



FEBRUARY '09

# NOTABLES



## FICTION



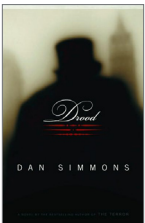
### The Domino Men

by Jonathan Barnes

(Morrow, \$24.99, 9780061671401/0061671401)

"With a flourish of language reminiscent of writing of an earlier time, we're told of file clerk Henry Lamb, whose life is about to take a turn for the bizarre. Due to a deal brokered by the long-dead Queen Victoria, something is coming to claim the soul of every person in London, and Henry must stop it."

—Jessie Martin, Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI



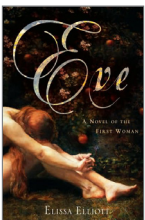
### Drood

A Novel, by Dan Simmons

(Little, Brown, \$26.99, 9780316007023/0316007021)

"Spellbinding and macabre, Drood introduces us to a never-before-seen Charles Dickens and his London, both hiding dark secrets. A magnificent blend of literary fiction and unsettling thriller, Drood will keep you up at night."

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



### Eve

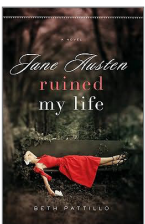
A Novel of the First Woman, by Elissa Elliott

(Delacorte, \$24, 9780385341448/038534144X)

"With Eve at the helm, we navigate the post-Eden world, as Elliott creates a compelling portrayal of how the first family functioned, failed, and went on to populate the world.

Combining a modern sensibility and this ancient scenario, there is much to share and to discuss in this debut novel."

—Missie Olm, The Reader's Loft, Green Bay, WI



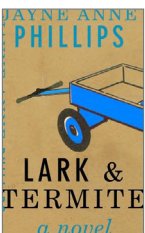
### Jane Austen Ruined My Life

A Novel, by Beth Pattillo

(Ideals Publications, \$14.99 paper, 9780824947712/0824947711)

"Does the world really need another book about Austen? Yes! To say 'no' would only deprive readers of all of this book's fun—a quest/scavenger hunt/romantic romp all rolled up into one. Enjoy!"

—Beth Reynolds, Norwich Bookstore, Norwich, VT



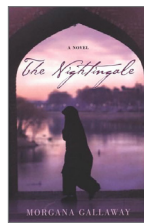
### Lark & Termite

A Novel, by Jayne Anne Phillips

(Knopf, \$24, 9780375401954/0375401954)

"Set in early 1950s West Virginia and Korea, Lark & Termite is a mysterious and subtly heroic tale of community, war, and the heart's wondrous capacities, providing the most moving and dramatic work of this writer's distinguished career."

—Richard Howorth, Square Books, Oxford, MS



### The Nightingale

A Novel, by Morgana Galloway

(Kensington, \$14 paper, 9780758227287/0758227280)

"This timely book, set in contemporary Mosul, is a great read about a young woman caught between two war-time cultures—that of her formerly prominent, very traditional Moslem family and that of a world of more Western values. The Nightingale looks at the Iraq War from different points of view and offers much to think about."

—Linda Vinstra, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI



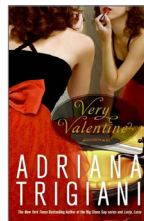
### Tokyo Fiancée

by Amelie Nothomb

(Europa, \$15 paper, 9781933372648/1933372648)

"Amelie Nothomb, an utterly winning and charming young author, has given us a delightful clash of cultures in the dating world, a light, quick, good-hearted plunge into the heart of Japan, from the perspective of a young Belgian girl who takes up teaching French there."

—Nick DiMartino, University Book Store, Seattle, WA



### Very Valentine

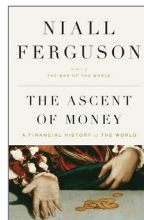
A Novel, by Adriana Trigiani

(HarperCollins, \$25.99, 9780061257056/0061257052)

"Adriana Trigiani's Very Valentine is the first in a trilogy featuring Valentine Roncalli, who is under the tutelage of her grandmother in the family's custom-shoe business. The thoroughly enjoyable storyline works through the ins and outs of the shoe-making trade, family issues, and romance. I loved this book and can't wait for the next in the series."

—Mary Reilly-Kliss, Fireside Books and Gifts, West Bend, WI

## NONFICTION



### The Ascent of Money

A Financial History of the World, by Niall Ferguson

(Penguin Press, \$29.95, 9781594201929/1594201927)

"How did we get into the current economic mess? Niall Ferguson explains all—from ancient Mesopotamia to the collapse of Lehman Brothers—and in The Ascent of Money he makes financial history read like a thriller."

—Sue Barnett, Hamish & Henry Booksellers, Livingston Manor, NY



### The Mercy Papers

A Memoir of Three Weeks, by Robin Romm

(Scribner, \$22, 9781416567882/1416567887)

"The Mercy Papers begins when Robin Romm returns to her parent's home to be with her terminally ill mother and ends three weeks later with her mother's death. Clear-eyed and furious, this is a moving, unflinching, and insightful look into a relationship that is fraught and complex but ultimately, and most importantly, filled with love."

—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI



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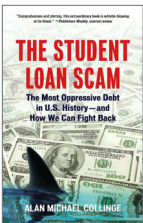
## NONFICTION (CONTINUED)



**Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm, by Steven I. Apfelbaum**  
 (Beacon, \$25.95, 9780807085820/0807085820)  
*"Long before 'being green' was fashionable—some 30 years ago, in fact—Steven Apfelbaum started to return his 80-acre Wisconsin farm to its natural health and beauty as prairie, wetland, and savanna. Here, he recounts the joys and difficulties of pursuing his vision."*  
 —Ellen Sandmeyer, Sandmeyer's Bookstore, Chicago, IL



**Sand The Never-Ending Story by Michael Welland**  
 (University of California Press, \$24.95, 9780520254374/0520254376)  
*"Michael Welland's examination of one of nature's more ubiquitous materials might be about a subject you don't read much about, but it is fascinating."*  
 —Diana Portwood, Bob's Beach Books, Lincoln City, OR



**The Student Loan Scam The Most Oppressive Debt in U.S. History—and How We Can Fight Back, by Alan Michael Collinge**  
 (Beacon, \$22.95, 9780807042298/0807042293)  
*"In the 1970s, loan programs were created to increase the numbers of people able to afford higher education. Since then, these agencies have been hijacked by loan sharks in the name of privatization. Yes, you can thank the Bush government. Albert Lord and Thomas Fitzpatrick, the heads of Sallie Mae, privatized the organization and pocketed half a billion dollars, as millions more went to bribe politicians and universities. The Student Loan Scam is filled with stories that would make your blood boil and is must-reading."*  
 —Daniel Goldin, Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops, Milwaukee, WI

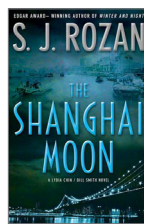


**Voluntary Madness My Year Lost and Found in the Loony Bin, by Norah Vincent**  
 (Viking, \$25.95, 9780670019717/0670019712)  
*"Norah Vincent spent time in a mental institution for depression after writing Self-Made Man and decided with that experience to study the effects of the commitment and treatment of the mentally ill. The result is a poignant, insightful, and educational look at mental illness, an account of the state of mental health care in America from the inside out by one who has been there."*  
 —Lillian Kinsey, Bohannon's Books With a Past, Georgetown, KY

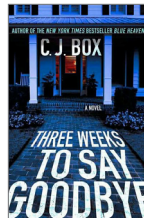
## MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



**Runner by Thomas Perry**  
 (Houghton, \$26, 9780151015283/0151015287)  
*"Good people whose lives are threatened go to Jane Whitefield, a Native American guide, who gives them a new identity and teaches them how to successfully remain hidden and live their lives. Now married, and retired, Jane is again drawn into action when a young pregnant girl shows up desperately in need of help. Perry has created one of the most unique characters in the thriller genre."*  
 —Susan Wasson, Bookworks, Albuquerque, NM



**The Shanghai Moon A Lydia Chin/Bill Smith Novel, by S.J. Rozan**  
 (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95, 9780312245566/0312245564)  
*"S.J. Rozan shines in her latest Lydia Chin/Bill Smith novel. Lydia is working with someone else to track down jewelry stolen during WWII when her new partner is murdered—and Bill steps in to help her. It's a poignant mystery about the effects of a troubled time."*  
 —Linda Dewberry, Whodunit? Books, Olympia, WA



**Three Weeks to Say Goodbye A Novel, by C.J. Box**  
 (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95, 9780312365721/0312365721)  
*"Three Weeks to Say Goodbye is a chilling novel of an adoption gone wrong, when adoptive parents find themselves in danger of losing their daughter and in the midst of a sinister plot."*  
 —Lisa Casper, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO

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