

"My bookstore is the embodiment of the first amendment. If we can't have opinions here, where can we?"

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Family Book Shop Newsletter July 2008

I made it back from Los Angeles where the huge Book Expo America was held this year with arms at least 2 inches longer than when I left here. The Convention Center comprises a 347,000 square foot South Exhibit Hall, connected to 210,000 square feet West exhibit Hall by a two-story meeting room concourse. The author signings and part of the 2000 publishers/exhibitors were in one hall and the rest were in the other hall. To put it in perspective, a football field is 58,000 square feet. I mailed home 5 huge boxes of books all of which had to be carried throughout the halls to the mailroom. It was a great deal of work for which I fortified myself with copious amounts of chocolate and rewarded myself with several gallons of ice cream.

True story:

I had the day off but had to bring something to the store. When I came in Nikki was nowhere in sight and Kelli was helping a young man at the front counter. As I rounded the corner to come through to our work area, there is Nikki on all fours (giggle) polishing Kelli's toenails...a putrid green. So much for the sophistication of working at a bookstore, the bastion and repository of mans' knowledge.

I'm still laughing... Never in 33 years...

Our kittens finally have names...Ink and Smudge. They are no longer " the black one and the gray one". The winner and chief name picker is Christina. She won out over my next favorite choice, Barak and Hillary.

What follows are couple of more reading suggestions from customers responding to last months letter:

Hi Judy...this from one of your oldest customers is about the book you are reading by Joanne Harris. My sister just read *Gentlemen and Players* by her and really enjoyed it! She said it was like Masterpiece Theater meets Alfred Hitchcock.

Speaking of Judi Dench, I recently enjoyed her in a 2-part Masterpiece Theater presentation of *Cranford*....I love the BBC movies!

Just finished reading good ole Dean Koontz' new paperback, *The Good Guy*...the page turner kind you hate to put down.

...

See you around

Susan Miller

and

Frances located a writer named Tom Holt, a Brit with an excellent sense of humor, who manages not to be Terry Pratchett. (This is important.) I've just finished a trilogy of his, *The Portable Door*, *In Your Dreams*, and *Earth, Air, Fire and Custard*. (Might have the elements out of order on that last one, since I'm not holding the book in front of me just now.)

He's very funny in the first book, getting more interested in the characters in the second book, and flat-out reworking *Everything You Know and Love* (tm) (patent pending) in the third book. And, have I mentioned he's not Terry Pratchett? Holt is very readable with a few minor twitches for the American reader, who expects "make a face" instead of "pull a face," but what the heck. I had a darned good time reading those books.

(I like Terry Pratchett. I'm just glad that Holt has his own voice and perspective, and doesn't come off as a cheap carbon-copy of Pratchett. [Were there ever expensive carbon copies? Does anyone know what those are anymore? When was the last time you saw a mimeograph?])

Waiting for a conference call with folks in Australia to start. *sigh* Three more minutes.

jbm!

Stop here and try this website: <http://www.booklistonline.com> If my #%&)(&^%#@# printer worked I would be making megalists from this site.

I am overwhelmed with advance reading copies that won't be available for months. Some dilemma, you say? I have started the young adult series, *Inkheart*, by Cornelia Funke (Meggie lives a quiet life with her father, a bookbinder. But her father has a deep secret--he possesses an extraordinary magical power. When a mysterious stranger arrives, Meggie is plunged into intrigue as her father's life is put in danger.) and *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski (This riveting saga of an American family captures the deep and ancient alliance between humans and dogs, and the power of fate through one boy's epic journey into the wild.) What is unique is that Edgar is born mute and speaks only in sign.

Our book club selection for July is *Epiphany* by Ferrol Sams. It is an absolute delight and I am re-reading it to Joe while reading another of Sam's books to myself.

Kelli has taken 5 books with her on vacation. One of them is *Evernight* by Claudia Gray. (On her first day at Evernight Academy, Bianca knows she's not like the other students: sleek, beautiful,

almost predatory. She finds herself drawn to another outsider who seems to be hiding a dark secret.) Another is Ponder Heart by Eudora Welty (Uncle Daniel Ponder, whose fortune is exceeded only by his desire to give it away, is the talk of Clay County and a constant source of vexation for his niece, Edna Earle, whose determined efforts to thwart his generosity prove inadequate to his ingenuity.)

Lori is reading CIA: Secrets of the Company by Mick Farren. It was written in 1999 and though I can't find any annotation on it you can guess by the title. She reads waaayyy over our heads.

Jen is reading Fallen by Claire Delacroix in an advance reading copy due out in September. (In a post-nuclear world teetering on the edge of the apocalypse, a fallen angel and a skeptical scientist must do their part to save mankind.)

Nikki is reading Smoke Thief by Shana Abe (The men of the drkon tribe try to hide their dangerous secret: they can change from human to dragon and back again. When the tribe's leader hears about a jewel thief in London, he knows the culprit is a rogue drkon--and astonishingly, a woman.)

Amanda has been home recuperating from surgery and reading Fables, a graphic novel series for adults which, so far, has 10 in the series. She is also reading Nightkeepers by Jessica Andersen (Miami detective Leah Daniels never expects to find herself as the human sacrifice in an ancient Mayan ritual meant to coax a demon from the underworld. Or that she'd be saved by a handsome warrior-priest king who claims to recognize her from his visions.)

I am aghast at how many paranormal romances there are and how many they have read. It is my mission in life to have my co-workers read Kiterunner and Water For Elephants.

I'm back to riding my bike to work. Last week I drove to work and the gas was \$3.93. By the time I got off work it was \$3.99. Happily, I get 40 calories to the mile!

We are closing for vacation from Friday July 4th to reopen Friday July 11th. We've never done that before and I'm a little nervous. Don't forget us.

I've more mom and pop stories to tell. Only in a small town like Deland would something like this happen. I didn't realize the cafe where I get my vegetarian "wings" was closed on the Sunday we celebrated Father's Day and my daughter, Kerri's, 50th birthday. I called Carol, the manager who had given me her cell phone number, to place the order. She told me she was closed but would

meet me there and cook me up some...C'mon!! how great is that? We managed without wings but I am so impressed with her offer I had to share with you. The cafe is the Deli in the Deland Bakery near our store and their food is healthy and yummy.

Another happened after Amanda's surgeon finished the operation. He stopped by the store to give us the good news. We have such a great town.

The gals at Major Medical went out of their way to be certain one of their clients received the magazines and newspapers she missed while in the hospital. As they were coming in each day to buy them I realized the magazines were for a customer of ours. How kind is that?

The not-so-great news is the closing of Stepp's Office Supply after 36 years of doing business here.

The organization AMIBA (American Independent Business Alliance) says it best:

"Think of your favorite shop or restaurant. We'll bet it's a home town business. Independent locally-owned businesses are essential to a vital local economy and community character. They use the goods and services of other local businesses, serve as community hubs, and are vital components of healthy neighborhoods and strong city centers. They're where the locals go. They're owned by our friends and neighbors, or maybe even by you.

The threat to our communities is real. The trend of increasing recruitment of and dependence on absentee-owned chains -- with formulas dictating everything from the look of the building to who does the printing to where the money gets deposited -- has unhealthy consequences. It's not just local businesses who suffer -- our communities are losing social, cultural and economic strength, a place for entrepreneurship, and the ability to choose our own futures."

Ok...off my soapbox.

The booksense bestseller list is now called the Indie list since we seem to advocate using independents whenever they're available.

Debuts for the week:
Hardcover Fiction

#5-Sail, by James Patterson, Howard Roughan (9780316018708)
#11-The Story of Edgar Sawtelle, by David Wroblewski (9780061374227)
#14-The Other, by David Guterson (9780307263155)
Hardcover Nonfiction
#9-Always by My Side, by Jim Nantz (9781592403615)
Paperback Fiction
#9-On Chesil Beach, by Ian McEwan (9780307386175)
#13-The Maytrees, by Annie Dillard (9780061239540)
Paperback Nonfiction
#15-Lone Survivor, by Marcus Luttrell, Patrick Robinson (9780316067607)
Mass Market
#3-The Tin Roof Blowdown, by James Lee Burke (9781416548508)
Children's Interest
#11-Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, by James Luceno (9780545007016)
#15-Summer Ball, by Mike Lupica (9780142411537)

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. Nothing to Lose
Lee Child, Delacorte, \$27, 9780385340564
2. The Enchantress of Florence
Salman Rushdie, Random House, \$26, 9780375504334
3. The Host
Stephenie Meyer, Little Brown, \$25.99, 9780316068048
4. The Spies of Warsaw
Alan Furst, Random House, \$25, 9781400066025
5. Sail- Debut
James Patterson, Howard Roughan, Little Brown, \$27.99, 9780316018708
6. Unaccustomed Earth
Jhumpa Lahiri, Knopf, \$25, 9780307265739
7. The Art of Racing in the Rain
Garth Stein, Harper, \$23.95, 9780061537936
8. The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Junot Diaz, Riverhead, \$24.95, 9781594489587
9. Careless in Red
Elizabeth George, Harper, \$27.95, 9780061160875
10. The Garden of Last Days
Andre Dubus III, Norton, \$24.95, 9780393041651
11. The Story of Edgar Sawtelle- Debut
David Wroblewski, Ecco, \$25.95, 9780061374227
12. Devil May Care
Sebastian Faulks, Doubleday, \$24.95, 9780385524285
13. Plague Ship
Clive Cussler, Putnam, \$26.95, 9780399154973
14. The Other- Debut
David Guterson, Knopf, \$24.95, 9780307263155
15. Snuff
Chuck Palahniuk, Doubleday, \$24.95, 9780385517881

ON THE RISE:

21. The Steel Wave
Jeff Shaara, Ballantine, \$28, 9780345461421

Shaara's follow-up to *The Rising Tide* is an intense novel of the Normandy invasion.

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*
David Sedaris, Little Brown, \$25.99, 9780316143479
 2. *The Last Lecture*
Randy Pausch, Hyperion, \$21.95, 9781401323257
 3. *What Happened*
Scott McClellan, PublicAffairs, \$27.95, 9781586485566
 4. *The Downhill Lie*
Carl Hiaasen, Knopf, \$22, 9780307266538
 5. *The Post-American World*
Fareed Zakaria, Norton, \$25.95, 9780393062359
 6. *The Secret*
Rhonda Byrne, Atria/Beyond Words, \$23.95, 9781582701707
 7. *In Defense of Food*
Michael Pollan, Penguin Press, \$21.95, 9781594201455
 8. *Audition*
Barbara Walters, Knopf, \$29.95, 9780307266460
 9. *Always by My Side: A Father's Grace and a Sports Journey Unlike Any Other- Debut*
Jim Nantz, Gotham, \$26, 9781592403615
 10. *Counselor*
Ted Sorensen, Harper, \$27.95, 9780060798710
 11. *The Billionaire's Vinegar*
Benjamin Wallace, Crown, \$24.95, 9780307338778
 12. *Just Who Will You Be?*
Maria Shriver, Hyperion, \$14.95, 9781401323189
 13. *A Voyage Long and Strange*
Tony Horwitz, Holt, \$27.50, 9780805076035
 14. *Armageddon in Retrospect*
Kurt Vonnegut, Putnam, \$24.95, 9780399155086
 15. *Goodnight Bush*
Erich Origen, Gan Golan, Little Brown, \$14.99, 9780316040419
- ON THE RISE:
16. *Me of Little Faith*
Lewis Black, Riverhead, \$24.95, 9781594489945
The Daily Show regular's irreverent take on religion.

TRADE PAPERBACK FICTION

1. *Out Stealing Horses*
Per Petterson, Picador, \$14, 9780312427085
2. *Water for Elephants*
Sara Gruen, Algonquin, \$13.95, 9781565125605
3. *Loving Frank*
Nancy Horan, Ballantine, \$14, 9780345495006
4. *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*
Michael Chabon, Harper Perennial, \$15.95, 9780007149834
5. *In the Woods*
Tana French, Penguin, \$14, 9780143113492
6. *The Shack*
William P. Young, Windblown, \$14.99, 9780964729230

7. The Road

Cormac McCarthy, Vintage, \$14.95, 9780307387899

8. The Friday Night Knitting Club

Kate Jacobs, Berkley, \$14, 9780425219096

9. On Chesil Beach- Debut

Ian McEwan, Anchor, \$13.95, 9780307386175

10. Divisadero

Michael Ondaatje, Vintage, \$13.95, 9780307279323

11. The Kite Runner

Khaled Hosseini, Riverhead, \$15, 9781594480003

12. The Gathering

Anne Enright, Black Cat, \$14, 9780802170392

13. The Maytrees- Debut

Annie Dillard, Harper Perennial, \$13.95, 9780061239540

14. The Alchemist

Paulo Coelho, HarperOne, \$13.95, 9780061122415

15. Nineteen Minutes

Jodi Picoult, Washington Square, \$15, 9780743496735

ON THE RISE:

19. Ghostwalk

Rebecca Stott, Spiegel & Grau, \$14.95, 9780385521079

A mysterious, intelligent first novel, now available in paperback.

TRADE PAPERBACK NONFICTION

1. A New Earth

Eckhart Tolle, Plume, \$14, 9780452289963

2. Three Cups of Tea

Greg Mortenson, David Oliver Relin, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038252

3. Animal, Vegetable, Miracle

Barbara and Camille Kingsolver, Steven Hopp, Harper Perennial, \$14.95, 9780060852566

4. The Audacity of Hope

Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9780307237705

5. Dreams From My Father

Barack Obama, Three Rivers, \$14.95, 9781400082773

6. Eat, Pray, Love

Elizabeth Gilbert, Penguin, \$15, 9780143038412

7. The Omnivore's Dilemma

Michael Pollan, Penguin, \$16, 9780143038580

8. The Power of Now

Eckhart Tolle, New World, \$14, 9781577314806

9. Wisdom of Our Fathers

Tim Russert, Random House, \$13.95, 9780812975437

10. Marley & Me

John Grogan, Harper, \$13.95, 9780060817091

11. Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer, Anchor, \$13.95, 9780307387172

12. Little Heathens

Mildred Armstrong Kalish, Bantam, \$12, 9780553384246

13. Infidel

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, Free Press, \$15, 9780743289696

14. Merle's Door

Ted Kerasote, Harvest, \$15, 9780156034500

15. Lone Survivor- Debut

Marcus Luttrell, Patrick Robinson, Back Bay, \$15.99, 9780316067607

ON THE RISE:

20. Legacy of Ashes

Tim Weiner, Anchor, \$16.95, 9780307389008

A fascinating history of the CIA, now available in paperback

MASS MARKET

1. The Pillars of the Earth

Ken Follett, Signet, \$7.99, 9780451166890

2. Suffer the Little Children

Donna Leon, Penguin, \$7.99, 9780143113614

3. The Tin Roof Blowdown- Debut

James Lee Burke, Pocket, \$7.99, 9781416548508

4. Simple Genius

David Baldacci, Grand Central, \$9.99, 9780446618731

5. Step on a Crack

James Patterson, Michael Ledwidge, Vision, \$9.99, 9780446199278

6. The Catcher in the Rye

J.D. Salinger, Warner, \$6.99, 9780316769488

7. Spare Change

Robert B. Parker, Berkley, \$9.99, 9780425221921

8. Fahrenheit 451

Ray Bradbury, Ballantine, \$6.99, 9780345342966

9. 1984

George Orwell, Signet, \$9.99, 9780451524935

10. Bad Luck and Trouble

Lee Child, Dell, \$7.99, 9780440243663

CHILDREN'S INTEREST

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810994737

2. The Book Thief

Markus Zusak, Knopf, \$11.99, 9780375842207

3. Diary of a Wimpy Kid

Jeff Kinney, Amulet, \$12.95, 9780810993136

4. The Mysterious Benedict Society

Trenton Lee Stewart, Little Brown, \$6.99, 9780316003957

5. Seekers: The Quest Begins

Erin Hunter, Harper, \$16.99, 9780060871222

6. The Invention of Hugo Cabret

Brian Selznick, Scholastic, \$22.99, 9780439813785

7. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Sherman Alexie, Little Brown, \$16.99, 9780316013680

8. Lock and Key

Sarah Dessen, Viking, \$18.99, 9780670010882

9. Sir Fartsalot Hunts the Booger

Kevin Bolger, Razorbill, \$10.99, 9781595141767

10. Just Listen

Sarah Dessen, Puffin, \$8.99, 9780142410974

11. Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull- Debut
James Luceno, Scholastic, \$6.99, 9780545007016
12. The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick, \$9.99, 9780763639877
13. The Tale of Despereaux
Kate DiCamillo, Candlewick, \$7.99, 9780763625290
14. Fairest
Gail Carson Levine, HarperTrophy, \$6.99, 9780060734107
15. Summer Ball- Debut
Mike Lupica, Puffin, \$7.99, 9780142411537

CHILDREN'S ILLUSTRATED

1. Oh, the Places You'll Go!
Dr. Seuss, Random House, \$17.99, 9780679805274
2. Gallop!
Rufus Butler Seder, Workman, \$12.95, 9780761147633
3. Goodnight Moon
Margaret Wise Brown, Clement Hurd (Illus.), Harper, \$8.99, 9780694003617
4. Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$12.99, 9780061549236
5. Fancy Nancy and the Boy From Paris
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$3.99, 9780061236099
6. Fancy Nancy at the Museum
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$3.99, 9780061236075
7. Fancy Nancy Bonjour, Butterfly
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$16.99, 9780061235887
8. Alphabet
Matthew Van Fleet, S&S, \$19.99, 9781416955658
9. Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak, Harper, \$17.95, 9780060254926
10. Fancy Nancy
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$16.99, 9780060542092
11. Pat the Bunny
Dorothy Kunhardt, Golden, \$9.99, 9780307120007
12. Good Night, Gorilla
Peggy Rathmann, Putnam, \$7.99, 9780399230035
13. Curious You: On Your Way!
H.A. Rey, Houghton Mifflin, \$12.95, 9780618919758
14. Fancy Nancy Loves! Loves!! Loves!!!
Jane O'Connor, Robin Preiss Glasser (Illus.), Harper, \$6.99, 9780061235993
15. Love You Forever
Robert Munsch, Sheila McGraw (Illus.), Firefly, \$5.95, 9780920668375

CHILDREN'S FICTION SERIES

1. Twilight (hardcover and paperback)
Stephenie Meyer, Megan Tingley
2. Magic Tree House (hardcover and paperback)
Mary Pope Osborne, Sal Murdocca (Illus.), Random House
3. Percy Jackson & the Olympians (hardcover and paperback)
Rick Riordan, Miramax
4. Clique Summer Collection (paperback)

Lisi Harrison, Poppy

5. Junie B. Jones (hardcover and paperback)

Barbara Park, Denise Brunkus (Illus.), Random House

6. Harry Potter (hardcover and paperback)

J.K. Rowling, Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine

7. Pendragon (hardcover and paperback)

D.J. MacHale, S&S

8. Alex Rider Adventures (hardcover and paperback)

Anthony Horowitz, Puffin

9. The Clique (paperback)

Lisi Harrison, Little Brown

10. Warriors (hardcover and paperback)

Erin W. Hunter, Harper

OTHER INDIE FAVORITES

Hardcover

CATHEDRAL OF THE SEA, by Ildfonso Falcones (Dutton, \$26.95,

9780525950486/0525950486) "Author Falcones' passion for his homeland and Santa Maria del la Mar, the 'Cathedral of the Sea,' shine through this wonderful novel of 14th-century Barcelona and Catalonia. Historical accuracy, well developed characters, and a plot that will keep you riveted set the reader right into a land in conflict. I came away richer for the tale."--Becky Milner, Vintage Books, Vancouver, WA

THE CHRIS FARLEY SHOW, by Tom Farley, Jr., and Tanner Colby (Viking, \$26.95,

9780670019236/0670019232) "In the intimate and touching portrait culled from more than 160 interviews with friends, family, and SNL associates, we come to see Chris Farley as a complex soul who was gifted, gracious, giving, and deeply religious. A surprisingly revelatory offering."--Joe Drabak, Chester County Book & Music Company, West Chester, PA

Paperback

THE FOREIGNER, by Francie Lin (Picador, \$14, 9780312364045/ 0312364040)

"This is a daring and original novel, a story of how a Taiwanese-American upholds tradition and ancestral respect against his own cultural and personal dualities, and especially against his own criminal brother. A sinister yet uplifting novel."--Marie du Vaure, Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA

For ages 9-12

THE UNDERNEATH, by Kathi Appelt, David Small (Illus.) (Atheneum

, \$16.99, 9781416950585/1416950583) "In her first novel for young readers, well-known picture book author Kathi Appelt has created a timeless story in the tradition of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Carson McCullers. This is the story of an old hound dog chained up near the banks of a bayou and an abandoned calico cat whose kittens arrive full of the kind of curiosity that can get everyone into trouble. These life-tossed animals become a family, and their dramatic story is a mesmerizing book to read aloud."--Elisabeth Grant-Gibson, Windows a book, Monroe, LA

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