



September **BOOK** Notables  
2005 sense

**CLEARCUT**, by **Nina Shengold** (Anchor, \$13 paper, 1400079691) "Set in an isolated part of the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s, this is a gritty, action-packed, passionate debut novel that follows three compelling characters who are looking to find and complete themselves. The rugged, unforgiving terrain in which the drama plays out is as beautifully contrasted as the characters."—**Susan Avery, Ariel Booksellers, New Paltz, NY**



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**THE MONSTERS OF GRAMERCY PARK**, by **Danny Leigh** (Bloomsbury, \$23.95, 1582346461) "What do a gang lord serving three consecutive life sentences in solitary confinement, a conservative politician running for reelection, and a celebrated crime novelist whose life is about to change have in common? This fast-paced psychological thriller will keep you guessing till the end!"—**Elena Kruglyak, The Town Book Store, Westfield, NJ**



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**A MOUTH LIKE YOURS**, by **Daniel Duane** (FSG, \$22, 0374217327) "Cassius Harper finds his life in a pretty good place: good apartment near his favorite surfing beach, new girlfriend, dissertation going well. Meeting beautiful, sensual, infuriating Joanie Artois throws all this into chaos. There is a point where a decision has to be made, and sometimes the line in the sand is one you have to draw yourself."—**Russ Harvey, Cody's Books, Berkeley, CA**



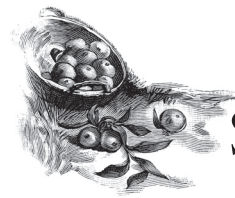
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**NECKLACE OF KISSES**, by **Francesca Lia Block** (HarperCollins, \$21.95, 0060777516) "Weetzie Bat fans rejoice—she's back! She's older and wiser, but still as slinkster cool as ever. Facing marital strife with her Secret Agent Lover Man, Weetzie leaves to live at a glamorous L.A. hotel to find herself. This book teems with the magic and fantasy of the original Weetzie Bat books, as well as offering a look at adult life and problems. A real treat!"—**Kathleen Raymond, Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN**



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**ORDINARY WOLVES**, by **Seth Kantner** (Milkweed, \$14.95 paper, 1571310479)  
*“Ordinary Wolves is the wonderful coming-of-age story of Cutuk, a white boy growing up in Alaska who is trying very hard to fit in with the indigenous people. This is a book that we loved to handsell in hardcover, and it remains one of our favorites.”—Sue Richardson, Maine Coast Book Shop, Inc., Damariscotta, ME*



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**THE SECRET FRUIT OF PETER PADDINGTON**, by **Brian Francis** (Perennial, \$12.95 paper, 0060792442) *“This unique, charming coming-of-age story is the tale of an overweight teenage boy—one who prefers Home Ec to Shop and who hears his nipples talking to him. When his uncle discovers him dressed in his mother’s clothes, Peter thinks his life will be over. But it turns out his uncle has a few secrets of his own.”—Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI*



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**26A**, by **Diana Evans** (Morrow, \$23.95, 0060820918) *“This is the best book I have read this year! The author brings us into the lives of young British twins and their secret world so convincingly. There is not a false note in this haunting and lyrically written novel.”—Karen Vail, Armchair Bookstore, Dennis, MA*



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**UNDER THE PERSIMMON TREE**, by **Suzanne Fisher Staples** (FSG, \$17, 0374380252) *“This story of a young Afghan girl during the time just after 9/11 is a treasure. Details about life in the Afghan mountains and in refugee camps, as well as insights into the Muslim religion and life under the Taliban, are presented seamlessly as part of this very believable story. This is a timely and important book that you just can’t put down.”—Carol Stoltz, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA*



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**THE YEAR THE MUSIC CHANGED: A Novel**, by Diane Thomas (Toby, \$22.95, 1592641229) "I love novels that are composed of a series of letters—it's always so hard to stop reading them. While I've never been a big Elvis fan, reading this story made me see why he was called 'The King.'"—**Beth Reynolds, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT**



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**A BED OF RED FLOWERS: In Search of My Afghanistan**, by Nelofer Pazira (Free Press, \$15 paper, 0743281330) "This is the moving story of a young woman's life of hardship in war-torn Afghanistan, and of its history of violence and war."—**Bess Moyer, Cabbages and Kings, Chatham, MA**



September 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

**THE CASE FOR PEACE: How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Can be Resolved**, by Alan Dershowitz (Wiley, \$22.95, 0471743178) "A strong case for a binational solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Though strong disagreement is certain to come from those who question this approach, Alan Dershowitz presents a must-read for anyone with a deep interest in solving the Arab/Israeli problem."—**Ray Stateham, Bohannon's Books With a Past, Georgetown, KY**



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**HIS OLDEST FRIEND: The Story of an Unlikely Bond**, by Sonny Kleinfield (Times, \$24, 0805075801) "This is the touching story of a friendship between 20-year-old Elvis, a Dominican Republic native, poor and despairing, and Margaret, a resident of a Jewish nursing home who loves opera, books, and cultural activities, but who is 'stuck' in her room. Elvis is hired to spend a few hours a week with Margaret, and the relationship blossoms into true friendship as Margaret carefully offers words of wisdom to Elvis, who is 'stuck' in a no-future life."—**Nancy Davis, Millrace Books, Farmington, CT**



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**LAST COACH: A Life of Paul "Bear" Bryant, by Allen Barra** (Norton, \$26.95, 0393059820) "Allen Barra shows why he is one of America's foremost writers in this enthralling biography of the most famous coach in the history of collegiate athletics. His investigative skills and hundreds of interviews reveal the full story of Bryant's dramatic life, as well as revelations behind the scenes of 'amateur' sports."—**Jake Reiss, The Alabama Booksmith, Birmingham, AL**



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**LOVE MY RIFLE MORE THAN YOU: Young and Female in the U.S. Army, by Kayla Williams with Michael E. Staub** (Norton, \$24.95, 0393060985) "Rough and immediate, at times shocking, this is the account of one woman's tour of duty in Iraq. Williams survives anguish, depression, alienation, loneliness, and physical and mental torment to perform her job. A very important story for us at home."—**Megan Wolfer, Table Mesa Gifts & Books, Boulder, CO**



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**A MAN WITH NO TALENTS: Memoirs of a Tokyo Day Laborer, by Oyama Shiro, Edward Fowler (Trans.)** (Cornell, \$21, 080144375X) "A Japanese 'salaryman' falls off the corporate ladder to become a day laborer and then a homeless writer and lover of literature. The author's insights into his own situation and into the human condition make this a great book."—**Karen Maeda Allman, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA**



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**THE TRUTH BOOK: Escaping a Childhood of Abuse Among Jehovah's Witnesses, by Joy Castro** (Arcade, \$25, 1559707879) "This book is a horrifying tale of abuse justified by fundamentalist religion. Joy Castro tells the heart-wrenching tale beautifully."—**Amanda Voss, Eclipse Coffee & Books, Montevallo, AL**



September 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

**WILD DUCKS FLYING BACKWARD**, by Tom Robbins (Bantam, \$25, 0553804510) "Robbins' latest is part travelogue, part essay, and it is filled with short stories, poems, art criticism, and loving tributes to the author's greatest influences. Whether traveling through Tanzania, dancing to The Doors, or musing on the meaning of life, Tom Robbins never fails to convey enlightenment on every page."—**Brian Good, The Doylestown Bookshop, Doylestown, PA**



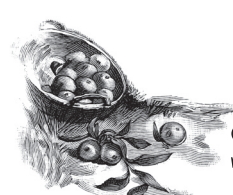
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**COLD GRANITE**, by Stuart MacBride (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95, 031233995X) "MacBride's latest is a standout. On his first day back at work, Detective Sgt. Logan McRae—barely recovered from the near-fatal stab wounds he suffered on his last case—is reluctantly plunged into the high-profile case of a brutally murdered child."—**Karen Spengler, I Love a Mystery, Mission, KS**



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**SPLINTERED ICON**, by Bill Napier (St. Martin's, \$6.99 paper, 0312936680) "An effort to translate an Elizabethan text turns into murder when the discovery of a Christian icon causes all the evil of mankind to manifest. Excitement and suspense abound."—**Ellen Perry, Browsing Bison Books, Deer Lodge, MT**



September 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

**THE TRUDEAU VECTOR**, by Juris Jurjevics (Viking, \$24.95, 0670034371) "*The Trudeau Vector* is a great read for medical thriller fans, but it's more than that. Jurjevics describes the beauty and vulnerability of the Canadian Arctic, as well as the heroism of scientists who work there. A solid, well-written debut novel."—**Rita Moran, Apple Valley Books, Winthrop, ME**