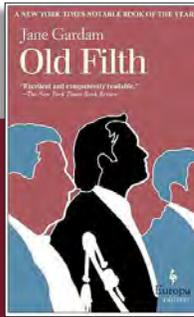


Staff Picks
February 2011

Favorite
BOOK
Reviews



Discover British writer Jane Gardam. Recipient of countless literary awards, her work is witty, subtle, moving & intricate.

FEBRUARY FEATURES

Old Filth (\$14.95 pb).

Our favorite! The life of Barrister Edward Feathers, nicknamed Old Filth (definition on page 1) is a pleasure to read – a complex, absorbing, intelligent, droll novel. –Louise Jones

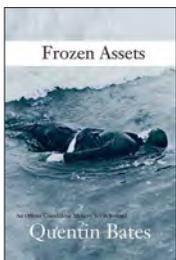
Get out your “Whigs”! This is a beautiful happy/sad tale full of personality and humanity, life affirming and smart – and quintessentially British. I loved it! –Karen Frank

We also recommend the novels:

- ♥ *The Man in the Wooden Hat* (\$15)
 - ♥ *God on the Rocks* (\$15)
 - ♥ *The Queen of the Tambourine* (\$14.95)
- & a collection of short stories:
- ♥ *The People on Privilege Hill* (\$15.95)

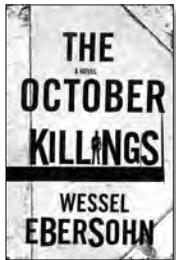
F I C T I O N

NEW HARDCOVER



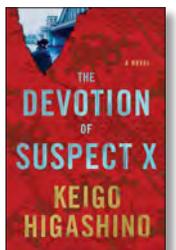
Frozen Assets by Quentin Bates (\$25). Bates, a Brit who's lived in Iceland, sets his atmospheric thriller just before the 2008 banking collapse. No-nonsense

cop Gunna Gísladóttir realizes that several murders – rare in her small country – are linked to financial and political intrigue. First-rate first of a new series. –Louise Jones



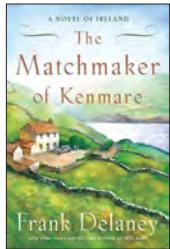
The October Killings by Wessel Ebersohn (\$24.99). South African lawyer Abigail Bakula investigates the deaths of several men who participated in a raid 15

years ago, in which she was saved but her father and others were massacred. Exciting mystery and a commentary on contemporary South Africa. –Sarah Knight



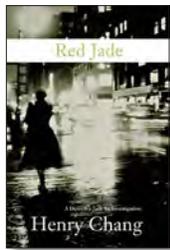
The Devotion of Suspect X by Heigo Higashino, translated by Alexander O. Smith (\$24.99). A subtle exploration into a puzzling

murder, this duel of wits between an enigmatic suspect and his former academic colleague is by one of Japan's most popular and esteemed writers. –Louise Jones



The Matchmaker of Kenmare by Frank Delaney (\$26). Delaney builds on our love of his historical fiction about Ireland and teases us further into the

Irish-American experience at the end of WWII. Interesting characters and circumstances both old and new make this a fresh experience for the many fans of *Ireland: A Novel*, *Tipperary*, *Shannon* and *Venetia Kelly's Traveling Show*. –Karen Frank



Red Jade by Henry Chang (\$25). Third in the Detective Jack Yu series, set in the gritty underbelly of New York and Seattle Chinatowns. Investigating a

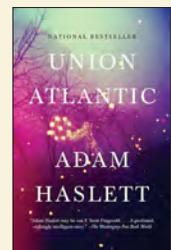
murder/suicide, Yu discovers connections to a previous unsolved triad murder. His nemesis, the elusive Mona, returns in this very entertaining noir mystery. –Sarah Knight

NEW PAPERBACK



Shadow Tag by Louise Erdrich (\$14.99). This is the brutal, tragic, compelling story of destructive marital love, where day-by-day the artist

wife slowly consume one another. Erdrich makes a very dark, complex tale vivid and meaningful. –Nancy Scheemaker



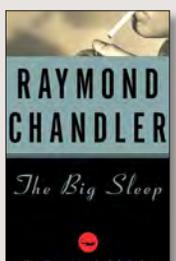
Union Atlantic by Adam Haslett (\$15). A first novel, by the author of the excellent short story collection *You Are Not a Stranger Here*, brilliantly foretells

our current financial crisis while interweaving the lives of some of the most interesting characters I've read recently. –Stan Hynds.



Annabel by Kathleen Winter (\$14.95). This stunning debut novel treats the issue of a true mixed gender child. The delicate, poignant details of the characters' lives reveal a philosophy and humanity that is bone deep, enveloping the reader with compassion and hope - and recognition and truth about ourselves. –Karen Frank

OLD FAVORITES



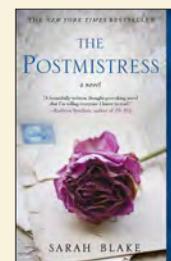
The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler (\$14 pb). The peerless private eye novel, despite its contemporary political incorrectness.

Although the classic movie (\$19.98 dvd) replicates many of the scenes and dialogue exactly, the book's complicated plot differs – just read the splendid first paragraph: Bogart never wore a powder blue suit! –Louise Jones



The Stories of Breece D'J Pancake by Breece D'J Pancake (\$13.99). One of America's best writers of short fiction, Pancake taps

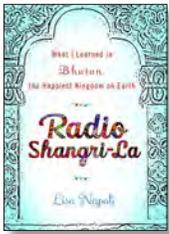
into the suspense of everyday life. “Fox Hunters” and James Alan McPherson's touching forward are alone worth the price, but each of these twelve tales is essential. Savor them; they constitute the entirety of his output. –Emelia B



The Postmistress by Sarah Blake (\$15). World War II, a small Cape Cod town, three very different women, love, fate, chance meetings are the ingredients that make

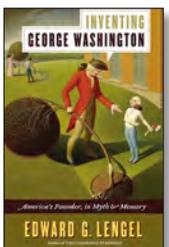
this a book to savor! It is a deeply emotional story that you will not want to put down. –Liz Barnum

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



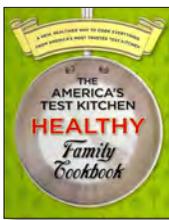
Radio Shangri-La: What I Learned in the Happiest Kingdom on Earth by Lisa Napoli (\$25). Napoli took time off from NPR to help the isolated

Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan set up a radio station. This touching memoir is full of moving and humorous people and situations as Napoli navigates a total cultural divide and a personal turning point. —Louise Jones



Inventing George Washington: America's Founder, in Myth & Memory by Edward G. Lengel (\$25.99). When you hear a politician, media talking

head or religious spokesperson quote Washington or describe something he did: be skeptical. Consult this little book to learn from a distinguished scholar how Americans have had a field day distorting the truth for over two centuries. —Bill Lewis



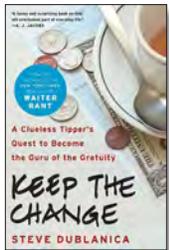
The America's Test Kitchen Healthy Family Cookbook: A New, Healthier Way to Cook Everything from America's

Most Trusted Test Kitchen by The Editors at America's Test Kitchen (\$34.95 ring bound). From Christopher Kimball's popular PBS television cooking show, this book lightens more than 800 favorite dishes without sacrificing flavor. Profusely illustrated with pictures, graphs and informative sidebars. Excellent. —Louise Jones



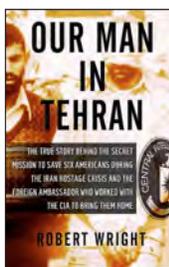
Red Brethren: the Brothertown and Stockbridge Indians and the Problem of Race in Early America by David J. Silverman (\$35). Several

groups of cooperative Northeastern Indians were nonetheless relentlessly driven from every place they settled. A sobering explanation of why there are Pequots, Narragansetts, Oneidas and other former neighbors of our New England ancestors living in Wisconsin. Brilliant. A memorable read. —Bill Lewis



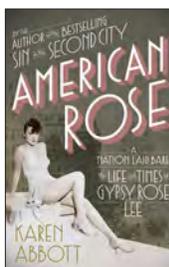
Keep the Change: A Clueless Tipper's Quest to Become the Guru of the Gratuity by Steve Dublanica (\$24.99). Many people have worked for tips at some point and

know their importance, but the amount varies depending on your profession. Interviews with wait staff, strippers, car wash attendants and a host of others reveal what is considered a decent tip. The answers will surprise you. —Sarah Teunissen



Our Man in Tehran: The True Story Behind the Secret Mission to Save Six Americans During the Iran Hostage Crisis and the Foreign Ambassador Who

Worked with the CIA to Bring Them Home by Robert Wright (\$25.95). The 1979-81 Iran hostage crisis through the eyes of Canadian Ambassador Kenneth Taylor, who protected six Americans not at the embassy the day of the takeover. Outstanding historical and political analysis wrapped in a dangerous exploit, based on recently declassified documents. —Louise Jones



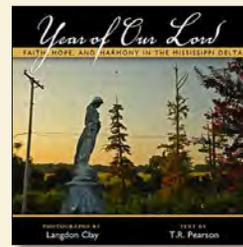
American Rose: A Nation Laid Bare: The Life and Times of Gypsy Rose Lee by Karen Abbott (\$26). More than another

rags to riches show biz story, this biography chronicles most of the 1900s as seen through the eyes of one of its most colorful and tenacious participants. —Alden Graves



Linchpin: Are You Indispensable? by Seth Godin (\$25.95). A great, passionate exhortation about how and why to excel at work – no matter what you do. It is about making your work also your art. Highly recommended. —Chris Morrow

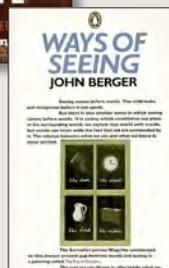
NEW PAPERBACK



Year of Our Lord: Faith, Hope and Harmony in the Mississippi Delta by T.R. Pearson (\$19.95). A moving testament to a remarkable young man with cerebral palsy and his place in a remarkable community, the choir in Moorhead, Mississippi's Trinity House of Prayer Holiness Church. A vivid portrait of the history, culture and economy of the Mississippi Delta, with photographs by Langdon Clay. —Stan Hynds

The Last Empress: Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the Birth of Modern China by Hannah Pakula (\$20). Educated in the US, Soong Mei-ling, daughter of a wealthy and powerful Chinese banking family, wife of General Chiang Kai-shek, influenced American Chinese political and cultural policy for decades. An engaging, thoroughly researched book about a brilliant and determined woman. —Louise Jones

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



The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl by Timothy Egan (\$14.95 pb). John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* described the settlers of the "dust bowl" who left. This is the heroic story of those who remained. A beautifully written and intensely researched book about the settlement and disaster of America's high plains. —Louise Jones

Ways of Seeing by John Berger (\$15 pb). One of the best introductions to appreciating and looking at art that I've ever read. Trips to the museum will never be the same. —Charles Bottomley