



DECEMBER '08

## Blindspot

A Novel, by Jane Kremensky and Jill Lepore

*"In a masterpiece of teamwork, Kremensky and Lepore, both history professors, have brought alive pre-Revolutionary Boston in the most charming way imaginable, by telling the story of an exiled Scottish portraitist and his surprising apprentice. Blindspot kept me guessing (and laughing) from beginning to end—it is the most entertaining historical novel I've ever read."*

Jake Hallman, A Great Good Place for Books, Oakland, CA



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DECEMBER '08

## American Buffalo

In Search of a Lost Icon, by Steven Rinella

*"American Buffalo is a fascinating, panoramic account of buffalo, their evolution, and the long history of their relationship with humans. Rinella's enthusiasm for his subject is evident as he skillfully juxtaposes his personal experience as a proficient and dedicated hunter with sections on archaeology and history, all accessibly and engagingly written."*

Lynne Almeida, Spellbound Children's Bookshop, Asheville, NC



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## A House in Fez

Building a Life in the Ancient Heart of Morocco, by Suzanna Clarke

*"Suzanna Clarke's account of restoring a dilapidated house in Fez is full of wonderful descriptions and characters. She's given us a refreshing change from the way we usually view the Muslim world."*

Susan Porter, Maine Coast Book Shop, Inc., Damariscotta, ME



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## Made From Scratch

Discovering the Pleasures of a Handmade Life, by Jenna Woginrich

*"Jenna Woginrich writes an honest and humorous account of her efforts to bring more self-reliance into her life, and, by not sparing us her beginner's mistakes, she really encourages the reader to plant a garden, raise some chicks, or learn to play an instrument. Woginrich provides amateur homesteaders an instructive start, and an entertaining read to boot!"*

Sherri Gallentine, Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA



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DECEMBER '08

## Prince of Stories

The Many Worlds of Neil Gaiman, by Hank Winger, Christopher Golden, Stephen R. Bissette

*"A bibliography, a biography, and a miscellany of Neil Gaiman and his work. For new readers or devotees, here's a host of background information and insights."*

Brian Grover, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Brookfield, WI



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## The Elfish Gene

Dungeons, Dragons and Growing Up Strange, by Mark Barrowcliffe

*"Mark Barrowcliffe's memoir of his teenage years playing fantasy role-playing games champions the cause of a widely unacknowledged population of geeks, nerds, and dorks. The Elfish Gene is touching, hilarious, and far too familiar."*

Bridget Allison, Phoenix Books, Essex, VT



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DECEMBER '08

## Tribes

We Need You to Lead Us, by Seth Godin

*"Not your parent's book on leadership. Seth Godin outlines the many aspects of leading a tribe—a diverse group of people with a shared interest, none of whom may work for you. This is a handbook for anyone who seeks to influence others, is considering starting a blog, or has a hard time explaining their job at a party."*

Rich Rennicks, Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, Asheville, NC



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DECEMBER '08

## 2666

A Novel, by Roberto Bolano

*"2666 is the culmination of Roberto Bolano's expansive brilliance, as traces of such previous works as The Savage Detectives have been perfected and fused together seamlessly as part of a larger whole. This is a daring book that takes major risks throughout, and its overall impact is impossible to ignore or ever forget."*

Nathan Halter, The Doylestown Bookshop, Doylestown, PA



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DECEMBER '08

## An Irish Country Christmas

A Novel, by Patrick Taylor

*"Returning to Ballybucklebo, with its doctors and local life, is like slipping into your most comfy slippers and favorite robe. An Irish Country Christmas is winter reading at its most cozy and comforting."*

Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA



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DECEMBER '08

## And the Hippos Were Boiled in Their Tanks

A Novel, by William S. Burroughs, Jack Kerouac

*"Unlike most rediscovered works by well-known authors, this collaboration between two of the best-known Beat writers is well done and extremely readable. Based on actual events and told in alternating chapters, this will not disappoint fans of either writer."*

Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



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## Blood Island

A Matt Royal Mystery, by H. Terrell Griffin

*"Matt Royal, an ex-cop and retired lawyer, discovers in a bird sanctuary a dead body that will eventually be a clue in the case of his ex-wife's missing stepdaughter. I really enjoyed Blood Island and will be definitely recommending it."*

Andra Tracy, OutWord Bound, Indianapolis, IN



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## I Hate New Music

The Classic Rock Manifesto, by Dave Thompson

*"Dave Thompson has written a book for anyone who can remember being excited by an entire album and its artwork. Thompson is truly volcanic in his unadulterated contempt for modern pop/rock and goes to enormous and hilarious pains to explain why the classic rock of the late '60s - '70s is the Holy Grail of rock music."*

Amjad Saleh Faur, Nightbird Books, Fayetteville, AR



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## Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue

The Untold Story of English, by John McWhorter

*"John McWhorter's Our Magnificent Bastard Tongue offers very interesting ideas about the history of the English language and why it has come to be the way it is today. This very readable book will make you think about English in a new way."*

Catherine Carpenter, Cate's Books and Stuff, Louisiana, MO



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## Impermanence

Embracing Change, by David Hodge

*"In 2005, multi-media artists David and Hi-Jin Hodge created an installation on 'Impermanence' for an exhibit honoring the Dalai Lama. This beautifully designed book—which includes an interactive DVD—features photographs of the various speakers, along with their often moving reflections, and wonderfully recreates the gallery experience."*

Karl Pohrt, Shaman Drum Bookshop, Ann Arbor, MI



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## Stray Dog Winter

A Novel, by David Francis

*"David Francis has created a flashback to 1980s Communist Russia filled with suspense, intrigue, and a good deal of sexiness. Stray Dog Winter is a novel of breathless moments, passion, politics, and atmosphere so thick you can feel the cold."*

Calvin Crosby, Books Inc., San Francisco, CA



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DECEMBER '08

## The Better World Shopping Guide

2nd Edition: Every Dollar Makes a Difference, by Ellis Jones

*"The Better World Shopping Guide is an important little book that calls for changes in all our shopping habits. The book rates American companies based on 15 years' research of their records on the environment, human rights, community involvement, and other criteria. I'll soon be switching my credit card company, just one of the many changes I'll make to be a more responsible consumer."*

Nancy Olson, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC



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DECEMBER '08

## The Spy Who Came for Christmas

A Novel, by David Morrell

*"In The Spy Who Came for Christmas, David Morrell has woven the Christmas story into an entertaining, modern-day spy novel. This is a great little stocking stuffer for the thriller reader on your Christmas list!"*

Carl Wichman, Varsity Mart, Fargo, ND



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