

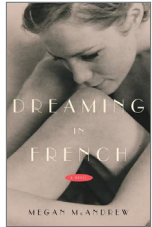
OCTOBER '09



# NOTABLES

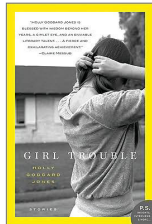


FICTION



**Dreaming in French**  
**A Novel, by Megan McAndrew**  
 (Scribner, \$25, 9781416599722)  
*"Set first in Paris in the late 1970s, Dreaming in French follows the adolescent life of Charlotte Sanders as she experiences the joys of her first romance, followed by the nightmare of her first family betrayal. The setting then shifts to New York, where Charlotte grows to become the young woman she is destined to be. Well written in an honest and likable voice, this is a compelling novel."*

—Roni K. Devlin, Literary Life Bookstore & More, Grand Rapids, MI



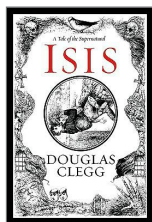
**Girl Trouble Stories, by Holly Goddard Jones**  
 (Harper Perennial, \$14.99 paper; 9780061776304)  
*"This collection of eight stories, loosely linked by location, examines the pains and the losses of everyday existence, the consequences of bad decisions, and the ambiguities that make these decisions so difficult. Jones shows readers whole lifetimes in stories that are ultimately both humane and powerful."*

—Margaret Brennan Neville, The King's English, Salt Lake City, UT



**In the Valley of the Kings Stories, by Terrence Holt**  
 (Norton, \$23.95, 9780393071214)  
*"This collection of haunting, disorienting, but, ultimately, moving stories genuinely blew me away. Each story almost teaches you how to read the next, making this diverse and outstanding collection satisfying on a story-by-story basis, but even more so as a whole. I believe these pieces will be talked about for years."*

—Robert Sindelar, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA



**Isis**  
**A Tale of the Supernatural, by Douglas Clegg**  
 (Vanguard, \$14.95, 9781593155407)  
*"Young Iris Villiers has grown up in an isolated country house, best friends with her older brother, Harvey, and listening to ghostly tales told by the family's gardener. When tragedy strikes, the siblings' childhood game of Isis and Osiris takes on a deadly-serious new meaning, but things don't turn out quite as planned. The book is gorgeously illustrated with black-and-white drawings."*

—Anne Wilde, Next Chapter Bookshop, Mequon, WI



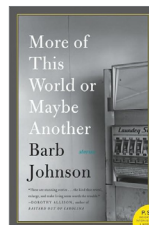
**The Letter from Death**  
**by Lillian Moats, David J. Moats (illus.)**  
 (Three Arts Press, \$17.95 paper; 9780966957631)  
*"In this philosophical brain-teaser, narrator Death explains to the human race why we shouldn't fear him. We should fear ourselves instead because we are, in many cases, the authors of our own death through war. A fast but thought-provoking read."*

—Darrick Coleman, Present Tense, Batavia, NY



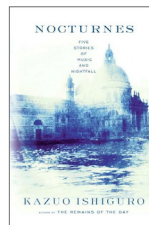
**Love and Summer**  
**A Novel, by William Trevor**  
 (Viking, \$25.95, 9780670021239)  
*"William Trevor's novel of forbidden, secret love in a small Irish town is sad, beautiful, deeply felt, and replete, as always, with gorgeous writing. I loved this story so much."*

—Maria Roden, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA



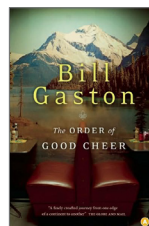
**More of This World or Maybe Another Stories, by Barb Johnson**  
 (Harper Perennial, \$13.99 paper; 9780061732270)  
*"Barb Johnson's More of This World or Maybe Another is fantastic. It's absolutely my current short story collection favorite."*

—Erik Brueggemann, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH



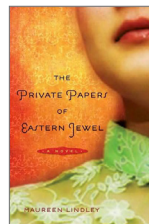
**Nocturnes**  
**Five Stories of Music and Nightfall, by Kazuo Ishiguro**  
 (Knopf, \$25, 9780307271020)  
*"Each of Kazuo Ishiguro's five short stories stands on its own, but they also read as an ensemble, and their slow and gentle power will carry readers away. The writing is full of heartbreak and loss, full of the sweet music of memory, and full of spare descriptions that paint a picture perfectly. Utterly sublime."*

—Joe Eichman, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO



**The Order of Good Cheer**  
**by Bill Gaston**  
 (House of Anansi Press, \$15.95 paper; 9780887848162)  
*"Bill Gaston perfectly parallels an account of Samuel de Champlain's explorations in Canada with a compelling, modern story. I loved this one."*

—Joe Foster, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO



**The Private Papers of Eastern Jewel**  
**A Novel, by Maureen Lindley**  
 (Bloomsbury, \$14 paper; 9781596917033)  
*"Based on a true story, this novel illustrates the life of Eastern Jewel, a Chinese princess, Japanese spy, and adventuress, as she struggles to maintain her independent ways and avoid a life as a subservient wife, the norm for women of wealth in the early 1900s in Asia. Wildly entertaining."*

—Karrie Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

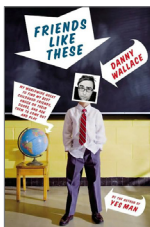
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# NOTABLES

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NONFICTION



**Friends Like These**  
**My Worldwide Quest to Find My Best Childhood Friends, Knock on Their Doors, and Ask Them to Come Out and Play,**  
 by Danny Wallace

(Little, Brown, \$24.99, 9780316042772)  
 “Danny Wallace both inspires and amuses in the chronicle of his journey into his own past. More moving and serious than his previous books, *Friends Like These* still manages to find humor and wonder in the human journey.”

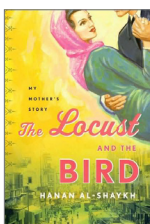
—William Graff, UCLA Bookzone, Los Angeles, CA



**The Lost Child**  
**A Mother's Story,** by Julie Myerson

(Bloomsbury, \$26, 9781596917002)  
 “Julie Myerson blends the story of her child’s drug addiction with her investigation into the life of a young woman who died almost 200 years ago. This portrait of the love between a caring mother and the injured child she can’t protect is indescribably beautiful and satisfying.”

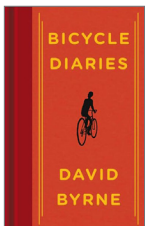
—Valerie Stadick, Main Street Books, Minot, ND



**The Locust and the Bird**  
**My Mother's Story,** by Hanan Al-Shaykh

(Pantheon, \$24.95, 9780307378200)  
 “Hanan Al-Shaykh’s account of her mother’s life growing up in Lebanon is heart-wrenchingly beautiful. What a strong, wonderful woman.”

—Suzanne Droppert, Liberty Bay Books, Poulsbo, WA

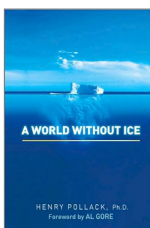


**Bicycle Diaries**  
 by David Byrne

(Viking, \$25.95, 9780670021147)  
 “Bicycle Diaries is a fascinating look at what we can learn about cities if we slow down, get out of the car, and look around. Byrne has written a meditation on the impact of suburbanization and car culture, and a celebration of what makes cities unique, even as they change and grow (or die). He is a wonderful travel companion, and his book not only

encourages people to hop on and take off to places unknown but demonstrates that many of those places are right around the corner from where we live.”

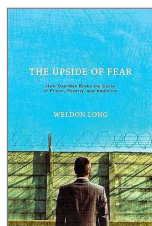
—Karen Maeda Allman, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



**A World Without Ice**  
 by Henry Pollack, Ph.D.

(Avery, \$26, 9781583333570)  
 “In his wonderful and important new book, Henry Pollack, in a clear, engaging narrative, describes the vital role of ice in our world. *A World Without Ice* could well be the *Silent Spring* of the 21st Century, marking a major turning point in the public discussion of global climate change.”

—Gary Colliver, Windows on the World-Books & Art, Mariposa, CA

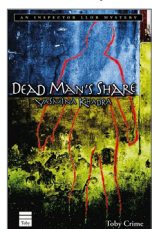


**The Upside of Fear**  
**How One Man Broke the Cycle of Prison, Poverty, and Addiction,** by Weldon Long

(Greenleaf Book Group Press, \$19.95, 9781608320004)  
 “In a gritty and compelling memoir, Weldon Long relates his journey from a life of violent crime, alcoholism, and substance abuse to a successful career as CEO of his own multimillion-dollar company. With the redemptive power of a positive attitude, an honest heart, a loving spirit, and the courage to change one’s life for the better, Long sets a powerful example.”

—Jean Petrovs, Books Galore, Watkinsville, GA

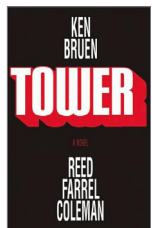
MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



**Dead Man's Share**  
**An Inspector Llob Mystery,** by Yasmina Khadra

(The Toby Press, \$14.95 paper, 9781592642694)  
 “Yasmina Khadra’s Algerian police superintendent, Brahim Llob, is faced with a murder that affects those close to him and threatens to involve him in his country’s violent past.”

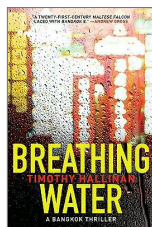
—David Cincotta, Back To Books, Hudson, WI



**Tower**  
**A Novel,** by Ken Bruen and Reed Farrel Coleman

(Busted Flush Press, \$15 paper, 9781935415077)  
 “I’ve long been a fan of Coleman’s Moe Prager series, and I have admired Bruen’s writing for the spare, almost poetic prose he creates. They have written a small, intimate book with a limited cast and a compact, explosive plot—and it is seamless. It is also gritty, with sharply drawn characters and an unstoppable pace. More, please.”

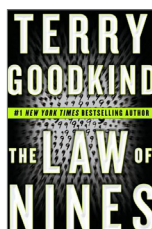
—Linda Brown, The Mystery Book Store, Los Angeles, CA



**Breathing Water**  
**A Bangkok Thriller,** by Timothy Hallinan

(Morrow, \$24.99, 9780061672231)  
 “Writer Poke Rafferty and his Thai family are caught between two sets of ruthless men. One group wants to stop him from writing a powerful man’s biography; the other group wants him to write it—their way. Hallinan’s deft plotting, human interest, humor, sense of social justice, and atmosphere are just as strong in *Breathing Water* as they were in his earlier Bangkok novels.”

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



**The Law of Nines**  
 by Terry Goodkind

(Putnam, \$27.95, 9780399156045)  
 “Terry Goodkind leaps into new territory in this high-octane thriller with just a touch of magic. Alex, an unassuming painter, finds himself in a race for his life with thugs from a parallel world. Is he really destined to save a world he never knew existed? I couldn’t put it down.”

—Lisa Wright, Oblong Books And Music, Millerton, NY

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