

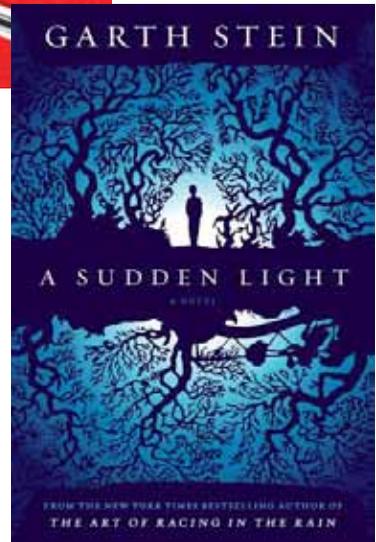
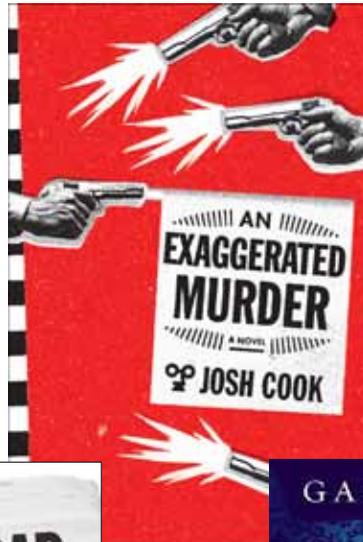
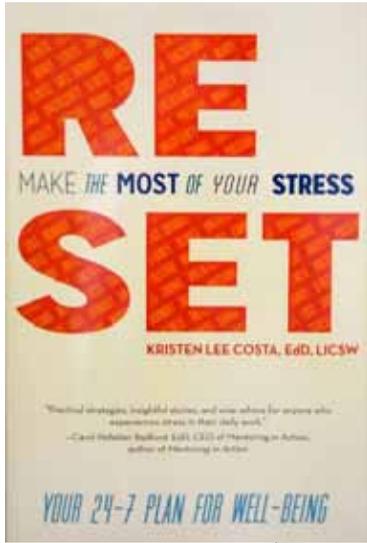
News & Reviews

MARCH 2015

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Staff Picks



Sometimes An Art: Nine Essays on History by Bernard Bailyn (Knopf)

In this series of extensive essays on the nature of history writing, Bailyn asks a series of questions frequently overlooked in the study and enjoyment of history, such as how did things feel for the participants in events, when outcomes were uncertain? Can we, or even should we, attempt to recover such uncertainty? What role can imagination play in the writing of history? He explores this elusiveness through the lens of loyalists in Revolutionary America, Scots in London, and convergent colonial experiences in the US, Canada and Australia, and others. The answers, of course, lie in the fact that history is an incomplete quilt and it will always take imagination and empathy to present even the semblance of a complete story. **Sometimes An Art** is an insightful window onto that empathy that will appeal to anyone interested in history.

-Andrew Devrell



Vanessa and Her Sister by Priya Parmar (Ballantine Books)

Told from the perspective of Virginia Woolf's older sister Vanessa, this novel juxtaposes lyrical, delicate prose with the Stephen sisters' often-tumultuous relationship, and features a cast of recognizable young bohemians, artists, writers, and members of the Bloomsbury group. Parmar's writing gives Vanessa a voice as the young woman struggles to pursue her own happiness and artistic dreams while caring for her brilliant, manic sister.

-Catherine Perkins



Dead Wake by Erik Larson (Crown)

Erik Larson tells a story like no other, and this book is no exception! We all know the story of the Lusitania, the luxury ocean liner that was torpedoed by a German U-Boat, and of the 1,198 passengers only 764 survived. Erik Larson confesses, "As I began reading into the subject, and digging into archives, both American and British, I found myself intrigued, charmed, and moved." And so begins the non-fiction story of this compelling subject that is brought full circle by this talented and comprehensive author.

- Robin Gross



Monstrous by MarcyKate Connolly (HarperCollins)

MarcyKate Connolly's debut children's novel, **Monstrous** is absolutely delightful! Kymera is not your typical young girl. Her father has brought her back to life, and in the process has made some modifications, giving her wings and a serpent's tail. She is forbidden to interact with the humans in the nearby city of Bryre because they would harm her. However, the city is under the spell of an evil wizard and the young girls are becoming ill and slowly dying. Under the direction of her father, Kym enters the city under the dark of night and rescues girls so that her father can heal them and send them to a better home. During one of her trips to the city, Kym is befriended by the king's page, Ren, and their friendship leads her to question everything she has known. I loved, loved, loved this book! The characters are compelling and I promise that you will be captivated by the monstrous Kymera.

-Susan Schlesinger

Author & Special Events

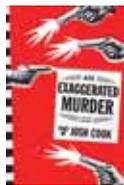


Sat. Mar. 7 at 4pm

Kristen Lee Costa, **RESET: Make the Most of Your Stress: Your 24-7 Plan for Well-Being**

The RESET system builds on the premise that our brains and bodies benefit from consistently engaging in productive thinking, exercise, enjoyable activities, and positive connections. This book provides a universal framework for wellness in a wide range of life situations; when practiced regularly, it can help improve adaptation to a host of circumstances. Driven by useful treatment models and years of clinical practices, RESET offers strategies for well-being that can be tailored and relied upon

Dr. Kristen Lee Costa has twenty years of experience as a clinical social worker and educator and is devoted to promoting well-being and leveraging human potential. She is the lead faculty for behavioral sciences at Northeastern University in Boston. She lives in Westport, MA, with her husband and two children.



Sat. Mar. 14 at 7pm

Josh Cook, **An Exaggerated Murder**

Private investigator Trike Augustine may be a brainiac with deductive skills to rival Sherlock Holmes, but they're not doing him any good at solving the case of a missing gazzilionaire because the clues are so stupefyingly—well, stupid. Meanwhile, his sidekicks—Max the former FBI agent and Lola the artist—don't quite rise to the level of Dr. Watson, either. For example, when a large, dead pig turns up on Trike's floor in the middle of the night, none of them can figure out what it means. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking as the astronomical reward being offered diminishes drastically every day. That, plus the increasing reality that their own lives are in danger, lift this astonishing debut beyond its hilarious premise—a smart man befuddled by the idiotic—and turns it into something more than just a smart homage to Sherlock (with maybe a touch of early Jonathan Lethem thrown in). It becomes a compelling and compulsive thriller . . . with the added bonus that the prose is often as breathtaking as the tale.

Josh Cook is a bookseller at Porter Square Books in Somerville, MA. His fiction, criticism, and poetry have appeared in numerous leading literary publications, including *The Rumpus*, *The Millions*, and *Bookslut*, and he is the blogger for Porter Square Books' blog. This is his first novel.



Sat. Mar. 21 at 4pm

Kara Sundlun, **Finding Dad: From "Love Child" to Daughter**

Kara Hewes had never seen her father, Rhode Island Governor Bruce Sundlun, until one transformational moment when she awoke in the middle of the night as a TV news anchor announced his candidacy. One look at his picture and she knew she needed to find him. Her letters and phone calls went unanswered, so at seventeen, Kara hired a lawyer and announced her paternity suit before a packed press conference. In the middle of the media frenzy, Governor Sundlun did the unexpected and invited Kara to come live with him so he could get to know her better. Kara knew that in order to move forward with her father, she had to make the choice to forgive the past. It was her unconditional love that broke down the barriers separating father and daughter.

Kara Sundlun is an Emmy Award winning television journalist. She anchors the news for WFSB-TV, the CBS affiliate in Connecticut and hosts the popular daytime talk show *Better Connecticut*. Her series *Kara's Cures* is a mainstream guide to health and spirituality, she is also a contributor for the *Huffington Post*.



Sun. Mar. 22 at 2pm

Garth Stein, **A Sudden Light**

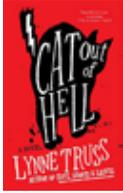
In the summer of 1990, fourteen-year-old Trevor Riddell gets his first glimpse of Riddell House. Built from the spoils of a massive timber fortune, the legendary family mansion is constructed of giant whole trees and is set on a huge estate overlooking Seattle's Puget Sound. Trevor's bankrupt parents have begun a trial separation, and his father, Jones Riddell, has brought Trevor to Riddell House with a goal: to join forces with his sister, Serena, dispatch the ailing and elderly Grandpa Samuel to a nursing home, sell off the house and property for development, divide up the profits, and live happily ever after. But as Trevor explores the house's secret stairways and hidden rooms, he discovers a spirit lingering in Riddell House whose agenda is at odds with the family plan. Only Trevor's willingness to face the dark past of his forefathers will reveal the key to his family's future.

Garth Stein is the author of the New York Times bestselling novels, **A Sudden Light** and **The Art of Racing in the Rain**, and two previous novels, **How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets** and **Raven Stole the Moon**. He is the cofounder of Seattle7Writers, a nonprofit collective of Northwest authors working to foster a passion for the written word. He lives in Seattle with his family.



Indie Next List

See what independent booksellers around the country are reading. Here are a few selections from the most recent **Indie Bound Next List**. These are all highly recommended and available now at **Books on the Square**.



Cat Out of Hell by Lynne Truss (Melville House)

Cat lover or hater, you'll be caught up in this quirky mystery from the author of *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*. **Cat Out of Hell** features Roger, a most unusual, talented, and enigmatic feline, and the humans he involves in a case worthy of Sherlock Holmes. Can Roger be trusted? Is Wiggy Winterton, the human aiding him, perhaps going 'wiggy'? You decide. It's a darkly funny hoot!"

- Rosemary Pugliese, Quail Ridge Books & Music, Raleigh, NC



Welcome to Braggsville by T. Geronimo Johnson (William Morrow)

In **Welcome to Braggsville**, Johnson explores cultural, social, and regional diversity in a world increasingly driven by social media. His satirical and ironic style portrays a UC Berkeley — 'Berzerkeley' — student from Georgia who, along with his friends, goes back to his hometown to challenge an annual Southern tradition and inadvertently sets off a chain of events resulting in tragic consequences. Johnson's creative language play envelops the reader in the Deep South with the impact of a razor-sharp Lynyrd Skynyrd riff.

- Jann Griffiths, BookSmart, Morgan Hill, CA

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Book Clubs & Discussion Groups

Book clubs and discussion groups are free and open to the public. Monthly book club selections will be discounted 10%.

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

3/9 @ 7pm **Like Dreamers,**
Yossi Klein Halevi

4/6 @ 7pm **The Storyteller,**
Jodi Picoult

QUEER BOOK CLUB

3/18 @ 7pm **Naked Lunch,**
William S. Burroughs

4/15 @ 7pm **Patience and Sarah,**
Isabel Miller

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

3/31 @ 2pm **The Invention
of Wings,**
Sue Monk Kidd

4/28 @ 2pm **Norwegian by Night,**
Derek Miller

WAYLAND SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

3/25 & 4/22 @ 7pm

KIDS' STORY HOURS

Mon., Babies 10:30-11:00

Wed., All Kids 10:30-11:00

Sat., All Kids 11:00-11:30

Please Note: Sometimes our story times are cancelled due to sickness or inclement weather. You're welcome to give us a call around 10am to find out if our story hours are still taking place.