartwright has produced one of the best novels about this tragic time—and one of the best books I've ever read."—**Susan Townley, Viva! Bookstore, San Antonio, TX**

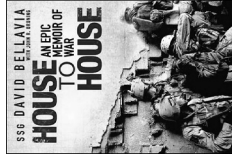


TOMORROW, by Graham Swift (Knopf, \$23.95, 9780307266903/0307266907) "With her husband, Mike, sleeping beside her, Paula Hook reflects on her life. Tomorrow, she and Mike will reveal to their 16-year-old twins a life-altering secret. She begins a silent conversation with her sleeping children, explaining their story and exploring the bonds that tie us to one another. A beautifully written, deeply touching look at love, family, and happiness."—**Julie Borgan, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX**



UNFORGETTABLE, by Julie Ortolon (Signet, \$6.99, 9780451222046/0451222040) "Ortolon's best book yet, about a quaint Texas town, a secret, and a singer dreaming of bigger things. Enter a hometown boy with conflicting wishes, and you have a wonderful and emotionally satisfying romance. Take note of the songs: There is a companion music CD that is outstanding."—**Pam Headrick, A Thirsty Mind, Lakeway, TX**

NONFICTION

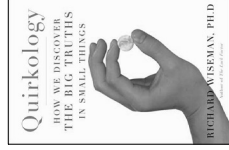


HOUSE TO HOUSE: An Epic Memoir of War, by David Bellavia (Free Press, \$26, 9781416574712/1416574719) "The author serves up a raw, gritty war memoir of a foot soldier's street warfare during the battle of Fallujah in November 2004. Sergeant Bellavia, a nominee for the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, has crafted a narrative that grabs you by the gut and won't let go."—**George Rishel, The Sly Fox, Virden, IL**

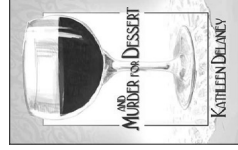


IKE: An American Hero, by Michael Korda (HarperCollins, \$34.95, 9780060756659/0060756659) "Once an icon, now forgotten by many, Dwight D. Eisenhower has his legacy revived in this wonderful biography. The architect of victory in Europe in WWII is shown as a superb strategist and handler of a difficult coalition, while the man considered a caretaker president demonstrates more political savvy than generally is credited. After reading this, another generation will be saying 'I Like Ike.'"—**Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI**

QUIRKLOGY: How We Discover the Big Truths in Small Things, by Richard Wiseman (Basic Books, \$26, 9780465090792/0465090796) "Professor Wiseman uses psychological studies to make seemingly un-psychological discoveries, much the way Steven Levitt used economic theory in *Freakonomics*. The research in this book isn't all Wiseman's, and the results are some times less than groundbreaking, but I assure you: You will find yourself quoting the unusual results of these studies."—**Daniel Goldin, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops, Milwaukee, WI**



MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



AND MURDER FOR DESSERT, by Kathleen Delaney (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95, 9781590584231/1590584236) "Ellen McKenzie is drawn into the investigation of chef Otto Messinger's murder when her niece is suspected of the crime. Another complication: Ellen's fiancé is the sheriff leading the investigation...and she is in the midst of planning their wedding. A fun read."—**Linda Walonen, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA**



THE FIRST WAVE: A Billy Boyle World War II Mystery, by James R. Benn (Soho, \$24, 9781569474716/1569474710) "Lt. Billy Boyle is back in the second entry in Benn's mystery series: Billy goes to Algiers to meet with Vichy French officers and smooth the way for an Allied invasion. He is beaten, captured, released, and shot at. He also foils an attempt to steal precious penicillin, and solves two murders. A good, solid mystery that brings attention to less-famous WWII battles."—**Mary Jane Weber, The Town Book Store, Westfield, NJ**



THUNDER BAY: A Cork O'Connor Mystery, by William Kent Krueger (Atria, \$24, 9780743278416/0743278410) "Cork gets word that his friend Henry Meloux is in the hospital. Henry sends Cork on a complicated journey; all the while, Krueger gives us new insight into what shaped Henry into the shaman and wise man we've come to know. Krueger's strongest work yet—and if you haven't read the other six Cork O'Connor novels, now is a perfect time to start!"—**Fran Fuller, Seattle Mystery Bookshop, Seattle, WA**