

# July 2007 **BOOK** Notables

BOOK SENSE

## FICTION



**CONSEQUENCES, by Penelope Lively** (Viking, \$24.95, 9780670038565/0670038563) "An engrossing story about three generations of rebellious women. Lorna goes against her family's wishes and marries Matt, a young artist. They live a simple country life until Matt is called to serve in World War II. Their daughter Molly grows up in postwar London and she, too, defies social customs and lives a life of her own choosing. Her daughter Ruth follows a more conventional path, but ultimately breaks free when she searches out her family's past. A good book-club choice by a Booker Prize-winning author."—**Linda Walonen, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA**



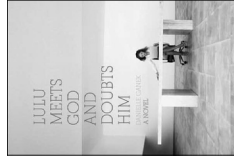
**DISCIPLINE: A Novel, by Paco Ahlgren** (Greenleaf, \$24.95, 9780979084201/0979084202) "This book is entrancing, entertaining, and enlightening. Douglas Cole has been hunted since age six by a malevolent force that only he can see. It needs to stop him, but Douglas doesn't know why. This seemingly typical premise is anything but: this novel is one of the best I've read in a long, long time."—**Sean McHale, Fox Tale Books, New Durham, NH**



**FRENEMIES, by Megan Crane** (5 Spot, \$13.99, 9780446698559/0446698555) "There is no age limit for growing pains, but it's never too late to grow up, according to this hilarious, cringe-inducing novel, which defines 'frenemy' as 'the friend who gives you the sweetest smile to your face, while holding the sharpest knife to your back.' This coming-of-age tale for twenty-somethings is entertaining and touches on themes of self-respect, friendship, and adulthood."—**Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO**



**THE HANGING MOUNTAINS: Books of the Cataclysm, No. 3, by Sean Williams** (Pyr, \$25, 9781591025443/1591025443) "I cannot believe how enamored I am with Williams' writing; he is the most original and interesting speculative fiction writer I have ever read. He touches a primal chord with his description of a mythology that is almost tangible—and yet completely fantastic."—**William Terrance, Changing Hands Bookstore, Tempe, AZ**



**LULU MEETS GOD AND DOUBTS HIM, by Danielle Ganek** (Viking, \$23.95, 9780670038664/0670038660) "When Jeffrey Finelli's masterpiece, *Lulu Meets God and Doubts Him*, is hung in receptionist/aspiring artist Mia McMurray's gallery, her whole perspective on life changes, along with the lives of all the other sharply drawn characters in this colorful debut novel."—**Karin Beyer, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI**



**THE MARGARETS: A Novel, by Sheri S. Tepper** (Eos, \$26.95, 9780061170652/0061170658) "There are too many humans—and Earth's sole useful export is slave labor for alien species. When several cosmic forces decide to eliminate humans altogether, it will take seven aspects of one extraordinary woman, assisted by benevolent forces, to save the species. A new Tepper novel is cause for celebration; this is no exception."—**MaryElizabeth Hart, Mysterious Galaxy Books, San Diego, CA**



**MY SUMMER OF SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT, by Stephanie Gayle** (Morrow, \$23.95, 9780061236297/0061236292) "On the heels of a love affair gone bad, Harvard Law School graduate Natalie Goldberg moves south to become a prosecutor in Macon, Georgia. The long, hot summer gets even hotter when the liberal Yankee firecracker finds herself trying a capital murder case."—**Betty Jo Harris, Windows a bookshop, Monroe, LA**



**NEW ENGLAND WHITE: A Novel, by Stephen L. Carter** (Knopf, \$26.95, 9780375413629/0375413626) "This eagerly awaited follow-up to *The Emperor of Ocean Park* is complex and compelling. A professor from the university, where Julia Carlyle teaches and her husband, Lemaster, is president, is found dead by the side of a road. The dead man was Julia's former lover, had a questionable relationship with her daughter, and his murder appears to be connected to one that took place 30 years earlier. Politics and race relations twist and turn into a terrific novel. Invest the time in this book. It's worth it!"—**Lisa Zupke, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Shorewood, WI**



**RESTITUTION, by Lee Vance** (Knopf, \$23.95, 9780307266323/030726632X) "Fun, fast-paced, and exciting, this exhilarating roller-coaster ride features Peter Tyler, a smart, savvy, and appealing protagonist. When Peter's wife is murdered, he becomes the prime suspect, and his race to unravel the truth is riveting. A stellar debut from an electrifying new voice."—**Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI**



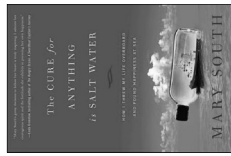
**SALTY: A Novel, by Mark Haskell Smith** (Grove Press, Black Cat, \$14, 9780802170347/080217034X) "A great beach read about pirates, rock singers, models, drinking, and sex in the lavish hotels and jungles of Thailand. Pure fun, with some contemplative aspects, too."—**Jennifer Hall, Partners Village Store, Westport, MA**

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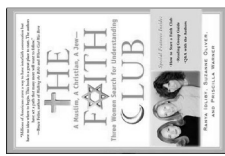
SENSE

## NONFICTION



**THE CURE FOR ANYTHING IS SALT WATER: How I Threw My Life Overboard and Found Happiness at Sea, by Mary South** (HarperCollins, \$23.95, 9780060747022/0060747021) "A perfect blend of how-to + travelogue + poignant reflections on life (for which being at sea for so long obviously affords you time). This is the perfect carpe diem book: follow your bliss, even if it leads you into some seriously odd places. But this memoir isn't cutesy or feel-good—it's a real story with all of the author's fears, obstacles, and disappointments left in."

—Michele Sulka, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH



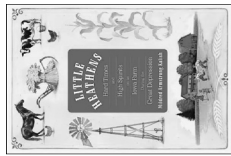
**THE FAITH CLUB: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, Priscilla Warner** (Free Press, \$14, 9780743290487/0743290488) "Three women of different faiths—a Christian, a Muslim, and a Jew—come together to discuss the changes in their faiths in the wake of 9/11. They discuss their differences and similarities, and ultimately gain respect and knowledge of each others' cultures."—Jennifer Siegel, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL



**FOUR SEASONS IN ROME: On Twins, Insomnia, and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World, by Anthony Doerr** (Scribner, \$24, 9781416540014/1416540016) "Nobody 'does' Rome like Doerr; the author of *The Shell Collector* and *About Grace*. Here, he writes about living, working, and raising children in a foreign city. This is a wonderful book: it's funny, insightful, tender, and wise."—Rodie Steven, Eagle Harbor Book Company, Bainbridge Island, WA



**HIGH COTTON: Four Seasons in the Mississippi Delta, by Gerard Helferich** (Counterpoint, \$25, 9781582433530/1582433534) "This is one of those wonderful nonfiction books in the tradition of John McPhee or Mark Kurlansky. Helferich treats us to one year with a Mississippi Delta cotton farmer. Like the farmers featured in the book, we worry about crop yield and pest control—and inadvertently learn about a fascinating and important part of our economy, too."—Lisa Sharp, Nightbird Books, Fayetteville, AR



**LITTLE HEATHENS: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression, by Mildred Armstrong Kalish** (Bantam, \$22, 9780553804959/0553804952) "What a brilliant display of Midwestern folklore! The hard-working people of small-town farming communities can truly be seen and understood through Kalish's careful and joyful preservation of her heritage."—Laura Flaugher, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS

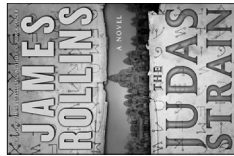


**NEVER SHOWER IN A THUNDERSTORM: Surprising Facts and Misleading Myths About Our Health and the World We Live In, by Anahad O'Connor** (Times Books, \$14, 9780805083125/080508312X) "This entertaining, fascinating volume debunks—or, in some cases, reinforces—old wives' tales about health, genetics, food safety, and of course, sex. From myths about exercise (Don't do it on an empty stomach!) to whether loud music makes you deaf (What? I mean, yes...), this book is educational, and a great read!"—Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



**SENIOR YEAR: A Father, A Son, and High School Baseball, by Dan Shaughnessy** (Houghton, \$24, 9780618729050/0618729054) "Focusing on his son's senior year in high school baseball, the author returns to his own youthful obsession with the game and illuminates how sports connect the generations—and help us grow and let go."—George Rishel, The Sly Fox, Virden, IL

## MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



**THE JUDAS STRAIN, by James Rollins** (Morrow, \$25.95, 9780060763893/0060763892) "From the first chapter to the final word, this compact collection of excitement, suspense, thrill, horror, mystery, intrigue, science, and history will leave you guessing until the very end. Try as hard as you want, this book is impossible to put down—but that's not a bad thing."

—Amanda Thoms, Reading & Rhythm, Bad Axe, MI



**LOS ANGELES NOIR, by Denise Hamilton** (Akashic, \$15.95, 9781933354224/1933354224) "I thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest Noir collection. Hamilton has done an excellent job of placing each story in just the right place. Los Angeles is certainly where it all seems to happen, and the contributing authors describe a special part of the city and what it means to them. Crime, passion, and betrayal fill the pages, along with broken dreams, lost hopes, and, perhaps, a bright future. A good choice for book clubs."—Andra Tracy, Out Word Bound, Indianapolis, IN



**REQUIEM FOR AN ASSASSIN, by Barry Eisler** (Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399154263/0399154264) "Finally, a thriller for the discerning reader. It's tightly plotted, is peopled with great, fully developed characters, and is unpredictable without being foolish. This book is more than brain candy—it's spy drama worth a second or third read."—Keri Holes, The Kaleidoscope: Our Focus Is You, Hampton, IA