Drift: The Unmooring of American Military Power by Rachel Maddow ($25). This intelligent, powerful, highly readable book shows how Congress’s Constitutional war-making authority has been secretly appropriated by the Executive branch, with much of war now outsourced and the public out of the loop! A must read. Autographed copies. –Louise Jones

The Lives of Margaret Fuller: A Biography by John Matteson ($32.95). Educated by her exacting father, Fuller was a teacher, writer, conversationalist, editor, an early feminist and transcendentalist, the first foreign correspondent, finally, a revolutionary - brilliant, erratic, original. This stunning, engaging biography skillfully places the reader in Fuller’s many worlds. Thorough research, fine writing. –Louise Jones

The One: The Life and Music of James Brown by R.J. Smith ($27.50). This wonderful biography explains how slave rhythms and 20th century struggles gave us James Brown - the hardest working man in show business and a cultural force on par with The Beatles and Malcolm X. –Charles Bottomley

The Patagonian Hare by Claude Lanzmann ($35). A passionate memoir from the director of Shoah. Filled with globetrotting adventure and profound insight, it’s as much about how to live as the mysteries of life itself. –Charles Bottomley

Class Ships by Mark Chirnside ($39.95). Did you think there was only one Titanic? Actually, there were three almost identical White Star super liners. Beautifully illustrated, filled with rare photographs and little known facts. Only one of the ships survived to old age (and, not incidentally, cut the Nantucket Lightship in half). –Alden Graves

Eisenhower in War and Peace by Jean Edward Smith. ($40). With good reason, historians remind us that the passage of time usually improves our understanding of the past. This illuminating biography of a president whose reputation is on the rise proves the point, and why it was easy to “like Ike.” Another extraordinary work from Smith. –Bill Lewis

Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War by Stephen R. Platt. ($30). Superb, sobering, vastly informative account of the deadliest civil war in recorded history. Should appeal to both serious and beginning students of Chinese history. Careful scholarship, elegant writing and a cautionary tale about the consequences of foreign meddling, by a young historian to watch. –Bill Lewis

Love, Inshallah: The Secret Love Lives of American Muslim Women Edited by Ayesha Mattu ($15.95). Compelling, ground-and heart-breaking stories from rebellious, witty, independent women, hell-bent on correcting the misconceptions of their sex regarding their religion, sex, polygamy, homosexuality, opposition and adherence to the Muslim faith. –Jessica Krawczyk

Being Flynn by Nick Flynn ($15.95). A tie-in for the film starring Robert De Niro, Paul Dano and Julianne Moore. Flynn writes in a unique style about a troubled childhood and an alcoholic, homeless father who re-enters his life after years of estrangement. Be prepared for something superb. –Stan Hynds

Sacre Bleu: A Comedy d’Art by Christopher Moore ($26.99 hc). Quelle aventure magnifique! The infamous absinthe-indulging Henri Toulouse-Lautrec and baker turned painter Lucien Lescard embark on an investigation to uncover the truth behind Vincent van Gogh’s suicide. Their journey takes a sharp turn from strange to extremely absurd in this well-researched, roll-on-the-floor, grab you by the seat of your pants comedy that is pure Christopher Moore. –Jessica Krawczyk

Once upon a time in the 1890s there was a Muse, a demented paint seller and a whole bunch of Impressionist artists. Welcome to Christopher Moore’s Paris! –Sarah Teunissen
Narcopolis by Jeet Thayil ($25.95)
Available 4/12.
The languorous atmosphere of a Mumbai opium den is majestically evoked in this debut novel. Thayil exposes a side of the maximum city that many other Indian writers ignore. –Charles Bottomley

The Good Father by Noah Hawley ($25.95). In this literary thriller, the 20-year-old son of a successful rheumatologist is accused of assassinating a presidential candidate. Despite overwhelming evidence, the father applies his diagnostic skills to determine the truth, discovering a young man he hardly knows. –Stan Hynds

The Map and the Territory by Michel Houellebecq ($26.95). France’s literary bad boy is back with his most thoughtful work to date - a vision of our world as acute as Franzen's Freedom and as dazzling as Foster Wallace. Seductive and subversive! –Charles Bottomley

Gods Without Men by Haru Kunzru ($26.95). A shimmering scrap of Californian desert plays host to both aliens and imperfect humans. Kunzru’s startling epic crosses dimensions to present a unique picture of America. –Charles Bottomley

The Coldest Night by Robert Olmstead ($23.95). This book cover belies its story, which begins with a young, passionate love affair, but is really about how war never leaves one who has endured it. In 1950, 17-year-old Henry joins the Marines and survives the hell of the Chosin Reservoir battle, at great cost. –Stan Hynds

The Beginning’s Goodbye by Anne Tyler ($24.95). A warmly enveloping novel about two people who come to the realization, too late, that they deeply loved one another. Tyler has that rare gift of emotionally involving her readers with the lives of her characters without a hint of manipulation or contrivance. –Alden Graves

The T erritory by Michel Houellebecq ($26.95).

Truth Like the Sun

Goodbye The Beginner’s Goodbye

The T erritory

Game of Thrones: The Complete First Season by George R. R. Martin ($59.98 dvd boxed set, $79.98 blu ray boxed set). I’m not especially drawn to magic, dragons, jousting and beheadings, but, surprisingly, I thoroughly enjoyed this sumptuous adaptation. Today’s political wrangling is a lot less lethal than it was in the Age of Kings. With HBO production values comparable to anything you see in a theater. –Jessica Krawczyk

The Awakening by Kate Chopin ($10 pb). What’s better than a novel that was temporarily banned in the early 20th century for scandalous themes? We follow Edna Pontellier’s quest for sexual, economic and artistic gratification in lieu of Victorian women’s “acceptable” roles. One of the most intriguing feminist novels I have read. –Jessica Krawczyk

A Long Fatal Love Chase by Louisa May Alcott ($7.99 pb). What’s a wild ride! Who knew the smart, sedate author of Little Women could write so passionately about love. A real “pot boiler” full of great characters and compromising situations, which is why it wasn’t published in her lifetime. Recently reissued. –Karen Frank

The awakens by Anne Tyler

The awakening by Kate Chopin

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