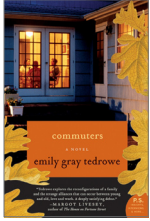




# AUGUST '10 NOTABLES



## FICTION



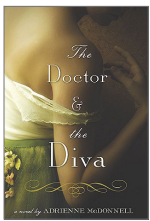
### Commuters

**A Novel, by Emily Gray Tedrowe**

(Harper Perennial, \$13.99, paper, 9780061859472)

"The whirlwind romance and marriage between Winnie, 78, and wealthy businessman Jerry, 85, promises a happy future but immediately upsets family dynamics. Jerry's resentful daughter views Winnie as a gold-digging usurper, while Winnie's daughter, beset by financial problems brought on by her husband's brain injury, is difficult in her own right. Their stories are interwoven with a deft hand, and portrayed with both wit and compassion in this engaging debut."

—Ellen Sandmeyer, Sandmeyer's Bookstore, Chicago, IL



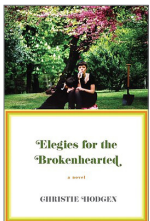
### The Doctor and the Diva

**A Novel, by Adrienne McDonnell**

(Pamela Dorman Books/Viking, \$26.95, 9780670021888)

"Opera and medicine are two unlikely subjects that come together beautifully in this haunting novel, lush with promise, ripe with feeling, and totally absorbing. Erika, a woman gifted with a huge talent, struggles to find her place in a society that demands she give up her operatic dreams to raise and nurture a family. Unable to conceive, she seeks the help of renowned Dr. Ravell, who takes it upon himself to help her, even at the risk of deceit. A stunning debut, based upon the author's own family history."

—Beth Bower, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



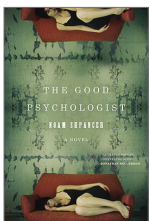
### Elegies for the Brokenhearted

**A Novel, by Christie Hodgen**

(W.W. Norton, \$23.95, 9780393061406)

"'Brokenhearted' is a generous word for the characters in this novel. Most of us would think of them as losers, and not necessarily beautiful ones. Yet these are the people the narrator leans on and learns from as she negotiates her way through her mother's serial marriages and her depressed New England milltown's downward spiral before setting off in pursuit of her sister who has already fled for parts unknown. Hodgen has written a novel of extraordinary empathy and humanity, which evokes the spirit of Carson McCullers."

—Terry Flynn, Third Place Books, Lake Forest Park, WA



### The Good Psychologist

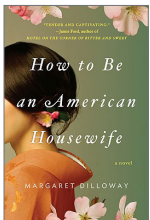
**A Novel, by Noam Shpancer**

(Holt, \$24, 9780805092592)

"This is a quiet, lovely, luminous book, a gentle treasure. The psychologist is treating a stripper afraid to strip, teaching a class where the brightest student is also the most disturbed, and trying to reconcile the needs of his private life. He has loved, but perhaps not wisely. His paramour, a fellow

psychologist, is married, and together they have a child that he has never met. As the psychologist engages his students and listens to the secrets of the anxiety-ridden stripper, the delicate balance between his personal and his professional life becomes dangerously blurred."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR



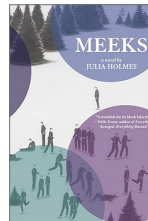
### How to Be an American Housewife

**A Novel, by Margaret Dilloway**

(Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399156373)

"You will love this story of Shoko, a Japanese woman who marries an American soldier at the end of World War II and travels to America to become the perfect housewife. Shoko's plan to reunite with her brother in Japan is put on hold because of health problems, and she sends her daughter and granddaughter instead for a visit that reveals family secrets and leads to forgiveness."

—Beth Carpenter, The Country Bookshop, Plainfield, VT



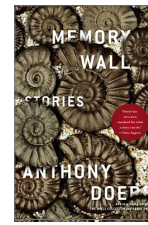
### Meeks

**by Julia Holmes**

(Small Beer Press, dist. Consortium, \$16, paper, 9781931520652)

"Holmes has created a fabulously surreal dystopia where to be married is the only way to find true happiness. Bachelors spend their days cultivating skills to impress ladies in what is essentially a lottery, and if they aren't successful, they are consigned to a life of civil service—or worse. Darkly comic and lyrical, Meeks provides a unique satirical lens to look at our own changing perceptions of marriage, home life, and success."

—Emily Pullen, Skylight Books, Los Angeles, CA



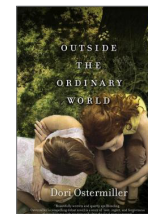
### Memory Wall

**Stories, by Anthony Doerr**

(Scribner, \$24, 9781439182802)

"When people say they don't read short stories because they lack the depth and complexity of a novel, you should hand them this book. The title story alone is richer than many novels, and the rest of the collection is outstanding as well. With settings as varied as Africa, China, and the American West, featuring characters black, white and Asian, Doerr's writing reminds us of the beauty of memory and the power of storytelling."

—Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



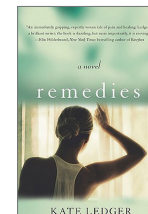
### Outside the Ordinary World

**by Dori Ostermiller**

(Mira, \$14.95, paper, 9780778328896)

"Given today's reality, stories about affairs are not that uncommon. What makes this one so remarkable is that the characters are complex, realistically flawed, and their actions have real impact on those around them. This isn't just a story about a woman having an affair; it is the story of how one decision affects a woman's life as well as the lives of her spouse, children, parents, siblings, and lover. Outside the Ordinary World is brilliantly written with both love and humor."

—Cathy Allard, BayShore Books, Oconto, WI



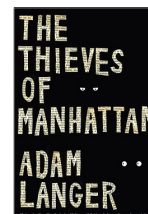
### Remedies

**A Novel, by Kate Ledger**

(Berkley Trade, \$15, paper, 9780425234488)

"In Remedies, Ledger delves into the consequences of grief left unresolved. Simon and Emily are a middle-aged couple with one teenage daughter, born after a son who died as an infant. Simon, a doctor, buries himself in his work and teeters dangerously close to the edge of insanity. Emily has repressed her emotions so completely that it is only with the help of a former lover that her feelings have any chance of airing. The reader will fall in love with both the beauty of the writing and the story of the incredible evolution the human soul can make."

—Jennifer Geraedts, Beagle Books, Park Rapids, MN



### The Thieves of Manhattan

**A Novel, by Adam Langer**

(Spiegel & Grau, \$15, paper, 9781400068913)

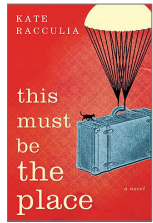
"Ian Minot is a schlumpy short story writer working at Morningside Coffee. Through a chance conversation with a customer, he becomes embroiled in an elaborate scheme to scam the publishing world. Langer serves up an over-the-top, name-dropping New York swashbuckler, packed with literary allusions, plot twists, and gumshoe slang lifted straight from Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Franzen. Broad-stroked characterization and implausible plotting ultimately lead to a wildly enjoyable literary tilt-a-whirl. Super fun!"

—Daniel Goldin, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



# NOTABLES

## AUGUST '10



### This Must Be the Place

**A Novel, By Kate Racculia**

(Holt, \$25, 9780805092301)

"A quirky cast of characters comes together to make up a highly entertaining, engaging, and touching book. Chief among them are Oneida Jones, a self-described freak who has embraced her oddness; her mother, Mona, a wedding cake baker and the proprietress of the Darby-Jones boardinghouse; and Arthur Rook,

a recently widowed photographer who believes he can 'see' the real essence of a person. You will come to love these characters and this book!"

—Avery Dickey, Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL

### NONFICTION



### Clandestine in Chile

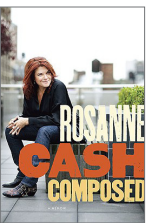
**The Adventures of Miguel Littin, by Gabriel García Márquez, Asa Zatz, translator**

(NYRB Classics, \$14, paper, 9781590173404)

"Clandestine in Chile is a dazzling combination of a thrilling adventure story and the delicate, unmistakable writing of Gabriel García Márquez. With all of the drama, suspense, and emotion of his most well-crafted novel, Marquez pens the riveting story of

Miguel Littin, a famous Chilean film director, who, after being one of the thousands exiled from Chile following the assassination of Salvador Allende, sneaks back into his home country with an alias and a disguise to secretly film a documentary about life in Chile during the merciless reign of Augusto Pinochet. Some of his encounters and near-fatalities are at once breathtaking and hilarious, and his story, brought together with Márquez's distinct ability to inject an emotion into a single word, is an incredible snapshot of Chilean history."

—Joanna Poceta, The Book Works, Del Mar, CA



### Composed

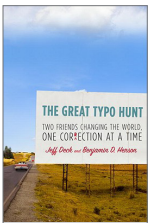
**A Memoir, by Rosanne Cash**

(Viking, \$26.95, 9780670021963)

"Composed is a very personal account of Cash's musical career, her roles as mother, daughter, and wife, and her battle with cancer and brain surgery. She eloquently shares the journey of her musical career as she tenderly evokes the losses of those closest to her and reflects on the moments when she truly

connected as a daughter to her iconic parents. Rosanne Cash is a theatrical triple threat: a lyrical singer, a choreographer of words, and a skilled thespian who relies on tears or wit at just the right moments."

—Sarah Bagby, Watermark Books, Wichita, KS



### The Great Typo Hunt

**Two Friends Changing the World, One Correction at a Time, by Jeff Deck and Benjamin D. Herson**

(Harmony, \$23.99, 9780307591074)

"What happens when one man and a rotating roster of faithful companions set off across America, armed with Sharpies and Wite-Out, to hunt down and correct typos wherever they may

lurk? TEAL—the Typo Eradication Advancement League, dreamed up by Jeff Deck—did just that, and this quirky, enlightening memoir chronicles their adventures. Language enthusiasts and fans of offbeat heroes everywhere will thoroughly enjoy The Great Typo Hunt!"

—Erin Kurup, Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, NY



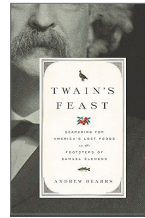
### She Bets Her Life

**A True Story of Gambling Addiction, by Mary Sojourner**

(Seal Press, \$17.95, paper, 9781580052986)

"Mary Sojourner has long been one of my favorite writers, because of both her fine, incisive writing and her fiery, passionate personality. Few writers out there could have written such a powerful and honest book about such an overlooked issue."

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



### Twain's Feast

**Searching for America's Lost Foods in the Footsteps of Samuel Clemens, by Andrew Behrs**

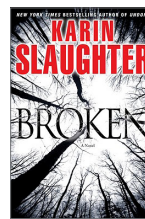
(Penguin Press, \$25.95, 9781594202599)

"Unhappy with the food in Europe, in A Tramp Abroad Mark Twain famously described several American dishes he would immediately relish once he returned home. Behrs revisits some of Twain's culinary desires with a fantastic book that digs deep

into how much the American food industry has changed. His anthropological approach to the topic is riveting, and any fan of Twain and/or food will devour this tour de force."

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

### MYSTERY/SUSPENSE



### Broken

**A Novel, by Karin Slaughter**

(Delacorte, \$26, 9780385341974)

"Karin Slaughter does flawed characters so well! There are dirty cops with questionable histories, indigent students trying to make a buck, a widowed medical examiner turned ER doc, and Detective Will Trent, dyslexic, orphaned and the product of multiple foster homes, whose challenges allow him to see things more clearly. Trent, in his methodical, quiet, brilliant manner, manages to break a criminal investigation of two murdered students in Grant County wide open—one that is being covered up from the top down. Riveting!"

—Karen Ford, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI



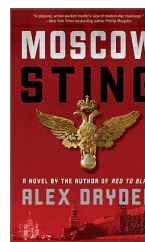
### The Koala of Death

**by Betty Webb**

(Poisoned Pen Press, \$14.95, paper, 9781590587584)

"Zookeeper Teddy Bentley is back in this delightful second book in the Gunn Zoo mystery series. This time, in addition to solving the murder of her fellow zookeeper, Teddy finds that she has hidden talents as a TV personality. The characters are wonderful, and the setting reminds you of your childhood. Can't wait to read more of these!"

—Linda Dewberry, Whodunit? Books, Olympia, WA



### Moscow Sting

**A Novel, by Alex Dryden**

(Ecco, \$24.99, 9780061966842)

"Alex Dryden writes spy novels that put him on the same level as such illustrious predecessors as John Buchan and Eric Ambler. Like those classic writers, his work is taut, intelligent, and frighteningly topical. The story of Russian defector Anna Resnikov and the machinations on all sides to use her and her knowledge is the perfect sequel to Red to Black and a perfect example of how excellent the genre can be."

—Skye C. Ange-Roland, Odysset Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



### Wanting Sheila Dead

**A Gregor Demarkian Novel, by Jane Haddam**

(Minotaur, \$25.99, 9780312380878)

"The 25th entry in Haddam's fine Gregor Demarkian series is a standout. In an homage to Agatha Christie's The Body in the Library as well as to her classic characters of Poirot and Marple, Haddam gives the story a fresh twist by using a reality show, à la American Idol, as her setting, and making the show's

star the most hateful woman on the planet. Demarkian, who works out of Philadelphia as a consultant to various police departments, uses Christie as his guide in solving the case. Great fun!"

—Robin Agnew, Aunt Agatha's, Ann Arbor MI