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"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."

March 2008 Newsletter - Family Book Shop

Since I wrote the February letter early I decided to make up for it by writing the March letter late. No reason...just busy. Busy is a good thing. I'm beginning this in the car while Joe is driving, (you'll be glad to know) thinking that if I can work on the computer while having a supposed vacation I may never get to **not** work again.

Great news for **Eragon** fans. The third of Paolini's Inheritance Trilogy, **Brisingsr**, is scheduled for September 20th. We are taking advanced prepaid orders for the book that will be \$27.50. The fourth in the **Twilight** series by Stephenie Meyer, **Breaking Dawn** is due out August 20th and will be \$22.99. Drop by and let us know if you want one. This will help us know how many to order and assure that you'll get them on the release date.

Also, are you gearing up for *April is Poetry Month*? Recite a poem, not lyrics or limericks, and receive a 10% discount on your next purchase. April only.

We hope to be getting 2 kittens for poor lonely Schuster who is still mourning his brother, Simon's death. We will be having a naming contest that will get you a \$25.00 gift certificate if we choose your names. I'd like them to be literary of course, but I appreciate clever.

In the Who'd a thunk it? Category:

Forget the Oscars. We now have the much-anticipated shortlist for this year's Diagram Prize for Oddest Book Title of the Year. In announcing this year's list, the [Bookseller](#) magazine noted that "Horace Bent, the *Bookseller* diarist and custodian of the Diagram Prize, said: 'I confess: I have been anxious that as publishing becomes ever more corporate, the trade's quirky charms are being squeezed out. Lists are pruned, targets are set, authors are culled. But happily my fears have been proved unfounded: oddity lives on.'"

And now, the list:

- *I Was Tortured by the Pygmy Love Queen*
- *How to Write a How to Write Book*
- *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues*
- *Cheese Problems Solved*
- *If You Want Closure in Your Relationship, Start With Your Legs*
- *People who Mattered in Southend and Beyond: From King Canute to Dr Feelgood*

The winner will be announced March 28.

My vote would be for number 5.

And for the politically curious:

Want to know what political candidates your favorite authors donated to? Find the shocking truth at <http://fundrace.huffingtonpost.com/>. You can search by name or occupation. Try "novelist" or "author" as occupation; "writer" works too.

The news at the store is pretty much the same with a few changes. Kelli is wearing a splint on her left hand necessitating that one of us open her many sodas during the day and Nikki and Ernie are continually remodeling her house. Amanda is planning the wedding of the century, Lori has a new car with windows that work and Jenn and her significant other are looking for an apartment. Joe and I are driving to Texas. Why are we going to Texas you might ask? My Joe has notions. He saw a program about South Padre Island and Galveston and off we go. For me it's a busman's holiday as I'll visit other independent bookstores along the way and as many Goodwill stores as we can find. A vacation for me consists of eating, sleeping and reading.

We stopped in Biloxi where I won \$70.00 and it only cost me \$80.00 to do it.

Kelli has become a paranormal fan. She devoured the first three of Stephenie Meyer's **Twilight** series. She says, "I'm reading **Kiss of the Night** by Kenyon. Almost done with it. Jenn is reading bk 3 of the Riftwar Legacy, **Tears of the Gods** by Raymond Feist. Also, the book club book **The Undead Next Door** by Sparks.

Amanda is also reading **The Undead Next Door** by Kerrelyn Sparks and listening to **Son of a Witch** by Gregory Maguire.

Nikki, the top do girl, is reading **Tall Dark and Hungry** by Lynsay Sands.

And here is Lori's response to "What are you reading?"

"I'm still reading Damasio's The Feeling of What Happens. As you recall I took a break from Damasio's book a little to read Tony Horwitz's book, A Voyage Long and Strange, which I finished a while back."

I read **Gods of War** by Marisa Silver, due out next month, which takes place in the desert of Southern California. (I lived there for a time and grew to love it). The narrator is, Ares, a boy living with his younger brother, Malcom, and a mother whose love for them is as damaging as it is fierce. He thinks his brother is retarded, taking the blame because, as a six year old, he was handed a wiggling baby while his mother was pumping gas and dropped him on the cement.

From our vantage point we realize Malcom is severely autistic and Ares is not to blame. There are several twists, characters and plot developments. All is resolved at the end and should elicit some lively discussion.

I'm also reading **Angle of Repose** by Wallace Stegner for our book club. It's a Pulitzer Prize winner and, for me, slow going. Also, I have discovered Laura Lippman. I'm reading **What the Dead Know** and will now have to read everything she has written. I've also started **The Appeal** by Grisham. He never fails me. **The Last Juror** is still my favorite.