

OCTOBER '08



# NOTABLES



FICTION



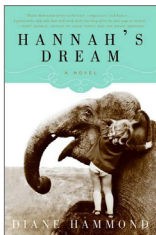
**The Gone-Away World**

by Nick Harkaway

(Knopf, \$25.95, 9780307268860/0307268861)

"Nick Harkaway's first novel, *The Gone-Away World*, is hilarious, wonderful, and surreal. It is a kind of post-apocalypse mercenary troop muckabout with ninjas, monsters, epic kung-fu battles, and a really compelling theme about the utter banality of every step towards becoming truly evil."

—Lars Townsend, Politics & Prose Books & Coffee, Washington, DC



**Hannah's Dream**

by Diane Hammond

(Harper Paperbacks, \$13.95 paper; 9780061568251/0061568252)

"Hannah is a sweetheart, middle-aged elephant with bad feet who loves her trainer, doughnuts, her spare tire, and adventure movies. What she needs is to join fellow creatures in an elephant sanctuary, but what the zoo manager wants is to exploit her to make more money. You will fall in love with the many quirky but lovable characters in this wonderful read!"

—Leslie Hakala, Best of Times Bookstore, Red Wing, MN



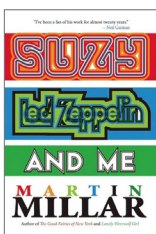
**Reclaiming Paris**

by Fabiola Santiago

(Atria, \$24.95, 9781416551126/1416551123)

"Drawing on this same sense of intimacy with her subject, Fabiola Santiago gives us the story of Marisol, a Cuban-American woman who is searching for her lost island by pursuing her relationships with men. Santiago has made Marisol's search a universal one, and I'm confident readers from all across the country will respond as profoundly as all of us in South Florida are certainly destined to do."

—Mitchell Kaplan, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



**Suzy, Led Zepplin, And Me**

by Martin Millar

(Soft Skull Press, \$13.95 paper; 9781593762001/1593762003)

"This brilliant, playful, and poignant faux-autobiographical novel tells a tale of raging hormones, as a 15-year-old boy awaits a concert by his rock heroes in 1970s Glasgow. Millar remembers the painful earnestness of being a teenager and conveys the highs and lows of 15 with great charm and wit."

—Rich Rennicks, Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, Asheville, NC



**Two Marriages**

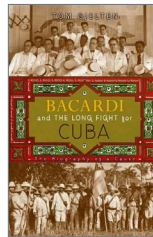
by Phillip Lopate

(Other Press, \$24.95, 9781590512982/1590512987)

"Phillip Lopate has written two wonderful novellas portraying two marriages. Each couple is less than perfect but very real. These are not matches made in heaven, but matches made in reality or something very like it."

—Lisa Sharp, Nightbird Books, Fayetteville, AR

NONFICTION



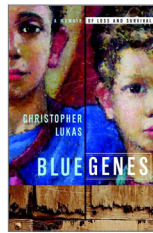
**Bacardi and the Long Fight for Cuba**

The Biography of a Cause, by Tom Gjetten

(Viking, \$27.95, 9780670019786/067001978X)

"Using his journalist's eye and flair, Tom Gjetten tells the story of the Bacardi family, known world-wide for their rum but also key players in the century-long battle for Cuban independence. As the Bacardis developed their distinctly Cuban product, they also carried a strong sense of nationalism and were intimately tied to every revolutionary movement. The tale of this one family becomes a fascinating narrative of Cuba."

—Bill Cusumano, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI



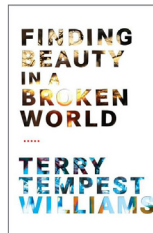
**Blue Genes**

A Memoir of Loss and Survival, by Christopher Lukas

(Doubleday, \$24.95, 9780385525206/0385525206)

"Christopher Lukas's account of his family history of mental illness, bipolar disorder, suicide, and alcoholism is a compassionate and literate examination of nature, nurture, and self-determination. While it could have been a litany of woes it is a surprisingly upbeat narrative of survival and perseverance."

—Karen Ore, Llama Llama Books, Bozeman, MT



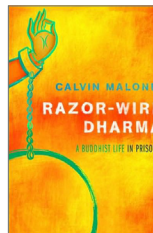
**Finding Beauty In A Broken World**

by Terry Tempest Williams

(Pantheon, \$26, 9780375420788/0375420789)

"Who else but Terry Tempest Williams could take the art of mosaic, a prairie dog community, and a small town in Rwanda and give us insight into natural beauty, tumult, and peace. This is a beautifully written book by one of the best caretakers of our environment and our soul."

—Barbara Theroux, Fact & Fiction, Missoula, MT



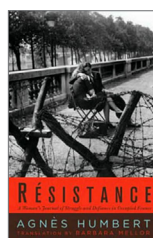
**Razor-Wire Dharma**

A Buddhist Life in Prison, by Calvin Malone

(Wisdom, \$16.95 paper; 9780861715633/0861715632)

"Calvin Malone's compelling, beautifully written memoir goes beyond his experiences as someone whose life in prison was transformed by Buddhism. With vivid descriptions of his life and practice behind bars, he shows us that anyone, in any circumstances, can make a positive change in his or her own life and in the lives of those around them."

—Carol Schneck, Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI



**Résistance**

A Frenchwoman's Journal of the War, by Agnès Humbert

(Bloomsbury, \$26, 9781596915596/1596915595)

"Nothing comes close to capturing the immediacy and the horror of the German occupation of France during WWII than this memoir of the French Resistance from Agnès Humbert, a woman of amazing strength, conviction, and, yes, humor. An extraordinary book."

—Susan Townley, Viva! Bookstore, San Antonio, TX

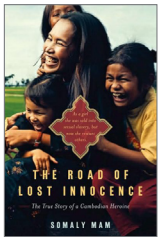
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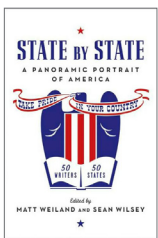
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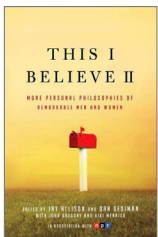
## NONFICTION (CONTINUED)



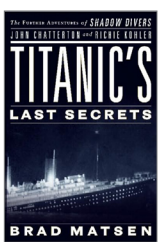
**The Road of Lost Innocence**  
**The True Story of a Cambodian Heroine,**  
**by Somaly Mam**  
 (Spiegel & Grau, \$22.95, 9780385526210/0385526210)  
 "A gripping memoir that chronicles the plight of a woman in Cambodia who went from child sex slave to accomplished activist on behalf of Asian women and children in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos."  
 —Janet Bollum, The Muse Book Shop, DeLand, FL



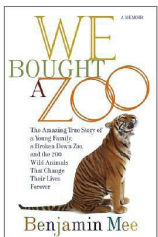
**State by State**  
**A Panoramic Portrait of America,**  
**by Matt Weiland, Sean Wilsey**  
 (Ecco, \$29.95, 9780061470905/0061470902)  
 "This new collection from 50 wonderful writers on all 50 states is both funny and very interesting, as their unique styles create a terrific book."  
 —Kathleen Dixon, Islandtime Books & More, Washington Island, WI



**This I Believe II**  
**More Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women,**  
**edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, with John Gregory and Viki Merrick**  
 (Holt, \$23, 9780805087680/0805087680)  
 "The second volume of essays from National Public Radio's This I Believe series continues the theme of allowing people from every walk of life to express their beliefs and, before you know it, to pull us into their souls."  
 —Betsy Goree, The Book Shelf, Tryon, NC



**Titanic's Last Secrets**  
**The Further Adventures of Shadow Divers**  
**John Chatterton and Richie Kohler,**  
**by Brad Matsen**  
 (Twelve, \$27.99, 9780446582056/0446582050)  
 "Titanic's Last Secrets is mesmerizing. Author Matsen, working with divers John Chatterton and Richie Kohler, gives a fascinating, thorough history of the people and companies involved in British/Irish shipbuilding and the shipping industry—carefully detailing all the events of the tragedy. Fascinating!"  
 —Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

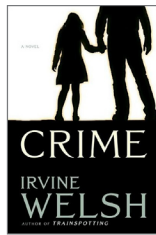


**We Bought a Zoo**  
**The Amazing True Story of a Young Family, a Broken Down Zoo, and the 200 Wild Animals That Changed Their Lives Forever,**  
**by Benjamin Mee**  
 (Weinstein, \$24.95, 9781602860483/1602860483)  
 "I was pulled along with Benjamin Mee and his family through the good, the bad, and the heartbreaking, as they purchased a rundown zoo set to close. It's a wonderful, funny-but-sad story of making a dream come true."  
 --Macaela Willadsen, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Brookfield, WI

## MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



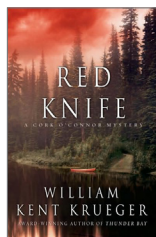
**Blood Alone**  
**A Billy Boyle World War II Mystery,**  
**by James R. Benn**  
 (Soho, \$24, 9781569475164/1569475164)  
 "Billy Boyle wakes up in a field hospital tent in Sicily with a head wound, a silk handkerchief in his pocket, no dog tags, and no memory. His cop instincts keep him alive long enough for memories to return and to complete his mission. This series just gets better and better!"  
 —Mary Jane Weber, The Town Book Store, Westfield, NJ



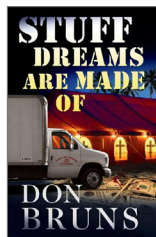
**Crime**  
**by Irvine Welsh**  
 (Norton, \$24.95, 9780393068191/0393068196)  
 "Plagued by the imagery of the death of a young girl in his homeland and struggling to maintain his recovery from drug addiction, Scottish cop Ray Lennox travels to Miami for a relaxing break from the job with his fiancé. But when he finds himself immersed in an underworld of cocaine and child abuse, his old fears and phobias return to haunt him. Reads like a shot of adrenaline."  
 —Kelly Wells, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT



**Exit Music**  
**by Ian Rankin**  
 (Little Brown, \$24.99, 9780316057585/0316057584)  
 "When Exit Music begins, Ian Rankin's Detective Inspector John Rebus has 10 days until retirement. Will he solve the latest crime to land on his desk? Will he stay out of the line of fire of his superiors? Will he wrap up the loose ends of a long career fighting crime? Will he find a life after retirement? Stay tuned."  
 —Ray Nurmi, Snowbound Books, Marquette, MI



**Red Knife**  
**A Cork O'Connor Mystery,**  
**by William Kent Krueger**  
 (Atria, \$25, 9781416556749/1416556745)  
 "This latest in an outstanding series featuring PI Corcoran O'Connor is one of the best yet, as O'Connor connects with his heritage in this story of death, drugs, and revenge."  
 —George Fox Rishel, The Sly Fox, Virden, IL



**Stuff Dreams Are Made Of**  
**by Don Bruns**  
 (Oceanview, \$24.95, 9781933515168/1933515163)  
 "This very funny mystery is the second from Don Bruns to feature best friends Skip Moore and James Lessora, who decide to make money feeding the droves of people who come to a tent revival. But they are soon under a cloud of suspicion as bodies begin to appear. Bruns' writing is crisp and tight, and I look forward to reading more of his books."  
 —Andra Tracy, Out Word Bound, Indianapolis, IN