



# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## BITTER IN THE MOUTH

A Novel, by Monique Truong

"The 'growing up in the south' story is a genre in itself, but in the hands of Monique Truong it is fresh and unique. To be sure, there are the required eccentric relatives, the best friend and the first love, but Linda has a few characteristics that make her a genuine outsider. First, she is Asian, and, second, she has a synesthesia that causes her to experience spoken words as a taste. It is a distracting and sometimes painful experience that she slowly learns to accept, but it always makes her feel different. Written in a way to allow the reader to understand the synesthesia—some conversations are recorded with the accompanying tastes behind the words—this book is both tender and laugh-out-loud funny."

—Ann Carlson, Harborwalk Books, Georgetown, SC

Find out more about this book and others at [WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG](http://WWW.INDIEBOUND.ORG)



# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## C

A Novel, by Tom McCarthy

"Finishing this novel was like waking from a long curious dream. Serge Carrefax's family is wealthy, prolific, and eccentric, and Serge drifts through life as though viewing it from a great height. McCarthy's writing is both brilliantly inventive and, at the same time, familiarly classic."

—Grant Novak, The Vermont Bookshop, Middlebury, VT

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## COME AGAIN NO MORE

A Novel, by Jack Todd

"In this second volume of a planned trilogy, which began with Sun Going Down, Todd expertly captures a time in American history when two disasters occurred simultaneously: the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. The strained family relations and daily challenges of rural life reminded me of stories in my own family's history. While the story belongs to Eli and his granddaughter Emaline, some of the supporting characters are among the best I've ever read. I'm hooked on the Paint family, and anxiously await the next book."

—Bob Boyd, Steve's Books and Magazines, Tulsa, OK

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE EDEN HUNTER

A Novel, by Skip Horack

"This is an astonishingly beautiful novel, with descriptions both poetic and powerful and an attentive, subtle rendering of many a human heart and mind. A little-known chapter of American history concerning runaway slaves in Florida is made viscerally palpable through Horack's telling. We follow the character of Kau, an African pygmy fleeing his bondage. Kau's long odyssey to a place where his heart can finally find peace makes for a gripping story."

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

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE LIFE YOU'VE IMAGINED

A Novel, by Kristina Riggle

"Are you living the life you've imagined? This is a universal and timeless question that can be difficult to answer, but Riggle's second novel examines this particular inquiry with humor, insight, and empathy. The reader follows the paths of Cami, Anna, and Amy as they evaluate their relationships with family, friends, and significant others, their career choices, and their hopes and dreams for the future. This will make a great book club selection."

—Roni K. Devlin, Literary Life Bookstore & More, Grand Rapids, MI



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## MAYBE THIS TIME

A Novel, by Jennifer Crusie

"I loved this book! I thought it was the perfect blend of humor, romance, and ghost story—an overall enjoyable read from cover to cover. It's the story of a woman who thought she knew what she wanted and who she was and then realized she really had no clue. And who doesn't love a happy ending?!"

—Michelle Burcky, Cover to Cover Bookstore, Arlington, TN



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE WIDOWER'S TALE

A Novel, by Julia Glass

"Julia Glass follows classic tradition, proving once again that family is the original source of comedy, tragedy, and frustration. Her newest novel is a meditation on love, both filial and romantic, and how hopelessly ridiculous we all become if we don't make the effort to temper our passions with reason or our actions with accountability."

—Emily Crowe, Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley, MA



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE WISHING TREES

A Novel, by John Shors

"Ian and his 10-year-old daughter Mattie set out on a memory tour of the Asian countries in which Ian and Kate, Ian's late wife and Mattie's mother, had met. Ian and Kate had planned to take this trip on their 15th anniversary. In her final days, Kate wrote a note to each of them for every country on their trip, and as Ian and Mattie open them, they discover her love and wishes for them. Mattie draws a picture in each country and ties it to a 'wishing tree' for Kate to 'see.' This is a sensitive and poignant family story."

—Sally Van Vert, MacDonald Book Shop, Estes Park, CO



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## CLEO

The Cat Who Mended a Family, by Helen Brown

"Buy this book as a holiday present for your dog-loving friend who raved about Marley and Me. That person probably said only a dog could be the center of attention in a book that was so loved by so many. Now you can prove that a special cat can make it as the next animal book star. This wonderful and touching story of a family's good and bad times comes from the other side of the world, but is just as real as if it was set in a house next door."

—Catherine Carpenter, Cate's Books and Stuff, Louisiana, MO



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## FINDERS KEEPERS

A Tale of Archaeological Plunder and Obsession, by Craig Childs

"In Finders Keepers, Craig Childs examines the incredibly thorny issues of archaeology, looting, collecting and the larger question: Who owns the past? With his trademark honesty and well-researched knowledge of the subject, Childs vividly shows us that there are no right answers and that moral ambiguity rules. Another brilliant and thought-provoking book from one of the West's greatest living writers."

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



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## HALF A LIFE

by Darin Strauss

"When Darin Strauss was 18 years old, he was in a car accident that resulted in the death of a bicyclist. Darin was the driver, and the victim was one of his high school classmates. This is a book about survivor's guilt that has haunted him for, literally, half of his life. Though he was cleared of any wrong-doing, Strauss has always felt guilty, always carried the responsibility for someone else's death with him. This is a brutally honest and unflinching book that Strauss originally wrote for himself and then a friend talked him into submitting a version to NPR's This American Life. The response to that piece was overwhelming. I like a line from Kelly Corrigan's review of the book the best:

"This might be the bravest book you will ever read."

—Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## SOME WE LOVE, SOME WE HATE, SOME WE EAT

Why It's So Hard to Think Straight About Animals, by Hal Herzog

"With this book Hal Herzog delivers provocative popular science at its witty, 'gee-whiz' best. With headings such as 'Feeding Kittens to Boa Constrictors,' this book challenges the reader to think through the knotty ethics of human interactions with other animal species. While it might make you squirm, you'll have fun reading this informal, often-humorous survey of the emerging, interdisciplinary field of anthrozoology. Like Malcolm Gladwell, Herzog blends scientific abstracts with anecdotes to form a compelling narrative."

—Chris Wilcox, City Lights Bookstore, Sylva, NC



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SEPTEMBER '10

# NOTABLES

## YOUNG MICHELANGELO

The Path to the Sistine: A Biography, by John T. Spike

"He was possibly the world's greatest artist, certainly its greatest sculptor, but John Spike gives us a nuanced human view of Michelangelo on his path to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The reader meets a man dealing with financial problems, family pressures, artistic feuds, all set within the turbulent world of the Medici, the Borgias, and Savonarola. This is Michelangelo of reality, not myth."

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



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SEPTEMBER '10

# NOTABLES

## BODY WORK

A V.I. Warshawski Novel, by Sara Paretsky

"V.I. Warshawski is back on the case. This latest investigation finds death at a local nightclub full of odd characters. From the artist who lets people draw art on her body to the burly thugs who hang out there and the young vets trying to keep their post-Iraq War demons at bay, Body Work is one terrific read. Highly recommended!"

—Linda Dewberry, Whodunit? Books, Olympia, WA



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SEPTEMBER '10

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## DOG TAGS

A Novel, by David Rosenfelt

"It's a good thing New Jersey lawyer Andy Carpenter inherited a fortune, as his clients these days are all canines. In this case it's Milo, a classic German Shepherd police dog retrained by his owner as a partner in crime. Milo the thief is in jail, and Andy is about to argue bail and muster his unusual partners in the law to both aid the dog and prevent a catastrophic event to which Milo has buried a key element. Another very entertaining entry in Rosenfelt's series!"

—Barbara Peters, Poisoned Pen Bookshop, Scottsdale, AZ



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SEPTEMBER '10

# NOTABLES

## IN THE BELLY OF JONAH

A Liv Bergen Mystery, by Sandra Brannan

"Set among the imposing Colorado Rockies, this first novel in a frightening new series is a fast-paced, gripping mystery to be read with the lights on and the doors locked. You will cheer on this intelligent, gritty heroine as she endeavors to out-think a killer determined to make her his next masterpiece."

—Maria Upichard, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## LIAR, LIAR

A Cat DeLuca Mystery, by K.J. Larsen

"Fans of Janet Evanovich will definitely enjoy this first book in a delightful new series. Cat DeLuca owns the Pants on Fire Detective Agency, which has a reputation for catching cheaters of all kinds. Plenty of action, and characters 'to die for.' Great fun!"

—Rebecca Harrison, Lincoln's Loft, Hodgenville, KY

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# LOCAL AUTHOR

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## A NOVEL BOOKSTORE

by Laurence Cosse, Alison Anderson (trans.)

"Ivan has a passion for books, but only 'good' books. Francesca shares his book lust. Together they open a remarkable bookstore in Paris, a store with only 'good' books, a place for readers who love the written word. Initial success is followed by fear and heartbreak as their shop comes under attack. Who is trying to kill the bookstore? This is a treasure for all of us who love books."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR

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# STAFF PICK!

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE QUEEN OF PATPONG

A Poke Rafferty Thriller, by Timothy Hallinan

"If you like thrillers with complex characters and those that are so atmospheric that you can smell the food and feel the humidity, you'll love the Poke Rafferty series. In a delicate balance between knife-edge suspense and charming, cheerful domestic scenes, the street-smart travel writer and an army of bar girls go up against a serial killer who wants Rafferty's wife dead. Hallinan keeps getting better and better!"

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



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# LOCAL AUTHOR

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# SEPTEMBER '10 NOTABLES

## THE SHADOWS IN THE STREET

A Simon Serrailer Mystery, by Susan Hill

"Susan Hill continues to enthrall and captivate in her fifth crime novel featuring Simon Serrailer, and she has cemented his place in the upper tier of crime fiction sleuths along with Adam Dalgliesh, Inspector Lindsey, and Inspector Wexford. The Shadows in the Street is another spellbinding mystery complete with the saga of the Serrailer family."

—Sally Brewster, Park Road Books, Charlotte, NC



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