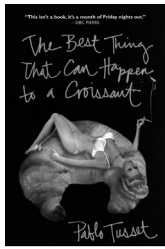


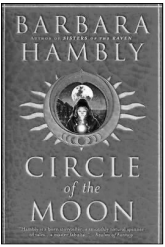


October **BOOK** Notables 2005 s e n s e

FICTION



THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO A CROISSANT, by **Pablo Tusset** (Canongate, \$14 paper, 1841957151) "Pablo Miralles is the degenerate, debauched, and decadent black sheep of a well-to-do Barcelona family. He is feckless, perverse, lascivious, and unscrupulous. He is also hilarious. Part character study, part thriller, and part musing on life itself, this is a meandering, effortless delight!"—**Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI**



CIRCLE OF THE MOON, by **Barbara Hambly** (Aspect, \$13.95 paper, 0446694045) "We always expect nothing but the best from Barbara, and she is not letting us down with this return to the world of Sisters of the Raven. This is a very well-crafted fantasy/mystery mix from a master storyteller! Strongly recommended."—**Dana Parker, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA**



COTTON, by **Christopher Wilson** (Harcourt, \$24, 0151011230) "Wilson's story of Lee Cotton, a black boy born white-skinned in segregated Eureka, Mississippi, in 1950, and his journey from Mississippi across the country and back is a funny and engrossing book that is hard to put down."—**David Ingebretsen, Yellow Dog Books, Madison, MS**

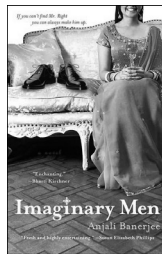


CRASHING AMERICA, by **Katia Noyes** (Alyson Publications, \$14.95 paper, 1555839118) "A road trip in reverse: a San Francisco gutter punk travels east to the heartland, the Great Plains. Girl, the narrator, would give Kerouac a run for his money. Noyes' story and characters are fresh, tough, and, well, very sweet, somehow."

—**Melissa McDonough, Cody's Books, Berkeley, CA**



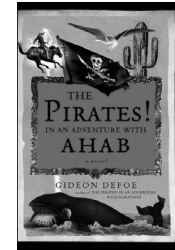
THE ENGLISH TEACHER, by **Lily King** (Atlantic, \$23, 0871138972) "This intriguing novel had me enthralled. As Vida Avery's life starts to unravel, her son, Peter, is left to try and put everything back together. I kept hoping for a happy ending, but I got something even better: I was left feeling that sometimes happily-ever-after actually happens. Not saccharine or sweet, just honest and true."—**Beth Reynolds, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT**



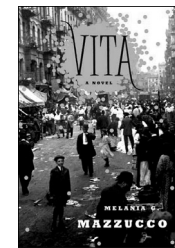
IMAGINARY MEN, by **Anjali Banerjee** (Downtown Press, \$13 paper, 1416509437) "This is the story of Lina Ray, a matchmaker in San Francisco who pairs traditional Indian men and American-born second-generation women. After lying to her family about a fictitious fiance, Lina scrambles to fix the mess, before meeting an Indian prince with some old-fashioned ideas about women. A wonderful, romantic story."—**DeDe Teeters, Armchair Books, Port Orchard, WA**



MINARET, by **Leila Aboulela** (Grove/Black Cat, \$13 paper, 0802170145) "This novel is a little gem. Aboulela shows the beauty and solace Islam provides to an exiled Sudanese woman who works in London's service industry and falls in love with her employer's son. The quiet emotional strength of her character is memorable long after the book has been finished."—**Caitlin Doggart, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA**

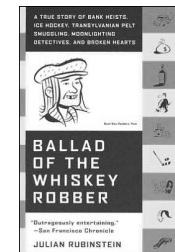


THE PIRATES! In an Adventure With Ahab, by **Gideon Defoe** (Pantheon, \$15.95, 0375423850) "Reminiscent of *Pirates of the Caribbean*, except the damsel is not in distress and may well disembowel the pirates. Throw in a trip to Las Vegas and a search for the Great White Whale of literary fame and you have one strange adventure well worth taking."—**Kelley Drahushuk, The Spotty Dog, Hudson, NY**



VITA, by **Melania G. Mazzucco, Virginia Jewiss (Trans.)** (FSG, \$25, 0374284954) "Vita is a powerful novel that deals with the tremendous obstacles and odds against newcomers attempting to join American society. Set in early 20th century New York, it deserves every award won in the original Italian."—**Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI**

NONFICTION



BALLAD OF THE WHISKEY ROBBER: A True Story of Bank Heists, Ice Hockey, Transylvanian Pelt Smuggling, Moonlighting Detectives, and Broken Hearts, by **Julian Rubinstein** (Back Bay, \$13.95 paper, 0316010731) "In 1988, Attila Ambrus, a Transylvania-born Hungarian, defected from Romania to Hungary. There, Attila evolved rather quickly, from a poverty-stricken refugee to, ultimately, one of Budapest's most successful, notorious bank robbers and a genuine, modern-day Hungarian legend. An amazing tale, well told."—**Bob Gray, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT**

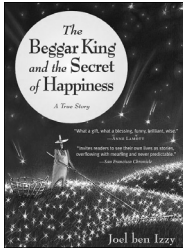


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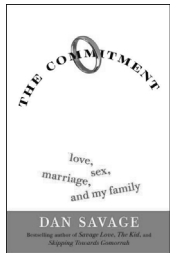
October 2005 **BOOK** sense Notables

NONFICTION (CONTINUED)



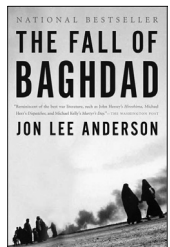
THE BEGGAR KING AND THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS: A True Story, by Joel ben Izzy (Algonquin, \$12.95 paper, 1565125126) "A renowned storyteller who found himself voiceless after a complication with throat surgery weaves together the stories of his struggle to deal with this terrible loss.

A powerful and, ultimately, hopeful memoir."—Tracy Wynne, Cover To Cover Booksellers, San Francisco, CA



THE COMMITMENT: Love, Sex, Marriage, and My Family, by Dan Savage (Dutton, \$24.95, 0525949070) "In my many years of bookselling, I've read countless family memoirs and *The Commitment* strikes me as the truest account of family life I've come across. The story of this one family and how they carve a place for themselves in a hostile

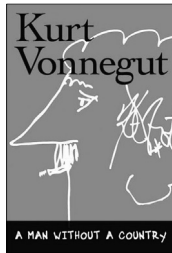
world is funny, smart, and sweet. It's a love story. And a lovely one at that."—Michael Wells, Bailey-Coy Books, Seattle, WA



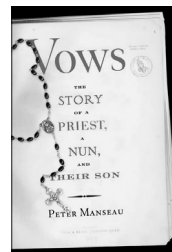
THE FALL OF BAGHDAD, by Jon Anderson (Penguin, \$16 paper, 0143035851) "*The Fall of Baghdad* is a masterpiece of literary reportage about the experience of ordinary Iraqis living through the endgame of the Hussein regime, its violent fall, and the troubled American occupation."—Julie Norcross, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI



HOW TO COOK YOUR DAUGHTER: A Memoir, by Jessica Hendra, with Blake Morrison (Regan, \$24.95, 0060820993) "Jessica Hendra, the daughter of bestselling memoirist Tony Hendra, writes of sexual abuse and illuminates her family's closet with a candle rather than a floodlight. This will be of interest to incest survivors and useful for those exploring why such secrets are so powerful—and what might be expected when the time comes to tell."—Faye Ashley, Table Mesa Gifts & Books, Boulder, CO



A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY, by Kurt Vonnegut, (Seven Stories, \$23.95, 158322713X) "In this linked series of essays, Vonnegut takes on everything from religion to politics, the destructive evolution of our species to the pretentiousness of the semicolon. His prose is as clear and precise as ever, and he holds nothing back. An immensely entertaining read."—Helen Sinoradzki, Annie Bloom's Books, Portland, OR



VOWS: The Story of a Priest, a Nun, and Their Son, by Peter Manseau (Free Press, \$25, 0743249070) "This is a memoir that often reads like a novel, full of beautiful writing. Not only a family story, it is the story of the Catholic Church and its struggles. The chapters involving the author's search for faith are among the most beautiful and moving I have read

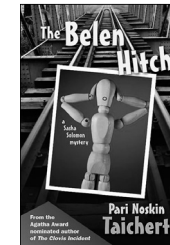
on the subject."—Jan Warner-Poole, Storyteller Books, Vancouver, WA

JOAN DIDION
THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING, by Joan Didion (Knopf, \$23.95, 140004314X) "I would expect nothing less heartbreaking and elegant than what Joan Didion has offered us in her twelfth book: her careful, taut examination of the year following the death of her husband, John Gregory Dunne, is an eloquent travelogue for

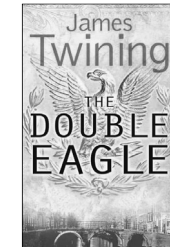
the continent we call grief."—Jane Love, Copperfield's Books, Calistoga, CA

MYSTERY/SUSPENSE

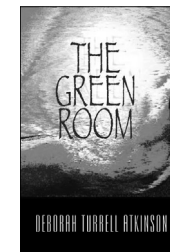


THE BELEN HITCH: A Sasha Solomon Mystery, by Pari Noskin Taichert (University of New Mexico Press, \$24.95, 0826339158) "When publicist Sasha Solomon goes to meet a controversial artist about converting the building to a gallery, she finds a corpse instead. Prepare to be entertained with this delightful tale by the Agatha-nominated

Taichert."—Kathy Ashton, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT



THE DOUBLE EAGLE, by James Twining (HarperCollins, \$24.95, 0060762098) "This story of an international jewel thief and an FBI agent racing to solve a mystery involving priceless coins is my pick of the month."—Scott Graves, Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN



THE GREEN ROOM, by Deborah Turrell Atkinson (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95, 1590581989) "This is a mystery with a lot going for it. The setting is Hawaii, and the action revolves around a surfing competition, and mysterious deaths. Hawaiian attorney Storm Kayama is an appealing character, and I found this story both fascinating and entertaining."—Linda

Walonen, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA

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