

Staff Picks
April 2011

Favorite
BOOK
Reviews

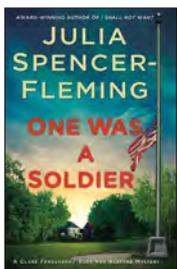


The Troubled Man by Henning Mankell (\$25.95). The eleventh and last Kurt Wallander novel. A retired naval commander asks Wallander to unofficially investigate why an unidentified sub that he was ordered not to pursue was in Swedish waters in 1980. Then the commander disappears. Very entertaining and terrific series finale. –Sarah Knight

Mankell reveals more about the cantankerous Wallander here than ever before, especially his relationships with his ex-wife, ex-lover and his daughter Linda, who presents him with a granddaughter. The plot, part police investigation, part espionage inquiry, is engrossing and satisfying – even though loose ends remain. –Louise Jones

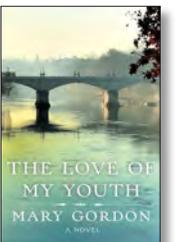
FICTION

NEW HARDCOVER NEW PAPERBACK



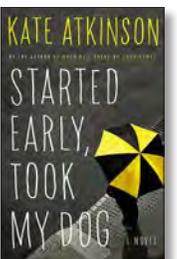
One Was a Soldier by Julia Spencer-Fleming (\$24.99). An outstanding murder mystery in which the relationship between Rev. Clare

Fergusson and Police Chief Russ Van Alstyne deepens. However, most important is the underlying theme – the great emotional and psychological difficulties facing Iraq combat veterans trying to adjust to civilian life. **AUTHOR EVENT Saturday, April 30.** –Louise Jones

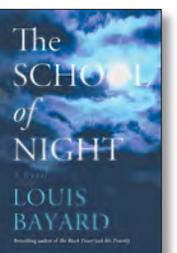


Love of My Youth by Mary Gordon (\$25.95). Truth and crystalline memories shine from every sentence of this novel, which absolutely delivers

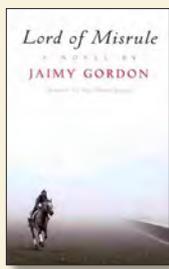
the promise of the title. Adam and Miranda meet by chance in Rome after being apart for more than 40 years and form a new kind of friendship. A lovely story well told. –Karen Frank



Started Early, Took My Dog by Kate Atkinson (\$24.99). Jackson Brodie, “semi-retired” PI, is on the case again, but finds more questions than answers in Atkinson’s multi-layered novel. Another terrific read from this writer who subtly explores the randomness of existence, weaving together several plots that eventually come together. –Louise Jones



The School of Night by Louis Bayard (\$25). The frantic search for an Elizabethan treasure propels this excellent historical thriller. The action shifts between contemporary US and London, and 1603 England, with enticing locales, enigmatic fictional adversaries and deftly portrayed historical characters – including Sir Walter Raleigh and Christopher Marlowe. –Louise Jones

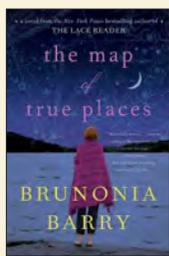


Lord of Misrule by Jaimy Gordon (\$15). I’m no horse nut, but this novel about the magnificent losers who work at a run-down racetrack is as beautiful as an Arab and pungent as a stable. The surprise winner of the 2010 National Book Award for Fiction. –Charles Bottomley



The Sea Captain's Wife by Beth Powning (\$15). This novel of great beauty, suspense and emotional insight follows an independent 19th century woman

who insists on accompanying her sea captain husband. Powning describes the prescribed roles of women at that time and vividly shows the ever-present risk faced on merchant vessels. –Nancy Scheemaker.

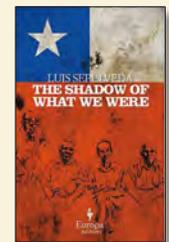


The Map of True Places by Brunonia Barry (\$14.99). Great contemporary fiction with strong characters and a delightfully complicated story. Only Barry could

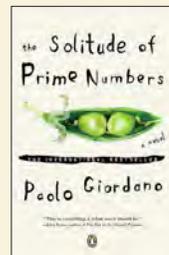
use the history of shipbuilding and the art of celestial navigation to illuminate relationships. The novel explores the fragility of sanity and the impact of various forms of mental illness. **AUTHOR EVENT Saturday, April 2.** –Karen Frank



The Changeling by Kenzaburo Oe (\$15.95). A famous writer investigates his friend’s mysterious suicide. A very Japanese take on death and friendship that is also an unforgettable reading experience. –Charles Bottomley



The Shadow of What We Were by Luis Sepulveda (\$15). A real find: Four veteran revolutionaries plan a robbery in post-Pinochet Chile - Butch Cassidy-style. Disillusioned Marxism shouldn't be this funny! –Charles Bottomley



The Solitude of Prime Numbers by Paolo Giordano (\$15). What a splendid and thoughtful novel. The characters are revealed in tiny bits, which build into complete and complex personalities, each as unique as a precious stone and just as isolated. Alice and Mattia navigate life forever linked to each other but ultimately alone. –Karen Frank

NORTHSHIRE READING GROUPS

Northshire Women Read **APRIL 4**
North River, Pete Hamill (\$14.99 pb)

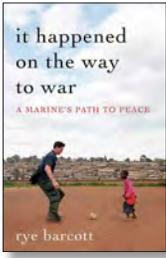
Battenkill Readers **APRIL 6**
Remarkable Creatures, Tracy Chevalier (\$15 pb)

Northshire History Group **APRIL 19**
New York Burning, Jill Lepore (\$15.95 pb)

NEW

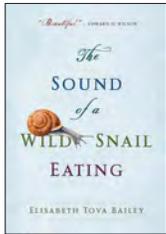
Dark Side Reading Group **BEGINS MAY 18TH**
Triangle: The Fire That Changed America
David Von Drehle (\$15 pb) Please pre-register

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

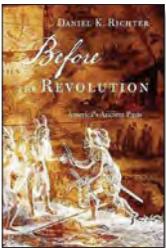


It Happened on the Way to War: A Marine's Path to Peace by Rye Barcott (\$26). While attending the University of North Carolina, Barcott worked

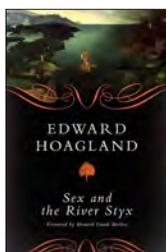
in Kibera, an enormous Nairobi slum, empowering strong youth leaders and improving basic health services. He helped create the extraordinary Carolina for Kibera while simultaneously serving as an officer in the Marines. An incredible and inspiring story. –Stan Hynds



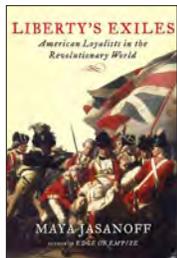
The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Bailey (\$18.95). How can a small book about a tiny gastropod be so hugely fascinating? This quirky gem is hopeful, humbling and the perfect read for spring. –Emilia B.



Before the Revolution: America's Ancient Pasts by Daniel K. Richter (\$35). Rich survey of North American history from the pre-contact period through the French and Indian War. Its value lies in the author's masterful placement of the American stories within the context of European events. Should definitely encourage further reading. –Bill Lewis



Sex and the River Styx by Edward Hoagland (\$27.50). This collection of 13 essays, written in Hoagland's rare and exquisite style, covers his specialty - the intense and passionate exploration of the natural world - combined with ruminative memoir and exuberant descriptions of his worldwide travels. With a splendid forward by Howard Frank Mosher. –Louise Jones

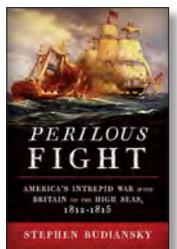


Liberty's Exiles: American Loyalists in the Revolutionary World by Maya Jasanoff (\$30). One of the most important books about the

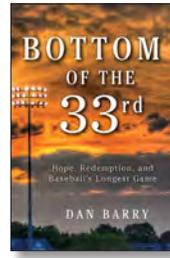
Revolution in a long time - seriously. Start by thinking of the rebellion as civil war and then consider what became of 75,000 exiled Americans at war's end. Splendid writing and terrific research. Highest recommendation. –Bill Lewis



Iphigenia in Forest Hills by Janet Malcolm (\$25). Malcolm's thorough coverage of the murder trial of a female Bukharan Jewish doctor is a fascinating portrait of our legal system. Human frailties in everyone from the defendant to the judge turn the trial into the Greek tragedy referenced in the title. –Sarah Knight



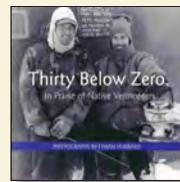
Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815 by Stephen Budiansky (\$35). Terrific. Proves that first-rate history writing can be both exciting and scholarly. Makes a trip to visit the U.S. Constitution almost mandatory. And don't mess with American sailors - even if you outnumber them 100 to 1. –Bill Lewis



Bottom of the 33rd by Dan Barry (\$26.99). What is at work here is so much beyond history's longest baseball game. This is a deft

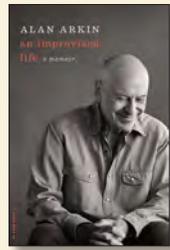
weaving of rising careers (Ripken, Boggs), faltering major league dreams and the heart and soul of a former New England mill town. –Jon Fine

NEW PAPERBACK



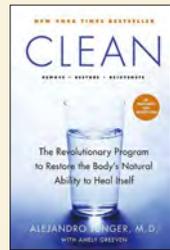
Thirty Below Zero: In Praise of Native Vermonters by Ethan Hubbard (\$19.95). Hubbard's

signature black and white photographs capture and delight. His informal style embodies our spirit. This is who we are. –Sarah Teunissen



An Improvised Life by Alan Arkin (\$17). Not a traditional memoir, but a totally fascinating account of the creative life of one of our finest artists. Arkin's honesty and

candid introspection enlighten and inform, taking us from his fledgling days as a founding member of The Second City into his movie career and beyond. –Erik Barnum



Clean: The Revolutionary Program to Restore the Body's Natural Ability to Heal Itself by Alejandro Junger, M.D. (\$14.99). This book

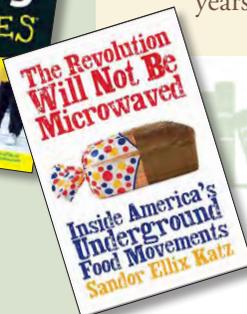
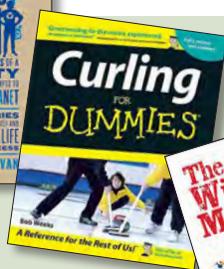
has completely changed the way I view and interact with food. I successfully completed the program and feel amazing, lost weight, doubled my energy level and began cooking wonderful meals for myself and my family. I should have done it years ago. –Cheryl Cornwall

OLD FAVORITES

No Impact Man by Colin Beavan (\$15 pb). Beavan takes himself and his family on a yearlong journey to practice what he preaches and discovers that a less wasteful life is also a more fulfilling one. –Krysta Piccoli

Curling for Dummies by Bob Weeks (\$24.99 pb). Because your life has been empty without it. –Emilia B.

The Revolution Will Not Be Microwaved: Inside America's Underground Food Movements by Sandor Ellix Katz (\$20 pb). If I were to meet Mr. Katz on the street I would thank him, shake his hand and invite him to my house for dinner for writing such an amazing book. –Krysta Piccoli



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