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News & Reviews

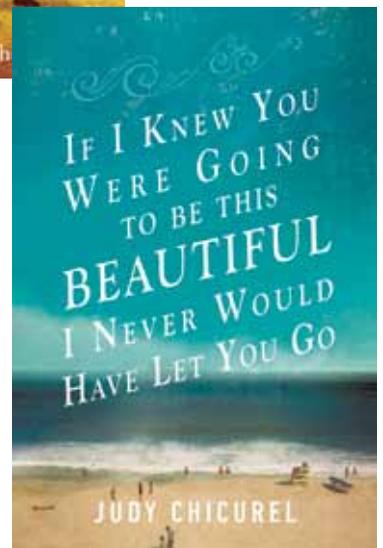
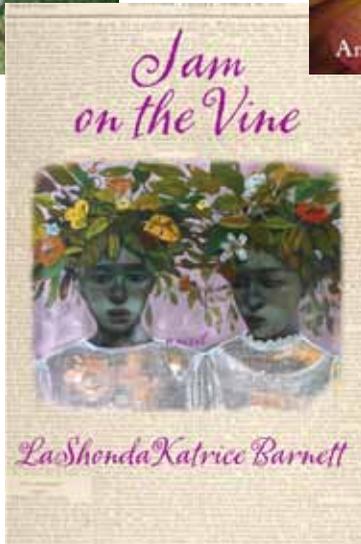
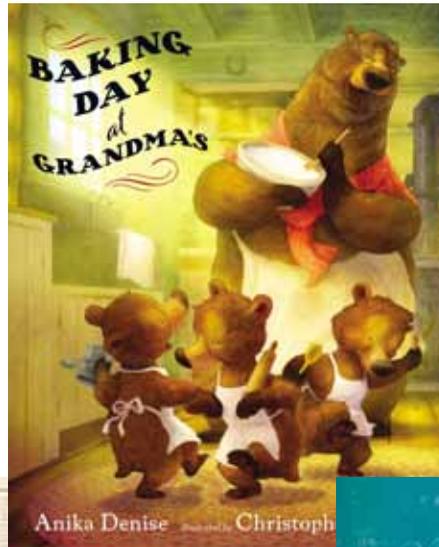
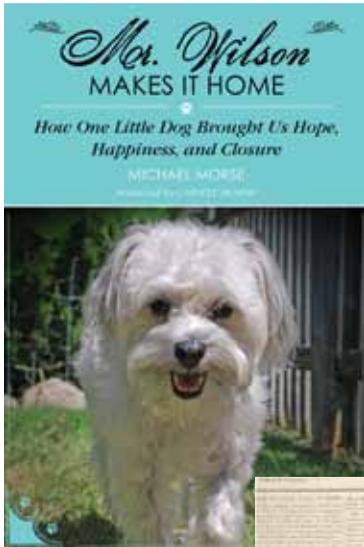
FEBRUARY 2015

Best of 2014!

Best Bookstore, New Books
Providence Phoenix

Best of 2013!

Best Independent Bookstore
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Staff Picks



Girl In A Band

by **Kim Gordon**
(Dey Street Books)

Kim Gordon was the bass player and, later, guitarist in Sonic Youth. In addition to being a celebrated musician, she is a writer, fashion designer, filmmaker and actress, among other things. *Girl In A Band* allows Ms. Gordon to detail how art and creativity have influenced her perspective on the world. The readable and smart book has a quiet European vibe -- *Girl In A Band* is described as a memoir, rather than her autobiography -- and seems to emulate the French New Wave films so admired by Ms. Gordon; there is no linear quality to the book. Chapters about her childhood in Los Angeles about passages describing fetid Manhattan of the 1980s. The powerfully observant Gordon avoids clichéd rock star anecdotes and concentrates on how profound the role of art -- both hers and others' -- has been. She has a remarkable eye for architecture and a sophisticated understanding of fine art, particularly painting. Recommended for people who don't like to take things for granted.

- **Guy Benoit**



The Red Queen

by **Victoria Aveyard**
(HarperTeen)

There are 2 types of people in this world. The Reds, the color of their blood, are fighters and workers living in poverty. The Silvers, who have silver blood, possess powers that let them be the rulers of the reds. But what happens when Mare, a born Red, possesses a power that enlightens all the Silvers. Mare must learn to know her true self and her true love. With 2 princes vying after her she must learn to follow her heart without getting herself killed. Will she show the world who she really is or will she conform to the future laid out for her by possessive Silvers? Filled with romance, plot-twists, and secrets, this book will keep your hair on end through every page. This is what happens when you defy all stereotypes and bleed your own blood. Best for ages 13 and up.

- **Cameron Wessel**



I Am Amelia Earhart

by **Brad Meltzer**
illustrated by **Christopher Eliopoulos**
(Dial)

Brad Meltzer, well-known mystery author, has teamed with illustrator Eliopoulos to create a fantastic biography series for young children. Called "Ordinary People Change the World", the latest is **I am Amelia Earhart**. Combining a simple text of Earhart's life and accomplishments in a fun storybook, this story teaches us that we can all be heroes and inspires kids to learn and dream. A fantastic way to introduce children to an early love of history and biography, complimented by Eliopoulos' charming illustrations. Best for ages 5-8.

- **Jennifer Kandarian**



Empire of Shadows

by **Miriam Forster**
(HarperTeen)

A prequel to the popular *A City of Thousand Dolls*, this is a wonderful book is filled with lots of plot twists, thrills and of course romance. The main character Mara is a trained protector and you follow the journey of how she looks for her lifetime charge, the person she protects no matter what, even if it costs her life. She meets a boy as well as a princess who both help Mara realize her true-self and her purpose. Fall in love with this breathtaking novel and believe in the power of friendship and love. Recommended for fans of magic, suspense, and romance. Best for ages 13-17.

- **Cameron Wessel**

Author & Special Events



Sat. Feb. 7 at 4pm

Michael Morse, *Mr. Wilson Makes it Home: How One Little Dog Brought Us Hope, Happiness and Closure*

When Michael and Cheryl Morse slowly drifted apart amid an empty nest, her diagnosis of multiple sclerosis, his symptoms of PTSD, and the grief of losing their two beloved dogs, it became apparent their lives were in need of a little joy. Enter an energetic, white ball of fluff known as Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson's story begins in Arkansas, where he was left in a leaky, drafty barn for days—the result of a child who couldn't care for him and a woman who wouldn't. An escape artist, he eventually found himself on a country road where he was discovered by a neighbor. Familiar with his current living conditions, she took him in, cleaned him up, and created an online adoption profile for him. In Rhode Island, Cheryl Morse clicked on Mr. Wilson's photo and instantly fell in love. In *Mr. Wilson Makes It Home*, the joy Michael and Cheryl so badly needed comes in the form of an adorable schnoodle named Mr. Wilson. This animal rescue story tells of the love, recovery, faith, and hope that a pet can bring to a brokenhearted family.

Michael Morse is a retired firefighter who received the Robert and Margaret MacColl Johnson Fellowship from the Rhode Island Foundation this past year. He is the author of *Rescuing Providence* and *Responding* as well as numerous essays. He is a monthly columnist on the websites *Fire Engineering* and *EMS World*. He resides in Warwick, Rhode Island.



Fri. Feb. 13 at 7pm

LaShonda Barnett, *Jam on the Vine*

Ivoe Williams, the precocious daughter of a Muslim cook and a metalsmith from central-east Texas, first ignites her lifelong obsession with journalism when she steals a newspaper from her mother's white employer. Living in the poor, segregated quarter of Little Tunis, Ivoe immerses herself in printed matter as an escape from her dour surroundings. She earns a scholarship to the prestigious Willetson College in Austin, only to return over-qualified to the menial labor offered by her hometown's racially-biased employers. Ivoe eventually flees the Jim Crow South with her family and settles in Kansas City, where she and her former teacher and lover, Ona, found the first female-run African American newspaper, *Jam! On the Vine*. In the throes of the Red Summer—the 1919 outbreak of lynchings and race riots across the Midwest—Ivoe risks her freedom, and her life, to call attention to the atrocities of segregation in the American prison system.

LaShonda Katrice Barnett was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1974 and grew up in Park Forest, Illinois. She is the author of a story collection and editor of the volumes: *I Got Thunder: Black Women Songwriters On Their Craft* and *Off the Record: Conversations with African American & Brazilian Women Musicians*.



Sat. Feb. 14 at 11am

Anika Denise, *Baking Day at Grandma's!*

Three bouncing little bear siblings, wrapped tight in their winter clothes, can't wait to tromp through the snow for *Baking Day at Grandma's!* In a rhyming text that begs to be sung, the bears and their grandma pour and mix and stir—with breaks for hot cocoa and dancing—to create the perfect wintry treat. Then they wrap it up in ribbons to show that sweets are even better when they're shared. With a recipe in the back, this is a perfect family feel-good story for the fall, winter, and any holiday spent with grandparents.

Anika Denise is the author of *Pigs Love Potatoes* and *Bella and Stella Come Home*, both of which were illustrated by her husband, Christopher Denise. The Denises live with their three children—and pet frog—in Barrington, Rhode Island.



Sat. Feb. 21 at 4pm

Judy Chicurel, *If I Knew You Were Going to be This Beautiful, I Never Would Have Let You Go*

It is the summer of 1972, and Katie has just turned eighteen. Katie and her town, Elephant Beach, are both on the verge: Katie of adulthood, and Elephant Beach of gentrification. But not yet: Elephant Beach is still gritty, working-class, close-knit. And Katie spends her time smoking and drinking with her friends, dreaming about a boy just back from Vietnam who's still fighting a battle Katie can't understand. In this poignant, evocative debut collection, Judy Chicurel creates a haunting, vivid world, where conflicts between mothers and daughters, men and women, soldiers and civilians and have-nots reverberate to our own time. She captures not only a time and place, but the universal experience of being poised between the past and the future. At once heartbreaking, mesmerizing, and nostalgic, Chicurel shows us that no matter how beautiful some dreams are, there comes a time when we must let them go.

Judy Chicurel's work has appeared in national, regional, and international publications, including the *New York Times*, *Newsday*, and *Granta*. Her plays have been produced and performed in New York City. A native of Long Beach on Long Island, Chicurel currently lives in Brooklyn.



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**.



We Are Pirates
by Daniel Handler
(Bloomsbury)

“From the mind behind Lemony Snicket comes this weird and wondrous novel, featuring a troubled teenage girl, her befuddled parents, an

Alzheimer’s-addled old man, and, of course, pirates. Handler plays it straight, until he doesn’t, and demonstrates why he is one of the most playful, macabre, and beloved writers working today.”

- Cody Morrison, Square Books, Oxford, MS



A Spool of Blue Thread
by Anne Tyler
(Knopf)

“Tyler’s story of three generations of the Whitshank family has all the hallmarks for which she is so well known. There is drama, dysfunction, and

sorrow aplenty here, but Tyler has an amazing way of exposing family life in both its ugly and beautiful glory. These characters love each other, except when they don’t, and every interaction is crackling with Tyler’s quirky and unassuming wit. A Spool of Blue Thread shows how lives intersect — very rarely neatly — and how that messiness gives meaning to every human connection. Tyler is a master of her craft — this being her 20th novel — and she is a treasure to read.”

- Dinah Hughley, Powell’s Books, Portland, OR

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

2/2 @ 7pm The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

3/2 @ 7pm Like Dreamers, Yossi Klein Halevi

QUEER BOOK CLUB

2/18 @ 7pm Real Man Adventures, T Cooper

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

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

2/24 @ 2pm The Shoemaker’s Wife, Adriana Trigiani

3/31 @ 7pm The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd

WAYLAND SQUARE NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

2/25 & 3/25 @ 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.