



THE OCTAVIAN

Octavia Books' bi-monthly newsletter for booklovers

April / May 2011



OCTAVIA BOOKS

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Secrets in Life & Love

The Paris Wife

Paula McLain's latest novel captures a remarkable period of time and a love affair between two unforgettable people: Ernest Hemingway and Hadley Richardson, the quiet twenty-eight-year-old who would become his wife after a whirlwind courtship. The pair set sail for Paris, where they become the golden couple in a lively and volatile group that includes Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. Though deeply in love, the Hemingways are ill prepared for the hard-drinking and fast-living life of Jazz Age Paris, which hardly values traditional notions of family and monogamy. Despite their extraordinary bond, they eventually find themselves facing the ultimate crisis of their marriage – a deception that will lead to the unraveling of everything they've fought so hard for. A heartbreaking portrayal of love and torn loyalty, *The Paris Wife* (\$25, Ballantine, 978-0-345-52130-9) is all the more poignant because we know that, in the end, Hemingway wrote that he would rather have died than fallen in love with anyone but Hadley.

Bent Road

For twenty years, Celia Scott has watched her husband, Arthur, hide from the secrets surrounding his sister's death. As a young man, Arthur fled his small Kansas hometown, moved to Detroit, married Celia, and never looked back. But when the 1967 riots frighten him even more than his past, he convinces Celia to pack up their family and return to the road he grew up on, and that same small town where his sister mysteriously died. But Celia and their two younger children struggle to fit in. As Celia grapples with loneliness and the brutality of life and death on a farm, a local girl disappears,



catapulting the family headlong into turmoil. Filled with tension and complex characters, *Bent Road* (\$25.95, Dutton, 978-0-525-95183-4), Lori Roy's quirky and often creepy tale of a dysfunctional community and a family that fits right in, will keep you guessing right until the last page.

The Tiger's Wife

Tea Obreht, the youngest of *The New Yorker's* twenty best American fiction writers under forty, spins a brilliant novel about family legend, loss and love in *The Tiger's Wife* (\$25, Random House, 978-0-385-34383-1). Natalia is a young doctor who arrives at an orphanage in a Balkan country (not unlike the author's native Croatia) on a mission of mercy. In no time, age-old superstitions and secrets gather everywhere around her; but she has a mystery of her own – the inexplicable circumstances surrounding her beloved grandfather's recent death. Searching for clues, Natalia recalls the stories her grandfather told her when she was a child: one about a "deathless man," another about an escaped tiger that is befriended by the butcher's wife. She ultimately comes to understand the stories people tell themselves to explain the unthinkable.

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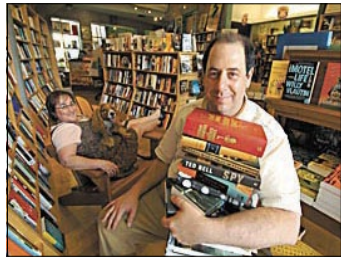
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OCTAVIA BOOKS



DOING OUR PART TO KEEP AMERICA INTERESTING

Dear Local Booklover,

INDIE
BOUND



The world is a fascinating place. From a distance, it looks so still and peaceful. Close up, life is constantly changing, evolving, unfolding. It takes great effort to keep up with current events, manage our daily lives and put them in perspective — and even find a few moments to rest.

Working in the book business is no exception. First, we'd like to assure you that the sky is not falling on retail bookstores. Yes, as we're seeing locally, the big box chain stores are struggling with so much costly space and all that extra overhead. Yes, e-books and the latest gadgets on which to read them have appealed to some. And no, this does not spell the decline of more indie bookstores across the country. As many of us have come to learn with experience over time, life is more nuanced and best enjoyed in shades of color than absolute black and white.

The latest book industry research from Verso Advertising offers a refreshing break from the doomsday stories in the media. Their conclusion was that "a robust, hybrid (print and e-book) market will endure for many years" and predictions of the demise of bricks-and-mortar bookstores within 10 years are "grossly misleading."

On a practical level, digital media and online sales practices have given authors and publishers legitimate concerns about the value and security of intellectual property. On the other hand, bookstores need to cover rent and payroll — and pay local taxes; our economic challenges are all too real. So *where* you buy makes all the difference in the world.

What matters most, however, isn't *how* you choose to read a book — as long as you keep on reading. Listen to an audio book, read on your screen, open a book when you're snuggled into bed at night, read to your children or grandchildren, but keep reading.

At Octavia Books, we will continue to work hard to offer you a welcoming place to visit, where you can talk with us about books you've discovered, and where you will find a thoughtful, personally selected array of titles to browse, examine, and take home. You can be assured that we value our relationship with you as a friend and neighbor and won't reveal any information about your purchase to anyone. When we can earn your trust and loyalty in this way, together we nurture our local economy and create a greater sense of community.

To readers who have patronized Borders, we extend a warm welcome to you and hope you'll stop by soon. At Octavia Books, you'll find a wonderfully rich selection of books, lots of opportunities to meet authors, and booklovers on staff who are happy to help recommend books. We're ordering books daily, so keep in mind if you don't find the book on the shelf, we can often have it for you in just a couple of days.

Spring is a wonderful time at the bookstore. Whether you're looking for a Mother's Day gift, something to tuck inside an Easter basket, or something good to read, we hope you'll stop by soon!

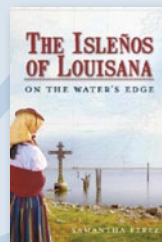
Judith A. Rafetto Thomas P. Sombrown

LOCAL FLAVORS



Louisiana Rambles: Exploring America's Cajun and Creole Heartland

Ian McNulty (*A Season of Night: New Orleans Life after Katrina*) captures the heart of Louisiana in *Louisiana Rambles* (\$22, Univ. Press of Mississippi, 978-1-6047-3946-6). From zydeco dance halls to crawfish "boiling points", Cajun jam sessions to fishing trips with impressive catches, McNulty's journeys provide an inimitable take on Cajun and Creole Louisiana. Much more than a travel guide or a collection of travel narratives, you'll discover a seasoned writer's witness of exotic and culturally distinct destinations well beyond the beaten tourist path.



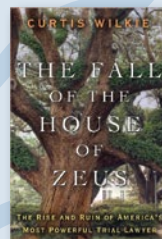
The Isleños of Louisiana: On the Water's Edge

In the late 1700s, Louisiana fell under Spanish control. Coaxed by promises of new opportunity, thousands of Canary Islanders of Spanish descent relocated to Louisiana, where they established four settlements. Generations of Isleños have overcome the challenges of an evolving American society, as well as the devastation of storms that have ripped through their land. Through it all, the Isleños have preserved their unique heritage, traditions and culture for more than two centuries. Samantha Perez tells their history in *The Isleños of Louisiana: On the Water's Edge* (\$19.99, The History Press, 978-1-6094-9024-9).



The Garden Path: The Miseducation of a City

Educator, charter school leader and UNO administrator Andre Perry uses creative non-fiction to tell the story of an idealistic professor, Dr. Isaac Boyd, who quickly heads to the forefront of the post-Katrina charter school movement — a movement deemed unsympathetic as it takes control of failing schools from the hands of local community leaders. Tensions rise as out-of-town reformers and local community members compete for resources and authority. While adult battles reach a fever pitch, high school students Loren Wise and Katura Price set their own paths to improve schooling for New Orleans. *The Garden Path* (\$18.95, Univ. of New Orleans Press, 978-1-6080-1048-6) reinforces Perry's belief that "education is supposed to help the community."



The Fall of the House of Zeus: The Rise and Ruin of America's Most Powerful Trial Lawyer

Curtis Wilkie tells the story of Dickie Scruggs, arguably the most successful plaintiff's lawyer in America. A brother-in-law of Trent Lott, the former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Scruggs made a fortune taking on mass tort lawsuits against "Big Tobacco" and the asbestos industries in *The Fall of the House of Zeus* (\$25.99, Crown, 978-0-3074-6070-7). Based on extensive interviews, transcripts, and FBI recordings never made public, Wilkie's legal thriller exposes the dark side of Southern and Washington legal games and power politics.



New Orleans Walls: Still Standing

New Orleans Walls (\$34.95, First Light, 978-0-5780-7003-2) celebrates the spirit of the people of New Orleans and the city's ongoing and inherent beauty. New Orleanians — some famous (Drew Brees, Fats Domino, Irma Thomas, Angela Hill, Harry Connick, Sr., just to name a few), some less so but just as significant — posed for and shared a moment of their life with photographer Marie-Dominique Verdier. A large percentage of the proceeds from the sales of this book will go to the St. Bernard Project and other nonprofit organizations dedicated to rebuilding New Orleans.

Reading is Magical



LaRue Across America

Bestselling, award-winning author/illustrator Mark Teague makes us laugh aloud when LaRue goes on vacation with Mrs. Hibbins's cats! Ike's plans for a peaceful cruise with Mrs. LaRue are thwarted when their neighbor, Mrs. Hibbins, falls suddenly ill. While she recovers, Mrs. LaRue takes her cats on a week-long road trip. Ike is beside himself and quickly takes up his pen to tell readers why in *LaRue Across America: Postcards from the Vacation* (\$16.99, Blue Sky, 978-0-439-91502-1). Hilarious! Ages 4-8

The Trouble with Chickens

Favorite picture book author Doreen Cronin (*Click, Clack, Moo*) offers her wit and humor in *The Trouble with Chickens* (\$14.99, Balzer & Bray, 978-0-061-21532-2), a fun and energetic new chapter book mystery. After a career as a search-and-rescue dog, J.J. Tully goes into retirement in the country. He agrees to help a mother hen find her missing chicks, but faces a formidable foe in Vince, the "inside" dog. Ages 4-7

Lost & Found

New York Times bestselling author and illustrator Shaun Tan presents a collection of three beloved stories that were previously published in Australia: *The Red Tree*, *The Lost Thing*, and *The Rabbits*. *Lost and Found* (\$21.99, Arthur A. Levine, 978-0-545-22924-1) explores how we lose and find what matters most; a girl finds a bright spot in a dark world, a boy leads a strange, lost creature home, and a group of peaceful creatures loses its home to cruel invaders. Ages 8-12

The Emerald Atlas

Kate, Michael, and Emma have been passed from one orphanage to another in the 10 years since they were taken from their parents to protect them from evil forces. But now they learn that they have special powers, a prophesied quest to find a magical book, and a fearsome enemy in *The Emerald Atlas* (\$17.99, Knopf, 978-0-375-86870-2), a frightening and funny fantasy from debut novelist John Stephens. Ages 8-12

A World Without Heroes

Thirteen-year-old Jason Walker wishes his life would be a bit less predictable — until a trip to the zoo ends with Jason suddenly transported from the hippo tank to a place unlike any he's ever seen. The people of Lyrian no longer welcome visitors from the Beyond. In search of a way home, Jason meets Rachel and the two become entangled in a quest where Jason finds himself faced with the prospect of becoming the hero he never imagined he could be. Brandon Mull's *A World Without Heroes* (\$19.99, Aladdin, 978-1-416-99792-4) is the first in this trilogy of fantasy. Ages 8-12

Bird in a Box

Otis, Willie, and Hibernia are three children with a lot in common: they've all lost a loved one, they each have secret dreams, and they won't stop fighting for what they want. And they're also a lot like their hero, famed boxer Joe Louis. Andrea Pinkney includes historical details about the famed boxer in *Bird in a Box* (\$16.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-07403-2), a uniquely rendered and beautifully written novel. Ages 8-12

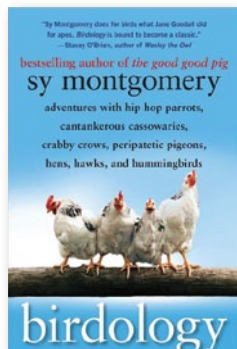
Sean Griswold's Head

According to her guidance counselor, fifteen-year-old Payton Gritas needs a "focus object"—an item upon which she can concentrate her emotions. So Payton decides to use the thing she stares at during class: Sean Griswold's head. The focus object is intended to help Payton deal with her father's newly diagnosed multiple sclerosis. But Sean's cute, he shares her Seinfeld obsession, and he may have a secret or two of his own. In *Sean Griswold's Head* (\$16.99, Bloomsbury, 978-1-599-90498-6), Lindsey Levitt balances heartfelt family moments, spot-on sarcastic humor, and a budding young romance. Ages 12+

Viola in the Spotlight

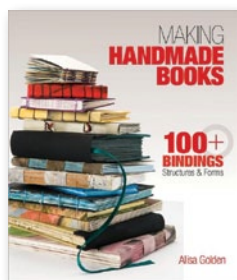
New York Times bestselling author Adriana Trigiani returns with the second in a teen trilogy, *Viola in the Spotlight* (\$16.99, HarperTeen, 978-0-061-45105-8). Viola is finally where she belongs—back home in Brooklyn. But her BFFAA, Andrew, has started acting weird around her, and a new boyfriend has her friend Caitlin ditching her every chance she gets. When Viola's roommates from Prefect Academy show up for a visit, she starts to wonder—is Brooklyn where she wants to stay? When a tragic event shakes everyone's world, Viola realizes it's not where she belongs that really matters—it's who she's with. Avail. 4/1.

What Fun



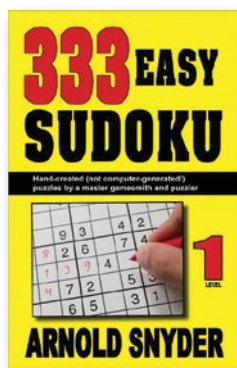
Birdology

Meet the ladies: a flock of smart, affectionate, highly individualistic chickens who visit their favorite neighbors and mob the author like she's a rock star. You'll also meet Maya and Zuni, two orphaned baby hummingbirds and Snowball, a cockatiel whose dance video went viral on YouTube and who's now teaching schoolchildren how to dance. In *Birdology* (\$15, Free Press, 978-1-416-56985-5) Sy Montgomery shows us that birds are far stranger, more wondrous, and at the same time more like us than we might have dared to imagine.



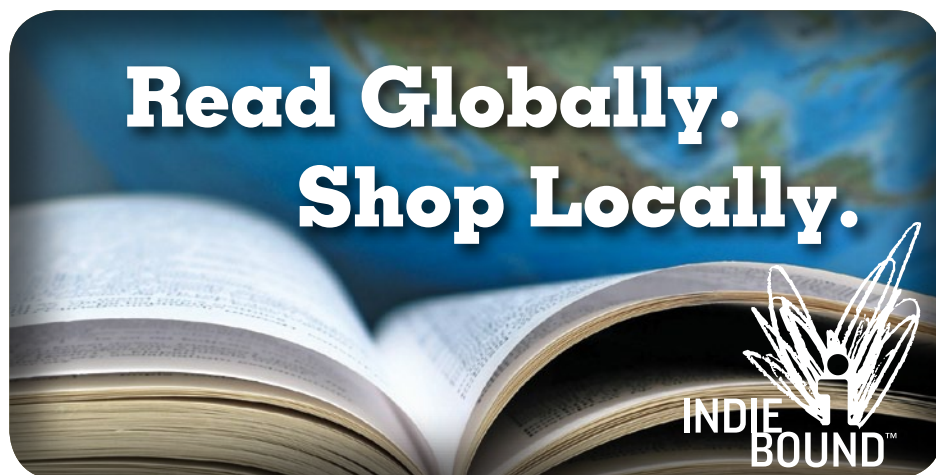
Making Handmade Books

For booklovers, it's no surprise that books are some of our most treasured objects. If you admire beautiful designs, textured papers, and interesting bindings, you can find out how to craft your own books with Alisa Golden's *Making Handmade Books* (\$19.95, Lark, 978-1-600-59587-5). Established book artists will inspire you to combine the literary and visual arts. Also perfect for inspiring class projects.



333 Sudokus

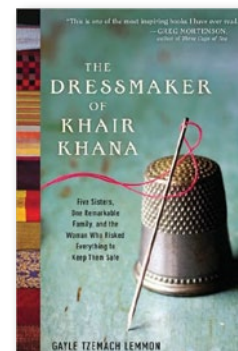
Master gamesmith Arnold Snyder presents hand-crafted (not computer generated), fun puzzles for Sudoku lovers. Choose from *333 Easy Sudokus* (\$8.95, 978-1-580-42275-8), *333 Hard Sudokus* (\$8.95, 978-1-580-42276-5) and *333 Killer Sudokus* (\$8.95, Cardoza, 978-1-580-42277-2) for hours and hours of relaxation and mental challenge. Avail. 4/5



Finding a Way

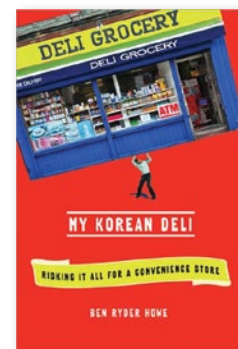
The Dressmaker of Khair Khana

After receiving a teaching degree during the civil war — a rare achievement for any Afghan woman — Kamila was subsequently banned from school and confined to her home. When her father and brother were forced to flee the city, Kamila became the sole breadwinner for her five siblings so she picked up a needle and thread and created a thriving business of her own. *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* (\$24.99, Harper, 978-0-061-73237-9) by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon tells the incredible true story of a fearless young entrepreneur who brought hope to the lives of Afghan women. It is also an inside look at how these women are the backbone and heart of their country.



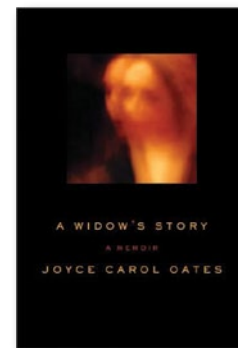
My Korean Deli

Ben Ryder Howe's wife, the daughter of Korean immigrants, decides to repay her parents' self-sacrifice by buying them a store, and Howe, an editor at the rarefied *Paris Review*, agrees to go along. *My Korean Deli* (\$25, Henry Holt, 978-0-805-09343-8) is a sweet and funny tale about the complexities of family dynamics, an unlikely partnership, culture clash, values, and the search for identity.



A Widow's Story

National Book Award winner Joyce Carol Oates unveils an intimate memoir about the unexpected death of her husband of forty-six years and its wrenching, surprising aftermath in *A Widow's Story* (\$27.99, Ecco, 978-0-062-01553-2). Struggling to comprehend life without a partnership that sustained her for nearly half a century, Oates explores the language of illness, the suspense of hospital vigils, and shares her story of coming to recognize that "this is my life now."



Reading My Father

Alexandra Styron, daughter of novelist William Styron (*Sophie's Choice*), tells of her childhood and the price her family paid for her father's gift in *Reading My Father* (\$25, Scribner, 978-1-416-59179-5). A brilliant alcoholic and often difficult man, Styron also remembers her father as loving, generous, and charming. Dark, yet funny, this is a powerful portrait of an extraordinarily talented, yet deeply troubled artist. Avail. 4/19



Our World, Our Future

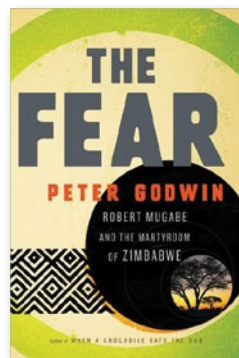
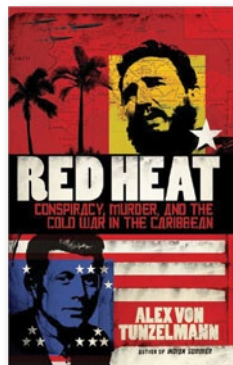


American Tempest

On Thursday, December 16, 1773, an estimated seven dozen men, many dressed as Indians, dumped roughly 10,000 pounds worth of tea in Boston Harbor. Whatever their motives, they unleashed a social, political, and economic firestorm that would culminate in the Declaration of Independence — and the country's largest exodus of Americans from America. Harlow Giles Unger's *American Tempest: How the Boston Tea Party Sparked a Revolution* (\$26, Da Capo, 978-0-306-81962-9) is a fascinating combination of stellar scholarship and action-packed history.

Red Heat

During the presidencies of Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson, the Caribbean was in crisis. The men responsible included Cuba's charismatic Fidel Castro and his mysterious brother Raul, Argentina's ideologue Che Guevara, the capricious psychopath Rafael Trujillo from the Dominican Republic, and Haiti's Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, a buttoned-down doctor with interests in Vodou, embezzlement and torture. Alex Von Tunzelmann's *Red Heat* (\$30, Henry Holt, 978-0-805-09067-3) is a riveting story of clashing ideologies, the rise of the politics of fear, the machinations of superpowers, and the brazen daring of the mavericks who took them on during the Cold War.



The Fear

Journalist Peter Godwin has covered wars. As a soldier, he's fought them. But nothing prepared him for the surreal mix of desperation and hope he encountered when he returned to Zimbabwe, his broken homeland. Godwin arrived as Robert Mugabe, the country's dictator for 30 years, has finally lost an election. Instead of conceding power, Mugabe launched a brutal campaign of terror against his own citizens. *The Fear* (\$16.99, Little Brown, 978-0-316-05173-6) is a book about the astonishing courage and resilience of a people, armed with nothing but a desire to be free, who challenged a violent dictatorship.

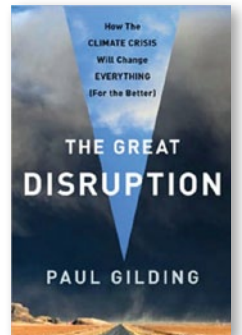


Our Last Best Chance

King Abdullah II of Jordan tackles the single toughest issue he faces head-on — how to solve the Israeli-Palestinian standoff — and reveals himself to be an invaluable intermediary between America and the Arab world in his exceptionally candid memoir, *Our Last Best Chance* (\$27.95, Viking, 978-0-670-02171-0). In a fragile era, King Abdullah writes about the explosive issues now because he believes we face a moment of truth, where the prize is enormous, the cost of failure far greater than we dare imagine.

The Great Disruption

It's time to stop just worrying about climate change, says Paul Gilding, an international thought leader and advocate for sustainability. In *The Great Disruption* (\$25, Bloomsbury, 978-1-608-19223-6), an optimistic Gilding explains that we have come to the end of a world economy based on consumption and waste, where we lived beyond the means of our planet's ecosystems and resources and have begun the sustainable revolution. The challenge after the Great Disruption is a new measure of "growth"—one that will mean not quantity of stuff, but quality and happiness of life.

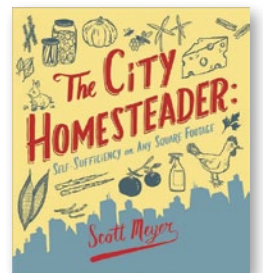


Raising Elijah

Sandra Steingraber blends science with memoir yet again in *Raising Elijah* (\$26, Da Capo, 978-0-738-21399-6), to demonstrate that the ongoing environmental crisis is, fundamentally, a crisis of family life. Each chapter focuses on one inevitable ingredient of childhood and explores the underlying social, political, and ecological forces behind it. Through these everyday moments, Steingraber demonstrates how closely the public world of policy-making connects to the private, intimate world of parenting.

The City Homesteader

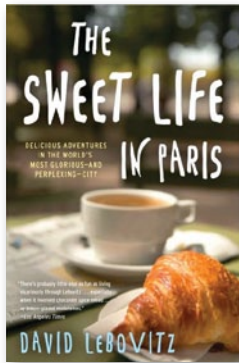
There's a growing mindfulness about being resourceful, saving money, reducing consumption, and increasing self-reliance. Explore ways of being in a new era with Scott Meyer in *The City Homesteader* (\$23, Running Press, 978-0-762-44085-6). You'll discover simple things you can do to minimize your footprint, creatively use natural resources, manage your home more efficiently, save money, and make informed choices.



The Next American Economy

Veteran business writer William J. Holstein argues that the best way for us to recover our economic footing is to do what Americans do best—innovate and create new industries. Holstein presents the success being experienced in many industries, from technology and energy to retraining and exporting, across the country and suggests we must find new avenues of cooperation among universities, businesses, and government to create the kind of sustainable growth we need. *The Next American Economy* (\$26, Walker & Company, 978-0-802-77750-8) is an important look at what we can do to reshape the future. Avail. 4/26

Enriching Our Lives

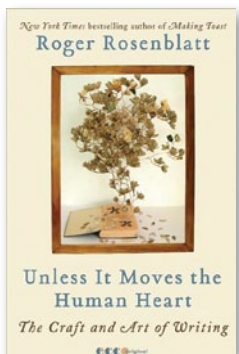
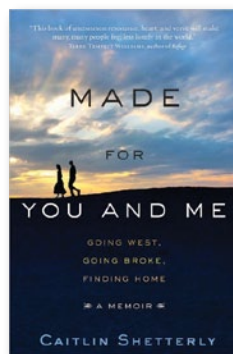


The Sweet Life in Paris

David Lebovitz dreamed about living in Paris ever since he first visited the city in the 1980s. Finally, after a two-decade career as a pastry chef and cookbook author, he packed his belongings and moved into his new apartment in the lively Bastille neighborhood. *The Sweet Life in Paris: Delicious Adventures in the World's Most Glorious - And Perplexing - City* (\$14, Broadway, 978-0-767-92889-2) is a delightfully funny, offbeat, and irreverent look at the city of lights, cheese, chocolate, and other confections.

Made for You and Me

NPR contributor Caitlin Shetterly shares her story of young married life with a dream of going west — and failing miserably. Moving from Maine to Los Angeles, she and her husband encounter a series of unexpected challenges that lead them home again. *Made for You and Me: Going West, Going Broke, Finding Home* (\$23.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-34146-6) is ultimately about discovering the surprising goodness of strangers and a profound gratification in family and community.

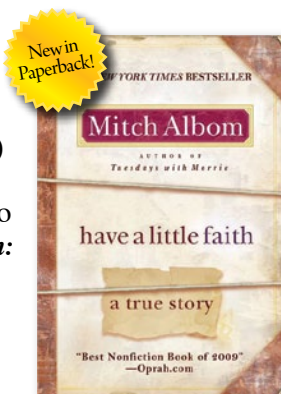


Unless It Moves the Human Heart

Roger Rosenblatt, distinguished author and writing teacher, makes an impassioned plea for the necessity of writing in our lives, believing that writing may sometimes feel like an escape from the world, “but at its best moments it is an act of rescue.” If you adored Anne Lamott’s *Bird by Bird*, you’ll savor *Unless It Moves the Human Heart* (\$13.99, Ecco, 978-0-061-96561-6) filled with Rosenblatt’s stories of funny, intimate conversations among a diverse group of students.

Have a Little Faith

What if our beliefs were not what divided us, but what pulled us together? Mitch Albom (*Tuesdays with Morrie*) offers a beautifully written inspirational story of a remarkable eight-year journey between two worlds—two men, two faiths, two communities—in *Have a Little Faith: A True Story* (\$13.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-31046-2). It’s an honest, hopeful story about finding life’s purpose, losing belief and finding it again, and the divine spark inside us all.

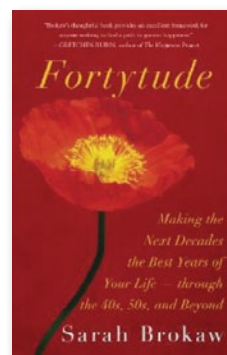


If It Makes You Healthy

Rock star. Activist. Mother. Sheryl Crow can now add ‘chef’ to that list with the help of personal chef Chuck White. The duo met while Sheryl was battling breast cancer, which for her, was a wake-up call to eat more healthily. *If It Makes You Healthy* (\$29.99, St. Martin’s, 978-0-312-65895-3) is their collection of healthy, delicious creations. Along the way, Sheryl shares stories of her childhood, early years in the music business, and eventual success that led to nine Grammy Awards.

Food Network Magazine Great Easy Meals

Even on those busy, crazed days, you can still eat in—and eat well. Turn to *Food Network Magazine Great Easy Meals* (\$24.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-32419-3) for 250 delicious and fast recipes. If you’ve loved the Food Network—and the magazine too—you’ll have the best of these recipes on hand in one volume. It’ll become your ‘go to’ cookbook throughout the week.

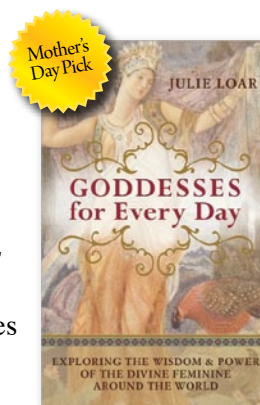


Fortytude

What are the secrets of the vibrant women who seem to be enjoying life in mid-life and beyond? Sarah Brokaw has discovered that those who navigate midlife most smoothly are those who foster five Core Values in themselves. Brokaw shows how to nourish the enduring values of grace, connectedness, accomplishment, adventure, and spirituality in *Fortytude: Making the Next Decades the Best Years of Your Life* (\$23.99, Hyperion, 978-1-401-34119-0).

Goddesses for Every Day

Throughout time, people have turned to goddesses as symbols of what they seek—abundance, healing, protection, passion. In a full year of daily reflections, spiritual teacher Julie Loar presents the wisdom and inner strength of women through the ages in *Goddesses for Every Day* (\$16.95, New World Library, 978-1-577-31950-4) and suggests how to draw upon their attributes in practical ways for our everyday lives.



BOOK CLUBS

Octavia Books Book Club

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



Saturday, April 16, 10:30 am *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*

Join us for a discussion of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson (\$15, Random House, 978-0-8129-8122-3), set in Edgecombe St. Mary, a small village in the English countryside, filled with rolling hills, thatched cottages, and a cast of characters both hilariously original and familiar.

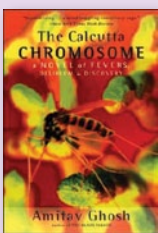
Saturday, May 21, 10:30 am *One Amazing Thing*

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, the award-winning author of *The Mistress of Spices*, writes about a diverse group of people trapped in the aftermath of a disaster in *One Amazing Thing* (\$13.99, Hyperion, 978-1-4013-4158-9). Our conversation will center on the tales of love, loss and desire they share as they wait to be rescued.



Science Fiction Book Club

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

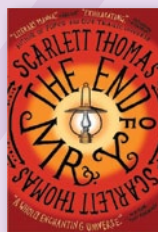


Saturday, April 9, 10:30 am *The Calcutta Chromosome*

From Victorian India to near-future New York, *The Calcutta Chromosome* by Amitav Ghosh (\$14.99, Harper Perennial, 978-0-3808-1394-0) takes us on a wondrous journey through time as a computer programmer trapped in a mind-numbing job hits upon a curious item that will forever change his life.

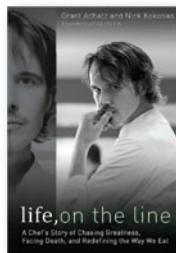
Saturday, May 14, 10:30 am *The End of Mr. Y*

Ariel Manto has a fascination with 19th-century scientists — especially Thomas Lumas and *The End of Mr. Y*, a book no one alive has read. When she mysteriously uncovers a copy at a used bookstore, Ariel is launched into an adventure of science and faith, consciousness and death, space and time, and everything in between in Scarlett Thomas' *The End of Mr. Y* (\$14.95, Mariner, 978-0-1560-3161-5).



MAY WE RECOMMEND

Douglas Westgate recommends:



Life, on the Line: A Chef's Story of Chasing Greatness, Facing Death, and Redefining the Way We Eat

When I first picked up *Life, on the Line* (\$27.50, Gotham, 978-1-5924-0601-2) I thought it was another self promotion by a well known chef.

I was mistaken. It is the story of a man who rose to the top of his chosen profession by working incredibly long hours and paying meticulous attention to detail to produce food in the best way he could. He pushed the boundaries of how food was cooked and presented and won many fans and accolades as he did so. Author Grant Achatz was backed by Nick Kokonas financially, as a mentor and as a partner, his part of the book gives the reader a very good idea of what it takes to set up and run a high end restaurant.

The kicker comes in the last few chapters where we learn that Grant had a particularly insidious form of cancer that could destroy his career or possibly end his life; the reader will then fully understand the title of the book. We can all get inspiration and hope from the way Grant battled the cancer and won.

James Wilson recommends:



It's All About the Bike: The Pursuit of Happiness on Two Wheels

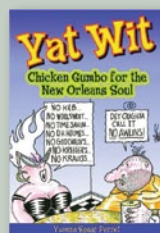
Robert Penn's *It's All About the Bike* (\$23, Bloomsbury USA, 978-1-6081-9538-1) is very aptly named — because it really IS “all about the bike” (with apologies to Mr. Armstrong) and that's what's great about the book.

Rob wanted his dream bicycle. As he assembles the parts: frame, headset, drivetrain, wheels, etc., he travels to the very place each component is made to see it manufactured. Rob takes us on a journey around the world that reveals not only the history of each manufacturer, but also the history of bicycling. It is informative. It is inspirational. It is a love letter to cycling and to one of man's greatest inventions — the bicycle.

After Rob swings his leg over his new dream bike and mounts the saddle on a rainy day for his first ride he says: “You make a covenant with a bike like this — to ride it, and look after it for as long as it bears you away to a refuge far from the present.” Spoken like a true cyclist. Avail. 4/26

UPCOMING EVENTS AT OCTAVIA

(Continued on page 12)

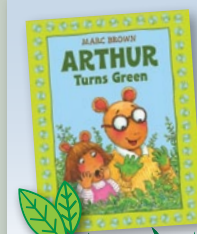


Yvonne Spear Perret

Yat Wit: Chicken Gumbo for the New Orleans Soul

Saturday, April 2, 2 pm

Derived from the common greeting, “Where y’at?” a yat is a New Orleanian who speaks with a distinct phraseology and pronunciation. This candid book honors the “yat” with a collection of humorous essays that detail the quirks and perks of life in New Orleans. Whether enjoyed by a long-time local or a visitor, *Yat Wit* (\$12.95, Pelican, 978-1-5898-0907-9) reminds readers why New Orleanians remain resilient in the effort to resurrect and preserve their beloved city.



Meet Marc Brown

Arthur Turns Green

Saturday, April 9, 1 pm

Please join us for a very special visit with celebrated children's author/illustrator Marc Brown who is coming to Octavia Books just in time to gear up for Earth Day with *Arthur Turns Green* (\$16.99, Little Brown, 978-0-3161-2924-4), his first new Arthur picture book in almost ten years!



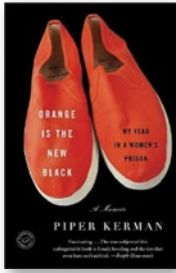
Sara Gruen

Ape House

Monday, April 11, 6 pm

You are invited to a special evening with Sara Gruen whose novel *Water for Elephants* has become one of the most beloved and bestselling novels of our time. Now Gruen has moved from a circus elephant to a family of bonobo apes kidnapped from a language laboratory and their mysterious appearance on a reality TV show. Join us as we celebrate the paperback release of *Ape House* (15, Spiegel & Grau, 978-0-3855-2322-6).

Upcoming Events at Octavia Books



Piper Kerman
Orange is the New Black
Tuesday, April 12, 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) now out in paperback. A compelling, often hilarious, and unflinching compassionate portrait of life inside a women's prison, now out in paperback. Kerman's story compels us to look at why it is we look so many away — and what happens to them when they're there.

NolaVie Creative Writing Reading
Thursday, April 14, 6 pm

Please join us for a special reading featuring the winners and runners-up of the NolaVie Creative Writing Competition.



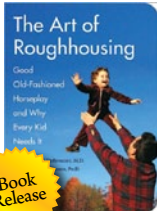
Book Release Party



Julie Smith
Cursebusters
Thursday, May 5, 5 pm

Please join us for a special reading and book signing with well-known New Orleans mystery writer **Julie Smith** celebrating the release of *Cursebusters* (\$13.95, Bold Strokes, 978-1-6028-2559-8) — her first YA novel and also her first paranormal adventure.

Budding-psyhic Reeno is the most accomplished teenage burglar in California, but one tiny screw-up and poof!—she's sentenced to Bad Girl School. And that isn't even her worst problem. Her sister Haley's dying of an illness no one can diagnose, and now she can't even help. But wait, maybe she can! The school psychics have found each other and formed their own club.



Book Release

Lawrence J. Cohen
The Art of Roughhousing: Good Old-Fashioned Horseplay and Why Every Kid Needs It
Wednesday, May 9, 6 pm

A New Orleans native, licensed psychologist Lawrence Cohen returns to discuss his book *The Art of Roughhousing* (\$14.95, Quirk, 978-1-5947-4487-7). Scientific studies and observations explain why creative, physical activity nurtures close connections, solves behavior problems, boosts confidence, and more.

Katie Crouch
The Magnolia League & Men and Dogs
Tuesday, May 10, 5:30 pm

After the death of her free-spirited mother, sixteen-year-old Alexandra Lee is forced to move from Northern California to Savannah, Georgia, to live with her wealthy grandmother, who expects Alex to join a long-standing debutante society, which, Alex learns, has made a pact with a legendary Hoodoo family in *The Magnolia League* (\$17.99, Poppy, 978-0-3160-7849-8).

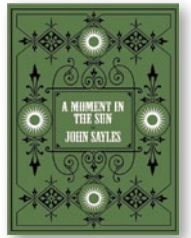
Men and Dogs (\$13.99, Back Bay, 978-0-3160-0214-1) is a hilarious and moving novel about loyalty, family, and a prodigal daughter's return home.



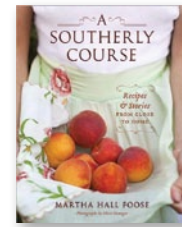
John Sayles
A Moment in the Sun
Wednesday, May 11, 6 pm

Join us for a special evening with celebrated filmmaker and master storyteller John Sayles who will read and sign his monumental new work of historical fiction, *A Moment in the Sun* (\$29, McSweeney's, 978-1-9363-6518-0).

It's 1897, and the world seems on the verge of offering its outcasts a new kind of opportunity. Hod Brackenridge has turned his back on years spent working for the mining concerns to follow news of gold to the Yukon; Clarence Rice, sentenced to hard labor in the South Carolina swamps, has stolen a horse and broken free. And while Royal Scott and Junior Lunceford are offering themselves up to an African American infantry regiment, Diosdado Concepción, a young insurrecto thousands of miles away, is preparing for a war that will pit him against them. Each of these men is intent on forging a new life.



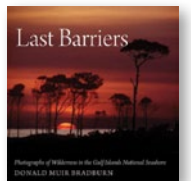
Martha Hall Foose
A Southerly Course
Friday, May 13, 6 pm



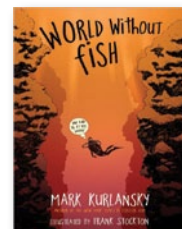
You are invited to an evening with Martha Hall Foose, who will give a presentation on and sign *A Southerly Course: Recipes and Stories Close to Home* (\$32.50, Clarkson Potter, 978-0-3074-6428-6). She picks up where her bestselling James Beard Award-winning *Screen Doors and Sweet Tea* leaves off — charting an even more intimate journey in Martha's life, and reflecting how foodways in the South have continued to evolve over time. Warmly amusing and more poignant with the turn of each page, Martha's tales are always authentic, leaving enamored Southerners and would-be Southerners longing for more. Octavia Books will also be with Martha Hall Foose the next morning at the Crescent City Farmers Market.

Donald Muir Bradburn
Last Barriers: Photographs of Wilderness in the Gulf Islands National Seashore
Thursday, May 17, 6 pm

Join us for a special evening with Donald Bradburn celebrating the release of *Last Barriers* (\$40, Univ. Press of Mississippi, 978-1-6047-3981-7), filled with 120 of his stunning photographs that capture the pristine beauty of Horn Island and other Mississippi gulf islands and a moving essay reflecting on the movement to save these fragile barriers.



Mark Kurlansky
World Without Fish
Thursday, May 19, 6 pm



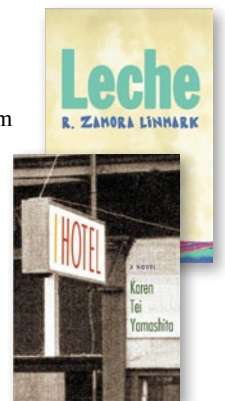
Please join Octavia Books and the Gulf Restoration Network for an evening with master storyteller Mark Kurlansky who will present and sign *World Without Fish* (\$16.95, Workman, 978-0-7611-5607-9), his riveting new book for kids about the threat to fish, the oceans, and our environment — and what, armed with knowledge, kids can do about it. By becoming advocates for sustainable fishing, Kurlansky believes that kids are our hope for putting the planet back on the right track, one fish at a time.

R. Zamora Linmark, Leche
Karen Tei Yamashita, I Hotel
Friday, May 20, 6 pm

Please join us for a 2-author evening featuring R. Zamora Linmark reading from his new book, *Leche*, and Karen Tei Yamashita reading from her *I Hotel*, a 2010 National Book Award finalist.

At once playful and darkly satiric, *Leche* (\$15.95, Coffee House, 978-1-5668-9254-4) is an intimate tour of the Philippines through the eyes of Vince, who returns to his native country and uncovers the paradoxes inherent in the search for both personal and national identities.

I Hotel (\$19.95, Coffee House, 978-1-5668-9239-1) — a hip, multi-voiced fusion of prose, playwriting, graphic art, and philosophy — spins an epic tale of America's struggle for civil rights as it played out in San Francisco's Chinatown from 1968-1977. As Yamashita's motley cast of students, laborers, artists, revolutionaries, and provocateurs make their way through the history of the day, their stories come to define the very heart of the American experience.



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