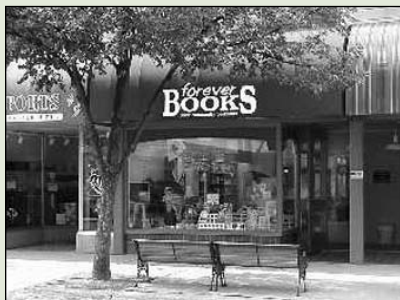




# Forever Books

Your Community Bookstore

Spring 2005



Located in picturesque downtown St. Joseph overlooking Lake Michigan

312 State Street  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
Phone: (269) 982-1110  
Toll-Free: (877) 982-1110  
Fax: (269) 982-1815

Visit us through [www.goswm.com](http://www.goswm.com)

Your Community Bookstore  
Open 7 days for your shopping convenience!

**Store Hours**  
Monday – Saturday 10-6  
Sunday Noon-5

Forever Books is proud to be the recipient of Cornerstone Alliance Chamber's Small Business of the Year Award and to be nominated for the Lucille Micheels Pannell Award for excellence in children's bookselling.

**Loyalty Has Its Rewards**  
Join the Forever Friends Bookclub. For every \$100 in purchases at Forever Books you'll receive a \$5 gift certificate to spend on your next visit. There's no card to carry and nothing for you to keep track of—we do it all!

**Count On Our Exceptional Service**  
✓ Out-of-print book search  
✓ Free gift wrap  
✓ Gift registry  
✓ Shipping service available  
✓ Special orders

**Special Orders Are Our Specialty**  
If the book you want isn't already on our shelves, we're happy to order it for you.

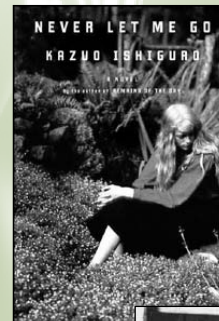
Reader's Choice  
Award Winner

"Best Place to Buy Books"

## The Pleasures of Reading GREAT FICTION

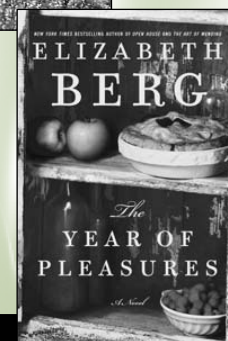
### *Never Let Me Go*

Kazuo Ishiguro's previous novels — including *The Remains of the Day* that won him the Booker Prize and *A Pale View of the Hills* — were applauded for the characters who struggle with loss and love, despair and hope in an uncaring world. In *Never Let Me Go* (\$24, Knopf, 1-4000-4339-5), Kathy H., narrator of the story, is one of those unforgettable people. During her childhood days at a private preparatory school, teachers and guardians shelter the students from reality. Now 31, Kathy is thrown together with two of her old school friends and begins to relive experiences that both call those friendships into question and deepen them. Her memories also reveal the dark secrets that she now can begin to understand in Ishiguro's beautiful tale of memory, personal discovery, and love. Another gem from a favorite author.



### *The Year of Pleasures*

When Betta Nolan's husband dies, she honors a promise she made to him to move to a small town and start a new life. Without minimizing her great sorrow, she nonetheless attempts to find pleasure on a daily basis. Betta's journey from grief to joy is inspiring — no matter what we lose, life is ready to give bountifully to those who will receive. Favorite author Elizabeth Berg's *The Year of Pleasures* (\$24.95, Random House, 1-4000-6160-1) is about deliberately acknowledging the solace to be found in ordinary things: a warm bath, good food, the beauty of nature, music, art found in museums and in gardens. Above all, this novel is about the various kindnesses people can and do offer one another.



### *The Ice Queen*

Be careful what you wish for. A small-town librarian who lives a quiet life mutters an idle wish and, while standing in her house, is struck by lightning. Instead of marking the end of her life, the event sparks a new beginning. She goes in search of a fellow survivor who was struck dead, then simply got up and walked away. Even though the two are complete opposites, an obsessive love affair begins and both are forced to hide their most dangerous secrets — what turned one to ice and the other to fire — in *The Ice Queen* (\$24.95, Little Brown, 0-316-05859-9), a bewitching story of seduction and danger by bestselling author Alice Hoffman.



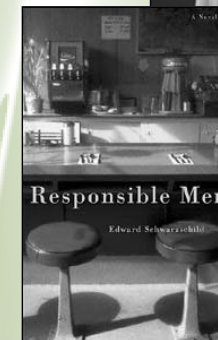
### *Vanishing Acts*

*New York Times* bestselling author Jodi Picoult is widely acclaimed for her ability to tap into the hearts and minds of real people. Now she explores what happens when a young woman's past — a past she didn't even know she had — catches up to her just in time to threaten her future. Delia Hopkins has led a charmed life. Raised in rural New Hampshire by her widowed father, Andrew, she now has a young daughter, a handsome fiance, and her own search-and-rescue bloodhound, which she uses to find missing persons. But as Delia plans her wedding, she is plagued by flashbacks of a life she can't recall. And then a policeman knocks on her door, revealing a secret that changes her world. What happens when you learn you are not who you thought you were? When the people you've loved and trusted suddenly change before your eyes? When getting your deepest wish means giving up what you've always taken for granted? *Vanishing Acts* (\$25, Atria, 0-743-45454-5) explores how life — as we know it — might not turn out the way we imagined; how doing the right thing could mean doing the wrong thing; how the memory we thought had vanished could return as a threat.



### *Responsible Men*

Max is a forty-one-year-old, ethically challenged salesman from a family of mostly upstanding salesmen. He longs to become a better son and a better father and gets the perfect opportunity: returning home to Philadelphia for his son Nathan's bar mitzvah. But he knows it won't be easy — seeing the ex-wife (who now lives with the gardener he once hired), facing his unhappy son's complaints, and hearing his father plead for him to move back to Philly from Florida. And then there's his father's brother, Uncle Abe, once the family's most charismatic salesman, who hasn't been able to speak coherently since his stroke. Edward Schwarzschild gets into the hearts of men through this funny and wise story of three generations of men who long to be more responsible than they are in *Responsible Men* (\$23.95, Algonquin, 1-56512-409-X).



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## Dear Reader,

On April Fool's Day, Forever Books celebrates its sixth year! When we opened, downtown St. Joseph had eleven empty storefronts. Now the downtown area is thriving, offering shoppers and visitors not just a beautiful view of the beach, but exciting year-round events for the entire family.

We've changed from a mostly children's bookstore to a full service bookstore with books for all ages. By the time you read this, Forever Books will be going through a few more changes, expanding our adult fiction and non-fiction sections. We'll also make it easier for children ages 9-12 to reach their books, and expand the children's non-fiction. And because we sell books the old-fashioned way (we read them!), our Staff Favorites section has already expanded (thank you for your compliments), making it even easier for you to make a selection. We'd love your feedback. If there are areas you'd like to see grow, let us know!

A few months ago we were chosen as "The Best Place to Buy Books" in Southwest Michigan. It is because of you, our loyal readers, who make each anniversary possible and special for Forever Books. Thank you for your support. We're proud to be your community bookstore.

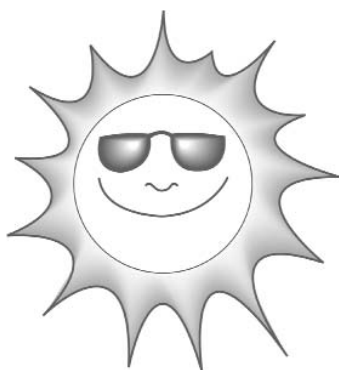
Robin, Sherry, and Luci

### Forever Books Gift Cards Gift-Giving Made Easy



Not sure what to buy? Let them decide! You can now enjoy the convenience of a gift card that you can purchase at Forever Books, redeemable at independent bookstores across the country.

Gift cards ... always appropriate, always appreciated.



## Sizzlin' Summer Reads

New Summer Book Club Symposium  
Monday, May 16th – 7 pm

Need some summer reading ideas? Want to be the first to find out about new releases for May, June, and July? Is your book club looking for a best-selling hardcover newly published in paperback? Twice a year wasn't enough for our readers to attend our popular book club symposiums, so we're hosting our first Sizzlin' Summer Book Club Symposium on May 16 at 7 pm. Join us and you'll receive a special discount that evening and a free publisher's advance reader's copy (a free book!). It's a great way for booklovers to get together and share the books we've loved.

You do not have to be part of a book club to attend (we're happy to have you join our store book club). Registration is required as space is limited. Call 982-1110 to register.



## Meet Luci

Luci Huhn started working at Forever Books last October, so you may already know how knowledgeable and helpful she is. Luci attended Western Michigan University's writing program and then received an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Iowa's Writer's Workshop. She has spent most of her career in corporations in Boston and East Lansing, but is happy to have found her way back to the business of books. She enjoys reading fiction and poetry, especially the works of Mary Oliver and Elizabeth Bishop.

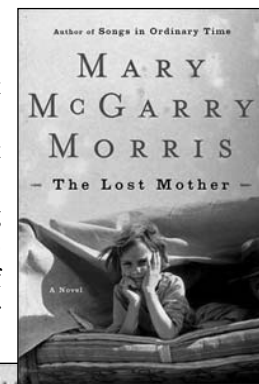
## Reader's Review Book Club

You are invited to join us the **first Wednesday evening** of each month for stimulating discussion and homemade refreshments. Special discounts are available to all who are a part of the Reader's Review on each night we meet.

**April 6th at 7 pm**

***The Lost Mother* by Mary McGarry Morris**

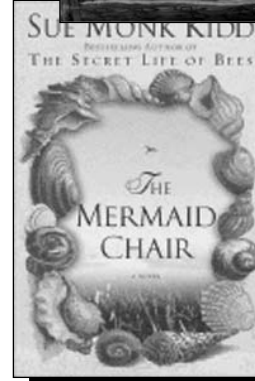
This enthralling new novel set during the Great Depression is from the bestselling author of *Songs in Ordinary Time*. Reduced to living in a tent in Vermont during the Depression, the children and their father, Henry Talcott, a butcher who must travel daily seeking work, are barely surviving their abandonment by the children's reluctant mother. While Talcott finds himself abandoned by his beautiful wife, a prosperous neighbor begins to woo his children as companions for her strange, housebound son. Morris illuminates the bitter existence of neglected children and their inspiring resilience, once again proving herself a storyteller of great compassion, insight and depth in her latest, *The Lost Mother* (\$23.95, Viking, 0-6700-3389-8).



**May 4th at 7 pm**

***The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd**

After the fame of *The Secret Life of Bees*, people everywhere have been waiting for another work by Sue Monk Kidd. Please see full review on page 3 for *The Mermaid Chair* (\$24.95, Viking, 0-6700-3394-4).



## A Short Yarn

Looking for a quick project? Join our staff and knitting friends on **April 14th** and **May 12th** (the second Thursday of each month) from 7 to 8:30 pm for conversation, inspiration, refreshments and knitting.



In April, we'll feature *Knitting* (\$23, Houghton Mifflin, 0-6184-9926-1) by Anne Bartlett. When two widows – polar opposites in their grief – stop to help a traveler in distress, their meeting puts in motion an entanglement of their lives that will have astonishing ramifications. What begins as a professional collaboration on a knitting exhibition soon becomes something transformative and deeply personal.

In May, we'll spotlight *First Knits: Projects for Beginning Knitters* (\$24.95, Martingale, 1-5647-7560-7) and be inspired by the easy projects this new book recommends.

## Want to Work at Forever Books?

We're looking for two booksellers! One position is part time, one or two days a week, including any two Saturdays and one Sunday a month, starting in April. The other is for a full-time (30-35 hours a week) summer position, May through most of August, perfect for a college student home for the summer. If you've always wanted to work in a bookstore, love books, and want a great discount, give us a call. All applicants must submit a simple, one-page resume.



Forever Books is a proud member of Book Sense, a bookstore with:

- Knowledge
- Passion
- Character
- Personality
- Community

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## MEET SUE MONK KIDD

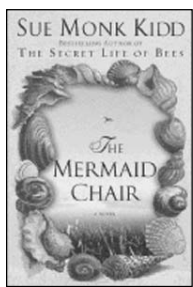
Sue Monk Kidd's stunning debut, *The Secret Life of Bees*, spent 77 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list, selling more than 3 million copies and transforming Kidd into a genuine literary star. Although she began her career as a nurse, she rediscovered writing just a few months before her thirtieth birthday. The following is adapted from her personal note to readers on her website, [www.suemonkkidd.com](http://www.suemonkkidd.com).



"I grew up in the 1950s and '60s in a tiny town tucked among the pine-lands and peanut fields of Southwest Georgia. A 'beautiful nowhere,' my urbane college roommate called it the first time she visited. For me, though, it was an 'enduring somewhere,' a long-suffering lap of Southern life. My great-grandparents settled there in 1828, building the rambling farmhouse where my parents live today. Our most plentiful resource, next to family roots, was stories. My desire to become a writer was born while listening to my father ply us with tales about mules who went through cafeteria lines and a petulant boy named Chewing Gum Bum. It seemed to me that, possibly, the only thing more magical than listening to stories, was creating them.

"I had always had a spiritual bent, and my thirties were filled with intellectual and spiritual pursuits as I began to seriously study the classics of Western spirituality. Deeply influenced by the monk and poet, Thomas Merton, and the fourteenth century writings of Meister Eckhart, I went on a theological reading binge, took graduate seminary courses, spent an inordinate amount of time in monasteries, and cultivated conversations with Jesuits, Trappist and Benedictine monks. And along the way, I became active in social issues, particularly peace and environmental awareness.

"Today, I live beside a salt marsh near Charleston, South Carolina with my husband Sandy, a marriage and family counselor in private practice, and our black lab, Lily. I write in a book-lined upstairs study where I can gaze out at the marsh birds and the tides. When not writing, I spend my time reading, playing with my friends, walking the beach, paddling around in my kayak, or sitting on the dock with my husband, simply letting things be."



### *The Mermaid Chair*

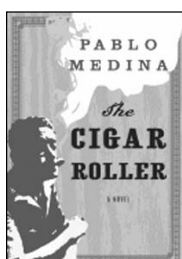
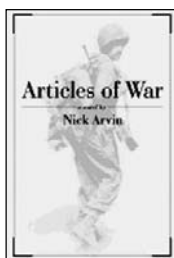
Inside the abbey of a Benedictine monastery on tiny Egret Island, just off the coast of South Carolina, resides a beautiful and mysterious chair ornately carved with mermaids and dedicated to a saint who, legend claims, was a mermaid before her conversion. Jessie Sullivan's conventional life has been "molded to the smallest space possible." So when she is called home to cope with her mother's startling and enigmatic act of violence, Jessie finds herself relieved to be apart from her husband, Hugh. Jessie loves Hugh, but on Egret Island — amid the gorgeous marshlands and tidal creeks — she becomes drawn to Brother Thomas, a monk who is mere months from taking his final vows. What transpires will unlock the roots of her mother's tormented past, but most of all, as Jessie grapples with the tension of desire and the struggle to deny it, she will find a freedom that feels overwhelmingly right.

What inspires the yearning for a soul-mate? Few writers have explored, as Kidd does, the lush, unknown region of the feminine soul where the thin line between the spiritual and the erotic exists. *The Mermaid Chair* (\$24.95, Viking, 0-6700-3394-4) is a vividly imagined novel about the passions of the spirit and the ecstasies of the body; one that illuminates a woman's self-awakening.

## The Choices We Make

### Articles of War

George Tilson is an eighteen-year-old Iowan farm boy who is drafted into the army during World War II and sent to Normandy shortly after D-Day. Nicknamed "Heck" because of his reluctance to curse, he is a typical soldier — willing to do his duty without fuss. The night before he is trucked into the combat zone, Heck meets a young French refugee and her family — an encounter that unsettles him greatly. As he heads into war, Heck makes a series of choices that would be rational in every human situation except war. With hypnotic clarity, Nick Arvin draws us into the unimaginable fear, violence, and chaos of the war zone in *Articles of War* (\$18.95, Doubleday, 0-385-51277-5).

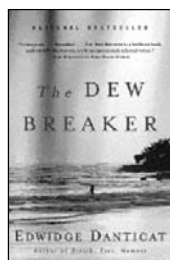


### *The Cigar Roller*

Master storyteller Pablo Medina's new novel is a radiant journey through the mind of Amadeo Terra, a Cuban cigar-factory worker lying helpless in a Florida hospital after a massive stroke left him paralyzed. While his body no longer works, his mind is very much alive — as is his ruthless and audacious wit. One day his nurse feeds him mango from a baby-food jar and the taste brings back memories of his life in Havana: the turbulent and passionate relationship with his wife Julia, his numerous romantic transgressions, his three sons toward whom he feels ambivalence, and the political strife that forced his family to flee under desperate circumstances. Abandoned, Amadeo is forced to confront his previously unexamined life in *The Cigar Roller* (\$21, Grove Press, 0-8021-1792-9), a darkly funny novel about looking back.

### *The Dew Breaker*

From the winner of the inaugural Story Prize, national Book Award finalist and bestselling author of *Breath, Eyes, Memory* is Edwidge Danticat's story of a barber father who keeps a vital secret from his daughter, and from his unsuspecting neighbors, tenants, and clients. A story of love, remorse and hope — of rebellions both personal and political — and of compromises we often make in order to move beyond the most intimate brushes with history, *The Dew Breaker* (\$12.95, Vintage, 1-4000-3429-9) is rich with insights not just about Haiti, but also about the human condition.



## Across the Pond

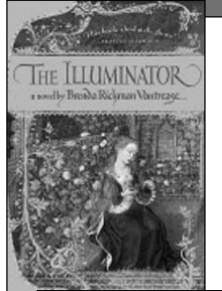
### *Bad Mother's Handbook*

Take a year in the lives of a grandmother, mother and daughter living under one roof in a working-class town in northern England. Seventeen-year-old Charlotte is pregnant, repeating the same mistake her own mother made when she was Charlotte's age. Both hilarious and wise, *The Bad Mother's Handbook* (\$21.95, Ballantine, 0-345-47965-3) by Kate Long was a runaway #1 bestseller in Britain and poses universal questions like "Why is it all so difficult?" While there are as many sorts of mothers as there are children, sometimes love is the only thing that matters.



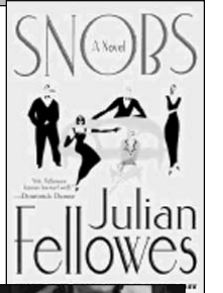
### *The Illuminator*

Fourteenth century England was a time of plague, political unrest and the earliest stirrings of the Reformation. The printing press had yet to be invented, and books were rare and costly. Finn is a master illuminator who works not only for the Church, but in secret for the heretical John Wycliffe of Oxford, who professes the radical idea that the Bible should be translated into English for everyone to read. Finn has another secret, one that leads him into danger when he meets Lady Kathryn of Blackingham Manor, a widow struggling to protect her inheritance from the Church and Crown alike. *The Illuminator* (\$24.95, St. Martins, 0-312-33191-6) by Brenda Rickman Vantrease is a beautifully written novel of love, art, religion and treachery at an enchanting turning point in history.



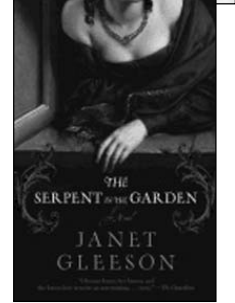
### *Snobs*

Julian Fellowes, the Oscar-winning screenwriter of *Gosford Park*, a mystery that was really about the English class system, serves up his first novel — a reminder that in contemporary England, class still matters. We share in the observations of Edith Lavery, the pretty daughter of an accountant as she prepares to marry Charles Broughton, heir to the Marquess of Uckfield in *Snobs* (\$23.95, St. Martins, 0-312-33692-6), a delightfully funny comedy of manners.



### *The Serpent in the Garden*

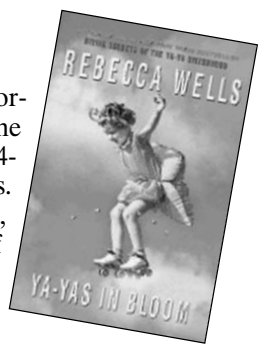
In the summer of 1763, renowned London portrait painter Joshua Pope, eager to escape London, accepts a commission to paint the wedding portrait of a wealthy landowner and widower. Herbert Bentnick is betrothed to the beautiful and haughty Sabine Mercer less than a year after the death of his first wife. On Pope's arrival at Bentnick's estate, a man is found dead in the greenhouse and no one admits to know who he is. Next, Sabine's emerald necklace disappears and Joshua is implicated. *The Serpent in the Garden* (\$14, S&S, 0-7432-6005-8) by Janet Gleeson is a richly nuanced tale of greed, suspense, intrigue, and revenge.



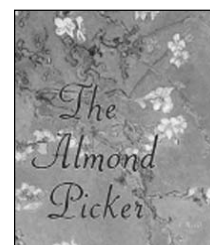
## The Ya-Yas Are Back!

### *Ya-Yas In Bloom*

If you found *The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood* an unforgettable story of female friendship, you'll be celebrating the release of *Ya-Yas In Bloom* (\$24.95, HarperCollins, 0-06-019534-7), the story of the roots of the Ya-Yas' friendship in the 1930s. Through crises of faith and hilarious lapses of parenting skills, brushes with alcoholism and glimpses of the dark reality of racial bigotry, the Ya-Ya values of unconditional loyalty, high style, and Cajun sass shine through in the latest funny, robust novel by Rebecca Wells.



## Hidden Truths



### *The Almond Picker*

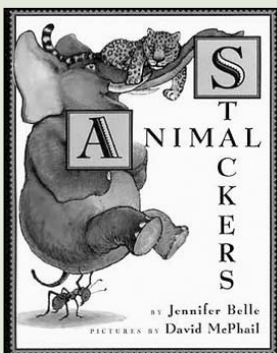
Who is Maria Rosalia Inzerillo, known as Mennulara, the almond picker? Born into a poor Sicilian farming family, as a young girl she went into service as a maid for a well-to-do family and due to her hard work and intelligence, became the indispensable administrator of the family's affairs and was thought to be rich. Now she is dead. In this Italian bestseller, we learn that everyone in the village has a different idea about Mennulara's mysterious life (was she a humble servant, pawn for the Mafia, seducer and opportunist?) until the surprising truth is revealed thirty days after her death in *The Almond Picker* (\$23, FSG, 0-374-18234-5), a captivating story by Simonetta Agnello Hornby.



### *The Bowl Is Already Broken*

Promise Whittaker, the diminutive but decisive acting director of the National Museum of Asian Art, is pregnant again — and that's just the beginning of her difficulties. Her mentor, the previous director, suddenly walked away from his job without explanation, and now is on a dig somewhere in the Mongolian desert. Her favorite curator has dropped their newest treasure, a bowl once owned by Thomas Jefferson, during the ceremony celebrating its acquisition. Another colleague, desperate for a son, has been embezzling from the museum to pay for her fertility treatments. And her far too handsome, far too elusive ancillary director is clearly up to no good. *The Bowl Is Already Broken* (\$25, FSG, 0-374-11571-0) is a big, rewarding novel about art, politics, family, terrorism, courage, and happiness by Mary Kay Zuravleff.

## April is National Poetry Month



### Animal Stackers

Can't wait to be  
Alone in the house  
The sofa looks comfortable

It's an alphabet book... it's a poetry book ... it's a picture book... it's *Animal Stackers!* Author Jennifer Belle shows how we can stack letters to make words and stack words to make poems, then David McPhail illustrates the whimsical poems with animals that have more than their share of character! *Animal Stackers* is a real treasure (\$15.99, Hyperion, 0-7868-1834-4). Ages 5-9.

### A Maze Me: Poems for Girls

We could go on all day about this book and about its author, Naomi Shihab Nye, who is an amazing poet. Yes, amazing! But it's better to get right to the point: *A Maze Me* (\$16.99, Greenwillow, 0-06-058189-1) is a collection of original poems by Nye about the things that matter to teen girls — first love, friendship, family, school, community, hopes, dreams, self-image and body image. The poems in this collection will speak to your heart, whether you are a teen or the mother (or grandmother) of one. Excellent gift! Ages 12 & up.



### Jump in to Poetry!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Poetry Month, a project initiated by The Academy of American Poets to “celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture.” So come see what's new in the poetry section, write a poem or two of your own, and explore what's on the net:

**DIY (do-it-yourself) poetry for kids**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/arts/poetry/wordplay/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/poetry/wordplay/)

**Read and Write Funny Poems**  
[www.poetry4kids.com/](http://www.poetry4kids.com/)

**Poetry Writing with Famous Poets**  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/index.htm>

**“Poetry 180” project for teens**  
[www.loc.gov/poetry/180/](http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/)



SPRING IS IN THE AIR ...

## Books are Blooming!

**LEMONS ARE NOT RED**

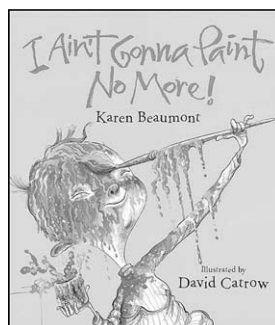
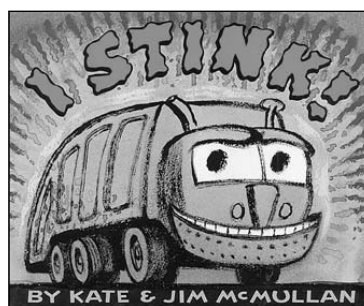
Laura Vaccaro Seeger

### Lemons Are Not Red

There are plenty of books that teach little ones about colors, but *Lemons Are Not Red* by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (\$14.95, Roaring Brook, 1-59643008-7) is a cut above. Literally! Die-cut shapes on the pages in this vibrant picture book add a whole new level of interest for young readers. Colors are taught by familiar objects and by what they are not — lemons are not red, carrots are not purple, and so on. The book ends with a silver moon against a black night-time sky. Ages 3-5.

### I Stink

“Know what I do at night while you're asleep? Eat your trash, that's what!” So speaks the garbage truck at the heart of Kate McMullan's comic tale, *I Stink* (\$6.99, HarperFestival, 0-060-74592-4), now available as a board book. With ten big tires, a huge appetite, and a “distinctive” smell, what's not to love about a garbage truck with a larger-than-life personality? Illustrations by Jim McMullan are just as funny as the text! Dare we mention that sound effects are encouraged? Dig in! Ages 3-5.

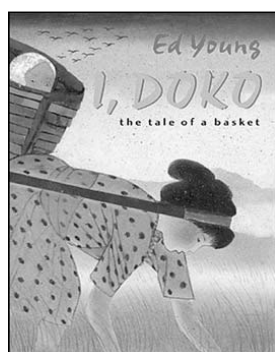
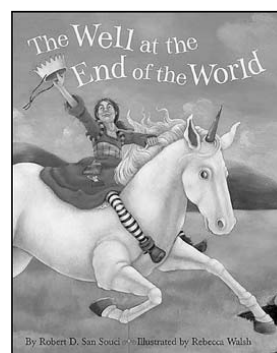


### I Ain't Gonna Paint No More

When it comes to kids and paint, a little bit goes a long way. To the tune of “It Ain't Gonna Rain No More,” the little boy in this color-splashed picture book paints the walls, the ceiling, and then himself. Zippy text by Karen Beaumont and zany illustrations by David Catrow create a rainbow of reading fun in *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More* (\$16, Harcourt, 0-15-202488-3). Ages 3-7.

### The Well at the End of the World

Forget about wimpy princesses who sit around waiting to be rescued! Meet Princess Rosamond, who can keep both the royal accounts and the castle drawbridge in working order. When her father falls ill, Rosamond goes on a quest for the one thing that can cure him. Will she return in time to save him and prevent her greedy stepmother from ruining the kingdom? *The Well at the End of the World* (\$16.95, Chronicle/Seastar, 1-58172-127) is a tale of generosity and courage by award-winning author Robert San Souci. Ages 4-8.

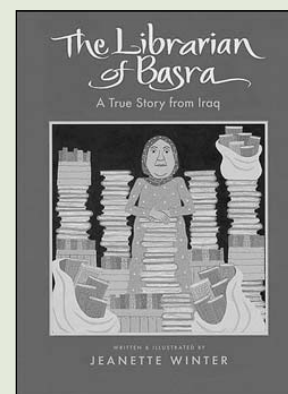
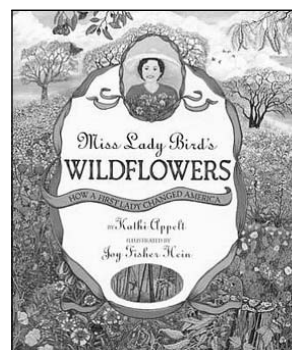


### I, Doko: The Tale of a Basket

Doko is just a simple basket, and yet he has carried the grain from the field, hauled wood for the fire, even cradled his master's child. Once again, author/illustrator Ed Young has taken a traditional story, this time from Nepal, and created a magical picture book. *I, Doko* (\$16.99, Philomel, 0-399-23625-2) is a stunning read-aloud story that celebrates the grace of family relationships across the generations. Ages 4 and up.

### Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers

As a child in East Texas, she loved wildflowers, from bluebonnets and larkspur to black-eyed Susans and Granny's nightcaps. Later, as First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson's vision of wildflowers lining the nation's highways and city streets enabled generations of children to enjoy the beauty of nature, no matter where they lived. Kathi Appelt's picture book biography of this great lady, *Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers* (\$16.99, HarperCollins, 0-060-01107-6), is a delight, beautifully illustrated by Joy Fisher Hein. Ages 7-9.



### Saving the Books

#### The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq

Many things are lost or destroyed during wartime, and books and libraries are no exception. This is the true story of how Alia Muhammad Baker, a librarian in the Iraqi city of Basra, found a way to protect her community's priceless collection of books. Jeanette Winter's picture book biography of this very brave woman, *The Librarian of Basra* (\$16, Harcourt, 0-15-205445-6), is written in language simple enough for young children to understand and yet the beauty of its message — the importance of preserving knowledge and the ability for literature to connect us — will speak to readers of all ages.

### The Tween Scene

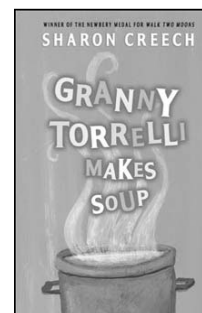


#### Click Here

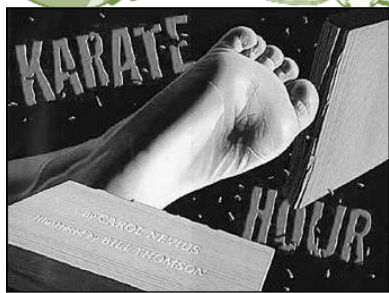
Instead of using an old-fashioned diary, Erin Swift keeps her top-secret writing on a private web page. Into this blog she puts her hopes, her fears, her crushes and even some secrets she hasn't told her best friend yet. Then the worst happens — Erin's blog turns up on the school web site! “Tween” girls will totally get into *Click Here* (\$15.99, Little, Brown, 0-316-98560-0), a warm and funny debut by Denise Vega. Ages 8-12.

#### Granny Torrelli Makes Soup

“You maybe can fool other people with that smart head of yours, but you can't fool Granny Torrelli.” While they make a pot of homemade soup together, twelve-year-old Rosie spills out her troubles to her grandmother. Rosie is having trouble getting along with her best friend, and Granny Torrelli offers a secret recipe that just might set things right. Now in paperback, *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* is a delicious novel by Newbery Medalist Sharon Creech (\$5.99, HarperTrophy, 0-06-440960-0). Ages 8-12.



# What's Your Game?

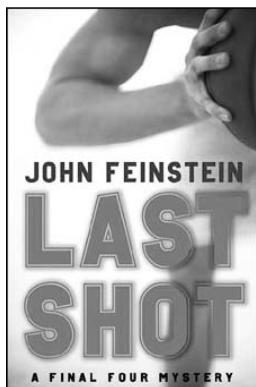
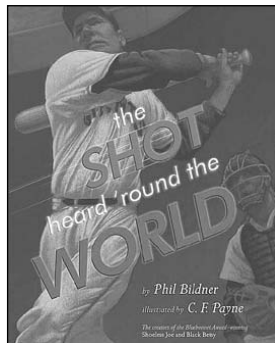


## Karate Hour

Boys and girls who are interested in the martial arts will get a real kick (pardon the pun) out of *Karate Hour* (\$14.95, Marshall Cavendish, 0-761-45169-2). With smoothly written rhyming text and absolutely stunning artwork, author Carol Nevius takes you into the karate studio for a typical class. Young students show their commitment and discipline as they bow to the teacher and practice their blocks and stances. Nevius includes a well-researched history of karate that will interest parents as well as children. *Karate Hour* received starred reviews in *School Library Journal* and *Booklist*. Ages 4-9.

## The Shot Heard 'Round the World

It was October 2, 1951, and the Brooklyn Dodgers were playing the Giants in a third, tie-breaking game to see which team would go on to play the Yankees in the World Series. Author Phil Bildner not only evokes the excitement of one of the greatest baseball games ever played, but also shows us what it was like to be a kid in Brooklyn in those days, in *The Shot Heard 'Round the World* (\$16.95, Simon & Schuster, 0-689-86273-3), illustrated by C.F. Payne. Ages 5-8.



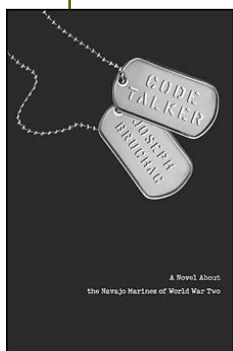
## Last Shot

Two aspiring sportswriters uncover the action behind the scenes at the college basketball championships in *Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery* (\$16.95, Knopf, 0-375-83168-1) by John Feinstein, the author of sports bestsellers like *A March to Madness* and *A Good Walk Spoiled*. Using the press passes they won in a journalism contest, Steven Thomas and Susan Carol Anderson find that the real story isn't about who will win the game, but who plans to throw the game. Settle in for some fast action as they try to uncover a blackmail scheme with only 48 hours left until the championship game starts. Ages 10 & up.

## HISTORY COMES ALIVE

### Code Talker

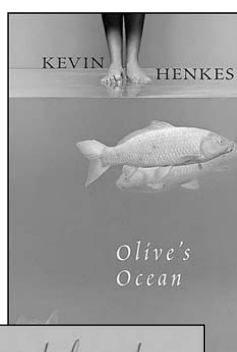
During World War II, Navajo soldiers conveyed vital messages for the U.S. military because the Navajo language was a "code" the Japanese could not decipher. Joseph Bruchac's *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two* (\$16.99, Dial Books, 0-803-7292-1) shows what the experience would have been like, as seen through the eyes of a brave sixteen-year-old Navajo named Ned Begay. "With its multicultural themes and well-told WWII history, this will appeal to a wide audience." — *Kirkus Reviews* (starred review). Ages 8-12.



## Getting to the Heart of the Matter

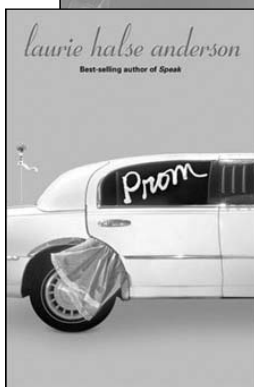
### Olive's Ocean

Martha and Olive were in the same grade at school. They even shared a secret, though they didn't know that. They could have been friends, but now it's too late. In the weeks that follow Olive's death in a traffic accident, Martha can't stop thinking about her. Even a long-awaited family trip to Cape Cod and the very distracting Manning boys aren't enough to help Martha let go of her sadness. *Olive's Ocean* (\$5.99, HarperTrophy, 0-060-53545-8) by Kevin Henkes is a stunning novel about adolescence and how to make sense of it all. This Newbery Honor book is now in paperback. Ages 10-14.



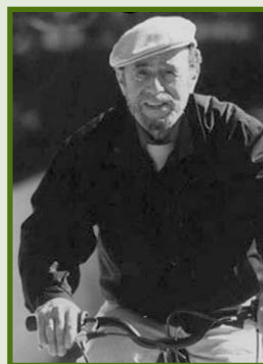
### Prom

Although Ashley Hannigan couldn't care less about the prom, she's the one the prom committee calls on when their faculty advisor runs off with the money. If anyone can make a successful prom on a zero budget, it's Ash — with the help of her best friend, Natalia, her eccentric grandmother, and a diverse group of her fellow classmates. And in putting the prom together, Ash learns that she has more choices than she realized for her life after high school. As always, Laurie Halse Anderson (author of *Speak* and *Fever*) writes with empathy and respect for the issues that matter to teen readers, with humor and honesty, too. Don't miss *Prom* (\$16.99, Viking, 0-670-05974-9). Ages 14 & up.



## In the Spotlight: SID FLEISCHMAN

Page 5



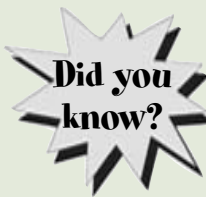
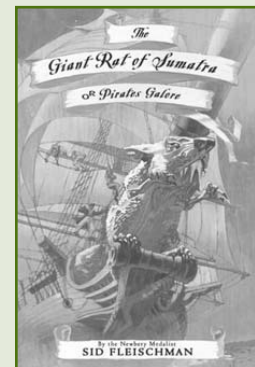
Magic is a key word when describing author Sid Fleischman, whether you're talking about his early career as a magician or the nearly 60 books he's written, many of which have been made into movies. He's an author with a talent for weaving stories that engage and excite readers of all ages — and that's a very special kind of magic.

He began writing novels for adults back in the 1950s, after writing for newspapers. "My young children led me into writing children's books," Fleischman says. "They didn't understand what I did for a living. Other fathers, they learned, left home in the morning and returned at the end of the day. I was always around the house. I decided to clear up the mystery and wrote a book just for them."

Visit [www.sidfleischman.com](http://www.sidfleischman.com) for Fleischman's tips for young writers, the stories behind his books, and learn how to do a super-cool magic trick!

### The Giant Rat of Sumatra: or Pirates Galore

The hero of this fast-paced, funny tale is a 12-year-old boy named Shipwreck (because he survived one). He's the cabin boy on *The Giant Rat of Sumatra*, a pirate ship with a figurehead that looks like a huge, ferocious rat. When the ship reaches San Diego, Shipwreck is ready to head back home to Boston, but it won't be easy. Jump aboard as he encounters bandits, mutineers, orphans, enemies, villains, lost loves, and more in *The Giant Rat of Sumatra: or Pirates Galore* (\$15.99, Greenwillow, 0-060-74238-0). Ages 10 & up.



**Sid Fleischman and his son Paul are the only father-and-son pair to each win the Newbery Medal.** Sid Fleischman won the 1987 medal for his book *The Whipping Boy*, and Paul won two years later for *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* (\$5.99, HarperTrophy, 0-06-446093-2), a delightful trip into the insect world designed for reading together.

## Magic, Mystery, Secrets ~ What More Could You Ask For?

### The Magician's Boy

The Boy enjoys helping the Magician with his puppet play about St. George and the dragon... until the St. George puppet disappears! The angry Magician tosses the Boy into the Land of Story to find it. Along the way the Boy will help the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, spoil the wolf's plan to eat Little Red Riding Hood, and nearly be eaten himself by the giant at the top of Jack's beanstalk. Read about the Boy's life-changing adventure in *The Magician's Boy* (\$12.95, McElderry, 0-689-87622-X) by Susan Cooper, the Newbery Medal-winning author of *The Dark is Rising* series. Ages 8-12.



### The Conch Bearer

A fabulous quest begins when a twelve-year-old boy from a poor Indian neighborhood receives a conch shell that has magical powers. Anand's task is to return the shell to its rightful home, hundreds of miles away. With his companions, a headstrong young girl named Nisha and a mysterious man who has surprising capabilities, Anand travels from the busy streets of Calcutta to the towering Himalayas. *The Conch Bearer* (\$5.99, Simon & Schuster/Aladdin, 0-689-04163-2) is an unforgettable adventure tale, beautifully written by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, an award-winning author of short stories as well as poetry and the bestselling novel, *The Mistress of Spices*. Ages 8-12.

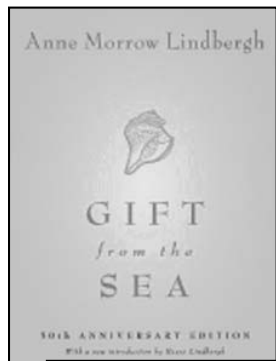


### The Valley of Secrets

"A ghostly figure stood in the river. Stephen stopped and froze with fear, his arms rigid by his sides, his eyes wide and fixed on the figure." There's mystery and more in *The Valley of Secrets* (\$16.95, Simon & Schuster, 0-689-87862-1), a hauntingly well-told story by Charmian Hussey. Young Stephen inherits the house of an uncle he didn't know he had and finds out that was just the first of many secrets to be uncovered at Lansbury Hall. His uncle's diary about a trip to a hidden valley in the Amazon rainforest may be the key to it all... Ages 9 & up.

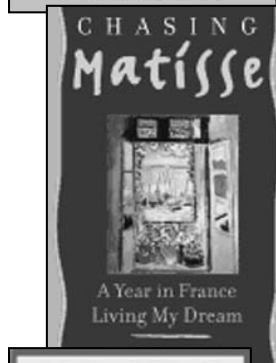


# Living a Meaningful Life



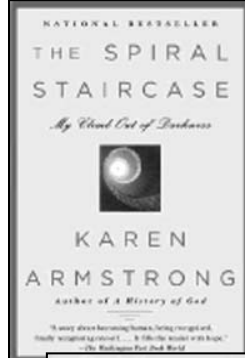
### Gift from the Sea

It's the 50th anniversary of Anne Morrow Lindbergh's beloved classic and the gift to us is a beautiful new hard-cover edition that includes a new introduction by Lindbergh's daughter. Lindbergh's journal is filled with lyrical meditations on youth and age, love and marriage, peace and solitude, and contentment — written during her brief stay at the sea. *Gift from the Sea* (\$16, RH/Pantheon, 0-679-40683-2) is a perfect gift for any woman, any age.



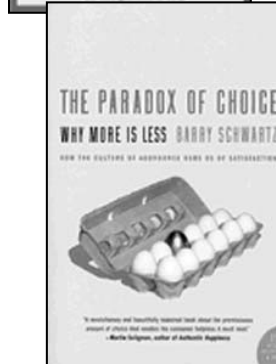
### Chasing Matisse

If you loved reading Peter Mayle and Frances Mayes, you'll savor the story of how critically-acclaimed author and aspiring painter James Morgan and his wife traveled from Little Rock, Arkansas to France in a year-long journey of self-discovery using Matisse as a model for living the creative life. You'll meet unforgettable characters and visit the inspiring places where Matisse learned to see without distortion and discovered a rich inner life in *Chasing Matisse* (\$25, Free Press, 0-7432-3754-5), a wonderful read that is part memoir and part travelogue.



### The Spiral Staircase

In 1969, Karen Armstrong left the convent, but the religious life had a profound influence in reshaping her beliefs, thoughts, and sense of the world. Author of the bestseller *A History of God*, Armstrong shares her own intimate walk with doubt, failure, illness, and faith and how her faith grew stronger than ever in *The Spiral Staircase* (\$14, RH/Anchor, 0-385-72127-7). A hopeful, inspiring and engaging memoir on discovering oneself and the meaning of life.



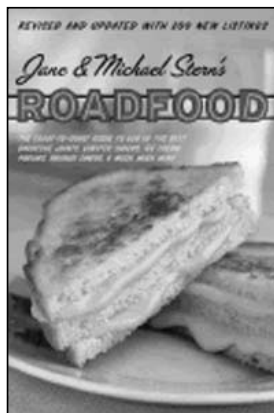
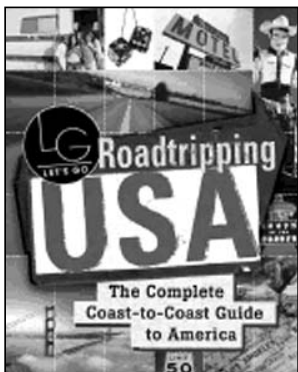
### The Paradox of Choice

Shop for toothpaste these days and you can be quickly overwhelmed with all the choices. While many assume that more choice means better options and greater satisfaction, Barry Schwartz, author of *The Paradox of Choice* (\$13.95, S&S/Ecco, 0-06-000569-6), explains why too much of a good thing has proven detrimental to our psychological and emotional well-being. This book will help you simplify those choices and focus on reclaiming your time and energy for things that matter most to you.

## On the Road Again

### Roadtripping USA

You pack the car, fill up the tank and head out to explore a new part of the country. From discovering a funky chicken on top of a roadside restaurant to a national historic site, *Roadtripping USA: The Complete Coast-to-Coast Guide to America* (\$24.99, St. Martin's/Griffin, 0-312-33569-5) will help you make the most of your trip. You'll find the best experiences along each route, including maps and listings for lodging and food, and practical tips (like road trip music selections and activities to fend off boredom). Don't start driving without your copy.



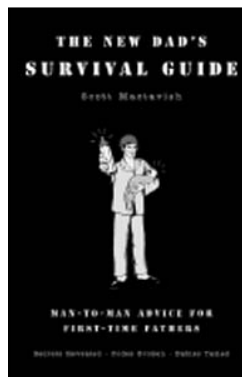
### Roadfood

Barbecued fried chicken in North Carolina. Frozen custard in Wisconsin. Dungeness crab in Oregon. Wherever you travel, you'll find each region of the U.S. to have its specialties — and the restaurants that prepare them best. James Beard Award-winning food journalists Jane and Michael Stern are known for their idiosyncratic reviews of barbecue joints, hot dog stands, ice cream parlors, steak houses, and drive-ins along the highways and back roads in all fifty states. Be sure to get the revised edition of *Roadfood* (\$18.95, RH/Broadway, 0-7679-0809-8) and savor a slice of Americana.

# Life's Big Moments

### New Etiquette for Today's Bride

While lifestyles may have become more casual, a wedding is still a special occasion where you want all of the details to be handled with grace and style. Proper etiquette still matters. From choosing members of the bridal party to the rehearsal dinner, invitation wording to seating arrangements for wedding guests, *Bridal Guide Magazine's New Etiquette for Today's Bride* (\$13.95, Warner, 0-446-67822-8) will provide guidance for this most important day of her life.

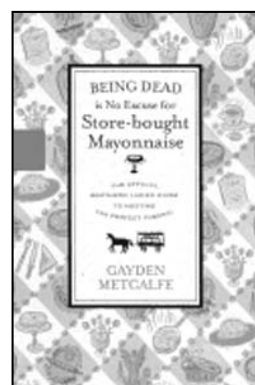


### New Dad's Survival Guide

Lamaze classes, birth, then becoming a parent — what's a new dad to do? In straight-up guy-speak, Scott Mactavish offers answers to fatherhood questions men may be too nervous to ask even their best friends in *The New Dad's Survival Guide* (\$12.95, Little Brown, 0-316-15995-6). If you know someone who is about to become a dad, this life-saving (yet hilarious) handbook will help him prepare for all that lies ahead!

### Being Dead Is No Excuse

This book is too much to believe. This dishy collection of Southern humor and recipes by inveterate hostess and southern belle Gayden Metcalf explains everything you need to know for end-of-life celebrations in *Being Dead Is No Excuse for Store-bought Mayonnaise: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral* (\$19.95, Miramax, 1-4013-5934-5). A tongue-in-cheek look at the perfect Southern send-off will inspire you to revisit your will and perhaps add a few more instructions for your heirs!



## Live Long and Prosper

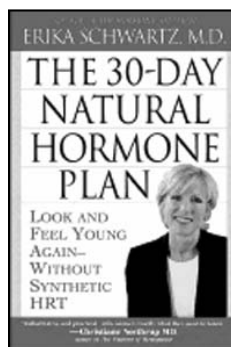
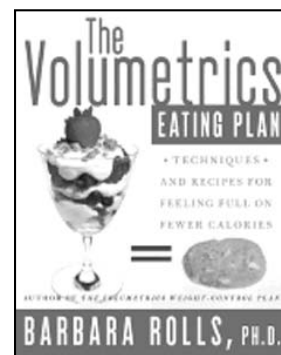


### Rachael Ray's 30-Minute Meals

If you're carb frustrated, but still hold out the goal of eating better and perhaps shedding a few pounds, look to *Rachael Ray's 30-Minute Meals* (late March: \$18.95, 1-4000-8253-6). You'll get the best of Ray's sensible approach to a well-balanced and healthy diet that is carb-conscious. Best of all, Ray's satisfying recipes can be prepared within 30 minutes. You don't have to say good-bye to those carbs altogether ... eat, live, and be well.

### Volumetrics Eating Plan

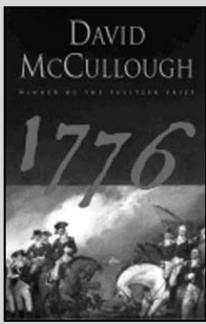
Wouldn't it be nice to feel full on fewer calories? If cutting calories has left you feeling hungry and deprived, take a look at *The Volumetrics Eating Plan* (\$25.95, HarperCollins, 0-06-073729-8) a cookbook and lifestyle guide in one, developed by nutrition expert Barbara Rolls. You'll find that you can eat from all of the food groups and take part in the pleasures of cooking and dining with friends and family. Her commonsense guide doesn't overload you with rules, but offers insights and concepts to help you use the right foods and combinations that will help you take and keep off those extra pounds.



### The 30-Day Natural Hormone Plan

Now that the National Institutes of Health has confirmed that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) can have detrimental effects, you may want to learn more about what you can do on your own to stay healthy through life's changes. Now you can consult Dr. Erika Schwartz's *The 30-Day Natural Hormone Plan* (\$14.95, Warner, 0-446-69332-4) to find relief from the effects of hormone imbalance: insomnia, mood swings, depression, hot flashes, night sweats, and worse. Dr. Schwartz's program includes natural hormones, diet, exercise, vitamins and supplements to help you look and feel your best.

## The Revolutionary War as only David McCullough can tell it



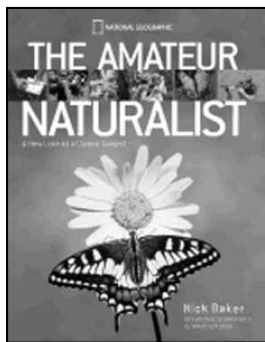
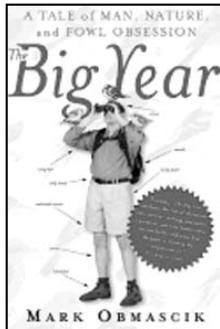
1776

David McCullough, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize who brought us *Truman* and then *John Adams*, is bringing history to life again in *1776* (\$35, S&S, 0-7432-2671-2). Drawn from correspondence and more than fifty diaries, McCullough tells the story of the Revolutionary War during the nation's tumultuous beginning, and those who — at great sacrifice — fought for what we assume to be our rightful heritage and precious ideals. A wonderful gift for any history buff. On sale May 24th.

## Getting to Know Mother Nature

### The Big Year

Award-winning journalist Mark Obmascik takes us on an outdoor whirlwind 365-day adventure for a new North American bird-watching record in *The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession* (\$13, Free Press, 0-7432-4546-6). Filled with wry humor and suspense, we follow their 375,000-mile trek as they brave broiling deserts, roiling oceans, bug-infested swamps and worse. Part adventure tale, part mystery, and part nature narrative, it is a perfect read for all who crave the excitement of the great outdoors.



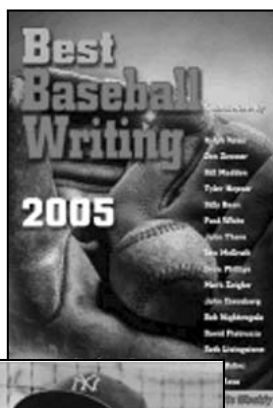
### The Amateur Naturalist

Able to find beauty in the tracks of a deer or the colors of a butterfly, Nick Baker has an infectious enthusiasm for nature. If you are captivated by the sight of an unusual bird, a daunting sky, or the sound of an animal you can't identify, you'll love browsing the beautiful full-color pages of *The Amateur Naturalist* (\$30, National Geographic, 0-7922-9348-7). A fabulous guide for the novice or seasoned naturalist.

## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

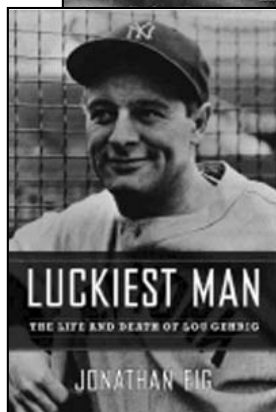
### USA Today Sports Weekly Best Baseball Writing

Every year, a varied group of talented writers — from financial analysts to up-and-coming beat reporters — step up to the plate to find inspiration at the ballpark. *Sports Weekly* editor Paul White chooses the major news events of the season and some of the best writing about the game's past in *USA Today Sports Weekly Best Baseball Writing 2005* (\$13.95, Carroll & Graf, 0-7867-1501-4). A perfect way to welcome the start of the season.



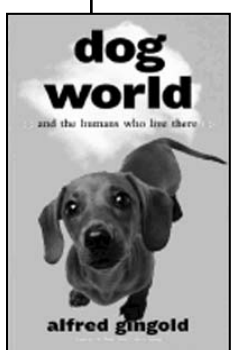
### Luckiest Man

He was one of the greatest baseball players of all time and never missed a game in his life until he was too ill to play at all. Jonathan Eig interviewed hundreds of people about Lou Gehrig (including thirty-three former ballplayers who played with or against Gehrig), examined the archives of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and unearthed nearly 200 pages of correspondence to and from Gehrig, none of which have ever been published. The result is an insightful view of Gehrig's glorious moments, the reasons behind the rift with Babe Ruth, the symptoms of his affliction, and how he lived the last two years of his short life in *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig* (\$26, S&S, 0-7432-4591-1).



### Dog World

Alfred Gingold never thought of himself as a "dog person" until he was seduced by the charms (and eccentricities) of his family's new Norwich terrier, George. And as any good writer is inclined to do, Gingold thoroughly immersed himself in the subject matter. The result is *Dog World* (\$24, Broadway, 0-7679-1661-1), an entertaining and enlightening look at dogs and their owners throughout time. A combination of journalistic reporting and colorful commentary in the manner of Bill Bryson, *Dog World* sheds light on subjects like dog walking, socialization, scooping poop, and doggie paraphernalia, not to mention the dog's role in history, art and entertainment. A dog lover's delight!



## THE WORLD AT WORK

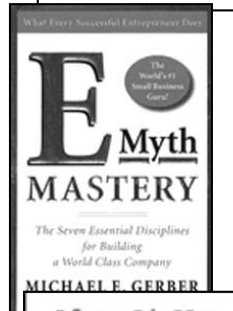
### China, Inc.

The discussion about China's rise in power continues. What will happen when China can manufacture nearly everything that the U.S. and Europe can — at one-third the cost? The result has a tremendous impact on the country's economic health and commerce around the globe. Drawing on hundreds of interviews with Chinese, American, and European workers, managers, and executives, Ted Fishman tells how China will force all of us to make big changes in how we think about ourselves as consumers, workers, citizens, and parents in *China, Inc.* (\$26, Scribner, 0-7432-5752-9).



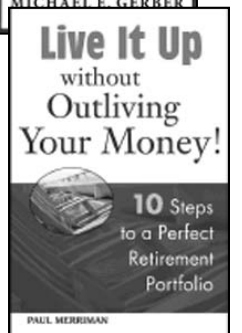
### E-Myth Mastery

Michael Gerber, bestselling author of *The E-Myth Revisited* and the *E-Myth Manager* is back, showing business leaders the value of entrepreneurial thinking — and the importance of working on your business instead of in your business. When pressures mount as the world of business races into the future, Gerber helps you develop the insights and skills that will make the difference in *E-Myth Mastery: The Seven Essential Disciplines for Building a World Class Company* (\$24.95, HarperBusiness, 0-06-072318-1).



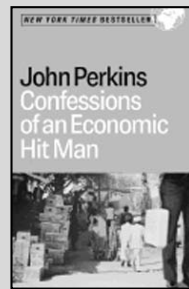
### Live It Up Without Outliving Your Money

We've been warned: don't count on Social Security to get you through the golden years. As time marches on, you need the return on your investments, but may not want all the risk. If you've been concerned about how you can live a good life without going broke, turn to *Live It Up Without Outliving Your Money* (\$22.95, Wiley, 0-471-67997-6). Paul Merriman, president of Merriman Capital Management, who manages more than \$600 million in investments for more than 1,200 clients, provides his practical, time-tested advice.



### Confessions of an Economic Hit Man

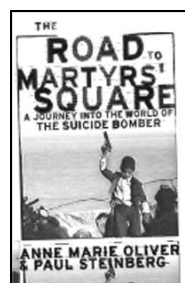
You may have caught John Perkins on a talk show recently. He's gotten things stirred up for good reason. Perkins worked for an international consulting firm for years where his main job was to convince LDCs (less developed countries) around the world to accept multibillion-dollar loans for infrastructure projects and to see to it that most of this money ended up at Halliburton, Bechtel, Brown and Root, and other U.S. engineering and construction companies. *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* (\$24.95, Berrett-Koehler, 1-5767-5301-8), which many people warned Perkins not to write, is a blistering attack that has called into question our integrity as a nation.



## Understanding Life in the Middle East

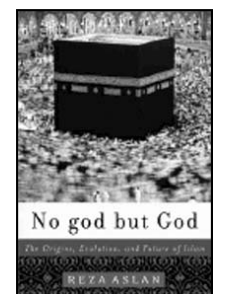
### The Road to Martyrs' Square

If you, too, wonder how in the world anyone would want to commit suicide and become a martyr, Anne Marie Oliver and Paul Steinberg will open your eyes in *The Road to Martyrs' Square: A Journey Into the World of the Suicide Bomber* (\$28, Oxford Univ., 0-19-511600-3). Both American scholars spent six years in Gaza, living with the Palestinians, members of Hamas, and those who believe to profess "not only not to be afraid of death, but to love it passionately." Smart and nonpartisan, this is an intensive look into the major forces in Palestinian society.



### No god but God

If you're ready for some insights into Islam that don't support the widely accepted "Clash of Civilizations" theory, you'll be mesmerized by Reza Aslan's *No god but God* (\$25.95, RH, 1-4000-6213-6), an authoritative look at Islam in relation to other world religions. Aslan, a young teacher-scholar who served as a Middle East consultant for *The New York Times*, writes as a storyteller, bringing the religion and its future to life. Through all of the history and its drama, Aslan insists that the violence and extremism are the last gasps of small, doomed religious factions.



### Even After All This Time

Growing up in Tehran in the 1970s, Afschineh Latifi and her sister and two brothers enjoyed a life of luxury and privilege. Their father worked his way up from nothing to become a colonel in the Shah's army while their mother, a woman of modest roots, grew to become a respected school teacher. At the age of ten, Afschineh witnesses the horror of her father's execution. Fearing the safety of her children, Mrs. Latifi sends both daughters to the west, splitting up the family until they could safely reunite. *Even After All This Time* (\$24.95, HC/Regan, 0-06-074533-9) is a story of hope and of dreaming dreams against seemingly impossible odds.





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**Meet Blue Balliett  
Award-Winning Author of  
Chasing Vermeer**

Wednesday, April 20th – 3 to 3:30 pm

The list of her awards is impressive – Book Sense Book of the Year, the Bluebonnet Award, Edgar Allan Poe Award, 2004 *Chicago Tribune* Prize and the Great Lakes Book Award. We are so thrilled that Blue Balliett will be meeting with 4th to 7th graders in the St. Joseph school system and will be visiting Forever Books.

"I'm astounded that other people are interested in my book," says Blue Balliett, an art-world mystery that has won acclaim for its sui generis mix of puzzles and codes, philosophies and enigmas. To say that other people are "interested" is understatement: 10 foreign publishers snapped up rights to *Chasing Vermeer* before publication, and earlier this month Warner Bros. snagged the film rights.

"It's such a personal book," Balliett continues, "so much of my own way of seeing the world. It came out of my own classroom and my own questions." Balliett concedes that she is to some extent like Ms. Hussey, the unorthodox teacher of the sixth-grade class attended by her novel's two main characters, Petra and Calder. Balliett taught for 10 years at the University of Chicago Lab School, where the book is set (she, however, taught third grade), and her experience has left her with abiding respect for children's imaginations and intellect.

"Kids look at things in their own way, not as tiny adults," says Balliett. "They are people who deserve space of their own, as thinkers." She brought her years of observation of her students and of her own two children (now 17 and 19) to her fictional students, Petra and Calder, whose responses to the theft of a Vermeer painting demonstrate Balliett's belief that kids "have an ability to see connections and to put the world together in so much more of an elastic and fluid way than adults."

**Chasing Vermeer**  
(\$16.95, Scholastic, 0-4393-7294-1)

When a book of unexplainable occurrences brings Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay together, strange things start to happen: seemingly unrelated events connect, an eccentric old woman seeks their company, and an invaluable Vermeer painting disappears. Before they know it, the two find themselves at the center of an international art scandal. As Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth, they must draw on their powers of intuition, their skills at problem solving, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has left even the FBI baffled? For ages 8 and up.



*"Puzzles, codes, letters, number and wordplay, a bit of danger, a vivid sense of place, and a wealth of quirky characters enrich the exciting, fast-paced story that's sure to be relished by mystery lovers."* – School Library Journal

*Chasing Vermeer* is a favorite of the staff at Forever Books! If you can't make it April 20th, let us know and we'll get a signed copy for you!

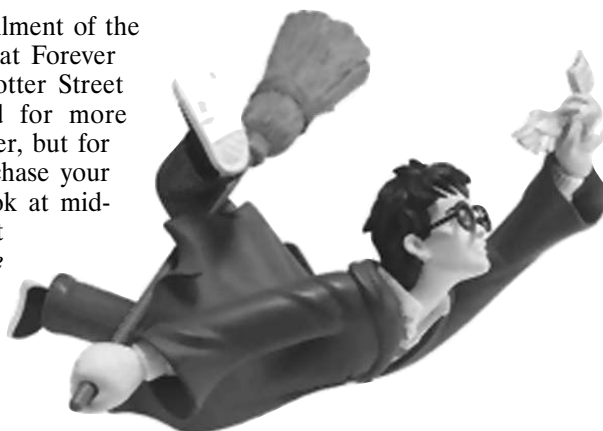
*Signed copies make great gifts!*

**Harry Potter and the  
Half-Blood Prince**

**Come to the Book Release Party Friday night, July 15th!**

It's coming! The sixth installment of the Harry Potter series arrives at Forever Books during our Harry Potter Street Party July 15. Stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter, but for now, come in and pre-purchase your copy so you'll get your book at midnight and be among the first to read *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

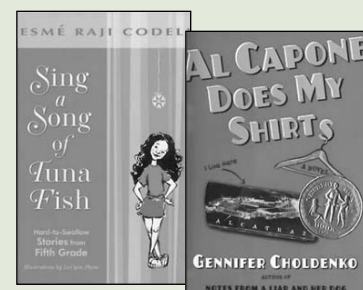
**Remember last year?  
Muggles and wizards,  
you won't want to miss  
this event!**



**Mother/Daughter  
Book Club**

**Saturday, April 23 – 9 am**  
**Sing a Song of Tuna Fish:  
Hard-to-Swallow Stories  
from Fifth Grade**  
**by Esme Raji Codell**  
(\$14.99, Hyperion, 0786855096)

Like every fifth grader, Esme Raji Codell spent her days within the small world of school, neighborhood, and family. But this small world provides rich material for the often hilarious, always engrossing stories and vignettes in this book. In stories that perfectly evoke the perspective of her ten-year-old self, Esme demonstrates her gift for making the ordinary extraordinary, and the unusual familiar. *Sing a Song of Tuna Fish* is a memoir of a Chicago childhood; a tribute to the art of attention; and most of all, a joyful read for all.



**Saturday, May 21 – 9am**  
**Al Capone Does My Shirts**  
**by Gennifer Choldenko**  
(\$15.99, Putnam, 0-3992-3861-1)

Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder. When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. Choldenko's second novel brings humor to the complexities of family dynamics and illuminates the real struggle of a kid trying to free himself from the "good boy" stance he's taken his whole life.



"Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read."

— Groucho Marx