



OCTOBER '10

NOTABLES

ALL IS FORGOTTEN, NOTHING IS LOST

A Novel, by Lan Samantha Chang

"This is the compelling story of two young students and their relationship with their brilliant but intimidating teacher. While both have the promise to become great poets, their ambition and vocation take them on very different paths. A thoughtful look at the price that art demands."

—Sandi Torkildson, **A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, Madison, WI**



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NOTABLES

CITY OF TRANQUIL LIGHT

A Novel, by Bo Caldwell

"Not since Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* have I read a novel that could bring the power of faith to the printed page so beautifully. Based on the stories of her grandparents' missionary years in China, from 1908 to 1933, Caldwell's narrative makes one honor her characters, their bravery, their dedication, and the love they felt for the people and the land that was not their own."

—Marian Nielsen, **Orinda Books, Orinda, CA**



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NOTABLES

FALL OF GIANTS

Book One of the Century Trilogy, by Ken Follett

"Ken Follett has undertaken a massive task in writing the Century Trilogy. In Book One, we follow five families—American, English, Welsh, Russian, and German—from 1911 to 1924. Their lives are seamlessly entwined as we are taken through the Russian Revolution, World War I, the women's suffrage movement, and beyond. The history is accurate, and the writing is excellent. This is storytelling at its best. Be warned: This book is addictive, and you will not want to put it down!"

—Douglas Westgate, **Octavia Books, New Orleans, LA**



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THE LOST AND FORGOTTEN LANGUAGES OF SHANGHAI

A Novel, by Ruiyan Xu

"Can you imagine suddenly losing the ability to speak your native language? Li Jing experiences this loss, which eliminates his brilliance as a successful investor and, even more unfortunate, his ability to communicate with his wife and son. The author, Ruiyan Xu, also experienced being immersed in a culture without the benefit of language, thus giving this novel a depth of feeling so profound you will physically ache for Li Jing and his family."

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



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MAN IN THE WOODS

A Novel, by Scott Spencer

"This is one of the most perfectly crafted novels I have read this year. A good man accidentally kills a stranger and attempts to hide from the consequences, but his guilt disrupts the lives of those he loves and calls into question their faith and trust. Spencer's writing is flawless, and you will stop often to reread many of his beautiful passages."

—Terry Whittaker, Viewpoint of Columbus, Columbus, IN



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OUR TRAGIC UNIVERSE

by Scarlett Thomas

"At the heart of Our Tragic Universe is the concept of the story-less story. Meg is drifting through life, attempting to write her novel, but, struggling, she turns to genre fiction to pay the bills. Her boyfriend, Christopher, is out of work and contributes nothing to their financial situation. Surprisingly enough, the relationship is slowly decaying. Very little action propels the story along; instead, there are the dead-on and inspiring philosophical conversations about heaven, hell, and existence. For a book about nothing, Thomas really knows how to pack a lot into the trajectory of this story, resulting in a very impressive journey."

—Jason Kennedy, Boswell Book Company, Milwaukee, WI



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SOLOMON'S OAK

A Novel, by Jo-Ann Mapson

"In the shadow of a magnificent 200-year-old white oak tree, damaged people come together to form a family. Glory is in despair over the death of her husband. She takes comfort in rescuing dogs and long rides, but grief is her constant companion. Juniper talks tough, but the 14-year-old is fragile inside. Thrown away and alone, she is one more child trying to survive the foster system, but her life changes when Glory gives her a home. Joseph was a cop until things went very wrong. Recovering from his wounds, he is determined to photograph Glory's oak tree. These stories entwine in a heartwarming novel of love, loss, and renewal."

—Deon Stonehouse, Sunriver Books, Sunriver, OR



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STRANGER HERE BELOW

A Novel, by Joyce Hinnefeld

"In Stranger Here Below, Joyce Hinnefeld introduces the reader to three generations of women, each with their individual strengths and frailties, and explores the sometimes tenuous bonds of friendship. This is an excellent book to share among sisters, mothers, daughters, and friends."

—Sandy Scott, Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT



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TAKE ME HOME

A Novel, by Brian Leung

"Set in a Wyoming mining town in the late 1880s, this is the story of two strivers—Addie, a white woman, and Wing, a Chinese man—seeking their fortune in a desolate and dangerous place. Decades later, Addie returns to the town, the site of a horrific crime, to try to make sense of what happened to her and her long lost friend. Brian Leung has created a compelling love story and has brought an important chapter in history to light."

—Karen Maeda Allman, The Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle, WA



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TO THE END OF THE LAND

A Novel, by David Grossman, Jessica Cohen, trans.

"Never before have I been so moved by a work of fiction! David Grossman has brought to life two of the most intense characters, Ora and Avram, who struggle with the effects of war, love, fear, and friendship as they make an epic, soul-bearing walk through the Israeli countryside. This is an extraordinary, unforgettable story!"

—Liz Barnum, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT



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THE TRUTH-TELLER'S LIE

A Novel, previously published as Hurting Distance, by Sophie Hannah

"Desperate to find her lover, adulterous Naomi Jenkins decides to embellish a lie to speed up a missing persons investigation. She relates a horrific experience in which she was a victim, yet changes the identity of the perpetrator in hopes of finding Robert, her true love. How else will she save him? However, Naomi isn't aware that in telling her long-ago secret, she is eerily close to figuring out the truth. This psychologically tense thriller will keep you on the edge with its many dark turns and frightening twists."

—Kristin Bates, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI



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NOTABLES

THE WRONG BLOOD

A Novel, by Manuel de Lope

"Reading The Wrong Blood was similar in experience to the first time I read a book by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Every sentence is alive with emotion and complexity, and the underlying passion in the author's prose made me want to linger over every page. Manuel de Lope writes about nature and memory in concentric circles, leaving readers with a vertiginous view of the world around us."

—Michele Filgate, RiverRun Bookstore, Portsmouth, NH



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THE DIRTY LIFE

On Farming, Food, and Love, by Kristin Kimball

"Kristin was very much a city girl until a writing assignment brought her to Mark's small plot of land, where he was growing food to feed many families. It was love at first sight, at least for the farming. Falling for Mark didn't take too much time after that. The resulting CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) is a new model in which the members can be completely supported by the produce, meat, eggs, and cheese they can pick up weekly, year-round. This is a fascinating story of what love of the land and the desire to feed people can do for individuals and communities, and the potential impact it could have on a global scale."

—Jackie Blem, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Denver, CO

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GROWING UP LAUGHING

My Story and the Story of Funny, by Marlo Thomas

"Marlo Thomas had the best comedic education possible, listening to her father, Danny, and his compatriots at the dinner table. Her memories and interviews with comedy giants combine to produce a delight of a memoir, one that not only entertains but also evokes a bygone era of the legends of stand-up."

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

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MY THOUGHTS BE BLOODY

The Bitter Rivalry Between Edwin and John Wilkes Booth That Led to an American Tragedy, by Nora Titone

"My Thoughts Be Bloody offers a fresh and unique approach to the Lincoln assassination. Through a complete examination of the life of John Wilkes Booth and his intense rivalry with his more famous brother, Edwin, Nora Titone offers a credible, compelling answer to the question of why John murdered Lincoln. Her writing is smart and lively, and the tale she relates is fascinating. Even seasoned Lincoln buffs will find much that is new in this ambitious work."

—Christopher Rose, Andover Bookstore, Andover, MA

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THE NAKED LADY WHO STOOD ON HER HEAD

A Psychiatrist's Stories of His Most Bizarre Cases, by Gary Small and Gigi Vorgan

"'Bizarre' is absolutely the best word to describe the phenomena that Dr. Gary Small witnesses as a psychiatrist. His accounts of true cases are nothing less than jaw-droppers. The stigma of 'seeing a shrink' is still a continuing battle we face today as often patients are considered mentally incompetent, but Dr. Small shows us how important and powerful our minds are and what they are capable of doing without our knowledge or recognition. Entertaining, shocking, and educational, Dr. Small's stories are a fabulous read."

—Jennifer Chinn, The Book Works, Del Mar, CA

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BLOOD OF THE PRODIGAL

An Amish-Country Mystery, by P.L. Gaus

"Although Amish country may seem a strange setting for kidnapping and murder, Pastor Troyer and Professor Branden are called in to help find both a murderer and a kidnapped boy. They must prove their investigative skills to both the Amish and the local sheriff. The Amish setting is as strange and intriguing as that of any foreign country, and the strong-willed characters challenge the reader's prejudices and values. This novel, the first in a series, opens the door for further exploration into the nature of these characters and their culture."

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

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LOCAL AUTHOR

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KILL THE DEAD

A Sandman Slim Novel, by Richard Kadrey

"The most delightful novel I read last year was the amazing Sandman Slim. The only problem with a book so stunning, original, fast-paced, and funny is that it's a very tough act to follow. Only a truly outstanding writer could give us a sequel twice as good as the original — action-packed from the first page, dark yet slyly hilarious, thought-provoking and impossible to put down. Fortunately, Kadrey is a master, and Kill the Dead, in which Stark, the half-angel hitman from hell, goes up against angels, devils, federal agents, and a zombie apocalypse in Los Angeles, is a masterpiece!"

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

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STAFF PICK!

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THE SLEEPWALKERS

A Novel, by Paul Grossman

"Berlin, 1932. Willi Kraus, Kriminal Polizei Inspector, holder of the iron cross, Jew. Willi's latest case is disturbing in the extreme: a young woman who seems to have been subjected to an experiment before her death. Wading through the glitz of Berlin, ignoring the warning signs, Willi is a proud German who has nothing to be afraid of. The Nazi party is bankrupt, and it can't possibly win the upcoming election. As Willi turns his attention to a hypnotist whose volunteers keep sleepwalking away into the night, the country sleepwalks towards a new genetically pure Germany and the dawn of the Third Reich."

—Paula Longhurst, *The King's English*, Salt Lake City, UT



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THE THIEVES OF DARKNESS

A Thriller, by Richard Doetsch

"Insomniac alert: This is your book. The Thieves of Darkness will have your adrenaline surging, so forget this as a bedtime read. He's a thief, she's a thief, the settings are world class, including Topkapi and Amsterdam, and the villainy most heinous. Get comfy. This is a real page turner!"

—Becky Milner, *Vintage Books*, Vancouver, WA



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