



A LEARNING VENTURES, LLC ENTERPRISE

JULY 2019

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The 50th anniversary of the MOON LANDING!

This awe-inspiring achievement has seen a number of books published to commemorate the people and personalities of this event, as well as explore the possibilities of what might still be to come in our journeys into space. These include ***Our Planet*** by Alastair Fothergill, which is a companion volume to the BBC TV series of the same name, full of stunning imagery, and a sober reflection on our impact on this planet. In a similar vein is ***Startalk*** by Neil Degrasse Tyson, which collects material from his podcast, cataloging the wonder and mystery of the cosmos. ***One Giant Leap***, by Charles Fishman, details the complexities of the Apollo 11 mission itself, and is a testament to the perseverance of the individuals involved. ***Space Barons***, by Christian Davenport, looks at the future of space, and the fledgling commercialization of space travel. Finally, we have two kids' titles' ***Moonshot*** by Brian Floca, a full color celebration of the event and its anniversary, and ***The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon***, by Bea Schyffert, a scrapbook-inspired biography of the forgotten man of Apollo 11, Michael Collins.

- Andrew Devrell



STAFF PICKS



The Snakes

by **Sadie Jones**

(Harper)

Bea is a psychologist, sympathetic to the underprivileged, and newly married to Dan, an aspiring artist working as a realtor so the two can make ends meet. When they decide to rent their London flat to take a vacation, it isn't long before the vipers invade in the form of Bea's family. The first stop on their trip is to visit Bea's older brother Alex at a decaying hotel that his parents have purchased for him to restore. The hotel has no guests, and there are snakes living in the attic. Dan can't understand Bea's devotion to her emotionally stunted brother, and then the parents arrive. While Dan knew that Bea's family had money, their wealth is more than he can imagine, and the fact that Bea herself eschews that wealth to live on a pittance, confuses and frustrates him. When tragedy strikes, both Dan and Bea struggle with the greed and privilege that can buy your place in society at catastrophic costs. Sadie Jones's terror-stricken novel is a social commentary on class, and the tragic results of unmitigated greed.

- Susan Schlesinger



Go For the Moon

by **Chris Gall**

(Roaring Brook Press)

This picture book by Chris Gall, released just in time for the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing, is nothing short of stunning. Sweeping full-page illustrations combine the sleek outlines and muted color palette of vintage travel posters with the detailed artistry of author/illustrators such as Chris Van Allsburg and David Wiesner. The nonfiction book begins with the introduction of a young boy—none other than Chris Gall, himself—anxiously awaiting the impending Moon landing. Inset panels on most pages lead us through the narrator's fascination and ecstasy as he designs and builds his own working model rocket; prepares and stays in a cardboard "lunar module"; and watches the Apollo 11 launch, landing, and subsequent return to Earth on television. Although this book is visually appealing and cleanly laid-out, it may be difficult for some younger readers to follow on their own, and scientific explanations may pass over the heads of little ones. Best for ages 8 to 11, although younger children may find it interesting when read with or simplified by an adult.

- Beth Garceau



Meander, Spiral, Explode: Design and Pattern in Narrative

by **Jane Alison**

(Catapult)

Beginning, Middle, End is stamped into our brains at an early age, but is that how stories really go? Jane Allison looks at stories through the lens of nature and sees different patterns. Stories can meander, come and go in wavelets, spiral, and explode, among others. Allison uses examples from literature to make her points. Whether you agree with her or not, her postulation will make you look at stories differently and expand your perspective on reading.

- Percy Sutton



The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone

by **Felicity McLean**

(Algonquin Books)

It's the summer of 1992 the Van Apfel girls have disappeared from their Australian suburb. Has something sinister taken place or was this a desperate act of escape? Told from the point of view of their neighbor, Tikka, this novel explores the lives of five girls at the cusp of womanhood and how a traumatic event can forever change the lives of those who are left behind. Equal parts heartbreaking, suspenseful and humorous, **The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone** is wonderful story of a woman coming to terms with her past.

- Matt Kandarian



The Red Daughter

by **John Burnham Schwartz**

(Random House)

A historical novel based on Stalin's daughter's defection to the West, **The Red Daughter** is a compelling read. I don't remember this historical event, but it was known around the world when it happened. Based on her journals and papers, the author intersperses journal entries to tell her story, and embellish it. He wrote the story after reading her obituary and realizing that a picture in his family home was of her and his father, and that his father was the one who clandestinely brought her into the United States.

- Percy Sutton

AUTHOR & SPECIAL EVENTS



Tuesday, July 9 at 7pm
Adam Chandler
Drive-Thru Dreams

We tend to think of fast food as corporate and impersonal. And for good reason. But, in unexpected ways, fast food is also deeply personal. After all, the only inherited rite in

America might just be mainlining French fries beneath the comforting fluorescence of an anonymous fast-food dining room.

Drive-Thru Dreams tells the personal and contemporary story of America, its innovations and failures, its international charisma, and its regional identities through its beloved roadside fare. Fast food's menus, mass appeal, and blue-collar roots, offer a reflection of a century of national life explained by American habits, desires, economic realities, and political identities

Adam Chandler is a writer and journalist based in Brooklyn. A former staff writer at The Atlantic and Tablet Magazine, his work has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Texas Monthly, New York Magazine, Slate, Esquire, and elsewhere.



Saturday, July 13 at 7pm
Lucie Cote Contentei
Gluten and Gluten Free Cooking in Perfect Harmony Take 2

What makes this book different from other gluten free books is that the recipes are written for everyone—people with and without gluten issues.

Delicious meals made the original way and it incorporates a new cooking technique for people with food allergies. Creating one recipe for the whole family with one little tweak called the “root recipe.” If you have a food allergy, imagine the main part of the recipe is like a tree trunk - the part everyone can eat, separate the main mixture into 2 bowls and add the “root ingredients” - the gluten free/non gluten free ingredient to complete the recipes. The best part is that the gluten-free person gets to eat exactly what the non gluten-free people eat. If you enjoy delicious food, this book is for you. If you are on a food allergy journey, this book is for you. If your family is food diversified, this book is for you.

Lucie Cote Contentei is a wife, mom and grandma who happens to have Celiac disease. When she was diagnosed a few years ago she knew her food life had to change. She had to learn to cook differently but still make the food taste great. It's been a journey but she's learned so many things. Lucie's goal is to help others with food allergies to have an easier journey.



Tuesday, July 30 at 7pm
Leah Hager Cohen
Strangers and Cousins
In conversation with Ellie Siegel

In the seemingly idyllic town of Rundle Junction, Bennie and Walter are preparing to host the wedding of their eldest daughter Clem. A marriage ceremony at their beloved, rambling home should be the happiest of occasions, but Walter and Bennie have a secret. A new community has moved to Rundle Junction, threatening the social order and forcing Bennie and Walter to confront uncomfortable truths about the lengths they would go to to maintain harmony. Meanwhile, Aunt Glad, the oldest member of the family, arrives for the wedding plagued by long-buried memories of a scarring event that occurred when she was a girl in Rundle Junction. As she uncovers details about her role in this event, the family begins to realize that Clem's wedding may not be exactly what it seemed. Clever, passionate, artistic Clem has her own agenda. What she doesn't know is that by the end, everyone will have roles to play in this richly imagined ceremony of familial connection—a brood of quirky relatives, effervescent college friends, ghosts emerging from the past, a determined little mouse, and even the very group of new neighbors whose presence has shaken Rundle Junction to its core.

Leah Hager Cohen is the author of five works of nonfiction, including Train Go Sorry, and six novels, including The Grief of Others, which was longlisted for the Orange Prize and the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was a finalist for the Dayton Literary Peace Prize. She is the Barrett Professor of Creative Writing at the College of the Holy Cross.

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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.

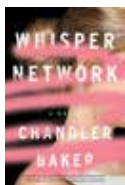


The Lightest Object in the Universe by Kimi Eisele (Algonquin Books)

“Instead of focusing on what is dark and terrifying like most dystopian novels, love lights the way in **The Lightest Object in the Universe**.

Following a cataclysmic event, Beatrix is working with her neighbors to rebuild their community, while former school principal Carson travels across the country on foot to reach the woman he knows is his soul mate. Their individual stories are trying yet hopeful and celebrate the best parts of humanity. Highly recommended for book clubs and fans of dystopian literature.”

- Beth Seuffer Buss, Bookmarks, Winston-Salem, NC



Whisper Network by Chandler Baker (Flatiron Books)

“It was inevitable that, with the #MeToo movement sweeping America, someone would pen a novel encompassing the realities of working women in our country. What I wasn't

prepared for, however, was the degree to which I'd become involved in **Whisper Network**, racing home to finish it because I loved the story. I haven't felt this strength of solidarity with other women since the march in D.C. I closed this book with a resounding, 'Oh, hell yes!'”

- Jill Miner, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI



The Tenth Muse by Catherine Chung (Ecco)

“Catherine Chung's female protagonist is a mathematician, and it is thrilling to have a woman scientist who is a complex character in an even more complex novel. In trying to solve

a math riddle, she ends up exploring the riddle of her own childhood, which is inextricably linked to one of the darkest episodes in human history. Catherine Chung has woven a rich tapestry mixing present and past, ambition, identity, and gender issues. A beautiful book.”

- Françoise Brodsky, Shakespeare & Co., New York, NY

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

7/1 @ 7pm **Promised Land**,
Martin Fletcher

8/5 @ 7pm **The Gown**,
Jennifer Robson

QUEER BOOK CLUB

7/17 @ 7pm **The Clancy's of Queens**,
Tara Clancy

8/21 @ 7pm **How to Survive a Summer**,
Nick White

THE YOUNG ADULT LITCLUB

7/15 @ 7pm **Born Confused**,
Tanuja Desai Hidier

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.*