



CATHEDRAL OF THE SEA, by Ildefonso Falcones (Dutton, \$26.95, 9780525950486/0525950486) “Author Falcones’ passion for his homeland and Santa Maria del la Mar, the ‘Cathedral of the Sea,’ shine through this wonderful novel of 14th-century Barcelona and Catalonia. Historical accuracy, well developed characters, and a plot that will keep you riveted set the reader right into a land in conflict. I came away richer for the tale.” —**Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA**



CHEZ MOI, by Agnes Desarthe (Penguin, \$14 paper, 9780143113232/ 0143113232) “Laced with mouthwatering descriptions of divine food and the skills of its preparation, *Chez Moi* conveys the pure joy of existence. With the atmosphere of Paris as background and filled with nuggets of wisdom from great literature, Desarthe’s novel of a restaurateur finding a new life has a message for all of us.”—**Jan Owens, Millrace Books, Farmington, CT**



CLIMBING THE STAIRS, by Padma Venkatraman (Putnam, \$16.99, 9780399247460/0399247467) “British-occupied India during World War II is the setting for this impressive debut novel. Vidya is 15, loves to read, and longs to attend college like her brother. But when their father is injured, the family must move into her grandfather’s traditional Hindu household, where Vidya becomes little more than a servant and is forbidden even to climb the stairs to the library. Thought-provoking and deeply moving.”—**Joanne R. Fritz, Chester County Book & Music Company, West Chester, PA**



THE FORGERY OF VENUS, by Michael Gruber (Morrow, \$24.95, 9780060874483/0060874481) “This is a quick and sharp romp through the art world, full as it is of slick dealers, insecure artists, pompous patrons, beauty, and crime. While Gruber’s recipe for this satisfying psychological drama features Renaissance masters, grand estate halls, Venice hotel suites, and private jets, he seasons it all with a healthy dose of disdain and makes it downright delicious.”—**Becky Dayton, The Vermont Book Shop, Middlebury, VT**



OF MEN AND THEIR MOTHERS: A Novel, by Mameve Medwed (Morrow, \$24.95, 9780060831219/0060831219) “A fast-paced romp with plenty of humor, pathos, and social commentary—and quick and clever dialogue. Medwed’s signature handling of alternative lifestyles is deft and eloquent, especially when it comes to mothers and sons in transition.” —**Ellen Jarrett, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA**



QUIVER: A Novel, by Peter Leonard (St. Martin’s Minotaur, \$24.95, 9780312379025/0312379021) “This is an outstanding debut. It has it all—excellent characterization, plotting, and dialog, all of which will immediately hook readers. My heart went out to the young son who accidentally kills his father, even as the plot takes a different, and suspenseful, turn. Great tension and sharp-as-a-tack writing!” —**Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM**



RIVER OF HEAVEN: A Novel, by Lee Martin (Shaye Areheart Books, \$24, 9780307381248/0307381242) “Martin’s latest is a riveting tale about a gay senior haunted by the pain of his childhood, still living in the small town he grew up in, clinging to the closet he hides in, always afraid he’ll be found out. When his long-lost brother shows up on his doorstep, his reclusive life is changed forever.” —**Ken Favell, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Brookfield, WI**



THE SUGAR QUEEN, by Sarah Addison Allen (Bantam, \$22, 9780553805499/0553805495) “Magic happens when Josey gets more than a gentle nudge out of her closet full of sweets and romance novels. She finds friendship, family, and love in unexpected places. This book is a confection that only Sarah Addison Allen could create. Our reader’s are going to enjoy falling under her spell.” —**Mary Ann Giasson, Breakwater Bookland, Rockland, ME**



WRACK & RUIN: A Novel, by Don Lee (Norton, \$23.95, 9780393062328/0393062325) “Even if you don’t like Brussels sprouts, you will enjoy this lighthearted snapshot of three days with a dysfunctional cast of characters, as a sculptor-turned-farmer refuses to sell his land to a golf course developer. This quirky satire is done with great humor!”—**Jeannie Logemann, MacDonald Book Shop, Estes Park, CO**



COMFORT: A Journey Through Grief, by Ann Hood (Norton, \$19.95, 9780393064568/0393064565) “This is Ann Hood’s moving testament to her daughter Grace, who died suddenly from a virulent form of strep. A truly moving testament to Grace, *Comfort* is also a testament to life. It takes us on a journey through grief and a struggle with faith, then back into a life full of hope and love. An extraordinarily eloquent memoir, this is a book to share with others who have suffered a great loss.”—**Judy Crosby, Island Books, Middletown, RI**



FOOD 2.0: Secrets From the Chef Who Fed Google, by Charlie Ayers (DK Publishing, \$25, 9780756633585/0756633583) “*Food 2.0* is full of wonderful recipes, suggestions for improving the sustainability of your food choices, and many other great kitchen and shopping tips.”—**Amy Ellis, Front Street Books, Alpine, TX**



HALF-ASSED: A Weight-Loss Memoir, by Jennette Fulda (Seal Press, \$15.95 paper, 9781580052337/ 1580052339) “This is a non-sugar-coated memoir of Jennette Fulda’s journey from her childhood as a fat person into a non-fat person. Her struggles can be an inspiration to anyone who has lost weight or is doing so right now.”—**Catherine Carpenter, Cate’s Books and Stuff, Louisiana, MO**



PREDICTABLY IRRATIONAL: *The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions*, by Dan Ariely (HarperCollins, \$25.95, 9780061353239/006135323X) "Why is it that people will trek across town to save \$5 on a \$20 item, but won't bother chasing the same discount if they're spending 10 times as much? The author, an MIT professor, draws on the new field of 'behavioral economics' to explain this and other seemingly irrational but predictable human behaviors. This book will leave readers examining the curious interplay between logic, emotions, and their own decisions."—**Arlene Cook, Watermark Book Co., Anacortes, WA**



SUNDAYS IN AMERICA: *A Yearlong Road Trip in Search of Christian Faith*, by Suzanne Strempek Shea (Beacon, \$25.95, 9780807072240/0807072249) "Imagine visiting a different Christian church nationwide every Sunday morning for a year. Suzanne Strempek Shea's remarkable, insightful, and, often, quite humorous book details her journey from a rousing Baptist service in Harlem to a chapel at Denver International Airport, sharing her own struggles and clearly showing that there are unlimited paths to a single destination."—**Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA**



UNTAPPED: *The Scramble for Africa's Oil*, by John Ghazvinian (Harvest, \$15 paper, 9780156033725/0156033720) "Ghazvinian's harrowing, eye-opening look at the changing face of Africa in the wake of the newest oil boom will make you think twice every time you grumble at the pump."—**Alex Green, Back Pages Books, Waltham, MA**



THE WOMAN'S FIELD GUIDE TO EXCEPTIONAL LIVING: *Practical Steps for Living a Big, Bold, Beautiful Life!*, by Corrie Woods (Morgan James Publishing, \$14.95 paper, 9781600373954/160037395X) "Corrie Wood's book is written in chapters that allow the reader to take action and create her own exceptional life. For every woman who loved *Eat, Pray, Love*, *The Woman's Field Guide* is waiting for you!"—**Betsy Goree, The Book Shelf, Tryon, NC**