



THE BOOK STALL

June/July 2020
Vol. XXXI, No. 5
Nancy Dreher, *Editor*



The weather is warmer and we're looking forward to expanding our services and seeing you at our front door! The staff is still busily processing on-line orders, but we are delighted to be offering storefront pick-up. In addition, our stellar team of booksellers will be manning the phones and answering emails. If you'd like to chat with one of us, call the store at 847 446-8979 between 11 am and 2 pm, Monday through Saturday. If email is more your thing, contact us anytime with your queries at bookrecs@thebookstall.com. We'll get back to you within 48 hours.

1. To pick up your order at our front door, indicate "in-store pick up" when ordering on our website. We will email you when we have your book; please do **not** try to pick up your book prior to receiving an email. Although we have lots of titles in the store, we often need to order specific books and that may take a few days.
2. And of course, you can pick up your **Blind Date with a Puzzle** the same way! Remember, we're unable to trade in puzzles – it hurts their feelings and it is not safe!
3. Your package may be picked up between **11 am and 3 pm** Monday through Saturday. Our front door will be open and we have a protective plexiglass shield in place over a table where we'll put your order.
4. We ask that only **one customer stand in our vestibule** at a time and, if there's a line, please maintain the recommended 6-foot social distance.
5. For safety, **we're unable to process returns or accept payment at the store at this time**. Know that all our staffers in the store are wearing masks and washing hands frequently.



We look forward to opening the store for browsing – stay tuned for more information on that timing. Follow us on social media and/or subscribe to our weekly eblast for updates on hours and operations. We're eager to be "back in business" but mindful of the risks to staff and customers alike.

Our windows are a great place to browse for your next read, and this newsletter is full of great reviews by the Book Stall team. Looking forward to seeing you soon! Happy reading!

Steph

Virtual Events

The Book Stall's events in the coming months will take place *virtually*. Authors will speak from their homes, and take questions from an interviewer and from you, participating from your computer or mobile phone. **You'll need to reserve your spot by emailing us at events@thebookstall.com**. These amazing events are free, but we do suggest making a donation to BINC (Book Industry Charitable Foundation (bincfoundation.org)) to support booksellers in need during this difficult time. We realize that Zoom events attract viewers from a much wider geographic area than our in-store events, so if you would like to purchase a book, please support us at thebookstall.com or your nearest independent bookstore!

TUESDAY, JUNE 9 at 11:30 am

LAURENCE GONZALES Pandemic Discussion Group

The current pandemic has made us all think about survival. **Laurence Gonzales**, award-winning author of *Deep Survival* and *Flight 232*, has studied why some people survive and thrive while others don't. Join **Laurence Gonzales** and **Jon Grand** for a virtual lunch break and conversation on Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 at 6:30 pm

BOOKS TO ESCAPE WITH THIS SUMMER

Join **Alice Moody** and **Ann Waters** as they present Books to Escape with This Summer. They will recommend titles both old and new, perfect for a getaway.

MONDAY, JUNE 15 at 6:30 pm

EMILY ST. JOHN MANDEL *The Glass Hotel*

Ms. Mandel's *The Glass Hotel* has a captivating story of crisis and survival, intersecting two seemingly disparate events—a massive Ponzi scheme collapse and the mysterious disappear-

ance of a woman from a ship at sea. Ms. Mandel will be interviewed by our book discussion leader **Alice Moody**.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 at 6:30 pm

SUMMER NONFICTION ROUND-UP

Book Stall nonfiction expert **Jon Grand** will offer suggestions for summer reading for fans of history, biography, current events, and general nonfiction.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30 at 3 pm

IDEA TANK FOR KIDS

Entrepreneurship Competition for Illinois Kids

Local author **Lowey Bundy Sichol** founded **Idea Tank for Kids**, recognizing that kids naturally had great business ideas and were eager to share them. Now, her **Entrepreneurship Competition for Illinois Kids** (ages 8 – 13) will award \$1,000 to the winner of the competition, which will take place virtually over Zoom. For details, please see ideatankforkids.com.

MONDAY, JULY 13 at 6:30 pm

ELIZABETH WETMORE *Valentine*

Hear Chicago-based writer **Elizabeth Wetmore** discuss her acclaimed debut novel, *Valentine*, in conversation with **Alice Moody**. See our staffer **Elizabeth Hubbard's** review of the book inside.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 at 9:30 am, Book Discussion Group

JUDY LEVIN *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

To reserve your spot, email events@thebookstall.com.

THURSDAY, JULY 16 at 6:30 pm

PUBLISHER REP NIGHT

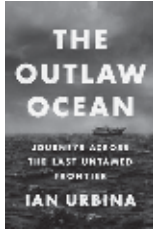
Representatives from the major publishing houses will be on hand to recommend their favorite books of the season and give us a look ahead to some special titles coming soon.

Staff Reviews from Home

JON GRAND

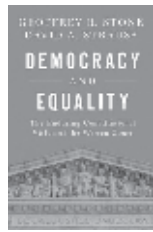


The Outlaw Ocean: Journeys Across the Last Untamed Frontier by Ian Urbina (\$30). Imagine a highway that stretches as far as the eye can see. It has no stoplights, no police, few towns along the way. A sunny afternoon can turn deadly as wind and rain toss you about and reduce visibility to zero. And there are robbers and others to try and take



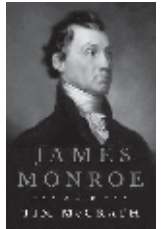
the unwary traveler. The road beneath you is not smooth asphalt. You have embarked on one of the broad oceans that cover 70% of our planet. As you read this, ships around the globe are moving goods and commodities of immense value—some legal and some not. The perils of the open ocean are significant, but natural hazards are not the only risk. For all their size and bulk, these vessels are often targets from pirates without, and mutineers within. Out of sight of land, you enter a watery wild west. Urbina takes us to this "last untamed frontier" and introduces us to a cast of characters ruthlessly fighting for wealth and power, on the one hand, and those eking out a marginal and sordid existence on board, on the other. You may remember the movie "Captain Phillips," starring Tom Hanks. As Urbina notes, not all have the same happy ending. Urbina has written an engrossing book that is part thriller, part expose, part memoir, and totally riveting.

Democracy and Equality: The Enduring Constitutional Vision of the Warren Court by Geoffrey R. Stone and David A. Strauss (\$24.95). In March I reviewed James Simon's book on the Warren Court (*Eisenhower v. Warren: The Battle for Civil Liberties and Rights*). The Warren Court ended some 50 years ago. It is fitting—particularly at this moment in history—to pause and assess its legacy, its legitimacy, and its constitutional soundness. The record of the Warren Court has been harshly criticized for abusing its authority and imposing the justices' personal values and opinions on the country. Stone and Strauss deftly and convincingly refute those charges, as they demonstrate how the Court's decisions are firmly grounded in the Constitution itself. Some of the cases will be familiar to lay readers: *Brown v. Board of Education* and *Miranda v. Arizona*, for example. Others, such as *Mapp v. Ohio* (ruling that evidence obtained in violation of the fourth amendment was inadmissible in state as well as federal courts), or *New York Times v. Sullivan* (restricting the right of public officials to sue for defamation), or *Loving v. Virginia* (struck down state laws banning interracial marriage) significantly protected the rights of ordinary citizens. As you read the discussion of these and other landmark cases, it is important to consider what it might mean if we did not have these protections. Whether one agrees with the decisions of the Warren Court or not is perhaps less important than understanding the rationale behind those decisions. And for that, we could have no better guides than these two preeminent constitutional scholars.



James Monroe: A Life by Tim McGrath (\$34). James Monroe was the last of the Founders to be elected to the Presidency, first in 1816 and again in 1820. He fought in the Revolution, crossed the Delaware (December, 1776) with George Washington, and was seriously wounded at Trenton. He was close to

fellow Virginians, Jefferson and Madison. Of the three, his mind was said to be the "most sure" and, while Jefferson was noted for his learning, Monroe was noted for his judgement. He served as Governor of Virginia and as a member of Congress. He was sent to France to negotiate access to the mouth of the Mississippi but, exceeding his orders, when offered the whole of the Louisiana Territory, he agreed to the purchase. He believed that government must, first and foremost, safeguard the rights of its citizens. He argued that Congress should fund internal improvements, such as roads (Congress demurred), and he opposed the forced removal of Native Americans, calling it "revolting to Humanity." His ability to unite disparate groups and political factions was a change from the rancorous partisanship of his predecessors. Monroe is perhaps best remembered for the "Monroe Doctrine" (a cornerstone of American foreign policy still today), designed to stop European colonization in the Western Hemisphere. Slavery was the great unresolved issue. With the admission of new states to the union, the question of whether they were to be slave or free states demanded an answer. The Missouri Compromise addressed the matter for the short term, but its ultimate resolution would wait. Monroe was a slave owner, and though he opposed the institution, he felt powerless to change it. In McGrath's powerful biography, Monroe steps into the spotlight, his myriad accomplishments and quiet judgement finally showcased. His first term was called "the era of good feelings," reflecting Monroe's ability to manage the passions that often sway American politics. James Monroe died on July 4, 1831—the 55th birthday of the United States.



The Year 1000: When Explorers Connected the World—and Globalization Began by Valerie Hansen (\$30). I admit I have a weakness for what I call "fringe history." That is, history that purports to pinpoint in time critical events, beginnings, cross cultural contacts, and the like. And I like mysteries. So if an historian asks, "Why are blond-haired humans depicted on Mayan temple walls?" I'm intrigued. In this little book, Valerie Hansen posits an entirely logical argument for contacts between Europeans and indigenous Americans. She argues that Vikings might have come to the Americas well before we have been taught. Indeed, Hansen argues that at or about the year 1000 AD, there was major outward movement on five continents, with trade routes being defined, cross-cultural contact, and the exchange of goods. Regional trade routes were expanded and linked with others, creating a primitive global network for trade. Why this happened when it did is due, as are so many historic turning points, to the confluence of technical, intellectual, and social change. The early forays blazed the trails that would be followed and expanded by the likes of Columbus, Magellan, da Gama, and others. Valerie Hansen is no crackpot; she is a highly awarded professor of history at Yale. Hansen paints an exciting portrait of the explorers emerging from their own restricted areas of familiarity and daring to venture into new lands. The initial contacts were sometimes hostile and violent. But, quickly, all sides recognized the need for help and mutual assistance. The seeds of globalization were sown around year 1000; we continue to harvest both the benefits and the costs to this day. Did it all really happen this way? This old planet still has secrets.

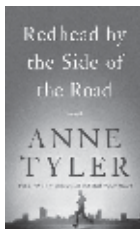


ELIZABETH HUBBARD



Redhead by the Side of the Road by Anne Tyler (\$26.95). Here's a quick and delightful peek into the life of a man who prefers order and solitude to chaos and noise. If you liked *A Man Called Ove*, you will love this brand-new

novel by Anne Tyler. Michah isn't elderly like Ove, nor has he experienced great loss, but his introverted nature keeps him from connecting on a deep level with others and he's perfectly happy that way—or at least he thinks he is. This short novel is full of interesting characters and funny and poignant moments. By the end of the book, you are rooting for connection and you will close the book with a smile on your face. I promise!



Valentine by Elizabeth Wetmore (\$26.99). This book starts out with a scene that can only be described as gritty. Really gritty. But the book goes on to introduce a wonderful cast of women characters and gives the reader a glimpse into the lives of the people in a small Texas oil town. A wonderfully written debut novel, *Valentine* gave me hope, despite the violent beginning of the book. Many of the chapters could stand alone, almost like short stories, but woven together we meet a young girl determined to survive, a young mother who yearns to do the right thing, an older woman who has nearly given up on life, but finds it in herself to help others, which surprisingly (to her) causes her to rejoin and rejoice in life again. Even minor characters shine in this book. A woman, living at a motel, offers up the ultimate kindness. She "sees" our main character and her words leave a lasting, and positive impact—on the main character and on me. This book is one that will stick with you, deep in your heart.



The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri (\$16 in paperback) is the story of two brothers, inseparable throughout childhood and adolescence in Calcutta, India. The beginning of the book introduces you to the brothers and their family and the political situation in India in the 1950s and 60s. The descriptions of open-air markets, local traditions, and family life made me feel as though I was there. The loving, but also difficult, relationship between the brothers, born 15 months apart, is made more difficult as the elder brother moves to the United States to continue his studies. This book taught me a lot about India's history but was also a love story and the tale of a family's relationships. I was captivated from the first chapter and didn't want it to end. This book was originally published in 2013 and has become a not-to-be missed classic.



The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson (\$15.99 in paperback) was a delightful read. Centered around "the last" of the Blue People in Eastern Kentucky, it is set in the 1930s in the Appalachian Mountains. Financial difficulties abound and the entire region is suffering because of the Great Depression. The rough terrain and the terrible conditions of the coal mines contribute to the hard-scrabble life lived by the residents of Troublesome Creek. The main character, Cussy, is poor but also suffers from a genetic condition that makes her skin appear blue, and she and her family are persecuted and live in fear. In addition to getting to

know Cussy and her father, we also get to meet her patrons, as Cussy is a librarian for the Kentucky Pack Horse library service, a WPA program founded by FDR. She brings new worlds and hope to people who wait eagerly for her to arrive each week. Every inch of this story engrossed me and made me root for Cussy, a reader and lover of words. Give this quiet book a chance and you'll be amazed at how much you learn while being engrossed in the story of her life.



ANN KEIL



Confessions of a Bookseller by Shaun Bythell (\$25.95). Hooray, my favorite curmudgeonly Scottish writer is back! Shaun Bythell, the author of the best-selling *Diary of a Bookseller*, has documented another year

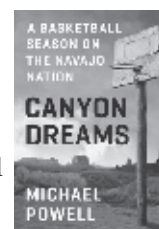
of life and business in Wigtown, the tiny city known as Scotland's National Booktown. Shaun chronicles the daily occurrences in his store, which include details of books ordered vs. books found, the number of customers, and sales totals per day. His days are filled with visits from customers, some quite endearing, such as "Mole Man," a frequent visitor who gathers armloads of books to buy but has never spoken to any of the staff. The more annoying customers, like the ones who try to haggle down the price of a \$2 book, are subject to Bythell's witheringly dry wit. Nicky, his clerk, is back to bringing "Foodie Friday" treats, retrieved from a local dumpster, much to Shaun's disgust. She is joined by a young Italian woman, ironically nicknamed "Granny," whose spirit and amazing grasp of English swear words never failed to amuse me. For those of us who are yearning for bookstores to reopen, this book is a joy to read. You will find yourself transported to rooms full of unknown treasures to browse, in an old house, amidst the beauty of Scotland.



SHARMAN MCGURN



Canyon Dreams: A Basketball Season on the Navajo Nation by Michael Powell (\$28). *New York Times* sports reporter Michael Powell has written a fascinating account of the Chinle High School basketball team's quest to win a state championship. The school is located in Arizona's northeast corner within the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the United States, about the size of Ireland. With 17.5 million acres and a population of around 350,000, distances are vast and often seemingly empty. Many people on the "rez" are poor; a few families live without plumbing and electricity. Some children are raised by grandparents, as one or more of the parents are absent due to death, disease, or substance abuse. The tiny town of Chinle has a population of 4,500, and its high school gym seats 7,000, a testament to the importance of basketball. Raul Mendoza, the team's coach and mentor, is Native American, although not Navajo. He has a long history coaching high school basketball. At times gruff but possessing a big heart, Mendoza teaches the boys to work hard and strive to win, as well as to think to the

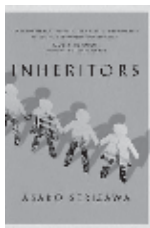


future, maybe a future that includes a four-year college out-of-state and life off the rez. Powell provides the backstories of the team members and follows them through the season as they travel long distances in the high desert to games with other Native American teams, as well as teams in the wealthy suburbs of Phoenix. Mendoza not only works with the boys, but also with their families, and the author shares these families' stories too. It is obvious that Powell has a strong affinity for the awe-inspiring landscape of the reservation and the richness of Navajo culture; he paints a multi-layered picture. Fans of Tommy Orange's novel, *There There*, will find *Canyon Dreams* to be a worthy complement, as both focus on the struggles young Native Americans face as they try to find their place in both traditional and modern society.

KATHY RILEY



Inheritors by Asako Serizawa (\$26.95, out July 14). In *Inheritors*, Asako Serizawa uses 13 interrelated short stories to explore one Japanese family's history over 150 years. This debut novel confronts memories of war, loss, and trauma as the family members attempt to connect their own lives with their "spectrum of our

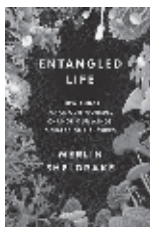


choices." The devastation of World War II ties together an adopted son and a lost son. In another part, after a father immigrates to America, his son then returns to the homeland to revisit what was left behind. The need to provide forces one woman to betray her husband. Serizawa has written a moving collection that deals with the largest ideas and moral dilemmas of humanity, incorporating them into the day-to-day decisions that her characters make to survive. Reading *Inheritors* is almost like putting together a large puzzle. The results form a familial picture that will challenge you but stay with you. This is not a light read, but I enjoyed the challenge.

CHARLOTTE ROBERTSON



Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds & Shape Our Futures by Merlin Sheldrake (\$28) is just the thing to read in these time-warping days of isolation. Fungi are the ultimate collaborators, joining with both algae and plants for mutual benefit. Sheldrake, a mycologist, introduces the reader to the "wood wide web," which links together



plants via mycorrhizal (myco= fungus and rhizo=root) connections under the soil. What's going on down there is pretty remarkable! The world of fungi is so completely enmeshed with the development and the life of every single plant, sharing resources in both directions, that plants and their fungal partners can only be teased apart on a molecular level. From truffles to lichens to psilocybin "magic mushrooms" to yeasts, the role of fungi, in human life as well, stretches back many millennia. The promise of fungal activity going forward is almost limitless. Fungi are proficient decomposers and show great promise for consuming the leftovers from our industrialized lifestyle. They are also critical for the Earth's entire ecosystem, both storing and releasing carbon into the atmosphere. It is without question that the Earth's future may well be determined by fungi! I so enjoyed reading

this book; there is a lot of science in it, which requires some close attention, but interspersed is fascinating history, portraits of many colorful mycologists both past and present, and anecdotes about the author's travels and studies.

MIKE WYSOCK



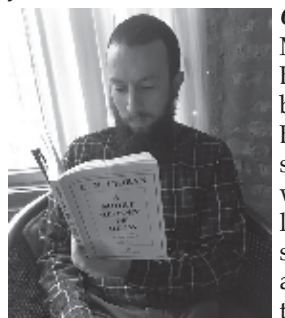
In *The Shapeless Unease: A Year of Not Sleeping* (\$24), novelist Samantha Harvey assumes the role of cartographer, charting for us, as best she can, the dark fog of her year-long (possibly ongoing) bout with insomnia. Harvey—previously compared to Virginia Woolf—is not, *thankfully*, the type of writer to provide practical explications of sleep



disorders and treatments. This is no health study by way of memoir. Through luminous, meandering prose, Harvey pulls us into her own phantasmagoric thought patterns and delights with ruminations both somber and humorous. Death, feminism, writing, relationships, dreams, swimming, anxiety, the English language, and the linguistic patterns of the Pirahã peoples of the Brazilian Amazon, a Philip Larkin poem, whiling the hours with jigsaw puzzles...these are all topics Harvey explores while trying to get to the root cause of the anxiety responsible for her sleepless nights. Yes, in addition to all that she also embeds fragments of a fictional work throughout these short 176 pages.

I haven't been able to read anything without COVID eyes these past nine weeks; I've lost taste for depictions of "normalcy." The subtle cultural criticisms of literary fiction seem thin now that clichés of everyday living are transforming. This memoir, a little tome about fighting against anxiety and not caving-in to a nebulous enemy, is the first book I've read during the stay-at-home order that resonated with my own experiences of pandemic unease. I highly recommend it, and not just to those of us who are staring out of our windows at 3:30 am.

JACOB ZAWA



On Lighthouses by Mexican author Jazmina Barrera (\$19.95) is beautiful and diffuse. Both meditative and searching, the book winds its way through literary anecdotes, snapshots from Barrera's personal life, and realizations of such depth that they've stuck with me ever since. Tales



of friendship, the seeking out of actual lighthouses, the contemplation of figurative lighthouses—it all adds up to a memorable read full of metaphor and vitality. If the following quotation gets your heart pumping, this book is right for you: "If the lighthouse is a solid tower of light, its mirror image is the well: an inverted tower of liquid darkness. Its antithesis is the bat, because the beam of the lighthouse is uniform, directed, and gyratory, while the darkness of the bat is erratic, chaotic, and unpredictable. The former emits geometrical light, the latter represents organic obscurity."

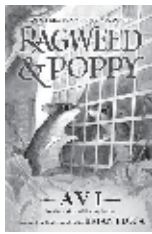


Children's Reviews

BETSTY BALLYEAT



Ragweed and Poppy by Avi, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Brian Floca (\$16.99, out June 9). This is the first new book about Poppy in 10 years. Been wondering how Poppy and Ragweed met and became friends? This story will tell you. Adventurous golden mouse Ragweed is on a freight train leaving the city of Amperville.



On his journey he meets Lotar, a young and very annoying raccoon who is desperately looking for his lost mother. Though Ragweed doesn't really want to help Lotar, he does and winds up in Dimwood Forest. Ragweed is ready to continue his adventure, but he hears a cry for help from deep in the forest. Following the sound of the voice, he finds a cage with a deer mouse trapped inside. When he asks the mouse's name, she replies, Poppy. The way Ragweed comes to Poppy's aid and how Poppy comes to his, is how the fateful friendship begins. Fans of animal stories and especially the wonderful previous books in Newbery Medalist Avi's *Poppy* series will love *Ragweed and Poppy*. Ages 7-10

One Last Shot by John David Anderson (\$16.99). Shy, imaginative, 12-year-old Malcolm Greely has absorbed the idea that he is just not good enough. Now a voice in his head always predicts failure. He is torn between his parents, who are on the verge of divorce, and Malcolm wrongly assumes that it is all his fault. Malcolm's dad was a college athlete, but the sport Malcolm likes best is miniature golf. Because dad thinks Malcolm needs to compete at a high level in miniature golf, he hires an old golf coach to teach him. When the coach arrives, he appears to be an old washed-up guy, who seems to be in the plan just for the payments. But Malcolm's luck has just changed. It turns out that coach Frank is just what Malcolm needs. He is a gem and a perfect role model for Malcolm. He learns that golf has more to do with life than he thought, and through Frank's help and Malcolm's new found understanding, he realizes he is not responsible for fixing his family. This is sure to be a well-loved addition to shelves at home and at school. Ages 9-12



Hard Wired by Len Vlahos (\$17.99, out July 7). Science fiction isn't a genre that I often choose to read, but something about *Hard Wired* just drew me in. Quinn is a normal 15-year-old boy. He plays video games, spends time with friends, and has a crush on a girl named Shea. All is good—until a shocking secret brings his entire world crashing down: he's not a boy; he is an Artificial Intelligence. After Quinn wakes up from the shock, he realizes his whole world was nothing more than a virtual construct. He is the Quantum Intelligence Project, the first fully aware Artificial Intelligence in the world. When he encounters the real world the first time, it is a nightmare. Scientists continue to experiment with him, his mother and brother don't exist, and his friends are all adults paid to hang out with him. Quinn finds himself completely alone until he bonds with Shea, the real girl behind the virtual one. Now Quinn is left with finding out who he can trust, what will it take to win his freedom, and where he belongs. This is a good blend of sci-fi and contemporary fiction in a high-stakes tale about what it means to be human. Ages 14 up



They Went Left by Monica Hesse (\$17.99). Germany 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over. But it doesn't feel that way to 18-year-old Sofia Lederman. Three years ago, she and her little brother were the only ones in her family who were sent to the right when they arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau, away from the gas chambers. Zofia and her brother were separated into different groups, but she promised him that she would find him when they got out. Now her journey to fulfill that vow has taken her through Germany and Poland and into displaced persons camps, where everyone is trying to piece together a future from a painful past. But the deeper Zofia digs, the more impossible the search seems. How can she find one boy in a sea of those missing? In the rubble of a broken continent, Zofia must delve into a mystery, whose answer could break her—or help her rebuild her world. A moving book that successfully describes an unjust time in history. Ages 14 up



AMY TROGDON



The Box Turtle by Vanessa Roeder (\$17.99). Born without a shell, Terrence the turtle happily uses a cardboard box, which works



perfectly. But bullies call him weird, so he begins to look for something more suitable. He tried a mailbox, he tried a boombox, he tried a jack-in-the-box, but nothing seemed to work. Terrence is ready to give up until his friend, Hermit Crab, offers his shell. This makes Terrence realize that just as the crab is more than a shell, so is he. The power of friendship and the importance of making the best of what you have are the important messages shared in this book. Ages 3-6

Lift by Minh Lê, Illustrated by Dan Santat (\$17.99). My favorite picture book of the year—so far. Iris loves to push the buttons on the elevator in her apartment building. But when her younger brother starts pushing them first, she is sad and frustrated. One day she finds an old elevator panel in the trash and puts it on the wall in her room. When she pushes the button, a door opens. Every time the door opens, Iris travels to a new, fantastical place. As time goes on, she includes her young brother too. With very little text, this story is told through the artwork, each page full of details and clues. This is a book to revisit again and again. Ages 4-8



Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us by Lauren Castillo (\$16.99). Hedgehog lives with her best friend Mutty, a stuffed, white, sweater-wearing dog. A terrible storm carries Mutty away, and Hedgehog is determined to find her. As she travels, she meets many new friends also willing to help. There is Mole, Owl, Beavers, and Chicks, all of whom have different personalities. Together their search leads them to Annika Mae, a young girl who has a Polaroid camera and may have seen a small, white dog. Castillo, a Caldecott Honor book author, illustrates the book for beginning readers, using colorful sketches and simple sentences. A new series about bravery and friendship. Ages 5-9



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We're are now delighted to offer storefront pick-up. See details on the front page.

Join us for our virtual events this summer.

These are all free, but you need to reserve your spots by emailing events@thebookstall.com.

See the front page for details about these bestselling authors in our virtual events:

- **Laurence Gonzales for a pandemic discussion group:**
 Tuesday, June 9 at 11:30 am
- **Emily St. John Mandel (*The Glass Hotel*):** Monday, June 15 at 6:30 pm
- **Elizabeth Wetmore (*Valentine*):** Monday July 13 at 6:30 pm
- **Publisher Rep Night:** Thursday, July 16 at 6:30 pm
- **And more!**



Children's reviews continued

Chick & Brain: Egg or Eyeball? by Cece Bell (\$12.99). The second book in the Chick and Brain series is just as funny and fun to read as the first one, *Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot*. A bird named Chick and a goofy human wearing underwear, named Brain, are the well-meaning characters of this series. Brain thinks he has found an eyeball. Chick believes it is an egg. Who is right? Perfectly written for children just learning to read...and for everyone who loves to giggle! *Ages 4-8*



one but two cases to solve! Will this dynamic duo come through and catch the crooks or will they give them the slip? An exciting, funny new graphic novel series. *Ages 7-10*

Bug Boys by Laura Knetzger (\$13.99). Two bugs learn about the science in the world around them and the meaning of friendship in this new graphic novel series. Stag - B is calm and a smart adventurer, while Rhino - B is sweet but brash. These two beetles are the Bug Boys, best friends who explore the world of the Underground Village, as well as their own often-confusing feelings. Traveling through spooky caves, saving their town's honey supply, working with a spider to start a library, and even befriending the ferocious termites, the Bug Boys lead adventurous lives! They have many challenges but their friendship will get them through it all! *Ages 7-10*



Hello from Renn Lake by Michele Weber Hurwitz (\$16.99). Annalise Oliver's family has owned and operated lakeside cabins at Renn Lake for generations. This summer, with her best friend babysitting and her younger sister concentrating on becoming an actress, Annalise is spending most of her time working and hanging out by her dear Renn Lake. Ever since she was 3 years old, Annalise has known she has a special connection with the lake, knowing what it is thinking and feeling. When she discovers a small patch of algae that quickly spreads into a disastrous bloom, she and her friends set out to find a way to save the lake. This is a timely book about climate change and standing up for your beliefs. *Ages 8-12*



Mañanaland by Pam Muñoz Ryan (\$16.99). Maximiliano Cordoba loves the stories his grandmother tells him, especially the ones about the mythical gatekeeper who can guide brave travelers on a journey into tomorrow. If Max could see into the future, he would know if he makes the soccer team and if he ever meets his mother, who disappeared at his birth. Unable to find any answers, he discovers a family secret about an underground network of guardians who help escapees flee a neighboring country. Max decides to embark on a dangerous journey, which will test his determination, strength, and courage. This novel blends dreams and truth into a story that shows us what it is like to be unwanted and the need to belong. *Ages 8-12*



InvestiGators by John Patrick Green (\$9.99). A goofy graphic novel of two super spy alligators who travel through the sewers and fight the forces of evil. Mango and Brash are investigators with spy technology and their toilet-based travel ways, the investigators are undercover and on the case. On their first mission, they have not

