

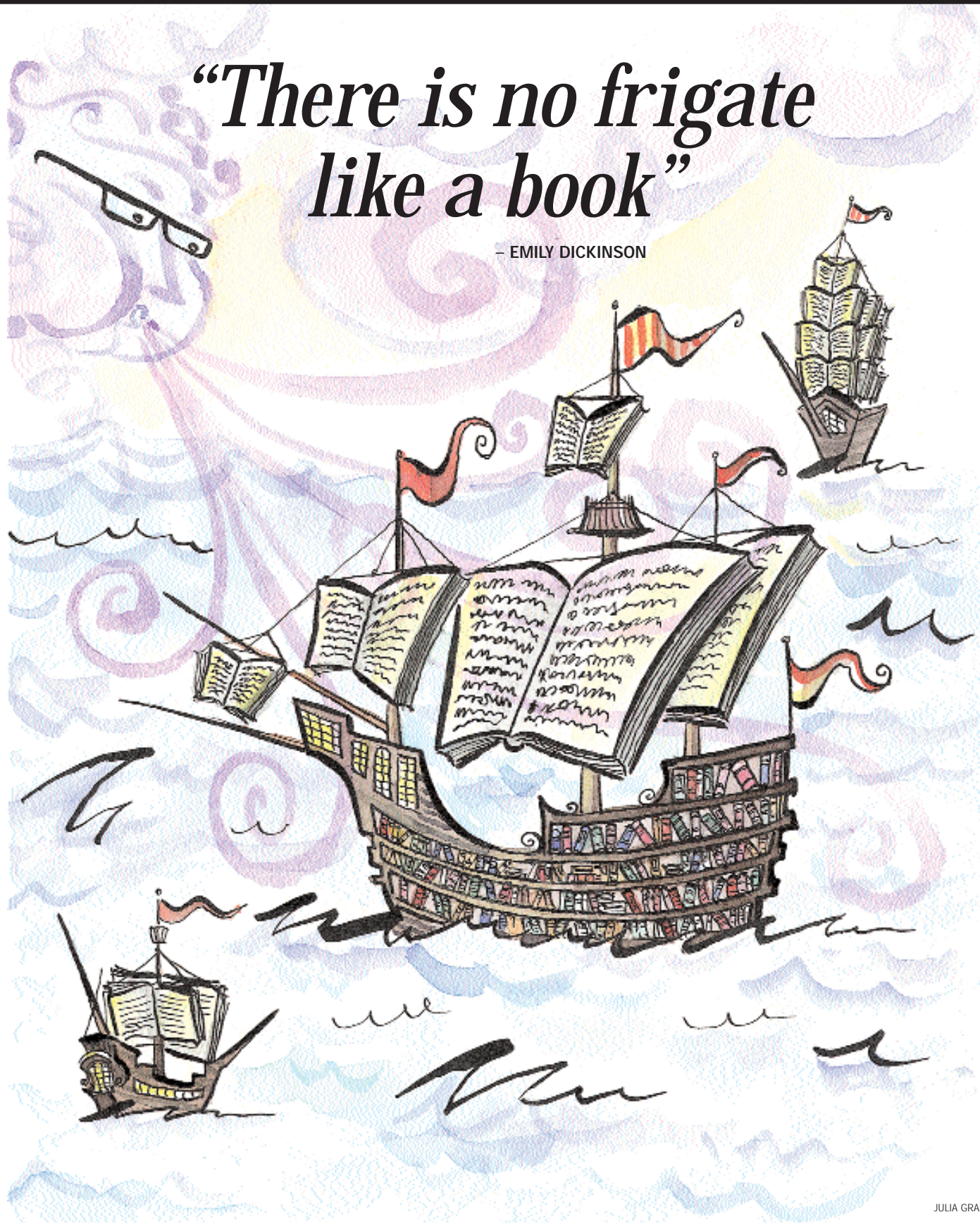
THE MONITOR'S ANNUAL GUIDE TO BOOKS

“There is no frigate like a book”

— EMILY DICKINSON

As we work through the ocean of books published this year, it's good to remember that they weren't all about the evils of our liberal media or the wonders of the Atkins diet. The ongoing war against terrorism continues to generate a number of titles about the Middle East, Islam, and military policy. And despite the continuing work of old masters, new novelists still sail in with remarkable debuts. Starting below, you'll find 10 recommended books and 60 more noteworthy ones. On our website, each capsule is linked to the full review we ran during the year. So before sailing off on an adventure, read up and plan your route.

— Ron Charles,
book editor



JULIA GRAN

RECOMMENDED FICTION

THE PASSION OF REVEREND NASH, by Rachel Basch, W.W. Norton, \$23.95

The members of the Hutchinson Congregational Church in Connecticut wanted someone different, and they got it. Reverend Nash is a “dangerously tall” woman with big hair, the wrong clothes, and no embarrassment whatsoever. We see her praying, giving advice, trying to balance work with family, and struggling to live by what she preaches. Her sister considers her the “Paul Bunyan of spirituality,” a characterization that perfectly captures her overwhelming nature. To what extent, this novel asks, is the healer really seeking redemption for herself? Basch has a cool, witty voice that holds steady even when the scenes she describes convulse with grief. This is a novel that acknowledges the potential for joy even in the bleakest moments, but the author knows such freedom is hard won and that the deepest spiritual wisdom sometimes comes not from the pulpit but straight from the whirlwind. (July 10)

THE HILLS AT HOME, by Nancy Clark, Pantheon, \$25

Jane Austen is alive. What's more shocking, the grandmother of social satire has moved in with Jonathan Franzen, and the two of them have produced a love child called “The Hills at Home.” There is no plot, per se, in Clark's debut novel, but rather a series of witty observations about the family members who come to visit Aunt Lily one summer and won't leave. The details and background of this blithely self-centered group come out slowly, and the only real action arrives so late that readers deaf to the novel's considerable charm will wander away before those scenes arrive. But beneath all the dry comedy lies the author's tenderness for these people and their affection for each other. Clark's indefatigable wit is an antidote for a dangerously serious world. (Feb. 13)

SIGNAL & NOISE, by John Griesemer, Picador, \$26

Griesemer describes the struggle to lay a transatlantic cable in all its triumph and re-

peated failure. Though it bristles with historical detail, the story stays focused on Franny and Chester Ludlow, characters the author has invented to run through two parallel obsessions of the age: communicating with the living and communicating with the dead. He picks up every dot and dash of this fascinating history, conveying the boggling incongruity of the age. The novel stirs up a terrifying storm at sea just as well as it catches the faint waves of loneliness in a sickroom, drawing us through strands of 19th-century technology and timeless romance. (May 1)

I SHOULD BE EXTREMELY HAPPY IN YOUR COMPANY, by Brian Hall, Viking, \$25.95

This novel, with its ungainly title, pursues the bravery of Lewis and Clark across 8,000 miles of unexplored wilderness in the Louisiana Purchase. But Hall is mostly concerned with what can't be explained: the blank pages in Lewis's journal, the gnawing pathos of his death, the unresolved contra-

dictions between official records. Here's literature that saves one of the greatest American moments from the pastel palette of mythology. Hall has constructed a narrative as bracing and surprising as the journey itself. (Jan. 9)

THE KNOWN WORLD, by Edward Jones, Amistad, \$24.95

Bizarre as it sounds, in Louisiana, Virginia, and South Carolina, a small number of free blacks once owned their own slave plantations. Jones uses this fragile situation as the setting for a novel about a group of black and white Virginians who tried – sometimes nobly, often viciously – to maintain their world in the face of inevitable collapse. The story revolves around Henry, a black man who, with the indulgence of his former owner, managed to buy his own farm and slaves. The scrambled collection of events and characters makes this a difficult story to enter, but that structure eventually accounts for much of the novel's evocative power. National Book Award nominee. (Aug. 14)

BOOKS

RECOMMENDED NONFICTION

SIX WIVES: THE QUEENS OF HENRY VIII, by David Starkey, HarperCollins, \$29.95

Starkey is regarded as the preeminent Tudor historian in England, and as this impressive biography demonstrates, that's no media hype. He's earned his position through brilliant analysis, perception, and an unwavering determination to get to the truth, even when it means sacrificing his own previous theories. Here, he shows that the wives of Henry VIII were not the brainless ciphers that history has portrayed. He reveals much about them that was previously unknown and unfathomed, but also disproves many of the prominent myths. (July 24)

TERROR IN THE NAME OF GOD: WHY RELIGIOUS MILITANTS KILL, by Jessica Stern, Ecco, \$27.95

In this significant addition to books on terrorism, Stern examines the latest manifestations of murderous campaigns by true believers - fanatical Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Eager to comprehend evil from the inside, she sought and often obtained entree into the inner sanctums of terrorist organizations in the United States as well as in Lebanon, Jordan, and Pakistan. In interviews with holy warriors from different religious communities, she discovered common themes and expressions. She also sometimes found herself empathizing if not sympathizing with those who spoke passionately of their beliefs. Her judgments, based on her journey into the netherworld of some of the most dangerous people in the world, are sobering and alarming. (Aug. 28)

BEYOND BELIEF: THE SECRET GOSPEL OF THOMAS, by Elaine Pagels, Random House, \$24.95

Pagels has a gift for bringing ancient Christian texts alive, and for displaying their profound, sometimes startling import for con-

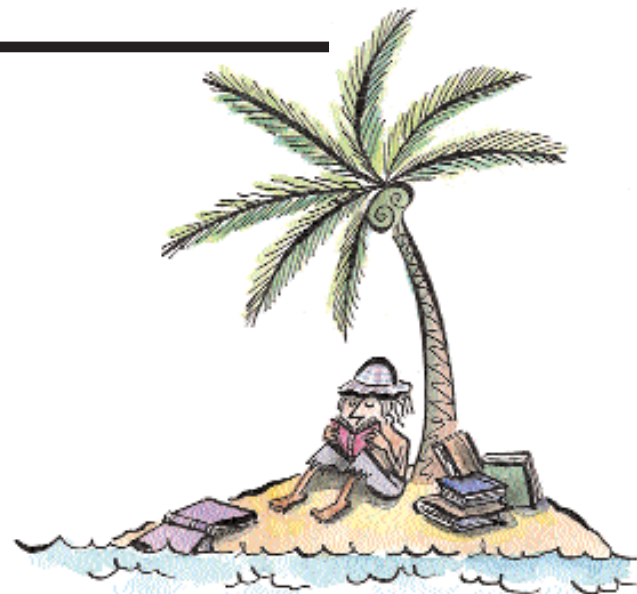
temporary experience. In "Beyond Belief," she draws on the more than 50 Christian writings discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, to reveal a diversity of early teachings about Jesus. In her graceful, illuminating exploration of various works - including the Gospel of Mary Magdalene - Pagels explicitly raises the question of how different Christianity might have been had these works not been banned in the early centuries of church history. In a period when so many call themselves "seekers" and others press for a return to orthodoxy, this remarkable book will stir and provoke thought. (May 15)

THIS FAR BY FAITH: STORIES FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, by Juan Williams and Quinton Dixie, William Morrow, \$29.95

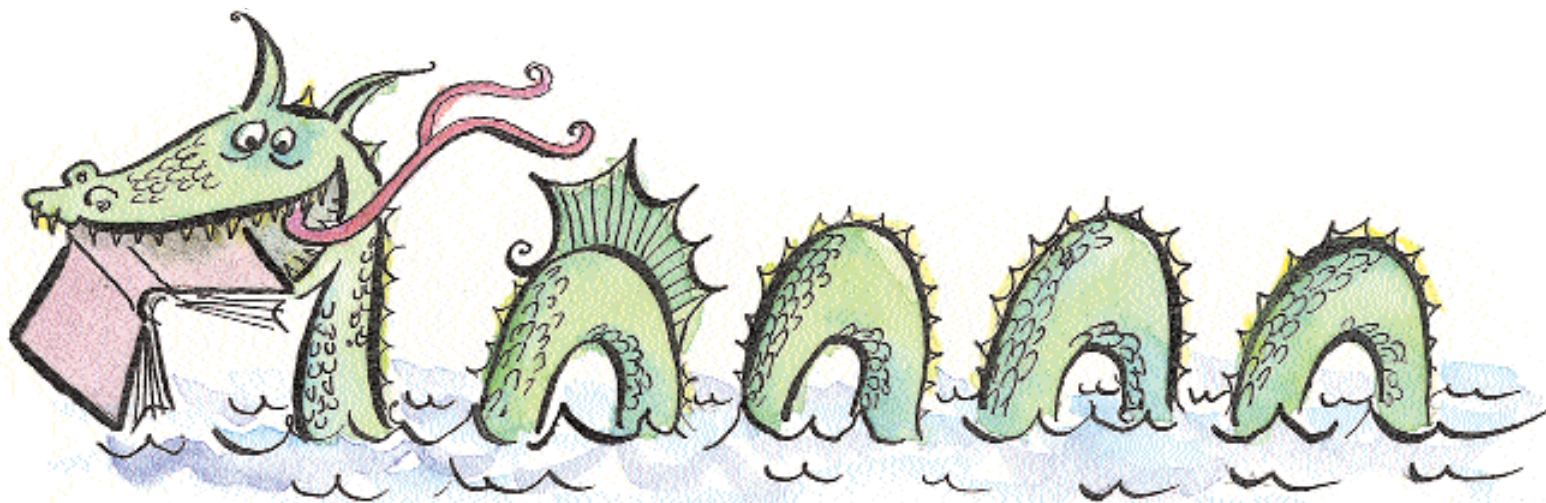
"This Far by Faith" interweaves stories of individual spiritual journeys and accounts of church leaders and religious movements. Williams and Dixie cover a vast amount of information without burying the reader in excessive detail. They are masters at placing black worship in the context of US history. Though the authors acknowledge "glittering examples [around the world] of the power of religion to provoke and support social justice," they unabashedly argue that "God's power to transform society has no greater example than the US Civil Rights movement." As the title suggests, we've come this far, but there's still some distance to go. (March 6)

READING LOLITA IN TEHRAN: A MEMOIR IN BOOKS, by Azar Nafisi, Random House, \$23.95

Rich with the author's memories of teaching English in Iran during the Islamic revolution that shook her country, "Reading Lolita in Tehran" provides a stirring testament to the power of Western



literature. Talking about the callous villain in "Lolita" - or characters in other novels, such as the convention-defying heroines in Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and James's "Washington Square" - enabled Nafisi's female students to challenge those in power. As they felt themselves slowly suffocating under the totalitarian regime, simply allowing their imaginations to roam freely became an act of political insubordination. Nafisi devotes sections of her book to different writers, reflecting the way her own life has intertwined with literature. Drawing from vivid anecdotes, she reveals how literature can offer readers a valuable way of understanding the world. She now teaches at Johns Hopkins University. (March 27)



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIA GRAN

NOTEWORTHY FICTION

CRESCENT, by Diana Abu-Jaber, Norton, \$24.95

Sirine hasn't left West Hollywood for years, but from her Iraqi father she learned how to conjure up the aromas of their lost desert home. Cookbooks have been Sirine's only travel guides. At 39, she knows more about spices than politics. One of the great pleasures of this sensitive novel is the way Abu-Jaber stirs culinary metaphors. With a little more zaniness, this could have been "My Big Fat Iraqi Wedding," but Abu-Jaber prepares a more complex dish that's equal parts romantic comedy, political protest, fairy tale, and cultural analysis. (March 27)

BRICK LANE, by Monica Ali, Scribner, \$25

The genius of "Brick Lane" lies in Ali's ability to make the peculiar universal while making what's familiar comically odd. The story opens briefly in Bangladesh, where Nazneen enters the world two months early. Then as a teenager, Nazneen is sent to London to marry a 40-year-old stranger. She arrives knowing only two English phrases, "sorry" and "thank you." Ali handles this frightened girl with a delicate wit that never slips into condescension or tragedy. Booker Prize nominee. (Sept. 18)

DROP CITY, by T.C. Boyle, Viking, \$25.95

This story about a raucous free-love commune in the 1960s follows the aimless experience of a young woman named Star, who's escaped her suburban parents. Boyle is a Dickensian genius at the portrayal of hypocrisy. He zeroes in mercilessly on the human tendencies that complicate this social experiment, even while portraying their simple yearnings with real tenderness and sensitivity. National Book Award nominee. (Feb. 20)

MY LIFE AS A FAKE, by Peter Carey, Knopf, \$24

Reading Carey's novel about a case of literary fraud after World War II is like falling into an Escher drawing. A young poetry editor meets a man in Malaysia who claims to have been terrorized by a creature from his own invented prank. With stories nested

in stories, narrators narrating the narratives of other narrators - it all sounds like the kind of poststructural challenge A.S. Byatt would twist into a web of complexity, but Carey never forgets that it's about entertaining readers. (Oct. 23)

THE MASTER BUTCHERS SINGING CLUB, by Louise Erdrich, HarperCollins, \$25.96

Erdrich's novel opens in the ashes of World War I. A German sniper named Fidelis has married his late friend's pregnant wife, an act of camaraderie that quickly deepens. Graced with an eerie stillness, he sets about the careful task of building a life in North Dakota and forgetting the horrors he saw and inflicted. Erdrich knows just how to hover between what's plain and what's extraordinary, building on the life of this common German rifleman a story of legendary proportions. (Feb. 6)

THE CLEARING, by Tim Gautreaux, Knopf, \$23

This novel set in the 1920s, about two estranged brothers, makes you resent distractions like working, eating, or sleeping. Long regarded as the favorite son, Byron had been destined to take over the family's lumber empire, but he returned from World War I a troubled man. When his younger brother is sent to Louisiana to manage a mill and rehabilitate Byron, the Mafia stands in their way. There are enough ghastly creatures slithering through this woodland swamp to hold anyone's interest, and enough moral insight to enlighten anyone's conscience. (July 24)

CREATION, by Katherine Govier, Overlook, \$24.95

The most intriguing move Govier makes in this quiet but stirring novel is her decision to wind the story of artist John James Audubon around the much lesser-known story of Henry Wolsey Bayfield. The great mapmaker and the great bird painter meet again and again as they sail along the shore of Quebec. This window into the 19th century and Govier's invention of a friendship between Audubon and Bayfield are rare and captivating. (May 22)

OUR LADY OF THE FOREST, by David Guterson, Knopf, \$25.95

Guterson explores a challenging set of questions without a hint of condescension in this tragicomedy about the persistence of faith. Set in a depressed logging town in Washington State, the story describes a week in which a sexually abused 16-year-old runaway sees visions of the Virgin Mary while picking mushrooms in the woods. Her revelations quickly attract hordes of devotees and challenge a young priest's devotion. (Oct. 9)

THE GREAT FIRE, by Shirley Hazzard, FSG, \$24

"The Great Fire" smolders in the aftermath of World War II, when that calamity threatened to flash back into flame or choke survivors. Aldred, a 32-year-old war hero, comes to Japan to record the obliteration of an ancient culture. Taking up lodging with an Australian couple, he finds solace in their remarkable children - particularly Helen, whom he comes to love. In a novel that would collapse under the weight of pretension if a line were mislaid, Hazzard keeps this romance aloft by virtue of her understanding of human nature. National Book Award winner (Oct. 2)

THE MAMMOTH CHEESE, by Sheri Holman, Atlantic Monthly, \$24

Holman's robust, witty novel takes place in Three Chimneys, Va., where a young mother has given birth to 11 children and an organic farmer pays tribute to the new president with a mammoth wheel of cheese. Holman keeps all these wonderful characters - including the cows - grounded in her deeper themes about the debt one generation owes another and our lust for independence. (July 31)

DEAFENING, by Frances Itani, Atlantic Monthly, \$24

Grania lost her hearing at the age of 5, and Itani narrates her life in a voice imbued with the cadences of the deaf girl's thoughts

Continued on next page

BOOKS

and sensibilities. Soon after she falls in love with a hearing man, he's sent to the trenches of World War I, described here with extraordinary effect. Despite its subjects - war, romance, disability - it's a story of measured emotion, bleached of all sentimentality. (Aug. 21)

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, by Jonathan Lethem, Doubleday, \$26

Lethem won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1999 for "Motherless Brooklyn," and his new novel opens nearby in the early 1970s on a street in Brooklyn that's teetering between gentrification and gang warfare. Lethem's mock-heroic voice, full of innocence and mischief, perfectly captures the challenges of childhood, the desperation to belong, the acute sensitivity to embarrassment, and the unquestioning endurance of adults' absurd behavior. (Sept. 11)

MIRROR MIRROR, by Gregory Maguire, Regan Books, \$24.95

Once upon a time, there was a writer who spun fairy tales into novels for adults. Here, Maguire transports Snow White and the seven dwarfs to 16th-century Italy, and he knows just how to mix a villain's character with equal parts menace and folly. Part of the fun is the way Maguire fulfills but then thwarts expectations about where he's going next, crisscrossing well-worn details of Snow White with threads of history and myth in a weave that's entirely his own design. (Oct. 16)

THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING, by Laura Moriarty, Hyperion, \$22.95

The narrator, 10-year-old Evelyn Bucknow, lives with her welfare mother in a small Midwestern town where she learns hard lessons about love and loss. Like any child, Evelyn confronts a world of baffling contradictions and competing claims for her affection, from which she must construct a moral code. There's no cheating in this novel, no phony breakthrough, or precious reconciliation, just a sweet, often comic series of tender moments spun from real-life battles. (July 13)

LOVE, by Toni Morrison, Knopf, \$23.95

Readers who know Morrison's work only from her surreal classic "Beloved" will be surprised by the subtlety and humor of her latest novel, about a group of women who revolve around the memory of their late patriarch and lover. Morrison plays up the gothic comedy of these warring old women well, but she also presses deep into the complexity of their ruined affection for each other. Ultimately, "Love" reaches a point of real reconciliation, but it's cast, as it must be, in the dark light of lives wasted in conflict, spent trying to satisfy a man who should have been denied. (Oct. 28)

ALL OVER CREATION, by Ruth Ozeki, Viking, \$24.95

Ozeki balances intimate and environmental concerns well in this story about a frustratingly irresponsible woman who ran away from her parents when she was 14. Now, 25 years later, hearing that her parents are near death, she returns to their Idaho farm and discovers that they're the heroes of a bus load of eco-hippies who worship her father's natural farming. It's a jungle of a plot, a riot of literary species, sown with strains of satire and tragedy. (March 13)

THE TIME OF OUR SINGING, by Richard Powers, FSG, \$27

At the center of Power's new novel is an unlikely romance that develops between the daughter of a black doctor and a German physicist who's just escaped the anti-Semitism of Europe. They try to blend their different cultures in the lives of their children, but it's a hard melody to maintain amid the din of American racism. Powers has orchestrated a cast of characters rich enough to pose the most forbidden questions about race but sensitive enough to capture the most intimate struggle for identity. (Jan. 23)

MORTALS, by Norman Rush, Knopf, \$26.95

With a breathless intensity that's both dazzling and exhausting, this story focuses on the fertile mind of an Eng-

lish teacher in Botswana. Ray is an American, a Milton scholar, a happily married man, and a spy with the CIA. We meet him just as the legs of his elegant life are buckling. Rush has re-created the mental life of an original man from the ground up, raising a host of profound questions about the limits of love and language. (June 5)

GOOD FAITH, by Jane Smiley, Knopf, \$26

Smiley re-creates the 1980s real estate boom, along with the savings and loan debacle, but the novel stays tightly focused on a real estate agent in a small New England town who overextends himself to make a killing. The excesses of this era were so ludicrous that it would have been natural for Smiley to slip into parody, and there's plenty of wit here, but this is a novel of admirable re-

straint and sensitivity. (April 10)

EASTER ISLAND, by Jennifer Vanderbes, Dial, \$22.95

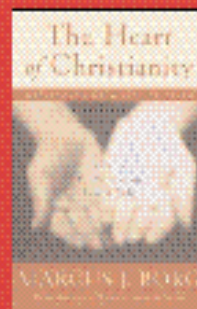
Vanderbes explores an unusual sibling relationship between Elsa and her mentally handicapped sister on an expedition to Easter Island before World War I. The intensely private, beautifully intimate moments captured here between these sisters are like nothing I've read elsewhere. A parallel story develops by alternate chapters about a scientist in the 1970s who comes to the island after a bad marriage to a world-famous botanist. Among the many pleasures of this novel are the scientific issues laced so gracefully through these lives. The archeological details are fascinating and even suspenseful. (May 29)

This Season, It's the Original Thought That Counts!

The holidays are full of treasured moments that we share with others. At Borders, gift shopping reflects this spirit of thoughtful sharing. You'll find books, music, movies, and more to delight everyone on your list. Here are some perennial favorites and intriguing new releases to get you thinking.



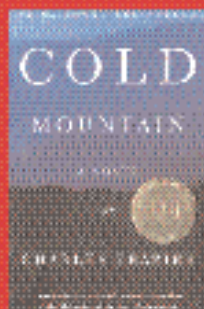
To Kill a Mockingbird
Harper Lee
Paperback \$11.95



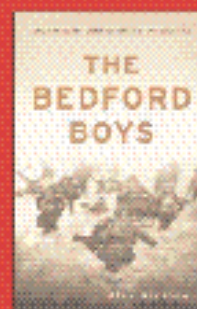
The Heart of Christianity
Marguerite Yourcenar
Hardcover \$22.95



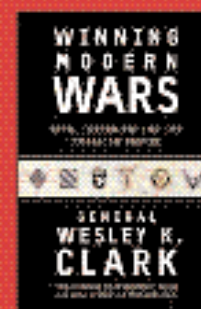
A Year with C.S. Lewis
Lisa Lewis
Hardcover \$15.95



Cold Mountain
Charles Frazier
Paperback \$16.95



The Bedford Boys
Alex Kershaw
Hardcover \$28.00



Winning Modern Wars
Wesley K. Clark
Hardcover \$25.95

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BOOKS

NOTEWORTHY NONFICTION

WRAPPED IN RAINBOWS: Zora Neale Hurston, by Valerie Boyd, Scribner, \$30
Boyd opens the door to Hurston's life through letters, fiction, and nonfiction. Her biography is a salute to a girl who chose to jump at the sun. (Feb. 6)

THROUGH OUR ENEMIES' EYES, by Anonymous, Brassey's, \$19.95
A sobering portrait of Osama bin Laden and a debate about how to identify and defeat the threat he poses. (May 29)

SUPPORT ANY FRIEND, by Warren Bass, Oxford, \$30
Bass's book may leave readers with two thoughts: that enmities in the Middle East have cooled little 40 years hence; the second, that JFK, for the brevity of his time in office, really did make a tremendous difference in the world. (Aug. 21)

A SHORT HISTORY OF NEARLY EVERYTHING, by Bill Bryson, Broadway, \$27.50
A roller-coaster ride from the big bang to the advent of man. (May 22)

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR, by George Crile, Grove/Atlantic, \$26
Who can resist a story about a law-breaking Texas congressman who wanted to bring the Soviet Union to its knees? A cross between Tom Clancy and Carl Hiaasen, but it's all true. (April 3)

PLUNDERING PARADISE, by Michael D'Orso, HarperCollins, \$24.95
D'Orso's powerful storytelling draws us in to the unequal struggle between the fragile ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands and the humans bent on getting rich from it. (Jan. 30)

LANGUAGE IN DANGER, by Andrew Dalby, Columbia University, \$27.95
Dalby laments that half of the 5,000 languages cur-

rently spoken will disappear in the 21st century. (April 17)

THE BIBLE IN ENGLISH, by David Daniell, Yale, \$40
Daniell examines the persistent popularity of the Bible and how William Tyndale, a Protestant condemned as a heretic for translating the Bible into English, remains unparalleled in eloquence. (Sept. 25)

PRIME OBSESSION, by John Derbyshire, Joseph Henry, \$27.95
The author, a trained mathematician with a day job as an investment banker, moonlights as a novelist. This remarkable constellation of interests results in a math book that reads like a mystery novel. (April 10)

CHOPIN'S FUNERAL, by Benita Eisler, Alfred A. Knopf, \$23
Eisler's story offers a compelling account of the love affair between the Warsaw piano prodigy and George Sand, the most notorious woman of her time. (March 13)

BETTER THAN WELL, by Carl Elliott, Norton, \$26.95
Elliott considers Americans' yearning for self-improvement and fulfillment in this quirky survey of modern medicine. (April 17)

ARMED STRUGGLE: The History of the IRA, by Richard English, Oxford, \$35
This is, without doubt, a book that combines a readable and neutral history of the IRA with a muscular and unflinching analysis of its actions and its attempts at self-justification. (Sept. 18)

AFTER JIHAD, by Noah Feldman, FSG, \$24
The consensus among many experts is that the Arab world and democracy are incompatible. Feldman argues this consensus is misinformed. (May 8)

A HUMAN BEING DIED THAT NIGHT, by Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Houghton Mifflin, \$24
Forgiveness can heal wounded societies. Indeed, victims require forgiveness to become "rehumanized." Those are two of the powerful messages of Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela's moving meditations on her victim-centered work with South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. (Feb. 27)

NIXON'S SHADOW, by David Greenberg, Norton, \$26.95
Greenberg's first book provides a penetrating analysis of how the president's legacy has altered American politics. (Oct. 9)

THE DREAM, by Drew Hansen, Ecco, \$23.95
Hansen brilliantly reconstructs that hot summer day in 1963 when 250,000 activists assembled in front of the Lincoln Memorial to hear Martin Luther King Jr. deliver a speech that has been used since to mean many things to many people. (July 10)

RIPPLES OF BATTLE, by Victor Hanson, Doubleday, \$27.50
Hanson picks three battles that helped shape our world: the Battle of Okinawa, Shiloh, and the little-known Battle of Delium in Greece and reminds us that history is not a faceless story of economic and social progress, but one about the strength of individuals. (Sept. 11)

WINTER WORLD, by Bernd Heinrich, HarperCollins, \$24.95
Come winter, cold in the wild is a constant. Heinrich takes readers into this world with lyrical yet scientifically precise firsthand accounts of animals' survival skills. (March 13)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, by Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, \$30
Most Americans think of Benjamin Franklin as a Founding Father who was also a printer and an inventor. This thoughtful biography shows that Franklin was a far more complex and interesting man who was central to the success of the American Revolution. (July 3)

MOUNTAINS BEYOND MOUNTAINS, by Tracy Kidder, Random House, \$25.95



JULIA GRAN

Shuttling between Haiti and the Boston hospital where he works part of the year, Dr. Paul Farmer dreams of ending the disparities that define the two worlds of poverty and privilege. (Sept. 4)

MICHELANGELO AND THE POPE'S CEILING, by Ross King, Walker, \$28
The story of Michelangelo's struggle to paint the Sistine Chapel ceiling is legendary. King points out that not everything you may have heard about this great achievement is true. The results are lively. (Jan. 16)

LOST WORLD, by Tom Koppel, Atria, \$26
Did the Clovis walk over the land bridge, or did they evolve from an earlier Amerindian culture? Koppel lays into the "stubborn, hide-bound" academic proponents of the land-bridge hypothesis with vigor. (June 26)

FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, by João Magueijo, Perseus, \$26
Magueijo claims that the origin of the universe can be solved if we consider that light may have traveled much faster at the big bang than it does now. This strikingly candid book brings esoteric scientific concepts within reach of nonscientists. (Jan. 30)

THEY MARCHED INTO SUNLIGHT, by David Maraniss, Simon & Schuster, \$29.95
Pulitzer Prize-winner David Maraniss has skillfully drawn together two events and their import - the ambush of a US Army battalion in South Vietnam and an antiwar demonstration at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. (Sept. 25)

JONATHAN EDWARDS, by George Marsden, Yale University, \$35
In this conscientious and eloquent biography, pious Jonathan Edwards comes to unruly life with all his unresolved complexity intact. (March 6)

THE SINGULAR PILGRIM, by Rosemary Mahoney, Houghton Mifflin, \$25
In her travels to Greece, Egypt, China, and Ireland, Mahoney caught incidental glimpses into religious pilgrimages. For all the spiritual probing of this book, it is also full of humor. (May 15)

A FIERCE DISCONTENT, by Michael McGerr, Free Press, \$30
McGerr humanizes the progressive movement by telling its story through Theodore Roosevelt, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Baseball Hall of Famer Christy Mathewson. McGerr's book may prove to be the definitive text on the triumphs and downfall of the progressive movement. (Sept. 25)

THE BLACK HOLE AT THE CENTER OF OUR GALAXY, by Fulvio Melia, Princeton, \$29.95
Melia casts light on these galactic drains by zeroing in on one point in space-time. (June 19)

ENOUGH, by Bill McKibben, Times Books, \$25
McKibben believes new technologies could spell the end of humanity and prods us to ask crucial questions about our future. (May 1)

HALLOWED GROUND: A Walk At Gettysburg, by James McPherson, Crown, \$16
A moving commentary about controversies and oddities connected with the Battle of Gettys-

burg. (June 5)
NEW WORLD COMING, by Nathan Miller, Scribner, \$30
The 1920s, Nathan Miller argues, was the beginning of modern America. His book covers it all, starting with the failed idealism of Woodrow Wilson to Henry Ford's mass-production techniques. (Aug. 21)

SEA OF GLORY, by Nathaniel Philbrick, Viking, \$27.95
Philbrick's narrative has elements of Ernest Shackleton, Ferdinand Magellan, and Sir Edmund Hillary rolled together. But it's fundamentally the tale of a tempest between a leader and his men. (Oct. 28)

MONSTER OF GOD, by David Quammen, W.W. Norton, \$26.95
This elegantly crafted study of history, biology, sociology, anthropology, and adventure raises provocative questions about man-eating predators. (Sept. 18)

NO FIXED POINTS: Dance in the 20th Century, by Nancy Reynolds and Malcolm McCormick, Yale, \$50
Reynolds and McCormick trace the development of ballet and modern dance through stories about seminal dancers and choreographers. (Nov. 4)

JARHEAD: A Marine's Chronicle, by Anthony Swofford, Scribner, \$24
Swofford offers a boot's-eye view of the Gulf War, and takes a cynical look back at his time as a 20-year-old "jarhead," the self-deprecating way Marines describe themselves. (March 20)

THE NEW CHINESE EMPIRE, by Ross Terrill, Basic, \$30
Terrill is one of the best writers to predict what will happen to China as it continues to modernize. (April 17)

FALLINGWATER RISING, by Franklin Toker, Knopf, \$35
Architecture historian Toker describes the details of the planning and construction of Fallingwater. Toker debunks the myth that Wright designed Fallingwater quickly or without influence. (Oct. 16)

PAKISTAN, by Mary Anne Weaver, FSG, \$24
Looking through Weaver's window, the war in Afghanistan is not over. Its guerrillas are just regrouping. Afghanistan may be prelude to a more volatile mix next door in Pakistan. (Jan. 23)

THE MEANING OF EVERYTHING, by Simon Winchester, Oxford, \$25
Winchester describes the amazing process by which the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary's solicited help from ordinary readers all over the world. Winchester tells the story with great verve in an easygoing, anecdotal style that is delectably readable. (Sept. 18)

THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM, by Fareed Zakaria, W.W. Norton, \$24.95
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