


October **BOOK** Notables  
2006 sense


**THE BIRTH HOUSE**, by **Ami McKay** (Morrow, \$24.95, 0061135852) “This is the story of Dora Rare, a gifted midwife and healer, whose home is the close-knit community of Scots Bay, Nova Scotia. Dora and the women she serves must struggle to maintain their meaningful traditions when they’re threatened by the arrival of a male physician. Like the tidal surge in the Bay of Fundy, McKay’s wonderful novel pulls you in. A great book club pick!”

—**Maryjude Hoeffel, Bookin’ It, Little Falls, MN**




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**DERMAPHORIA**, by **Craig Clevenger** (MacAdam Cage, \$13.50 paper, 1596921021) “This most singular and suspenseful tale opens in a jail cell, with its protagonist suffering a mysterious amnesia. As his memory returns, he recalls his past life as a clandestine chemist, synthesizing pharmaceuticals for an organized crime syndicate. Chronicled in surreal, psychedelic prose, this suspenseful novel effectively blurs the boundaries between truth and fiction.”—**Brian Good, The Doylestown Bookshop, Doylestown, PA**




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**HELEN OF TROY**, by **Margaret George** (Viking, \$27.95, 0670037788) “George paints a masterful portrait of the face that launched a thousand ships, blending historical fact with ancient lore to tell what is one of the greatest love stories in the world.”—**Carol O’Callaghan, The Bookery, Ephrata, WA**




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**THE HEIRESS OF WATER**, by **Sandra Rodriguez Barron** (Rayo, \$13.95 paper, 0061142816) “*The Heiress of Water* is a beautiful and lively book, with characters who are passionate about nature, healing, and each other. Everything always comes back to water, from the black sand beaches, to the search for a cone snail that may offer a medical cure, to a philosophy of life passed on from mother to daughter.”—**Julie Leonard, Troubadour Books, Boulder, CO**



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**THE MISSION SONG**, by **John le Carré** (Little, Brown, \$26.99, 0316016748) “Son of an Irish missionary and a woman from the Congo, Salvo is an extraordinary interpreter. When he is suddenly asked to come to the aid of ‘his’ country, England, he must interpret for Congolese warlords and the worst sorts of Western overlords. Le Carré has created another in a long line of world-class masterpieces, laying bare the forces that drive governments and destroy private lives.”—**Betsy Burton, The King’s English, Salt Lake City, UT**




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**THE ROAD**, by **Cormac McCarthy** (Knopf, \$24, 0307265439) “This post-apocalyptic novel of a man, his son, and their journey to an unimaginable future is powerfully spare and haunting. It will live on in your memory long after you’ve turned the last page.”—**Susan Taylor, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY**



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**VINCE AND JOY**, by **Lisa Jewell** (Harper Paperbacks, \$14.95 paper, 0061137464) “*Vince and Joy* is full of near misses—two teenagers who fall in love quickly and then part unexpectedly, only to spend the next 20-odd years almost meeting up again. This one will have you cheering—so read it!”—**Sherri Ashburner, R.J. Julia Booksellers, Madison, CT**



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**WORLD WAR Z: An Oral History of the Zombie War**, by **Max Brooks** (Crown, \$24.95, 0307346609) “Brooks’ latest left me absolutely stunned. This was a deeply serious book, full of heart and intelligence, a fantastic story realistically told that gripped me from the first chapter. I was touched, I was moved, I was frightened, and I loved every minute of it.”—**Brian Schaefer, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH**



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**BIRTH: *The Surprising History of How We Are Born*, by Tina Cassidy** (Atlantic, \$24, 0871139383) “This eye-opening book is not for the faint of heart, but neither is giving birth! From midwives with charms and salves, to new doctors with ether and forceps, to modern women referred to as ‘too posh to push,’ this book really goes deep into the past to describe the different ways women went about having babies throughout the years.”  
—Aislinn Evans, **Davis-Kidd Booksellers, Memphis, TN**



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**BRAINIAC: *Adventures in the Curious, Competitive, Compulsive World of Trivia Buffs*, by Ken Jennings** (Villard, \$24.95, 1400064457) “*Brianiac* offers the perfect mix of memoir, history, and trivia. All-time *Jeopardy!* champion, and self-described nerd, Ken Jennings is a great storyteller. I found myself alternately laughing aloud and racking my brain. A terrific read!”—Nancy Quinn, **Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Milwaukee, WI**




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**FIERCE FOOD: *The Intrepid Diner's Guide to the Unusual, Exotic, and Downright Bizarre*, by Christa Weil** (Plume, \$14 paper, 0452287006) “You might squirm a little bit reading about Mexican snacking grasshoppers and casu marzu (quite possibly the world's most horrifying cheese), but Christa Weil's excellent writing combined with her obvious zest for her subject have created the perfect gift for adventurous foodies.”—Frazer Dobson, **Park Road Books, Charlotte, NC**




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**THE LOST APOSTLE: *Searching for the Truth About Junia*, by Rena Pederson** (Jossey-Bass, \$24.95, 0787984434) “Part history, part religious studies, part speculation, and part scholarly work, *The Lost Apostle* tells the story of the female apostle Junia. An intriguing and fascinating read.”—Becky Milner, **Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA**




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**MY PET VIRUS: *The True Story of a Rebel Without a Cure*, by Shawn Decker** (Tarcher, \$9.95 paper, 1585425257) “This subtly hilarious memoir is the story of a life with hemophilia—and AIDS. Sound depressing? Think again! With humor and attitude, Decker describes his life and adventures—including meeting his childhood heroes Depeche Mode, wrestler Ric Flair, and his AIDS activist wife-to-be—without a shred of self-pity.”—**Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI**




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**PASCAL'S WAGER: *The Man Who Played Dice with God*, by James A. Connor** (HarperSanFrancisco, \$24.95, 0060766913) “This is a fascinating read about the trials and tribulations of Pascal, a young math and science genius, who died in his thirties, but who paved the way during the early 1600s for many of today’s discoveries and their applications, such as computers and atomic energy.”—**Harold Hicks, Books on the Bluff, Townsend, GA**



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**THERE IS NO ME WITHOUT YOU: *One Woman's Odyssey to Rescue Africa's Children*, by Melissa Fay Greene** (Bloomsbury, \$25.95, 1596911166) “This is a poignant, painful, important, and inspirational story of a truly remarkable woman, Haregewoin Tefarra, who rescues and cares for Ethiopian AIDS orphans.”—**Sally Van Wert, MacDonald Book Shop, Estes Park, CO**



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**THE UNITED STATES OF ARUGULA: *How We Became a Gourmet Nation*, by David Kamp** (Broadway, \$26, 0767915798) “*The United States of Arugula* follows the birth of the great American food obsession and the defining of an American cuisine, from Julia Child through Alice Waters. It documents the chefs, restaurant entrepreneurs, writers, specialty stores, farmers, and culture gurus who entirely changed the American food landscape in 30 short years. Fascinating.”—**Caroline Sloan, Annie Bloom's Books, Portland, OR**



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**AN UNREASONABLE WOMAN: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters, and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas, by Diane Wilson** (Chelsea Green, \$18 paper, 1933392274)

“Diane Wilson is not only a courageous individual, but also an incredible storyteller, and this is a must-read for anyone who has challenged government, big business, or the Wal-Marts of the world. A riveting memoir of one woman’s struggles, triumphs, and tragedies in her quest to save her bay.”—**Janet Bollum, The Muse Book Shop, DeLand, FL**



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**ARIZONA DREAMS: A David Mapstone Mystery, by Jon Talton** (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95, 1590583183) “David Mapstone is a historian who is now working on cold cases for the Sherriff’s Department. When he is drawn into the very current investigations of several grizzly murders, his life suddenly gets very complicated. This is a complex tale of greed, fraud, politics, and murder that holds the reader’s interest to the very end.”—**Linda Walonen, Bay Books, San Ramon, CA**



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**THE BOOK OF FATE, by Brad Meltzer** (Warner, \$25.99, 0446530999) “This riveting story is told from the viewpoint of a presidential aide and involves the Secret Service, the FBI, and the CIA, with bits of Freemasonry to make the tale even spicier. Meltzer has created a political thriller that is as much of a page-turner as *The Da Vinci Code*.”—**Filly Tierney, Bohannons’ Books With a Past, Georgetown, KY**



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**LIGHTS OUT, by Jason Starr** (St. Martin’s Minotaur, \$22.95, 0312359721) “Two bright young men play side by side on their high school baseball team. In the blink of an eye, Ryan’s life is changed forever while Jake goes on to become what Ryan had always wanted to be, a player in the major league. This is a tight, well-written story with over-the-top action and plenty of suspense.”—**Andra Tracy, Out Word Bound, Indianapolis, IN**