



# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## THE DEBBA

A Novel, by Avner Mandelman

“Avner Mandelman uses the format of a thriller to produce a compelling, nuanced portrayal of Israel at its creation and beyond. As his characters progress through a murder investigation, Mandelman presents the reader with an Israel far from the stereotype. This superb fiction brings an understanding of a diverse and conflicted society better than any strict historical portrait could.”

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



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## KINGS OF THE EARTH

A Novel, by Jon Clinch

“In upstate New York, three aging brothers live the life of the past caught in the modern world as they work their dairy farm. One morning, one brother is found dead in the bed that they all share. A surviving brother gives a dubious confession. Did he commit murder, or is he really protecting his mentally handicapped brother? This is a well-written, twisting tale of endurance told through multiple voices.”

—Karen T. Harris, Bunch of Grapes Bookstore, Vineyard Haven, MA



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## THE LOVERS

A Novel, by Vendela Vida

“After the loss of her husband, Yvonne travels to Turkey to the town of her honeymoon years before. In trying to reconnect to the good parts of her marriage she ends up feeling lost and lonely, but through a series of mismatched friendships she finds her way back to herself and her family. A beautifully written book.”

—Joni Ditzler, Maria's Bookshop, Durango, CO



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## THE REBELLION OF JANE CLARKE

A Novel, by Sally Gunning

“Jane Clarke is a feisty and forward-looking heroine swept up in the conflicts of Revolutionary War-era Boston. With a great sense of history, romance, and suspense, Sally Gunning knows how to tell a story that one will read with pleasure. The Rebellion of Jane Clarke is a must read!”

—Nan Arroyo, Brewster Book Store, Brewster, MA



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## RED HOOK ROAD

A Novel, by Ayelet Waldman

“Ayelet Waldman is one of those very rare authors who gets better with each book that she writes. Covering four summers in the lives of two families united by tragedy, Red Hook Road is a challenging book to read, but a rewarding book to have read.”

—Martin Sorensen, Green Apple Books, San Francisco, CA



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## SEA ESCAPE

A Novel, by Lynne Griffin

“In this compulsively readable and richly detailed novel, Laura—devoted daughter, mom, nurse, and wife—yearns for acceptance from her distant, ailing mother. As her mother struggles to recover from a stroke, Laura pores over the letters her father wrote from Vietnam decades earlier. In so doing, Laura gradually unravels her family’s mysterious history and discovers unexpected kinship with her mother.”

—Peg Patten, Front Street Book Shop, Scituate, MA



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## THE TRANSFORMATION OF BARTHOLOMEW FORTUNO

A Novel, by Ellen Bryson

“This novel offers a look inside P.T. Barnum’s famous American Museum in nineteenth-century New York City. How would it feel to be ‘The World’s Thinnest Man?’ Embarrassed, ashamed, sad? No, Bartholomew Fortunio feels his unusual body is actually a gift to the world. That is, until he meets Iell, the world’s most beautiful and mysterious Bearded Lady. Are they unique people or freaks of nature? You decide after reading this winning and wondrous novel.”

—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI



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## TRUST

A Novel, by Kate Veitch

“Australian writer Kate Veitch brings readers another powerful novel with this story of a woman determined to allow herself to grow with her art while raising her family and taking care of her husband in the traditional way. After a car accident brings tragedy to her family, Susanna comes to terms with how fragile and fleeting life can be and puts her mind to becoming the artist she wants to be. Without being just another book about a woman who is unhappy in life, Trust demonstrates that strength and perseverance can help one get to where they truly want to be in life.”

—Annie Philbrick, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## THE WRITING CIRCLE

A Novel, by Corinne Demas

“Complicated with former and current relationships among the members, secrets kept, and ideas stolen, this compelling tale is about a writing group made up of all levels of literati—historians, popular fiction writers, biographers, poets, all at various places in their careers. All of the characters are well drawn, and the story moves along at a brisk pace. Thoroughly entertaining!”

—Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## BLIND DESCENT

The Quest to Discover the Deepest Place on Earth, by James M. Tabor

“This thrilling true-life adventure involves two men, two caves, and enough terrifying hazards to capture any reader! Tabor takes that old adage that what goes up must come down and turns it over—what goes down does not necessarily always come back up. A mesmerizing and compelling read that is best taken on only in well lit and airy surroundings!”

—Jerry DeLong, Joseph Beth Booksellers, Lyndhurst, OH



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## BRILLIANT

The Evolution of Artificial Light, by Jane Brox

“These days we take the artificial illumination of our world so much for granted that it is surprising to learn that much of our country was not electrified until well into the last century. Brox looks at the entire history of illumination from the Ice Age forward, explaining not only the development of different lighting technologies through history, but helping us understand what each meant to the people whose lives they so profoundly changed.”

—Dale Szczablowski, Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA



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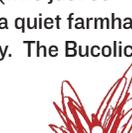
# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## THE BUCOLIC PLAGUE

How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers: An Unconventional Memoir  
by Josh Kilmer-Purcell

“When Josh and his partner Brent stumble upon the Beekman Mansion during their yearly jaunt from New York City to upstate apple country, they fall in love with the dilapidated farm long before they even set foot inside. As they slowly turn from city socialites to country boys, the Beekman offers up a series of challenges: Brent’s determination to live up to Martha Stewart’s perfection (who just so happens to be his boss), Josh’s desire to live his Oprah-inspired Best Life, 84 goats, a quiet farmhand known simply as Farmer John, a few ghosts, zombie flies, and the collapsing economy. The Bucolic Plague is indeed an unconventional—and unforgettable—memoir.”

—Megan Fecko, Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Lyndhurst, OH



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## FIFTH AVENUE, 5 A.M.

Audrey Hepburn, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, and the Dawn of the Modern Woman, by Sam Wasson

"Truman Capote's risqué novel about Holly Golightly and her gay friend became an on-screen romantic comedy hit. For someone who has seen the movie as much as I have (and I know I'm not alone), *Fifth Avenue, 5A.M.* is part encyclopedia, part valentine. Will the controlling Mel Ferrer keep Hepburn from taking the role? What is to happen if one of the producers absolutely hates Henry Mancini's theme song? Will Edith Head let her costumes be upstaged by Hubert Givenchy, and how does one work French couture into the life of a fairly naïve and not particularly successful New York call girl anyway? Great fun!"

—Daniel Goldin, *Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI*



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## FUR, FORTUNE, AND EMPIRE

The Epic History of the Fur Trade in America, by Eric Jay Dolin

"Dolin guides readers through over 200 years of man's quest for incredibly valuable animal pelts. Much of the tale is surprisingly nautical, as Old World powers vie for control of the abundant resources of the New World. Dolin's book seamlessly connects the economic, cultural, and geographical threads of the fur trade. Shipboard scoundrels, mountain men, Indian captives, ruthless capitalists, even victims of grizzly bears—this superb history has it all!"

—Christopher Rose, *Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA*



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## THE SPICE NECKLACE

*My Adventures in Caribbean Cooking, Eating, and Island Life*, by Ann Vanderhoof

"Unlike many travel and food writers who never stray beyond the glossy tourist areas, Vanderhoof seeks out the best, most authentic, down-home island recipes whether it's by scampering after thyme-grazing goats on a Dominican mountainside, pounding out conch with Grenadian fishermen, or learning how to 'whine and shuffle' her way through a Trinidadian carnival, covered in mud, paint and sweat. The next best thing to sailing the West Indies yourself!"

—Emily Crowe, *Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA*



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# JULY '10 NOTABLES

## TALKING TO GIRLS ABOUT DURAN DURAN

*One Young Man's Quest for True Love and a Cooler Haircut*, by Rob Sheffield

"Talking to Girls About Duran Duran is a book for anyone who has been surprised by a wave of nostalgia for the 1980s upon hearing 'Rio' or 'Hungry Like the Wolf.' Readers may find themselves nodding their heads, pumping their fists in the air, or, more likely, running to their music collections and dancing around the room as Sheffield evokes fond and bittersweet memories of the decade everyone thought they hated."

—Carol Schneck, *Schuler Books & Music, Okemos, MI*



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## THE CASE OF THE MAN WHO DIED LAUGHING

From the Files of Vish Puri, Most Private Investigator, by Tarquin Hall

“Vish Puri, master of disguise and lover of all things spicy, does not believe that Dr. Suresh Jha’s death was brought about by supernatural powers. While he sets his team of operatives—Facecream, Tubelight and Flush—off to investigate, he tries to ignore the fact that his wife and mother are investigating their own crime. The second book in this series set in India is a hoot!”

—Doris Blechman, Anderson’s Bookshop, Naperville, IL



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# LOCAL AUTHOR

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## THE DEVIL AMONGST THE LAWYERS

A Ballad Novel, by Sharyn McCrumb

“Erma Morton, a beautiful, educated woman from the mountains of Virginia, is accused of murdering her father in 1935. Journalists from big city newspapers flock to remote Wise County to report their version of life and death in ‘them thar hills.’ McCrumb has utilized a true murder case to set the facts straight about her beloved Appalachian way of life. This is a novel of passion, mystery and magic, as well as a wake-up call to the power and influence of the media.”

—Karen Briggs, Great Northern Books and Hobbies, Oscoda, MI



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# STAFF PICK!

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## THE LEFT HAND OF GOD

A Novel, by Paul Hoffman

"The Left Hand of God is one fantasy novel that steps out of the mold, focusing on culture and character without the razzle-dazzle of beasties and magic. With an intriguing array of characters, plot twists, and just a touch of mystery, this story will keep you guessing. Dark, unpredictable, and witty; this is a real page-turner that will leave you thirsting for more."

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



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## PRAY FOR SILENCE

A Thriller, by Linda Castillo

"In this sequel to Sworn to Silence, Police Chief Kate Burkholder is faced with the slaughter of an Amish family of seven. Her search for the killer takes her on a dark journey of discovery and uncovers a disturbing realm of violence and brutality. As before, Castillo keeps the pace quick, the story compelling, and her manner towards the Amish reverent."

—Katherine Osborne, **Kennebooks, Kennebunk, ME**



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