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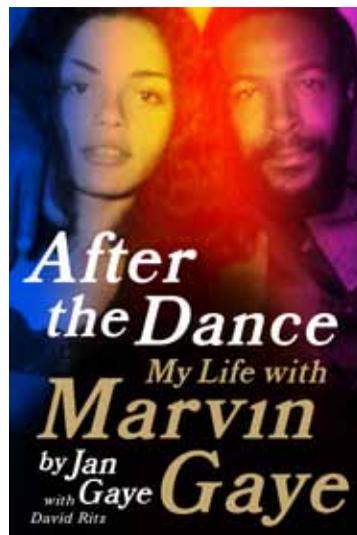
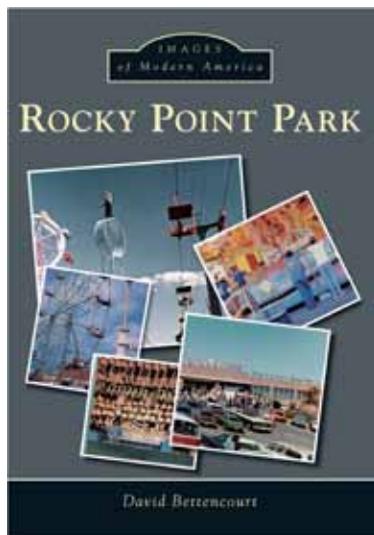
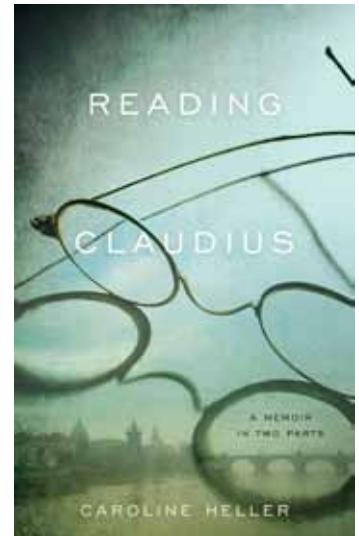
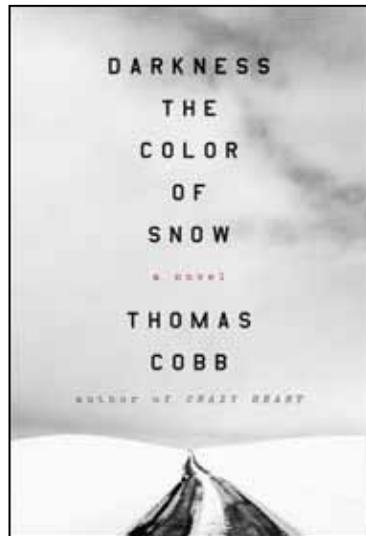
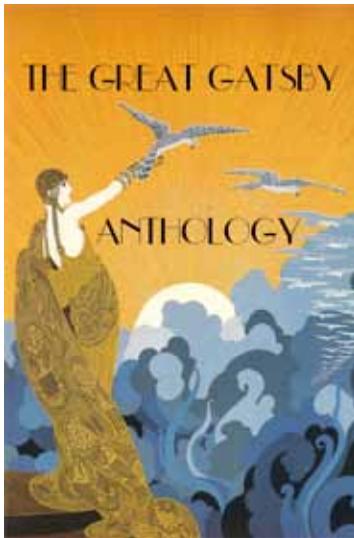
News & Reviews

AUGUST 2015

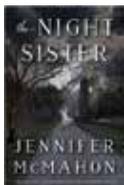
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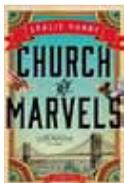
Staff Picks



The Night Sister by Jennifer McMahon (Doubleday)

As in her National Bestseller *Winter People* (2014), McMahon has seamlessly blended the genres of mystery and thriller with haunting supernatural forces. This novel uses some of the same elements that made its predecessor such a captivating read while conveying a vastly different story. McMahon binds readers to the story from the get-go with a slightly gruesome opener, an idyllic New England town, and a fictionalized local history that feels instantly authentic. This book is well suited for those kick-starting their mystery reading. While the thrill of the plot might keep readers up at night, the story always falls quickly back into the realm of the supernatural before becoming terribly scary.

- Emily Heney



Church of Marvels by Leslie Parry (Ecco)

Leslie Parry may live in Chicago but her ability to recreate New York City at the close of the 1800's is very good. There is an element of magical realism to this story which may not appeal to everyone., but I did not want to put it down. Much of the action takes place on Blackwell's Island which is an apt name for a place where people labeled insane were warehoused and mistreated, but much more takes place on Coney Island and in Manhattan. Nothing is what it seems and somehow the author pulls it all together in the dramatic conclusion. Underdogs triumph and loose threads are pulled tight.

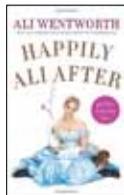
-Dora Truong



Dylan Goes Electric! by Elijah Wald (Dey Street Books)

Elijah Wald's *Dylan Goes Electric!*, on its surface, explores the events leading up to and including the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, where Bob Dylan and his band played a raucous three song set of rock & roll tunes. Folk purists were scandalized by the Dylan's 'rejection' of tradition. The sheer volume coming off the stage stunned everybody else. Wald's book is a fun and unsentimental read that partially deflates many of the overblown myths obscuring the event. The most interesting sections intelligently address the conundrums facing music fans in the 1960s. In the late-50s and early-60s, it was easy for some to differentiate between 'serious' folk music (Pete Seeger, Ewan MacColl, Odetta) and frivolous 'pop' music (The Kingston Trio, Frankie Avalon, rock & roll.) By 1965, many attendees of the folk festival had to be noticing that the most popular music on the radio (The Beatles, Motown, Bob Dylan) was also the most musically and sonically adventurous. Battle lines were drawn unconsciously. *Dylan Goes Electric!* is a cool book, and serves as a nice companion piece to David Hajdu's *Positively 4th Street*.

-Guy Benoit

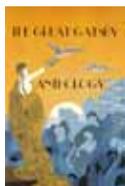


Happily Ali After and More Fairly True Tales by Ali Wentworth (Harper)

Imagine Chelsea Handler without all the raunchy party-girl anecdotes and you have Ali Wentworth. A 50 year old mother and wife whose attempts to live according to popular motivational quotes are realistic, relatable, and hysterical. Out just in time for Summer 2015, this is going to be a great vacation or beach read. Her giggle-inducing stories of managing her career and her self-deprecating humor keep the pages turning. I'd want my girlfriends to read this and then pass it along to their girlfriends.

- Emily Heney

Author & Special Events



Fri. Aug. 14 at 7pm

An Evening with Scott & Zelda celebrating The Great Gatsby Anthology with contributing readers Sam Cha, Jean L. Kreiling, Kathryn Kulpa, Alysson B. Parker and Marybeth Rua-Larsen.

Participants are encouraged to dress in 20's fashion for the evening.

Silver Birch Press presents **The Great Gatsby Anthology**, a collection of poetry and prose to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the novel's 1925 publication. This anthology features authors from around the world — with contributors ranging from up-and-coming writers to those whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The Paris Review*.



Thurs. Aug. 20 at 7pm

Thomas Cobb, Darkness the Color of Snow

A haunting, suspenseful, and dazzlingly written novel of secrets, corruption, tragedy, and vengeance from the author of **Crazy Heart**. An electrifying crime drama and psychological thriller in which a

young cop becomes the fulcrum of a community's grief and rage in the aftermath of a tragic accident. Evocative, atmospheric, and powerful, **Darkness the Color of Snow** is a portrait of decency and desperation, ambition and pragmatism, heated passion and cool calculation—of ordinary American lives.

Thomas Cobb is the author of **Crazy Heart**, which was adapted into a 2009 Academy Award-winning film starring Jeff Bridges, and *Shavetail*, among other books. He grew up in southern Arizona and now lives in Rhode Island with his wife.



Fri. Aug 21 at 7pm

Caroline Heller, Reading Claudius: A Memoir in Two Parts

A stunning elegy to a vanished time, Caroline Heller's memoir traces the lives of her parents, her uncle, and their circle of intellectuals and dreamers from Central Europe on the eve of World War II

to present-day America. In this unforgettable dual memoir of her parents' lives and her own, Caroline Heller brings to life the lost world of European café culture, and reminds us of the sustaining power of literature in the most challenging of times. Written with sensitivity and grace, *Reading Claudius* is a profound meditation on the ways we strive to solve the mysteries of our pasts, and a window into understanding the ones we love.

Caroline Heller is the director of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Educational Studies at Lesley University, where she is also a professor in the graduate school of education. She lives in Boston with her family.

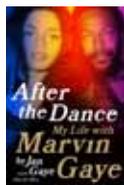


Thurs. Aug. 27 at 7pm

David Bettencourt, Rocky Point Park

In 1938, a tremendous hurricane devastated southern New England, including Rocky Point Park. The shore dining hall was washed away, and the roller coaster lay in ruins. Owners began to look into other options for this beautiful 80 acres of land along the coastline of Narragansett Bay. The park's future was in jeopardy until 1948, when Providence businessman Vincent Ferla bought it and brought it back to life. He revitalized the midway and brought in new and exciting rides, and on the park's first day back, more than 35,000 people visited. The park thrived for nearly 50 years until its eventual closure in 1995. Today, this scenic spot along the Atlantic Ocean has been returned to the people of Rhode Island as a nature preserve and is flourishing once again.

Rhode Island native David Bettencourt has many fond memories of Rocky Point Park, where he spent many childhood summers. In 2007, he produced and directed a documentary about the park called *You Must Be This Tall*, and many of the images for this book are drawn from that film's extensive research and photograph archive.



Fri. Aug. 28 at 7 pm

Jan Gaye, After the Dance: My Life with Marvin Gaye

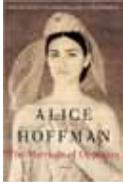
A searing memoir of love, drugs, sex, and old-school R&B, from the former wife of the legendary soul icon Marvin Gaye. Stuck in a foster home with an abusive caregiver, Janis Hunter found solace in her dreams of an encounter with Marvin Gaye. They met in February 1973. Despite a seventeen-year age difference and Marvin's marriage to the sister of Berry Gordy, Motown's founder, the enchanted teenager and the emotionally volatile singer began a scorching relationship. Their romance navigated the hippie high life of the seventies and took the couple from one adventure to another. Unsparring in its honesty and insight, **After the Dance** reveals what it's like to be in love with an artistic genius, a man whose words and music have touched the world.

Jan Gaye is the second wife of the legendary recording artist Marvin Gaye and the mother of his children, Nona and Frankie Gaye. Born in Los Angeles, she currently resides in Rhode Island.



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**.



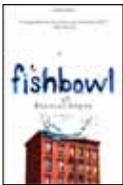
The Marriage of Opposites

by Alice Hoffman
(Simon & Schuster)

“Hoffman’s newest novel is based on the life of Rachel Pomie Petit Pissarro and her favorite son, Camille, who would become the famed “Father

of impressionism.” Growing up in a Jewish refugee community on tropical St. Thomas in the 1800s, strong-willed Rachel dreams of the cool, rainy streets of Paris. Raised by a stern mother and a kind-hearted father, Rachel is forced to marry a widower to save her family’s business and later follows forbidden passions, creating a scandal that turns her community against her. Hoffman fills the pages with the island’s magic and color in this unforgettable tale of what it means to walk the tightrope between tradition and independence, love and logic.”

- Julia Sinn, Bookshop Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA



Fishbowl

by Bradley Somer
(St. Martin’s Press)

“Somers uses the unusual device of a goldfish plunging off of a high-rise balcony to tie together the disparate stories of the building’s inhabitants.

As our hero, Ian, plummets past floor after floor, he glimpses the lives of the residents — witnessing birth, heartbreak, new love, and all of the pathos and wonder that comprise human existence. Although Ian has only a goldfish’s seconds-long capacity for memory, readers will find themselves returning to the essential truths of Somer’s characters again and again.”

- Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI

Book Clubs & Discussion Groups

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

QUEER BOOK CLUB

8/19 @ 7pm The Female Man,
Joanna Russ

9/16 at 7pm Between These Walls,
John Herrick

HADASSAH BOOK CLUB

On hiatus August

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

On hiatus August

9/30 @ 2pm The Goldfinch,
Donna Tartt

WAYLAND SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

8/26 & 9/23 @ 7pm

HOLD ON TO THOSE RECEIPTS!

In the months of January and July, bring in any of your old Books on the Square receipts and we will add them up and give you a store credit worth 10% of your purchases!

It’s our way of thanking you for your business!

Speak to an associate for details.

KIDS’ STORY HOURS

On hiatus in August

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.