

Ladders & Fireplaces

Selections for Book Lovers from Full Circle Bookstore

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Procrastination is the art of keeping up with yesterday.

— Don Marquis from *Archy and Mehitabel*

Dear Friends:

What now seems a long time ago—when e-commerce was an original idea—the universal conviction (particularly on Wall Street) was that eventually all books would be sold over the Internet.

Not wanting to be left behind by this tidal wave of consumer preference we said to ourselves, “We can do that.” We found some very bright and talented young men who designed a web site that to our eyes was appealing with a home page that featured an animated flickering fireplace and which included in theory our current in-store inventory for search and purchase.

It was not a success. It was very difficult technically to maintain and other than the animated fireplace offered little imagination, but we persisted until as so often happens, our bright young men went off to do something else. We were left without the technical capability to continue.

My response was to procrastinate ... for several years. Now, we are ready to try again

Sometime in October, **fullcirclebooks.com** will come back to life in a remarkably different form. With the assistance of a very competent, professional firm of web site designers who have demonstrated by their survival their talent we have designed an attractive interactive site which we will be able to fill with consistent fresh information about our books, our events, our Café and all the special elements that make Full Circle unique.

In the interim, since our first stumbling effort, the American Booksellers Association has given us the capability that will enable us to provide you with the ability to search an enormous data base for the title you need and for us to deliver it to you promptly.

This wonderful vehicle makes the broad services of Full Circle available 24 hours a day to anyone with access to the Internet. If you would like to be notified when our web site becomes effective you can go to fullcirclebooks.com and leave us your e-mail address.

I think this time we have it right, although I expect and hope we will constantly make improvements. What I don't anticipate however is ever being able to give you the electronic equivalent of a warm fireplace, rolling ladders and a free cup of coffee.

Jim Tolbert

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The Favored 50 books are chosen from across the store because of their proven (or anticipated) appeal to you and offered at a twenty-percent discount through December 2003.

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Fiction

Evidence of Things Unseen, by Marianne Wiggins, Simon & Schuster, \$25.00 on sale at \$20.00.

This poetic novel describes America at the brink of the Atomic Age, featuring the young Fos who has returned to Tennessee from the trenches of France. Intrigued with electricity, bioluminescence, and especially x-rays, he believes in science and the future of technology. Fos and his new wife Opal begin their new life together only to soon face tragedy and loss. Fos finds himself working at the Oak Ridge Laboratory—Site X in the government's race to build the bomb. And it is there, when Opal falls ill with radiation poisoning, that Fos's great faith in science deserts him. Full Circle's Susan Moore says, "this is one of the best novels I've ever read."

In Times of Siege, by Githa Hariharan, Pantheon Books, \$22.00 on sale at \$17.60.

In Githa Hariharan's first novel to be published in the United States, she takes the reader into contemporary Indian culture and family life, and explores the vicissitudes of religious fundamentalism. At the center of this elegant novel is Shiv Murthy, a meek middle-aged professor of history in New Delhi, whose personal and professional lives are thrown into turmoil as he becomes caretaker to a friend's passionate and outspoken daughter. As he adjusts to his somewhat precarious situation at home, his medieval Indian history course is challenged by a group of religious extremists and Shiv is caught up in the whirligig of politics and unexpectedly takes a stand.

Orchard, by Larry Watson, Random House, \$24.95 on sale at \$19.96.

With stark, lyrical prose, *Orchard* explores the lives of four very different people bound together by beauty, art, obsession, and betrayal. Ned Weaver, an internationally acclaimed painter, and his wife Harriet live in Door County, Wisconsin. Known for his affairs with his models, Ned soon finds himself in a volatile situation with Henry House, husband of Sonja Skordahl, his latest model and muse, who feels constrained by her roles as wife and mother. Sonja tries to find a way to placate both men without sacrificing her newly won sense of self.

Two Novelists Switch Categories

Of the two novels reviewed in this column, Martha Grimes has one that is not in her usual mystery/detective field, without Richard Jury and Melville Plant and his strange friends—and Penelope Lively's latest is almost in the mystery category, e.g. it starts out with "Whatever happened to Kath?" and both her husband and her sister Elaine speculate about why she died several years before.

Four Matters, by Martha Grimes, Viking, \$25.95 on sale at \$20.76.

Martha Grimes's new novel moves to New York City from her usual English settings. It is a hilarious send up of the publishing industry in the United States, mostly New York, with a scalpel-like dissection of America's book publishing industry in the new Millennium—with tentacles that go to Germany and multi-armed companies that have bought up many of the old-time publishing giants.

Its anti-hero is a bestselling and critically acclaimed novelist, Paul Giverny. He wants to change publishers and also to destroy one of his chief competitors, Ned Isaly, thus getting one of the new company's best editors for himself, away from Isaly.

His scheme is Machiavellian. Along the way, he hires a couple of "hit men," Candy and Karl, to destroy Isaly's reputation and livelihood—if not his life. One of the funniest things in the book is the way these two men, who know absolutely nothing about books or reading, somehow learn to be knowledgeable about titles and authors and even find it is sort of fun to read!

A major source of humor is the kind of names Grimes thinks of to call the publishing companies she is more or less trashing for their greed. One name is American Dreck and another is Mackenzie-Haack. Those who know publishers will find other names to try to figure out their origins and tactics.

The Photograph, by Penelope Lively, Viking, \$24.95 on sale at \$19.96.

This is one of the best books I have read by Penelope Lively. Its rather spare writing—nothing unnecessary—is almost a detective story, as both husband Glyn and sister Elaine, in alternating chapters, try to remember the elfin Kath, and gradually let go of clues as to why she died.

Glyn, whose marriage to a much younger woman surprised this professor's friends, finds in a cupboard on the landing in his house—a rather messy record of years of college life—an envelope of photographs marked in Kath's handwriting, "Don't open, destroy." Intrigued, he of course opens it and finds one photograph that seems to imply that she had had an affair with her brother-in-law. Their backs are facing the camera and they are holding hands behind their backs.

Not only does this set up vivid memories of Kath, it also leads Glyn—in his own methodical way—to talk to everyone in their joint pasts to see if any one had known about this implied affair.

One chapter from Elaine's point of view tells much about her life as a well-paid landscape designer, who has indeed outstripped in financial status her husband Nick. When Glyn shows her the photograph her reaction is so negative that she asks the jobless Nick to leave the house. He in turn goes to live with their only daughter, Polly, thus intruding on her life.

As Glyn goes through all Kath's acquaintances, Lively makes a wry distinction between Elaine's drastic reaction and others' more tolerant acceptance of the possibility of the affair. It is not until he finds Mary Packard, a potter who had been a friend of Kath's, that Glyn comes to see that he has gone too far in his questions—and finally comes to grips with how much he had done to push Kath over the limit of her endurance.

—Libby Price

***The Namesake*, by Jhumpa Lahiri, Houghton Mifflin, \$24.00 on sale at \$19.20.**

Here is a remarkable first novel from the best-selling author of *Interpreter of Maladies*, winner of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. *The Namesake* journeys with the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in India through their fraught transformation into Americans. Ashoke and Ashima Ganguli arrive in America in the late 1960s, shortly after their arranged marriage in Calcutta, to start their new life. When their son is born, the task of naming him betrays the confusions of respecting old ways in the new world. Named for a Russian writer by his Indian parents in memory of a catastrophe years before, Gogol Ganguli knows only that he suffers the burden of his heritage as well as his antic name. Lahiri follows Gogol as he stumbles along the first-generation path, strewn with conflicting loyalties, comic detours, and wrenching relationships.

***Secret Father*, by James Carroll, Houghton Mifflin, \$25.00 on sale at \$20.00.**

It is 1961. Khrushchev is hurling threats, a U.S. spy plane has been shot down over the Soviet Union, tensions are rising. Berlin has been cut off from the West: it's only a matter of weeks until the Wall will be erected. The United States and Americans abroad face dangers they had never imagined. Against this backdrop, bestselling novelist and historian James Carroll tells an unforgettable story centering around three American teenagers from an American school in West Germany who find themselves at the center of an international incident and the deep relationship that develops between two parents as they try to rescue them.

***Love*, by Toni Morrison, Alfred A. Knopf, \$23.95 on sale at \$19.16.**

This audacious vision of the nature of love—its appetite, its sublime possession, its dread—is rich in characters and striking scenes, and in its understanding of how alive the past can be. May, Christine, Heed, Junior, Vida—even L; all women obsessed by Bill Cosey. Cosey is more than the wealthy owner of the famous Cosey Hotel and Resort, he is the center of these women's stories as he shapes their yearnings for father, husband, lover, guardian, and friend. Yet, he himself is driven by secret forces—a troubled past and a spell-binding woman named Celestial.

***Our Lady of the Forest*, by David Guterson, Alfred A. Knopf, \$25.95 on sale at \$20.76.**

From the bestselling author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*, a provocative new novel about a teenage girl who claims to see the Virgin Mary. Ann Holmes seems an unlikely candidate for revelation. A sixteen-year-old runaway, she is an itinerant mushroom picker who lives in a tent. But on a November afternoon, in the foggy woods of North Fork, Washington, the Virgin Mary comes to her, clear as day. A suspenseful and emotionally charged story of faith at a contemporary crossroads.

***The Calligrapher*, by Edward Docx, Houghton Mifflin, \$24.00 on sale at \$19.20.**

This first novel is a provocative romantic comedy centered on a young London calligrapher named Jasper, who is an engaging, intelligent serial seducer and a breaker of hearts. But when he meets Madeleine, a captivating but enigmatic woman who is his equal in every way, he falls helplessly in love. Vulnerable for the first time, he is headed for his comeuppance at last. As Jasper is transcribing the *Songs and Sonnets* of John Donne (revealing to us the fascinating art of the calligrapher), he discovers that these wise and beautiful

love poems illuminate his own experiences—of the difference between love and lust, of the play of truth and deceit between men and women, and of the cost of constancy.

***The 6th Lamentation*, by William Brodrick, Viking, \$24.95 on sale at \$19.96.**

With her life running out, Agnes Embelton has unburdened a secret to her granddaughter, Lucy. Fifty years earlier, she had lived in occupied Paris, risking her life to smuggle Jewish children to safety, until her group, The Round table, was exposed by an SS officer: Eduard Schwermann. At the Larkwood Priory, England, this same Eduard Schwermann demands the protection of the Church from Father Anselm. It emerges that not only has the Church granted him sanctuary before, but, in 1944, it helped him escape from France to begin a new life in Britain. As Anselm attempts to find out why, and as Lucy delves deeper into her grandmother's past, their investigations dovetail to form a remarkable story.

***The Fortress of Solitude*, by Jonathan Lethem, Doubleday, \$26.00 on sale at \$20.80.**

From National Book Critics Circle Award-winner Jonathan Lethem, a daring, riotous, sweeping novel that spins the tale of two friends, Dylan Ebdus and Mingus Rude, from a Brooklyn neighborhood. Because Dylan is white and Mingus is black, their friendship is not simple. This is the story of 1970s America, a time when the most simple human decisions—what music you listen to, whether to speak to the kid next to you, whether to give up your lunch money—are laden with potential political, social and racial disaster. It is also the story of 1990s America, when no one cared anymore.

Paperback Fiction

***When the Emperor Was Divine*, by Julie Otsuka, Random House, paperback, \$9.95 on sale at \$7.96.**

Julie Otsuka's debut novel elegantly portrays the experience of Japanese-American Internment during World War II and its enduring repercussions in the life of one family. On a sunny day in Berkeley, California, in 1942, a woman sees a sign in a post office window and understands that she and her husband and young daughter and son are now enemy aliens. In a few months they, like thousands of other Japanese-Americans, will be uprooted and transported to a dusty camp in the Utah desert. As each of its four protagonists narrates in turn, this novel conveys the precise emotional texture of their time within the thin-walled barracks and barbed-wire fences: the omnipresent fear and loneliness and the unheralded feats of heroism that make up their lives.

***Ash Wednesday*, by Ethan Hawke, Vintage, paperback, \$12.95 on sale at \$10.36.**

Ethan Hawke's second novel is a piercing tale of love, marriage, and renewal.

Jimmy is AWOL from the army, but—with characteristic fierceness and terror—he's about to embark on the biggest commitment of his life. Christy is pregnant with Jimmy's child, and she's determined to head home, with or without Jimmy, to face up to her past and prepare for the future. Somehow, barreling across America in a souped-up Chevy Nova, Christy and Jimmy are transformed from passionate but conflicted lovers into a young family on a magnificent journey.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

***The Light Ages*, by Ian R. MacLeod, An Ace Book, \$23.95 on sale at \$19.16.**

In a bleak and gritty England, in a fantastical Age of Industry, the wealth that comes from magic is both revered and reviled. The northern town of Braceridge is dominated by the never-ending sound of its aether mines. Toiling men work the earth, extracting the magical and dangerous substance—the source of all power—from the ground. The young Robert Borrows knows that this is what his future holds—until he flees to London after the death of his mother.

Here, as a revolutionary, he meets the mysterious Annalise, his childhood love. Together they learn that their fates were entwined long before they were even born—on an infamous day in Braceridge when the engines stopped working.

Mystery/Suspense

***Little Indiscretions: A Delectable Mystery*, by Carmen Posadas, Random House, \$23.95 on sale at \$19.16.**

A runaway international bestseller, *Little Indiscretions* is part ingeniously entertaining whodunit and part sparkling social satire. When pastry chef Nestor Chaffino is found frozen to death with a notebook in his hand in a walk-in freezer at a party in a villa on the Costa del Sol, the party guests gathered that evening are the natural suspects. It turns out that Nestor has decided to publish a compendium of gastronomic secrets that revealed, along with the culinary tricks of his trade, more than a few damning details of the hosts' and houseguests' private lives. Not since Nick and Nora Charles's last cocktail party has such a merry band of mischief makers convened in one place.

***No Graves As Yet: A Novel of World War I*, by Anne Perry, Ballantine, \$25.95 on sale at \$20.76.**

Having written more than thirty detective/mystery novels featuring two policeman/wife teams in the Victorian Age, Anne Perry now turns her attention to the World War I era in England for her latest novel, *No Graves As Yet*.

Her scene is the Cambridge University campus, instead of Victorian London, and her protagonists all have some teaching or student status at Cambridge, plus family members who live fairly close by. Perry's sense of place, which she showed so brilliantly in her earlier novels, serves her as well in the Cambridge atmosphere of rivers and colleges.

One finds, perhaps, a reason for the shift to World War I in the dedication, "to my grandfather, Captain Joseph Reavley, who served as a chaplain in the trenches during the Great War."

The major hero of the Reavley family in and around Cambridge is a professor of Biblical studies at St. John's named Joseph Reavley. He is a former parish priest. In fact much of the sensitivity to the plot is the death of both of his parents and of a favorite student, the "golden boy" Sebastian Allard, a potential poet, but controversial.

There is also Joseph's brother Matthew, who has gone into the Intelligence branch of the British government, much against his father's wishes.

The significance of the title is that the novel takes place in the year or so leading up to World War I, starting with the assassination of the Austrian emperor in Sarajevo, with much of Great Britain's attention turned toward the Irish "troubles" instead of looking eastward to Europe. There is the sense and indeed the hope that England will not be drawn into Continental wars. But of course, England was drawn in—as the United States was later.

As St. John's copes with the death of Allard, with all his fellow students finding themselves suspect for a while and his family becoming more and more involved in the investigation, Perry finds a rich field of human sentiment around a university community—unlike anything in her Victorian London series.

—Libby Price

Poetry

***The Heart of Autumn: Poems for the Season of Reflection*, selected by Robert Atwan, Beacon Press, \$15.00 on sale at \$12.00.**

This collection assembles thirty-eight masterful poems on the reflection and introspection that occurs with the fading of the sunlight, the cooling of the earth, and the dropping of the leaves. Illustrated throughout with an array of leaf prints, this volume features a selection of the work of some of the world's most acclaimed poets. Each poem offers readers a glimpse of the satisfying gifts that fall brings to us, and a celebration of the hallmarks of the season: the harvest, the changing colors of the leaves, and the onset of winter.

Nature

***The Verb 'To Bird': Sightings of an Avid Birder*, by Peter Cashwell, Paul Dry Books, paperback, \$14.95 on sale at \$11.96.**

All around the world, birds are the subject of intense, even spiritual, fascination, but relatively few people see the word bird as a verb. Peter Cashwell is one who does, and with good reason: He birds (because he can't help it) and he teaches grammar (because he's paid to). An English teacher by profession and an avid birder by inner calling, Cashwell has written a whimsical and critical book about his many obsessions—birds, birders, language, literature, parenting, and the human race.

Gardening

***Ken Druse: The Passion for Gardening*, by Ken Druse, Clarkson Potter, \$50.00 on sale at \$40.00.**

Ken Druse writes eloquently of the wonders and rich rewards of slowing down, putting a trowel to the soil, and in-

corporating the life of the garden into our own. Druse writes of a variety of gardens—ten extraordinary gardens, to be exact—and their creators, revealing how they have tended their natural spaces and, in turn, have themselves been changed in the process. With more than 200 remarkable photographs, as well as practical advice, *Ken Druse: The Passion for Gardening* conveys the true wonder of a passion shared by so many.

Cooking

***My French Kitchen: A Book of 120 Treasured Recipes*, by Joanne Harris & Fran Warde, William Morrow, \$24.95 on sale at \$19.96.**

It's not surprising that Joanne Harris's novels—*Chocolat*, *Blackberry Wine*, and *Five Quarters of the Orange*—celebrate the pleasure and magic of food, since her fondest childhood memories are of making pancakes with her great-grandmother, picking blackberries with her grandfather, and exploring the early morning markets of Noirmoutier. Now, with co-author Fran Warde, Harris shares her treasured collection of family recipes that have been passed down from generation to generation in this illustrated cookbook. And of course, there's an entire chapter devoted to chocolate.

***Neiman Marcus Cookbook*, by Kevin Garvin with John Harrisson, Clarkson Potter, \$45.00 on sale at \$36.00.**

Just in time for the holidays comes this celebration of more than 50 years of wonderful food at Neiman Marcus's restaurants, with 150 of their most popular dishes, published for the first time. This beautifully designed cookbook will delight any home cook, and especially those nostalgic for their favorite Neiman Marcus meal. Choose from appetizers,

salads, sandwiches, and more—even the famous Neiman Marcus Chocolate Chip Cookie, which was the subject of a persistent—but totally unfounded—urban myth. Filled with stories of the early days of the Neiman Marcus restaurants and the people behind them and illustrated with spectacular location shots of the restaurants and their vibrant dishes.

Decorating

***Living Large in Small Spaces: Expressing Personal Style in 100 to 1,000 Square Feet*, by Marisa Bartolucci, photography by Radek Kurzaj, Harry N. Abrams, paperback, \$35.00 on sale at \$28.00.**

With a little imagination and creativity—and without hiring a professional—almost anyone can transform a small living space into a comfortable and stylish environment. Part style guide, part idea sourcebook, this handy little volume—designed to meet the needs of real people with real budget—is bundled with smart ideas, basic design principles, and enough inspiration to get you off the sofa to make it happen. Four-hundred color photographs, all newly created for this book, reveals hundreds of space-saving, storage-expanding ideas for the kitchen, bath, bedroom, and living room.

**Enjoy lunch
Monday through
Saturday at
The First Floor
Garden Café
featuring soup, salad,
and sandwich selections
from Chip Sears's
The Chef's Kitchen.**

Religion

***The Lord is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the Twenty-Third Psalm*, by Harold S. Kushner, Alfred A. Knopf, \$19.95 on sale at \$15.96.**

From the author of the bestselling *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, a new book of practical spirituality, of inspiration and encouragement gleaned from what may be the best-known and best-loved passage in the Bible. Each chapter discusses one line of the psalm in the context of both the time it was written and the present day, illuminating the life lessons embedded in it.

***God's Bestseller*, by Brian Moynahan, St. Martin's Press, \$27.95 on sale at \$22.36.**

The bestseller of the title is indeed the Bible, specifically the English Bible and the one translated by William Tyndale, who was martyred for his attempt to get the Bible into the language of the people. According to Moynahan, it has much the same wording as the more well-known King James Bible, especially the New Testament Gospels and other texts.

The endpapers are woodcuts of the pages of Tyndale's gospels—and other woodcuts of Tyndale himself, of Thomas More, who—despite his saintly reputation—was Tyndale's nemesis, and who hounded him to his death after he left England and went to Amsterdam to have his Bible printed. Surprisingly there is also a woodcut of Anne Boleyn, who Moynahan says was one of Tyndale's readers and indeed sponsors.

The Preface of the book is called "On the Burning of Heretics," which the Catholic Church so considered those who tried to translate the Bible into the common tongue. The other martyred translator was John Wycliffe. He was killed and then burned at the stake as was Tyndale.

—Libby Price

Architecture

***Fallingwater Rising: Frank Lloyd Wright, E.F. Kaufmann, and America's Most Extraordinary House*, by Franklin Toker, Alfred A. Knopf, \$35.00 on sale at \$28.00.**

This biography of the most famous American house of the 20th century is culled from hundred of interviews, letters and contemporary references. It was the result of an unlikely collaboration—the Jewish department store mogul and philanthropist who had a burning ambition to build a world-famous work and the brilliant modernist who was paranoid about Jews (among many perceived enemies). But the two men produced an extraordinary building of lasting architectural significance that brought international fame to them both and elevated Wright to his place as one of the greatest architects of modern times.

Philosophy

***Reverence: Renewing a Forgotten Virtue*, by Paul Woodruff, Oxford University Press, paperback, \$11.95 on sale at \$9.56.**

Reverence is an ancient virtue dating back thousands of year, yet it survives among us only in half-forgotten patterns of behavior and in the vestiges of old ceremonies. This short, elegiac volume makes an impassioned case for the fundamental importance of this forgotten virtue, revealing how awe for things greater than oneself can, and must, be a touchstone for other virtues like respect, humility, and charity. Ranging widely over diverse cultural terrain, Woodruff shows how absolutely essential reverence is to a well-functioning society.

Gift Books

***Christmas at The New Yorker: Stories, Poems, Humor, and Art*, edited by editors of *The New Yorker*, Random House, \$35.00 on sale at \$28.00.**

For this collection—the latest in the acclaimed and bestselling series—Henry Finder, *The New Yorker's* editorial director, has read his way through the magazine's archives, culling the best stories and art from the past seventy-five years. The result is a timeless anthology of fiction, memoir, poetry, cartoons, and cover art that depicts all aspects of Christmas with *The New Yorker's* best writers and artists on that magical, spiritual, and lamentable theme—the holidays.

***Schott's Original Miscellany*, by Ben Schott, Bloomsbury, \$14.95 on sale at \$11.96.**

Impossible to read at one sitting, but very hard to put down, this is a unique collection of fabulous trivia. What other book boasts an index that includes shoelace lengths, sign language, and the seven deadly sins; dueling and dwarves; the hair color of Miss America and the Hampton Court maze? A book like no other, *Schott's Original Miscellany* is entertaining, informative, unpredictable, and utterly addictive.

OPEN EXTENDED HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY:

10 A.M.-9 P.M.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY:

10 A.M.-10 P.M.

SUNDAY: 12-5 P.M.

Current Affairs/Politics

***Absolutely American: Four Years at West Point*, by David Lipsky, Houghton Mifflin, \$25.00 on sale at \$20.00.**

In 1998, West Point made *Rolling Stone* writer and award-winning novelist David Lipsky an unprecedented offer: stay at the Academy as long as you like, go wherever you wish, talk to whomever you want, to discover why some of America's most promising young people sacrifice so much to become cadets. Lipsky followed one cadet class from arrival through graduation. By telling their stories, he also examines the Academy as a reflection of our society. During arguably the most eventful four years in West Point's history, Lipsky witnesses the arrival of TVs and phones in dorm rooms, the end of hazing, and innumerable other shifts in policy and practice known collectively as The Changes. In the process, he spotlights a remarkable ensemble of characters.

Travel Literature

***The Colossus of New York: A City in 13 Parts*, by Colson Whitehead, Doubleday, \$19.95 on sale at \$15.96.**

A masterful evocation of the city that never sleeps, *The Colossus of New York* captures the city's inner and outer landscapes in a series of vignettes, meditations, and personal memories. Whitehead's style is as multilayered and multifarious as New York itself: Switching from third person, to first person, to second person, he weaves individual voices into a jazzy musical composition that perfectly reflects the way we experience the city. Ambitious in scope, gemlike in its details, it is at once an unparalleled tribute to New York and the ideal introduction to one of the most exciting writers working today.

***A Tragic Honesty: The Life and Work of Richard Yates*, by Blake Bailey, Picador USA, \$35.00 on sale at \$28.00.**

When Blake Bailey, author of *A Tragic Honesty*, visited Full Circle recently, he left behind several autographed copies.

The biography itself is a rather tragic book, telling of the tortured, yet productive life, in a literary sense, of Yates, who died in 1992. He wrote eleven novels, plus some short stories collected in two volumes, grinding out his writing under the pressure of little money, a history of alcoholism and bipolar disorder. He was married twice and fathered three daughters, whom Bailey talked to during the course of his writing. Despite hardship, his books were critically acclaimed. Yet they never won a wide reading public outside the rather fragile world of the literary intelligentsia, and he never made much money from them. In addition to his alcoholism, he was also an addicted smoker, with emphysema that had to be controlled by oxygen replacement. He died in Birmingham, Alabama, hospital in 1992.

Yates found writing havens at such places as the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop led by Paul Engle, where he did good work but could not find tenure because he had never gotten a college degree; several apartments in New York City, subsidized by his friends—although he spent some time at Bellevue Hospital as a psychiatric patient—and finally another refuge at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

A Tragic Honesty is a sobering account of a talented but ultimately self-destructive writer.

***Revolutionary Road*, Richard Yates, Vintage, paperback, \$14.00 on sale at \$11.20.**

Revolutionary Road is a short, much re-written novel that Yates himself almost patterned on *The Great Gatsby*—and bears some resemblance to that F. Scott Fitzgerald masterpiece. It is a picture of a couple who live on the surface of life, and—as introduction author Richard Ford says—of people who drank too much, smoked themselves into the nirvana of escape from the world.

Frank Wheeler has built himself into a good job at a business where he doesn't have to work too hard. He has made enough to afford a house in the suburbs. Then almost by a fluke he finds himself the "golden haired" boy of a boss who likes his quickly paced, dictated sales booklets.

His wife April is seen first as an actress in an ill-conceived version of "The Petrified Forest" for a newly established community theater—in fact the only good actor in it. But the play closes after two excruciating performances, and April is left all alone in her cozy suburban home, with her two young children to take care of. The Wheelers' early romantic attachment goes sour and their marriage breaks up.

Yates was also the master of character sketches of the Wheelers' neighbors. There is a Mrs. Givings, a nosy neighbor who tries to help the young couple reconcile. Their best friends finally tire of them.

Revolutionary Road shows how well a man with all the faults of his era could pull himself together to write such a tightly constructed "realistic" novel, enjoy the praise of the literary insiders and then go on to write book after book.

—Libby Price

Biography/Memoir

***Ambulance Girl: How I Saved Myself by Becoming an EMT*, by Jane Stern, Crown Publishers, \$23.00 on sale at \$18.40.**

Five years ago, food and travel writer Jane Stern was a walking encyclopedia of panic attacks, depression, and hypochondria. Shortly after an incident in an airport where she alleviated someone's suffering with a small act of kindness, she decides to become an emergency medical technician. Stern tells her story with great humor and poignancy, beginning with the boot camp of EMT training until she finally gets her sea legs and bonds with the burly, handsome firefighters who become her colleagues. Each call Stern describes is a vignette of human nature, often with a life in the balance. Stern comes to see the true nature and underlying mysteries of a town she had called home for twenty years. *Ambulance Girl* is an inspiring story by a woman who found, somewhat late in life, that "in helping others I learned to help myself."

***True Notebooks*, by Mark Salzman, Alfred A. Knopf, \$24.00 on sale at \$19.20.**

From the author of the bestselling *Iron & Silk* and *Lying Awake*, the exhilarating story of his experiences teaching writing in a juvenile correctional facility. Mark Salzman is at first reluctant even to enter Central Juvenile Hall, a lockup for kids—many of them charged with murder—near Los Angeles. But one class convinces him that he's made the right decision: the boys defy his expectations, and their writing astonishes him. Impassioned, generous, and eye-opening—as much about the process and meaning of writing in general as it is about a particular experience of it—*True Notebooks* is itself one of the rewards of the self-expression Salzman helped the boys achieve.

***Brinkley's Beat: People, Places, and Events That Shaped My Time*, by David Brinkley, Alfred A. Knopf, \$22.95 on sale at \$18.36.**

From one of America's best-loved journalists—a richly entertaining roundup of the extraordinary individuals with whom he has crossed paths in our nation's capital and of events that marked the 20th century. Here are first-hand profiles of Washington insiders as only an insider himself could give us. David Brinkley has been there and seen it all. Here in the "sour-lovable manner" (Mark Feeney, *Boston Globe*) of storytelling that he has perfected, and in a narrative both "hilarious and instructive" (George Will, *Washington Post*), he shares his vivid recollections and the intelligence and clear-sightedness on which his unimpeachable reputation has rested for more than half a century.

***Not Fade Away: A Life Lived with Passion and Joy*, by Laurence Shames and Peter Barton, St. Martin's Press, \$22.95 on sale at \$18.36.**

Peter Barton protested against the Vietnam War; jammed with Sha Na Na; spent time as a ski bum, a craps dealer, and a political consultant; and eventually emerged from Harvard Business School to become a central figure in the creation of the cable television industry. In the prime of his life, he was diagnosed with cancer and began a journey that was frightening and appalling, yet also full of wonder and discovery. *Not Fade Away* re-creates that journey in the alternating voices of Peter himself and Laurence Shames, two friends close in age yet who've made vastly different choices in life. Together they relive the high points of years that embody the hope and strivings of an entire generation and find universal meaning in Peter's confrontation with his own mortality.

***The Flyers: In Search of Wilbur & Orville Wright*, by Noah Adams, Crown Publishing, \$22.00 on sale at \$17.60.**

Noah Adams, longtime host of *All Things Considered* and author of *Piano Lessons*, takes us along as he follows in the footsteps of the famous Wright brothers in an attempt to know them more deeply, not just as inventors and pilots, but as individuals as well. Through the lens of his own experiences on this journey—which includes a visit to Kitty Hawk, the old Le Mans racetrack in France, where Wilbur startled the European aviation community with his demonstration flights in 1908, and even a few days at Wisconsin's Oshkosh Fly-in—as well as original reporting, letters, diaries, and other primary source material, he helps us understand the talent and intensity of the brothers and their family. A wonderfully rich narrative that brings a spirit of immediacy to one of history's most dramatic stories.

***Twenty Days with Julian & Little Bunny by Papa*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne, New York Review of Books, \$16.95 on sale at \$13.56.**

In July of 1851, Nathaniel Hawthorne's wife and daughters took a trip to visit relatives. How Hawthorne and his five-year-old son Julian managed in their absence is the subject of this tender and funny excerpt from Hawthorne's notebooks. Each day is spent swimming, skipping stones, picking berries, and subduing armies of thistles. There are lots of questions, crises concerning a pet bunny, and only one moment of grown-up companionship—when Mr. Herman Melville stops by to discuss eternity over cigars. An introduction by noted novelist Paul Auster adds to this intimate portrait.

Business/Economics

***The Rise of the Creative Class*, by Richard Florida, Basic Books, \$27.50 on sale at \$22.00.**

The Rise of the Creative Class gives us a provocative new way to think about why we live as we do today—and where we might be headed. Millions of us are beginning to work and live much as creative types like artists and scientists always have—with the result that our values and tastes, our choices of where to live, and even our sense and use of time are changing. The Creative Class, the nearly 38 million Americans in many diverse fields who create for a living, now comprises more than thirty percent of the entire workforce. The choices these people make already have had a huge economic impact, and in the future they will determine how the workplace is organized, what companies will prosper or go bankrupt, and even which cities will thrive or wither.

***Good to Great*, by Jim Collins, Harper Business, \$27.50 on sale at \$22.00.**

Sub-titled “Why Some Companies Make the Leap...and Others Don’t,” *Good to Great* gives the landmark results of a study conducted by Jim Collins, author of *Built to Last*, and his research team. For five years they studied the histories of carefully selected sets of companies—the first, a set of elite companies that had made the leap to great results and sustained those results for at least fifteen years, and the second set, a set of companies which did not. After sifting through mountains of data and thousands of pages of interviews, Collins and his crew discovered the key determinants of greatness—why some companies make the leap and others don’t.

Science

***Signor Marconi’s Magic Box: The Most Remarkable Invention of the 19th Century & the Amateur Inventor Whose Genius Sparked a Revolution*, by Gavin Weightman, Da Capo Press, \$25.00 on sale at \$20.00.**

The world at the turn of the twentieth century was utterly in the throes of “Marconimania”—brought on by an incredible invention that no one could quite explain. And at the center of it all was an eccentric figure who would one day win the newly minted Nobel Prize—Guglielmo Marconi. When everyone was wondering just what science would think of next, the startling answer came in 1896 in the form of two mysterious wooden boxes containing a device Marconi had rigged up in the attic of his family home near Bologna. It was a device to transmit messages “through the ether.” For this was nothing less than the birth of the radio. And certainly no one knew how far these radio waves could travel, until 1903, when a Morse code message from President Theodore Roosevelt to the king of England flashed from Cape Cod to Cornwall—clear across the Atlantic.

Art/Performing Arts

***Duveen: The Story of the Most Spectacular Art Dealer of All Time*, by S.N. Behrman, Little Bookroom, paperback, \$12.95 on sale at \$10.36.**

Originally published as a serial in *The New Yorker*, this dramatic true-life story of Joseph Duveen chronicles how he single-handedly built some of the world’s great art collections. A virtuoso salesman who died in 1939, Duveen exploited the simple idea that Europe had art and America had money. The story of his masterful maneuvering against competitors (including the czar of Russia) and his manipulation of American industrialists—first to buy, then bequeath, major art collections.

***Reel Views: The Ultimate Guide to the 1000 Best Modern Movies on DVD and Video*, by James Berardinelli, Justin Charles & Co., paperback, \$21.99 on sale at \$17.59.**

This reference book is based on the popular film site reelview.net and is unlike any other movie guide on the market. ReelViews offers full-length reviews of only the best 1,000 movies from the 90s and beyond. It’s like taking all the best films from the “New Releases” shelf at your favorite video store from the last ten years. Even better, it is organized by movie category, the way people really use the video store.

Humor

***Progress*, by Fran Lebowitz, Alfred A. Knopf, \$18.00 on sale at \$14.40.**

In *Progress*, Fran Lebowitz looks askance at that vanishing American ideal, and in one slim, witty volume takes issue with the issues, derides the demise, and makes light of the heavy-handed. In a succinct series of snap judgments, backed by the most exhaustive conjecture and stringent inference, she skewers those who have erased the lines between public and private, art and commerce, and church and state.

All books are subject to publisher delays, cancellations, and price changes beyond our control. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Children's Picture Books

***How I Became a Pirate*, by Melinda Long, illustrated by David Shannon, Harcourt, Inc., \$16.00 on sale at \$12.80.**

When Braid Beard's pirate crew invites Jeremy Jacob to join their voyage, he jumps right on board. Buried treasure, sea chanteys, pirate talk—who wouldn't go along? Soon Jeremy Jacob knows all about being a pirate. He throws his food across the table and his manners to the wind. It's the heave-ho, blow-the-man-down, very best time of his life. Until he finds out what pirates don't do—no reading bedtime stories, no tucking kids in...Maybe being a pirate isn't so great after all. A wonderful gift for young boys.

***Mosque*, written and illustrated by David Macaulay, Houghton Mifflin Children's Books, \$18.00 on sale at \$14.40.**

An author/artist who has continually stripped away the mystique of architectural structures that have long fascinated modern man, David Macaulay here reveals the methods and materials used to design and construct a mosque in late 16th century Turkey. Through the fictional story and Macaulay's distinctive full-color illustrations, readers will learn not only how these monumental structures were built, but also how they functioned in relation to the society they served. For all ages.

***Arnie the Doughnut*, by Laurie Keller, Henry Holt, \$16.95 on sale at \$13.56.**

At first glance, Arnie looks like an average doughnut—round, cakey, with a hole in the middle, iced, and sprinkled. A doughnut is just a doughnut, right?

Wrong! Not if Arnie has anything to say about it. And, for a doughnut, he sure has an awful lot to say. Can Arnie change the future of all doughnuts—or at least have a hand in his own? That's really up to Mr. Bing. Who is Mr. Bing? Well, you'll just have to read this funny story and find out for yourself.

Older Readers

***The Phantom Tollbooth*, by Norton Juster, illustrated by Jules Feiffer, Alfred A. Knopf, \$19.95 on sale at \$15.96.**

Readers of all ages will find much wit and wisdom in Norton Juster's modern classic—a beguiling, off-beat fantasy about a boy named Milo “who didn't know what to do with himself.” Through the Phantom Tollbooth lies a strange land and a series of even stranger adventures in which Milo meets some of the most logically illogical characters ever met on this side or that side of reality, including King Azaz the Unabridged, unhappy ruler of Dictionopolis; the Mathemagician; and the watchdog Tock, who ticks. In his quest for Rhyme and Reason, Milo helps settle the war between words and numbers, visits the Island of Conclusions, and ventures into the forbidden Mountains of Ignorance, whose all-too-familiar demons menace his every step.

Children's Non-Fiction

***The Library of Alexandria*, by Kelly Trumble, illustrated by Robina MacIntyre Marshall, Clarion, \$17.00 on sale at \$13.60.**

From native Oklahoman Kelly Trumble comes this beautiful book fea-

turing the most famous library in history. The Library of Alexandria was the largest library of its time and a major center for learning and scholarly research, particularly in the fields of astronomy, geography, mathematics, and medicine. Historians still argue about how the library was destroyed, and no one knows exactly what it looked like. This extensively researched look at what we do know about the library features Kelly Trumble's short, accessible chapters and Robina MacIntyre Marshall's richly detailed full-color paintings. Together, they tell the story of one of the wonders of the ancient world.

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