

# FEBRUARY 2020

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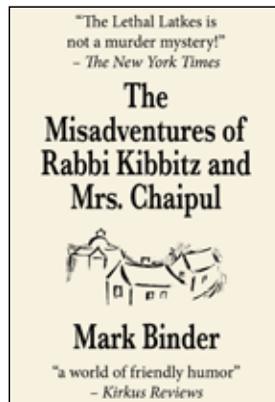


February 8 at 2pm

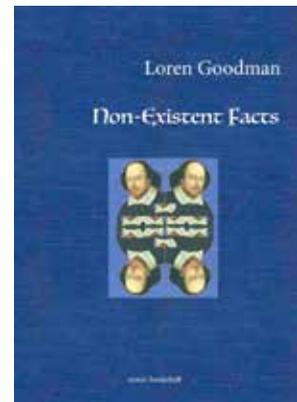
Oge Moran, Hanna Cha, Sam Streed, April Jones Prince



February 15 at Noon  
Rachel Brian

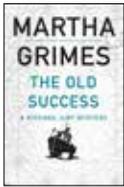


February 23 at 3pm  
Mark Binder



February 26 at 7pm  
Loren Goodman

# STAFF PICKS



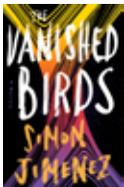
## **The Old Success**

by **Martha Grimes**

(Atlantic Monthly Press)

Martha Grimes has a gift, not only of creating and sustaining a fantastic mystery series, but also for creating some of my favorite characters in print! Richard Jury and Melrose Plant, plus the roundtable of regulars at the Jack and Hammer pub, bring as much life to the story as the research Grimes has put into it. A great follow-up to **The Knowledge**, this time Jury teams up with old friends and colleagues to follow up a tenuous connection of murders. With help (and hindrance) from Jury's myriad sidekicks, we get exactly what we could hope for—a cunning mystery full of witticisms and twists!

- Jennifer Kandarian



## **The Vanished Birds**

by **Simon Jimenez**

(Del Rey)

**The Vanished Birds** is one of my favorite debut novels out this year. It's science fiction, but it transcends genres, and while it's a story of time travel, cloning, and corporate greed run amok, it's also a love story. This is a complex tale of loves lost, families found, and the choices, risks, and sacrifices we make for them. The story opens when a young boy, who doesn't speak, falls from the sky and the tribal community feels that this is a bad omen. Nia, the captain of a ship sent to bring in the harvest, hides the boy on her ship as powerful corporations are searching for him. Beautiful imagery and complex characters emerge in this cacophony of distant planets, corporate greed, and technology run amok.

- Susan Schlesinger



## **The Queen's Fortune**

by **Allison Pataki**

(Ballantine Books)

**The Queen's Fortune** is the story of a remarkable young woman, Desiree Clary, who comes of age during the French Revolution. She secretly becomes engaged to Napoleon Bonaparte until Josephine de Beauharnais comes into his life, changing the course of history for all involved. Desiree marries Napoleon's best sergeant Jean-Baptiste Bernadette. It's then that life's choices draw all of them into once unthinkable directions.

- Penny Fisher



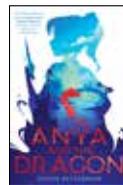
## **Layla's Happiness**

by **Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie**, illustrated by **Ashleigh Corrin**

(Enchanted Lion Books)

Layla is seven, and she loves the night—and wearing purple masks and capes, and reading poetry with her mom! This is the story of her family, her community, her city, and her happiness: a loving poem by our own Mariahadessa Ekere Tallie of Brown's Theater Arts and Performance Studies Department, illustrated in bold, joyful colors by Ashleigh Corrin. Layla's happiness is catching—a soul-sparking reminder to hold our breath sometimes and pause to watch a plant grow or blow a wish to the moon. It is my deep happiness to share this beautiful, introspective book by two Black women, telling the story of a small Black girl's joy, with all hearts, young and old.

- Susannah Morse



## **Anya and the Dragon**

by **Sofiya Pasternack**

(Versify)

An amazing adventure set in medieval Russia, Sofiya Pasternack's debut novel is so good you'd think she had been writing for centuries. Anya's father has been sent off to war and all the happiness has been sucked from the house. To add insult to injury, her whole family, including her mother, grandmother and grandfather, are all going to lose the family home. Anya soon finds a way to get the money they need. She will help catch a mean old dragon and get 500 rubles if they succeed. When the dragon saves her life, she is faced with a dilemma: help kill the last dragon in Kievan Rus' or save her home. An awesome book, I enjoyed Pasternack's way of making exciting parts a little slow to build suspense. I am sure this will be a classic someday. Best for ages 8-12.

- Kian Burke-Sanchez, Young Adult guest reader

# AUTHOR & SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday, February 8 at 2pm

## Picture books: Passion + Process

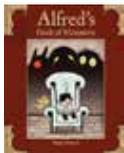
Featuring:

Oge Mora, illustrator of **The Oldest Student**

Sam Streed, author and illustrator of **Alfred's Book of Monsters**

Hanna Cha, author and illustrator of **Tiny Feet Between the Mountains**

April Jones Prince, author of **Snowy Race**



Join author-illustrators and recent RISD grads Hanna Cha, Oge Mora, and Sam Streed, as well as their former teachers Judy Sue Goodwin Sturges and April Jones Prince, as they share their recently released picture books. Story time, followed by a brief panel discussion, will offer a behind-the-scenes look at how picture books are made—and demonstrate how following your passion and honing your process can lead to both success and new discoveries. Come celebrate these creators from our own backyard!



Saturday, February 15 at Noon

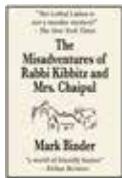
Rachel Brian

## Consent (For Kids)

With clear explanations, fun illustrations, and expertly-presented information, Consent (for Kids!) is an empowering introduction to consent,

bodily autonomy, and how to respect yourself and others. This is a smart, playful guide to consent and bodily autonomy, packed with bright and energetic illustrations. Readers will learn about boundaries and how to set them; ways to respect themselves and others; what to do if someone makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe; and much more. Along the way, they'll be encouraged to reflect on (and improve!) their own behavior and to practice consent in their daily lives.

*Rachel Brian is the founder, owner, and principal animator of Blue Seat Studios. She is best known for her work on "Tea Consent," a video that has been translated into over 20 languages and has had more than 150 million views worldwide across platforms. A long-time artist, Rachel is a former researcher and an educator, having taught physiology, biology, and math at both the high school and college level.*



Sunday, February 23 at 3pm

Mark Binder

## The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul

The Misadventures of Rabbi Kibbitz and Mrs. Chaipul is a brief novel for adults, with no

politics, and a lot of smiles\*. She owns the restaurant. He's the wise old rabbi. At their age what could possibly go wrong? *\*It's like rye bread... you don't need to be Jewish to enjoy it.*

*Mark Binder is a former editor of the Rhode Island Jewish Herald and an Audie Award-nominated professional performing storyteller. He has written more than 25 books for adults, families and children. His collection, **A Hanukkah Present** was the finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for family literature. He tours the world, spinning tales and transmitting joy for listeners and readers of all ages.*



Wednesday, February 26 at 7pm

Loren Goodman

## Non-Existent Facts

As Elaine Equi writes: We once lived in a world of "just the facts" and have now transitioned into a time of "alternative facts." But Loren

Goodman's new book announces the next era - that of "Non-Existent Facts." He shows in a witty way the vast amount of fantasy that makes up history itself - and how non-facts sharing untruth in common become joyously interchangeable as eras collapse into each other. "Sir Mix-a-lot" hangs out with "Queen Arthur" and "King Guinevere." And "You know the legend of King Midas: everything he touched turned to mufflers."

*Loren Goodman is the author of **Famous Americans**, selected by W.S. Merwin for the 2002 Yale Series of Younger Poets, and **Non-Existent Facts** (otata's bookshelf, 2018), as well as the chapbooks **Suppository Writing** (The Chuckawagon, 2008) and **New Products** (Proper Tales Press, 2010). He is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing and English Literature at Yonsei University/Underwood International College in Seoul, Korea, and serves as the UIC Creative Writing Director.*



## 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.

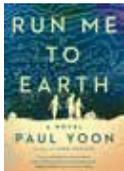


**Highfire**  
by Eoin Colfer  
(Harper Perennial)

“Highfire hooked me from the first pages. Vern, a grumpy dragon languishing in the Louisiana swamps, believes he’s the last of his species.

Squib, a 15-year-old boy, is just trying to stay out of trouble and earn some money doing odd jobs. The intersection of these two one-of-a-kind characters sucks you in like a whirlpool. I loved reading about the absurd circumstances they found themselves in. This book has all the earmarks of a great hand-seller for the dead of winter, when we all need something new!”

- Patricia Worth, River Reader Books, Lexington, MO



**Run Me to Earth**  
by Paul Yoon  
(Simon & Schuster)

“This is Paul Yoon’s best work yet. While this is also his most chaotic book, the power of his writing can still be found in the quiet moments, in gestures toward reconciliation, forgiveness, or at least resolution. This novel is stunning in its rendering of our capacity for both savagery and tenderness. Yoon is one of our great masters, and **Run Me to Earth** is a masterwork.”

- Joseph Nieves, Changing Hands, Tempe, AZ



**When We Were Vikings**  
by Andrew David MacDonald  
(Gallery/Scout Press)

“I could not put this book down. Readers rarely have the opportunity to see the world through the eyes of someone with a disability and experience their lives in a meaningful way. We

rarely see people with Down syndrome or fetal alcohol syndrome depicted as truly feeling, flesh-and-blood people who experience love, lust, heartbreak, and disappointment, who face challenges as they strive for their dream. Zelda is my new hero! She is undaunted and unflappable as she grapples with her dreams and life experiences. Your journey with her will be all too brief, but it is one that will stay with you long after you read the last page.”

- Rebecca Gottberg, Rediscovered Books, Boise, ID

## 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

2/3 @ 7pm **Sophie’s Choice**,  
William Styrona  
(**Out of Store Event**)

3/2 @ 7pm **The Forger’s Spell**,  
Edward Dolnick

### QUEER BOOK CLUB

2/19 @ 7pm **Find Me**,  
André Aciman

3/18 @ 7pm **La Bastarda**,  
Trifonia Melibea Obono

### KIDS’ STORY HOURS

**Mon., Babies 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.*

## SAVE 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.**