



APRIL '10

NOTABLES

BEAUTIFUL ASSASSIN

A Novel, by Michael C. White

"It is rare to find a work of historical fiction that can so intricately weave fact and fiction into a fantastic story. We follow Soviet sniper Tat'yana Levchenko from the Eastern Front of World War II to the United States as she tours with Eleanor Roosevelt, embarking on a journey of mystery and intrigue and revealing the shaky alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States."

—Zachary Schwarz, Doylestown Bookshop, Doylestown, PA



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DIVINE MISFORTUNE

A Novel, by A. Lee Martinez

"Not since Richard Condon's Money is Love has anyone had so much fun with the interactions of gods and humans. As their human followers get caught up in the petty squabbles of ancient deities, A. Lee Martinez is able to joyfully skewer many conventions of modern society. This is superb satire filled with pertinent observation."

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



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FIREWORKS OVER TOCCOA

A Novel, by Jeffrey Stepakoff

"In each other, Lily and Jack find comfort, passion, and acceptance for who they really are, rather than what's expected of them. But have they found each other too late? This carefully crafted novel explores what one must embrace --- or sacrifice --- for love. The characters and their struggles touched my heart, and the setting in post-WWII Georgia is charming. I could smell the pecan pies!"

—Jennifer Sorensen, Literary Life Bookstore & More, Grand Rapids, MI



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HOW CLARISSA BURDEN LEARNED TO FLY

A Novel, by Connie May Fowler

"A successful author married to an older, indifferent artist, Clarissa is struggling with writer's block. On the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, Clarissa has reached a point in her discontent where she must completely change her life. The story of her twenty-four hour journey of self-discovery is funny, heartbreaking and ultimately very satisfying. I cheered for Clarissa the whole way through!"

—Kym Havens, Wellesley Booksmith, Wellesley, MA



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THE IRRESISTIBLE HENRY HOUSE

A Novel, by Lisa Grunwald

"Can too many mothers spoil the child? They do in the case of Henry House, an orphan raised in a college home economics "practice house" in the 1950s. Henry becomes adept at pleasing all of his "practice mothers," but at a price. He'll spend his young adulthood figuring out not only how to attract love, but also how to give it. An insightful and bittersweet read."

—Molly Young, Orinda Books, Orinda, CA



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THE LOST SUMMER OF LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

A Novel, by Kelly O'Connor McNeese

"McNeese deftly tells the fictional story of summer the Alcott family spent in rural New Hampshire that changed young Louisa forever. A tale of love and loss that is a 'must read' for the generations of women who cherish their dog-eared copies of Little Women."

—Sam Droke-Dickinson, Aaron's Books, Lititz, PA



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THE LOTUS EATERS

A Novel, by Tatjana Soli

"Unlike any other story of war I've read, The Lotus Eaters sees the beauty amidst the destruction as only a story told through the eyes of a photographer can. It is at once a sweeping love story, a tragedy of humanity, and a fresh look at a war that transformed everything."

—Julia Callahan, Book Soup, West Hollywood, CA



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NIGHTMARE ALLEY

by William Lindsay Gresham

"Carny Stan Carlisle turns himself into a spiritualist/con-man and slowly builds his 'act' for the biggest take of his life, and then sees it all fall hideously apart. The aptly drawn sketches of lowlifes, losers, geeks, and limelight seekers are masterful. I'm so glad to see this classic noir thriller from 1946 be reissued in the great New York Review of Books Classics series."

—Carl Hoffman, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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PEARL OF CHINA

A Novel by Anchee Min

"Anchee Min creates a story of friendship and politics in this fictionalized account of Pearl Buck and young Willow. The street urchin and the daughter of an American missionary share both the simplicity of childhood and the conflict of the Chinese revolution. The two are destined to be separated by politics; however, their friendship never falters and lives on in the Buck's writings."

—Wendy Foster Leigh, *The King's English*, Salt Lake City, UT



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ROBIN AND RUBY

A Novel by K.M. Soehnlein

"In this honest and searing look at the coming-of-age of a gay male in the mid-1980s, Soehnlein brings back the unforgettable Robin from *The World of Normal Boys* and introduces his younger sister Ruby. An important novel filled with passages to be read aloud, remembered and cherished."

—Karen Briggs, *Great Northern Books & Hobbies*, Oscoda, MI



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SOMETHING RED

A Novel, by Jennifer Gilmore

"Politics and family drama are woven together in this finely written novel set in 1979. The Goldstein family stands in for every family -- the American dream, the immigrant experience, leaving home for the first time -- the complex journeys we all face. The collective stress of the Russian boycott, the Iran hostage crisis, and the beginnings of the punk culture is expertly captured. This will be a great bookclub selection."

—Valerie Koehler, *Blue Willow Book Shop*, Houston, TX



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THE SCENT OF RAIN AND LIGHTNING

A Novel, by Nancy Pickard

"Nancy Pickard manages to write like the prairies where she locates her story - big, unexpected, unforgiving, and generous all at the same time. The story follows Jody Linder and her extended family as they face the release of the man convicted of killing of Jody's father, and now graced a new trial. The family struggles once again with the murder and its impact, and finally with the question of justice and the truth."

—Susie Wilmer, *Old Firehouse Books*, Fort Collins, CO



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A THREAD OF SKY

A Novel, by Deanna Fei

“Lin Yulan, a revolutionary and leader of the Chinese feminist movement, reluctantly returns to her homeland after a self-imposed exile. The purpose is to join with her two daughters and three granddaughters for a guided tour of ‘the new China’ in an effort for the nearly estranged women to reconnect. Each woman arrives in China with her own agenda, and each discovers that some shameful secrets are simply too heavy to bear alone. A very promising debut.”

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



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CONTESTED WILL

Who Wrote Shakespeare?, by James Shapiro

“An excellent scholar and an engaging writer, Shapiro looks at the weird and enduring history of doubting that Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare: When did it start? Who perpetuates it? What does it mean? And what can it tell us about the limits and pitfalls of human imagination? This is a study for all interested readers--guaranteed to be the best broad-interest Shakespeare book of the year.”

—Mark David Bradshaw, *Watermark Books, Wichita, KS*



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DEAD END GENE POOL

A Memoir, by Wendy Burden

“Burden’s memoir of her branch of the family descended from Cornelius Vanderbilt is a delightful cautionary tale of the super rich who inherit a large fortune. The family’s unraveling, erratic behavior, and eccentricities make up a morbidly fascinating story.”

—Avery Dickey, *Inkwood Books, Tampa, FL*



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EVERY DOG HAS A GIFT

True Stories of Dogs Who Bring Hope & Healing Into Our Lives, by Rachel McPherson

“Deeply moving and very inspiring, this book is a wonderful collection of stories about the amazing nurturing power that dogs have in our lives. The author’s background is in documentary filmmaking, and she chooses not to sensationalize, but rather let the spare stories speak for themselves. These stories stay with you long after you finish the book!”

—Jennifer Sorensen, *Literary Life Bookstore & More, Grand Rapids,*



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HOW TO BE A SISTER

A Love Story with a Twist of Autism, by Eileen Garvin

“Unlike many books on autism, this honest and personal account focuses on sibling relationships. Eileen recounts, with in-depth detail, her experiences with her sister Margaret, which are often funny, embarrassing, and “normal” for the Garvin family. Eileen uses her experiences to reflect on what it means to be a sibling with someone who is different, how to grow the relationship as an adult, and how growing up with Margaret has shaped her own life.”

—Jenny Cohen, Waucoma Bookstore, Hood River, OR



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THE GIRL WHO CHASED THE MOON

A Novel, by Sarah Addison Allen

“Emily moves to the small town of Mullaby, North Carolina to lives with her grandfather after her mother dies. After a few days in town, she realizes her mother was a different person in Mullaby, and sets out to find out more about her mother’s past. The author’s characters are always charming, and she has a great way of weaving magic into her books.”

—Jenny Cohen, Waucoma Bookstore, Hood River, OR



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KNOWN TO EVIL

by Walter Mosley

“This time around, Leonid McGill has been asked to find a young woman for a man that he can’t refuse. Unfortunately, his sons have disappeared, a former ‘client’ has been caught in a sting, and he winds up at the site of a double homicide - all at the same time. A fun mystery novel based on the gritty streets of NYC.”

—Mary Cowen, Anderson’s Bookshop, Naperville, IL



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