On the Lighter Side

The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion
The one and only Fannie Flagg, beloved author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* and *Can’t Wait to Get to Heaven*, is at her hilarious best in *The All-Girl Filling Station’s Last Reunion* ($27, Random House, 9781400065943), a new comic mystery novel about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are. Mrs. Sookie Poole has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her formidable mother, Lenore, who may be a lot of fun for other people, but is an overbearing presence for her daughter. When Sookie discovers a secret about her mother’s past that knocks her for a loop, she suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Her search for answers takes her back in time when an irrepressible woman named Fritzi takes on the job of running her family’s filling station. Soon after, truck drivers are changing their routes to fill up at the All-Girl Filling Station. As Sookie learns about the adventures of the girls, she finds herself with new inspiration for her own life.

Jeeves and the Wedding Bells
Fans of acclaimed English writer P.G. Wodehouse will delight in the return of Bertie Wooster (a young man about town) and his butler Jeeves (the very model of the modern manservant) — their first appearance in nearly forty years. With approval from the Wodehouse estate, Sebastian Faulks (*Birdsong, Charlotte Gray*) brings these two back to life in an affair of mix-ups and mishaps. In *Jeeves and the Wedding Bells* ($25.99, St. Martin’s, 9781250047595), Bertie, nursing a bit of heartbreak, assumes the role of manservant while Jeeves impersonates one Lord Etringham, in a simple plan to disrupt the recent engagement of Georgina Meadowes — under her own roof, no less. Things go awry almost immediately, leading to an even more hilarious and convoluted plot. Brilliant!

The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon
In the latest installment of Alexander McCall Smith’s best-selling No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series, Precious Ramotswe has taken on two puzzling cases. First she is approached by the executor of a deceased farmer’s estate to investigate the farmer’s supposed nephew, who may be an impersonator in order to claim the inheritance. Then the proprietor of the *Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon* ($24.95, Pantheon, 9780307378415) comes to Mma Ramotswe for advice. Not only has she received a bad omen in the mail, but rumors are swirling that the salon is using dangerous products that burn people’s skin. Could someone be trying to put the salon out of business? Meanwhile, at the office, Mma Ramotswe has noticed that second-in-command Grace Makutsi is pregnant. But in Botswana, this may be cause for controversy as well as celebration. With genuine warmth, sympathy, and wit, Alexander McCall Smith explores some tough questions about married life, parenthood, grief, and the importance of the traditions that shape and guide our lives.

513 Octavia Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70115
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Located in uptown New Orleans at the corner of Octavia and Laurel Streets between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas.
Somehow, the calendar will soon show 2014 and we’ll once again wonder just how time could have passed so quickly. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to slow the pace just a bit? Gazing at the night sky, enjoying the holiday decorations, and savoring the special foods and celebrations of the season are perfect ways to do so in December and January.

We’re thrilled to be reminded that the joy of curling up with a good book is alive and well. Recent studies have shown that even when people choose to read electronically, booklovers will not give up the pure pleasure of the feel of a printed book — and even its smell. So, if someone you love is reading on a gadget, know that a gift of a beautiful book will be fully appreciated! Books are not going away, but represent that precious quiet time we all crave.

As always, wonderful books are arriving daily at Octavia Books and we are excited about the season’s line-up. In these pages, you’ll discover some absolutely fascinating works of history, some through material objects at The Smithsonian, others in just 12 maps of the world. You’ll find inspiring stories of courage and heroism — beloved novelist Pat Conroy on coming to terms with his relationship with his father, Ed Viesturs on the stories of climbing Mt. Everest and the character of America as demonstrated during the Army-Navy game in 2001. Marianne Williamson helps us begin the new year with mindfulness and hope and Tequila Mockingbird serves up literary cocktails, perfect for any booklover or book group member.

As you think about choosing appropriate and meaningful gifts this holiday season, we ask that you give us a chance to find the right book for every child in your life. Research has shown time and again that children who are reading at or above average when they reach the third grade have a much higher chance of success in life. Let’s help them get a good start and save them from being swallowed up by technology later on. There is incredible value in those early years, when you’re snuggled up with picture books. It leads to the full pleasure of reading for fun ... which makes a child a skilled reader.

At this time of year, you can count on us to help you actually enjoy the gift-giving season because our goal is to make it incredibly easy for you. Don’t you just hate it when someone gives you a gift that has nothing at all to do with you? Come by and let us know a little bit about the people on your gift list and you won’t have to worry about giving something that will end up in the “re-gifting” pile! No matter what the interest, we have books to help you make a magical and meaningful connection. Plus, with our complimentary gift wrapping, we’ll dress up your purchases and you’ll leave ready to enjoy the festivities.

Thank you so much for choosing to shop locally and for supporting Octavia Books. We wish you a beautiful holiday season and look forward to seeing you soon on Small Business Saturday and throughout the season!

Mark Williams Recommends:
The Reason I Jump
Naoki Higashita, a 13 year old boy with autism, wrote The Reason I Jump ($22, Random House, 9780812994865). This book was originally published in Japan in 2007. Fortunately, The Reason I Jump has finally been published and released in the United States. In this wonderful book, Mr. Higashida candidly opens up to the reader, by answering a number of questions related to his world of autism. His answers to these questions give us the great insight into what someone with autism might very well be going through every day. After reading this book, I believe that Mr. Higashida has given the reader not only a better understanding of his life, but also has given the reader a voice of inspiration and hope from the world of autism.

BOOK CLUBS

OCTAVIA BOOKS BOOK CLUB
No December Meeting
Enjoy the holidays!
Saturday, January 18, 10:30 am
The Echo Maker by Richard Powers

OCTAVIA BOOKS SCIENCE FICTION BOOK CLUB
Saturday, December 14, 10:30 am
The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson
Saturday, January 11, 10:30 am
Tales of H. P. Lovecraft by H. P. Lovecraft
**Favorite Authors, Rising Stars**

**Someone Else’s Love Story**
Shandi Pierce and her precocious three-year-old find themselves caught in the middle of an armed robbery, when a stranger, William Ashe, willingly steps between the robber and her son. William, a brilliant geneticist, may be just the one to help Shandi solve the mystery of who fathered her son during a rape incident in college. Joshilyn Jackson’s funny, charming, and poignant novel, *Someone Else’s Love Story* ($26.99, Wm. Morrow, 9780062105653), is about science and miracles, faith and forgiveness, falling in love, and learning that things aren’t always what they seem.

**Stella Bain**
When an American woman, Stella Bain, is found suffering from severe shell shock in an exclusive garden in London, surgeon August Bridge and his wife selflessly agree to take her in. Stella had been working as a nurse’s aide near the front, but can’t remember anything prior to four months earlier when she was found wounded on a French battlefield. Anita Shreve (*The Pilot’s Wife, The Weight of Water*) tells an engrossing and wrenching tale about love and the meaning of memory in *Stella Bain* ($28, Little, Brown, 9780316098861).

**The Invention of Wings**
Sue Monk Kidd, celebrated author of *The Secret Life of Bees*, returns with her latest novel inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke. On Sarah’s eleventh birthday, she is given ownership of ten-year-old urban slave Hetty. Over the next thirty-five years, both strive for lives of their own, dramatically shaping each other’s destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. *The Invention of Wings* ($27.95, Viking, 9780670024780) looks at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave you deeply moved.

**The First Phone Call from Heaven**
A small town on Lake Michigan starts to get worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. Is it the greatest miracle ever or a massive hoax? Sully Harding, whose wife died while he was doing time for a crime he may not have committed, is determined to find out when his son starts to carry a cell phone expecting to hear from his mother. *The First Phone Call from Heaven* ($24.99, Harper, 9780062294371), Mitch Albom’s allegory about the power of belief, is a page-turner that will touch your soul.

**Bellman and Black**
Caught up in a moment of boyhood competition, William Bellman recklessly aims his slingshot at a bird resting on a branch, killing it instantly. It is a small but cruel act, with no consequences — until a black-garbed stranger mysteriously enters William’s life years later. In a desperate bid to save his precious family, he enters into a rather strange bargain, with an even stranger partner, to found a decidedly macabre business — *Bellman & Black* ($26.99, Atria, 9781476711959). Diane Setterfield follows *The Thirteenth Tale* with a similarly spooky story.

**Perfect**
If you were enchanted by the characters in Rachel Joyce’s previous novel, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, you’ll want to meet eleven-year-old Byron Hemmings, the main character in her latest, *Perfect* ($25, Random House, 9780812993301). When ordinary lives are unexpectedly thrown into chaos, there are times when children must become parents to their parents, and discover that in confronting the hard truths about the past, they will forge unexpected relationships that have profound and surprising impacts.

**Guests on Earth**
It’s 1936 when orphaned thirteen-year-old Evalina Toussaint is admitted to Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina, a mental institution known for its innovative treatments for nervous disorders and addictions. Taken under the wing of the hospital’s most notable patient, Zelda Fitzgerald, Evalina witnesses the cascading events leading up to the tragic fire of 1948 that killed nine women in a locked ward, Zelda among them. *Guests on Earth* ($25.95, Shannon Ravenel, 9781616202538), by Lee Smith, is a hypnotic look at another world — a time and a place where creativity and passion, theory and medicine, tragedy and transformation, are intertwined.

**Radiance of Tomorrow**
When Ishmael Beah’s harrowing account of the civil war in Sierra Leone and the fate of boy soldiers was first published, *A Long Way Gone* became an instant classic. Beah now brings us his first novel, in which Benjamin and Bockarie, two longtime friends who return to their hometown in Sierra Leone after the civil war, try to forge a new community by taking up their former posts as teachers. But they’re beset by obstacles, with the village in ruins, the ground covered with bones. *Radiance of Tomorrow* ($25, FSG/Crichton, 9780374246020) is a powerful story about preserving what means the most to us, even in uncertain times.
The Gods of Guilt
Defense attorney Mickey Haller investigates the murder of a former client — a prostitute he thought he had rescued and put on the straight and narrow path. But he may very well have been the one who put her in danger. Haunted by the ghosts of his past, Mickey must work tirelessly and bring all his skill to bear on a case that could mean his ultimate redemption or proof of his ultimate guilt. *The Gods of Guilt* ($28, Little, Brown, 9780316069519) demonstrates Michael Connelly’s prowess in courtroom suspense.

King and Maxwell
In best-selling author David Baldacci’s *King and Maxwell* ($28, Grand Central, 9781455521319), former Secret Service agents turned private investigators Sean King and Michelle Maxwell are hired by a teenage boy, Tyler, after he gets a message from his father — who had supposedly been killed in Afghanistan. Their hunt for the truth leads them to the highest levels of power and to uncovering the most clandestine of secrets, if they are to protect Tyler. Yet another well-crafted page-turner from Baldacci.

Fear Nothing
Detective D.D. Warren has appeared in many of Lisa Gardner’s previous novels, including the award-winning International Thriller of the Year, *The Neighbor*. In *Fear Nothing* ($27.95, Dutton, 9780525953081), Warren must face a new fear as a serial killer terrorizes Boston. Leaving behind a bottle of champagne and a single red rose at the scene, the killer is now targeting D.D., knowing that she is the only one who can take him down.

Tatiana
Fearless investigative reporter Tatiana Petrovna falls to her death from a sixth-floor window in Moscow the same week that a mob billionaire is shot and buried. No one makes the connection, but Martin Cruz Smith’s melancholy hero Arkady Renko is transfixed by the tapes he discovers of Tatiana’s voice. So much more than a mystery, *Tatiana* ($25.99, Simon & Schuster, 9781439140215) is a story rich in character, black humor, and romance.

River Road
When Lucy Sheridan’s aunt Sara is killed in a car accident, she returns to Summer River. Thirteen years earlier, Lucy had been saved from a nasty crime by Mason Fletcher, the guy she had a crush on. Mason, who now runs a successful security firm, is still the overprotective type, so when he and Lucy make a shocking discovery inside Sara’s house, he’s determined to save her again. Jayne Ann Krentz dishes up yet another romantic suspense novel in *River Road* ($26.95, Putnam, 9780399165122).

The Wind is Not a River
After losing his brother to the war in Europe, Canadian writer John Easley feels duty-bound to report the story of the 1943 Japanese occupation of the US Aleutian Islands and the Allied attempts to drive them back into the sea. But when his plane is shot down, he has only one choice: surrender or face starvation and madness alone. His wife Helen, however, will not sit idly by. She invents a new identity that takes her to the war in the North Pacific, believing that she will find her husband and reclaim their love. *The Wind is Not a River* ($26.99, Ecco, 9780062279972), by Brian Payton, has you guessing whether determination can overcome fate.

The Prince of Risk
Set at the crossroads of high finance and international terrorism, *The Prince of Risk* ($25.95, Doubleday, 9780385535069), by Christopher Reich, finds hedge fund manager Bobby Astor’s life — and business — turned upside down when his father is gunned down on the White House lawn while trying to deliver a secret message to the President. Following cryptic clues, Astor stumbles onto a sophisticated foreign conspiracy that threatens to wipe out not only his own fund but to destroy the entire foundation of the financial system of the United States.

What would our community be without an independent bookstore? If you find it here, please buy it here!
**Fantastical Novels**

**Allegiant**

What if the whole world was a lie? What if a single revelation — like a single choice — changed everything? *Allegiant* ($19.99, Katherine Tegen, 9780062024060), the explosive conclusion to Veronica Roth’s bestselling Divergent trilogy, reveals the secrets of the dystopian world where Tris must battle to comprehend the complexities of human nature (and herself) while facing impossible choices about courage, allegiance, sacrifice, and love. Ages 14+

**Revealed**

Drastically altered after her fall at the end of Hidden, Neferet is now more dangerous than ever — and her quest for vengeance will wreak havoc on humans, as well as Zoey and her friends. Chaos is loosed in Tulsa and the House of Night is blamed. Can Zoey stop Neferet in time to keep her anger from escalating to full-on war? Or will someone else have to step in to take the fall? *Revealed* ($18.99, Griffin, 9780312594435) is the 11th installment of the bestselling “vampire” series by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast. Ages 12+

**Curtsies & Conspiracies**

In her alternate England of 1851, fifteen-year-old Sophronia tries to uncover who is behind a plot to control a prototype that has the potential to alter human and supernatural travel, and to learn what role Mademoiselle Geraldine’s academy for young spies plays in the affair. Class is back in session with more petticoats and poison, tea trays and treason in *Curtsies & Conspiracies* ($18, Little Brown, 9780316190114), the sequel to the bestselling *Etiquette & Espionage*, with more of Gail Carriger’s distinctive voice, signature humor, and lush steampunk setting.

**Horde**

The horde is coming. Salvation is surrounded, monsters at the gates, and this time, they’re not going away. When Deuce, Fade, Stalker and Tegan set out, the odds are against them. While Deuce might not be a Huntress anymore, at least she doesn’t run as she is the one who carries the banner for the survival of all humanity. Ann Aguirre’s bestselling trilogy comes to an epic conclusion in *Horde* ($17.99, Feiwel & Friends, 9781250024633). Ages 12-17

**Artful Lives**

**Autobiography of Mark Twain, Vol. 2**

The eagerly-awaited second volume of the *Autobiography of Mark Twain* ($45, Univ. of California, 9780520272781) delves deeper into Twain’s life, uncovering the many roles he played in his private and public worlds. Filled with his characteristic blend of humor and ire, the narrative ranges effortlessly across the contemporary scene. Twain shares his views on writing and speaking, his preoccupation with money, and his contempt for the politics and politicians of his day. Affectionate and scathing by turns, his intractable curiosity and candor are everywhere on view in this brilliant self-portrait.

**American Mirror**

Norman Rockwell, as much as Walt Disney or Ronald Reagan, provided America with a mirror of its dreams and aspirations. As the star illustrator for *The Saturday Evening Post* for nearly half a century, Rockwell portrayed a fantasy of civic togetherness, of American decency and good cheer. In her authoritative new biography, *American Mirror* ($28, FSG, 9780374113094), Deborah Solomon draws on unpublished papers to explore the relationship between Rockwell’s anguished creativity and his genius for reflecting American innocence.

**Provence, 1970**

In 1970, the iconic culinary figures James Beard, M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Richard Olney, Simone Beck, and Judith Jones found themselves together in the South of France. They cooked and ate, talked and argued, about the future of food in America, the meaning of taste, and the limits of snobbery. Without quite realizing it, they were shaping today’s tastes and culture, the way we eat now. The conversations among this group were chronicled by M.F.K. Fisher in journals and letters — some of which were later discovered by Luke Barr, her great-nephew — who shares the gossip, drama, and contemporary relevance in *Provence, 1970* ($26, Clarkson Potter, 9780307718341).

Books, the greatest gift.
Dusk
One December afternoon, boy with dog and grandfather with beard take a walk to watch the sun begin to set over the river. When the sun drops low in the sky, they start home. Buildings grow dimmer. People are rushing. As nature’s lights go out, one by one, the city’s lights turn on, revealing brilliant Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas displays in streets, homes, and stores. Dusk ($17.99, FSG, 9780374319038) by Caldecott Medalist Uri Shulevitz is sure to be a winter holiday classic. Ages 4-8

The Night Before Christmas
Acclaimed watercolorist Holly Hobbie offers a fresh interpretation of the beloved Christmas classic The Night Before Christmas ($18, Little Brown, 9780316070188), from one of the children of the household — the youngest boy in a footed sleeper — who heads downstairs with the cat by his side. With thoughtful design skillfully chosen, this graceful storybook is one to hold and enjoy, year after year. A perfect family gift.

Moo!
Make sure to put on your seatbelt! An adventuresome cow sneaks off in her farmer’s sharp red sports car for a joy ride through the country. But a bump on the road brings this wild ride to a troublesome end. Moo! ($16.99, Walker & Company, 9780802734099) by David LaRochelle with hilarious expressions in Mike Wohnoutka’s illustrations will tickle your funny bone! Ages 3-6

Cinders
Cinders, the most picked upon hen in the flock, becomes the most loved by Prince Cockerel when she arrives at his ball looking so beautiful that even her bossy sisters do not recognize her. All of Jan Brett’s books are keepsakes, and with Cinders: A Chicken Cinderella ($17.99, Putnam, 9780399257834), Brett traveled to Russia to be able to capture the snowy Russian winter and striking Russian architecture and used the antics of the seventy-something chickens living at her home for inspiration. Ages 3+

The Little Mermaid
We just love Robert Sabuda’s amazing pop-up books and celebrate the release of his latest, The Little Mermaid ($29.99, Little Simon, 9781416960805). Open each page and be enchanted with the stained-glass quality of the art and the intricate paper engineering that gives each pop-up a remarkable sense of unfolding. Storm clouds gather and the mermaids urge the little mermaid to return to the water to avoid risking her life. A “must” for a child’s collection of magical books. Ages 6+
The Girl Who Soared Over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two
September misses Fairyland and her friends Ell, the Wyverary, and the boy Saturday. She longs to leave the routines of home and embark on a new adventure. Little does she know that this time, she will be spirited away to the moon, reunited with her friends, and find herself faced with saving Fairyland from a moon-Yeti. Catherynne Valente’s *The Girl Who Soared Over Fairyland and Cut the Moon in Two* ($16.99, Feiwel & Friends, 9781250023506) is “one of the most extraordinary works of fantasy (for adults or children) published this century,” according to *Time* magazine. Ages 10-14

The Art of Flying
The old Baldwin sisters are in trouble, and they’ve asked Fortuna to help them out of a fix. The sisters have accidentally turned a swallow into a boy, and he refuses to be turned back! Fortuna’s not sure she believes in magic, and once she’s gotten to know Martin, she’s not sure she wants him to be changed back. *The Art of Flying* ($16.99, Disney Press, 9781423158158), Judy Hoffman’s remarkable debut with delightful illustrations by Stephanie Graegin, weaves an enchanting tale of loyalty, freedom, and feathers. Ages 8-12

The Long Way Home
Four girls. Four generations. One family. *The Long Way Home* ($16.99, Scholastic, 9780545359436) is the second book in the beautiful new series from Ann M. Martin. Dana is Abby’s daughter — but she’s always been much closer to her father, Zander. He’s a celebrated author who encourages Dana’s artistic talents (even if he sometimes drinks too much). When her father dies and she’s had enough of years of moving around, Dana is angry at her mother and moves in with her young, bohemian aunt Adele in search of independence, art classes, and avoiding all the mistakes her mother made. Find out what happens as Dana leaves her family behind to strike out on her own. Ages 9-12

Hard Luck
Greg Heffley — the original “wimpy kid” — is on a losing streak. His best friend, Rowley Jefferson, has ditched him, and finding new friends in middle school is proving to be a tough task. To change his fortunes, Greg decides to take a leap of faith and turn his decisions over to chance. Will a roll of the dice turn things around, or is Greg’s life destined to be just another hard-luck story? Find out in Jeff Kinney’s *Hard Luck* ($13.95, Amulet, 9781419711329), the latest hilarious installment in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. Ages 8-12

Yay, Books!

**Lost in Babylon**
*Lost in Babylon* ($17.99, HarperCollins, 9780062070432) is the second book in a seven-book series by Peter Lerangis, chronicling the adventures of Jack McKinley and his race to find the Loculi that have been hidden in the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Here, Jack travels to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, where he discovers a world out of time and is faced with a dilemma unlike any he’d ever imagined. Ages 8-12

**The Royal Ranger**
Will Treaty has come a long way from the small boy with dreams of knighthood. Life had other plans for him, and as an apprentice Ranger under Halt, he grew into a legend. Yet Will is facing a tragic battle that has left him grim and alone. Fighting his personal demons, Will has to win the trust and respect of his difficult new companion — a task that at times seems almost impossible. *The Royal Ranger* ($18.99, Philomel, 9780399163609) is John Flanagan’s final bow in the wildly popular series *The Ranger’s Apprentice*. Ages 10+

**Thunder Rising**
*The Dawn of the Clans* series by Erin Hunter takes us back to the earliest days of the Clans, when the cats first settled in the forest and began to forge the Warrior code. In *Thunder Rising* ($16.99, HarperCollins, 9780062063502), the second book in the series, the mountain cats from the Tribe of Rushing Water follow the sun trail to a new territory, convinced that their lives would be free from strife. But while no cat has gone hungry, tensions are rising. The once firmly united group has split in two — and a young cat named Thunder is forced to make a most difficult decision. Ages 8-12

**“When Did You See Her Last?”**
In the fading town of Stain’d-by-the-Sea, young apprentice Lemony Snicket has a new case to solve when he and his chaperone are hired to find a missing girl. Is the girl a runaway? Or was she kidnapped? Find out in “*When Did You See Her Last?”* ($16, Little Brown, 9780316123051), another witty whodunit from the author of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Ages 9-12
The Death of Santini
In this powerful and intimate memoir, Pat Conroy (The Prince of Tides) and his father, the inspiration for The Great Santini, find some common ground at long last. Donald Patrick Conroy, a fighter pilot with a violent temper, was a towering figure in his son’s life. The Death of Santini: The Story of a Father and His Son ($28.95, Nan A. Talese, 9780385530903) is an act of reckoning and reconciliation with the ultimate conclusion that love can soften even the meanest of men.

The Kid
Ted Williams was the best hitter in baseball history. His batting average of .406 in 1941 has not been topped since. Born in 1918 in San Diego, Ted would spend most of his life disguising his Mexican heritage. During his 22 years with the Boston Red Sox, Williams electrified crowds across America — and shocked them, too: His notorious clashes with the press and fans threatened his reputation. Yet while he was God-like in the batter’s box, he was profoundly human once he stepped away from the plate. Ben Bradlee reveals the baseball legend in all his glory and human complexity in The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams ($35, Little Brown, 9780316614351).

The Mountain
Everest, the world’s most famous mountain, remains the ultimate goal for serious high-altitude climbers. Ed Viesturs has gone on eleven expeditions to Everest, reaching the summit seven times. Complete with gorgeous photos of Everest, The Mountain: My Time on Everest ($27, Touchstone, 9781451694734) offers a series of adventures from Viesturs’s own experiences to insights on the fate of Mallory and Irvine, whose 1924 disappearance just 800 feet from the top remains one of mountaineering’s greatest mysteries — all centered on legendary historic climbs.

Hero
Bestselling author Rhonda Byrne (The Secret) brings together the wisdom and insight of twelve of the most successful people living in the world today in her new book, Hero ($24.95, Atria, 9781476758589). By following their seemingly impossible journeys to success, Hero reveals the power each of us has to literally change the world. A beautiful gift of discovery, inspiration, and encouragement.

Beautiful Old Dogs
Gandhi once said, “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way that its animals are treated.” How people regard older animals is especially revealing. With exquisite photographs by Garry Gross, David Tabatsky has paired each photo with moving, insightful, funny, and uplifting stories from a variety of writers like Anna Quindlen, Ally Sheedy, Christopher Durang, Doris Day, Dean Koontz, Marlo Thomas, and many more in Beautiful Old Dogs ($17.99, St. Martins, 9781250030221).
The Smithsonian’s History of America in 101 Objects
The Smithsonian Institution is America’s largest, most important, and most beloved repository for the objects that define our common heritage. Now Under-Secretary for Art, History, and Culture Richard Kurin, aided by a team of top Smithsonian curators and scholars, has assembled a literary exhibition of 101 objects from across the Smithsonian’s museums that together offer a marvelous new perspective on the history of the United States. Discover the richness and vitality of the American spirit in *The Smithsonian’s History of America in 101 Objects* ($50, Penguin, 9781594205293).

Who Discovered America?
Distinguished historian Gavin Menzies (1421) uncovers the complete untold history of how mankind came to the Americas — offering new revelations and a radical rethinking of the accepted historical record in *Who Discovered America?: The Untold History of the Peopling of the Americas* ($28.99, Wm. Morrow, 9780062236753). Menzies offers a revolutionary new theory and provides a wealth of staggering claims that hold fascinating and astonishing implications for the history of mankind.

A History of the World in 12 Maps
Historian and cartography expert Jerry Brotton shows that the long road to our present geographical reality was rife with controversy, manipulation, and special interests trumping science. Through the centuries maps have been wielded to promote any number of imperial, religious, and economic agendas, and have represented the idiosyncratic and uneasy fusion of science and subjectivity. *A History of the World in 12 Maps* ($40, Viking, 9780670023394) tells the fascinating stories of those who created, used, and misused them for their own ends.

Heretics and Heroes
From the inimitable and bestselling author Thomas Cahill comes another popular history, focusing on the Renaissance and Reformation and how this innovative period changed the Western world. In *Heretics and Heroes* ($30.50, Nan A. Talese, 9780385495578), volume VI of his acclaimed *Hinges of History* series, Cahill guides us through the late fourteenth to early seventeenth centuries, an age of the most sublime artistic and scientific adventure, but also of newly powerful princes and armies, and of newly discovered individuality in which a whole culture must achieve a new balance.

**History Decoded**
Brad Meltzer, born storyteller and host of the hit show “Decoded” on the History network, takes us on a riveting, interactive adventure through the compelling world of mysteries and conspiracies in *History Decoded: The 10 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time* ($24.95, Workman, 9780761177456). He sifts through the evidence; weighs competing theories; separates what we know to be true with what’s still and perhaps forever unproved or unprovable; and in the end, decodes the mystery, arriving at the most likely solution in this remarkable book for history lovers.

**Five Days in November**
On November 22, 1963, three shots were fired in Dallas, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and the world stopped for four days. For an entire generation, it was the end of an age of innocence. A story that has taken Secret Service Agent Clint Hill fifty years to tell, *Five Days in November* ($30, Gallery, 9781476731490), is a stunning book that contains more than 150 photos and personal insights from a man who experienced a personal blow after being sworn to protect the first family. He knew from the moments the shots rang out in Dallas that nothing would ever be the same.

**The Letters of John F. Kennedy**
John Fitzgerald Kennedy led his nation for little more than a thousand days, yet his presidency is intensely remembered, not merely as a byproduct of his tragic fate. Martin Sandler’s *The Letters of John F. Kennedy* ($30, Bloomsbury, 9781608192717) is the only book that draws on letters from and to Kennedy, as collected at the Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. With more than two million letters on file at the library — from ordinary citizens to Martin Luther King Jr., Pearl Buck, Albert Schweitzer, Eleanor Roosevelt, Kruschev, Truman, Hoover and others — Sandler presents a textured portrait of both Kennedy and a turbulent era.

**The Family**
Bestselling author David Laskin brings to life the upheavals of the twentieth century through the story of one family, three continents, two world wars, and the rise and fall of nations in *The Family* ($32, Viking, 9780670025473). A century and a half ago on the western fringe of the Russian empire, the torrent of history split one Jewish family down three very different roads. One fled to America, another went to Palestine, a third remained in Europe and suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Laskin honors the traditions, lives, and choices of the revolutionaries and entrepreneurs, scholars and farmers, tycoons and truck drivers in this dramatic and personal account of people caught in a cataclysmic time in world history.

**The Smithsonian's History of America**
Historian and cartography expert Jerry Brotton shows that the long road to our present geographical reality was rife with controversy, manipulation, and special interests trumping science. Through the centuries maps have been wielded to promote any number of imperial, religious, and economic agendas, and have represented the idiosyncratic and uneasy fusion of science and subjectivity. *A History of the World in 12 Maps* ($40, Viking, 9780670023394) tells the fascinating stories of those who created, used, and misused them for their own ends.

**Heretics and Heroes**
From the inimitable and bestselling author Thomas Cahill comes another popular history, focusing on the Renaissance and Reformation and how this innovative period changed the Western world. In *Heretics and Heroes* ($30.50, Nan A. Talese, 9780385495578), volume VI of his acclaimed *Hinges of History* series, Cahill guides us through the late fourteenth to early seventeenth centuries, an age of the most sublime artistic and scientific adventure, but also of newly powerful princes and armies, and of newly discovered individuality in which a whole culture must achieve a new balance.

**History Decoded**
Brad Meltzer, born storyteller and host of the hit show “Decoded” on the History network, takes us on a riveting, interactive adventure through the compelling world of mysteries and conspiracies in *History Decoded: The 10 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time* ($24.95, Workman, 9780761177456). He sifts through the evidence; weighs competing theories; separates what we know to be true with what’s still and perhaps forever unproved or unprovable; and in the end, decodes the mystery, arriving at the most likely solution in this remarkable book for history lovers.

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Awkward Family Holiday Photos
Holidays are those momentous occasions when we gather with family to eat, drink, celebrate, and, of course, pose for photographs. From Mom’s homemade Halloween costumes to re-creating a Nativity scene for the Christmas card to that overly patriotic uncle who literally wears the flag on the Fourth, holidays make for humiliating memories that we carry in our hearts for years to come. Put a copy of Awkward Family Holiday Photos ($15, Three Rivers, 9780307888136) by Mike Bender out during the holidays for some great entertainment.

Unlikely Loves
Jennifer Holland, who writes about animal relationships with insight, compassion, and a fine narrative touch, explores animal attachments that, in human terms, can only be called love. Packed with beautiful, breathtaking full-color photographs, Unlikely Loves ($13.95, Workman, 9780761174424) is a celebration of love between species. A perfect gift that is sure to delight any animal lover.

Ties That Bind
StoryCorps founder Dave Isay draws from ten years of the revolutionary oral history project’s rich archives, collecting conversations that celebrate the power of the human bond and capture the moment at which individuals become family. Between blood relations, friends, coworkers, and neighbors, in the most trying circumstances and in the unlikeliest of places, enduring connections are formed and lives are forever changed. Ties That Bind ($25.95, Penguin, 9781594205170) is a beautiful celebration of the relationships that bring us strength, purpose, and joy.

A Year of Miracles
Combining wisdom drawn from her bestselling books as well as fresh insight, bestselling author and world-renowned teacher Marianne Williamson (A Return to Love) offers 365 days of guidance, support, and enlightenment to focus our thinking in A Year of Miracles ($24.99, HarperOne, 9780062205506). If your goal is to begin the new year with mindfulness, hope, and feeling centered every day, here are the meditations, prayers, and insights to help you become your best self.

The Beekman 1802 Heirloom Dessert Cookbook
Dr. Brent Ridge and Josh Kilmer-Purcell left New York City to become “accidental goat farmers.” Today, they’re known for their magnificent handcrafted goat’s milk soaps and cheeses with a company named after their historic farmhouse, Beekman 1802. Discover the delicious and decadent recipes that the Beekman Boys have collected from across the generations of their family in The Beekman 1802 Heirloom Dessert Cookbook ($32.50, Rodale, 9781609615734), accompanied by the authors’ personal memories.

Tequila Mockingbird
Give your book group gathering a refreshing twist with inspiration from Tequila Mockingbird: Cocktails with a Literary Twist ($15, Running Press, 9780762448654) by Tim Federle. In a clever tribute to literature, Federle combines beloved classic novels with witty humor and delicious drink recipes, along with tools and techniques in this fun book.

Eat to Live Cookbook
Joel Fuhrman, M.D. (Eat to Live) has helped millions of people around the world discover the most effective path for long-term weight loss and health. With the Eat to Live Cookbook ($28.99, HarperOne, 9780062286703), you’ll find 185 delicious and easy recipes for any day, any occasion. Eat the food you love while you right-size your body and live a full and healthy life.

Giada’s Feel Good Food
How does she do it? Food Network star Giada de Laurentiis surrounds herself with food, but manages to stay fit and healthy. In Giada’s Feel Good Food ($32.50, Clarkson Potter, 9780307987204), de Laurentiis reveals her secrets in this practical book filled with recipes for feel-good meals, exercise and beauty routines, strategies for maximizing energy, tips for satisfying sugar fixes and strategies for eating out. Here’s to enjoying life to its fullest!
Burnt Black, A Cliff St. James Novel
New Orleans Homicide Detective Cliff St. James and his partner Honey are still trying to piece their lives together a year and a half after a killer storm decimated the city. They find themselves probing a succession of unusual deaths that may or may not be homicides, catching nothing but bad breaks as they struggle to determine which of their suspects is the killer, or perhaps the next victim in Burnt Black ($25.99, Minotaur, 9781250020291) by Ed Kovacs.

Ghost Stories of Old New Orleans
Drawing largely on popular legend dating back to the 1800s, Jeanne deLavigne reveals vivid details of old New Orleans with a cast of spirits that represent the ethnic mélange of the city set amid period homes, historic neighborhoods, and forgotten taverns. Combining folklore, newspaper accounts, and deLavigne’s own voice, Ghost Stories of Old New Orleans ($22.50, LSU Press, 9780807152911), uncovers forty phantasmal tales that range from the tragic—brothers, lost at sea as children, haunt a chapel on Thomas Street in search of their mother—to graphic and haunting.

Game Changers: The Rousing Legacy of Louisiana Sports
Louisiana almost defies logic when it comes to sports. Our native sons, daughters, and teams have left stamps on sports all out of proportion for what could be expected of a relatively small southern state. As Marty Mule, a legend among the state’s sportswriters, shows, Louisiana’s athletic punch far exceeds its weight class. Game Changers ($39.95, Univ. of Louisiana, at Lafayette, 9781935754251) is the enthralling history of Louisiana’s athletes — and more.

Talk That Music Talk
Learning to play by ear is a unique part of becoming a musician in New Orleans. Talk That Music Talk by Bruce Sunpie Barnes ($30, UNO Press, 9781608011070) is a life history and photography project that explores the traditional methods of teaching brass band music in the city that gave birth to jazz. The bands, social and pleasure clubs, schools and churches come to life with evocative interviews that provide a rare window into a musical culture that is restless, growing and sublime.

Traditional Music in Coastal Louisiana: The 1934 Lomax Recordings
Alan Lomax’s prolific sixty-four-year career as a folklorist and musicologist began with a trip across the South and into the heart of Louisiana’s Cajun country during the height of the Great Depression. In Traditional Music in Coastal Louisiana ($45.95, LSU Press, 9780807152010), Joshua Clegg Caffery Joshua provides a musical history of Louisiana that extends beyond Cajun music and zydeco to the rural blues, Irish and English folk songs, play-party songs, slave spirituals, and traditional French folk songs that thrived at the time of these recordings.

Inventing Reality: New Orleans Visionary Photography
A stunning anthology curated by D. Eric Bookhardt, Inventing Reality ($45, Luna Press, 9780989609500) showcases the work of twenty-seven contemporary New Orleans photographers and the creative renaissance that is taking place today.
RICH COHEN

*Monsters: The 1985 Chicago Bears and the Wild Heart of Football*

**Thursday, December 5, 6 pm**

For Rich Cohen and millions of other fans, the 1985 Chicago Bears were more than a football team: they were the greatest football team ever—a gang of colorful nuts, dancing and pounding their way to victory. They won a Super Bowl and saved a city. It was not just that the Monsters of the Midway won, but how they did it. *Monsters: The 1985 Chicago Bears and the Wild Heart of Football* ($26, FSG, 9780374298685) is a portrait not merely of a team, but of a city and a game; its history, its future, its fallen men, its immortal heroes. But mostly it’s about being a fan. It’s about America at its most nonsensical, delirious, and joyful.

GRAND MASTER JESSE KRAAI

*LISA: A Chess Novel*

**Book Signing & Blindfold Chess Demonstration**

**Saturday, December 7, 6 pm**

The journal was supposed to show Lisa how to be. But it was private. And no one seemed to know anyway. The chess pieces knew how they moved. They knew what they wanted too. It wasn’t like school, where kids pretended they were masters of the teachers’ game. The adults didn’t know anything, their world was a big push to nothing. But Lisa escaped from all that. She found Igor Ivanov. He taught her how to play.

MATT SAKAKEENY

*Roll With It: Brass Bands on the Streets of New Orleans*

**Tuesday, December 3, 6 pm**

Sakakeeny provides a firsthand account of the precarious lives of musicians in the Rebirth, Soul Rebels, and Hot 8 brass bands of New Orleans. Divided into sections on food, Mardi Gras, literature, and music, these short essays can be read in one gulp or devoured slowly over time. Either way, you will find a welcome companion and guide in Kolb. ($25, University Press of Mississippi, 9781617038839)

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY!

**Saturday, November 30**

Come support the local economy at Octavia Books and other locally owned businesses on Small Business Saturday! And, “Shop Indie” is a movement to embrace all year long.

CAROLYN KOLB

*New Orleans Memories: One Writer’s City*

**Saturday, November 30, 10:30 am**

Celebrate Small Business Saturday with us as we welcome local journalist Carolyn Kolb to take us on a virtual tour of her favorite people and places in New Orleans. Divided into sections on food, Mardi Gras, literature, and music, these short essays can be read in one gulp or devoured slowly over time. Either way, you will find a welcome companion and guide in Kolb. ($25, University Press of Mississippi, 9781617038839)

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A Web of Stories with

**DANIEL CHACÓN & JONATHAN KLEIN**

**Monday, December 9, 6 pm**

*Hotel Juarez: Stories, Rooms and Loops*

In this collection of short and flash fiction rooted in the El Paso, Texas and its sister city across the border, Ciudad Juarez, Daniel Chacón examines peoples’ interactions with each other, the impact of identity and the importance of literature, art and music. Many of the stories in *Hotel Juarez* ($17.95, 9781558857681) are very short and contain images that flash in the reader’s mind, loop back and connect to earlier ones. Whether in Paris or Ciudad Juarez, Chacón reveals his characters at their most vulnerable in these powerful and rewarding stories, anti-stories and loops.

**JONATHAN KLEIN**

*The Wisdom of Ashes*

**Jonathan Klein**’s stories connect two poets, a nun, a black and white dog, and a huge red balloon to a heroin addict, the devil, the dead, and a mousy little man in a woman’s wool overcoat, in New Orleans in the early 1980s. In 44 moments, *The Wisdom of Ashes* ($15, Lavender Ink, 9781935084365) weaves light and dark, memory and forgetting, madness and war, with smell of jasmine and the sound of cicadas in a walk along the levy.

**ERROL BARRON**

*Roma Osservata (Rome Observed)*

**Saturday, December 14, 2 pm**

Join us and we’ll visit rome with Errol Barron, Richard Koch Professor of Architecture at Tulane who’s new book *Roma Osservata* ($25, 9781467580298) depicts the monuments, spaces, and details of the city in a highly personal, often humorous, way. Professor Barron taught in Rome in 2011 and 2012 when he made the drawings that are accompanied by descriptive text in both English and Italian. Two essays provide a context for the drawings: one by Professor Romolo Martemucci, Director of the Pantheon Institute, focusing on the essential act of observation and one by Professor Barron, *Roma/Nola*, considering Rome and its relation to American cites, particularly New Orleans. Come enjoy a quick (and very affordable) trip to Rome!

**MARY FITZPATRICK and VIRGINIA McCOLLAM**

*New Orleans: Days and Nights in the Dreamy City*

**Saturday, December 21, 2 pm**

In *New Orleans: Days and Nights in the Dreamy City* ($25, 9780977316526), the final book of the Preservation Resource Center trilogy, author and editor Mary Fitzpatrick teams up with film location manager, producer and scriptwriter Virginia McCollam for an around-the-clock trip to the favorite spots of more than 100 insiders.

**MICHAEL ALLEN ZELL**

*The Oblivion Atlas*

**Wednesday, January 8, 6 pm**

A collaborative effort between Louviere + Vanessa and Michael Allen Zell, *The Oblivion Atlas* combines duotone photographs, fold-outs, short stories, vignette illustrations, and a book design by Jeff Louviere. Explore an aviary of themes, including dreams; time-sculpting; memory; madness; resistance, nihilism; the frequencies and trajectories of the mind; absorbing/dissolving; and infinity in a finite space. New Orleans and Louisiana remain steady companion throughout, as an active guiding presence in *The Oblivion Atlas* ($25, Lavender Ink, 9781935084471).