

FEBRUARY '10



The Postmistress

A Novel, by Sarah Blake

"This compelling story is the perfect answer to that request, 'I want a really good book I can get lost in!' This WWII story of three memorable women has a strong sense of place—from the shores of Cape Cod to war-torn London. The reader will relish every word and then want to pass this novel along to a friend."

—Elizabeth Merritt, Titcomb's Bookshop, East Sandwich, MA



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FEBRUARY '10



The Girl Who Fell From the Sky

A Novel, by Heidi W. Durrow

"The child of a black GI father and a Danish mother, Rachel never felt that she had to choose between her parents until a tragic event results in her living with her black grandmother. In this new setting, she discovers that she doesn't measure up to others' standards of 'blackness,' but she's not 'white' either. Durrow's deft portrait of Rachel's struggles are a resonant reminder of the stereotypes that are perpetuated, often despite the best intentions."

—Sanday Scott, The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT



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FEBRUARY '10



The Bricklayer

A Novel, by Noah Boyd

"Steve Vail, now a bricklayer, was once an FBI agent, until his attitude got him fired. But the FBI has come calling again because they need someone who can work outside the box, and get results. Noah Boyd has written a smart, sexy, thrill-ride of a read."

—Laura Lucy, White Birch Books, North Conway, NH



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FEBRUARY '10



Little Bee

A Novel, by Chris Cleave

"This stunning and compassionate novel brings faraway places near and makes incredible experiences real. As the story moves from London to Nigeria, you'll grip the book tightly in your hands and hold its characters close to your heart: a young girl; a tormented, idealistic journalist; and a fearless mother whose fierce love is a wonder."

—Mark David Bradshaw, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



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Shadow Tag

A Novel, by Louise Erdrich

"Knowing her unstable husband has been reading her diary, a desperate woman uses it to manipulate him, creating a false tale, obscuring her true motives, and pushing him closer to the edge. Shadow Tag is Erdrich's most compelling novel in years, a gripping portrait of a marriage stumbling towards its inevitable, yet shocking dissolution."

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



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Saving CeeCee Honeycutt

A Novel, by Beth Hoffman

"Saving CeeCee Honeycutt is a story quilted with the patterns of vibrant characters whose lives become intricately connected to the emotional healing of 12-year-old CeeCee. Beth Hoffman's first novel is a tribute to the strength of women who have survived tragedy and loss to become beacons for others who suffer from emotional scars."

—Nancy Baker, The Blue Marble, Fort Thomas, KY



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Ordinary Thunderstorms

A Novel, by William Boyd

"When Adam Kindred returns to London after years in the U.S. to interview for a research position at Imperial College, a chance encounter at a restaurant sets off his dizzying descent from academic to vagabond murder suspect in a matter of days. Sleeping rough and trolling the underworld of London just to survive, Adam attempts to prove his innocence and escape assassination by a crazed hired killer. William Boyd is a great storyteller."

—Darwin Ellis, Books on the Common, Ridgefield, CT



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A Common Pornography

A Memoir, by Kevin Sampsell

"A Common Pornography is a memoir written in tiny snapshots of story and voice that come together to pay lovely tribute to the ordinary, as well as squirmy homage to the dysfunctional in life. Sampsell's prose is spare, particular, and so engaging that you'll spend all night telling yourself, Oh, just one more vignette and I'll get to bed."

—Gigi Little, Powell's City of Books, Portland, OR



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FEBRUARY '10



The Kingdom of Ohio

A Novel, by Matthew Flaming

"Peter Force is in New York City in the early 1900s working underground to dig subway tunnels. When he meets a beautiful woman with a fantastic story—and through her meets J.P. Morgan, Thomas Edison, and Nikola Tesla—he begins a quest to discover if travel to another world is possible. Get ready to be transported through time yourself as you read this book."

—Beth Carpenter, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC



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FEBRUARY '10



Secrets of Eden

A Novel, by Chris Bohjalian

"On the same day as her baptism by the Rev. Stephen Drew, Alice Hayward is murdered by her alcoholic husband, who then kills himself. The true facts of this story are subtly and gradually revealed from the perspective of four characters, including the district attorney who suspects murder. The beauty of this novel comes through in the way the true facts are revealed and in Bohjalian's understanding of the flaws in the human condition. This will be a fantastic book group read."

—Carol Katsoulis, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL



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FEBRUARY '10



The Book of Fires

A Novel, by Jane Borodale

"Unwed and pregnant in 1752, but possessing a fertile imagination and a bit of luck, Agnes Trussel flees from Sussex to London, where she finds work as an assistant to a fireworks maker. In this unusual trade, she blossoms, becoming adept and indispensable to her master. The Book of Fires is a vividly told story that animates the 18th century."

—Jennie Turner-Collins, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cincinnati, OH



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FEBRUARY '10



Settled in the Wild

Notes From the Edge of Town, by Susan Hand Shetterly

"Settled in the Wild is a delightful book about living in the woods, enjoying what's outside your window, and finding pleasure in taking the time to notice the little things right in front of us. Shetterly provides a unique window into a world of wonder."

—Sue Richardson, Maine Coast Book Shop, Inc., Damariscotta, ME



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FEBRUARY '10



I Want to Be Left Behind

Finding Rapture Here on Earth, by Brenda Peterson

"Brenda Peterson's latest book is the story of her unique upbringing, both in nature (her father was with the Forest Service) and in the evangelistic Southern Baptist religion. At once precocious and thoughtful, she weaves her way through the contradictions of growing up to find her own spiritual place in the world. 'Glowing' would not be too strong of an adjective for this book!"

—Maurine Barnett, Darvill's Bookstore,
Eastsound, WA



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FEBRUARY '10



Winter Garden

A Novel, by Kristin Hannah

"Kristin Hannah has created her best novel to date, a story of a complex bond between a mother and her daughters. Hannah's characters will capture your heart and enter your soul. Amazing!"

—Summer Moser, Summer's Stories,
Kendallville, IN



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FEBRUARY '10



Best European Fiction 2010

by Aleksandar Hemon (ed.)

"Dalkey Archive, one of the top publishers of books in translation, has released a new collection with the best short stories from 30 countries throughout Europe. This is one of the best general collections of short stories out there right now."

—Nick Buzanski, Green Apple Books,
San Francisco, CA



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FEBRUARY '10



The Room and the Chair

A Novel, by Lorraine Adams

"Using the disparate elements of the newsroom of a moribund newspaper, a test pilot involved in a mysterious crash, and an anonymous intelligence agent, Lorraine Adams crafts a riveting story of modern society. As the various threads coalesce, a morally bankrupt and totally dystopian world is revealed. This is fiction serving the purpose of reflecting stark reality."

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



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FEBRUARY '10



City of Dragons

A San Francisco Mystery, by Kelli Stanley

"Kelli Stanley makes 1940s San Francisco shine in the first book of her new series, City of Dragons. Miranda Corbie is a noir detective complete with feminine wits and ingenuity. Kinsey, VI, and Aimee Leduc should watch out. There's a new girl in town!"

—Linda Dewberry, Whodunit? Books, Olympia, WA



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FEBRUARY '10



Apparition & Late Fictions

A Novella and Stories, by Thomas Lynch

"In Apparition & Late Fictions Thomas Lynch has created a collection of beautifully written and quirky stories about the allure, allusiveness, and redemptive powers of love and the variety and finality of death. These evocative tales, set mostly in the Midwest, are filled with memorable characters who will keep anyone who loves good writing turning the pages."

—Nancy Fontaine, The Yankee Bookshop, Woodstock, VT



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FEBRUARY '10



Beneath the Lion's Gaze

A Novel, by Maaza Mengiste

"Beneath the Lion's Gaze is a riveting novel focused on the primacy of family relationships set against the violent backdrop of Ethiopia's 1974 revolution. Hailu, a prominent doctor, and his two grown sons experience their country's tragedy and their own family's grief through very different prisms of understanding, yet they remain connected, even through the gruesome terror overtaking their city. Very hard to put down!"

—Caitlin Doggart, Where the Sidewalk Ends, Chatham, MA



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Union Atlantic

A Novel, by Adam Haslett

"Adam Haslett's debut novel is the story of four diverse characters—a banker, a retired teacher and her brother, and a high school student—who are thrown together in unexpected ways. Through this powerful and prescient novel, Haslett is asking what it means to be American today."

—Susan Fox, Red Fox Books, Glens Falls, NY



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STAFF PICK!

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