

FEBRUARY '10



NOTABLES

THE FIFTH SERVANT

A Novel, by Kenneth Wishnia

"The bloody body of a young girl is found in the shop of a Jewish butcher in medieval Prague. A Talmudic scholar works against a deadline to solve the murder and save his community from annihilation. The Fifth Servant is dense, full of philosophy, history, and the pulse of a community under siege."

—Becky Milner, **Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA**



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NOTABLES

I LOVE YOU, I HATE YOU, I'M HUNGRY

A Collection of Cartoons, by Bruce Eric Kaplan

"Famed New Yorker cartoonist Bruce Eric Kaplan has on display here his unique, droll, and often brilliant, observations on modern life. The book is perfect when you let yourself sample a half dozen at a time, and I found I couldn't go more than a few pages without dog-earring a favorite to return to. Like the best of cartoons, some are so true they hurt."

—Leslie Reiner, **Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL**



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THE INFORMATION OFFICER

A Novel, by Mark Mills

"Pinched between Nazis in Italy and in North Africa, Malta -- a speck of a British Colony -- is taking a nightly pounding. The function of the 'information' officer is to keep up the morale of the troops and the local populace. But how can he when there is a murderer on the loose who might also be a spy? If that not enough, he is in love with two married women, one Maltese and one British--a delicate balancing act in such a hermetic environment."

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



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RANSOM

A Novel, by David Malouf

"David Malouf has written a powerful and elegant retelling of one of the more enduring episodes of Homer's Iliad, when Priam begs Achilles to return the body of his son Hector for a ransom. Precise in detail yet lyrical in its imaginative rendering, this adaptation offers a lasting and tormenting revelation into the soul of the great mythical warriors."

—Marie du Vaure, **Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA**



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ROSES

A Novel, by Leila Meacham

"This family saga is as big as the state of Texas, where it takes place. Three generations struggle to hold onto the family land, and their actions cause heartache, deceit, and, finally, forgiveness."

—Nancy Sullivan, **Oblong Books & Music, Rhinebeck, NY**



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VERACITY

A Novel, by Laura Bynum

"Laura Bynum tells the story of a culture where citizens are prevented from speaking forbidden words by a device forcibly implanted in their necks by an authoritarian government that arose in the wake of a horrible pandemic. A resistance movement builds, and their greatest weapon is the freedom to speak. Veracity is a perfect blend of literary and science fiction -- its suspense rocketing the story along to a satisfying conclusion."

—Beth Simpson, **Cornerstone Books, Salem, MA**



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CITIZENS OF LONDON

The Americans Who Stood With Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour, by Lynne Olson

"Focusing on the role of the three Americans who played key roles in ensuring the effective cooperation between Britain and the U.S. in WWII -- Averell Harriman, Edward R. Murrow, and U.S. ambassador Gilbert Winant -- Lynne Olson has written a sterling history of a little-known aspect of the war. Citizens of London makes gripping reading, detailing the obstacles that could easily have prevented the alliance ever coming together and drawing on an impressive array of diaries, interviews, and personal letters to reveal the extent of the efforts of their political rivals to overcome them."

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



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GET ME OUT

A History of Childbirth From the Garden of Eden to the Sperm Bank, by Randi Hutter Epstein

"Randi Hutter Epstein moves through history, grabbing the interesting bits of information given to pregnant ladies of the past, and those of today, delivering a robust history of childbirth."

—Sarah Pruchnicki, **Normandale Community College Bookstore, Bloomington, MN**



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THE HARVARD PSYCHEDELIC CLUB

How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America, by Don Lattin

"The Harvard Psychedelic Club brought back lots of memories -- some fond, some not -- of the '60s, when Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, and Huston Smith were among the people who dominated the popular press. Don Lattin is correct in writing that it took society about 30 years to catch up with 'the lads.' On the other hand, peace and love seem to be just about as far away as ever. A gem of a little book."

--Gearld A. DeLong, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Cleveland, OH



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I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR BAND

What I Learned from Indie Rockers, Trust Funders, Pornographers, Felons, Self-Loathing Hipsters, and Other Guys I've Dated, by Julie Klausner

"Julie Klausner's memoir airs the sordid laundry of her past loves and lusts with unabashed honesty, tragicomic detail, and delightfully inventive vulgarities. This book is that throw your head back and laugh maniacally kind of funny, and it will leave you full of perspective, compassion, and charmed disgust."

--Laura 'Wally' Johnston, The Rediscovered Bookshop, Boise, ID



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JUST KIDS

by Patti Smith

"Just Kids is more than a vividly written, detail-rich memoir of Patti Smith's relationship with the young Robert Mapplethorpe. (Although that alone would be plenty to make this a delightful read.) It's also a snapshot of a bygone era in the New York City art and music scene. Highly recommended!"

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



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MARRIAGE AND OTHER ACTS OF CHARITY

A Memoir, by Kate Braestrup

"Maine minister Kate Braestrup offers a relaxed, realistic, and quietly awed reflection on the institution of matrimony. Widowed and, then, remarried while performing weddings for others, she is kind, funny, and thoughtful, and her thorough explorations allow room for mystery and grace."

--Mark David Bradshaw, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



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STONES INTO SCHOOLS

Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, by Greg Mortenson
“In Stones Into Schools Greg Mortenson brings us up to date on the progress of the Central Asia Institute’s efforts to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan (now at more than 130 schools). While reading this book produces a sense of the over-whelming obstacles and hardship faced by people in this region of the world, it also provides some wonder and hope about how much can be accomplished by so few people, with so little money.”

—Brad Smith, Paulina Springs Books, Sisters, OR

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TO HELL ON A FAST HORSE

Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and the Epic Chase to Justice in the Old West, by Mark Lee Gardner

“If you want to take a fantastic trip back to the chaotic Wild West, Mark Gardner’s historical narrative delivers in spades. This rollicking book presents the tribulations of Sheriff Pat Garrett and his quest to capture the notorious Billy the Kid, and Gardner’s superb writing and references makes this tale truly come alive.”

—Jerry Fieldsted, Windows on the World -- Books & Art, Mariposa, CA

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SKIN

A Novel, by Mo Hayder

“In Mo Hayder’s latest, DI Jack Caffery and Flea Marley once again work together (and apart), this time to solve a mystery with enigmatic African ritualistic involvement. Hayder’s smart, damaged characters are nuanced and complex, and this uncanny, eerie, and unforgettable thriller will stay with you.”

—Tova Beiser, Brown University Bookstore, Providence, RI

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DEEPER THAN THE DEAD

by Tami Hoag

“This is a wonderfully written thriller about a small town that discovers they have a serial killer among them. Tami Hoag really keeps you guessing with the amazing detail she gives you about her characters. I could not put this down!”

—Mel Goben, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

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IMPACT

by Douglas Preston

"Impact is impossible to put down, filled to the brim with action, interesting characters, excitement, and adventure! Douglas Preston keeps the reader on edge as the story reaches the climax."

—Lee Rolofson, *Summer's Stories*, Kendallville, IN



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