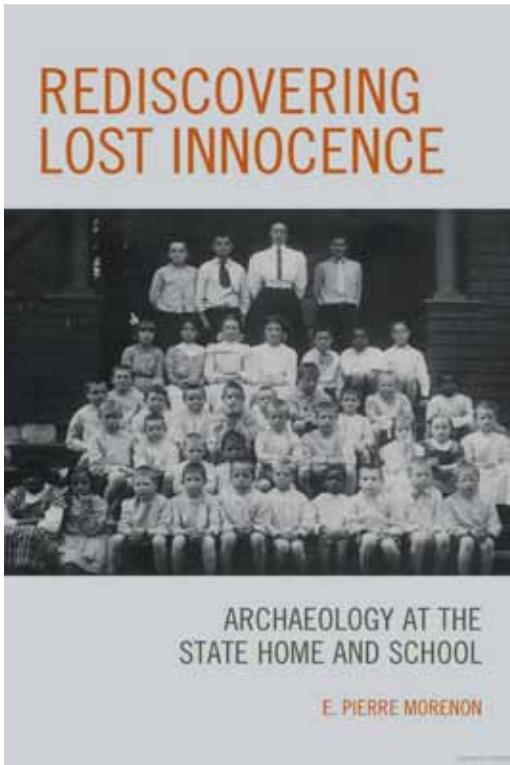


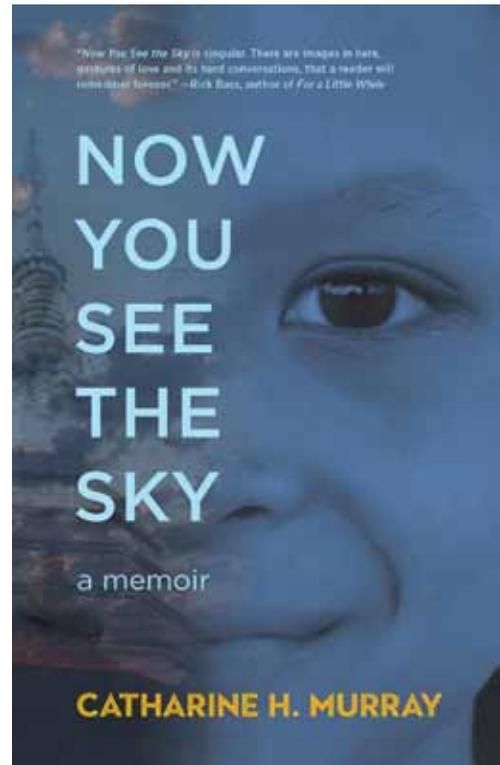
# NOVEMBER 2018

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A LEARNING VENTURES, LLC ENTERPRISE



Tuesday, November 6 at 7pm  
E. Pierre Morenon



Thursday November 15 at 7pm  
Catharine H. Murray  
In discussion with Ann Hood

# STAFF PICKS



## Vox

by Christina Dalcher  
(Berkley)

If you enjoyed *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Vox* should be next on your reading list. This novel is about gender, language and family dynamics. This novel is infuriating and makes me want to scream. This book shows what limiting one's speech can do to a woman, and how far she'll go to be free from oppression and save the people she loves. Our protagonist, Jean, is a neurologist, a mother of four children, and a wife. She's a strong protagonist, save for the fact that she's limited to 100 words a day. In her world, a year has gone by where the government takes control of the female genders speech and makes changes that set women's movements back decades. Women's movements were not enough. Marches, protests, all the things we see today, end up not being enough to make change happen – and the government takes notice. *Vox* is a story about an infuriating society that limits the female gender to 100 words of speech a day, with physical pain as punishment for using more than. The author, Christina Dalcher, studied linguistics prior to writing the novel, so there is a fluid connection between society and language, and how it renders some weak and makes others so strong – and how it shapes generations. This book makes you think about your own words, well after you put the book down.

- Sallie D. Mazzur



## Friday Black

by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah  
(Mariner Books)

This dark, disturbing collection of short stories is Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah's brilliant debut. The very first story in the collection will leave you feeling like you were punched in the chest, all the air has escaped, and you're trying to breathe, but there's a next story to read, and a next after that. These stories address racism, consumerism, and capitalism head-on with powerful prose and dark satire. "The Finkelstein Five" confronts the judicial system as a white man claims self-defense in the brutal murder of 5 black children with a chainsaw. The title story, "Friday Black", is an indictment of unbridled consumerism in America today. All of these stories need to be told, and need to be read. Adjei-Brenyah is one of the 5 under 35 honorees chosen by the National Book Foundation. This is a collection that fans of George Saunders will love, and that everyone must read!

- Susan Schlesinger



## How to Be A Good Creature

by Sy Montgomery  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Favorite New England naturalist writer Sy Montgomery (*The Soul of An Octopus*, *A Good, Good Pig*) returns to charm us with her "Memoir in Thirteen Animals." Through her adventures with these creatures we see brief glimpses into Sy's exciting, animal-filled life. Whether hiking for days to observe and study Matschie's tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea, visits to the barnyard where she encounters an ermine, to her beloved pet dogs, Sy has connections with these animals that one could only dream of. But the point of her book is what one truly learns from their interactions with animals. Montgomery is such a gifted writer, and we are so lucky that she combines that with her love of animals.

- Jennifer Kandarian



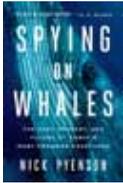
## My Year of Rest and Relaxation

by Ottessa Moshfegh  
(Penguin Press)

In Ottessa Moshfegh's new novel, we meet an unnamed narrator who embarks on an anti-adventure of sorts; she plans to sleep for a year in hopes of reawakening and ultimately resetting herself. It's the year 2000, she's young, a recent college grad, wealthy, and good looking. It's extremely convenient that she's living off an inheritance from her parent's passing away. She's working part time at an art gallery, but this is only a minor distraction in her ultimate goal of sleeping as much as possible. With the help of an eccentric psychiatrist who really should be a patient herself, our narrator is prescribed many "downers" that will help her sleep and sleep hard, resulting in black outs and sleep walking excursions. She finds herself going to extreme lengths to preserve her goal and she internally examines many parts of her life that feel very influential in this undertaking. *My Year of Rest and Relaxation* is not what the doctor prescribed, but you'll enjoy it none the less.

- Sallie D. Mazzur

## STAFF PICKS



### Spying on Whales

by Nick Pyenson  
(Viking)

Since fall is prime whale watching time you might like to know more about these spectacular creatures. *Spying on Whales* by Nick Pyenson, the curator of fossil marine

mammals at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., takes us into their secret lives from their evolution from land to sea mammals. He weaves scientific discovery with fascinating storytelling as he answers how they eat enough to maintain their size. He also looks ahead to a possible future for the whales as climate warming continues.

- Penny Fisher

## SHELF TALKERS

In our newly expanded science section there are numerous new books touching on subjects as broad as the universe we live in.

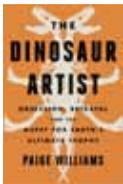


Stephen Hawking's final book, **Brief Answers to Big Questions**, is his personal views on the "big" questions he confronted about humanity and its future.

**Rising**, by Elizabeth Rush, looks at a big question, reporting upon one of the most pressing issues of our times, climate change and rising seas.



Neal DeGrasse Tyson is another to consider the big questions, this time with **Accessory to War**, exploring the intimate links between the military and astrophysics, as well as how war has given impetus to scientific discovery.



This sort of examination of the ethics of science is further developed in **The Dinosaur Artist**, by Paige Williams, about fossil poaching in Mongolia.

Finally a book that takes a humorous approach to serious science and scientific history: **The Sawbones Book**, by Dr Sydnee McElroy and

Justin McElroy. This lushly illustrated book deals with the weird and wonderful history of modern medicine, drawing heavily upon the authors' podcast, Sawbones.

- Andrew Devrell

## AUTHOR & SPECIAL EVENTS



Tuesday, November 6 at 7pm

E. Pierre Morenon,

### Rediscovering Lost Innocence

The late 1800s was marked by major social service infrastructure construction and development. During this period, Rhode Island took on a more active statewide role in public education, sewers, parks, prisons, and child welfare systems. New ideas about civil rights extended to race, to women, to labor, and to children. Old institutions, such as town almshouses and poor farms, were replaced by state institutions, such as the State Home, which opened in 1885. One might expect to find a huge record for custodial children well imbedded in regional literatures or social science and history texts, yet this is not the case. The State Home Project began in 2001 with no evocative life histories, and no local or regional childhood narratives about the former residents of the State Home upon which to build. It remains an important place because thousands of children and citizens lived portions of their lives there.

*E. Pierre Morenon professor of anthropology at Rhode Island College, former director of the public archaeology program. He serves as a commissioner on the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.*



Thursday November 15 at 7pm

Catharine H. Murray,

### Now You See the Sky

In discussion with Ann Hood

**Now You See the Sky** is a memoir about love, motherhood, and loss. When Catharine H.

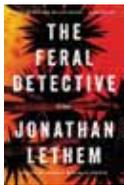
Murray travels to a small town on the banks of the Mekong River to work at a refugee camp, she falls in love and marries a local man with whom she has three sons. When their middle son is diagnosed with cancer at age five, their pursuit of a cure takes them from Thailand to Seattle, before they eventually return to Thailand, settling on a remote mountaintop. Full of honesty and grace, **Now You See the Sky**—the debut selection in Ann Hood's new Gracie Belle imprint—allows the reader to witness the fathomless loss of a child and learn how tragedy can transform us, expand our vision, and make us more fully alive.

*Catharine H. Murray lives with her two sons in Portland, Maine, where she teaches English to refugees and leads workshops on grief writing. Murray earned her MFA at the Stonecoast Writing Program at the University of Southern Maine, where she was the creative nonfiction editor of the Stonecoast Review.*



## 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 Feral Detective** by Jonathan Lethem (Ecco)

“Lethem’s latest is a treat for fans and new readers alike. His personal brand of detective fiction (shrewd character descriptions, razor-sharp dialogue, and scene-setting that engages all

five senses) has always been indebted to the (wild) West Coast — Hollywood specifically — so it’s unsurprising that **The Feral Detective** is as satisfying as his New York novels. A compelling and timely tale of why even going off the grid won’t save you from going off your rocker.”

- John Francisconi, Bank Square Books, Mystic, CT



### **Heavy: An American Memoir** by Kiese Laymon (Scribner)

“Telling the truth has always been a radical and political act, but Kiese Laymon writes in *Heavy* with a rare, vulnerable unity of personal urgency

and political clarity. This is a story about how our country’s lies and thefts weigh heavily on the hearts and souls of its black mothers and sons. About how dishonesty about white supremacy, money, sex, and violence threads through our most intimate relationships and causes us to become strangers to ourselves. If *Heavy* is about lies, it is also fundamentally about the redemptive power of truth, stories, language, and joy. If there’s a way out of the loneliness of being human in a country that does not value or support humanity, Laymon suggests, it is in the connection we find in the words we toss to one another, like lifelines, like laughter.”

- E.R. Anderson, Charis Books & More, Atlanta, GA

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## **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.**

## **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**

11/5 @ 7pm **A Tale of Love and Darkness**, Amos Oz

### **QUEER BOOK CLUB**

11/21 @ 7pm **Logical Family**, Amistad Maupin

### **THE YOUNG ADULT LITCLUB**

11/12 @ 7pm **Children of Blood and Bone**, Tomi Adeyemi

## **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.*