



THE OCTAVIAN

Octavia Books' bi-monthly newsletter for booklovers

February/March 2011



OCTAVIA BOOKS

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Located in uptown New Orleans
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**INDIE
BOUND**
Celebrating the
spirit of inde-
pendents and
the vitality of
our community.

Let your imagination run wild.

Past, Present & Future

Red Garden

From Alice Hoffman, bestselling author of *The Third Angel* and *The Story Sisters*, comes *The Red Garden* (\$25, Crown, 978-0-307-39387-6), an unforgettable glimpse into small-town America. In 14 separate stories, Hoffman traces the life of the town of Blackwell, Mass., from its founding in 1750 to the present as the founders' descendants connect to the land and each other. Passion, dark secrets, loyalty, and redemption define the characters whose lives are intertwined by fate and by their own actions.



West of Here

Set in the fictional town of Port Bonita, on Washington State's rugged Pacific coast, *West of Here* (\$24.95, Algonquin, 978-1-565-12952-8) speaks to the effects of time, on how something said or done in one generation keeps echoing through all the years that follow, and how mistakes keep happening and people keep on trying to be strong and brave and, most important, just and right. Author Jonathan Evison weaves together two narratives: the first is focused on the town's founders circa 1890 and the other shows the lives of their descendants in 2006. The novel develops as a kind of conversation between two epochs, one rushing blindly toward the future and the other struggling to undo the damage of the past. Avail. 2/15

Roses

Spanning the 20th century, the story of *Roses* (\$13.99, Grand Central, 978-0-446-54999-8) takes place in a small East Texas town against the backdrop of the powerful timber and cotton industries, industries controlled by the scions of the town's founding families. Cotton tycoon Mary Toliver and timber magnate Percy Warwick should have married but

unwisely did not, and now must deal with the deceit, secrets, and tragedies of their choice and the loss of what might have been – not just for themselves but for their children, and children's children. With an expert storyteller's voice, author Leila Meacham covers a hundred years, three generations of Texans

and the explosive combination of passion for work and longing for love.

The Book of Tomorrow

Born into the lap of luxury and comfortable in the here and now, spoiled Tamara Goodwin has never had to look to the future — until her bankrupt father's abrupt suicide forces her and her mother to move in with a peculiar aunt and uncle in a tiny countryside village. Tamara is lonely and bored, until she discovers a large leather-bound book with a gold clasp and padlock at the local lending library. Finding no author name or title, she pries open the lock and finds a diary – in her own handwriting – describing events a day before they happen. In bestselling author Cecilia Ahern's *The Book of Tomorrow* (\$21.99, Harper, 978-0-061-70630-1), Tamara soon learns that some pages are better left unturned and that, try as she may, she mustn't interfere with fate.

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OCTAVIA BOOKS



DOING OUR PART TO KEEP AMERICA INTERESTING

Dear Local Booklover,

INDIE BOUND



Many of us have had the experience of finding a book at some point in our lives that transformed us in a powerful way. It may have been when we were six or sixty, but there was an idea or a story that touched us deeply and affected how we live our lives or see the world.

In a recent issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*, the actress Emma Thompson said, “I think books are like people, in the sense that they’ll

turn up in your life when you most need them.” She said that after her father died, the book that helped save her life was Gabriel García Márquez’s novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

To some, the experience of finding the right book at exactly the right time in your life is magical. Others regard it as coincidental or serendipitous. Regardless, the experience enhances our life, allows us to feel a part of humanity, and opens us up to levels of greater understanding.

You just never know which book will surface to create that memorable moment. That’s why books can be meaningful and lasting gifts to ourselves and to others. It’s pretty special to be the one to have given a child a book that turned out to be his favorite — or picked up a book for a friend going through difficult times that lifted her spirits. It’s also a wonderful feeling to discover a book that ends up being one of your most favorite of all times — one that you immediately want to share with others (as long as you’re sure to get it back).

We have personally selected all of the books you find on our shelves and displays throughout the store. Since there are thousands of books published each month, we spend hours and hours reviewing catalogs, talking with sales representatives and other indie booksellers across the country, and scouting out the most interesting new works and new voices. Time is precious for all of us, so when it comes to choosing among the books that are unique, well-written, clever, or special in some way — and worthy of your time — there’s no need for magic or serendipity ... all you have to do is ask!

What we love most about being an independent bookseller is helping you make connections to books that will be enjoyable, enriching, and maybe even life-changing. Thank you for choosing to shop locally and for looking to us for your next great read.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Judith A. Rafetto Thomas P. Soumbrou

Octavia Books Sponsors

“The Reading Life”

on WWNO 89.9 FM

Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7 pm



CTAVIA
BOOKS

LOCAL FLAVORS



Never Clean Your House During Hurricane Season

Before Katrina, Modine Gunch was Everywoman who fought with pantyhose until they went out of style, shoved dirty dishes into the oven when her mother-in-law was coming up the walk, shudderingly oversaw school science projects involving roaches, and insisted that a dish that didn’t survive the dishwasher didn’t deserve to live. Her family’s adventures have tickled the funnybones of *New Orleans Magazine* readers for 25 years and have appeared in two books: *Never Heave your Bosom in a Front-Hook Bra and Never Sleep With a Fat Man in July*. Her latest, *Never Clean Your House During Hurricane Season* (\$15, Signature Design, 978-0-9723-9683-7), includes more selections from her humorous columns.



How to Rebuild a City

With contributions and collaboration from over 100 residents, writers, photographers, artists, and community organizations from New Orleans (and beyond) who kick-started the recovery process, *How to Rebuild a City: Field Guide from a Work in Progress* (\$20, Press Street, 978-0-9777-6815-8) presents the post-disaster landscape from the perspectives of those who are navigating their way through it. Beautifully designed, sometimes fun, always informative, it is a reflection of the many ways that New Orleanians have realized our way towards recovery, — actively and creatively engaging with our communities. Filled with advice, know-how and citizens sharing their stories of how they put the pieces back together, *How to Rebuild a City* celebrates the collective spirit of New Orleans as the city moves beyond crisis and into a brighter, safer and stronger future.



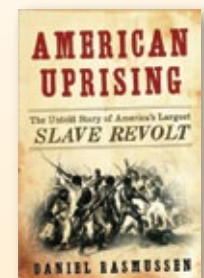
New Orleans Streets

Stroll the neighborhoods of New Orleans guided by an expert’s perspective on the city’s architectural diversity and details, one block at a time in *New Orleans Streets: A Walker’s Guide to Neighborhood Architecture* (\$14.95, Pelican, 978-1-5898-0874-4). New Orleans Times-Picayune columnist Stephanie Bruno presents the best of her “StreetWalker” column. From the Garden District to Mid-City, each block featured in the book includes photographs of the homes, a description of the buildings, and a map for easy access.



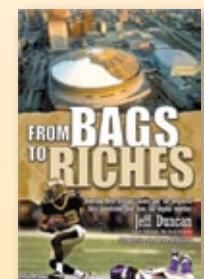
Furnishing Louisiana

Featuring more than 1,200 full-color illustrations, *Furnishing Louisiana: Creole and Acadian Furniture, 1735-1835* (\$95, The Historic New Orleans Collection, 978-0-917-86056-0) presents a comprehensive catalogue of furniture forms produced in the upper and lower Mississippi River valley — along with contextual essays on the cabinetmakers who created early Louisiana furniture; the hardware and the woods, native and exotic, employed in this craft; the art of inlay as it developed locally; the import trade at the Port of New Orleans; and the interior of the early Louisiana home. *Furnishing Louisiana* stands as tribute to the region’s cultural diversity and remarkable artistry.



American Uprising

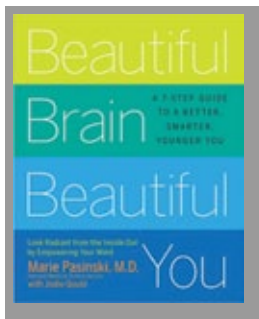
In January 1811, five hundred slaves, dressed in military uniforms and armed with guns, cane knives, and axes, rose up from the plantations around New Orleans and set out to conquer the city. Ethnically diverse, politically astute, and highly organized, this self-made army challenged not only the economic system of plantation agriculture but also American expansion. Daniel Rasmussen’s *American Uprising: The Untold Story of America’s Largest Slave Revolt* (\$26.99, Harper, 978-0-0619-9521-7) offers a window into the young, expansionist country, illuminating the early history of New Orleans and providing new insight into the path to the Civil War and the slave revolutionaries who fought and died for justice and the hope of freedom.



From Bags to Riches

The inspiring story of the New Orleans Saints’ 2009-2010 football season that culminated with the winning of the Super Bowl, *From Bags to Riches: How the New Orleans Saints and the People of Their Hometown Rose from the Depths Together* (\$24.95, Acadian House, 978-0-9254-1768-8) explains how the struggling NFL team and the storm-weary people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast lifted one another’s spirits — and fortunes — in the post-Hurricane Katrina years, 2006 - 2010. The narrative is a study in contrasting moods, ranging from the depression and despair that come with being victims of the worst natural disaster in U.S. history, to the euphoria that accompanies the winning of the Super Bowl after 43 years of mostly losing seasons.

Be Well

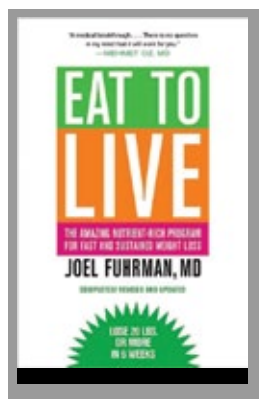
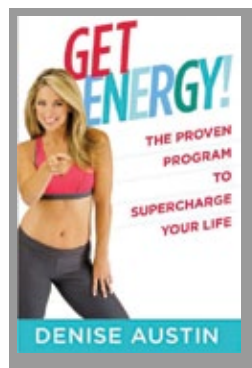


Beautiful Brain, Beautiful You

If you feel the need to look better and feel better — without plastic surgery or expensive cosmetics — you'll appreciate Harvard neurologist Dr. Marie Pasinski's insights on how to feel radiant from the inside out in *Beautiful Brain, Beautiful You* (\$15.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-34148-0). Laughter, exercise, restorative sleep, and a brain-boosting diet will not only improve your cognitive performance, but give you a renewed sense of vitality.

Get Energy!

With busy schedules, demanding careers and so little time, many of us battle just to stay awake. But energy is something that we can control, even when time is short. Now 50 years young, fitness guru Denise Austin shows us some simple ways to increase energy levels throughout the day — and sleep better at night — in *Get Energy!: Empower Your Body, Love Your Life* (\$16.99, Center Street, 978-1-599-95247-5). Here's to a more energetic, restful, and sharper you!

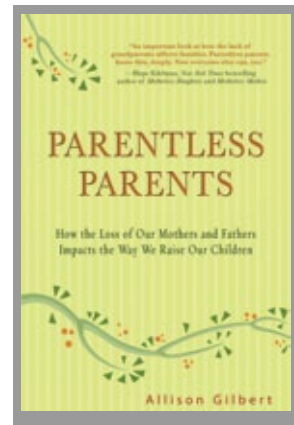
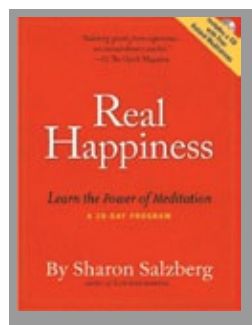


Eat to Live

If you or someone you love need to lose weight and regain health, turn to *Eat to Live* (\$15.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-12091-3) by family physician Dr. Joel Fuhrman. Hailed as a “medical breakthrough” by Dr. Mehmet Oz, *Eat to Live* offers a highly effective, scientifically proven way to lose weight quickly. You'll also find recipes, meal ideas, and much more. This easy-to-follow, nutritionally sound diet can help anyone shed pounds quickly — and keep them off.

Real Happiness

To sharpen your focus, lower blood pressure, relieve chronic pain, or reduce stress, look to *Real Happiness: The Power of Meditation* (\$14.95, Workman, 978-0-761-15925-4). Sharon Salzberg, one of the world's foremost meditation teachers, suggests a 28-day program of daily exercise — from breathing and posture to dealing with distractions and coping with pain — to gain inner peace and balance, opening our minds to clarity and creativity. Get on your way to feeling better and enjoying each day.

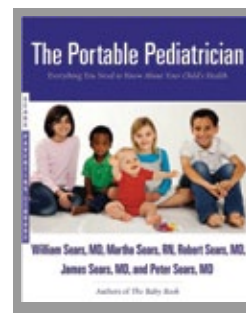
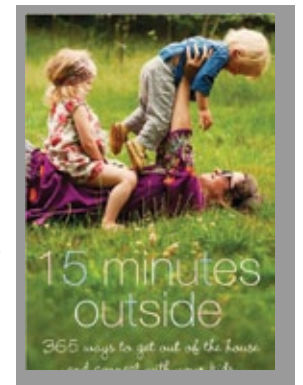


Parentless Parents

Now that more and more women are giving birth later in life, their children have fewer years to spend with their grandparents. In *Parentless Parents* (\$23.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-32351-6), Allison Gilbert reveals how the absence of grandparents impacts the way mothers and fathers raise their children, how they find the support and understanding they need, and ways they have learned to keep the memory of their own parents alive for their children. Avail. 2/15

15 Minutes Outside

Most of us grew up playing outdoors, but times have changed and it's harder than ever to get kids unplugged and outside. In *15 Minutes Outside: 365 Ways to Get Out of the House and Connect with Your Kids* (\$14.99, Sourcebooks, 978-1-402-25436-9), Rebecca Cohen inspires us with easy, affordable, and fun things to do outside that require little planning, no expertise, and few resources. Breathe, enjoy nature, and just have fun! Avail. 3/1



The Portable Pediatrician

Imagine that you're up at three in the morning with a sick child. Wouldn't it be nice to have expert advice readily at hand to help you through the night? Encyclopedic in scope, *The Portable Pediatrician: Everything You Need to Know about Your Child's Health* (\$21.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-01748-0) puts timely and practical information at your fingertips: when to call the doctor, what reassuring signs can help you know your child is okay, how to treat your child at home, and much more. A must-have for every child's primary care-giver. Avail. 2/23

“There is more treasure in books than all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island.”

— Walt Disney

one more story!



It's Time to Sleep, My Love

As comforting as a soft blanket and warm as a goodnight hug, Eric Metaxas's lullaby is lovingly brought to life by bestselling artist Nancy Tillman (*On the Night You Were Born*), whose illustrations celebrate the wonders of the natural world and the bonds of family. A new board book, *It's Time to Sleep, My Love* (\$7.99, Feiwel & Friends, 978-0-312-67336-9), is a perfect addition to your little one's library. Ages 2-6



Forsythia & Me

Chester has always been amazed by his best friend, Forsythia. She can do the most incredible things, like tame ferocious animals at the zoo and play the piano while standing on her head. But one day when Forsythia gets sick, Chester discovers all the amazing things he can do. *Forsythia & Me* (\$16.99, FSG, 978-0-374-32438-4) by Vincent X. Kirsch is a charming story with whimsical illustrations that will warm the heart of anyone who has ever admired a friend.

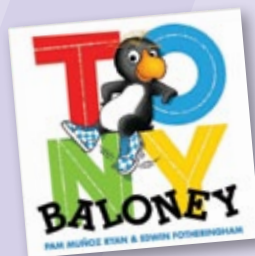
Fortune cookies

A box arrives for Fortune from her Uncle Albert with seven fortune cookies. Best of all, each fortune tells of the week's events, and each fortune comes true — but not in ways that Fortune expects. Pull the tab to read the fortunes in Albert Bitterman's *Fortune Cookies* (\$14.99, Beach Lane Books, 978-1-416-96814-6), featuring illustrations by Caldecott Medalist Chris Raschka. Ages 2-6



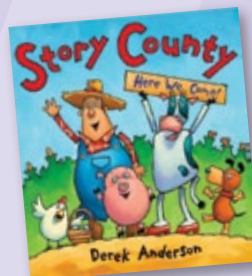
Harry & Hopper

Harry loves his dog, Hopper. But when Hopper dies, Harry has a difficult time. Margaret Wild and illustrator Freya Blackwood deliver a gentle and comforting story in *Harry & Hopper* (\$16.99, Feiwel & Friends, 978-0-312-64261-7), a valuable tale about losing a beloved pet — and the process of healing. A beautiful reminder that those we love never really disappear. Ages 4-8



Tony Baloney

Bestselling author Pam Munoz Ryan and illustrator Edwin Fotheringham show off their funny sides by introducing the mischievous but lovable Tony Baloney, a macaroni penguin caught between his Bossy Big Sister and the Bothersome Babies Baloney. He does not love trouble . . . but trouble loves him. Sometimes, when he is tired and exasperated, Tony and his best stuffed pal, Dandelion, behave badly. Then Tony must say he is sorry, which is not always easy for him. Anyone with siblings — especially middle children — will adore the antics of *Tony Baloney* (\$16.99, Scholastic, 978-0-545-23135-0). Ages 3-6



Story county

Welcome to Story County, an adorable new farm series with an utterly lovable cast, from *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Derek Anderson. More than anything, Farmer wants a farm. His friends Dog, Pig, Chicken, and Miss Cow are eager to help. Together they build the barn, spread the fields, plant the crops and more, until the farm is complete. Or is it? Silliness abounds in *Story County* (\$16.99, Orchard Books, 978-0-545-16844-1), a charming tale of friendship and teamwork.



Silverlicious

When Pinkalicious loses her sweet tooth, she's convinced the Tooth Fairy is the only one who can help. Even though Cupid, the Easter Bunny, and elf #351 all try, it's not until the Tooth Fairy works some magic that Pinkalicious discovers that sweetness really comes from the inside. *Silverlicious* (\$17.99, HarperCollins, 978-0-061-78123-0) and the cupcake-loving Pinkalicious were inspired by Victoria Kann's own daughters.



You Can Be a Friend!

Tony Dungy, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life*, led the Indianapolis Colts to Super Bowl victory in 2007, the first such win for an African American head coach. He and his wife Lauren offer an inspirational story for boys and girls about building friendships and being family in *You Can Be a Friend* (\$16.99, Little Simon, 978-1-416-99771-9). Ages 4-8



Amazing Tales



The Secret River

The Yearling, the Pulitzer Prize winner by literary icon Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, is brilliantly reimagined by the illustrating duo of Diane and Dillon Leo in *The Secret River* (\$19.99, Atheneum, 978-1-416-91179-1). Set in an era where there's never enough, the story is also about living in a time that is overflowing with riches — with stunning language, mystical happenings, and awesome artwork. A wonderful addition to a child's library. Ages 4-8



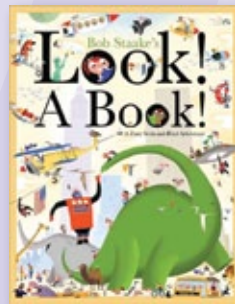
New Series!

Death Cloud

In the summer of 1868, Sherlock Holmes is a fourteen-year-old on break from boarding school. He is staying with eccentric strangers — his uncle and aunt—when two local people die from symptoms that resemble the plague. Holmes begins to investigate what really killed them, helped by his new tutor, an American named Amyus Crowe. So begins *Death Cloud* (\$16.99, FSG, 978-0-374-38767-9), the first novel in the Young Sherlock Holmes series by Andrew Lane, and Sherlock's true education in detection. Ages 12+

Look! A Book!

We bet you won't be able to open the pages of *Look! A Book!* (16.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-11862-0) without bursting into a big grin. Award-winning artist Bob Staake has packed dozens of small objects into each themed spread so we can go on a wild and crazy seek-and-find adventure. Dive into an underwater world, dare to enter a haunted house, and explore a tree-top town. From the first die-cut page, you'll be hooked! This one is fun for kids of all ages.



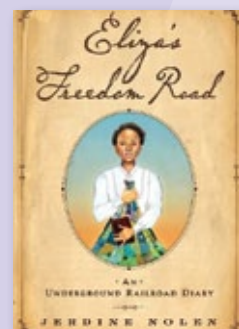
Season of Secrets

Molly and Hannah have just lost their mother, and while Dad “figures things out,” they're sent to stay with their grandparents in a quiet country town. Everything starts to change when Molly comes to the rescue of an injured man — a man with something magical about him. *Season of Secrets* (\$16.99, Arthur A. Levine, 978-0-545-21825-2) by Sally Nicholls is a touching story of loss, change, and the challenge to find your way. Ages 8-12



Giant Steps to Change the World

Academy Award nominated director Spike Lee, and his talented wife Tonya Lewis Lee, offer up *Giant Steps to Change the World* (\$16.99, S&S, 978-0-6898-6815-3), an inspirational story about steps you can take to set things right. Using examples of people throughout history who have taken “giant steps,” this book urges kids to follow in their footsteps, and know that even the smallest step can make a difference. Ages 6-10



Eliza's Freedom Road

Sit down and listen to Eliza, a twelve-year-old slave girl, tell you about her journey to freedom. *Eliza's Freedom Road: An Underground Railroad Diary* (\$14.99, S&S, 978-1-416-95814-7), a page-turner by award-winning author Jerdine Nolen, brings American history to life. You'll read about the determination, will, and ultimate triumph of the human spirit in this captivating story. Ages 8-12

The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable

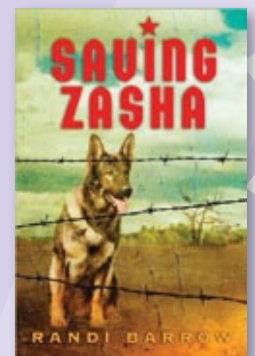
In this first book in Dan Gutman's new *Genius Files* series, you'll travel across the country with twin twelve-year-olds to see how things unfold when they learn that the government has a secret plot to recruit YAGS (Young American Geniuses) to solve the world's most difficult problems — and they're on the list. *The Genius Files: Mission Unstoppable* (\$16.99, HarperCollins, 978-0-061-82764-8) is filled with action and suspense. Ages 8-12



New Series!

Saving Zasha

World War II has just ended when thirteen-year-old Mikhail finds a dying man and his German shepherd, Zasha, in the woods. It's dangerous — some say traitorous — to own such a dog after Germany attacked Russia, so Mikhail must keep Zasha a secret to keep her alive. Mikhail's inspiring journey to save his best friend forces him to face some of life's hardest lessons about war, hate, forgiveness, hope, and love in Randi Barrow's *Saving Zasha* (\$16.99, Scholastic, 978-0-545-20632-7). Ages 8-12

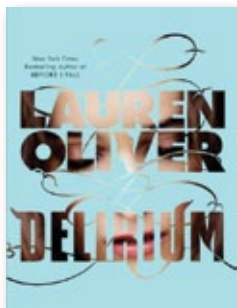


Finding Your Voice, Finding Your Way



Bitter Melon

Frances is a Chinese-American student who has always had it drilled into her to be obedient to her mother and to be a straight-A student so that she can go to medical school. It has never even occurred to Frances to question her own feelings and desires until she accidentally winds up in speech class and finds herself with a hidden talent. Does she dare to challenge the mother who has sacrificed everything for her? Cara Chow's *Bitter Melon* (\$16.99, Egmont USA, 978-1-606-84126-6) is an engaging story about the true pressures of growing up and finding your voice. Ages 14+



Delirium

Lauren Oliver follows up her bestselling *Before I Fall* with *Delirium* (\$17.99, HarperCollins, 978-0-061-72682-8), a powerful novel set in a world where love is considered a disease and is forbidden. Seventeen-year-old Lena has been told that in the old days, love drove people to madness. She is just 95 days away from the operation to help her avoid the disease — when she meets Alex. Ages 14+



Camo Girl

Sixth-graders Zachary and Ella are longtime friends, outsiders who have bonded over the loss of their fathers. On their own, they refer to themselves as Sir Zachariah and Lady Eleanor, embracing the exclusivity of royalty and chivalry to protect themselves from the bullies at their all-white school. *Camo Girl* (\$15.99, Aladdin, 978-1-416-97804-6) by Kekla Magoon is a poetic story of what it takes to support someone else and the friendships that grow out of — and in spite of — race. Ages 14+

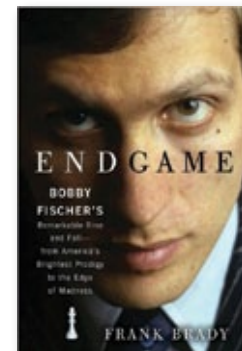
Taking Off

Truly inspired, Annie is determined to make it to Florida to see the Challenger launch, a trip that will forever change how she thinks about herself and her secret desire for her own future. Although she is devastated when tragedy strikes, Annie honors Christa McAuliffe by following her own dream. Tapping her experience as a NASA engineer, Jenny Moss captures the inspiration of this historic event in *Taking Off* (\$16.99, Walker & Company, 978-0-802-72193-8). Ages 14+



Endgame

Acclaimed biographer Frank Brady chronicles the fascinating rise and fall of chess genius Bobby Fischer. Drawing from family archives, recently released FBI files, and Bobby's own emails, Brady follows Fischer's entire life — an odyssey that took the Brooklyn-raised chess champion from an impoverished childhood to the covers of magazines as “the most famous man in the world” to a notorious recluse. Follow his path from America's brightest prodigy to the edge of madness in *Endgame* (\$25.99, Crown, 978-0-307-46390-6).



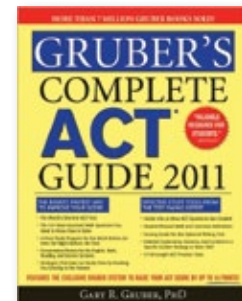
Stuntman

Hal Needham was Hollywood's highest paid stuntman. He wrecked hundreds of cars, fell from tall buildings, got blown up, was dragged by horses and worse. Outside the movie business, he broke the sound barrier in the Budweiser Rocket Car, rescued the cast and crew from a Russian invasion in Czechoslovakia, and even directed action/comedy movies like “Smokey and the Bandit”. You can read the amazing stories of Needham's adventurous life on and off the set in *Stuntman* (\$25.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-07899-3).

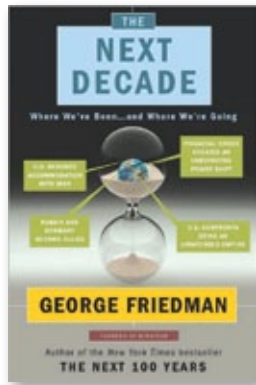


Gruber's Complete ACT Guide 2011

For over 30 years, Dr. Gary Gruber has been the leading authority on testing and test preparation. His Gruber Method has helped thousands of students dramatically boost their standardized test scores. Now Dr. Gruber brings his methods to the fastest-rising test on the market: the ACT. You'll have study plans, tools and strategies, and practice tests at your fingertips in *Gruber's Complete ACT Guide 2011, 2nd ed.* (\$19.99, Sourcebooks, 978-1-402-24307-3) for insights and confidence.



Defining Moments

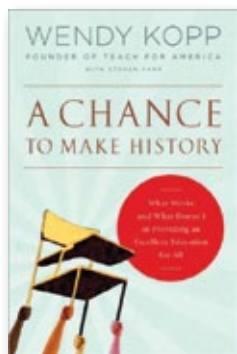
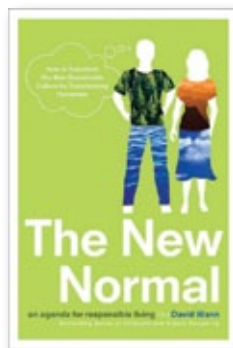


The Next Decade

George Friedman, author of the acclaimed bestseller *The Next 100 Years*, believes the next century will be taking shape in the next ten years. In *The Next Decade: Where We've Been ... and Where We're Going* (\$28.95, Doubleday, 978-0-385-53294-5), Friedman focuses on the imminent events and challenges that will test America and the world — and addresses the skills that will be required by the decade's leaders that will have consequences for us all.

The New Normal

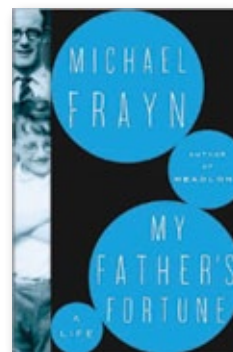
David Wann (*Simple Prosperity*) examines the historical, social, economic context of “bigger, cheaper, faster” that define western consumption and suggests these values are now clearly dangerous and unsustainable. In *The New Normal* (\$14.99, Griffin, 978-0-312-57543-4), Wann notes that the barriers to a more sane and sustainable value system are “cultural crisis, hyperindividuality and overproductivity.” His 33-point agenda shows a path to a materially leaner, though healthier and more fulfilling life.



A Chance to Make History

Is it possible for America to deliver world-class education for every student? Wendy Kopp, who founded Teach for America 20 years ago, shares the lessons learned from the experiences of 25,000 teachers and alumni who have taught in low-income communities during those years in *A Chance to Make History* (\$25.99, PublicAffairs, 978-1-586-48740-9). Kopp introduces these leaders who, driven by passionate belief in their students' potential, have set out to accomplish what most think impossible at the classroom, school, and system levels. In essence, she's convinced that the achievement gap can be closed.

Put Your Money
Where Your House Is
— SHOP LOCALLY

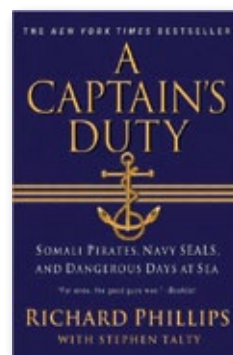
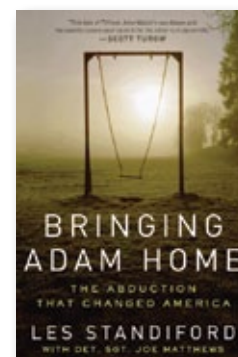


My Father's Fortune

Michael Frayn, the “master of what is seriously funny,” turns his humor and narrative genius on his own family's story. Tom Frayn was a roofing salesman with a winning smile and a racetrack vocabulary who spent his childhood in two rooms shared with six other people, all of them deaf. Although he left his son little more than three watches and two ink-and-wash prints, the true fortune he passed on was the great humor and spirit revealed in *My Father's Fortune* (\$25, Metropolitan Books, 978-0-805-09377-3), a funny, touching memoir. Avail. 2/15

Bringing Adam Home

On July 27, 1981, six-year-old Adam Walsh disappeared from a Sears store in Hollywood, Florida, and his partial remains were found in a canal two weeks later. In *Bringing Adam Home: the Abduction That Changed America* (\$24.99, Ecco, 978-0-061-98390-0) novelist Les Standiford charts with devastating precision the decades-long search for the killer and the evolution of Revé and John Walsh (executive producer and host of *America's Most Wanted*) from grieving parents into powerful advocates for missing children. Avail. 3/1

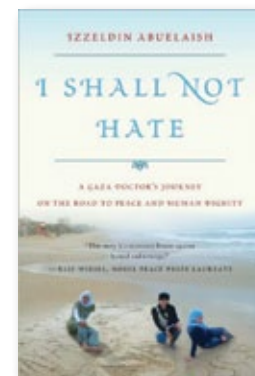


A Captain's Duty

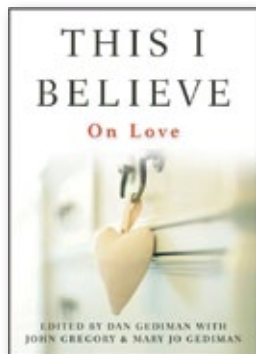
it was just another day on the job for fifty-three-year-old Richard Phillips, captain of the *Maersk Alabama*, a United States-flagged cargo ship. That all changed when armed Somali pirates boarded the ship. Richard Phillips and Stephan Talty reveal the tense five-day stand-off, which ended in a daring high-seas rescue when U.S. Navy SEALs opened fire and picked off three of the captors in *A Captain's Duty: Somali Pirates, Navy SEALs, and Dangerous Days at Sea* (\$14.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-31044-8).

I Shall Not Hate

Izzedin Abuelaish, a Palestinian physician and humanitarian whose daughters were killed by Israeli soldiers in 2009 during Israel's incursion into the Gaza Strip, delivers a memoir that is by turns inspiring and heartbreaking, hopeful and horrifying. In *I Shall Not Hate* (\$24, Walker & Company, 978-0-802-77917-5), we see that Abuelaish chose not to seek revenge or sink into hatred, but instead called for the people in the region to start talking to each other. His deepest hope is that his daughters will be “the last sacrifice on the road to peace between Palestinians and Israelis.”



Doing All Things With Love

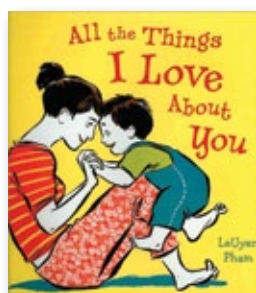
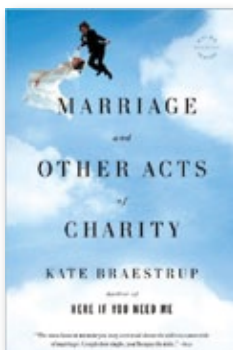


This I Believe: On Love

In the 1950s, Edward R. Murrow's radio program "This I Believe" gave voice to the feelings and treasured beliefs of Americans around the country. Fifty years later, the popular update of the series has been heard on public radio since 2005 and continues to explore the beliefs and guiding principles by which Americans live. Edited by Dan Gediman, *This I Believe: On Love* (\$19.95, Wiley, 978-0-470-87268-0) brings together essays on love from people all around the country — of all ages and walks of life — and is a beautiful gift for all who believe — or struggle to believe — in love.

Marriage and Other Acts of Charity

With her inimitable voice and generous spirit, Kate Braestrup (*Here If You Need Me*) looks at love and commitment in *Marriage and Other Acts of Charity* (\$14.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-03190-5). A minister at 44, she's been married twice and widowed once. In her latest work — which is part memoir, part meditation — Braestrup offers her insights and experiences on what it truly means to share your life with someone.



All the Things I Love About You

Bestselling author and illustrator LeUyen Pham combines her experience as a mother and her proven storytelling skills in a humorous and heartfelt love letter of a book, *All the Things I Love About You* (\$14.99, Balzer & Bray, 978-0-061-99029-8). Children and parents alike will treasure this heartwarming book and, in reading it together, appreciate the small actions that make love grow stronger every day.

"I think books are like people, in the sense that they'll turn up in your life when you most need them."

— Emma Thompson

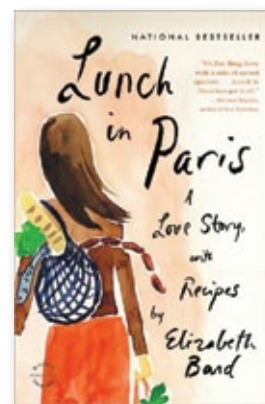


You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up

In this hilarious and ultimately moving memoir, comedians and real-life married couple Annabelle Gurwitch and Jeff Kahn prove that in marriage, all you need is love — and a healthy dose of complaining, codependence, and pinot noir. Serving up equal parts sincerity and cynicism, *You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up* (\$14, Three Rivers, 978-0-307-46378-4) is a laugh-out-loud must-read for couples and singles alike. Avail. 2/8

The Lover's Dictionary

There has to be a moment at the beginning of a relationship when you wonder whether you're in love with the person or in love with the feeling of love itself. In *The Lover's Dictionary* (\$18, FSG, 978-0-374-19368-3), the nameless narrator has constructed the story of his relationship as a dictionary, providing an intimate window in short entries that give us an indelible and deeply moving portrait of love in modern times. An utterly unique novel by David Levithan that is simultaneously heart-warming and witty.



Lunch in Paris

In Paris for a weekend visit, Elizabeth Bard sat down to lunch with a handsome Frenchman — and never went home again. She immerses herself in the world of French cuisine and falls in love with French culture. Peppered with mouth-watering recipes, *Lunch in Paris* (\$13.99, Back Bay, 978-0-316-04278-9) is about falling in love, redefining success and discovering what it truly means to be at home. This book is the perfect treat for a Francophile, or anyone who has dreamed that serendipity could change their life. Avail. 2/7

As Always, Julia

Noted culinary historian Joan Reardon shares an engrossing story of the friendship between Julia Child and Avis DeVoto in *As Always, Julia* (\$26, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 978-0-547-41771-4). The two became friends after DeVoto responded to a fan letter Child had written to her husband, Bernard, regarding his article about knives that appeared in Harper's. More than 200 letters — engaging, witty, warm-hearted, and honest — chronicle the blossoming of a unique and lifelong friendship between the two women.



Book Clubs

Octavia Books Book Club

~ Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:30 am ~



Saturday, Feb. 19, 10:30 am

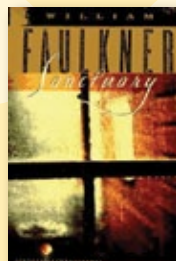
The Man Who Loved Books Too Much

Unrepentant book thief John Charles Gilkey has stolen a fortune in rare books from around the country. Yet unlike most thieves who steal for profit, Gilkey steals for love — the love of books. Perhaps equally obsessive is Ken Sanders, the self-appointed “bibliodick” who’s driven to catch him. Following this eccentric cat-and-mouse chase with a mixture of suspense, insight and humor, Allison Hoover Bartlett plunges the reader deep into a rich world of fanatical book lust and considers what it is that makes some people stop at nothing to possess the titles they love in *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much* (\$15, Riverhead, 978-1-5944-8481-0).

Saturday, March 19, 10:30 am

Sanctuary

Join us for a discussion of what’s become known as William Faulkner’s most controversial novel, *Sanctuary* (\$14, Vintage, 978-0-6797-4814-4), first published in 1931 by Black Sun Press in Paris and then adapted for the movie “The Story of Temple Drake” in 1933.



Science Fiction Book Club

~ Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:30 am ~



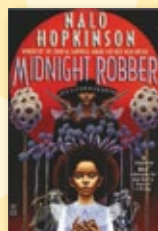
Saturday, February 12, 10:30 am
Mysterium

In a top-secret government installation near the small town of Two Rivers, Michigan, scientists are investigating a mysterious object discovered several years earlier. Late one evening, the local residents observe strange lights coming from the laboratory. The next morning, they awake to find that their town was literally cut off from the rest of the world in *Mysterium* (\$15.99, Orb, 978-0-7653-2741-3) by Robert Charles Wilson.

Saturday, March 12, 10:30 am

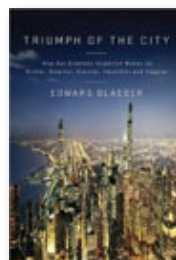
Midnight Robber

In Nalo Hopkinson’s *Midnight Robber* (\$19.99, Grand Central, 978-0-4466-7560-4), the Caribbean-colonised planet of Toussaint is in the middle of a carnival. Tan-Tan, the Robber Queen, is enjoying the festival until her power-corrupted father commits an unforgivable crime.



May We Recommend

James Wilson recommends:



Triumph of the City

In *Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier* (\$29.95, Penguin, 978-1-5942-0277-3) author Edward Glaeser makes a strong and compelling argument that cities are humankind’s greatest invention. Cities

drive our economy and culture. Cities help people collaborate in ways they never have. Glaeser makes an impassioned case why we should nurture our cities because they are becoming larger and larger. A great inspirational read about the future of the city.



Mark Williams recommends:



Life

Before I started reading *Life* (\$29.99, Hachette, 978-0-316-03438-8), I was asking myself how Keith Richards (considering his history of drug intake) was able to remember so much of his life. In fact, he seemed rather surprised as well. The book starts off with a bang, or in this case, a very funny retelling of one of his

arrests in the ‘70s. In fact, there are many laugh-out-loud moments in this book; it helps that Keith is a natural storyteller. He also has a pull-no-punches style — whether talking about himself, the joys and tragedies in his life, his heroin addiction, or his band mates. If you also happen to be a big fan of Mick Jagger, you will be especially interested in what Keith has to say. You may not like everything that Keith has to say about Mick, but you’ll want to continue reading. Overall, Keith takes an unapologetic view of his life. There are many things in his life story that he does not condone, but he does not deny them either.

Overall, I found this book a joy to read from beginning to end. If you are a fan of the Rolling Stones, and especially of Keith Richards, you will definitely love this book.

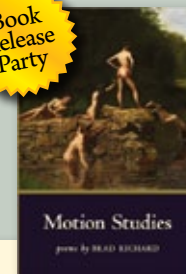
Upcoming Events at Octavia

Brad Richard
Motion Studies

Thursday, February 10, 6 pm

Investigating past and present in poems of memory and loss, *Motion Studies* (\$15, Word Works, 978-0-9153-8078-7) takes us from daguerreotypes of the 19th century and the work of painter Thomas Eakins to post-Katrina New Orleans. Scholarly and yeasty, forceful and kind, *Motion Studies* reunites the broken and the silenced with the living and hopeful.

Book Release Party



Book Release Party

Dianne de Las Casas & Marita Gentry

There's a Dragon in the Library

Saturday, February 12, 1:30-3:30 pm

After seeing a green-speckled reptile hatch from an egg one day after storytime, young Max tries to convince someone that there is a dragon in the library, growing ever larger as it eats books, but no one believes him. *There's a Dragon in the Library* (\$16.99, Pelican, 978-1-5898-0844-7) was created by fabulous children’s author and storyteller Dianne de Las Casas and illustrator Marita Gentry. This interactive storytelling and live illustration will be full of enchanting fun for everyone!

Deborah Harkness
A Discovery of Witches

Monday, February 14, 6 pm

Please join us for a reading and signing for *A Discovery of Witches* (\$28.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02241-0) the debut novel from history professor Deborah Harkness and the first book in the All Souls trilogy. One of the most talked about books of the 2009 Frankfurt Book Fair, translation rights have already been sold in 32 countries. A mesmerizing and addictive read, *A Discovery of Witches* is equal parts history and magic, romance and suspense. Deep in the stacks of Oxford’s Bodleian Library, young scholar Diana Bishop unwittingly calls up a bewitched alchemical manuscript in the course of her research. Descended from an old and distinguished line of witches, Diana wants nothing to do with sorcery; so after a furtive glance and a few notes, she banishes the book to the stacks. But her discovery sets a fantastical underworld stirring, and a horde of daemons, witches, and vampires soon descends upon the library. Diana has stumbled upon a coveted treasure lost for centuries-and she is the only creature who can break its spell.



Events continued on page 12

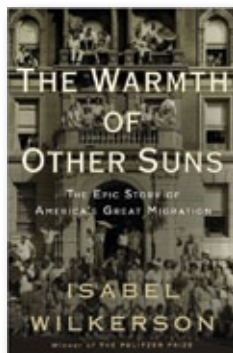
Upcoming Events at Octavia Books

Isabel Wilkerson

The Warmth of Other Suns

Tuesday, February 15, 6 pm

Please join us for a presentation and book signing with Isabel Wilkerson featuring her highly praised *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Story of America's Great Migration* (\$30, RH, 978-0-679-44432-9), Pulitzer Prize winner and one of *The New York Times Book Review's* 10 Best Books of the Year. In this epic, beautifully written masterwork, Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. She interviewed more than a thousand people, and gained access to new data and official records, to write this definitive and vividly dramatic account of how these American journeys unfolded, altering our cities, our country, and ourselves. *The Warmth of Other Suns* is a bold, remarkable, and riveting work, a superb account of an “unrecognized immigration” within our own land. Through the breadth of its narrative, the beauty of the writing, the depth of its research, and the fullness of the people and lives portrayed herein, this book is destined to become a classic.

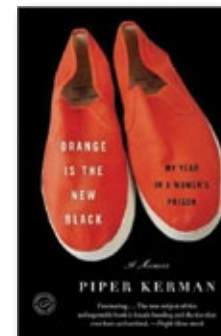


Piper Kerman

Orange is the New Black

Thursday, March 10, 6 pm

Please join us for a reading and book signing with Piper Kerman, author of the memoir, *Orange is the New Black* (\$15, Spiegel & Grau, 978-0-3855-2339-4), a compelling, often hilarious, and unfailingly compassionate portrait of life inside a women's prison. With a career, a boyfriend, and a loving family, Piper Kerman barely resembles the reckless young woman who delivered a suitcase of drug money ten years ago. But that past has caught up with her. Convicted and sentenced to fifteen months at the infamous federal correctional facility in Danbury, Connecticut, the well-heeled Smith College alumna is now inmate #11187-424—one of the millions of women who disappear within the American penal system. From her first strip search to her final release, Kerman learns to navigate this strange world with its strictly enforced codes of behavior and arbitrary rules. She meets women from all walks of life, who surprise her with small tokens of generosity, hard words of wisdom, and simple acts of acceptance. Heartbreaking, hilarious, and at times enraging, Kerman's story offers a rare look into the lives of women in prison—why it is we lock so many away and what happens to them when they're there.



John Bemelmans Marciano

Madeline at the White House

Sunday, February 20, 1 pm

John Bemelmans Marciano, the grandson of Madeline creator Ludwig Bemelmans, continues the family tradition with *Madeline at the Whitehouse* (\$17.99, Viking, 978-0-6700-1228-2), just released on January 25. The picture book is based on a story Ludwig Bemelmans left unfinished. The story grew out of his friendship with Jacqueline Kennedy and was originally called “Madeline visits Caroline” with text from Mrs.

Kennedy herself. In *Madeline at the White House*, Madeline and the other eleven little girls are the guests of Candle, the lonely only daughter of the President, arriving just in time for the annual Easter Egg Roll. On the last night of the visit, Madeline and Candle stay up late playing dress-up, dancing, and telling scary stories, and top off the evening with a magical nighttime tour of the capital's most famous landmarks, including the Lincoln Memorial, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, and the Jefferson Memorial. Madeline and Candle return home to the White House just in time for the twelve little girls in two straight lines to say “Au revoir, America!”

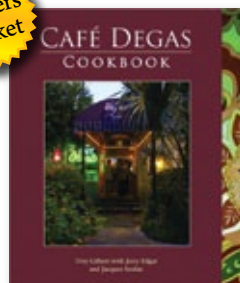
Troy Gilbert, Jerry Edgarand & Jacques Soulas

Café Degas Cookbook

Saturday, February 26, 9am to 11am

Join us at the Crescent City Farmers Market to explore the food of Cafe Degas, the renowned neighborhood cafe that is eclectic, yet elegant — a favorite among locals and visitors alike. *Café Degas Cookbook* (\$24.95, Pelican, 978-1-5898-0766-2) is a beautiful collection of recipes presenting a sampling of the restaurant's best creations.

Farmers
Market



Book
Release
Party



Earl J. Higgins

Metairie, Ames, High

Tuesday, March 15, 6 pm

Earl J. Higgins, a ranger at the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve who writes “Earl's Pearls” for The Delta Sierran, joins with his funny and informative book that narrates the history of Jefferson Parish through its street names.

Metairie, Ames, High (\$14.95, Pelican, 978-1-5898-0887-4) explains the significance of each appellation, along with the reasons why real estate developers chose them. Seventeen chapters divide the information into different categories.

“Honoring the Warriors” pays homage to our heroes with Veterans Memorial Boulevard and Admiral Craik Drive, while “¿Parlez-vous Italiano, Señorita?” ponders the meaning behind Segnette Boulevard and Chi Chi Lane. “Go, Saints!” describes the presence of the Catholic culture in the region, including such streets as St. Elizabeth Drive, Seton Boulevard, and San Mateo Avenue. “Higher Education” notes the college theme with Syracuse and Swarthmore Streets and Millsaps Place.

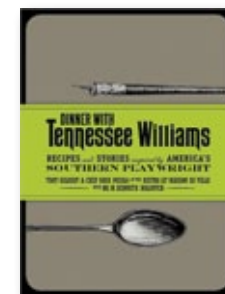
Troy Gilbert, Chef Greg Picolo & Dr. Kenneth Holditch

Dinner With Tennessee Williams

Tuesday, March 29, 6 pm

Immerse yourself in the world and food of one of the world's greatest playwrights as Troy Gilbert, Chef Greg Picolo and Dr. Kenneth Holditch give us a presentation, signing and tasting featuring *Dinner With Tennessee Williams* (\$19.99, Gibbs Smith, 978-1-4236-2173-7). Like Hemingway to Cuba or Mark Twain to the Mississippi, certain writers are inextricably tied to their environments—the culture, the history, the people, the cuisine.

The plays of Tennessee Williams evoke the ambiance and flavor of the South. Part food memoir and part cookbook, this fresh look at the world of Tennessee Williams — both in real life and in his plays — is the perfect book for literary lovers and food lovers alike.



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