



THE BOOK STALL

March 2023
Vol. XXXIV, No. 2
Nancy Dreher, Editor



THE FRONT LINE



Perhaps the mild winter has contributed to the busy season we've had here at The Book Stall—or maybe it's all the great new books. It could also be our line-up of interesting events. Whatever the reason, I'm so happy to see so many familiar and new faces!

March brings many wonderful things: spring temperatures and blooms, spring break, women's history month and, of course, St. Patrick's Day! We're ready for all those occasions with lots of wonderful books. Check out these pages for recommended reading for Women's History Month and travel friendly vacation reads. And sign up on our website for our eblast to see some Irish-themed books.

Our partner, the Family Action Network, is hosting Lisa Damour, author of several books on teenagers and she'll be discussing her new title, *The Emotional Lives of Teenagers: Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents* on Thursday, March 2 at 7 pm at Loyola Academy in Wilmette. Although I am no longer the mother of adolescents, I vividly recall attending earlier events with Ms. Damour and found her incredibly knowledgeable and calming as I navigated those tricky teen years. Book Stall friends and book group leaders Alice and Ann will be in the house at 6:30 pm on March 9 to present Books for Spring Break. Attendees will be treated to a lively evening of book recommendations geared to those looking for a book to take on a trip or a book that feels like an escape. On March 15 at 6:30 pm at the store, Book Stall staffer and historian Jon Grand will be chatting with Pulitzer Prize finalist Edward Achorn about his new book, *The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention that Changed History*. This is the fascinating story of Lincoln's surprising nomination at a convention that looked very different from our current carefully orchestrated and predictable conventions. And finally, before we settle down to the quiet of Spring Break on the North Shore, we couldn't be more delighted to welcome Rebecca Makkai to the store to talk about her amazing new novel, *I Have Some Questions for You* on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm. In the tradition of great boarding school novels like *The Secret History*, Rebecca's book captivates while exploring timely issues such as sexism and institutional racism.

And I have been whiling away winter evenings in front of our fire with some great books! Kelly Barnhill, a truly lovely writer, has written a modern fairy-tale with *The Crane Husband*. It's short but haunting. Catherine Lacey wrote *Pew*, one of my favorite books of 2020, a strange and original look at morality and prejudice. With *Biography of X* (out March 21), Ms. Lacey takes on art and truth. And thinking about art, one of my secret ambitions is to become a docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. *All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me* by Patrick Bringley is a fascinating look at the museum by a former writer for the *New Yorker* who takes a job there as a security guard while he processes the death of his brother. I also loved *Pineapple Street* by Jenny Jackson, a lighted-hearted romp through Brooklyn Heights. (See Susan's review inside.) *Ms. Demeanor* by Elinor Lippman is a delightful read about finding love under house arrest and *Vintage Contemporaries* by Dan Kois is a thoughtful novel about friendship set in the New York publishing and theater world. (See Leah's review inside.) Finally, I'm excited to dive into *Künstlers in Paradise* by Cathleen Schine, described as a fairy tale set in Vienna and Los Angeles. Schine is a witty and observant writer, so I can't wait!

Happy Spring! We'll see you in the store!

CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

6 pm, A Virtual Event



JENNY ODELL

Saving Time: Discovering a Life Beyond the Clock

We are part of a national virtual event sponsored by Penguin Random House featuring Jenny Odell, the bestselling



author of *How to Do Nothing*. In her new book, Odell follows up "with an electric call to reject the quantitative view of time in favor of a more expansive, less linear understanding that fosters interpersonal connection and social and ecological justice.... This is a moving and provocative game changer."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review). See the "Events" section of our website for registration information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

11:30 am, Luncheon at The Union League Club 65 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago Secretary of the Navy JOHN DALTON At the Helm:

My Journey with Family, Faith, and Friends to Calm the Storms of Life
We are happy to announce The USS Hyman G. Rickover (SSN-795) Commissioning Committee is inviting us to join them at the Union League Club of Chicago as they welcome former



Secretary of the Navy John Dalton for a discussion of his new book, *At the Helm: My Journey with Family, Faith, and Friends to Calm the Storms of Life*. From modest beginnings to Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton's life is an inspirational story filled with successes and failures, in both the public and private sectors, and how he navigated through them. **Tickets are required for this event. See the "Events" section of our website to order your ticket.** Luncheon service begins at 12 noon sharp, followed by the program and audience Q&A. Books will be available for purchase and signing at the event. Dress code: business casual.

6:30 – 7:30 pm, Live Event at the Store ALICE and ANN PRESENT: BOOKS FOR SPRING BREAK

Alice Moody and Ann Walters give a presentation of Great Books to Bring on Break. They'll share their favorite new and upcoming books that will be a perfect fit for your next spring read! We'll have a raffle with Book Stall prizes, and refreshments will be served. **Registration is required. To register, please visit the "Events" page on our website.** There's a \$5 discussion participation charge, which is fully redeemable for merchandise in the store, to be charged at the door.

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THE INSIDE LINE

SUSAN DAVIS



Pineapple Street by Jenny Jackson (\$28, out March 7). This engaging debut novel is a wry study of family, love, and the dynamics that affect our most precious relationships. The story follows the two daughters and the daughter-in-law of the Brooklyn Heights Stockton



clan as their lives orbit around the family home on Pineapple Street, a place built on familial wealth and privilege. Both Darley, the eldest Stockton daughter, and the youngest, Georgianna, find themselves on journeys of the heart that lead them to coming to terms with their inherited trust funds. Sasha, married to their brother, grew up in a more modest upper-middle class family and finds herself struggling to navigate the vastly different lifestyle of the Stocktons. Between the quick judgments, misunderstandings, and unspoken words, the Stockton family slowly becomes able to find moments of bonding, growing, and discovering compassion for one another. This sometimes laugh-out-loud comical look at family will pull at your heart as you find yourself rooting for the characters to find their own kind of happiness.

CHRISTINE FERDINAND



Daughters Beyond Command by French novelist Véronique Olmi (translated by Alison Anderson, \$18 in paperback) is a coming-of-age tale about the Malveri sisters, which takes place during France's politically transformative years—from the 1968 anti-war protests to the



presidential election in 1981. It begins in Aix-en-Provence, where Bruno, a schoolteacher, and Agnes, a devout mother, raise three daughters. As the girls approach adulthood, changes in French culture from post-war conservatism to the emerging sexual revolution challenge the stability of their family and influence each woman's hopes for the future.

The oldest daughter, Sabine, is passionate about the arts and escapes her hometown to pursue a career as an actress in Paris. She struggles to find her footing in the theater and to win the heart of the fickle man she loves. Helene enjoys the favor of her bourgeois aunt and uncle and divides her time between their sophisticated world and her simple family home in the South. The financial support they provide allows her to study at the university and pursue her dreams of a career in science and activism. The lively youngest sister, Mariette, is the last daughter living at home with her parents. The couple grapples with their changing marriage, and Agnes discovers newfound independence working outside of the home. Mariette misses sharing daily life with her sisters and finds escape in music and the silence between the notes.

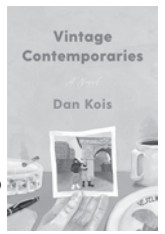
Interspersed throughout the novel are historical events of the time—among them Simone de Beauvoir's championing of women's rights, the passage of the Veil Act, Jean-Paul Sartre's funeral, and the election of Francois Mitterrand. **Daughters Beyond Command** explores how each character and France itself grow into their newfound identity in the 1970s and early '80s. The push and pull between Bruno and Agnes, their growing daughters, and the complicated but loving relationship between each family member provides the reader with a heartfelt, satisfying story.

LEAH GORDON

Vintage Contemporaries by Dan Kois (\$27.99). Phases of friendship may include 1) knowing you're not as cool as the other person; 2) knowing when to admit you've outgrown the other person; and 3) knowing that it's okay to ease back into the



relationship with guarded expectations. In **Vintage Contemporaries**, author Kois leads Emily and Emily (Em) through this gauntlet of sorts over the span of 1991-2007. The balance of power is off from the very beginning, with Em clinging to the idea that she can find her place

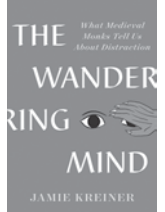


in New York by letting the shine of Emily's anti-establishment/artist attitude wash over her. Leaning into another decade, Em has created a life for herself, both with marriage and motherhood, along with climbing up in the publishing world, while Emily has fallen apart. With more focus on Em's relationships, familial and otherwise, Kois takes his time and builds her from a character you fret for to a woman you want to have in your inner circle. Her personal development as a friend, spouse, and colleague all carries a weight that comes across as genuine growth rather than a forced exchange for the sake of a plot. While Kois takes on nonfiction topics like housing inequity, AIDS, politics, workplace harassment and mortality, he does so within the space he's crafted for his characters, giving them layers for the reader to appreciate. **Vintage Contemporaries** is a perfect fiction pick for a reader looking for a coming-of-age story that doesn't shy away from addressing the imperfections of friendships.

JON GRAND

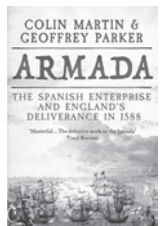


The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction by Jamie Kreiner (\$30). We are distracted. There is no way to sugarcoat that. From constant inputs of information to coping with traffic, anything and everything seems to demand our attention.



And it is exhausting. It's not surprising that we imagine the past as a simpler time. And what could be more peaceful and distraction-free than the life of a cloistered, medieval monk, right? Wrong! They faced daily distractions, perhaps not as intense as ours, but nonetheless serious. The distractions diverted their attention from their most important purpose: the contemplation of God and his commandments. And to be diverted from that could lead to sin. Distraction became a major obstacle to manage and control, and it is no surprise that the monks developed a range of techniques to cancel out distractions: meditation, strict regimens for eating, sleeping, and physical activity, and highly regimented schedules for work and prayer. All these techniques and organizing principles can serve us well today, as we seek to master and reduce distractions. You may be wondering if this is just another self-help book. I suppose so at some level. But it might be properly called a history of self-help, as well.

Armada: The Spanish Enterprise and England's Deliverance in 1588 by Colin Martin and Geoffrey Parker (\$40). Doubtless you all know the story of the Spanish Armada that sailed from Spain in 1588, intent on subduing the English. It was unlike anything seen before: 130 ships, with 8,000 seamen, 18,000 soldiers, and thousands of guns. But, as the story goes, the pluck and daring of the English, led by Francis Drake using highly maneuverable vessels and fireboats, carried the day. The Armada, running for home, ran afoul of storms off the coasts of Scotland and Ireland and were wrecked. Ultimately only 60 ships returned to Spain. All that is a pretty good story, but it is not the whole story. The Spanish were not as clumsy, nor Drake as agile, as the legends tell us. Indeed, the weather played the more important role, forcing the Armada into the North Sea. More important are the complex events that led to Spanish king Phillip



It's decision. Phillip saw Elizabeth's protestant religion as a thorn in the side of the true Catholic church. Competition for the resources of North America, as well as piracy by English fortune hunters, had to be stopped. The last straw was the killing of Mary, Queen of Scots. Despite the Armada's size, Spain believed the real fighting would be done by the infantry on English soil. This true story of the Spanish Armada is history writ large—literally and figuratively—and beautifully illustrated.

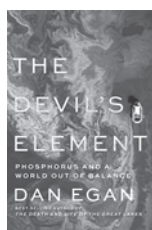
The Dali Legacy: How an Eccentric Genius

Changed the Art World by Christopher Heath Brown and Jean-Pierre Isbouts (\$26.99). Salvador Dali (1904-1989) was a classically trained artist. Like Picasso, his technical skill and draftsmanship reflect that early training. But he was soon drawn first to cubism and then to surrealism. His work portrays a sexually charged dreamscape (some would say nightmarish) that repels and attracts in equal measure. Dali's persona—arrogant and domineering—infuses his work and dares the viewer to criticize. Yet criticize they did. Even his fellow surrealists found his work too outré. Yet there is something compelling about his work that draws us in. What the images "mean" is somehow offset by our visceral response to the forms and colors of the dreamscapes. While this book is slightly older (published in 2021), it is particularly timely as Chicago's Art Institute prepares to open its first ever Dali show (through June 2). With 150 color illustrations, this is an excellent overview of Dali's impressive output. (Note: As is often the case, Book Stall readers suggest books for me to read. Thank you to ML for this one.)



The Devil's Element: Phosphorous and a World Out of Balance (\$30, out March 7) by Dan Egan, author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*.

Phosphates (phosphorous compounds) were once commonly used in laundry detergents to get white clothes "whiter than white." That changed when we learned that phosphorous, though not toxic, was an important plant nutrient. Rinse water from washing machines carried the phosphorous into rivers, lakes, and streams causing algae blooms and aquatic plant growth that disrupted recreational and commercial use of some waters. As a result, phosphorous was largely banned from detergents. But phosphorous is used in many other ways that may pose even greater threats. Agricultural fertilizers with phosphorous have increased yields and lowered food prices. But runoff from agricultural lands has caused toxic algal blooms and dead zones in rivers, lakes, and streams. And as the availability of phosphorous tightens, impacts on the global food system could result in scarcity and higher prices...and conflict.



ELIZABETH HUBBARD



The Last Chairlift (\$38). Some people might be scared off by John Irving's latest book because it comes in at nearly 900 pages. But I committed to reading *The Last Chairlift* and am so glad I did. This delightfully quirky—aren't all of his books delightfully quirky?—book



takes us from Aspen in the 1940s to New Hampshire, Vermont, NYC, and even Toronto right up to current day. Told by main character Adam, we are introduced to his mother, who was a teen ski racer who came back from a competition in Colorado pregnant with Adam. The lengthy tale revolves around Adam, his mother, and the secret as to who his father is. Missing fathers, over-protective mothers, dedicated sons, and lots of eccentric characters are typical Irving fare, and this book has them all. There's also political commentary, quite a bit of sex, and even ghosts. The Reagan years play a pivotal role in this book, as Irving illustrates the harm the administration has in its response to the AIDS crisis. And I don't mean to scare anyone off with the sex and ghost talk...even if those two things become entwined in a few memorable scenes. Those scenes made me literally laugh

out loud. If you're a fan of *The World According to Garp* or *A Prayer for Owen Meany* and not afraid of a long book, I can't recommend this one enough. My only complaint was the "book hangover" it gave me. I found it very hard to start a new book because I missed Adam so much. I'm not a big skier, but I enjoyed the "snow scenes," and when the meaning behind the book's title became clear, I cried like a baby. This book has it all. As it will likely be Irving's last big book, you won't want to pass it up.

We've all checked out our local online communities and some of us have even posted or commented! In Tara Conklin's new novel, ***Community Board*** (\$30, out March 28), she introduces us to Darcy, a 29-year-old who finds herself back in her hometown and her childhood house, subsisting on canned foods and a self-imposed isolation. Hoping that "home" would equate to happiness and safety, Darcy quickly realizes the error of her ways. With the Community Message Board as her only real connection to the outside world, she unwittingly finds herself drawn into small town dramas and some unconventional ways of making money. This book seems light on the surface but is really about what it means to be part of a community in an insightful and touching way. I most definitely laughed out loud and found myself rooting for a happy ending. Fictional Murbridge, Massachusetts is full of stories, relationships, and lots of missing pets! You will not regret joining Darcy in her time of unplanned isolation, and it may make you feel more charitable towards your local Next-door network!



Exiles is the newest by Australian, Jane Harper. For fans of her other crime novels featuring detective Aaron Falk, this one won't disappoint. It's a story about small towns and the secrets they hold; also about families, relationships, and friendship. Aaron is humbled to be named godfather to a friend's infant son and heads to the baptism, which has been delayed by a year, due to the disappearance of a local woman with ties to the baby's family. The anniversary of her disappearance is marked by a public appeal to the community asking for any information that could lead to answers. A delightfully complex story that connects other family tragedies and secrets, while also teasing a possible romance for Falk. I love all of Jane Harper's books and sincerely hope that this is not the last we see of rural Australia or these now familiar characters. You definitely can read this as a stand-alone, but I strongly recommend catching up on the other two in this series, as well as her other two crime novels. Harper is a welcome addition to the crime novel genre and the *Exiles* is likely to be one of my favorites of the year!



SHARMAN MCGURN



Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton (\$28, out March 7). Does the end justify the means? This is the question asked by Eleanor Catton in her new novel, its title taken from a line in *Macbeth*. Set in 2017 on the South Island of New Zealand, the story follows a group



of Millennials, committed environmentalists intent on doing their part to save the planet through organic gardening. Their gardens often are planted secretly on land to which the collective, Birnam Wood, is not entitled. The action is propelled forward quickly when Birnam Wood's leader and founder, Mira Bunting, discovers a large, isolated tract perfect for their efforts. The property's owner, Sir Owen Darvish, is about to sell to American billionaire Robert Lemoine; Lemoine's stated goal is to build a safe bunker for himself in the event of an apocalypse. But unbeknownst to Mira, Lemoine has another reason for coveting Sir Owen's land, the illegal extraction of rare-earth metals, an environmental nightmare. Coincidentally, much of Lemoine's ill-gotten wealth has come from his ownership of

Autonomo, a corporate giant that manufactures surveillance drones. Lemoine discovers Birnam Wood and charms Mira, offering to provide angel investing to the group. Idealistic former collective member Tony Gallo, an aspiring journalist, smells a skunk (and a big scoop) and investigates. The interaction of these and other characters creates an interesting, thought-provoking narrative. As preposterous as the plot sometimes seems, I found myself enthralled. A morality tale for our time, *Birnam Wood* is a tragedy worthy of Shakespeare.

MIKE WYSOCK



In his memoir, *Stay True* (\$26), Taiwanese-American writer Hua Hsu, examines the enduring power of an unlikely but tragically short friendship forged during his time as an undergraduate at Berkeley in the '90s. Hsu, drawn to the alternative music scene of the day, DIY punk



ethos, zine making, and a thrift shop aesthetic, nevertheless finds himself pulled into the orbit of the more mainstream, Japanese-American frat boy, Ken. With tender admiration, Hsu subtly recounts the many moments that for two college students on the cusp of adulthood can grow dense with significance—late-night conversations, shared cigarettes, long car rides with mixtape soundtracks. For all its keen detailing, this sometimes-humorous portrait of college friendship is laced with tragedy. What seems to be shaping into a life-long friendship is suddenly destroyed when three grifters kidnap and murder Ken in a horrendous act of random violence. Hua Hsu is forced to contend with a sudden void in his life. He does so through writing. This memoir, years away from that tragedy, is Hsu's elegy for his friend Ken. It is also a primer on memory, showing us all how to mine the personal connections of our own lives and histories for that which should be honored.

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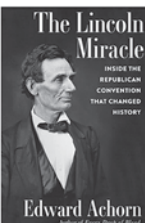
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

6:30 pm, Live Event at the Store

EDWARD ACHORN

The Lincoln Miracle: Inside the Republican Convention That Changed Everything

Acclaimed historian **Edward Achorn** discusses his new book, a vivid, behind-the-scenes story of perhaps the most consequential political moment in American history: Abraham Lincoln's history-changing nomination to lead the Republican Party in the 1860 presidential election. Mr. Achorn will be in conversation with The Book Stall's resident historian, **Jon Grand**, who reviewed the book in our February newsletter. **To register for this free event, please go to the "Events" page on our website.**



SATURDAY, MARCH 18

10:30 – 11:30 am, Storytime and Book Release Party

JACOB GRANT

No Fair!

We host a special storytime featuring Chicago children's author and illustrator, **Jacob Grant**, to celebrate the release of his new picture book, *No Fair!* From the author and illustrator of *No Pants!* comes a big-hearted story about fairness and father-son love. Stop in the store to meet Mr. Grant.

MONDAY, MARCH 20

7 pm, A Virtual "Go Green Reads" Discussion

CRAIG WITTY

The Tragedy of the Commons

Bookseller and environmentalist **Jon Grand** and economist and environmentalist **Craig Witty** will lead a discussion of the article *The Tragedy of the Commons*, by Garrett Hardin, originally

published in *Science* magazine in 1968. The article explains individuals' tendencies to make decisions based on their personal needs and self-interest, regardless of the negative impact they may have on others. In the environmental context, resources are overused, exploited, and eventually depleted, to the detriment of all. A link to the article being discussed can be found on the "Events" page of our website. **To register for this free event, go to our website.** Questions: email Go Green Reads at gogreenreads@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

6:30 pm, a Live Event at the Store

REBECCA MAKKAI

I Have Some Questions for You

We host award-winning author (and Book Stall favorite) **Rebecca Makkai**, discussing and signing copies of her brilliant new novel, *I Have Some*

Questions for You. Set in the woods of New Hampshire, this transfixing new

novel follows a film professor and podcaster forced to reckon with her past and reexamine the murder of her high school classmate. Ms. Makkai appears in conversation with Wilmette librarian and book group leader **Amy Barrow**. This program is free and open to the public. We ask that you buy your copies of *I Have Some Questions for You* from The Book Stall if you plan on entering the book-signing queue. **To register for this free event, go to the "Events" page on our website.**



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

6:30 pm, A Live Event at the Store

BILL HAMMACK, PhD

The Things We Make

Bill Hammack joins us to celebrate the release of his new book, *The Things We Make!* Dr. Hammack, a Carl Sagan award-winning professor of engineering at the University of Illinois and "The Engineer Guy" on YouTube, has a lifelong passion

for the things we make, and how we make them. Now, for the first time, the Chicago author reveals the invisible method behind every invention and takes us on a whirlwind tour of how humans built the world we know today. **This event is free with registration, please go to our "Events" page on our website.**



THURSDAY, MARCH 23

7 pm, a Live Event

Niles-Maine District Library

6960 Oakton St., Niles

MELISSA BARON

Twice in a Lifetime

In Melissa Baron's new book, *Twice in a Lifetime*, Isla gets a text from a man who seems to think he's her husband. Obviously, a wrong number—except when she points this out—the mystery texter sends back a picture, of them—on their wedding day. Isla cautiously starts up a texting relationship with her maybe-hoax, maybe-husband Ewan, who claims to be reaching out from a few years into the future. Registration is required. See the "Events" page on our website for details.



Family Action Network (FAN) Events in March

FAN's author appearances in February are both IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL Zoom events. They are free but Zoom events do require registration. For more information and to register, go to familyactionnetwork.net.



Two In-Person Events!

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

7 pm, Loyola Academy, Wilmette

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

12 noon, A Grand-Rounds Presentation
University of Chicago, Crown School of Social Work
LISA DAMOUR, PhD

The Emotional Lives of Teenagers:

Raising Connected, Capable, and Compassionate Adolescents
FAN is thrilled to welcome Dr. Damour back (again!) -- she is an audience favorite and brings her signature warmth and wisdom to her parenting advice. She hits just the right note each time, is hugely relatable, and has a way of guiding the behavior of parents without shaming or blaming. No registration is necessary for the March 2 Loyola Academy event. **For more information, go to familyactionnetwork.net.**

Two Zoom Appearances

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

7 pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

12 noon, a Grand-Rounds Presentation
RICHARD C. SCHWARTZ, PhD
with DERANG YOUNG, LCSW
Introduction to Internal Family Systems
and

No Bad Parts: Healing Trauma and Restoring Wholeness with the Internal Family Systems Model

Dr. Schwartz is hugely influential in his field, and a pioneer in the treatment of trauma. The focus of the evening event will be his book *Introduction to Internal Family Systems*, which is being re-issued for its 25th anniversary. Dr. Schwartz will host a Grand Rounds event the next day, centering on *No Bad Parts: Healing Trauma and Restoring Wholeness with the Internal Family Systems Model*. His conversation partner, Dr. Nancy Burgoyne, was mentored by Dr. Schwartz at the start of her clinical career.

An In-Person Event

MONDAY, MARCH 13

7 pm, Evanston Township High School
NEDRA GLOVER TAWWAB, MSW
with LUVVIE AJAYI JONES
Drama Free: A Guide to Managing Unhealthy Family Relationships

Nedra Glover Tawwab and Luvvie Ajayi Jones both have a tremendous impact on their devoutly loyal social media followers. Glover Tawwab's first book, *Set Boundaries, Find Peace*, established her as a straight-talking relationship expert, and she runs a popular Instagram account that hosts weekly Q&As. Chicago-based Ajayi Jones is the author of several bestsellers, an in-demand speaker, and a corporate strategist who uses humor to engage her audience.

A Virtual Event

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

7 pm KIERAN SETIYA, PhD with JIM HOLT
Life is Hard: How Philosophy Can Help Us Find Our Way
Kieran Setiya's book, named a Best Book of the Year by *The New Yorker* and *The Economist*, is described by *The New York Times* as "...a humane consolation for challenging times. Reading it is like speaking with a thoughtful friend who never tells you to cheer up, but, by offering gentle companionship and a change of perspective, makes you feel better anyway." Jim Holt is an American journalist and author.



March Is Women's History Month

Every March, we celebrate the contributions women have made around the world and recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history in a variety of fields. Here we celebrate books that mark their achievements!

- *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times* by Michelle Obama (\$32.50)
- *How to Stand Up to a Dictator: The Fight for Our Future* by Maria Ressa (\$29.99)
- *The Queen: Her Life* by Andrew Morton (\$30)
- *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts, and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War* by Catherine Grace Katz (\$18.99 in paperback)
- *Cleopatra: Her History, Her Myth* by Francine Prose (\$26)
- *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purnell (\$18 in paperback)
- *Edith: The Rogue Rockefeller McCormick* by Andrea Friederici Ross (\$22.95 in paperback)
- *Madame Fourcade's Secret War: The Daring Young Woman Who Led France's Largest Spy Network Against Hitler* by Lynne Olson (\$32)
- *All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler* by Rebecca Donner (\$18.99 in paperback)
- *The Ruin of All Witches: Life and Death in the New World* by Malcom Gaskill (\$30)
- *Brave Hearted: The Women of the American West* by Katie Hickman (\$32)
- *The Great Stewardess Rebellion: How Women Launched a Workplace Revolution at 30,000 Feet* by Nell McShane Wulfhart (\$17 in paperback)
- *Woman: The American History of an Idea* by Lillian Faderman (\$25 in paperback)
- *Lady Justice: Women, the Law, and the Battle to Save America* by Dahlia Lithwick (\$29)
- *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took on a World at War* by Deborah Cohen (\$30)
- *Shy: The Alarming Outspoken Memoirs of Mary Rodgers* by Mary Rodgers, Jesse Green (\$35)
- *The Wind at My Back: Resilience, Grace, and Other Gifts from My Mentor, Raven Wilkinson* by Misty Copeland, Susan Fales-Hill (\$29)
- *Elizabeth Taylor: The Grit & Glamour of an Icon* by Kate Andersen Brower (\$32.50)
- *Anna: The Biography* by Amy Odell (\$29.99)
- *All In: An Autobiography* by Billie Jean King, Johnette Howard, Maryanne Vollers (\$30)
- *Blood, Fire & Gold: The Story of Elizabeth I & Catherine de Medici* by Estelle Paranque (\$29)
- *The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine* by Janice P. Nimura (\$16.95 in paperback)

the children's line...



KARI PATCH

Spring is (almost) here, and we're excited to welcome the season, the school spring breaks coming up, and great new books you'll read about below.

This month we feature Chicago author **Jacob Grant** on **Saturday, March 18 at 10:30 am**. In a live appearance, we'll celebrate the release of *No Fair!*, the latest book he has written and illustrated, and will read to us.

No Fair! is a big-hearted story about fairness and father-son love. The characters Dad and Pablo (from Grant's previous book *No Pants!*) return for a fun father-son trip at the farmer's market. The two go for a bike ride, eat doughnuts, and enjoy hot apple cider. What could make this day any more fun?! But Pablo's dad says that everything Pablo picks out is too big for him. It's just no fair! What if he was in charge and his dad was the kid, Pablo wonders. And his dad stops to think about it, too. This light-hearted but thoughtful look at fairness combines big laughs with bold illustrations to introduce an important subject that everyone encounters throughout their lives without offering and a hard and fast solution.



Grant knows that lots of things in life aren't fair, but it's still hard to explain that to his own children... which is why he wrote this book! It's meant for kids ages 3 - 7. *Kari P.*

AMY TROGON

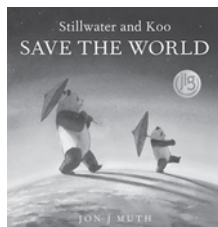


Once Upon a Book by Grace Lin and Kate Messner (\$17.99). Celebrate the world of reading! Alice is stuck inside on a winter day when she spots a book on the floor. As she begins to read, the book characters invite her into the book! Alice travels to a fish-filled

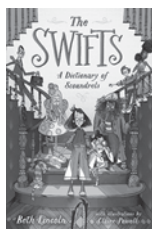


coral reef, jungles filled with birds, and even inside a thunderstorm cloud. Her bunny, Lovey, changes into a real bunny and travels with her. Turn on your imagination and come along. Colorful, vibrant illustrations complete this fantastical book. *Ages 8-12*

Stillwater and Koo Save the World by Jon J. Muth (\$18.99). Koo, the panda, tells Uncle Stillwater he wants to save the world. Uncle Stillwater gently suggests they start small, as the world is a very big place. The two start to work on smaller jobs, like feeding the cat, stopping oncoming traffic for a family of ducks, and baking a cake for a new family. Uncle Stillwater wisely tells Koo, "Each time you do something good, you save the world a little bit." Jon Muth's signature illustrations beautifully and quietly express the book's sentiments. Any small act of kindness makes a huge difference. *Ages 4-8*

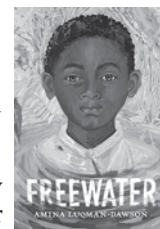


The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by Beth Lincoln, Illustrated by Claire Powell (\$17.99). A debut novel that is the most fun ever! In the Swift family, children are named by family tradition and the family dictionary. They believe that you would grow into the name you are given. Shenanigan Swift is worried about the name she has been given. (Shenanigan: tomfoolery, skulduggery, mischief of all varieties). Is she really meant to be a shenanigan or someone else? The time for the family reunion has come, and the characters who descend on the quirky old house are funny, strange, and entertaining. The family reunion treasure



hunt, searching for an object hidden in the old house for many years, turns into a murder mystery, complete with clues for you, the reader. Can you solve the mystery? The Swifts are a family you will never forget! *Age 8-12*

Freewater by Amina Lugman-Dawson (\$16.99). Twelve-year-old Homer and his 7-year-old sister Ada are separated from their mother during their escape from Southland Plantation. They are found by Suleman, who takes them deep into the Great Dismal Swamp, where they join a community of escaped slaves and their families. This community is called Freewater. Here the people work together and support each other. Suleman is one of the men who guard the Swamp, looking for those searching to capture the runaway slaves. He and the others raid the plantations for much-needed supplies. Twelve-year-old Sanzi, who is free born in Freewater, wants to be just like Suleman. But her efforts often get her into trouble. Back at Southland, Homer and Ada's mom has not given up on her plan to escape and join her children. Homer and Ada have not given up either, and a plan ensues. Freewater is a fictional community but based on true stories of those who ran from slavery and survived in the Great Dismal Swamp. This well-researched historical fiction is full of rich details and authentic facts. The suspenseful story will have you turning the pages until the satisfying end. This 2023 *Newbery Award* winner is a debut novel and a welcome addition to the many outstanding novels that have received this honor. *Ages 9-12*



BETSY BALYEAT



You Are Here: Connecting Flights by Ellen Oh (\$17.99, our March 7). These are interwoven stories that explore the themes of identity and belonging from the perspective of 12 young Southeast and East Asian Americans. The stories are written by some of our favorite authors. As



a storm rages outside a chaotic Chicago airport and delays departing flights, an interruption at a TSA checkpoint involving Thai American Paul and his family sparks racist rumors and confusion. The event has a ripple effect on each of the protagonist's lives, prompting them to find their voices and fight for what is right in their own ways, as uncomfortable feelings rise to the surface. Each of the stories is seamlessly interconnected, and details are effortlessly interwoven. This remarkable anthology offers a warm and heartfelt reassurance to all those who recognize themselves reflected in its pages. You are seen, and you do belong! *Ages 8-12*

Lasagna Means I Love You by Kate O'Shaughnessy (\$17.99). Mo Gallagher's life is upended when her grandmother dies and she is thrust into foster care. Nan has been her loving guardian, raising her in a New York apartment she must leave. Her uncle, unwilling to care for her, gives her a notebook with a letter from Nan on the first page. Hoping to remain connected in some mystical way, 11-year-old Mo fills the notebook with letters to her grandmother, hoping for signs she is being heard. But for the rest of her life, Mo withholds critical feelings and information, even avoiding telling Crystal Wang, her Chinese American best friend, the truth. The chance discovery of a homemade cookbook leads to a brilliant recipe project with Mo's own website. Her caring caseworker and her therapist help Mo deal with changes, especially as her uneasy relationship with her foster parents leads to a devastating surprise. With Crystal by her side, Mo develops special relationships with a variety of new friends. There are many surprises along the way for Mo, with a wonderful twist at the end. *Ages 8-12*



While You Were Dreaming by Alisha Rai (\$19.99, out March 23). Growing up, Indian-American Sonia Patel and her older sister, Kareena, were taught to avoid attention. While Sonia is a citizen by birth, her mother and Kareena are both undocumented: they originally came to the U.S., seeking treatment for Kareena's infant leukemia. Since their mother's recent deportation, Sonia has felt even more pressure to protect Kareena. She is panicked by the publicity about her rescuing James Cooper when he fell into a canal, especially after details about the rescue are spread across social media. When Sonia visits the Cooper's restaurant to check on James' recovery, she is mistaken for his new girlfriend. Sonia finds herself drawn to the Coopers, a close-knit Black family, whose strong relationships and deep community roots contrast sharply with her own. Sonia needs to stop retreating from her problems and take charge of her life, which is frightening. Undocumented immigration, stress over health care, and the toxic use of social media are among the issues Rai addresses in her YA debut. A well-balanced story poised between serious reality and romantic ideals. A perfect read for fans of Nicola Yoon and Sandhya Menon. *Age 14 up.*



Stateless by Elizabeth Wein (\$18.99, out March 14). This suspenseful murder mystery by Wein, set in 1937, centers on a group of student pilots competing in a European air race. Striving to promote peace during a period of international unrest, pioneering British female aviator Lady Firth organizes Europe's First Youth Air Race, comprising 12 pilots aged 17-20 from 12 nations, flying over seven cities. Seventeen-year-old Stella North, Briton's representative and only female participant, hides her Russian origins, fearing exposure to the press as a stateless refugee. When one pilot disappears before the first leg of the race is completed, Stella believes she witnessed his murder in the sky. Each contestant and their chaperone are possible suspects, and Stella, extremely cool and collected, privately worries about potential sabotage to her plane. She also wrestles with misgivings about her competitors, each of whom represents a different facet of the imminent war. Danger and intrigue abound in this historically accurate adventure, that boasts a large cast, whose unusual and dramatically shifting dynamics make for an exciting read. A concluding author's note details context, regarding pre-World War II and aviation history. Intrigue and danger abound in this exciting mystery. I loved it! *Age 12 up*



Our Young Readers Review

Are you an avid reader and writer? Consider becoming a youth reviewer for The Book Stall. We welcome reviews from students in grades 6-12. If you are interested, please email us at bookrecs@thebookstall.com. Provide your name and grade level, and we will provide you with instructions.

6 Times We Almost Kissed (And One Time We Did) by Tess Sharpe (\$18.99). Penny and Tate are not friends. But their moms are ride-or-die best friends, which means they have grown up together (and spent a lot of time fighting). But when Tate's mom needs a liver, and Penny's mom steps up to be a donor, the moms decide to combine their homes and the girls have to work to co-exist. Only problem is, they keep almost kissing. And somehow Tate always seems to show up right when Penny needs her. She was even there after Penny's accident. But they could never be anything more... could they? This book offers a fun LGBTQ+ romance but also ties in deeper aspects of mental health, death of family members, and complicated family dynamics. This book hooked me from the beginning and kept me up way too late to find out what happened next. ***6 Times We Almost Kissed*** is a must read! *Ages 14+*



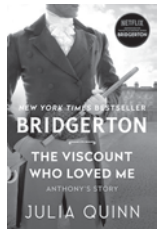
—Grace

Partners in Crime by Alisha Rai (\$16.99). If you are interested in a book that will keep you entertained, then ***Partners in Crime*** might be for you! It is a fantastic and quick read. It's action-packed and full of twists and turns. This book is perfect to cozy up with by the fire, and it has a balance of romance and suspense. The novel is about a girl named Mira and a guy who has now been brought into her life for the second time, Naveen. They work on escaping thieves, following clues, and learning more about Mira's past. As they spend more and more time together, their feelings evolve as well. ***Partners in Crime*** is entertaining from the start, and an excellent page-turner, so you should crack open the spine and start to read!



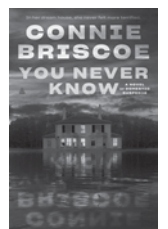
—Charlotte

The Viscount Who Loved Me (16.99) is the second book in the Bridgerton series by Julia Quinn. In this book, we follow Anthony Bridgerton and Kate Sheffield, two stubborn aristocrats who have to go to desperate lengths to get what they desire. Kate is a witty and charismatic female lead who falls in love with her sister's prospective husband, despite knowing better. Anthony, 18, is also stubborn, but very protective of his family and overall quite lovable. The chemistry between Anthony and Kate is great, and their banter is witty and fun. It is a very enjoyable read, and it has lots of silly moments between the romantic moments. Even though it's a romance, Quinn writes about Anthony's trauma and how it affects his relationship with Kate, adding a relatable aspect to these dramatic fictional characters. I truly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the Victorian era, charming characters, and romance.



—Madeleine

You Never Know: A Novel of Domestic Suspense by Connie Briscoe (\$28) is a book full of domestic suspense, and with every page you read, comes another twist. Alexis has always been dating on-and-off, and she has never found anyone who she has been fully committed to. When she goes out to dinner one night with a friend, a man catches her attention, making her feel a way she has never felt before. They fall in love at first sight. Progressing further on in their relationship, she is beginning to realize that he isn't the man she originally thought he was, and if she wants to survive, she will need to play by his rules. This book will begin to help you think about the reality of your consequences, along with the harshness of the world surrounding you.



—Hallie





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Spring Break Paperback Reads

We're nearing the end of March, that time of Spring Break in local schools. We've picked out some fiction and nonfiction titles that are perfect reads—whether you are on a trip or having a break right at home. Here are some paperback picks our staff chose.

- *Malibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid (\$18)
- *The Family* by Naomi Krupitsky (\$17)
- *The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand (\$18.99)
- *Damascus Station* by David McCloskey (\$17.95)
- *Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitl Gonzalez (\$18.95)
- *Ms. Demeanor* by Einor Lipman (\$17.99)
- *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir (\$20)
- *People We Meet on Vacation* by Emily Henry (\$16)
- *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen (\$20)
- *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller (\$18)
- *Embassy Wife* by Katie Crouch (\$19)
- *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post* by Allison Pataki (\$18)

- *The House of Special Purpose* by John Boyne (\$18.99)
- *Heart Bones* by Colleen Hoover (\$17.99)
- *A Line to Kill* by Anthony Horowitz (\$18)
- *The Dry* by Jane Harper (\$16.99)
- *A Carnival of Snackery* by David Sedaris (\$18.99)
- *Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty* by Patrick Radden Keefe (\$18)
- *Agent Zigzag: A True Story of Nazi Espionage, Love, and Betrayal* by Ben Macintyre (\$18)
- *Left on Tenth: A Second Chance of Life—a Memoir* by Delia Ephron (\$18.99)
- *The Palace Papers: Inside the House of Windsor—the Truth and the Turmoil* by Tina Brown (\$20)
- *Bourdain: The Definitive Oral Biography* by Laurie Woolever (\$19.99)
- *Sidecountry: Tales of Death and Life from the Back Roads of Sports* by John Branch (\$18.95)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 			1	2 7 pm, an In-Person FAN event Loyola Academy, Wilmette LISA DAMOUR <i>The Emotional Lives of Teenagers</i>	3 12 noon, a FAN Grand-Rounds Presentation University of Chicago Crown School of Social Work LISA DAMOUR <i>The Emotional Lives of Teenagers</i>	4
5	6	7 7 pm, a FAN Virtual Zoom event RICHARD C. SCHWARTZ & DERANG YOUNG <i>Introduction to Internal Family Systems</i>	8 12 noon, a FAN Grand-Rounds Presentation RICHARD C. SCHWARTZ & DERANG YOUNG <i>No Bad Parts</i> 6 pm, a Virtual Event JENNY ODELL <i>Saving Time</i>	9 11:30 am, Luncheon The Union League Club JOHN DALTON <i>At the Helm</i> 6:30 – 7:30 pm, A Live Event at the Store ALICE MOODY and ANN WALTERS <i>Books for Spring Break</i>	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 7 pm, a Live FAN event Evanston Township High School NEDRA GLOVER TAWWAB and LUVVIE AJAYI JONES <i>Drama Free</i>	14	15 6:30 pm, a Live Event at the Store EDWARD ACHORN <i>The Lincoln Miracle</i>	16 7 pm, a FAN Virtual Zoom event KIERAN SETIYA <i>Life Is Hard</i>	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day!	18 10:30 am, a Storytime and Book Release Party JACOB GRANT <i>No Fair!</i>
19	20 7 pm, a Virtual "Go Green Reads" Discussion CRAIG WITTY with JON GRAND <i>The Tragedy of the Commons</i> The First Day of Spring!	21 6:30 pm, a Live event at the Store REBECCA MAKKAJ <i>I Have Some Questions for You</i>	22 6:30 pm, a Live event at the Store BILL HAMMACK <i>The Things We Make</i>	23 7 pm, a Live Event at Niles/Maine District Library MELISSA BARON <i>Twice in a Lifetime</i>	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 April