

A teal banner with a starry night sky background. The word "December" is written in a large, white, serif font. To its right, the year "2007" is displayed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further right, the words "BOOK sense" are stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font, with "BOOK" above "sense". To the right of this, the word "Notables" is written in a large, white, serif font, slanted upwards. The entire banner is framed by a thin white border.

December 2007 **BOOK sense** Notables

EGRETS TO THE FLAMES, by **Barbara Anton** (Oceanview, \$23.95, 9781933515113/1933515112) “This is a ‘Dynasty’-meets-‘Dallas’ saga of a wealthy South Florida sugar-cane plantation family: money, love, greed, and politics make for an engaging story. It also offers enlightenment about the environmental and political aspects of an industry I knew little about.”—**Debbie Scheller, A Likely Story, Sykesville, MD**

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RUN IN THE FAM'LY, by **John J. McLaughlin** (University of Tennessee Press, \$32.95, 9781572335950/1572335955) “Told in the distinctive voice of Jake Robertson, who lives a hand-to-mouth existence while caring for his girlfriend and son. When Jake’s father returns from prison, he tempts Jake to commit a crime to seemingly solve his woes. This book’s naturalism reminded me of Zola.”—**Dan Domike, Jackson Street Books, Seattle, WA**

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THE STEEP APPROACH TO GARBADALE, by **Iain M. Banks** (MacAdam Cage, \$25, 9781596922716/1596922710) “The saga of a wealthy Scottish family who invented a board/computer game. The matriarch has scheduled a meeting so the family can vote on whether to sell the stock. Alban arrives at Garbadale to discuss the sale, see his childhood love, and unearth long-held secrets. Excellent characterizations add to the enjoyment of this engrossing tale.”—**Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM**

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GHOST, by **Alan Lightman** (Pantheon, \$23, 9780375421693/0375421696) “A story only Lightman could write: It combines his poetic prose with his physics knowledge. David sees ‘something’ in the mortuary where he works. He must decipher the physical universe and consider what is possible. Is he having one of Einstein’s dreams? Or experiencing Einstein’s reality?”—**Rona Brinlee, The Book Mark, Atlantic Beach, FL**



GENTLEMEN OF THE ROAD: A Tale of Adventure, by Michael Chabon (Del Rey, \$21.95, 9780345501745/0345501748) “Once again, something entirely different from one of the country’s most respected writers. A swashbuckling, plot-twisting, soul-searching good time.”—**Joe Foster, Maria’s Bookshop, Durango, CO**



GOD’S DEMON, by Wayne Barlowe (Tor, \$24.95, 9780765309853/0765309858) “This book mesmerizes the reader with its epic tale of good vs. evil, plus a tragic love story and wildly inventive setting. Though it’s different from anything I’ve ever read, I found myself wishing this dark, sophisticated novel would never end.”—**Laura Huemer, Goldfinch Books, Maplewood, NJ**



LAST RITUALS: An Icelandic Novel of Secret Symbols, Medieval Witchcraft, and Modern Murder, by Yrsa Sigurdardottir (Morrow, \$23.95, 9780061143366/0061143367) “This book surprised me. From the title, I thought it might be a horror story, but it was suspenseful, funny, and interesting—I couldn’t wait to get back to it. It’s set in Iceland, which just added to the intrigue.”—**Leigh Ann Giles, Western AS Bookstore, Bellingham, WA**



WAITING TO SURFACE, by Emily Listfield (Atria, \$24.95, 9781416537830/141653783X) “This is an incredible book—beautifully written and heartbreakingly real. A young mother’s anguish is palpable as she tries to help her daughter cope with her father’s disappearance. This will be an easy book to handsell to our customers.”—**Patricia Worth, River Reader LLC, Lexington, MO**



STICKLEBACKS AND SNOW GLOBES, by B.A. Goodjohn (Permanent Press, \$26, 9781579621551/1579621554) “This first novel—set in a lower middle class neighborhood in London—is a great read that I will be handselling. Sure to be a favorite with book groups”—**De Gabrys, Footnotes, Montain Home, ID**



BROKEN COLORS, by Michele Zackheim (Europa Editions, \$14.95 paper, 9781933372372/1933372370) “In a climate keen on funny memoirs and short stories, it’s pretty gutsy to write an honest-to-goodness novel set in wartime Europe. This story follows a young artist as she moves through Europe developing her voice and views. The first section gave me chills.”—**Annie O’Hare, McNally Robinson Booksellers, New York, NY**



MALVINAS REQUIEM: Visions of an Underground War, by Rodolfo Enrique Fogwill (Serpent’s Tail, \$14.95 paper, 9781852429652/1852429658) “The Falklands War from the Argentine point of view—did you realize the British napalmed the Argentines? A lean, poignant, you-are-there tour de force.”—**Nick DiMartino, University Book Store, Seattle, WA**



THE LADIES OF GRACE ADIEU AND OTHER STORIES, by Susanna Clarke (Bloomsbury, \$13.95 paper, 9781596913837/1596913835) “Clarke’s collection of short stories follows the successful formula of her *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* by incorporating interesting, magical characters in an English setting. The first story even features Mr. Strange tangling with three country witches!”—**Alex Beguin, Olsson’s Books & Records, Washington, DC**



HOW IT IS: *The Native American Philosophy of V. F. Cordova*, by Kathleen Dean Moore, Kurt Peters, Ted Jojola (University of Arizona Press, \$19.95 paper, 9780816526499/0816526494) “This collection of essays by a Native American philosopher suggests the Euro-American desire to normalize the ‘other’ leads only to extermination. Cordova wonders if any outsider can represent a culture without trying to squeeze its belief system into his own cultural framework. I’m sending my copy to the White House.”—**Cynthia Ransley, Shaman Drum Bookshop, Ann Arbor, MI**



SWITCHING TIME: *A Doctor’s Harrowing Story of Treating a Woman with 17 Personalities*, by Richard Baer (Crown, \$24.95, 9780307382665/0307382664) “Author/psychiatrist Baer describes how years of therapy uncovered the horrors of his patient’s youth—and the 17 personalities her mind created to allow her to function. An absorbing case study of the psyche’s ability to protect and repair itself.”—**Whitney Spotts, Schuler Books & Music, Lansing, MI**



BOONE: *A Biography*, by Robert Morgan (Algonquin, \$29.95, 9781565124554/1565124553) “From the author of *Gap Creek* comes a biography of one of America’s most revered and misunderstood citizens. Morgan pulls no punches, and lays out Daniel Boone’s faults—he left his large family for years at a time and was always in debt—but he also understands the reasons for them.”—**Jerry Kannel, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Brookfield, WI**



RULE NUMBER TWO: *Lessons I Learned in a Combat Hospital*, by Dr. Heidi Squier Kraft (Little, Brown, \$23.99, 9780316067904/0316067903) “Lieutenant Commander Kraft, a clinical psychologist, was deployed to Iraq when her twin children were 15 months old. She gives us an inside view of a combat hospital and of providing comfort to patients amid the chaos of war. I read this amazing book in one sitting.”—**Diana Cohen, Books & Company, Oconomowoc, WI**



THE TERROR DREAM: *Fear and Fantasy in Post-9/11 America*, by Susan Faludi (Metropolitan, \$26, 9780805086928/0805086927) "If you were affected by *Backlash*, be prepared for more of the same regarding a post-9/11 world and our American cultural myth of the damsel in distress. This should be required reading for those who don't think they are feminists. I think Faludi can change your mind, or at least make you think."—**Kelley Drahushuk, The Spotty Dog, Hudson, NY**



THE TREE: *A Natural History of What Trees Are, How They Live, and Why They Matter*, by Colin Tudge (Three Rivers, \$14.95 paper, 9780307395399/0307395391) "Tudge argues the human debt to trees is absolute, and makes his point with wit and erudition as he leads the reader across the globe and through the rivers of time. A welcome addition to environmentalist protest literature a la Gretel Ehrlich and John Muir."—**Grant Outerbridge, DIESEL, A Bookstore, Oakland, CA**



A VINEYARD IN TUSCANY: *A Wine Lover's Dream*, by Ferenc Máté (Norton, \$24.95, 9780920256565/0920256562) "I enjoyed the author's travels through Tuscany in pursuit of a dream: a ruin to restore with a vineyard to cultivate. Ferenc's descriptions are a hoot—his foibles and successes, and the Tuscans he meets on his journey. I can't wait to share this with my customers!"—**Susan Morgan, The Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock, VT**



MIRAGE: *Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt*, by Nina Burleigh (HarperCollins, \$25.95, 9780060597672/0060597674) "When Napoleon invaded Egypt in 1798, the crucial element was the corps of savants: 151 scientists, engineers, and artists. During the three-year occupation, the savants greatly suffered, yet managed to create the science of archeology. An amazing story, breathtakingly told."—**Barbara Hoagland, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT**