



The Bells (\$24) by Richard Harvell. Young Moses Froben sings like an angel and possesses an otherworldly sense of hearing. These gifts carry him through a life rich in opportunity while burdening him with unimaginable pain. Set in the Swiss Alps and Vienna in the mid-18th century, Harvell's first novel is a feat of rich, descriptive writing that uniquely brings the story and characters to vibrant life. —Stan Hynds

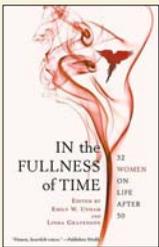
The very least this novel delivers is a heightened awareness of what it is to hear - music, footsteps, weather, voices. The most you have to look forward to is the best historical fiction of the year. —Karen Frank

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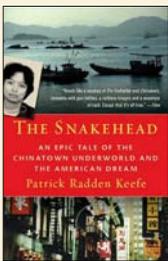
NONFICTION

NEW PAPERBACK



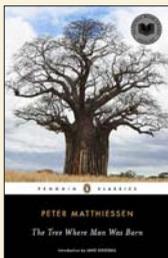
In the Fullness of Time: 32 Women on Life After 50 (\$16) edited by Emily W. Upham and Linda Gravenson. Essays, poems and interviews by writers, artists, a

doctor, two actresses on the challenges of aging. A must read for every woman – and man – of any age! —Louise Jones

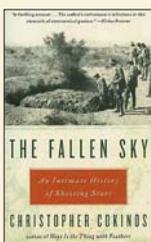


The Snakehead (\$16.95) by Patrick Radden Keefe. In 1993, a ship ran aground in Queens. Three hundred illegal Chinese were forced off, several

dying. Investigators uncovered a people mover (Snakehead), Sister Ping, who allegedly made forty million dollars in twenty years bringing people to America. Well researched and well written. —Sarah Knight

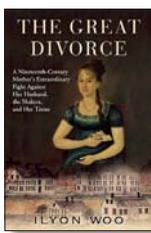


The Tree Where Man Was Born (\$17) by Peter Matthiessen. A reissue of the 1972 classic portrait of East Africa, with a new introduction by primatologist Jane Goodall. A superb combination of nature and travel writing at its best, its vivid portrayal of humans and wild life is still relevant. —Louise Jones



The Fallen Sky: An Intimate History of Shooting Stars (\$16.95) by Christopher Cokinos. With poetic narrative and wit, Cokinos describes how humans have been enthralled by shooting stars and tells of the scientists, adventurers and ordinary people who have found and puzzled over these stones that fall from the heavens. Fascinating. —Louise Jones

NEW HARDCOVER



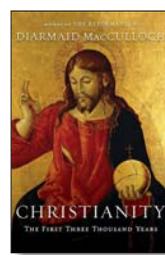
The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Woman's Extraordinary Fight Against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times (\$25) by Ilyon Woo. A simply superb, fascinating story of a woman who challenged the nascent Shaker communities and the State of New York for custody of her children. Certain to be nominated for awards. —Bill Lewis

—Bill Lewis



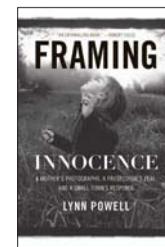
Declaration: The Nine Tumultuous Weeks When America Became Independent, May 1 - July 4, 1776 (\$26) by William Hogeland. While the Continental Congress debated in a steamy Philadelphia assembly room, a mixed bag of activists favoring independence, led by Samuel Adams, worked in secret to undermine the “reconciliationists” who wanted to remain with England. And we know who won! Fascinating history and characters brought to life. —Louise Jones

—Louise Jones



Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years (\$45) by Diarmaid MacCulloch. Scholarship, elegant writing and comprehensive scope establish this

magisterial work as the likely standard against which all histories of Christianity will be measured for years to come. Highest recommendation. —Bill Lewis



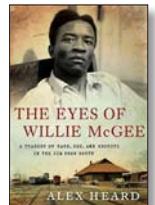
Framing Innocence: A Mother's Photographs, A Prosecutor's Zeal, and a Small Town's Response (\$25.95) by Lynn Powell. The story of an

Ohio mother prosecuted for taking a nude photo of her daughter and the community support around her. Powell writes with ease and grace of a triumphant testament to what is possible when real people set aside their assumptions. The best of page-turners! —Zachary Marcus

CD AUDIO

BOOKS

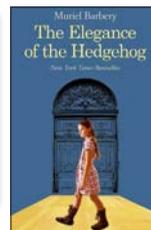
The Eyes of Willie McGee (\$26.99) by Alex Heard. Crammed with reasons to read with speed and intensity. Familiar issues masterfully presented: racism, injustice, vigilantism. A fascinating attempt to unravel truth when mystery overwhelms history. —Bill Lewis



The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic and Madness at the Fair That Changed America (\$34.95, unabridged CD) by Erik Larson. Scott Brick is the perfect reader for Larson's disturbing tale of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair; upbeat when necessary and solemn when the narrative hits its darker moments. The perfect story to listen to in the evenings when you are alone. —Krysta Piccoli



—Krysta Piccoli



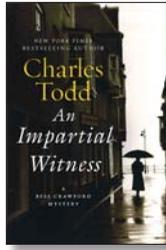
The Elegance of the Hedgehog (\$29.95, unabridged CD) by Muriel Barbery. The performances on this audio of the popular novel are superb: Tony Award-winning actress Barbara

Rosenblat as a posh Paris apartment building concierge, who hides her intelligence from the disdainful residents; and Cassandra Morris as the precocious child with whom she forms an alliance. Captivating! —Louise Jones

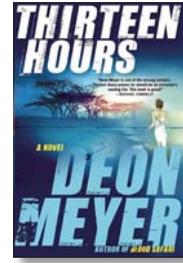
N E W H A R D C O V E R



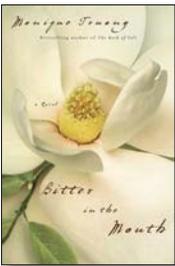
Russian Winter (\$25.99) by Daphne Kalotay. This debut novel is the kind of historical fiction that transports and transfixes while smoothly whirling one back and forth through time. Each character leaves a warm handprint on a frosty window and the story is intense and full of amazing detail. –Karen Frank



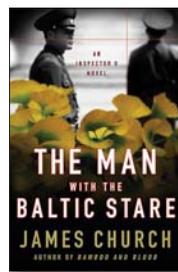
An Impartial Witness (\$24.99) by Charles Todd. Todd's excellent second mystery featuring British WWI nurse Bess Crawford, who becomes involved in the investigation into the puzzling deaths of a soldier and his wife. A standout evocation of the toll the war took among those on the battlefields and those waiting at home. –Louise Jones



Thirteen Hours (\$24) by Deon Meyer. An American teenager is found dead on a Capetown street. Can Detective Inspector Griessel find the girl's friend, who is on the run, before gangsters and corrupt police do? A very entertaining, suspenseful psychological thriller that takes place in thirteen hours. –Sarah Knight



Bitter in the Mouth (\$25) by Monique Truong. In this beautifully written novel, Linda Hammerick learns the hidden history of her secretive family. Because she is synesthetic, she hears words as tastes, which shapes her view of the world. A mesmerizing novel that questions our assumptions about relationships and identity. –Louise Jones



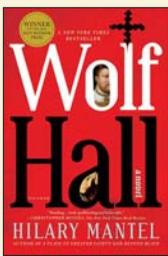
The Man with the Baltic Stare (\$24.99) by James Church. In his fourth mystery, North Korea's Inspector O is dragged out of retirement to investigate a murder that might have dire consequences for a secret reunification plan for North and South Korea. Dark, enigmatic and very good. –Sarah Knight



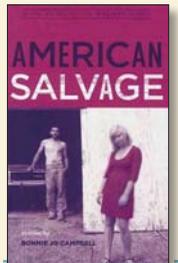
C. (\$25.95) by Tom McCarthy. A young man's adventures in WWI and Egypt herald the dawn (and dusk) of the modern age. A teeming, splendid novel that crackles with ideas. –Charles Bottomley

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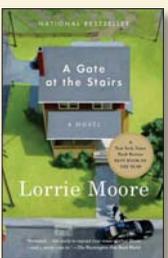
N E W P A P E R B A C K



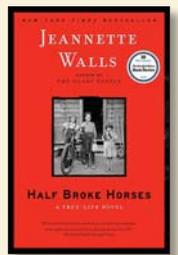
Wolf Hall (\$16) by Hilary Mantel. Set in England as Henry VIII tries to manipulate church and state in order to marry Anne Boleyn, this is hands down one of the best historical novels I've read. Mantel's breathtaking writing and exacting research show a changing society and the duplicitous and ambitious people who surround the King. Winner of the 2009 Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. –Louise Jones



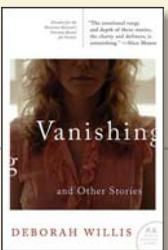
American Salvage (\$18.95) by Bonnie Jo Campbell. Through the desperate and tragic, Bonnie Jo Campbell reveals the essential redemptive qualities that make us human. A true portrait of America. –Roisin Todd



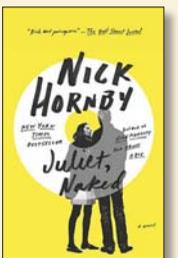
A Gate at the Stairs (\$15) by Lorrie Moore. Moore writes wonderfully witty literature with a brain and a heart. This story follows a young woman who is just entering the confusing world of adulthood with all its wonders and disappointments. You know this girl - she is based on all of us. –Karen Frank



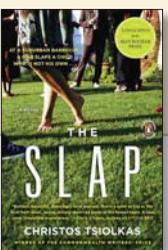
Half Broke Horses (\$15) by Jeannette Walls. This heartwarming novel based on the life of Lily Casey Smith, Walls' grandmother, is every bit as riveting as Walls' memoir *The Glass Castle*. Lily is a strong woman of indomitable spirit whose survival skills will entertain and captivate the reader. –Liz Barnum



Vanishing and Other Stories (\$13.99) by Deborah Willis. I believe the mark of truly great fiction is thrifty and sparse prose packed with emotion and subtext. These stories are shot through with the human electricity that makes everyday life so interesting and rich. –Karen Frank



Juliet, Naked (\$15) by Nick Hornby. Hornby is a master of the comic novel and in my book the comic is as essential as the serious. This one is more thought-provoking than most serious novels, and this thought-provoking novel is brilliantly funny and pure pleasure to read. –Stan Hynds



The Slap (\$15) by Christos Tsiolkas. A parent slaps a child at a BBQ, and all hell breaks loose. Tsiolkas's satire on Australia's suburban set is stinging but compassionate. –Charles Bottomley

O L D F A V O R I T E S

Zorba The Greek (\$15) by Nikos Kazantzakis. This was a life-changing book for me in my youth. The vitality and passion - the sheer joy for living life to the fullest - energized me for the future. I still draw on the Zorba force each day! –Karen Frank

