

GREAT READS FROM **FEBRUARY '09**



Little Bee

A Novel, by Chris Cleave

"Little Bee—this novel's small but powerful narrator—begins her story as a Nigerian refugee in England who is looking for a British couple whom she met during a horrific episode in Nigeria—a moment that unleashes a chain of events that will make you smile, cry, think, and, ultimately, pray for the best in humanity to win."

Valerie Koehler, Blue Willow Bookshop, Houston, TX



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The Help

A Novel, by Kathryn Stockett

The Help recreates a time—Mississippi in 1962—that is totally engrossing and pitch-perfect. This story of women in the South, black and white, in the eye of a hurricane of monumental change is thoroughly satisfying and enjoyable."

Sheila Burns, Bloomsbury Books, Ashland, OR



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The School of Essential Ingredients

A Novel, by Erica Bauermeister

"Lillian, a restaurant owner, teaches Monday night cooking classes as much for herself as for the students. With magical language, first-time novelist Bauermeister weaves the lives of the students in Lillian's class with the meals prepared and life lessons learned. Strong, sensuous writing leaves the reader hungry for more."

Holly Smith, Wide World Books & Maps, Seattle, WA



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Dog on It

A Chet and Bernie Mystery, by Spencer Quinn

"Dog on It is the debut of a new, hilarious, hard-hitting crime-fighting duo—Bernie (a human private investigator) and Chet (an almost completely trained police dog). It's Chet who narrates the story, full of interesting clues and the charm of a storytelling style that can't be beat."

Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO



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Irreplaceable

A Novel, by Stephen Lovely

"Told in four sections and over the course of three years, Irreplaceable is set in Iowa and Chicago and vividly realizes the casualties and rebirths that occur when an organ is donated after a fatal accident. Lovely explores the nature of grief and guilt, salvation and healing."

Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



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FEBRUARY '09

The Mighty Queens of Freeville

A Mother, a Daughter, and the Town that Raised Them, by Amy Dickinson

"Anyone who likes to start the day with some common sense from Amy Dickinson's advice column, 'Ask Amy' (her motto is 'I make the mistakes so you don't have to'), will delight in getting to know the small town and big-hearted family that made her who she is."

Ellen Sandmeyer, Sandmeyer's Bookstore, Chicago, IL



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The Housekeeper and the Professor

A Novel, by Yoko Ogawa

"Set in Japan, Yoko Ogawa's novel tells the story of a housekeeper and her son, and how they are drawn into the world of a brilliant professor of mathematics with severe memory impairment. A beautiful, tender novel."

Lisa Stefanacci, The Book Works, Del Mar, CA



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FEBRUARY '09

A Rule Against Murder

A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel, by Louise Penny

"This is the fourth book in the utterly charming, utterly compelling series featuring Quebec's Chief Inspector Gamache. In this one, he and his wife visit an isolated resort for their wedding anniversary, becoming embroiled in the inner workings of a more-than-dysfunctional family. Penny's gorgeous prose and stunning skill with character development take this book to the top of the genre."

Robin Agnew, Aunt Agatha's, Ann Arbor, MI



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The Rose Variations

A Novel, by Marisha Chamberlain

"Marisha Chamberlain's novel tells the story of classical musician Rose MacGregor, who weaves her way through triumphs and tribulations looking for answers, fulfillment, and the possibility of happiness. We cheer Rose as she composes her way through life in this well-written and engaging novel."

Ann Carlson, Harborwalk Books, Georgetown, SC



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FEBRUARY '09

Script and Scribble

The Rise and Fall of Handwriting, by Kitty Burns Florey

"Tracing the story from the earliest cave scribbles to the Palmer Method to today's text-message-composed novels, this is a great read for anyone who has ever agonized over their signature, wondered what the slant on their 'e'l means, or deplored the state of penmanship in today's typing world."

Jenn Northington, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT



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FEBRUARY '09

Animals Make Us Human

Creating the Best Life for Animals, by Temple Grandin, with Catherine Johnson

"In Animals Make Us Human, Temple Grandin's special connection to animals is obvious once again, and she has written, with Catherine Johnson, a great reference for animal lovers and animal behaviorists. Like Helen Keller, the autistic author shows that having disabilities does not mean that you are an incapable human being—rather, she proves the contrary."

Rachel Olin-Levy, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL



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FEBRUARY '09

The 100 Best Business Books of All Time

What They Say, Why They Matter, and How They Can Help You, by Jack Covert and Todd Sattersten

"From the moment I began this book, I was hooked. Combining a great concept and format, two business book experts extraordinaire tell you what books are worth reading and how they can help. If you read any business books, this should be the next one."

Chuck Robinson, Village Books, Bellingham, WA



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